

MDJH

February 24,  
2017



PARENT NEWSLETTER

**Macdonald Drive Junior High School**  
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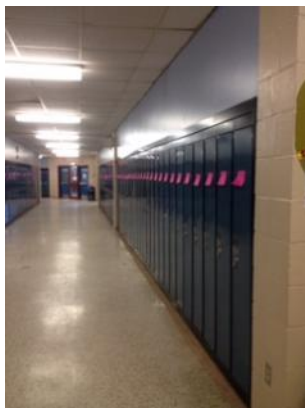


# Parent Newsletter

## Pink Day, February 22, 2017



On Wednesday, February 22nd, the students and staff of Macdonald Drive Junior High celebrated Pink Day, a national day recognizing Bullying Awareness with the message that **Bullying Stops Here!** To promote the anti-bullying theme of Pink Day, students at Macdonald Drive Junior High wore an article of pink clothing and enjoyed a delicious cupcake! This endeavor was extremely successful due to the tremendous support of our students, parents, and staff. As well, an inspiring message was placed on every locker to greet students when they arrived in the morning. A small gesture to promote a positive school culture.



## BIG WIN against St. Peter's at the St. Paul's Tournament

Boys did a great job this past weekend, As always it was a very close game with a 67-65 win.



## Chess!

Nandan Chandrakanth placed first in the ALL Newfoundland Intermediate Individual Chess Tournament!



## WE Day in Montreal

Congratulations and welcome back to our students that represented us at the WE conference !



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## Student Council News

### Teacher Appreciation Week

Many thanks go out to the students and parents of MDJH for sending in the delicious baked goods and treats for teacher appreciation week.



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### Spirit Week/ Green Apple Days

MDJH Green Apple Days will be held the week of March 6-10. There are theme days for students to show their spirit each day. There are also many different lunchtime activities being planned. A schedule will be posted in the school on the TV monitor once finalized. Students should keep an eye out for this and listen to the morning announcements for more information.



	<b>Monday March 6</b>	<b>Tuesday March 7</b>	<b>Wednesday March 8</b>	<b>Thursday March 9</b>	<b>Friday March 10</b>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>FANDOM DAY</b> <i>(Dress as your favorite character, singer, historical figure, etc.)</i>	<b>MULTIPLE DAY</b> <i>(Twins, triplets, quadruplets, etc.)</i>	<b>DIVERSITY DAY</b> <i>(Rainbow, celebrate cultural differences, etc.)</i>	<b>CRAZY HAIR DAY</b>	<b>JERSEY DAY</b>

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### Yearbook Photos

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). Any pictures taken from a cellphone should be sent selecting actual size to ensure the quality is correct for uploading to the yearbook.

Team pictures are needed. If any parent, student or coach has a picture of a school team, please email one to [colettequann@nlesd.ca](mailto:colettequann@nlesd.ca).

### 2015-2016 Yearbooks

All yearbooks have been distributed to our current students. Last year's yearbooks have been delivered to Holy Heart and Gonzaga for distribution with a list of the names of who ordered them.



### Hypnotist Show

Back by popular demand is our hypnotist show during our *Green Apple Days*. Our grade 9 students are offered the opportunity to be hypnotised while the rest of the student body enjoys the show. It is enjoyed by all. The hypnotist show is scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, March 9th. Each student is asked to bring in **\$3 to cover the cost** of the show. This will be collected by homeroom teachers starting the week of February 27th.

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### WE Day in Montreal

On February 23, 13 student council members and 2 teachers travelled to Montreal to attend **WE Day**. As a WE school, our student council has been recognized for our local and global efforts. The WE organization have recognized our commitment to making positive contributions in our school, our community, our country and our world by offering our students an opportunity to attend WE day in Montreal all expenses paid. They were paired with a host school in Montreal upon arrival and participated in an action planning workshop led by a WE facilitator. Some of our WE campaigns have included WE create

change, WE bake for change, WE scare hunger and WE are rafiki. Our school was the only school in our area chosen by the WE organisation to receive this opportunity.

