

MDJH

Dec.4th ,2015



PARENT NEWSLETTER

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

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# Parent Newsletter

## Green Apple News



### Term 1 Interview Sessions

Report cards will now be released to parents/guardians on **Monday, December 7th, 2015.**

Parent-teacher interviews are scheduled for Thursday, December 10th beginning at 1:00 pm.– 5:00pm and 6:00 pm –8:30 pm. Students will be dismissed from school at 11:39pm. Parents must register online through OPTIS. Instruction available online on the school's website.

Note: School will be closed for students on Friday, December 11th, 2015 to allow for a professional development day for teachers.

### Important Upcoming Dates:

*Parent –Teacher Interviews –Thursday, December 10th, 2015*

*In-service for Teachers (School closed) -Friday, December 11th, 2015*

*Christmas Concert—Tuesday, December 15th, 2015*

## Christmas Concert



Our Christmas concert will take place in the school gym on Tuesday, December 15th, beginning at 7:00 pm . Come, relax and enjoy our Grade 7 Band, Jazz Band, Grade 8/9 Band and the Concert Choirs of MDJH. Tickets are available at the door: plenty of room for all!

### MDJH Breakfast Program



## Student Council



**MDJH students** are adopting a senior 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. We have 28 seniors who we would like to provide with gifts. The seniors are residents of St. Patrick's Mercy Home and each homeroom is responsible for providing gifts for one of the seniors. St. Pat's will provide us with a wish list for 28 seniors. Each homeroom will be assigned a senior and will be provided with a wish list for that senior. Lists have been distributed to homerooms. Please

make every effort to donate to this worthwhile cause. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Quann at [colettequann@nlesd.ca](mailto:colettequann@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 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.

### VOCM Cares: Coats for Kids



Again this year, we will be collecting all winter clothing, such as coats, hats, scarfs, mitts, snowsuits, etc. If you have any of these items that are no longer of use to you, we would appreciate donations. Any items can be dropped along to our school. Please add your child's name and homeroom to the all items donated. Names will be entered for prize draws and a pizza party will go to the winning homeroom.

**NEW**

MacDonald Drive Junior High is hosting a toy drive and fundraiser 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. 22<sup>nd</sup>.



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Why not bring something along when visiting us for parent-teacher interviews? Thanks for your support!

## **Choir**

The MDJH School Choir will be performing at the Sheraton for their annual Christmas Carols on **Wednesday, December 9th.**

## **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](mailto:colettequann@nlesd.ca) with Celebrate *YOUR CHILD'S NAME* in the subject line.

## **NEW Christmas Dismissal**

School will be dismissed for the Christmas break on Tuesday, December 22nd at 12:30 pm.. Busses will be on site at 12:30 pm. There will be regular classes offered in a condensed day. Details to follow. School will reopen on Monday, January 4th, 2015.

### **Please note:**

The gym will be closed during the Christmas break.





Students from Macdonald Drive Junior High and Holy Trinity High doing their practice hike from Mad-dox Cove to Cape Spear

### 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.



The School Council will meet on **Monday, December 7th**, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Conference Room.

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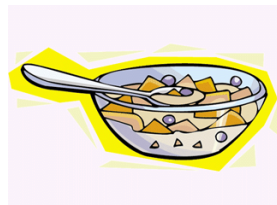
Did you know that 270+ students enjoy breakfast in our cafeteria every morning.

**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 or Caleb Thorne: calebthorne@nlesd.ca, if you wish to participate.

MDJH Breakfast Club would like to thank our grade 9 parents for their donations. We are still accepting donations of the following items:

- Granola bars (nut free)
- hot cereal
- jam
- Cheese strings
- apple juice tetra-pack
- orange juice tetra-pack
- Cheerios
- Honeycomb
- Corn Flakes

Monetary donations are always accepted at the school office.



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**Macdonald Drive Junior High Outreach Group** met recently. 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 homes 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. 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.



## 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 @ 11:50 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

### 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

### Photography Club

Next Photography Club meeting will be held Wednesday, December 9th. Members are reminded to take pictures for the monthly contest.

### 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.

**NEW**

### Europe Easter 2017

There will be a **parent information meeting Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's Junior High** for any student interested in going to France & Italy during Easter 2017. Information forms can be picked up from Ms. Quann. This meeting will begin at 7pm.

## 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 (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

## 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 perfume / cologne

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 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.





We have a severe "book watch" in effect as the Scholastic Book Fair Blizzard heads our way! Reading Radar shows a large accumulation of great reads moving into our area and is expected to arrive at our school on December 4th through 10th. But this is just the tip of the iceberg!



You will be blown away when you plow through the entire assortment of cool books firsthand! There will also be a special Family Event during parent teacher interviews when the flurry of excitement will snowball on December 10th.

The fair is a great place to pick up some wonderful Christmas gifts AND it is a great fundraiser for the school library - where every cent we make will be plowed back into brand new books for the library. This will be the coolest event of the season so dress warm and get ready to chill out with a cool book!

