

MDJH

OCT. 9th 2015



PARENT NEWSLETTER

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

Phone: 709-753-8240, Fax: 709-753-1243, E-mail: sarahosmond@nlesd.ca



# Parent Newsletter

## Green Apple News



The first meeting of our School Council was held on Monday, October 5th in the Conference Room at 7:00 pm. Our school council members are: C. Shortall (Chair), B. Chaulk, K. Coady, R. Pike, L. Porter, C. Squires, W. Evans, D. Scott, G. Mayo, L. Snelgrove, K. Sreevani and S. Osmond. If you are interested in becoming a member, please let the administration know.



## School Council Fall Fundraiser

### The Dash for Hallowe'en Cash

### 50/50 Draw—October 30, 2015

We are in the process of recovering our Industrial Arts space and moving to upgrade our Technology Education Production Laboratory. This room has not been used for many years. The Grade 7-9 technology program are the basics for the skilled trades courses

offered at the high school level. Our fall fundraiser will support this program. We are very excited!

Tickets for the 50/50 Draw (15,000 tickets @ \$2.00 each) will go on sale on Thursday, October 8th and will be available until Friday, October 30th. Maximum draw payout is \$15,000. The draw will take place on Friday, October 30th @ 3:00.



All students and staff participated in the KES Annual Walk-for-Breakfast. We were joined by members of the KES Foundation. Students enjoyed a healthy snack afterwards.

## Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

For the past week, the Student leadership group has been inviting students to participate in our annual food drive for Thanksgiving. We would like to thank our parents, students and staff who generously donated items to the Food Sharing Association.



## Dates to Remember:

*School PD Day #1—Friday, October 9th, 2015 (No school for students)*

*School closed for Thanksgiving—Monday, October 12th, 2015*

*Intermediate Close-out— (PD Day #2) - Friday, November 6th, 2015*

---

## Thanksgiving Assembly

Our annual Thanksgiving Assembly took place on Thursday, October 8, 2015 and provided our school community the opportunity to reflect on the many things for which we can and should be thankful.

A big **Thank You** to everyone who participated in our Thanksgiving assembly, especially Haley Tucker (9-6) and Michael Shallow (9-1) who were the emcees. Sincere thanks to Maddi Brown (9-6), Claire Ellis (7-1), and Emma Dawe (8-5) who read for us. The Chamber Singers and Concert Choir performed a beautiful rendition of "What a Wonderful World". Special thanks to Cathy Bennett, MHA for Virginia Waters and Mr. Walters of the Food Sharing Association for sharing their volunteer experiences with us.



## Student Information Sheets

We are in the process of updating all our student information. Please ensure that these are returned to the office as soon as possible. These forms are available online as well.

### **Note:**

Just a reminder that there are no classes on Friday, October 9, 2015 because of a teacher professional development day. **Monday, October 12, 2015 is a school holiday. It will be Day 3 on Tuesday.**

## New timetables for Students

New timetables were issued to students on Friday. Adjustments were made to the schedule as a result of an additional teacher allocation. We appreciate your patience and support as we do through the process. It will be **Day 3** on Tuesday, October 13th.

## Elections Canada

The gym will not be available after Thursday night for the long weekend. Election Canada will be using our gym for the federal election advanced polls from October 9th to October 12th. The gym will not be available on October 19th to allow for the Federal Election voting

## **MDJH Breakfast Program**

[Did you know that 270+ students enjoy breakfast in our cafeteria every morning.](#)

**MDJH** has a Kids Eat Smart Breakfast Club! The KES Club is available **every day from 8:05-8:20am**. It is located in **our school cafeteria**. There is no charge and all children are welcome to attend! We know healthy kids with a full stomach, learn better and are more engaged in school. 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". Please contact Mary Van Thiel- [maryvanthiel@nlesd.ca](mailto:maryvanthiel@nlesd.ca) or Caleb Thorne - [calebthorne@nlesd.ca](mailto:calebthorne@nlesd.ca), if you wish to participate.

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 Mini-Wheats, Post Honey-Combs, Frozen yogurt tubes, Cream cheese, Orange Juice, Apple Juice, and Granola Bars (nut -free).



