

Madeline Symonds School Newsletter

Newsletter#8

Madeline Symonds Middle School is pleased to share that the Halifax Regional Centre for Education Diversity team has been continuing to work with our staff and students providing workshops on respect, race and culture during the month of April.

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Parent/Teacher Meetings

Our second Parent/Teacher meeting will be held during the evening of April 17th and the afternoon of April 19th. A notice was sent home the last week of March. If you require any information feel free to contact your child's homeroom teacher or the office. The link to the on line sign up is on the school web page under "What's New."

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 Ms. Cainen know ASAP. If your child will be leaving the French Immersion program and needs to be registered in our English program for the 2018 – 2019 school year, please inform 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!

Fish Friends

We are fortunate to have our grade 6 students taking part in an exciting program being offered to us by the Atlantic Salmon Federation. We will be raising fish from fertilized eggs, before releasing them into a local stream. This 'hands-on' learning experience will integrate many subject areas including science, mathematics, language arts and visual arts. Throughout the Fish Friends program, students will learn about life cycles, controlling egg incubation, food webs, adaptations, observation skills along with preservation and conservation. A huge thank you to Tim McGee, a volunteer with the Atlantic Salmon Federation, who offered this program to the school and to Mrs. Aucoin and her class for the continuous care that is needed.



School Sport

For our **track and field enthusiasts**, the County Meet will take place at Beazley field in Dartmouth on May 14th and 15th. The Regional event will be the 23rd and 24th of May with Provincials being held June 1st and 2nd. A reminder that athletes need to compete and qualify in order to progress throughout the meets. Runners should be currently training on their own.

April 5	Elementary Parent Meeting 6:30 PM for KWE and HPC Parents
April 6	Report Cards Home
April 17	Parent Teacher 6 to 8 PM
April 19	PD in AM – No Classes
April 19	Parent Teacher 12:30 to 2:30 PM
May 2	Grade 7 Immunizations

Autism Awareness Month

April is Autism awareness month and National Autism Day was April 2nd. 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/>

Yearbooks

MSMS yearbook orders are now taking place. Information went home to the students this past week, the cost is \$25. The grade 9 students are provided a yearbook as part of their final year at Madeline Symonds Middle School.

Grade 9 Exams

Our grade 9 students will be involved with their exams in June. On Wednesday, June 20th, they will be writing English Language Arts and French Language Arts. On Thursday, June 21st the students will be completing their Math exam. It is very important that the students prepare well for these last assessments.

Closing for Grade 9's

After grade 9 leadership meetings followed by discussions with their classes, the grade 9 evening celebration will take place on Wednesday, June 6th and will involve a dinner and dance while on a Harbour Cruise. More details about this event will be communicated throughout the month of April.

A day trip for the grade 9's is in the planning stages and is planned tentatively for Monday June 18th, more information on this trip will follow during the next month.

Closing Activities for all Students

The Jag Awards will take place during the day on June 26th. We will have the grade 6 & 7 student assembly at 8:30 AM and then the grade 8 & 9 student assembly at 10:30 AM. If your child will be receiving a major award at these assemblies your child's homeroom teacher will be in contact.

Quote of the Month

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

Science Fair

Some of the grade 7 and 8 students have spent extensive time preparing for the Sci Tech expo under the leadership of Mme. Luff. *Here is what the students have to say about their projects:*

Tye Bentley, grade 7: "The Tension is very tight" (Engineering of various types of bridges for strength) Construction of three different bridges and how much weight they can stand by the breaking process. The three types of bridges I chose were The Warren Truss Bridge, The Town Truss Bridge and The Whipple Truss Bridge, all built out of popsicle sticks. Then both water and a weight tests were performed to see how the structure of all the types of bridges I chose would perform. The goal of my project was to see which bridge was the strongest and safest for people to drive on out of the three bridges I had created at home.

Camden Sayle, grade 7: 'Winging it' (Experimentation on various types of aviation wings for efficiency) I tested model planes with different wing designs in different circumstances like different wind velocities and directions to see which one would go the farthest and the fastest overall. This test helped us because planes with the best wings go the fastest and the farthest with the same amount of fuel. They don't need as much fuel to go farther. This will be safer for passengers too because there is less air time so the plane is less likely to crash. It will help the pilots because if it goes faster the pilots get more rest because they land faster.

Grade 8 Science Fair entries:

Finley Nakatsu: "Dragging on" (Study on length of boats and angles as well as vortex shedding) The purpose of this project was to examine the relationship between length of boat, stern angle, hull coating and drag. My hypotheses were, as length increases, drag will decrease until drag resulting from wetted surface overcomes the effect of streamlining. I thought that sharper stern angles would result in lower drag. Lastly, I thought that the boats with urethane finish would perform better than boats without. To test these hypotheses, I used a flow chamber, wooden boats and a scale to measure drag. I also used dye to see disturbances in the streaming of the hull, resulting in higher drag.

Olivia Hilchie: "A novel study in teaching a deep neural network to learn" (artificial intelligence) My project is about teaching a deep neural network to recognize a cat versus another animal. I used the training method of iterations to complete this task. The program that the Deep Neural Network uses is the python programming system. I manipulated several variables to find what works best to get a Deep Neural Network to learn as fast and best as possible. The variables for my tests were the amount of training iterations, the learning rate, and the number of layers and the amount of neurons in those layers.

Sam Hopkins: "Deceiving is believing" (altering the sense of smell through manipulation.) I tested to see if the sense of smell could be influenced by what the eye sees. I asked participants to smell various substances in a small glass. Half of the participants were provided with a branded bottle on a table in front of them. The other half were not provided with anything in front of them. The substance visually resembled what was in the bottle, but didn't smell like the substance in the bottle. I then handed the participants the small glass, and I asked them to report what they smelled.

A sincere thank you to Mme. Luff for her leadership. Congratulations to all involved!

Cultural Commitment

It is through the voice and commitment of our school community that we recognize the ongoing need to draw upon the resources necessary to conduct rich workshops for students and learning opportunities for staff to continue to prioritize their learning about respect, race and culture.