

MDJH

Sept. 18, 2015



PARENT NEWSLETTER

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

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Parent Newsletter



On behalf of the staff of Macdonald Drive Junior High School, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our school and to extend best wishes for a successful 2015- 2016 school year.

We also encourage parents and guardians to consider volunteering for our breakfast program and school council this year. Please contact us directly if you wish to join! All the best to our students and staff for a great school year!

Sarah Osmond, Principal
Craig Squires, Assistant Principal

Student Drop Off / Pick Up

- Student drop off: stay left as you enter the school property off Toronto Street. Veer left and drop student off on the concrete median. Buses will occupy the right side of the median / parent drop off is on the left hand side of the median. The lane closes to the basketball court is for MDE parents dropping off children.
- Buses proceed to the far right closest to the building.

Dates to Remember:

Curriculum Night—Thursday, September 17th @ 7:00

School Photos—Thursday, September 24th, 2015

School Council—Monday, October 5th, 2015 @ 7:00 pm

- Drivers are asked to proceed as far as possible to the right closest to the cement median before dropping your children off.
- Please wait for the vehicles in front of you to drop off students before exiting. **Please do not move into the left lane.**
- Through traffic stays to the left.
- Ms. Osmond and Mr. Squires will be out (rain or shine!) each day to help direct traffic.



- **Note: Only staff and alternate transportation should travel around the building.**

Safety on School Grounds and off School Property

It is very important that all students take caution on and around school grounds and off school property, at all times. Please remind your child to use crosswalks when crossing four lanes of traffic, not to run between traffic, and to watch where they are going etc. As well to drivers, please adhere to speed limits in our school zone and be alert.

Parking Lot Protocol - After School Events

Parents are reminded to please drive around the back of the building when dropping off or picking up students in the evening and on weekends for after school events.

There is a **one way traffic** flow to access the main entrance. Please do not enter the parking lot via the elementary school or enter from the student entrance.

Drive slowly and carefully!

Bell Schedule

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



We need your help with our breakfast program. Our parent volunteer numbers are down. Please help us keep our daily morning program.

Breakfast Program

The MDJH Kids Eat Smart Breakfast Club will begin again this year on **Monday, September 21.**

We hope to see our Breakfast Program thrive again this year through the support of volunteers that make it happen every morning. This worthwhile *Kids Eat Smart* program is making a significant difference for many students at the start of their busy day.

Teachers and parents alike make this program the success that it has been thus far. We are currently seeking support through volunteering, food or monetary donations. All donations should be submitted to the school office, Re: "MDJH Breakfast Program". Each dollar is matched by the Kids Eat Smart Program. Please contact Mary Van Thiel: maryvanthiel@nlesd.ca, or Caleb Thorne: calebthorne@nlesd.ca.

Throughout the entire year we are in need of food items but we are going to ask one grade level at a time, to limit the demand on individual families.

This Fall/Winter, up until Christmas break, we are asking **GRADE SEVEN** parents to help with donations.

Accepted items include: Kelloggs Corn Pops, Kelloggs Mini-Wheats, Post Honey-Combs, Frozen yogurt tubes, Cream cheese, Orange Juice, Apple Juice, and Granola Bars (nut -free).



Allergy Alert

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

No nuts No fish
No peanuts no shellfish
No latex

Please note: Soy peanut butter is not permitted in school

Band Notes – Ms. Dunsmore

Band Notes for the week of September 21st - 25th

Welcome back to all of our band students and a special welcome to new Grade 7 students!

Band information letters and registration forms have been available for students to pick up – they should all be returned by now. Additional copies are available from my webpage: see below for address

There will be 3 bands:

Grade 7 Concert Band

Grade 8/9 Concert Band both practice during the school day on a pull-out basis – (same as Elementary school)

The Jazz Band is an auditioned group for students who play Saxophone, Trombone, Trumpet, Bass Guitar, Electric Guitar, Piano, and Drums. The Jazz Band practices on Mondays after school 2:40 - 4:00 PM.

Jazz Band will be holding auditions next week and will begin rehearsals Monday, October 5th.

The schedule has been posted by the band room and is available online from my webpage

Students will have their band classes on the same days of each cycle, but the periods will rotate so as to not miss the same class each time.