## What's Happening at MacDonald Drive Junior High?

Activities/Clubs	Time	Room	Teacher Sponsor
Chess	Day 5 @ 12:10pm	205	Ms. Kinsella /Ms. Parsons
Math Homework Haven	Monday @ 2:30pm-3:30pm	LRC	Math Department
Knitting	Tuesday @ 11:40 am-12:33pm. Bring lunch.	227	Ms. Osmond/ Ms. Penney
Lego Robotics (Fall)	Tuesday @ 2:30pm to 4:00pm	123	Mr. Smith Mr. Thorne
ROV (Spring)	Tuesday @ 2:30pm to 4:00pm	123	Mr. Smith Mr. Thorne
LGBTQ	Day 3	124	Ms. Brunet /Mr. Dyer
French Tutoring	Tuesday @ 12:05pm	109A	Ms. Glynn
Drama	TBA	109A	Ms. D. Mills
Art Club	Day 2 in@ 11:50 Room 227 at lunch time	227	Ms. Penney
Arts and Letters	TBA	215	Ms. E. Mills
Math League	Wednesday @ 12:05pm	208	Ms. Doyle
Photography	Wednesday @ 2:30pm	220	Ms. Quann /Mr. Wragg
Year Book	TBA	TBA	Ms. Quann
LRC	12:05-12:33pm	LRC	Ms. Power
School Council	As needed	219	Ms. Quann
Intramurals	TBA (on-going)	Gym	Mr. Mercer
Recycling	After School	108	Mr. Devine

### Sports

Grade Level Intramurals—lunch time in the Gym. Includes soccer, basketball, ball hockey, etc.

#### **Teams for Grades 7-9 Boys and Girls**

- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Cross Country Running
- Basketball
- Hockey (gr. 8 & 9 - start in Dec.)
- **Please check the gym calendar on the school's website for practice times**



### Duke of Edinburgh

Students attended the second information session on preparing for hikes and the overnight hike in the LRC on October 8th, 2015. We currently have eighty students registered in the Bronze component of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Students interested in learning more about the program, are asked to see Mr. Porter.



## **Student Absences/Tardiness**

If your child is absent from school for any reason, please contact the office via phone or your child's homeroom teacher via e-mail, prior to the start of the school day on the day of the absence and have your child bring a note explaining the absence to his/her homeroom teacher when he/she returns. Attendance is very important for your child's academic success. If he/she is out for an extended period of time due to illness, please contact your child's teacher to get any missed work and check the homework site regularly. Students need to be in school by 8:20 at the latest to ensure they are ready for their morning classes. After lunch they need to be back in school by 12:30 to ensure they are ready for afternoon classes



## **MUN Interns**

We had 7 MUN Intern Teachers visiting from September 28th to October 9th, 2014. We have enjoyed having Ms. Murray, Ms. Matchem, Ms. Gagnon, Ms. Stenaford, Ms. LeGrow, Mr. Clancey and Ms. Gallardo and we wish them continued luck with their studies. .

## **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	

Note: No soy products

## **Yearbooks**

Yearbooks from 2014-2015 are now available and can be picked up at the office. Any books not picked up by mid-October will be sent to Gonzaga for distribution. There may be a small number available for sale. If interested, please contact Ms. Quann at [colettequann@nlesd.ca](mailto:colettequann@nlesd.ca).

## **Yearbook Photos**

Many school groups and activities have started. Anyone having a team or group photo to submit to the yearbook can please email their photo to [ColetteQuann@nlesd.ca](mailto:ColetteQuann@nlesd.ca). The photography club is interested in taking a variety of pictures. All we need is some notice and a schedule of events or games. Please email Ms. Quann at [colettequann@nlesd.ca](mailto:colettequann@nlesd.ca) or Mr. Trevor Wragg at [twragg@hotmail.com](mailto:twragg@hotmail.com) to advise of practice times, events or games.



## **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 the required forms. Students are not permitted to have medication on their person.

## **Student Council**



Student Council elections took place this week in our school. Congratulations to all participants. We have budding marketing executives as indicated by their creative posters. Congratulations to our new president, Laxman Saravanakumar and our vice-president, Hayley Tucker.



# NEW

## Photography Club



Next Photography Club meeting will be held next **Wednesday, October 14th**. This will be a photo walk so be sure to return permission slips.

## Knitting Club

Looking for a great hobby! Consider knitting! Learn to do the Basics: read a pattern, cast on, cast off, knit, purl, stocking stitch, garter stitch, moss stitch. Students will begin with samplers, a dishcloth/simple toy or scarf and can move into socks, hats, mittens and more..



**Every Tuesday** at lunch time beginning at 11:40 am.in room 227. Bring your lunch and needles./yarn. We can have you started in no time! Open to all students (male and female) and teachers.

## Skills Canada

The 13th Annual Skills Canada Intermediate Challenge will take place at the College of the North Atlantic on November 20th, 2015. We are hoping to have students entering in twelve of the sixteen categories. Many of them a first for us! Categories include, graphic design, photography, job search, job skill demonstration, CBDC Pitch (similar to Dragon's Den), IT Networks, TV video production, web page design, mentoring, Lego robotics , model wind turbine and junior chef challenge,  
Special thanks to Ms. Quann, Mr. Gillard, Mr. Smith and Mr. Thorne.

## Home Economics

The Home Economics Program is in need of used magazines and catalogues that contain appropriate text and pictures for junior high students. A box will be placed at the office if you would like to donate reading material of this kind.

