

Madeline Symonds School Newsletter

December 2016



Principal's Message

I would like to extend my best wishes to you for a safe and happy holiday season. Our staff looks forward to working with our students, parents/ guardians and the school community in the New Year.

We especially appreciate your support through the present "work to rule" situation with our teachers. Your continued involvement and support with your child (ren) is valued as we work together to maximize student learning, safety and achievement.

Lynn Kazamel-Boudreau

Important Dates

December 1	No Classes AM – PD for Teachers Parent Teacher 1pm to 3pm and 6pm to 8pm.
December 21	Last day of school for students
January 3	School re-opens

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 ext 100.

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. Feel free to check your child's attendance on power school at any time.

Nut Aware/Scent

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.

Online News

All MSMS newsletters are online. Please visit our school website at www.msms.ednet.ns.ca. The site is maintained daily by our webmaster.

Rescheduling Some Dates

We will be looking at options that may be possible to reschedule the micro musical which was tentatively planned for our grade 6's and also the band concert that was scheduled for this month. When information is available it will be communicated. Your understanding is as always, appreciated.

Celebrating our Students

Carley Birrell, who is one of our grade 9 students is also a member of Nova Scotia Track and Field team.

This past summer Carley competed in 2016 Nationals for Track and Field held in Quebec. With only two representatives in each event per province, Carley won all of her qualifying races leading up to the competition.

She was ranked 23rd in the country going into the 1200 meter race and finished 13th at the meet. In the 2000 meter she was ranked 7th and finished 6th in the country.

With 1200m and 2000m being new distances for Carley, she has been working with her coach to perform at peak levels.

We look forward to following Carley's running career. Congratulations Carley!

Parents as Career Coaches

This program will provide parents of students in grades 6 to 9, with the tools and information, to start their child on the career journey. Research clearly indicates that this is the ideal time to begin this process. One of the items that you will receive through attending this session is a parent guide designed to help you work with your children throughout their career journey. Parents who have attended in the past have said *"I wish this would have been available, when I was in school. Great tool for kids to start their adult journey" and "Enjoyed the program. I am now more aware of different careers so I can help my children find the right one for them"*

This will take place on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 from 6:30 to 8:40 in the school library (a new date of January 19th).

You can register for an upcoming session at www.parentsascareercoaches.ca. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to register on the website, please contact Ms. Hutchison at jhutchison@hrsb.ca to add your name to the session list.

WE Day

Twenty eight Madeline Symonds students were given the privilege of attending Atlantic Canada's third We Day. The expectation after returning from We Day is that the feeling of empowerment will be shared with students, families and their peers. This will render hundreds of people ready to tackle local and global social issues of our time. The WE Day committee will begin various fundraising efforts in January. A thank you to Ms. Line LeBlanc and Mrs. Mona MacNeil for their leadership with this initiative.

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Christmas Food Drives

A food drive was organized for the month of December. There will be more news to follow on our daily announcements about how this may unfold. Thank you.

News from our Cafeteria

MSMS offers full cafeteria services with a variety of healthy choices. Our cafeteria offers many promotions, including their new Zip-Thru program and new ways to pre-order your food from your home computer. For more details on their menu and their various programs, please visit the School Web Site (www.msms.ednet.ns.ca) and click "Cafeteria" under the Parent Section.

Free to Be Me Club

The **Free to Be Me Club** is a student-led group that is intended to provide a safe, supportive environment for youth who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning. LGBTQ straight allies are more than welcome to also join. The goal of this group is to create a welcoming environment for all students at MSMS regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. When together, this group focuses on supporting one another and discussing issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. They work to end homophobia and transphobia. The Free to Be Me Club meets each Wednesday during the grade 8/9 lunch in the guidance pod.

Athletics

Congratulations to the girls' volleyball team on a successful season. The girls won two hard fought and exciting 5 set matches against Brookside Junior High and Five Bridges Junior High. Ms. Nixon would like to thank the team for being such a great group of girls to coach this season!

The girls' flag football team finished 4th overall at their tournament earlier this month to advance to the quarter finals against Rocky Lake Junior High School. Although it was a very short season, the team improved tremendously and also had a lot of fun, congratulations to everyone involved for your hard work!

The boys' teams also need to be recognized for their hard work and great results throughout the fall representing our school well. A wonderful "building year" for all involved.

Math Mania

A big congratulations to all students who took part in a Math Challenge during the week of November 7 to 11. Approximately 120 students from grades 7, 8, and 9 had the pleasure of being involved in a math contest called the Beaver Computational Challenge provided by University of Waterloo. This contest involved problem solving questions focusing on logical thinking. The curriculum covered on these tests was based on the curriculum found across Canadian provinces.

The top grade 7 student was Olivia Hilchie and the top grade 9 student was Ridhi Mittal. **Ryan Trenholm, in grade 8, scored in the top 25 % across the country.** Congratulations to all our students who participated!

If you are interested in seeing what types of questions students were asked, please visit the following site www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/contests/contests.html Through going to the link for the Beaver Computing Challenge, you can check out previous contests.

The next Gauss competition will be in May 2017, at this time our grade 7 and 8 students will have the opportunity to participate. Students are encouraged to check out previous Gauss contests in order to prepare for the one in May.

Quotation of the Month

What is important is to keep learning and enjoy the challenge, Martina Horner