

MDJH

Dec. 14th ,2015



PARENT NEWSLETTER

Macdonald Drive Junior High School
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Parent Newsletter



Christmas Concert

Thank you to our students, Ms. Dunsmore and Ms. Wilson for a wonderful night of entertainment to start off the holiday season. Congratulations to our Grade 7 Band, Jazz Band, Grade 8/9 Band, our Concert Choir and Ensemble Choir. Thank you to parents and students who stayed back and helped us move the equipment back. It was a fabulous evening.



Important Upcoming Dates:

Last Day of Cafeteria Service—Monday, December 21st, 2015

Last Day of School—Tuesday, December 22nd. Dismissal @ 12:30 pm.

School re-opens—Monday, January 4th, 2016 (Day 4)

Cafeteria Service

Our cafeteria service will finish on **Monday, December 21st, 2015**. Students will need to bring snacks and a drink for Tuesday, December 22nd prior to closing for the Christmas break.

Last Day of Classes

We will be serving a pancake breakfast to all students on Tuesday, December 22nd, 2015. Donations gratefully accepted. It will be followed by two periods of regular classes and individual class events. Classes will be dismissed at 12:30 pm. Busses will be on site at 12:30 pm.



Student Council



MDJH students adopted 28 seniors this Christmas season. Seniors are a group who are too often forgotten this time of year. Sadly, there are many seniors in homes in our city who have no family to visit them and no one to give them anything at Christmas. These 28 seniors are residents of St. Patrick's Mercy Home and each homeroom was responsible for providing gifts for one of the seniors. St. Pats provided us with a wish list and each homeroom was assigned a senior. Gifts have been collected and will be presented later this week. Thank you to students, parents, and

staff for donating to this worthy cause. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Quann at collettequann@nlesd.ca.

The Green Apple Tree



As per in past years, we will be collecting donations to help out needy families during the Christmas holidays. We will be placing collection containers in all of your homerooms and students are urged to help decorate our **Green Apple Tree** in the lobby across from the office. For each \$5.00 donated a green apple ornament will be placed on the tree. Please help fill our tree with green apples and at the same time help some families enjoy a happy holiday season.

Along with our fundraiser in school, we would like to appeal you, our parents for your support as well...donations big or small are gratefully accepted and can be dropped off at the office for Ms. McCue, School Counsellor. Thanking you in advance for your continued support.

Toy Drive

MacDonald Drive Junior High is hosting a toy drive and fund raiser for needy families. We invite you to help by donating a new, unwrapped toy with a value of around \$10 to \$30 dollars. Consider kids up to about 11 years of age when shopping. You may also help by making a donation of \$5.00 or more. We expect to give any toys collected to the Happy Tree foundation, and to distribute any funds collected to needy families in our school community. Donations can be dropped off at the office, or given to our volunteers stationed nearby the office.

To show our appreciation for your generosity, we will give you a ticket for a draw for every toy or financial donation. The prize is a set of headphones. Leave your name and phone number at the office for the prize draw on Dec. 22nd.

Thanks for your support!



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Celebrating Student's Successes

We want to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of the students of MDJH. We have a wall of celebration where we will place a certificate of acknowledgement highlighting participation and success in a variety of activities. We want to know if your child has participated in any plays, musicals or has been on a team that has won some title or has been recognized in any individual competition. We need your help with this. Please let us know so we can proudly display this on our wall. Please email colettequann@nlesd.ca with Celebrate *YOUR CHILD'S NAME* in the subject line.

Europe Easter 2017

Any student interested in going to France & Italy during Easter 2017 can pick up information forms from Ms. Quann.

Photography Club

The Photography Club met on Wednesday, December 16th for a fun photo scavenger hunt. Results will be announced in the next newsletter. Members are reminded to take Christmas pictures for the monthly contest.

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. 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 or Mr. Trevor Wragg at twragg@hotmail.com to advise of practice times, events or games.

Macdonald Drive Community Market

The Social Studies Department is proposing a community market to take place in the Spring. In order for this to take place we need the support of our school community. Please contact Krista Houlihan if you are interested in participating as either a vendor, a volunteer, or a performer. Our goal is to celebrate and display the talent and culture of our school community.

Krista Houlihan - kristahoulihan@nlesd.ca

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.



