

MDJH

Sept. 8, 2017



PARENT NEWSLETTER

**Macdonald Drive Junior High School**

**110 Macdonald Drive, St. John's, NL, A1A 2K9**

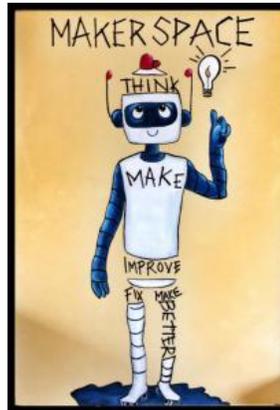
Phone: 709-753-8240, Fax: 709-753-1243, E-mail: christinapike@nlesd.ca



# Parent Newsletter

## Makerspace

The teachers and students of Macdonald Drive Junior High want to thank those who donated last spring to the 3D Digital Lab – Makerspace/Steam Lab.



Although the space is currently in its infantile stage, this space will provide a unique atmosphere for students to create and learn with tools that are not found in the everyday classroom. A teacher committee is aiming for more involvement in Skills Canada this fall.

- Lego Robotics news will be communicated through the announcements in the near future; in particular, the 2017 team registration. Space is limited.
- Underwater ROV will begin early winter 2018.

## School Bell Schedule

**Doors open: 7:45am**

**Warning bell: 8:04am**

Homeroom: 8:05am—8:12am

Period 1: 8:13am—9:10am

Period 2: 9:11am—10:08am

Recess: 10:08am—10:23am

Period 3: 10:24am—11:21am

Lunch: 11:21am—12:10pm

**Warning Bell: 12:10pm (5 mins)**

Period 4: 12:15pm—1:12pm

Period 5: 1:12 pm—2:10pm

## Allergy Alert

We have students/staff with life-threatening allergies. Products containing the following will not be permitted in the building:

**Latex**  
**Fish**  
**Nuts**  
**Shellfish**  
**Peanuts**

**\*Please send all updated allergy sheets to Homeroom Teachers.**

## Dates to Remember:

*Curriculum Night—Thursday, September 21, 7:00*

*School Photos—Thursday, September 21*

*School PD Day—Friday, September 22 (no classes)*

*District Close Out (Jr. High) — Thursday, October 19 (no classes)*

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**Macdonald Drive Junior High  
Teaching Staff  
2017-2018**

**Administration**

Christina Pike, Principal  
Daisy Hardy, Assistant Principal

**Grade 7 Homeroom Teachers**

Natasha Snow  
Christina Anderson  
Laura Doyle  
Wade Lambert  
Edwina Mills  
Donna Mills  
Colette Quann  
Amanda Glynn  
Donna Parsons

**Grade 8 Homeroom Teachers**

David Lawton  
Glen Connolly  
Gy Hopkins  
Craig Squires  
Gordon Smith  
Natalie Brunet  
Matthew Mitchell  
Caleb Thorne  
Ches West

**Grade 9 Homeroom Teachers**

Joyce Kinsella  
Dave Walsh  
Lionel Porter  
Phillip Smith  
Peter Tarrant  
Jodi Sauve  
Alanna Penney  
Carolyn Stacey  
Krista Houlihan

**Special Services**

Jackie Taylor-Myles, Guidance  
Tracy Reardon, Guidance  
IRTs: Connie Peddle, Nicole O'Brien,  
Ken MacLean, Meghan Gambin,  
Sarah Harnum, Barry White, Chris Devine

**Additional Staff**

Alice Hunt (Home Ec), Jason Aue (Tech), Scott Mercer (Phys Ed), Don Mackey (Phys Ed), Steve Sharpe (French), Sarah Comerford (Music), Beth Power (Teacher Librarian)

**School Secretaries**

Please welcome our school secretaries to Macdonald Drive Junior High for 2017-2018:  
Ms. Cindy Thompson & Ms. Natasha Wellon

**Bus Route Changes**

All bus routes are posted on-line on our web site:  
<https://mdjh.info/>



**School Council**

If you would like to volunteer for School Council please email Christina Pike, Principal  
[christinapike@nlesd.ca](mailto:christinapike@nlesd.ca)

**Absent/ Late**

Please send an email or note to your child's Homeroom Teacher if your son/ daughter is going to be absent or late. All students who come late are to check in at the office.