## 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

## Electronic Devices

Electronic devises (ipads, ipods, phones) are not permitted for use during instruction-al/classroom time unless under the direction of a teacher. Permission must be given to use the devise 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** and after school.

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 for these items if lost or stolen. Students have lockers.

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

**NEW**



### **Grade 8 students**

Storyteller, Jean Pierre Makosso visited our school on **Wednesday, October 7** to regale some of our grade 8 students with exotic, mesmerizing tales. Please see his biography below:

Born in Pointe-Noire (Congo Brazzaville), Jean-Pierre Makosso was taught by his mother MA M'KAYI. H is from a family and traditional background. Enrolled in the occidental school system, he has, in his pragmatic journey, been listening and observing. Throughout his schooling, he quickly displayed his unique abilities as a storyteller. As a theatre actor, he has worked with Company Punta-Négra (Congo), Théâtre du Corps (France) and Théâtre Amiel (Switzerland). Living in Canada since 2001, Jean-Pierre Makosso works with a traditional music group Masabo (Vancouver, Ottawa), and has been writing and directing plays for Canada World Youth with his own cultural company, Makosso Village. He is also a bilingual comedian and storyteller who performs in schools and universities all over Canada and in festivals worldwide.

### **Contact Information**

It is very important that the school have up to date contact information for all students and parents. If any of your information has changed since you completed the demographic profile sheet for your son/daughter or should it change throughout the school year please contact the school to update.



www.clipartof.com · 1172413

### **Safety on School Grounds**



It is very important that all students take caution on and around school grounds at all times. We have noticed that many students are not using crosswalks, are running between traffic, are fooling around on busy streets, not watching where they are going etc. This is very dangerous, and we strongly encourage you to be alert and careful at all times. As well to drivers, please adhere to speed limits in our school zone and be extra alert.

### **Student Drop Off / Pick Up**

- Stay to the right in a single line as you enter the parking lot.
- Busses proceed to the far right closest to the building.
- Drivers are asked to proceed as far as possible to the right closest to the cement divider before dropping your children off.
- Please wait for the vehicles in front of you to drop off students before exiting.
- 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.

## **Band Notes for the week of October 12-16**

Classes are up and running – students and parents are encouraged to check out the schedule posted on the school website

Jazz Band auditions are completed now but any student who is still interested should see Mrs. Dunsmore – there may be spaces for certain instruments.

Students who borrowed an instrument from the school are asked to return the NLESD Instrument Loan Form as soon as possible.

Note: New schedule for band will be posted on-line.



On behalf of our staff, we would like to wish all our families a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend. Thank you for all you do to support our school. We really appreciate your efforts.



---

# WHY TEACH DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP?

---

## Analogy

Imagine giving a kid or teenager a device that allows them to become anyone they want, to lie and push boundaries, to swear and to ridicule, to anonymously experiment with sex, to seek friends and flattery, to learn how to buy and sell drugs, build bombs, steal and even kill – and to do all of that freely in the company of millions of others around the world?

Imagine handing over that device without fully understanding it yourself, as an adult, and what that unsupervised power and the information unearthed could do to developing personalities and young lives. And imagine putting the majority of the control of that device into the hands of those with the least capacity to make a responsible decision – or even to recognize that one need to be made. As parents, teachers, and responsible adults we need to be extremely cognizant of this. Please be aware of social media sites your child may be frequenting. Are they being responsible with their posts/comments? Are pictures and/or phone numbers being posted? Monitor comments that are offensive (bullying).

Excerpt by Paula Todd. She is a Canadian journalist, investigative author, broadcaster, and lawyer. She is a professor of broadcast journalism and digital media at Seneca College, and is a frequent speaker on cyber abuse, Internet culture, writing, reporting, literacy and freedom of the press.

---

## Public Service Announcements

### City of St. John's Youth Programs

#### Here's how to register:

Online [www.stjohns.ca](http://www.stjohns.ca) through **RECconnect**

- In person at either H.G.R Mews Community Centre or Wedgewood Park Recreation Centre
- Telephone at (709) 576-8499
- Courses available in

**Guitar Lessons - BEGINNER**

**X-Cellent Leader**

**Girls Active Lifestyles (G.A.L'S)**

**Youth Ball Hockey**

**Youth Learn To... Animal Care, Robotics, Electronic Fabrication**





### **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—[natashawellon@nlesd.ca](mailto:natashawellon@nlesd.ca), [terriynncoady@nlesd.ca](mailto:terriynncoady@nlesd.ca) or the school administration.

### **MDJH webpage**

Check out our webpage: [mdjh.info](http://mdjh.info), for updates on homework, upcoming tests, assignments, school news, announcements, band and team practices. Feedback welcome.



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

### **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)