Many thanks go out to our school community for your continued support of student council initiatives.

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

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### Photography Club

Next photography club meeting is **Wednesday, March 1**. The theme for this month's photo contest is **Animals**. All members are reminded to submit their photos to [twragg@hotmail.com](mailto:twragg@hotmail.com).



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## Framing the Text

With the start of each new unit in English Language Arts, it is important to establish background information that teachers feel students will need in order to understand the text. Right now, we are studying “Romeo and Juliet” in grade 9, the novel *The Outsiders* in grade 8 and *Among the Hidden* in grade 7. To set the tone, we need to intrigue the students and give them the tools for best understanding. This can be done in a variety of ways: storytelling, watching informational videos or power point presentations, or playing games just to name a few.

Mr. David Walsh, an actor as well as teacher, brought his Shakespearean costume to school to first intrigue the students.



Later, he used a Shakespearean insult kit as a fun way to entice the students to enjoy the new, strange language of Shakespeare. (See sample following.) In this activity, students say, “Thou...” followed by one word from each column.

What follows is spirited interaction that helps relieve students of their reticence towards the language of the Bard.

### Column 1

artless  
bawdy  
beslubbering  
bootless  
churlish

### Column 2

base-court  
bat-fowling  
beef-witted  
beetle-headed  
boil-brained

### Column 3

apple-john  
baggage  
barnacle  
bladder  
boar-pig



In Grade 8, Ms. Donna Mills has created a bulletin board with the help of her students that highlights important facts about the main characters. This provides a quick reference guide for students throughout the novel study.

Grade 7 students are learning about different types of government in preparation for their novel study because the text deals with life under a totalitarian regime. Click the link that follows to see what they saw:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEEuwmMIPas>

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## Science News

Science Project season is starting! Science teachers are handing out project guides and bringing classes to the computer lab so students can start research for their project. There are various project options depending on program, grade level, and teacher.

Students in the English program have a choice between a Science Fair project, which can be either an experiment or a model, or a grade-specific Common Place Book assignment, which uses their textbook as a resource to explore an upcoming unit.

In French Immersion, all grade 8 and 9 students are doing Science Fair Projects (experiment or model), as are the grade 7 Early French Immersion classes (Mme Brunet's classes). For grade 7 Late French Immersion, Mr. Devereaux's class has already completed a portion of an Ecosystem project, and Mr. West's classes will do a project on the Earth's crust and plate tectonics, using an information booklet that was specially written for accessibility in French for beginning students.

The final deadline for all science projects will be the end of February - please consult the homework pages for exact dates. The MDJH School Science Fair, open to all students who have chosen that type of project, will be on **Thursday, March 16, 2017, 1:00 - 5:00 pm**. Participation is optional, but warmly encouraged, with a 5% bonus added to their project mark.

This year, the Science Department is trying a couple of special initiatives to give additional support to students doing these projects. First, we are exploring the use of Google Classroom, where students can access copies of the project guides, register their topic chosen topic, and have the option of completing the plans for their experiment/model online rather than on paper. Some science teachers are also using Google Classroom for portions of the Common Place Book projects.

We are also offering a Science Project Help Lab during lunch on days 1 and 3 of the school cycle. Teachers will be on hand to help students with all stages of the project, from choosing a topic, to planning their experimental work, to writing up their report - including French help for FI students. In some cases, students may also be able to use the school's lab space and equipment to perform their experiment. Please note, the intention is to supplement, not replace, the help you are able to offer your children. We are looking forward to students' creativity, and to messing about in the lab with them!

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## WANTED: Science Fair Judges

The MDJH School Science Fair this year will be **Thursday, March 16th, 2016, 1:00-5:00 pm**.

Science students are getting to work and creatively 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](mailto:nathaliebrunet@nlesd.ca)



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**Spaces still available in the following City of St. John's, Recreation Division youth programs.**

**Here's how to register:**

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

- In person at either H.G.R Mews Community Centre; Telephone at [\(709\) 576-8499](tel:(709)576-8499)

**Youth Learn To ... Animal Care**

Learn about animal rescue, pet care, careers with animals and bite prevention.

Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Time: 6 to 8pm

Ages: 12 to 16 years

Location: Animal Care & Adoption Centre, 81 Higgins Line

Cost: \$14

**Youth Learn To ... Architectural Design**

Learn how to build 3D graphical models of buildings using computer software. All necessary materials provided.

Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Time: 5 to 8pm

Ages: 12 to 16 years

Location: College of the North Atlantic, Ridge Road Campus

Cost: \$21

**9th Annual 'So You Think You've Got Talent?'**

The Youth Talent Show is an annual event hosted by the City of St. John's, Recreation Division for youth aged 10 to 14 years. This is an opportunity for individuals or groups to display their artistic talents

(i.e., singing, dancing, drama, playing in a band, martial arts, poetry reading, etc.).

**Date:** Sunday, March 19, 2017

**Time:** 2 to 5 PM

**Location:** LSPU Hall, 3 Victoria Street

**Cost:** FREE to all performers and audience members!

**Deadline for applications:** Monday, March 6, 2017.

Application forms can be dropped at the City of St. John's, Recreation Division main office: Crosbie Building, 1 Crosbie Place (Office Hours 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) OR send completed form via fax to [\(709\) 576-8469](tel:(709)576-8469) or e-mail [recreation@stjohns.ca](mailto:recreation@stjohns.ca)

**Dates to Remember:**

- Heritage Fair - Tuesday - periods 4 & 5, February 28th
- Spirit Week - March 6-10th
- Science fair in the gym - Thursday, March 16th
- Report cards released - Friday, March 17th
- Parent teacher interviews - Thursday, March 23rd









## Information Sessions for Parents

WINTER/SPRING 2017

Eastern Region District Conference Centre  
(40 Strawberry Marsh Road, just off Allandale Road & opposite to Arts & Culture Centre)

Monday, March 6		<b>Parenting in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:</b> How the Pendulum Has Swung & What You Can Do to Recentre It	0-18 yrs old
Monday, March 20		<b>Anxiety in Children:</b> What It Looks Like & What You Can Do to Help	5-12 yrs old
Monday, May 1		<b>Anxiety in Teenagers:</b> What It Looks Like & What You Can Do to Help	13-18 yrs old
Monday, May 29		<b>Challenging Behaviour:</b> Identifying, Understanding & Responding to the Problem	10-18 yrs old



6:00-7:30 PM: *Presentation*  
7:30-8:00 PM: *Questions & Answers*

Please call 777-4020 to register for seats at Conference Centre. **Show up early! Any registered seats that aren't claimed by 5:50 PM on the night of each talk will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis.**

HOSTED BY PUBLIC  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Hazel Russell, MSW, RSW  
Sandie J. Cook, PhD, RPsych  
Krista Marshall, MSW, RSW  
Derek Singleton, MSW, RSW

**Mental Health  
& Addictions Program**



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## School Leaving Carnival

**Grade 9 Parents / Guardians**, please return permission forms with \$20 for the Grade 9 School Leaving Carnival, scheduled for May 25, 2017, 6:30-9:00. Also, we are asking for prizes and/or Gift Cards so that all of our Grade 9s will walk away with a prize.

**Grade 8 Parents**, if you are able to volunteer for the Grade 9 Carnival, a form has gone home with all grade 8 students. A copy can also be found on our web page at <http://mdjh.info>



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## Parking Lot Reminder

Coming off of Toronto Street, there are two lanes. The right lane is for buses and traffic going around MDJH. The left lane is for parents/ guardians dropping off their children. PLEASE pull up to the **STOP** sign before letting your child out.

The drop off lane should only be used for quick stop, drop and go, even if the doors are not open yet. If parents do not want to leave until the doors open, they should park in the parking lot.

Please take a moment to watch MDJH Drop off Video... the people may have changed, but the instructions are still the same!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptiklbLLhvo>



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**We're on the web!**

**<http://mdjh.info>**