

Madeline Symonds School Newsletter

Newsletter #6



Important Dates

April 3	Parent Mting Gr 7 LFI Trip
April 6	PD in AM- No Classes Parent Teacher – 12:30 to 2:30 Parent Teacher – 6 to 8
April 14	Good Friday No Classes
April 17	Easter Monday No Classes
April 18	Parents as Career Coaches 6 PM

Principal's Message

Welcome to Spring ! With the winter weather challenges I am sure we are all ready for this change in seasons. We would like to acknowledge the efforts of Scotia Learning Center who have worked hard over the winter months to resolve any issues we have had due to the weather. This work has been valued as it enabled the safety of our school.

We are now in our final term of the school year with the parent teacher meetings happening on April 6th.

Your input is always valued as it helps us to provide the best possible learning environment for your child.

Enjoy the spring season!

Lynn Kazamel-Boudreau

Taking Pictures/Videos in School

Just a reminder that students are not permitted to take any photos at school at any time. Thank you for your support with this. This is not only a school guideline but also a policy with the Halifax Regional School Board. Students are also encouraged to limit or not use forms of social media while at school. It is of high priority for our students to develop respectful digital citizenship, your support with this is valued.

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.

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.

Morning Arrival Time

There is not any supervision for students until 7:50 each morning. In addition, please note home room begins at 8:00 a.m. It is important that students arrive in a timely manner and are ready for instruction. If you know your child will be absent or late please call the school at 902-832-2300 ext 1.

Celebrating our Students

Nine of the students of MSMS attended the **2017 Halifax Sci – Tech Expo** this year to compete with their Science Fair projects. These students have been working hard on their projects since October and were excited to compete in this Expo where they were the recipients of many awards. Cameron Brown's project was "One Man's Mud is another Man's Power" which studied the creation of fuel cells to generate voltage. Matthew Hamblin and Samuel Hopkin's project "Cool it! It's for the dogs" created a harness to keep canine's cool during summer months. Olivia Hilchie and Nathan Chao's project "Battle of the Bacteria Beaters" studied the best soaps and anti-bacteria cleaners using precise techniques to clean one's hands. Matthew MacNeil and Joshua Zawidzki's had great success with their project "Binge TV vs Binge Yoga." This project studied reducing stress from watching TV vs doing Yoga, they were the recipients of the award for the Best Human Health Profession Project. They will also be interviewed by CTV Morning Live Atlantic to be shown on Tuesday April 4th. Aeriana Helle's project "Squeaky Clean" developed new effective techniques for polish used in veterinary clinics and won a Medal of Excellence Award. Finley Nakatsu also won a Medal of Excellence Award, as well as a \$2000 scholarship to St. Mary's University and he is one of 6 that will move on to compete at the National Science Fair in Regina!. His project titled "What a drag" studied the efficiency of the shape of the bow of a sailboat under a controlled test environment. The Sci Tech Expo took place on Friday March 31st at Saint Mary's University. A sincere thank you to Mme. Luff for her leadership. Congratulations to all these students on their many accomplishments!

Creative Writing Club

Do you enjoy writing short stories, poetry, or creative nonfiction? Mrs. Chater will be hosting a creative writing club every Friday of week two during the grade 8/9 lunch. Here you will be able to write and share various pieces of creative writing in a positive environment, and receive feedback from peers. For more information, see Mrs Chater in room 1073. The first day for this club will be Friday, April 21st.

Focus Group on Municipal Services for the Acadian, Francophone and Francophile Community

The Halifax Regional Municipality wants to better understand the needs of different francophone and Francophile cultural groups regarding municipal services and programs. Therefore, the municipality is inviting you to participate in a focus group to discuss its communication practices, services, recreation programs, election process and employment. This will take place on Thursday April 13th from 6 PM to 7:30 PM at the Central Library, 5440 Spring Garden Road, in the Lindsay Children's Room. Refreshments will be provided.

For registration or inquiry, please contact Élisabeth Houle, Acadian and Francophone Community Liaison Intern for the Halifax Regional Municipality: [902-579-0354 - houlee@halifax.ca](mailto:houlee@halifax.ca)

Parent/Teacher Meetings

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Our second Parent/Teacher meeting will be held during the afternoon and evening of April 6th. A notice was sent home in late March, if you still require any information feel free to contact your child's homeroom teacher or the office.

Autism Awareness Month

April is Autism awareness month and National Autism Day is April 2nd. We have been encouraging our students to wear blue on this day as the theme this year is "**Light it Up Blue Day.**"

Information about autism may be found at the following websites:

<http://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/national-autism-awareness-month/>

<http://www.autismspeaks.ca/events/light-it-up-blue-and-world-autism-awareness-day/>

<http://www.autismnovascotia.ca/>

Math Matters - Learning Number Facts

It is important for students to know their number facts. This hasn't changed but what has changed is the way number facts are taught and learned. The traditional methods of learning number facts through "skill and drill" and "rote memorization" do not help students develop the level of understanding of numbers and operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) they need today. It is more effective for students to learn and practice their number facts through classroom activities that are meaningful and connected to real world situations. In doing so, students learn to manipulate numbers and solve problems in many ways. While learning their facts students are encouraged to look for patterns and use what they know in many different situations. For example, if a student forgets the product of 6×7 , students who truly understand the process of multiplication will have several strategies to get to the correct answer. They might think about 3 groups of 14 (7×2) + (7×2) + (7×2) or use what they know about 5×7 and add 1 more group of 7. Initially, students develop and use strategies to develop quick recall of the facts. Through meaningful practice over time students will achieve automaticity; that is, they will have instant recall without using strategies. Both the strategies and the facts themselves are the foundations for the development of other mental mathematics strategies.

To help your child practice number facts at home, we recommend you ask them how they arrived at their answer, rather than only focusing on how quickly they were able to recall the fact. You might also ask them if there is another way they could solve the problem. This type of interaction with your child helps them to think about numbers in different ways and practice different strategies for knowing their number facts.

Program Changes for September

Decisions about Band should already be completed at this point in time. If your child will not be taking band and you have not done so already please let Mr. Greene know ASAP. If your child will be leaving the French Immersion program and needs to be registered in our English program for the 2017 – 2018 school year please let Mrs. Hutchison, our guidance counselor. If you know that you will be moving and your child will not be at MSMS in September we would appreciate knowing this. If this is your situation forward this information to Mrs. Hutchison. Thank you!

Parents as Career Coaches

Parents are the single greatest influence on their child's education and career decisions. That is why this program is being offered to parents and guardians of junior and senior high school students across Nova Scotia. The program equips parents to better support their children in making informed and successful education and career choices. This one session opportunity is designed to help you begin to explore your child's interests, skills and personal qualities, which will help them eventually make career decisions. We will be having a parent session on Tuesday April 18th for grade 7, 8 and 9 parents from 6:30 to 8:40 PM in our school cafeteria. If you plan on attending, please contact the school Guidance Counsellor to ensure that we are prepared for the numbers attending. Ms. Hutchison's contact information is jhutchison@hrsb.ca

Community Sports

In girls' hockey Abby Wambolt, Adrienne Barriault, Jordan MacIsaac, Abby MacDonald and Chloe MacLean, who play Bantam AA for the Metro West Force Red are the Provincial Champs, congratulations girls. They are off to the Atlantics in New Brunswick from April 6th to April 9th. Best of luck!

Quote of the Month

"The important thing is not to stop questioning." Albert Einstein