

MDJH
February 13th,
2015



NLESD

MACDONALD DRIVE JUNIOR HIGH

110 Macdonald Drive Junior High
St. John's, NL A1A 2K9



Parent Newsletter



February 14th, 2015

NEW

Thursday March 12th is MDJH Science Fair Day!

MDJH School Science Fair 2014 will be Thursday March 13th, from 1:30 to approximately 5:00 pm. Parents and friends are invited to visit starting at 2:30. Our science students have been busily and creatively at work designing and performing experiments and building models. Many of them will proudly show off their work at our School Science Fair. Come and talk science with us!

WANTED: Science Fair Judges

The MDJH School Science Fair this year will be Thursday March 12th, 2015, 1:30 - 5:30 pm.

Science students have been busy at work designing and performing experiments. Many of them will be proudly showing off their work at our School Science Fair. It will be, as every year, a big event with a high degree of community involvement from parents and other scientists. We are very proud of our high rate of student participation!

If you have a science background and want to share in the excitement of science with young people, we want you! Judges visit individual projects and engage the students in conversation about their work, giving each participant the benefit of a supportive, enthusiastic, and thoughtful audience for their learning. Then the judges help select the Science Fair winners, who subsequently have the option of going on to the Regional Science Fair or other events depending on their type of project.

Dates to Remember:

February Holiday—Monday, February 16th, 2015

Last calls for student work for Term 2 —Friday, March 6th, 2015

Term 2 Reports—Friday, March 13th, 2015

If you are able to participate, please contact
nathaliebrunet@nlesd.ca

Note that if you have a child in our school, you will be asked to judge a different grade.

Math News

On Tuesday, February 17, 100 students from Macdonald Drive Junior High have been selected to participate in the Canadian National Mathematics League competitions. 50 students in grade seven and 50 students in grade eight will write.

NEW



Spelling Bee News!

The second level of the Spelling Bee competition, sponsored by The Telegram, was held on Thursday, February 5th, in the LRC. Two student winners from grade seven and eight classes were involved. It was a real "nail biter" as numbers of competitors dwindled and words became increasingly more complex.

Rine Zaman of 8-2 placed first while **Jake Clarke** of 8-5 placed second. Both boys will move forward to the regional competition. The Telegram Regional Spelling Bee will be held on **Saturday, February 28**, at Holy Heart auditorium. The show starts at 2pm. Come out and support our fantastic spellers!

Parent Portal Information for PowerSchool

By now all parents should have access to their child's daily attendance and marks. If you have not received your Portal Information please contact the Main Office: MayBurke@nlesd.ca

Attendance

Parents please note that there is a 24 hour delay when items are entered in PowerSchool and this might explain some of the issues we may be having regarding attendance and corrections particularly when students sign in later in the day.

Breakfast Program Update

Thanks to all the wonderful parents, teachers, MUN interns and students who have made the Breakfast Program the great success that it is at MDJH. Over 300+ students avail of the program each morning. We welcome more parent and student volunteers in the New Year.

Attention **Grade nine students**: Do you need extra hours for your volunteer component of the Duke of Edinburgh Program? The Breakfast Program can help!

Please contact Mr. Thorne or Mrs. Van Thiel.

Please note:

For the months of January and February, we are asking our **Grade 8 parents** to assist with donations of the following food items:

- apple / orange juice
- granola bars (peanut-free)
- plain bagels
- English muffins

***Monetary contributions are also welcome.



Band Notes – Week of February 17th - 20th, 2015

- Regular classes as per the schedule
- The bands have been registered to take part in the annual Rotary Music Festival which will take place between April 26 – May 5, 2015
 - > The Jazz Band will be on May 2nd or 3rd.
 - > Exact dates and times will be posted.
 - > If you are unable to commit or your family is going to be away, please let Ms. Dunsmore know as soon as possible.
- A reminder: students who do not attend band practices regularly may not be eligible for full participation in concerts and outings.
- The schedule for this week:

	Monday Feb. 16	Day 1 Tuesday Feb. 17	Day 2 Wednesday Feb 18	Day 3 Thursday., Feb 19	Day 4 Friday, Feb. 20
Per. 1	Holiday	Grade 7 Percussion	Grade 8/9 FULL BAND	Grade 8/9 Alto saxes	
Per.2			Grade 7 Flutes	Grade 7 Trumpets	
Per. 3			Grade 7 Clarinets and Alto saxes		Grade 7 FULL BAND
Per.4			Grade 7 Trombones, Bar- itones and bass Guitar		Grade 8/9 Clarinets and Flutes
Per. 5					



What's Happening at MacDonald Drive Junior High?

