

MDJH  
February 20th,  
2015



NLESD

MACDONALD DRIVE JUNIOR HIGH

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



# Parent Newsletter

**NEW**

## Attention Grade 9 Parents

There is a session for all Grade 9 Parents regarding High School programming and the course selection process at Gonzaga on **Tuesday, February 24th, 2015** beginning at 7:pm.

Grade 9 High School Course Selection Sheets are due to their Homeroom teacher on Friday, February 27th.

## Meeting for Potential Grade 9 Candidates interested in IB Program at Holy Heart

Holy Heart of Mary High School will be hosting an information session for parents of Grade 9 students coming to Holy Heart for September 2015 at 7:00pm, **Thursday, Feb 26th, 2015** at the Holy Heart Theatre.

Immediately following the general session will be a meeting for all parents interested in learning about the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program for the upcoming school year.

## Grade 8 Heritage Fair

The Grade 8 Heritage fair will take place on **Thursday, March 26th, 2015**. Details to follow.

## Thursday March 12th is MDJH Science Fair Day!

MDJH School Science Fair 2014 will be this Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 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, and many of them will be proudly showing off their work at our School Science Fair. Come and talk science with us!

If you have a science background and want to share in the excitement of doing and talking 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 will have the option of going on to the Regional Science Fair or other event depending on their type of project.

## Dates to Remember:

**Spirit Week—February 23rd–February 27th, 2015**

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

**Term 2 Reports—Friday, March 13th, 2015**

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If you are able to participate, please contact  
[nathaliebrunet@nlesd.ca](mailto:nathaliebrunet@nlesd.ca)

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

## 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

**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!

## Math News

On Tuesday, February 17, 100 students from Macdonald Drive Junior High were selected to participate in the Canadian National Mathematics League competitions. 50 students in grade seven and 50 students in grade eight wrote this assessment.

## 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.



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## Band Notes – Week of February 23rd - 27th, 2015

- Due to Spirit Week activities, some band classes may be pre-empted but students are expected to attend those that go ahead.
- JAZZ BAND – Monday after school 2:40-4:00
- 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:

	Day 5 Monday Feb. 23	Day 6 Tuesday Feb. 24	Day 7 Wednesday Feb .25	Day 1 Thursday., Feb 26	Day 2 Friday, Feb. 27
Per. 1					Grade 7 Trombones, Baritones, Bass Guitar
Per.2		Grade 8/9 Trumpets and French Horns	Grade 8/9 Percussion		
Per. 3					<b>Grade 8/9 FULL BAND</b>
Per.4					Grade 7 Flutes
Per. 5		Grade 8/9 Tenor Saxes Bari Saxes Trombones Baritones Tuba and Bass Guitar		Grade 7 Percussion	

# 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. This will be a causal affair.**

## 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

## 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.

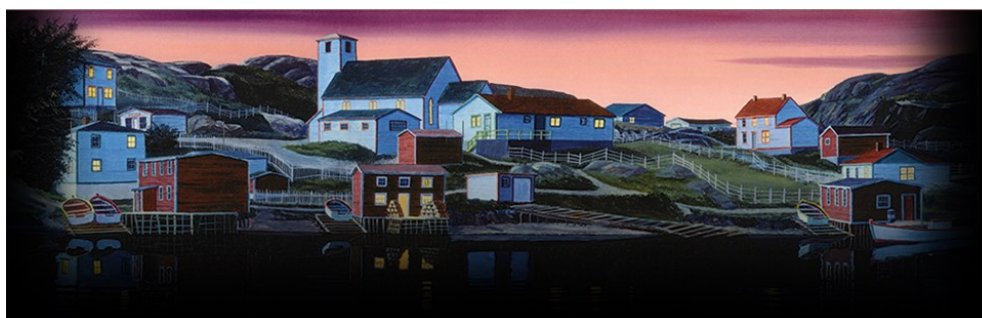
Please drive carefully, abide by drop off and pick up routines and be cognizant of cross-walks.

## Parent School Council - Ed Roche Calendars

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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**



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### Parent School Council News

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



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### 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

Many thanks to all students who brought in jeans in support of Aeropostale's Jeans for Teens event. All jeans donated were delivered to Aeropostale who will distribute them to homeless youth.



## 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: May-Burke@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.

## Yearbooks

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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

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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](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup>** 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 25<sup>th</sup>** 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 25<sup>th</sup>**. If you are able to help us in this endeavor please email Ms. Susan MacNeill at [susanmacneill@nlesd.ca](mailto: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 23<sup>rd</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup>. Here are the theme days for this year's spirit week. Please submit your permission slips / money for Thursday's event

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>23/</b> <b>RETRO DAY</b>         <b>Prep Rally</b>	<b>24/</b> <b>FANDOM DAY</b> (dress as your favorite character, singer, historical figure, etc.)	<b>25/</b> <b>PINK DAY</b> <b>Everything Pink</b>	<b>26/</b> <b>MULTIPLE DAY</b> (twins, triplets, quadruplets, etc.)  <b>Skiing, bowling, Field House and Skating in the am</b>	<b>27/</b> <b>JERSEY DAY</b>

## Notes to Parents

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### 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.

### Chronic Lateness Concerns

Please discuss with your child the importance of arriving to school at time. We are experiencing an increasing number of students arriving late at lunch time and it is very disruptive to classes. Students with chronic lateness may face detention, removal of privileges or suspension.

### 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

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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

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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.

Course selection sheets should be returned to school no later than **Friday, February 27th, 2015**

**Grade 9 Parent Meeting at Gonzaga regarding course selection**

**February 24th @ 7:00 pm.**



## Grade 9 Students interested in IB Program

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Holy Heart of Mary High School will be hosting an information session for parents of grade 9 students coming to Holy Heart for September 2015 at 7:00pm, **Thursday, Feb 26th** at the Holy Heart Theatre.

Immediately following the general session will be a meeting for all parents interested in learning about the International Baccalaureate Program for the upcoming school year.



**February  
Is National  
Inclusive  
Education Month**

## Environmental Club

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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 build-

ing the seating. Let's keep MDJH a green school. This is another initiative of the Green Apple Alliance at MDJH.



## MDJH Improv Team

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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

## Instagram



Instagram: Owned by Facebook. Instagram is an online photo-sharing, video-sharing and social networking service that allows users to take pictures and videos, change the way a photo looks using digital filters and share them on social networking sites. It's known as Selfie central! Parents need to make sure the privacy settings are set to allow friends they know to see the images. Also, the Geo-location feature needs to be turned off to mitigate online predator risk. Parents should also be aware that Instagram has recently been linked to buying and selling drugs. Required age of use is 13 years old. This is an app commonly used by younger kids today. Parents clearly need to supervise use!

While Instagram used to be something students posted to daily (or hourly depending on the person), with the creation of Snapchat that has been greatly reduced. Like Facebook who owns Instagram, kids just aren't using it as much. Partly because Snapchat is WAY more fun and also because parents can't see your Snapchat photos & videos.

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# 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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**  
Macdonald Drive Junior High  
110 Macdonald Drive  
St. John's NL  
A1A 2K9  
Phone: 709-753-8240  
Fax: 709-753-1243  
  
E-mail: [SarahOsmond@nlesd.ca](mailto:SarahOsmond@nlesd.ca)



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