Learn an Hour of Code

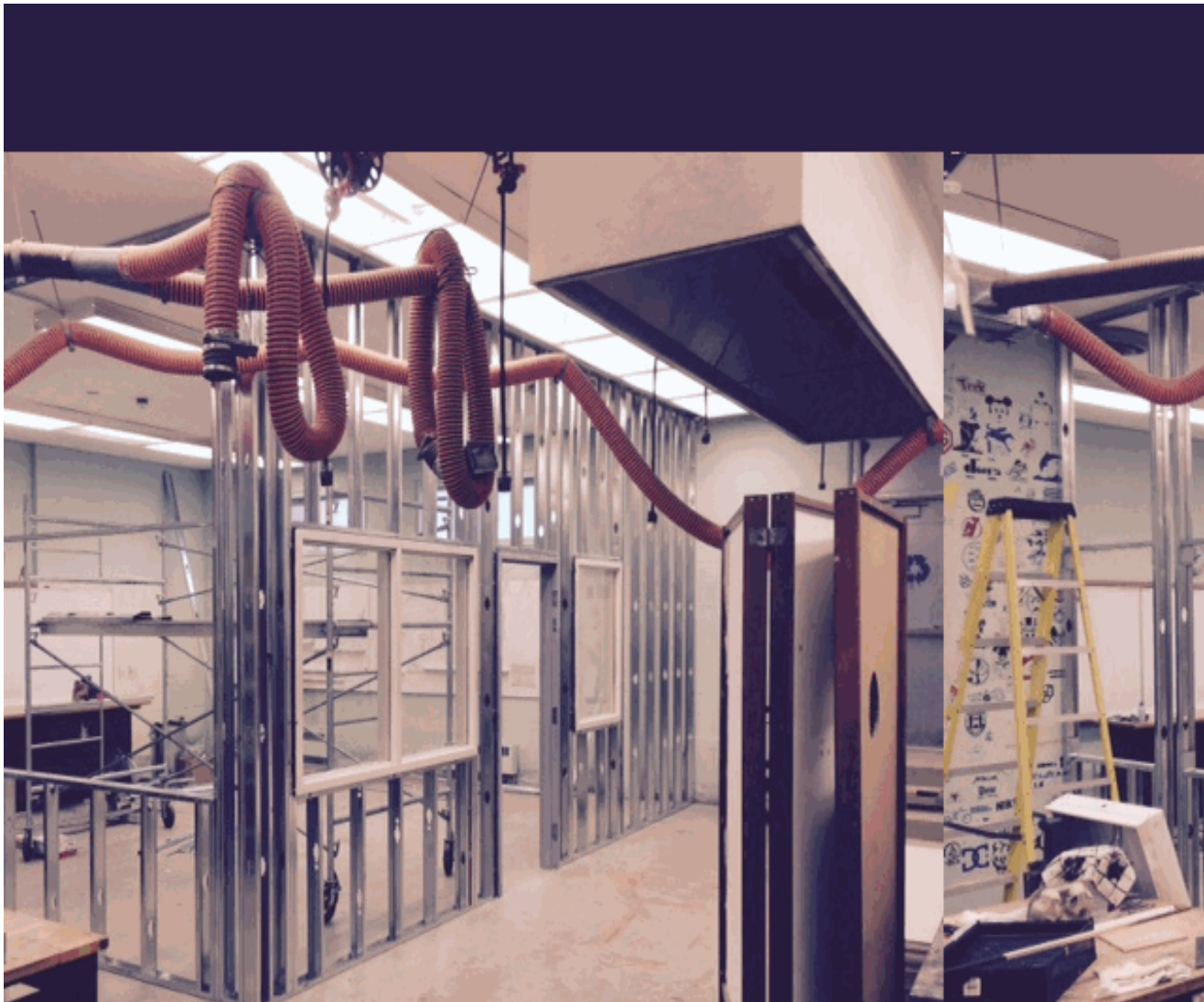
In honour of Computer Science Week, students were encouraged to participate in the **Hour of Code program** where students use fun interactive tutorials to learn the basics of programming. There are over 190,000 planned events worldwide! Go to <https://code.org/learn> to learn more. Check out the promotional video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FC5FbmsH4fw>

You may be surprised by who is promoting this initiative.

Launched in 2013, Code.org® is a non-profit dedicated to expanding access to computer science. Their vision is that every student in every school should have the opportunity to learn computer science.

There Will Be a New Technology Education Laboratory in Our Future

(Picture of renovations/construction of the new tech lab in the industrial arts room at MDJH)



The original Industrial Arts room at MDJH is going through a change. With the shift in Technology Education/Skills Trades programming we are planning for a design space adjacent to a production space. The new computer lab space inside the larger facility will be configured to accommodate the four Intermediate Technology Education themes including Communications Technology, Production Technology, Control Technology, and Energy and Power Technology. Please stay tuned for more information on this initiative in the near future.

Request for Support: 3-D Printing

Have you heard about Additive Manufacturing? Maybe Not. The popular term is 3-D printing; try Googling the concept and you will find that there has been a significant number of articles written about the innovative uses of 3-D Printing as a production/manufacturing process. MDJH is looking to expose it's students to a design process utilizing this current technology. Even though the price tag on 3-D Printing has dropped significantly in the last couple of years, it is still a specialty item and we need support from our school community to invest in this direction. Is there a company or companies that would be interested in assisting us in making this imitative a reality? The start up costs for 3-D printing is approximately \$4000.00.

Any interested persons please contact Wade Gillard (wadegillard@nlesd.ca).

