



Marion Schilling Elementary School Newsletter

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"Learning is Cool at our School!!"

September 29, 2014

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians:

We're back! The school is so alive with energy! It is fantastic to hear the laughter and chatter on the playgrounds, in the halls and classrooms.

Last week, students were placed in "grade groupings" while class placements were being made. While in the grade groupings, a variety of teachers worked with different grades focusing on various aspects of success messages. Some beautiful artwork was created and is now displayed throughout the school.

As per my synervoice message yesterday, MSES is very fortunate in having another classroom teacher assigned to us this school year. This will help lower class size and better deal with composition. While there is a disruption for many students and classes as they move into new classroom assignments tomorrow, the benefits of having an additional teacher far outweigh the inconvenience.

Significant preparation, planning and thought has gone into finalizing classes. The process started in the Spring. We are confident that strong learning environments have been created for all 243 students. While some students may be initially disappointed to not be with their best friend/s, we believe in their ability to form new friendships within their classes. The power of "positive parent talk" cannot be over emphasized in supporting your child and assuring them they will flourish in their new class! Many times families are concerned with split classes. We feel that almost all classes are split classes as there is a range of learners in every classroom. Under the Newsletter Archive on our website, you will find information on the Myths & Realities of Combination Classes. Please take the time to read this information. If you continue to have concerns, please don't hesitate to talk to your child's classroom teacher.

I look forward to working with you and the staff, for your children/our students, again this year.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Colleen Wood, Principal

OCTOBER EVENTS

October is the beginning of Volleyball Season in our School District and the first Young People's Concert at the Sagebrush Theatre. A permission form will be sent home with all students, once we know the specific dates and times of performances our students will be attending.

On October 9th, MSES students will be dismissed at 12:30. This year, teachers will be hosting two Open Houses for our families. This will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher, see their classroom and learn more about the routines and expectations, as well as content that your child will be learning and how they will be assessed. The first Open House is scheduled for 12:30 for those families who want to attend as soon as they pick up their child. The second Open House will be at 6:00 pm. You can expect the presentations to be from 30 – 45+ minutes in duration. Specific questions you may have can be answered during the Open House.

Parents, please be aware that our buses will not be running to pick students up at 12:30. All families will need to make transportation arrangements for the early dismissal.

Some of our Grade 7 students will once again have an opportunity to attend We Day in Vancouver this year. We Day is an exciting event that encourages teenagers to be socially responsible citizens and to make a difference in our world.

On October 31, we will have our annual Monster Mash Parade in the gym. Students and staff are invited to dress in Halloween costumes (school appropriate). Each class will provide information to families of any further celebrations.

SCHOOL HOURS

I would like to remind parents that school now starts at 8:36 every morning with morning announcements and the commencement of instruction. Our doors open at 8:26. Please help your child adjust to this earlier start time.

SPIRIT OF GIVING!

In the Spring, students and staff were encouraged to donate coins to Make-A-Wish Foundation's Star Piggy Bank Program. A very kind and generous donation of \$540.31 was made by MSES! Well Done!

TERRY FOX WALK/RUN FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Last Friday afternoon students and staff participated in our annual Terry Fox Walk/Run for Cancer Research. Students were encouraged to bring in a toonie for cancer research. At this time, the money hasn't been tallied. We appreciate the spirit of giving MSES students, staff and families have!

STAFF ASSIGNMENTS

The Staff at MSES are dedicated and skilled professionals. We look forward to partnering with our families in the development of your children/our students' cognitive, social/emotional and physical skills. Staff photos will be updated and posted outside the office within the next couple of weeks.

Kindergarten	Mrs. Bunney
Kindergarten/Gr 1	TBD, Currently Mrs. Gurskey
Grade 1	Mrs. Stuckey
Grade 2	Mrs. Patton
Grade 2/3	Ms. McKenna & Ms. Altonen
Grade 3/4	TBD
Grade 4/5	Mr. Desaulniers
Grade 5/6	Mr. Dell
Grade 6	Mrs. Hayashi & Mrs. Ray
Grade 6/7	Mr. Bell
District Class	Mrs. Greenwood
Fine Arts	Mrs. Piroddi
PE	Mrs. Ray
LART	Ms. Hauer & Ms. McKenna
Secwepemctism	Mr. Gottfriedson
Library	Mrs. Hayashi
Secretary	Mrs. Dickens
FNEW	Ms. Sandy & Mr. Camille
CEA	Mrs. Howden
CEA	Ms. Browlett
CEA	Ms. Webb
CEA	Ms. Redden
CEA	Mrs. Smith
Library Assistant	Mrs. Sabyan
Strong Start	Ms. Robertson
Custodian	Mr. Iadarola
Custodian	Ms. Lyons

MEDICAL ALERTS/COURT ORDERS

Student and staff safety is always a priority. We will begin practicing fire



drills starting this week. Parents please take the time to talk to your children about "Stranger Danger".

