

MDJH

May 19, 2017



PARENT NEWSLETTER

Macdonald Drive Junior High School
110 Macdonald Drive, St. John's, NL, A1A 2K9

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Parent Newsletter



The Outreach Team

The final outing for the Outreach team was May 10th, 2017. The group visited Gower Street United Church where the students baked muffins to help with food hampers for the Bridges to Hope food bank. It was a busy afternoon baking all those delicious double chocolate chip muffins.



Congratulations Vincent Burton, Spelling Bee Champ!

On Thursday, May 18, we had an assembly for all the grade 7s to celebrate Vincent Burton's success at the Regional Spelling Bee where Vincent took the top prize. Members of his family were present, as well as staff from the Telegram. Ms Carol Wadden emceed the event while Steve Bartlett interviewed him in front of all the students. Vincent will be travelling to Washington this week to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Good luck Vincent!



Dates to Remember!

Thursday, May 25—Grade 9 Carnival

Tuesday, June 13—Last Day Cafeteria Service

FINAL EXAMS June 14, 15, 16 (Schedule on page 7)



We need your help!

Please take the Family Survey!

<https://www.research.net/r/SDFamilyEN>.

The results of this survey will help us better understand the perceptions of the parents/ guardians in the school community. This helps us identify strengths and areas for growth as we engage in school development. We encourage everyone to participate so that we have the most accurate representation of family perceptions at our school. Thank-you! (More info on page 3.)

take our
survey!



Gardeners Wanted!

We are trying to revitalize our Community Garden and beautify our grounds. If you have a green thumb or would like to help please email Ms. Pike at christinapike@nlesd.ca or Ms. Hardy at daisyhardy@nlesd.ca. Thank you.



Last day to pass in all unfinished work!!!

June 9th is the last day to pass in any missing work. This will allow time for teachers to grade it and input marks into Powerschool. Please take time to check your son/daughter's Powerschool to make sure everything has been completed.



Video Game Club

There will be no video game club on May 25th. The final video game club of the year will be on Friday, June 2nd. This session will feature the Super Smash Bros. Amiibo tournament, so bring your best and be prepared to battle!



School Development Surveys



Education and Early Childhood Development

April 24, 2017

Subject: Request for Feedback – Family Survey

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This year, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is launching new annual school development surveys to replace previous school development and school climate surveys. The new surveys were designed and tested for reliability and validity by Panorama Education and researchers at Harvard's Graduate School of Education, and are currently being used by over 7,000 schools in 15+ countries. The Department piloted the surveys using online survey administration in five schools in Fall 2016, and the feedback from the pilot was used to make adjustments to the survey instruments.

The results of the Family Survey will help schools better understand the perceptions of the parents/ guardians in their school community. Together with feedback from students and staff, the survey data will help schools to identify strengths and areas for growth as they engage in school development.

The survey is anonymous, which means that we cannot connect your survey responses to you. We encourage everyone to participate so that we have the most accurate representation of family perceptions at your school.

Please complete the Family Survey by **May 19, 2017** by clicking on the following link: <https://www.research.net/r/SDFamilyEN>. If you do not have internet access, you may contact your school to arrange access to a school computer or mobile device for survey completion.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the new school development surveys, please contact:

Jennifer Smith at 709-729-5588 or jenniferfsmith@gov.nl.ca or

Patricia Emberley at 709-729-6850 or patriciaemberley@gov.nl.ca

Thank you for your participation and for being a valued member of your school community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Smith".

Ron Smith
Director, Evaluation and Research Division



Fill the office's back room with food donations!

The food banks in our community need our support! The outreach team at Macdonald Drive Junior High is organizing a food drive to help the "Bridges to Hope" food bank in our community. All students are asked to bring in non-perishable food items from May 23rd-June 9th. Each day, these items will be collected by

homeroom teachers and placed in the back room of the office in hopes of filling the entire room. Please donate to help this worthy cause.

Canadian Student Leadership Conference 2017- Information Meeting

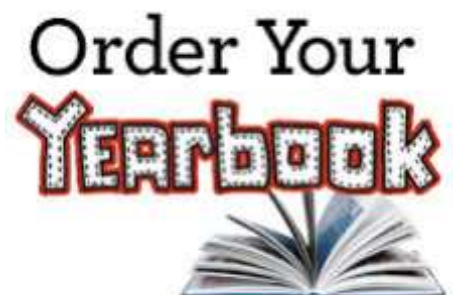
The national leadership conference for grade 9-12 students will be held in Waterloo, Ontario, from September 26 - October 1, 2017. This is a wonderful experience and will provide opportunities for students to participate in leadership workshops and activities. The theme this year is **Start Up Leadership - Ignite your Innovative Spirit**. The conference theme of developing an innovative spirit and how it will benefit Canada in the future will flow through the keynote speeches, leadership workshops, volunteer opportunities and cultural experiences of the conference. Please visit the CSLC website at <http://cslc2017.studentleadership.ca/> to see what these conferences are all about. A full itinerary of activities is also available on the website.



There will be an **information session** for any current grade 8 student and their parents on **Tuesday, May 9th, at 7pm**. Parents are asked to email colettequann@nlesd.ca for more information.

2016-2017 Yearbooks

You can now pre-order yearbooks for the 2016-2017 school year. The cost is \$20. Order forms are available at the office or from Ms. Quann. You can also place an order by passing in your \$20 (cash or cheque made out to MDJH) in an envelope with student name and current homeroom number on the front of the envelope. Completed orders can be passed in at the office or to Ms. Quann. The deadline for orders is **June 1st**. Yearbooks must be pre-ordered, there will be none available for purchase when the books arrive.



