

Madeline Symonds School Newsletter

Newsletter#3



Principal's Message

Here we are in the month of November already, hard to believe! We have been having a fantastic fall with your children.

The teachers have been reviewing their classroom data in their PLC's to make the best possible instructional decisions for each student.

They continue to explore a variety of these strategies to help their students learn.

The first parent teacher meeting for this school year is on December 1st. Thank you in advance for attending these meetings.

Yours in Education,

Lynn Kazamel-Boudreau

Important Dates

November 1	Grade 7 Immunizations
November 9	Remembrance Day Observance
November 11	Remembrance Day Holiday
November 14	Assessment and Evaluation
November 21	Term 2
November 24	Band Concert 7 PM
November 25	Report Cards
December 1	PD Day in AM
December 1	Parent Teacher (1 to 3PM)
December 1	Parent Teacher (6 to 8 PM)

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.

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 for 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 Closure Due to Inclement Weather

The Halifax Regional School Board takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools in the event of severe or inclement weather. Decisions on school closures and/or bus cancellations are posted on the board's website at www.hrsb.ns.ca, on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HRSB_Official, recorded on 464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. You can also receive notice of school and bus cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRSB website. If you are interested in learning more on how decisions regarding closures and cancellations are made, visit <http://www.hrsb.ns.ca/content/id/1137.html>.

Schools may be cancelled as a whole board, family of schools or by individual schools. Madeline Symonds Middle School belongs to the C. P. Allen Family of Schools. It is important to note that when the C.P. Allen Family is cancelled, so is MSMS.

Book Fair

During the week of November 28th to December 2nd we will be hosting a book fair. It will be open during school hours and also on parent teacher night from 6pm to 8pm. Information about this will be sent home the week before the actual fair.

DIY Club

Beginning this week, the DIY Club is being offered to grade 6 and 7 students. We will meet on Wednesdays from 2-3 pm in Mrs. Hobin's classroom. Interested students are asked to sign up for this activity in Mrs. Hobin's classroom, room 2058. Due to the nature of the activity, there is a limit to the number of students who can get involved so don't miss out as there is still room available. \$2 is requested for each project to supplement the cost of supplies, thank you. Looking forward to getting crafty again this year!

Breakfast Program

MSMS is excited to announce our Breakfast Program is up and running daily. The Breakfast Program is located in the grade 9 pod area and will be open Monday through Friday from 7:40 to 8 am. We will be offering healthy, grab-and-go food options for all students at no charge. Research shows that giving students a nutritious meal at the beginning of the day improves their academic performance. With the early start to our school day, and the majority of our school population being bused, a breakfast program is an ideal fit for our school. We have had a very successful start, with over 30% of our school population taking advantage of the program on a daily basis, as well as the overwhelming turn out of student volunteers. We are very excited about our program! With the success of our program comes the issue of funding, if any member of our school community would like to make a donation (monetary or food) to support our program, it would be greatly appreciated at any point throughout the year. Useful items include granola bars, juice boxes, fruit, yogurt tubes, etc. All items need to meet our school nutritional policy. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to know how you can support our Breakfast Program please contact Mrs. Binder at kbinder@hrsbc.ca.

Nourish your Roots Fundraiser

Thank you for the overwhelming support of our farm box fundraiser. The selling of farm boxes supports not only healthy food options for our students but local farms as well. We sold 259 boxes and raised \$2300.00 for our breakfast program. We will hopefully be participating in this fundraising opportunity again next fall.

Nourish NS is looking for feedback on the Nourish Your Roots (NYR) campaign. This feedback will be used to help inform the development of the program for next year. A NYR survey can be found at: nourishns.ca/nourish-your-roots. Please take a moment to share your thoughts about NYR. The school with the highest percentage of survey responses will win a Nourish prize pack for their school.

Band News

Our Band Students are getting prepared for a few things including an upcoming Concert at MSMS on November 24th at 7 PM, the grade 6, 7, 8 and 9's will be performing. Thank you for your continuous support with our program!