If your child has a medical alert or if there is a court order in effect, please ensure the office is informed immediately. Staff are not permitted to administer non-prescription medications to students. In order for us to administer prescription medication, a form must be completed by a Doctor. Students with anaphylaxis are required to have 2 epipens at school. Again, policies do not allow us to administer Benadryl and then an epipen if conditions are not improving.

Tomorrow the office will be sending home Student Verification Forms. It is important that parents read and update information on these forms and return them to the school office ASAP. As families change phone numbers, addresses and contact information, please notify the school office.



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

MSES has a new public health nurse who retrained all staff last week on anaphylaxis and administering epipens. She is available to provide information

and referrals for things such as: common childhood diseases, nutrition, immunization, growth and development, hearing, vision, dental, injury prevention, puberty and much more. Please feel free to contact Jessi if you have any questions. Referrals can be made through the school or by calling Jessi directly at 250-851-7428.

PAC

Last week we held our first PAC meeting of the school year. What a great turnout!! We have a new Executive that consists of:

Chair – Jennifer Fraser
Vice Chair – Chris Ponti
Secretary – Lissa Nadeau
Treasurer – Jennifer Nikkel

Our DPAC and School Planning Council Representatives are Lori Quinten and Glen Farrow.

MSES students and staff appreciate the commitment of our PAC Executive and parent volunteers. Thanks so much for all you do for us.

Our PAC will be starting their annual Magazine Fundraiser very soon. This fundraiser supports



various school programs that enrich the learning of all MSES students. Magazine subscriptions make a great Christmas Gift. More information,

JSP is back

along with catalogues will be sent home with students later this week.

Our next PAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 16th at 6:00. All parents/guardians of students attending MSES are invited to attend.

ENTERING & EXITING THE SCHOOL

To avoid congestion, classes are assigned doors to enter and exit the school. The doors at the end of the Primary Hallway are for: Mrs. Bunney, Mrs. Stuckey, Mrs. Gurskey & Ms. McKenna's classes. The Intermediate doors, just off the primary playground are for: Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Patton, Mr. Bell and our new 3/4 class. The doors off the Intermediate playground are for: Mrs. Hayashi/Mrs. Ray; Mr. Desaulniers & Mr. Dell's classes.



SAFE ARRIVAL

If your child is going to be late or absent from school, please contact the school office, as we want to ensure that your child is safe and accounted for. If your child is absent and we haven't heard from you, we will call home to ensure they are safe. Our answering machine is turned on at the end of each day.

SCHOOL SPIRIT

Every Friday, students and staff are encouraged to wear our school colours: red and black! This year each class will choose a month and a theme for that month that will promote community. For the month of October, our theme will be "Thankfulness."

HEAD LICE

Head lice is a nuisance and invariably shows up at school. It is important that we are all responsible in treating cases of head lice. Our families need to be diligent in checking their child's head to ensure they are lice and nit free. If you haven't done a check yet this week, please do so and make it part of your weekly routine. If your child has head lice, please, treat them appropriately and contact the school, so that we can notify other families in the class to also check and treat, if necessary, their children's heads. Confidentiality and dignity of students/families will always be maintained.

BUS TRANSPORTATION (Policy 1118.1)

Many of our students ride school buses each day. Parents please ensure your child knows their bus route and number and are at the bus stop at least 5 minutes prior to the scheduled departure. Students who are eligible for bus transportation, register with

the bus driver at the time they get on the bus and not with the school.

STRONG START

Our Dragonflies Strong Start Program will be up and running on Monday, September 29. Program hours are Monday through Friday from 8:36 am – 11:36. Our 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 throughout the year.

ONE TO ONE READING TUTOR TRAINING

If you have 90 minutes and are interested in reading with some of our students, then One to One Reading is for you! Tutor training is being offered on Monday, October 6th from 9:00 to noon and Tuesday, October 7th from 6:00 – 9:00 pm at the Henry Grube Education Centre. A "Refresher" for those already trained is scheduled for October 27th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Please contact Fiona Clare at 250-372-9373 or fionaclare@shaw.ca

2014/15 SCHOOL CALENDAR

October 9 – Early Closure for Open Houses
October 13 - Thanksgiving
October 24 – Non Instructional Day
November 10 – Non Instructional Day
November 11 – Remembrance Day
November 26 – Early Closure for Parent Teacher Interviews
December 5 – Non Instructional Day
December 22 – January 2 – Winter Break
January 23 – Early Closure for Parent Teacher Interviews
February 9 – Family Day
February 20 – Non Instructional Day
March 16 - 27 – Spring Break
April 3 - Good Friday
April 6 – Easter Monday
April 10 – Early Closure for Parent/Teacher Interviews
April 20 – Non Instructional Day
May 11 – Non Instructional Day
May 18 – Victoria Day
June 26 – Last Day of School; Noon Dismissal

PARKING LOT

Please be mindful that our parking lot is for school and district staff. When dropping and picking up students, parents should park in either the Community or Church parking lots.

OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE POSTED ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30TH.