RNC / RCMP Presentations



Constable Lisa Harris, with the RNC, recently presented sessions to all our students on the responsible use of electronic devices and the legalities that surround their usage. These sessions were all part of helping students become more informed about the consequences of using electronic devices in an inappropriate manner. Our Grade 7 students will also be attending sessions with Constable Coombs in the new year with topics related to social media awareness and current apps. There is a planned session for parents in the new year as well. Stay tuned!





What's Happening at MacDonald Drive Junior High?

Activities/Clubs	Time	Room	Teacher Sponsor
Chess	Day 7 @ 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 3 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
Student Council	As needed	219	Ms. Quann
Intramurals	TBA (on-going) except Wed.	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



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 12:33 to ensure they are ready for afternoon classes.



Bell Schedule

Doors open: 8:05 am.

Warning bell: 8:20 am 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

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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 peanuts

No Shellfish

No latex

No perfumes/colognes

Note: No soy products



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 possesses any of 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. Hence, advise students to keep them in one's locker.

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



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.

School Council

The School Council will meet on **Monday, January 11th, 2016** at 7:00 pm at the Conference Room.



MDJH Outreach Group



MDJH Outreach Group had their first meeting of the year. This group will be working within the St. John's local community over the upcoming year. Some community support will be done with our monthly soup kitchen; fundraising for charities, visits to senior's home and Ronald Macdonald House. This group hopes to provide charitable support to various groups in our community throughout the year and allow for students to gain valuable volunteer experiences.

Safety on School Grounds



It is very important that all students take caution on and around school grounds at all times. Students need to use crosswalks and obey all road and traffic signs. It is important that students refrain from running between traffic or fooling around on busy streets. 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: December 14-18, 2015

The Annual MDJH Christmas Concert took place on Tuesday, December 15, 7:00 pm @ the MDJH Gym. Performing Christmas favorites was the Grade 7 Band, Grade 8 & 9 Band, the Jazz Band, the Concert Choir, and Vocal Ensemble. Thank you for a wonderful evening of music and song. Congratulations to Ms. Dunsmore and Ms. Wilson and their respective students on such fine performances. Thank you to the parents, grandparents, and staff who attended and helped with clean up.

For the remainder of the week before the holidays begin, the bands will meet as scheduled here. We will have a look at the new music we will be doing after Christmas. This is a great time to get a head start for the new year.

	Mon. Dec. 14	Tues. Dec. 15	Wed. Dec. 16	Thurs. Dec. 17	Fri. Dec. 18
	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 1
1				Grade 8/9 Flutes, Clari- nets, Alto Saxes, Trumpets, and French Horn	
2					
3				Grade 8/9 Tenor Saxes, Trombones, Baritones, Tuba. Bass Guitar	
4		Full Grade 8/9 Band In the gym			Grade 7 Flutes, Clari- nets, Alto Saxes
5		Full Grade 7 Band In the gym			Grade 7 Trumpets, Trombones, Baritones Tenor Saxes

MDJH Announcements

- Reminder that the playground / basketball court at Macdonald Drive Elementary (MDE) is off limits to MDJH students. Please refrain from using both during the school day after dismissal. They utilize all areas of their grounds and have an after school program. Please respect their space.
- All student lockers should be cleaned out by Monday, December 21st. Please ensure there is no food, drink, or clothing left in one's locker. Texts, paper and other school supplies can be left in the locker.
- Congrats to the MDJH Jazz band and their performance at the NLTA Christmas Suite recently. They played to a vibrant audience at the Arts & Culture Centre. Kudos to Ms. Dunsmore for her efforts again this year.
- Congratulations to the MDJH math league teams who recently participated in the Junior High Math League Competition. Both teams were fabulous, representing MDJH very well. One of the teams finished in first place and one tied for fourth. The winning team scored 52 out of a possible 55 points. Well done MDJH mathematics.



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We're on the web
<http://mdjh.info/>

Congratulations to the Grade 8 Girls Volleyball Team



The grade 8 girls' team won the "After School League" championship title during the Nov 27 - 28, 2015 weekend. They finished second at the Eastern Provincial 14U Volleyball tournament in Clarenville. Well done girls.

MDJH Athletics

- Congratulations to the Boys' Grade 9 Volleyball team who recently won the Leary's Brook Invitational tournament. The boys have an undefeated season to this point and have won many tournaments along with claiming the "After School League" title. Well done boys.



Congratulations to John Shea in grade 8 who participated in the Atlantic Karate Championships earlier in the fall in PEI. He won two medals: gold in Kumite and a bronze in Kata. Great job John.

Congrats to the following figure skaters who took part recently in the 2016 Sectional Championships for Skate NL:

Juvenile U14 Gold and Merit Award for outstanding performance in the competition:

McKenna Mercer

Pre-Juvenile bronze medalist: *Kathleen Curran*

Juvenile U14 Silver Medalist and winner of the Polaris Cup for most artistic. *Elin Maskova*

