

MDJH

Feb. 14, 2016



NLESD

MACDONALD DRIVE JUNIOR HIGH
110 Macdonald Drive Junior High
St. John's, NL A1A 2K9



Parent Newsletter

February is:

National Inclusive Education Month.



Grade 9 High School Course Selection

Our Grade 9 students will be meeting with the administration and guidance from Gonzaga regarding course selection for grade 10 (high school). These sessions will take place on **Thursday, February 18th, 2016 in the AM.**

There will be a parent information session on **Tuesday, February 23rd** for parents/ guardians and students beginning at 7:00pm at Gonzaga.

PD Day for Teachers

Please be advised that school will be closed for students on **Friday, February 19th, 2016.** This will be a professional day for teachers. Teachers will be working on resources using the Google Classroom site.

Important Upcoming Dates:

PD Day: Friday, February 19th, 2016

Spirit Week - February 22nd, 2015 - February 26th, 2016. Stay tuned for events!

Grade 9 Information Session for Parents

IB Program

Holy Heart of Mary High School will be hosting an information session for parents of grade nine students interested in coming to Holy Heart in September 2016 at 7:00 p.m., **Wednesday, February 24th** at the Holy Heart Theatre.

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

MDJH Spirit Week

Green Apple Days

February 22nd – 26th

See inside for details!



School Events

MDJH Pet Drive



January 25 - February 20, 2016

We will be collecting the following items in support of our local SPCA:

- Cat litter (clumping or non-clumping)
- Cleaning supplies: all-purpose cleaner, garbage bags, laundry detergent, dish liquid, paper products, etc.
- Kitten dry food
- Whisker's cat food
- Kirkland or Nature's Domain dog food
- Martingale dog collars

All items can be dropped off at the office.

Every item you donate gives you a chance to win an iTunes gift card.

Spirit Week - Green Apple Days: February 22nd - 26th, 2016

On **Wednesday, February 24th** 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 for 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 24th** 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 / guardians.

Once again this year we are requesting parental donations of pink, iced cupcakes for Wednesday, February 24th. If you are able to help us in this endeavor please email Ms. Susan MacNeill at: susanmacneill@nlesd.ca or Ms. Joan McCue at: joanmccue@nlesd.ca or contact the school at 753-8240. Cupcakes should be delivered to the office by 9 a.m. Wednesday morning (Feb. 24th). Please remember that this is a nut-free environment.

We have students who require gluten-free cupcakes. If you are able to provide please email one of the teacher organizers. We certainly appreciate your support.



Spirit Week—Green Apple Theme Activities

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
22 RAINBOW DAY Stay tuned!	23 RETRO DAY	24 PINK DAY	25 MULTIPLE DAY (twins, tri-plets, quadruplets, etc)	26 JERSEY DAY Recreational outings in the AM: skating/ swimming/ bowling/ field house Hypnotist: Mr. Gary Summers in the PM.

MDJH Breakfast Program

Our breakfast program operates daily and we are currently providing breakfast for over 300+ students.

MDJH Breakfast Club would like to thank our **grade 8** 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 Pak
- orange juice tetra Pak

- Cheerios
- Honeycomb
- Corn Flakes

- Monetary donations are always accepted at the school office.

Europe 2017

Any student interested in going to France and Italy during Easter of 2017 should see Ms. Quann for information. Anyone wishing to sign up for this trip should register before the end of February. There is a reduced cost of \$350.00 for

those who have already signed up and for those who sign up before that deadline. Email Colette Quann at colettequann@nlesd.ca for details.



Students Taking Responsibility in Violence Education (STRIVE)

RNC Presentations

In February, we will have our STRIVE presentations for our Grade 8 students.

The STRIVE program is based on the notion that all students attending schools in Newfoundland and Labrador have the right to attend classes, participate in school activities, and enjoy free time without fear of being: i) the victim of youth violence; ii) intimidated, iii) verbally or physically abused, iv) sexually harassed, and/or v) made to feel excluded / like a victim.

The STRIVE program original version was developed by members of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Crime Prevention Unit in 1996. The program was developed in response to requests to have officers attend schools to speak to students on the problem of bullying. Since that time, the program has grown with components that can be delivered to students in Newfoundland and Labrador from grades Kindergarten to grade nine.

The goal of the program is to empower students to take ownership of the problem of youth violence and work within their schools and communities to find real-life solutions to problems encountered. The program contains information, statistics and photographs that are aimed to inform and enlighten the students to the effects of their own behavior and to that of other students.



InspireECO Art Contest

The exciting Environmental Arts Competition, “InspireECO” is back at your school this term. The goal of InspireECO is to awaken the eco-friendly spirit within the youth of our community. This year the competition will include written arts and visual arts, giving participant a choice of media for their entry in form of either an essay or a visual. The theme for this year’s InspireECO contest is:

Climate change is an issue which concerns the entire global community. Discuss in a fully developed original essay or display through an original piece of visual artwork, the importance of global cooperation in addressing the climate change issue.