REGULAR INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED TO MY WEBPAGE

– please go to: gracedunsmoremdjh.weebly.com

BAND SCHEDULE for September 21 - 25, 2015

	<i>Mon. Sept. 21</i>	<i>Tues. Sept 22</i>	<i>Wed. Sept. 23</i>	<i>Thurs. Sept. 24</i>	<i>Fri. Sept. 25</i>
	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6
1				Grade 7 Alto Saxes	
2			Grade 7 Percussion		Grade 8/9 Flutes
3				Grade 8/9 Trumpets and French Horn	Grade 8/9 Alto Saxes
4			Grade 7 Trumpets	Grade 7 Flutes	Grade 8/9 Clarinets
5		Grade 8/9 Percussion	Grade 7 Low Brass and Woodwinds	Grade 7 Clarinets	



Green Apple News

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, or the administration, Ms. Osmond or Mr. Squires, for details.

Canadian Student Leadership Conference (CSLC 2015)

The national leadership conference for grade 9-12 students will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from September 22nd-26th. We have eight Grade 9 students attending the conference along with their teacher sponsors, Ms. Quann and Mr. Smith. This is a wonderful experience and provides opportunities for students to participate in leadership workshops and activities.

Unexcused Lateness for Class

Every minute of every class counts! We encourage you to discuss with your son/daughter the importance of being on time and prepared for each and every class. Time out of class means loss of important instructional time. Students will be assigned detentions after three lates. Chronic lates may lead to suspension. Please encourage your child to be on time to avoid the above consequences.



Classroom Supplies

A list of suggested school supplies are posted online. Parents are reminded that it is very important for students to come prepared for all classes with necessary supplies. This includes proper footwear and clothing for Physical Education classes.

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 co-operation with this initiative.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices (ipads, ipods, phones) are not permitted for use during instructional/classroom time unless under the direction of a teacher and permission has been given to use the device. All phones should be turned off during class time and placed in the appropriate place as directed by the teacher. These devices are only permitted to be used in the morning prior to class starting, during **recess** and **lunch period**.

If a student is caught with these items during class time or at any other time throughout the day (hallways) they will be confiscated and sent to the office. On the first offense the item will be returned to the student at the end of the day. If this happens again, parents will be requested to collect the item from the office. We are not responsible if these items are lost or stolen.

If you need to contact your child while he/she is in school, please call the school.

Note: No Wifi access



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What's Happening at MacDonald Drive Junior High?

Stay tuned!

Activities/Clubs	Time	Room	Teacher Sponsor
Chess	TBA	210	Ms. Kinsella /Ms. Parsons
Math Homework Haven	Monday @ 2:30pm-3:30pm Thursday @ 12:05am	LRC	Math Department
ICE HOCKEY Tournament (Winter)	December 2015	CBS	TBA
Knitting	Tuesday @ 11:50 am-12:33pm. Bring lunch. Starts September 29th	227	Ms. Osmond /Ms. Penney
Lego Robotics (Fall) ROV (Winter)	TBA	123	Mr. Smith / Mr. Thorne
Community Outreach	TBA	109B	Ms. Anderson
LGBTQ	TBA	124	Ms. Brunet / Mr. Dyer
Improv	TBA	109A	TBA
Drama	TBA	109A	Ms. D. Mills
Art Club	TBA	227	Ms. Penney
Arts and Letters Club	TBA		Ms. E. Mills
Math League	TBA	208	Ms. Doyle/ Ms. Doulton
Photography	TBA	220	Ms. Quann & Mr. Wragg
Year Book	TBA	TBA	Ms. Quann
Skilled Canada	TBA	TBA	Mr. Gillard
Video Game Club	TBA	LRC	TBA
Community Garden	TBA	TBA	Ms. Brunet
Environment Club	TBA	206	Ms. Drover /TBA
Duke of Edinburgh	TBA	207	Mr. Porter
Student Council	TBA	220	Ms. Quann
Other	TBA		

Contacting Teaching Staff

If you need to contact a member of our staff we recommend using email. All of our teachers email addresses can be found on our school website staff link. You can also call the school at 753-8240 to leave a message on our answering machine or with one of our school secretaries. Teachers have many contacts to make so we ask that you allow 24 - 48 hours to return your email / call.

Attendance

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

School Yearbooks

Yearbooks are in! Level 1's can pick them up on Monday, September 21st after school

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



Consider volunteering for school council First meeting is Monday, October 5th in the Conference Room @ 7:00 pm. Please contact the administration if you are interested.

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