



Marion Schilling Elementary School Newsletter

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"Learning is Cool at our School!!"

February 26, 2015

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians:

February has been an exciting month at MSES! We attended our second Young Peoples Concert at Sagebrush Theatre and hosted two performances at MSES. Both performances at MSES addressed bullying and treating others with respect and kindness. Yesterday, students and staff participated in Pink Shirt Day in support of acceptance and tolerance of all individuals.

Next week our Grade 4 & 7 students will be bringing home their **FSA booklets** with their scores. Parents please take the time to review your child's performance. Please be mindful that the FSAs do not impact your child's Report Card marks, but are rather a snapshot of how your child is doing in reading, numeracy and writing, at a given point in time. If you have any questions about your child's performance on the FSAs, you may contact your child's teacher. If you would like to learn more on the FSAs, please go on the Ministry of Education's Website.

Term 2 Report Cards will be sent home with students on Thursday, March 12. Again, I would encourage all families to review their child's progress. If your child is in the Primary grades and is not fully meeting expectation, or if your child is in the Intermediate grades and is not achieving at a C or higher, please connect with your child's teacher to develop a plan of support. Parents with students in Grades 1 – 4 may also choose to access A Guide for Parents in both Writing and Reading on the internet. In both of these publications you will find great explanations of expected performance indicators for each grade, as well as, a variety of suggested activities to support your child.

Home and school partnership is very important for student connection and academic achievement. We value our families and your support.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Wood, Principal

Kindergarten

Registration for 2016 will occur March 2 – 6th. If you have a child who is or will be 5 years of age by December 31, 2015 they are eligible to start Kindergarten this September. Please bring your child's birth certificate, care card and proof of address (utility bill, etc) when you come to register your child. The office will be accepting registrations from 8:30 – 12:00 and 12:30 – 3:00 the first week of March! **It is important to register your child during this week of March, as our invitations to our Kindergarten Orientation will be handed out.**



Course selection for our Grade 7 students entering HS will take place the second week of March. Staff from VSS will visit MSES on March 10th and courses will need to be selected by March 13th. A parent meeting is organized for March 11th at 6:00 in the Library at VSS!

MSES FAMILY DESSERT SOCIAL

All MSES families and staff are invited to an informal Meet and Greet on March 12th from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Our time together will be held at the Assembly Hall at Chief Louis Centre. Coffee and desserts will be served. We hope to see you there!



SPRING BREAK

Please be mindful that this year our District will have a two week Spring Break. Our break commences the week of March 16th. Classes resume on Monday, March 30th.



PARKING LOT

I would like to remind parents to refrain from parking and driving into our school parking lot when dropping off and picking up students. Our parking lot is small and does not have sufficient parking spaces for both our school /district staff and parents. In addition, we do not have a place for vehicles to turn around. We are concerned with the congestion being created in our parking lot at both the beginning and end of the school day. It is important that we have clear access for any and all Emergency Vehicles. All of our families, including StrongStart families, are asked to park either in the Community Parking lot or by the neighborhood Church and walk to the main entrance of the school. I want to thank all of our families for their cooperation in this very important matter.



ATTENDANCE

Student achievement and connection to school can be correlated to regular attendance. While we understand that students do and will get sick, we ask that families are mindful of the frequency wherein children are missing school.

BASKETBALL SEASON

Basketball season is winding down with playoffs occurring both this week and next week. I want to take this time to thank all of our coaches, staff sponsors, referees, scorekeepers and parent fans and drivers. Without all of you volunteering your time, we wouldn't be able to provide this wonderful opportunity for our students. Thanks also to our students for demonstrating great sportsmanship and representing our school in such a positive manner.



OUTSTANDING SCHOOL SUPPLY FEES

If you have outstanding school supply fees (Agenda, School Supplies &/or Young Peoples Concert) please contact the school office and make arrangements to pay them. Making small payments throughout the course of the year is an acceptable format of payment. Please contact the office, if your fees are in arrears.



SECWPEPMC LANGUAGE

Please be aware that MSES will not be offering Secwepemc Language instruction this year for our students. We are hopeful that Secwepemc Language instruction will resume in September for our students.