Through exploring this theme, we hope that participants will gain a deeper understanding of what climate change means to them and through expressing this understanding through art, be able to inspire themselves and others. Additionally, students will have the chance to win prizes including e-readers, gift cards and eco prize packs! Through awakening and engaging youth locally, we wish to spark a change globally.

Please see Mrs. Penney (room 227) for rules, judging guidelines, and prize details. The entry deadline for the contest is **Wednesday March 9th, 2016.**



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
Maker Technology Club	Tuesdays@ 2:45-4:00	110A/119	Mr. Gillard// Ms. Murray

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 (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.



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 meeting was held on **Monday, February 1st, 2016** at 7:00 pm at the Conference Room. Next meeting is scheduled for **March 7th**.



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

Safety on School Grounds



It is very important that all students/parents take caution on and around school grounds at all times. We have a lot of on-going construction around our building. 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.

Student Council

Valentine's Photo Booth

The photography club held a **PHOTO BOOTH** on Friday, February 12th. Students who had their pictures taken will get their picture next week. Money raised will be put towards the purchase of equipment for photography club.



Yearbooks

You can now preorder yearbooks for the 2015-2016 school year available. The cost is \$20. Order forms are available at the office or from Ms. Quann. **ALL MDJH STUDENTS** are included in the yearbook. It is not a book for grade 9 students only. It is a nice keepsake for all junior high students that highlight school events and memories. Our yearbook includes all school events from September 2015- June 2016 and are delivered next fall.



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.

Photography Club



Next Photography Club meeting will be held **Wednesday, February 17th**. The contest theme for February is **Animal Pictures**. Members should submit their photos by **Monday, February 29th**. The photography club is interested in taking a variety of pictures of any groups or clubs at MDJH to use in this year's yearbook. All we need is some notice and a schedule. Please email Ms. Quann (colettequann@nlesd.ca) or Mr. Trevor Wragg (twragg@hotmail.com) to advise of practice times, events or games and we can arrange to have your group's picture taken. **RNC Cadet Basketball vs. Students Teachers Vs. Students Karaoke and Pep Rally**

Coming soon!

Pink Day 2016



Wednesday, February 24,

WANTED: Science Fair Judges

The MDJH School Science Fair this year will be **Thursday March 17th, 2016, 1:30-5:30 pm.**

Science students have been busily and creatively 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 proud of our high rate of student participation!

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.

If you are able to participate, please contact me at nathaliebrunet@nlesd.ca

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

If you know someone else who would like to be involved, please forward this information.

Nathalie Brunet,
Science teacher and Department Head, MDJH.

Good news from the MDJH Breakfast Program:



On **Friday, February 5** our school breakfast program received a **\$1000.00 donation** from the **Memorial Sta-**

dium Dominion store, care of Kellogg's breakfast. Manager Bev Wills came to our school to deliver the cheque, along with some Kellogg's cereal bars, where she was greeted with a **smile and a big thank-you** from Mr. Caleb Thorne and some of our Grade 9 students.

Coming soon!
Heritage Fair:
Mid-March



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.

Coming soon.....New Technology Production Lab



In the December 18th Newsletter we noted how the original Industrial Arts room at MDJH was going through a change. We are close to occupying the room. Just some plaster and paint to be completed on the outside of the computer room portion of the lab. Electrical and construction complete, computers on site awaiting completion of networking. Please stay tuned for more information on this initiative in the near future.

The “Maker Technology Club”

Tuesday, January 26th after school, a new extracurricular opportunity occurred. The inaugural meeting of the Maker Technology Club. This club will explore topics and themes that interest the membership. Our future home will be the newly renovated Technology Production Laboratory but until the facility is ready we will meet in Room 110A.

A consideration of our future topics will include the resources, tools and software available in the new lab. Our first topic will be of interest to any students interested in computer programming, specifically programming in the Python language. Our topic leader will be our very own A.A. from homeroom 9-5.

If we have peaked your interest, see you next Tuesday in Room 110A, 2:45 to 4:00 pm.

Mr. Gillard and Ms. Murray

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 its 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 initiative a reality? The startup costs for 3-D printing is approximately \$4000.00.

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

Congratulations!

Grade 8 Boys Volleyball gold medal winners @ St. Paul's Invitational!



Band Notes: February 15th– February 19th, 2016

Jazz Band will practice after school Monday 2:40-4:00 PM

All bands have now been entered into the Rotary Music Festival which will take place the last week of April. Parents and students are reminded that participation in this event and subsequent performances will be for students who have displayed regular attendance and commitment throughout the year.