Activities/Clubs	Time	Room	Teacher Sponsor
Chess	Day 1 @ 12:10pm	210	Ms. Kinsella Ms. Parsons
Math Homework Haven	Monday @ 2:30pm-3:30pm Thursday @ 11:50am	LRC	Math Department
ICE HOCKEY Practice	Tuesday 3:30—4:30 PM	Jack Byrne Arena	Mr. Ken McLean
Knitting	Tuesday @ 11:50 am-12:33pm. Bring lunch.	227	Ms. Osmond
Lego Robotics (Fall)	Tuesday @ 2:30pm to 4:00pm	123	Mr. Smith Mr. Thorne
ROV (Winter)	Tuesday @ 2:30pm to 4:00pm	123	Mr. Smith Mr. Thorne
LGBTQ	Day 2	124	Ms. Brunet
Improv	Thursday @ 2:30pm	109A	Ms. Glynn
Drama	Fridays 2:45—4:00 PM	109A	Ms. D. Mills
Art Club	TBA	227	Ms. Penney
Newspaper	Wednesday @ 11:39am to 12:33pm	215 or Tech Lab	Ms. E. Mills
Math League	Wednesday @ 12:10pm	208	Ms. Doyle
Photography	Wednesday @ 2:30pm	220	Ms. Quann Mr. Wragg
Year Book	TBA	TBA	Ms. Quann
Video Club	Friday @ 2:30pm—4:30 pm	LRC	Mr. Langdon, Mr. Walsh
Environment Club	Day 2	206	Ms. Drover

Grade 9 School Leaving

We are in the process of planning for the Grade 9 School Leaving Ceremony. The date for this event is **Friday, May 29th, 2015**. Details to follow.

Medications

If your child requires medication while at school you must complete the necessary forms and have them signed by your family doctor before we can administer any medication at school. If your child requires over-the-counter medication, please complete

Traffic Flow

Parents should drop off and pick up their child (children) at the **student entrance**. The only exceptions: i) students volunteering at the breakfast program and require early entrance into school, ii) students arriving later or leaving early for appointments.

School is not opened for students until 8:05 am.

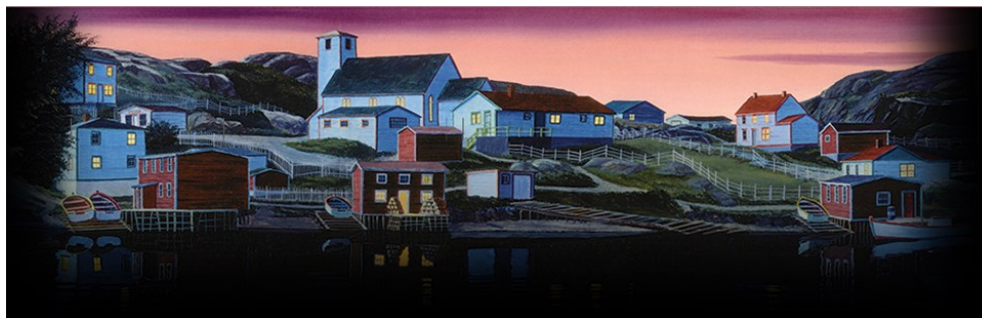
This is when teacher supervision commences.

Please drive carefully, abide by drop off and pick up routines and be cognizant of cross-walks.

Parent School Council - Ed Roche Calendars

We need your help! We have about 60 Ed Roche 2015-2016 calendars remaining for our fundraiser. We would like to increase our profit with the fundraiser for this year. If you are interested in purchasing calendars, please contact the school.

Last call! We will be selling these for \$10.00



NEW

Parent School Council News

Teacher Appreciation Day

Many thanks to our Parent School Council and our parent volunteers for organizing a delightful lunch on Wednesday, February 11th in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week.

Next meeting of the our Parent School Council is on **Monday, March 2nd, 2015** at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room.