LOST AND FOUND

With the arrival of Spring Break, clothing items in our Lost and Found box will be placed on tables for the week of March 9 – 13th. Students and parents are encouraged to claim all items that belong to them. All remaining items will be boxed up and donated to a local charity on Friday, March 13.



DRAGONFLY STRONGSTART CENTRE

MSES is fortunate to host one of our District's 7 StrongStart Centres. If you and your child haven't already visited our StrongStart Dragonfly Program, we encourage you to do so. This is an early childhood education, parent participation program, offered for children ranging in age from babies to just before entrance to Kindergarten. Our program is designed for parents and children to attend, on a drop-in basis, and participate in a variety of activities together (songs, stories, snacks, gym, crafts, centers). Our StrongStart Program is open 5 days a week from 8:36 – 11:36 each morning.



HEAD LICE

Please continue to do your part and help stop the spread of head lice at school. It is important that families do weekly head checks, treat as needed and notify the school if your child has lice. When we are aware of a case of head lice, we will notify families so that they may be extra diligent in checking and treating, if necessary, head lice. Confidentiality of families will always be maintained. The management of head lice is the primary responsibility of each family. I want to thank all of our families for their diligence in doing regular head checks.

THOUGHT EXCHANGE

Our School District is continuing to gather information from all stakeholders through ThoughtExchange. You will receive emails asking you to participate in various surveys. If you haven't received an email and would like to participate, please contact the school office and provide an email address.

Hello Parents! Thank you very much for your consistent and generous support of the PAC fundraising efforts this year. It is hard to believe we are quickly approaching Spring Break! Since October we have successfully completed several fundraisers including, magazine drive, Poinsettia and wreath sale, McCracken Station pub rib (or veggie burger) dinner, and a Purdy's Valentine lollipop sale. With your help, approximately \$6,000.00 has been raised for the school.



The PAC supports specific school requests for items such as library cushions, floor hockey equipment, referees for school sports, and buses for attendance at festivals. As well, the PAC typically chooses a large goal to support. Last year the focus of the PAC was the purchase of SMART Boards. Many of you have probably heard how excited the children are to have this excellent classroom learning tool! With this goal achieved, the PAC is focused on a playground replacement project to support physical learning. This goal will require several phases to achieve. The estimated cost to replace all equipment is between \$60,000 and \$80,000. The PAC met with a playground distributor and the process of designing the new playground is underway. The PAC is very interested in feedback from families regarding preferred types of equipment. Please send your suggestions and photos to pacmarionschilling@gmail.com.

Raising enough funds to build a new playground will be very challenging. In addition to school based fundraising, the PAC receives a grant to support the school. This year the grant was \$4380.00. Over the remainder of the school year the PAC will continue to raise funds for the playground by preparing the application for the grant money and hosting another dinner at McCracken Station pub in the spring.

In 2015, the PAC would like to be able to complete phase 1 of the playground replacement project. This is estimated to cost between \$15,000 and

\$25,000. Approximately 60% of the funds required to achieve this goal have been raised.

Your continued support of the PAC fundraising activities is appreciated. The PAC executive is always looking for new fundraising ideas and is always hoping for new faces to attend the PAC meetings! Please think about attending a PAC meeting to learn more about the PAC and MSES. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8 at 6pm at the school.

Jennifer Fraser, PAC Chairperson

OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE POSTED ON THURSDAY, April 2, 2015



Board Notes

From the Board Meeting of: FEBRUARY 16, 2015

1. The Board enjoyed a presentation on the RCMP Youth Academy from District Principal Lindquist, who was accompanied by a student who participated in the Academy last year.
2. The Board received confirmation that the 2nd Annual Day of Suwentwecw is scheduled for April 7, 2015.
3. The Board approved an application by the Secondary District Athletic Council for a joint sponsorship of a rugby sports program by Barriere and Clearwater Secondary Schools.
4. The Board received an update from Superintendent deBruijn on the NorKam Trades and Technology Program start-up.
5. The Board approved the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for 2014-2015.
6. The next regular public Board Meeting will occur on Monday, March 9, 2015 at the School Board Office.