Highlighting our Cross Country Results

The cross country running team had another excellent season capped off with silver medals for our Junior Boys and Intermediate Girls at the Provincial Championships in Yarmouth. Our teams participated in three meets this season and had excellent team and individual results.

Junior Boys team placed first and the Intermediate Boys placed second at Mariners Championships. The Intermediate Girls placed first and the Junior Boys placed third at the Regional Championships. The Intermediate Girls placed second and the Junior Boys placed second at Provincial Championships. Individually, Abby MacDonald placed first, Davis Cooper placed first, Griffin Lilly placed second and Cam MacDonald placed third at Mariner Championships. At the Regional meet Carley Birrell was first and Griffin Lilly placed third. Provincially Carley Birrell was first and Davis Cooper placed third. Congratulations to all members of this team!

Athletics

Both the girls and boys volleyball seasons are well underway. The boys already have won some games early in the season. The girls' team won an exciting five set match against Five Bridges early last week. Good luck to both teams on the remainder of their season.

The boys and girls flag football teams will play in their tournaments at Soccer Nova Scotia Monday and Tuesday of next week, respectively. Good luck to both teams!

Communicating Student Learning

Our teachers have a Communication Plan on Power School.

PowerSchool is most helpful in "tracking" how your child is progressing in school. For grades 7 to 9 information is displayed about their achievement with the outcomes using a 1 to 4 system for marking. The percent mark for grades 7, 8 and 9 will be on the report card and for grade 6 you will find the letter grade on their report card.

It is always helpful to check in with the classroom teacher from time to time to get more detailed information about your child's learning. We have an upcoming Parent Teacher this month, we encourage you to attend. A letter will be going home on Monday November 7th with details about the parent teacher session and information regarding booking an appointment.

School Spirit Wear Sale

During the month of November information will be available about an upcoming MSMS spirit wear sale. At the parent teacher meeting, sizing samples will be available upon request if needed. For more information feel free to contact Mrs. MacNeil at RMacNeil@hrsb.ca.

Student Success Plan

We are in year one of the Student Success Planning process. Our goals around literacy and math are being developed. Presently our teachers continue to review assessment results and our past five year report to ensure that appropriate plans are being made for the students.

MSMS Heads to We Day Atlantic

Some of our students will be attending the Atlantic "We Day" rally on November 30th as ambassadors for Madeline Symonds Middle School. All interested students were invited to numerous school meetings where they were involved in activities describing why they felt they were a good fit to attend this rally as we have been assigned a limited number of students who can attend. "We Day" is the movement of our time, empowering a generation of young global citizens through an inspirational event and a year-long educational initiative called "We Act". We look forward to our community-centered and more global initiatives throughout the year aiming to assist in the fight against childhood poverty.

Terry Fox Run 2016

On Thursday September 22nd, we took part in the Terry Fox National School Run for the 12th consecutive year. Before Terry died, he knew that an annual event would be held to commemorate his Marathon of Hope. It would be called, appropriately, The Terry Fox Run. It was Terry's wish that his name be used strictly to reduce the cancer burden by raising funds to support discovery based research. Prior to the walk, students watched a video chronicling the challenges that Terry Fox endured during his Marathon of Hope. This video highlighted the progress made in the fight against cancer. Breakthroughs with the cure of cancer can result thanks to funding from the Terry Fox Foundation which in turn is funded from donations throughout the world and this includes the proud students of MSMS. After the walk students enjoyed a barbeque.

This year MSMS raised \$2778.10 for the Terry Fox Foundation. This brings our 12 year total to over \$57, 000 - a fantastic accomplishment!

This money collected is a reflection of the community commitment to finding a cure.

On behalf of MSMS, thank you very much!

Remembrance Day Observance

Our students and staff have been busy preparing for our Remembrance Day Observance. This will take place on November 9th. Thank you to those involved in the organization and presentation. Space is limited as we are accommodating our entire student body.

Quotation of the Month

"Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."
Thomas Edison