Schedule for this week:

	Mon. Feb. 15	Tues. Feb. 16	Wed. Feb. 17	Thurs. Feb. 18	Friday, Feb. 19
	Day 6	Day 7	Day 1	Day 2	
1	Grade 7 Trombones Baritones Tenor Saxes				PD Day No classes
2					
3	Grade 7 Percussion				
4	Grade 8/9 FULL BAND	Grade 7 FULL BAND		Grade7 FULL BAND	
5			Grade 8/9 FULL BAND		

Choral News

The choir will be competing in the Kiwanis Music Festival on Wednesday, February 24th at 2:25pm at the D.F. Cook Recital Hall.

Starting February 1, the choir schedule changes slightly. An updated schedule is on Ms. Wilson's website.

Regular choir periods (starting Feb 1): Day 3, Period 5 and Day 6 Period 4.

Vocal Ensemble meets Wednesday after school until 3:30 and Day 3 Period 1.

Maclean's magazine article of interest for parents:

<http://www.macleans.ca/society/the-collapse-of-parenting-why-its-time-for-parents-to-grow-up/>

What Every Parent Should Know

Digital Distractions

A new study by Bernard McCoy University of Nebraska Lincoln was published in the Journal of Media Education which shows that students are becoming more and more distracted by their digital devices. A survey of 675 respondents found that college students spent 20.9% of their class time using their digital devices for things not related to the class. The study built on previous studies which showed:

- Test scores were 6.4% higher in schools where cell phone use was banned. (Beland and Murphy 2015)
- 71% of teachers felt entertainment media available on digital devices shortened student attention spans and their ability to persevere on challenging tasks (Richtel 2012) while 60% said it hurt students' ability to write and communicate face-to-face.
- 64% of teachers believe that digital technology "did more to distract students than help them academically." (Purcell 2012),
- 42% of students felt that others use of digital devices was distracting to them and boys were more distracted than girls. **More than a quarter of the students who responded said their grade suffered from digital device use in the classroom.**

The average student uses those devices for "non-class purposes" -- in other words, texting, emailing and using social media -- 11.43 times in class during a typical day and the trend is likely to continue as new devices hit the mainstream. Why do students peek at their devices during class? About 63 percent of surveyed students said they do so to stay connected, but an equally large share of students said they are attempting to fight boredom.

The students in the survey were cognizant of the disadvantages of devices in the classroom. Nearly nine in every 10 students said not paying attention was the biggest disadvantage, and eight in 10 said being distracted by devices could lead them to miss instruction. Even though students agreed that checking their devices could harm their academic performance, a majority of students (about 58 percent) described it as only a "little" distraction.

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Chartwells has introduced a **NEW and CONVENIENT** way to purchase food at the school cafeteria with the **Zipthru DINE WITH US Reloadable Card!** Just like any gift card, a balance is loaded on a card and declines as purchases are made. The online function of this program provides convenience for parents to purchase, reload and monitor spending as well as set up an account to protect the remaining funds. In 4 easy steps you will be confident that your child has been provided with healthy meal options and a protected balance. This relieves the need for a packed lunch or carrying cash. Purchasing or reloading \$100 or more will give you an **ADDITION** of 10% bonus dollars directly added to your balance. Visit www.zipthru-card.ca to purchase an e-Certificate by email today. Present the printed e-Certificated to the cafeteria and receive a **Zipthru** card with the designated balance!

PUT AWAY
THE CASH
AND DINE WITH US!

Reloadable Card
Simply load a balance and use like cash.

Get 10% **Bonus Dollars** with a minimum \$100 load

...the fast & easy way to buy fresh food at school.

Load today!
Online at zipthru-card.ca or with cashier

Eatlearnlivecanada.ca

Zipthru **Chartwells**
Eat-Learn-Live

Teachers /Parents

Please see below and attached about our upcoming Kids Eat Smart Gala on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the Delta St. John's.

Our gala helps raise funds to help support our 246 Kids Eat Smart Clubs throughout the Province. Each school day we serve over 23,000 meals!

Join us for an entertaining evening which includes a silent and live auction, children's choir, comedian entertainment, and hear the wonderful stories about our 246 KES Clubs in the Province!

To purchase tickets please contact our office @ 722-1996.

Don't be disappointed, Book your table today!



April 30, 2016 Delta St. John's

- Table of 10 - \$1500
- Some sponsorship opportunities available
- For more information call 722-1996 or email gala@kidseatsmart.ca

The Kitchen Party
KIDS EAT SMART FOUNDATION
GALA 2016

Public Service Announcements

GirlSpace

GirlSpace is a Signature Turning Point Program offered by YWCA's across Canada. These six sessions will engage girls in learning about a variety of topics, allowing the opportunity for them to build on skills such as leadership, teamwork, self-reliance, increased independence, self-awareness, and positive self-esteem.

We are thrilled to have partnered with the St. John's Native Friendship Centre for the delivery of this six week GirlSpace program. This program will take place at the St. John's Native Friendship Centre and will run on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm from February 1st until March 7th. This program is open to anyone who identifies as a girl and is between the ages of 13 and 17.

Registration closes on January 22nd, 2016.
To register, contact Deanne via phone (726-9922) or e-mail (deanne@ywcastjohns.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



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