Soy Butter Products

Parents and students are advised that soy butter products/peanut butter replacement products are not permitted within our school environment. Due to the presence of students with anaphylactic allergies to peanuts/peanut products and the difficulty for teachers on duty to distinguish between the products we ask for the cooperation of students and parents to pack an alternative snack/lunch items. And while we recognize that peanut butter replacement products do not present risk of an anaphylactic allergy, the presence of



Allergy Alert

We have a number of students with life-threatening allergies to various products. See the list below:

No nuts	No Fish
No Shellfish	No peanuts
No latex	



Aeropostale Jeans for Teens

The student council will be participating in Aeropostale's Jeans for Teens event. Students can bring in any jeans that they have outgrown or no longer wear and drop them off at the office. All jeans donated will be delivered to Aeropostale who will distribute them to homeless youth.

Student council members will be available in the morning to collect jeans brought in. This campaign has been extended to Feb. 22 so any jeans donated will be dropped off to Aeropostale Friday, Feb. 20th. Please make an effort to clean out your closets and donate to this worthy cause. Each pair of jeans donated gets a student a \$5 discount at Aeropostale



Crushes for Valentine's Day

Student council delivered cans of Crush to Crushes for Valentine's Day. A donation of \$200.00 was made to the MDJH Breakfast program. This will be matched by the Kids Eat Smart Foundation so it is equivalent to a donation of **\$400.00**. Thanks to all who supported this. Bravo! Well done!

Yearbooks

MDJH will again offer a yearbook for the 2014 - 2015 school year. A yearbook committee has been formed and work has begun. An announcement will be made over the PA and in the next newsletter to inform parents

and students when preorders for yearbooks will take place. Yearbooks will be \$20 and must be preordered. The number of preorders we get will determine whether we have enough orders to proceed with the production of a

yearbook. Yearbooks are a great keepsake of the years spent at MDJH. The yearbooks will not be available until the fall of 2015. This will allow all events of the school year to be included in the book.

Seeking Yearbook Photos

We are currently looking for pictures of all teams and clubs at MDJH.. Any parent or student having a photo to submit to the yearbook can email their photo to colettequann@nlesd.ca. Remember any photos taken on an iPhone or iPad need to be

saved or sent in actual size as selecting the lowest resolution will result in a poor quality picture which can not be used in the book.

**Grade 9 Immunizations
February 23rd.**

**Green Apple Days/Spirit
Week**

February 23rd - 27th

The Green Apple Alliance

Pink Day



On **Wednesday, February 25th** the students and staff of MacDonald Drive Junior High will be celebrating **Pink Day**, a national day recognizing Bullying Awareness with the message that **Bullying Stops Here!** This day originated in Nova Scotia when a group of boys noticed a new grade 9 student being bullied for wearing pink. To show their support of the new student they, along with several other male students, arrived at school the next day wearing

pink shirts. To promote the anti-bullying theme of Pink Day, students at MacDonald Drive Junior High will be offered **pink cupcakes** on **February 25th** when they wear an article of pink clothing to school that day.

This endeavor has been very successful in the last few years due to the tremendous support of our students and parents.

Once again this year we are requesting parental donations

of **pink cupcakes** for **Wednesday, February 25th**. If you are able to help us in this endeavor please email Ms. Susan MacNeill at susanmacneill@nlesd.ca or contact the school at 753-8240. Cupcakes should be delivered to the office by 9 a.m. Wednesday morning. Please remember that this is a nut-free environment.



Green Apple Days

Spirit Week will be held the week of February 23rd- 27th. Here are the theme days for this year's spirit week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
23/ RETRO DAY	24/ FANDOM DAY (dress as your favorite character, singer, historical figure, etc.)	25/ PINK DAY Everything Pink	26/ MULTIPLE DAY (twins, triplets, quadruplets, etc.)	27/ JERSEY DAY

Stay tuned!

Notes to Parents

Protocol for Visitors

In an effort to ensure safety and security at our school, all visitors will notice a renewed emphasis on checking in at the office prior to proceeding to any other point in the building. Visitors will be asked to sign in and wear a visitor ID tag. Thank you for your cooperation with this initiative.



Reminder to Parents/Students

Doors open: 8:05 am.

