

Marion Schilling Elementary School Newsletter

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"Learning is Cool at our School!!"

April 30, 2015

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians:

It is absolutely amazing at how fast this school year is passing. We have 8 weeks of school left; lots of time for significant learning to occur. With the arrival of warmer weather and Spring it is so important that students maintain both home and school routines, as well as regular and on-time attendance at school. Like you, we are planning for a very strong finish to our school year!

This time of year is a very busy time in the cycle of a school year.



In addition to the on-going learning that occurs in our classrooms, a number of district events also occur during this time. Special opportunities for our Intermediate students include: Battle of the Books, Young Artists, Young Authors, Heritage Fair, Math Challenge, Flag Football and of course Track and Field!! Students do not advance to district events, without much time and attention dedicated by our teachers. Please join me in thanking MSES teachers for their hardwork and commitment to our students.

The Spring is also a time that much planning and organizing for the upcoming school year begins. This occurs at both the school and district level with staffing. At this time teacher and CUPE staff changes have not occurred. However, Admin transfers were announced this week. As such, I will be transferred to Kay Bingham Elementary School. Mrs. Darlene Gordon will be the new principal of MSES. It has been both an honour and privilege to work with the staff, students, families and community partners over the past 5 years. I look forward to our final 8 weeks together.

Sincerely, Mrs. Wood, Principal

DRESSING FOR SCHOOL

With the arrival of some beautiful weather, much of our clothing has changed from coats and boots to shorts and sandals. Students are expected to come to school dressed to be outside during recess and lunch breaks, so sweaters/jackets and shoes need to be worn on cooler days. It is also important that students are mindful that **schools are special places of learning and their clothing should be suitable** and not distracting or make others feel uncomfortable. Skimpy clothes (spaghetti straps, short shorts, tops that don't readily cover the midriff, beachwear, etc) and the showing of underwear are not appropriate. Likewise, messages on clothing are not to be offensive. I want to thank our families in advance for supporting our clothing expectations.



DROPPING STUDENTS OFF EARLY IN THE MORNING AND LATE PICK-UPS

It is important that parents are mindful of our school hours. Our instructional day is from 8:36 to 2:35. Our doors open in the morning at 8:26. **We do not offer before school and after school child care, therefore it is important that parents make the necessary arrangements for appropriate childcare.** We have limited supervision in the morning and after school for those students who are transported to school by school bus.

BUS CODE OF CONDUCT

Many of our students ride school buses each day to school. **The safe transportation of our students is paramount and as such, requires all students to ride the bus in a safe manner, just as they ride in their family's car, truck or van.** Moving around, standing up, placing arms outside the window, as well as being loud, disruptive and not following the directions of the bus driver, **may result in a student losing their privilege to be transported to and from school on the bus.** It is essential that parents take the time to review the Bus Code of Conduct with their children so that all students are afforded a safe ride to and from school.



STRONG START

Our Dragonflies Strong Start Program is a parent participation program for all children under school age. Attendance at our Strong Start Program is very flexible. We encourage as many of our future MSES students and parents to attend this program. It is a wonderful program that allows you to interact with other children, families, and helps familiarize your child with a school! Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, from 8:36 – 11:36.



BIKES/SCOOTERS/SKATEBOARDS



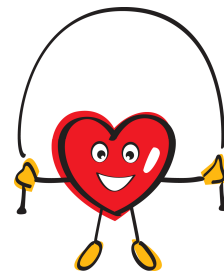
Students who choose to ride their bikes, skateboards and scooters to and from school are asked to ensure they are secure throughout the day. Scooters may be kept in classrooms, bikes locked at the bike racks and skateboards kept in student lockers. We ask that students refrain from riding these personal devices, once they've arrived to school.

May is Track and Field month in our District! Intermediate classes are now using their gym classes to start and prepare for these events. We will host our school's track meet

on **May 14**. Students who meet Track and Field standards in events, will have an opportunity to advance to the Zone and possibly District Meets. *If you are available to help out with our school's Track Meet on May 14, please contact the school office.*

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

MSES participates annually in Jump Rope for Heart. Last week, pledge forms were handed out to students. Next week will be Jump Rope at MSES! This is always a fun event for students and a good time for all students to get together and participate in skipping activities.



CLASS PLACEMENTS

Preliminary class organization has commenced. Until all students are accounted for the first week of September, it is impossible to finalize class placement and teaching assignments. Much thought and consideration is given to class organization. Factors considered include: learning needs of students, academic and social/emotional



needs, gender and grade balance, class size limits, as well as, overall class complexity. Parent input is also a consideration.

Parents may submit in writing a class placement request (but not a teacher request) stating a preference with educational reasons to support the request. Requests will be accepted up to Friday, May 15th.

Please be mindful that:

- * parent requests are not guaranteed
- * final placement decisions are not made until the first week of September
- * split classes are a reality and offer many opportunities for students
- * Our goal is always to create the best learning environment for ALL students!

TRANSFER REQUESTS

If you plan on having your child attend another school in September, please let the office know so that you can complete the necessary transfer and registration forms.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

MSES is in the final stages of developing their new SIP. We will have 2 goals for the upcoming three school years. We will continue to focus on literacy and social responsibility. Our SIP will be presented at the PAC meeting on May 14th.

WEEKLY HEAD LICE CHECKS

We want to thank those families who are being diligent with weekly head checks and subsequent treatments. As a school we continue to send home letters to all families in a class, along with families in classes of siblings, when we are aware of head lice. Our purpose in notifying our families is so you too can be extra diligent in checking for lice and nits. **The primary responsibility for control of head lice rests with our families.**

On our school's website we have a link to Recommended Head Lice Management. Public health nurses are also available to answer questions about the management of head lice, problems with treatment, as well as, general information and resources.

The following links are to Interior Health's website:

- [Recommended Head Lice Management Presentation](#) (30 pages)
- [Recommended Head Lice Management](#) (14 pages)
- [Treatment Options Handout](#)
- [Head Lice Informational Video](#) (9 minutes)

PAC

All parents and guardians of children attending MSES are considered to be members of our Parent Advisory Council. As such, you are always welcome to attend our monthly meetings. The next meeting will be held on

Thursday, May 14th in the Staff Room. MSES's PAC is very supportive of our school, students and programs. On behalf of the school, we want to thank our PAC for everything they do!



Board Notes

From the Board Meeting of:
APRIL 13, 2015

1. The Board enjoyed a presentation by four grade 2 students at Barriere Elementary on Math and Numeracy.
2. The Board approved the recommended changes to the January Secondary School Exam Schedule.
3. The Board approved an Out-Of-Province Field Trip Request for four students, who participated and won the privilege of representing School District No. 73 in the "Crystal Growth in Space" Experiment, to travel to Washington, DC on July 1-3, 2015.
4. The Board approved the recommended changes to School Calendar Professional Development dates for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.
5. The Board approved a revision to Policy 1121.1 Corporate Sponsorships and Donations.
6. The next regular public Board Meeting will occur on Monday, April 27, 2015 at the School Board Office.

**OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE
POSTED ON THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015**