I thank so much to the helper elves who volunteered to help out! We wouldn't be able to pull this off without you!

Here is the class visitation schedule:

	Monday Day 5	Tuesday Day 7	Wed Day 1	Thurs Day 2
Before School 8:10-8:30	Book Fair Open	Closed	Book Fair Open	Book Fair Open
Period 1 8:30-9:30	7-2 E. Mills 9-9 Dyer	7-5 - Power (Tech)	7-9 D. Mills 9-2 Walsh	7-7 MacNeil 8-2 Connolly (Rel)
Period 2 9:30-10:25	7-6 D. Mills 8-8 Dyer 9-3 Mahoney	8-3 - Power (Sci)	8-4 MacNeil 8-6 Walsh	7-8 Scurlock 9-6 Dyer 9-7 Quann (SH)
Recess 10:25-10:43	Book Fair Open	Book Fair Open	Book Fair Open	Book Fair Open
Period 3 10:43-11:39	No class visits	7-1 MacNeil 8-9 E. Mills	8-1 D. Mills 8-7 Houlihan (SH) 9-5 Dyer	No class visits
Lunch 11:39-12:33	Book Fair Open	Book Fair Open	Book Fair Open	Closed
Period 4 12:32-1:34	7-3 D. Mills 8-5 Mahoney 9-1 Walsh	No class visits	9-8 Wilson 9-4 Penney	Parent Teacher Interviews
Period 5 1:34-2:30	7-4 E. Mills 7-10 Dyer	Closed	Closed	Book Fair Open afternoon and evening

## RNC Presentations for Students

**NEW** During the month of December, the RNC will be doing presentations on online exploitations to all our Grade 8 and 9 classes. and the legal implications associated when material is shared with others.

Grade 7 classes will attend the RNC presentations on social media awareness during the months of December and January.



# Band / Choral Notes: December 7th–11th, 2015

**BRAVO** to the **Jazz Band** for their super performance Wednesday evening at the Arts and Culture Centre! They were taking part in the annual NLTA Christmas Suite Concert and did a fine job of representing MDJH.

- ◆ Upcoming **Christmas Concert – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15**, 7 -8 pm in the MDJH gym
- ◆ Grade 7 Band, Grade 8/9 Band, Jazz Band, and the MDJH Choir will all be performing music to add to your holiday mood and celebrate the season.
- ◆ Jazz Band will practice Monday, 2:40-4:00 as usual

Now that we are into the last week of practice for the concert, students are reminded that their attendance is really important.

Schedule:

	Monday, Dec. 7	Tues. Dec. 8	Wed. Dec. 9	Thurs. Dec. 10
	Day 6	Day 7	Day 1	Day 2
1	Grade 8/9 FULL BAND	Grade 7 FULL BAND		
2			Grade 8/9 FULL BAND	
3	Grade 7 Trombones Baritones Tenor Saxes			
4	Grade 7 Percussion			No classes: Parent /teacher interviews
5				

## Choir News

Upcoming Performances:

Wednesday, December 9th at 12:00 at the Sheraton

Tuesday, December 15th at the School Christmas Concert

The choir will be performing holiday selections at both of these events. The choir scarves have arrived and are available for pick-up in the music room.

Here is the schedule for the next two weeks:

Tuesday, Dec 8, Day 7, Period 5

Wednesday, Dec 9, Day 1 Sheraton Performance

Friday, Dec 11, Day 3, Period 5



On November 6th - 7th, our Grade 9 Girl's Volleyball team participated in VolleyCentral hosted at various schools in the Grand-Falls / Windsor area. Our team had a great showing at this event and represented our school very well on their way to winning Tier 2 gold! Congratulations. Our next event will be the 15U Regional East taking place in CBS this weekend.

Back Row: Anna Edwards, Alexandra Martin, Kaitlyn House, Laura Parsons, Holly Dunn, Jessica Young, Holly Clarke

Front Row: Ryan Keats (coach), Maddison Brown, Jenna Evans, Caroline Keats, Elizabeth Petersen

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# Public Service Announcements

## Call for Book Fair Volunteer

The Scholastic Book Fair will be arriving Monday, December 7th, and we're excited about sharing the joy of reading with our students. We invite you to participate in this year's Scholastic Book Fair from, December 7th - 10th, by volunteering.

Scholastic Book Fairs gives our school the opportunity to bring families, teachers, students, and books together. It's the ultimate book event! Additionally, a portion of the sales benefits our school. It is the best way to raise funds while encouraging kids to read.

Being a part of something special is easier than you think. There are lots of ways to volunteer. We need people in a variety of areas, including:

- Helping with promotion, hanging posters and banners, and spreading the word about our Book Fair.
- Merchandising our Book Fair and table displays to create a terrific bookstore environment.
- Greeting customers at the door and working at our Cashier Table.
- Helping students and shoppers select just the right books.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about our Scholastic Book Fair, please contact:

Beth Power  
bethpower@nlesd.ca  
or 753-8240 ext 231.

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### 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, terrilynncoady@nlesd.ca or the school administration.

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