Warning bell: 8:20 am

(5 mins)

Homeroom: 8:25 am- 8:34 am

Period 1: 8:34 am– 9:30 am

Period 2: 9:30 am—10:26 am

Recess: 10:26 am—10:43 am

Warning Bell: 10:39 am

(4 mins)

Period 3: 10:43 am– 11:39 am

Lunch: 11:39 a,- 12:33 pm

Warning Bell: 12:33 pm

(5 mins)

Period 4: 12:38 pm– 1:34 pm

Period 5: 1:34 pm—2:30 pm

Student Successes

Does your child have a recent accomplishment of which you are proud? Here at MDJH we want to celebrate the efforts of our students, all efforts not just the academic. So, if your child has an out of school activity or program where they

have made a significant contribution, we want to know about it for our *Green Apple Alliance Wall of Celebration*. We will post a certificate with the student's name, activity and contribution/achievement for all to see and celebrate.

LET US KNOW! E-mail Mr. Ryan, one of our Guidance Counselors, for details.
TerrenceRyan@nlesd.ca



NEW

Grade 9 High School Course Selection—February 18th

Gonzaga staff will be visiting our school to speak to the Grade 9 students regarding their course selections for next year and developing a three year plan to ensure their credits to graduate will be achieved. There will be a session for parents and the

staff at Gonzaga to help navigate the process.

It is very important that your child attend these sessions to ensure they understand how this process works. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Grade 9 Parent Meeting at Gonzaga regarding course selection

February 24th @ 7:00 pm.

Environmental Club

First Meeting

The MDJH Environmental Club has been granted \$1000 from the Youth Engagement Funding Initiative, a project of the Climate Change Educational Centre, delivered through the Conservation Corps, NL.

Ms. Drover and the Environmental Club are planning on building seating in front of our school to double as an outdoor classroom and also as a place for students to eat their lunch and relax when weather permits. Fall bulbs have

already been planted in this area and come spring our seating will be built. Parent volunteers are welcome to participate with Ms. Drover and the students in building the seating. Let's keep MDJH a green school. This is another initiative of the Green Apple Alliance at MDJH.



What is new on the Website?

MDJH Annual School Report 2013-2014

For the information of parents, the School Report for 2013-2014 is posted online.

Please see our School Development Goals for 2014-2015

Code of Conduct and PBS Matrix

Please see our revised School Code of Conduct and our PBS Matrix. These are working documents and are subject to changes. We will

be revisiting these with our students during the month of February and help lay down the foundation of what we expect our students to do here at our school.

MDJH Improv Team

Congratulations to the Improv Team, coached by Mary-Anna Duggan, who placed 2nd last Sunday, February 8, in the Newfoundland Improv Games at the LSPU hall.

Bravo! Well done!



Macdonald Drive Junior High Green **APPLE** Parent Awareness

What is Tumblr?

Tumblr is a free blog hosting platform and social networking website owned by Yahoo! Inc. Users follow each other's blogs. Users may also post questions of other users, and can choose to ask anonymously or reveal their identity. The service allows users to post multimedia and other content to a short-form blog. Users can follow other users' blogs, as well as make their blogs private. Much of the website's features are accessed from the "dashboard" interface, where the option to post content and posts of followed blogs appear. As of February 1, 2015, Tumblr hosts over 221.3 million blogs. The company's headquarters is in New York City.



Is your tween/teen on Tumblr?

Tween/Teen Tumblr sites are a form of online expression. Kids are posting images of bands, models and celebrities, pop culture references, quirky or funny images to create a virtual scrapbook that says a lot about who they are. Although Tumblr is a blogging platform, the observation is that tweens/teens are not writing a lot of words. Most content posted on tween/teen Tumblr sites are images and animated pics and most of it is re-blogged from other Tumblr sites. They are very, very busy doing it as well with 36 million users creating over 42 million posts every day. Tumblr is also giving Facebook a run for its money in the cool-with-kids stakes. A small survey published in January 2013 shows that Tumblr is more popular than Facebook among teens and young adults. Although not a scientific survey, it shows parents need to be aware of what Tumblr is all about.

What your kids love about Tumblr.

Identity – They use it like an online scrapbook or diary, where the pictures, songs and texts that they post build a picture of who they are (or a persona they aspire to). It is, for them, a place of self-expression and one where they feel they can 'be themselves'.