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 2016 - June 2017, and will be delivered next fall.

Group Picture Day

Lifetouch will be coming in on **Tuesday, May 23rd**, to take pictures of our teams and groups to make sure we have photographs of any group we may have missed.

Thanks to everyone who sent in pictures of our teams and groups. We will be using these pictures as long as the quality is clear after being uploaded to the yearbook site. It is not too late to submit your photos to colettequann@nlesd.ca. It is very important that you select "actual size" when sending pictures taken from a cellphone to ensure the quality is correct for uploading to the yearbook.

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.



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-Certificate to the cafeteria and receive a **Zipthru** card with the designated balance!



MDJH Music Notes

Spring concert

The MDJH Spring Concert will be held on **Tuesday, June 6th, at 7:30pm.**
Admission is \$5.

Rotary Music Festival

Congratulations to all music students who participated in this years Rotary Music Festival. We were happy with all of the hard work our students put in to prepare for these performances.

Grade 7 Concert Band - Silver Award

Grade 8/9 Concert Band - Bronze Award

Concert Choir - Silver Award

Vocal Ensemble - Silver Award

Senior Jazz Band - Gold Award

Grade 7 Classroom Music

In order to complete their final composition projects of the semester all grade 7 music students are reminded to have headphones with them for all remaining music classes of this school year.



Final Exam Schedule

	Wednesday June 14	Thursday June 15	Friday June 16
AM 8:15-10:15	<p>ELA 9 CRT Two hour exam 8:15-10:15 (20 mins overtime)</p> <p>ELA 7 Two hour exam 8:15-10:15 (20 mins overtime)</p>	<p>Math 9 Common Two hour exam 8:15-10:15 (20 mins overtime)</p> <p>ELA 8 Two hour exam 8:15-10:15 (20 mins overtime)</p>	<p>Math 8 Common Two hour exam 8:15-10:15 (20 mins overtime)</p> <p>Science/ Sciences 7 One hour exam 8:15-9:15 (10 mins overtime)</p> <p>Science/ Sciences 9 One hour exam 8:15-9:15 (10 mins overtime)</p>
PM 11:50-1:50	<p>Science/Sciences 8 One hour exam 12:50-1:50 (10 mins overtime)</p>	<p>Math/ Math 7 Two hour exam 11:50-1:50 (20 mins overtime)</p>	

REGULATIONS:

1. STUDENTS MUST STAY FOR DURATION OF EXAM, i.e. for 2 hour exams, students must stay for the 2 hours; for 1 hour exams in Science/ Sciences, students must stay for the hour. 10 MINUTES PER HOUR IS ALLOTTED FOR OVERTIME
2. Students are asked to bring their writing utensils, calculator into the Exam room. Paper will be provided. Pencil cases will NOT be permitted. Students are encouraged to use clear plastic zip lock bags for their writing utensils.
3. Calculators must be cleared before the exam.
4. Once the exam begins, students will NOT be permitted to leave unless it is an emergency, in which case supervising teachers MUST buzz the office so student can be accompanied to washroom.
5. If a student misses a final exam, medical certification MUST be provided. A parent/ guardian note will not be accepted.
6. Bussing will run in the AM and PM as per normal schedule. If a student plans to leave after their exam then a parent/ guardian note MUST be provided to the Homeroom teacher giving permission.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

The second reporting period is over and time is getting short! There is only a little over 3 weeks left until final exams. It is very important that your son / daughter attend school every day.

According to the School's Act (1997), children under the age of 16 are expected to be in school while it is in session.

If your son / daughter is absent for any reason such as an illness or doctor's appointment, then a parent / guardian ***needs to notify the school of the reason for the absence***. If your son / daughter is going to be absent for any period of time for any reason, such as for a family vacation, then the parent / guardian **MUST** email the principal requesting permission to be excused.

Prior to the absence, the student should make contact with ALL of his or her subject teachers and ensure that arrangements have been made to complete any evaluations that will be missed during this time, and also that they have all of the work/materials they will miss. During the absence, the student should be checking the teachers' web sites for all missed work. Parents / guardians can also contact the subject teachers through PowerSchool to get any missed work.

It is the responsibility of the student, parent/guardian to ensure that all missed work is completed and that he or she gets caught up when they return.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

A child can not learn if they are not in attendance.





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		Parenting in the 21st Century: How the Pendulum Has Swung & What You Can Do to Recentre It	0-18 yrs old
Monday, March 20		Anxiety in Children: What It Looks Like & What You Can Do to Help	5-12 yrs old
Monday, May 1		Anxiety in Teenagers: What It Looks Like & What You Can Do to Help	13-18 yrs old
Monday, May 29		Challenging Behaviour: 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**

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.



Activities include: Archery, Face Painting, Human Size Games (Jenga, Checkers, Chess, Connect 4...); Sky High Amusements (Jumping Castle, Velcro Wall, Boxing, Sumo Wrestlers), Fortune Teller, Magician, FOOD-FOOD-FOOD to name a few...

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=ptiklLLhvo>

The banner features a young girl sitting on the floor using a laptop. To her right, the text 'Online Practice and Review Tools' is written in a large, blue, sans-serif font. Below this text, a smaller line of text reads: 'The District has been working to build online self-assessment tools that allow students to practice and test their abilities.' The background includes logos for Moodle, YouTube, and Google, along with icons of a graduation cap, a lightbulb, and a smartphone.

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We're on the web!

<http://mdjh.info>