

Madeline Symonds School Newsletter

Newsletter #2



Calender

October 1 st	Treaty Day
October 5 th	Bus Evacuations
October 10 th	Thanksgiving Holiday
October 19 th	Picture Retake Day
October 28 th	Provincial Conference Day No School for Students

Principal's Message

Our students and staff have had an exciting and busy first month of school. As you now know we had to reschedule the school, the students have now transitioned to the new schedule and in some situations their new class.

We are fortunate to have such an engaged and supportive school community, and for this I thank you, as our partnership enables our students to have a high level of success.

Lynn Kazamel-Boudreau

Taking Pictures in School

Just a gentle reminder that students are not permitted to take any photos at school at any time, which includes dances. This also includes the use of snap chat, Instagram and other social media's which should not be happening here at MSMS. Thank you or your support with this. This is not only a school guideline but also a policy with the Halifax Regional School Board.

Nut Aware

Madeline Symonds Middle School has students and staff who have severe allergic reactions to peanut butter, peanuts, nuts and other food products. It is of vital importance that your child (ren) do not bring peanut butter, peanuts, or peanut/nut products to school. We appreciate your support in this matter as it enables us to have a safe environment for all our students and staff.

Scent Aware

There are environmental issues with respect to the use of scents. We have students, staff and parents who are very sensitive to scents. Therefore, we would ask that students, staff and visitors not wear perfume or scented products while at the school.

School Arrival

We have noticed that many of our students are arriving late in the morning. Sometimes they may be missing at least ten minutes of class time. When this happens on a regular basis the amount of time that a student may miss would be equivalent to a week of school if they arrive late to school each day. We encourage all our students to take the bus if it is not possible for them to arrive on time in the morning. The number to call if your child will not be in school is 832-2300. If you know that your son or daughter will be absent or late, please call the school and leave his/her name, class and reason for absence.

Mi'kmaq Heritage Month

October is Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia. The goal of the month is to help Nova Scotians build awareness of Mi'kmaq history and heritage, and to increase understanding of the province's rich Mi'kmaq culture. There are 13 Mi'kmaq bands of varying sizes in Nova Scotia, all have populations living on and off reserve. There are also many native-rights organizations in the province, and other regions of Atlantic Canada, dedicated to protecting the culture and heritage of aboriginal people. Today, aboriginal identity continues to be distinctly linked to the land through culture, language and traditions. Many students in Nova Scotia take part in Mi'kmaq History Month lessons and activities schools have prepared. The students of MSMS are no exception and will be participating in a variety of activities throughout the month of October and beyond. We are also thrilled to welcome a new staff member to MSMS : Mr. Derrick Hennessey, our Aboriginal Student Support Worker.

New Staff to MSMS

Each year brings change, especially with such a large staff. This year we have several new staff members. These include Mrs. Baines, our long term substitute in our Learning Center, Mr. Steeves, one of our EPA's, Mr. Sarty, teaching math and science, Mr. Carmichael teaching in both the French and English programs at the grade 9 level, Mr. Connors teaching grade six Early French Immersion, Ms. Nixon teaching Physical Education and Ms. MacEwen, our music teacher for our grade sixes.

Extended Learning Opportunities

Ms. Williams, the student support teacher will be opening room 2034 during both lunch hours on Mondays for students who need some support with organization and/or assignment completion.

Math News

"Problem of the Week" is a great way for students to reinforce math concepts and extend their learning. This September we have had the highest number of students participating in "Problem of the Week" since this opportunity has begun. Congratulations to our students for their involvement and a thank you to Ms. Gallant for her time and leadership in offering this opportunity.

Grade 6 Provincial Assessment

This assessment will be taking place October 4th to October 7th. It is important for the students to have a healthy breakfast and also be well rested.

Back to School, Back to Breakfast!

It's that time of year again! Summer vacation has come to a close and students are back in school. As students get back into the school routine, it's a great time to think about getting back into the routine of having a healthy and hearty breakfast. If students are distracted by their hunger, it will be difficult for them to focus on their work in the classroom. To enhance learning and academic performance, make breakfast part of your child's morning. Aim to get 3 out of the 4 food groups in your child's breakfast. This might be a piece of whole grain toast, sliced cheese and an apple or quick cook oatmeal with yogurt and blueberries.

Athletics

The boys and girls soccer teams have started league play. Both the teams tied their first games of the season. The Cross Country team has been practicing three times a week in preparation for the Mariner Zone Championships on October 5th. The Regional Championship is October 13th. Best of luck to these two teams!

The girls' volleyball team started their try outs. The boy's team will be beginning soon. All students interested are encouraged to attend.

Students and parents are asked to check the "Athletics" website for any additional information regarding school athletics and/or follow MSMS Jags Athletics on twitter.

Thank you to the coaches and to our parents for providing transportation to the games and support!

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October - National Women's History Month

"October is National Women's History Month in Canada. It is a time for Canadians to celebrate the achievements of women and girls as trailblazers throughout our history. It is a time to learn about the contributions women have made that have shaped our way of life. It is a time to recognize that "Because of Her" Canada is the extraordinary country that we know today. A lot has happened in our history and women have been there from the beginning, working, innovating and striving to make Canada a better place for all. Much of our progress as a nation is the work of remarkable women, who pushed for change, even in the face of intractable social barriers, discrimination and resistance. Because of these women, we are all a little closer to gender equality. During Women's History Month 2016, we are recognizing the women who have shaped Canada's history— as activists, leaders, artists, academics, and entrepreneurs, to name just a few. We are celebrating their victories and acknowledging the enormous challenges that they overcame. We are retelling their stories and inspiring the next generation of Canadians to carry on the important work that still needs to be done to achieve gender equality."

Referenced from <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/whm-mhf/index-en.html>.

Who's shaped your history? Tell us on social media using the hashtag #BecauseOfHer. Show us how extraordinary women, past and present, have influenced your life by sharing a status update, picture or video. Share your profiles of notable Canadian women and show the whole country the countless ways that women have contributed to our country.

Grade 9 Trip Information

When information is available regarding a spring grade nine trip it will be made available. This information should be available in the fall.

Quotation of the Month

"All our dreams can come true-if we have the courage to pursue them." Walt Disney."