Anonymity – Most blog owners use fictitious names which they can change easily. This gives a high degree of anonymity, and some tween/teen Tumblr sites feature very personal material. The anonymous option is also popular when using the 'Ask' feature, which allows them to ask questions of other users without revealing their identity.

Social – Despite the anonymity offered, tweens/teens follow their friends' blogs and are generally known to each other. They are also part of a wider online community and enjoy the variety in the blogs and posts of people they don't know. There's a voyeuristic appeal in looking in the window of other people's lives – especially as a lot of the posting is of a very personal nature.

What parents might not like about Tumblr

Identity – the identity your tween/teen child builds on Tumblr may be very different to the kid you know. So far Tumblr seems to be a parent-free zone, unlike Facebook which is more widely used by all ages and extended family members.

Anonymity – It's not great not knowing the nature of the content your child is posting to peers and the greater Tumblr community. The anonymous Ask feature provides opportunities for flaming, bullying, and sexual provocation and innuendo.

Social – Unlike Facebook where a 'Friend' request needs to be accepted, there is no control over who follows you (or who you follow). This means Tumblr sites may be followed by anyone, of any age and with any motivation. The personal and unmonitored nature of the material they are posting is viewable by anyone with an account. Your child will have access to a lot of inappropriate material.

Summary

Many students will use this site responsibly, but there are temptations for younger, more immature or more experimental teens. Instilling in your tween/teen the main tenets of safe internet use may help shield them from some of the unsavoury aspects of this site. But at the end of the day, know that you have very little visibility over what they are doing, seeing, or receiving on this site.

Public Service Announcements

City of St. John's Recreation Division presents ... 7th Annual 'So You Think You've Got Talent?'

The Youth Talent Show is an annual event hosted by the City of St. John's Recreation Division for youth aged 10 to 14 years. This is an opportunity for individuals or groups to display their artistic talents (i.e., singing, dancing, drama, playing in a band, martial arts, poetry reading, etc.).

Date: Sunday, February 22, 2015
Time: 2 pm - 5 PM
Location: L.S.P.U Hall, 3 Victoria Street
Cost: FREE to all performers and audience members!
Deadline for applications: Tuesday, February 10, 2015.

Application forms can be dropped at the following Recreation Division locations:

- Main Office - Crosbie Building, 1 Crosbie Place (Office Hours 9am - 4:30pm)
- H.G.R Mews Community Centre, 40 Mundy Pond Road
- Wedgewood Park Recreation Centre, 47 Gleneyre Street

OR send completed form via fax to (709) 576-8469 or email recreation@stjohns.ca

Application forms are available at the main office.

For more information, please contact Youth Services Team at 576-8630 or 576-2357
Krista Gladney
Fieldworker I - Active Communities
Recreation Division
Community Services Department
City of St. John's
P.O. Box 908
St. John's A1C 5M2

Eastern Health

Energy Drinks

Parents are you aware of the concerns around young adolescents and energy drinks? For further information , see the information posted on our website.



Head Lice

A reminder from your public health nurse, to regularly check your child's head for lice. Precautions can help keep us all safe!

For further information, please check out web site.

www.easternhealth.ca>Your Health> A to Z >Head Lice



Grade 9 Immunizations

February 23rd, 2015

ENTEROVIRUS D68

For information on ENTEROVIRUS D68 see Public Health Bulletin on the MDJH webpage:
www.mdj.k12.nf.ca.

Flavoured Tobacco / E-Cigarettes

Flavoured tobacco products are the same as regular tobacco products except they have flavours added. Some flavours include apple, cherry, peach, mango, bubblegum, vanilla, cotton candy and chocolate. Many are strongly scented and packaged in bright colours. In fact, many look like real candy.

Some of the flavoured tobacco products on the Canadian market (besides menthol cigarettes) include flavoured cigars, flavoured cigarillos (weighing more than 1.4 grams), bidis, blunts, flavoured waterpipe tobacco and flavoured smokeless tobacco (spit tobacco, snus, and dissolvable tobacco). To see examples of some of the types of flavoured tobacco products sold in Canada, copy and paste this link from the Canadian Cancer Society 2014, into your browser:

<http://tinyurl.com/ou9eeha>

PARENT NEWSLETTER
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We're on the web!
<http://www.mdj.k12.nf.ca>