**Information to Return**

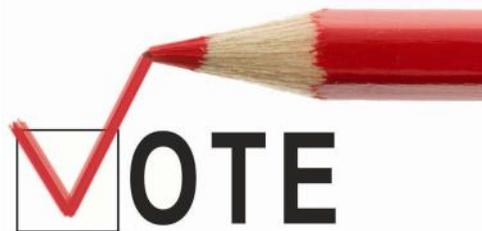
1. Grade 7 students— Verification Sheets from PowerSchool with changes; Grade 8/9 parents please notify the Homeroom Teacher if you have moved.
2. Media and Student Network Access Agreement. \*Before any student is granted computer access these forms MUST be returned.



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## MDJH 2017-2018 Student Council Elections

Student council elections for president and vice-president will be held on Friday, September 15th. Any student interested in running for president or vice president of MDJH's 2017-2018 student council must see Madame Quann (room 220) or Madame Sauvé (room 222) for a nomination form. Completed nomination forms are due no later than Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, at the end of the school day.



Elections for homeroom representatives will be held the following week.

Candidates should have strong leadership and communication skills. They should also demonstrate a good work ethic, respect for school policies and a commitment to student council activities. Meetings will be held the second half of lunch on Day 1. Students who are up for this commitment are encouraged to put their names forward.



## Canadian Student Leadership Conference 2017

Eight students from MDJH will be attending the national leadership conference for grade 9-12 students in Waterloo, Ontario, from September 26 to October 1, 2017. This is a wonderful experience and provides 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, 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.

## 2016-2017 Yearbooks

The 2016-2017 yearbooks should arrive any day. When they arrive, we will distribute to our current students and former students will be able to pick them up after school hours. An announcement will be made at Holy Heart and Gonzaga once they are available for pick up.



## Student 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 plays, musicals, or has been on a team that has won a 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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## Come see the moon and the stars up close at MDJH!

**Who:** All science students

**When:** Tuesday, September 26, 2017, weather permitting.

**What's happening:** Drop by the school anytime between 8:00 and 9:30. Science teachers will be in the soccer field with telescopes and iPads with Sky Map. See the moon! Find constellations and stars in the night sky! Have some hot chocolate!

**Weather make-up date:** If the sky is completely cloudy on Tuesday, a decision will be made that day, and a try-again date will be announced based on the forecast.



## LGBTQ-munity Club Starts Soon!

LGBTQ-munity is the name of the MDJH Gender & Sexuality Alliance (also called a Gay-Straight Alliance, or GSA) club. A GSA is an official student club with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirited, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ), and heterosexual student membership, and one or two teachers who serve as faculty advisors. Students in a school with a GSA know that they have at least one or two adults they can talk to about LGBTQ matters. The purpose of a GSA is to provide a safe space in which LGBTQ students and allies can work together to make their school more welcoming for all members of their school community, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. Such groups also function as safe havens and supports for students with LGBTQ parents, other family members, and friends (Description taken from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development web-

site. See <http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/safeandcaring/gsa/index.html> for more information.)

Mme Brunet is the teacher-advisor. The club is open to all students, and drop-ins are always welcome. This year we will meet every Day 1 at lunchtime in room 124. The first meeting will be at lunchtime on Friday, September 15. Bring your lunch!

Please see Mme Brunet at any time if you have any questions.



## Music Department

Our instrumental and vocal ensembles will be starting up in the next couple weeks. New this year will be a string ensemble so any

student who has experience playing violin, viola, cello or bass should see Mrs. Comerford.





**The Zipthru Dine Smart card is a fast and convenient way to purchase food at the school cafeteria.**

**FRENCH FOR LIFE**

Classes starting at \$15

Grades 7-9  
Homework Help

Late French Immersion is tough. Let us make it easier!

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-6:30pm  
at MacDonald Drive Junior High

Fall registration closes on September 23rd!

info@frenchforlife.com  
725-2141

PosterMyWall.com



## Breakfast Program Volunteers

We need volunteers!

This is a free program, all students are welcome, and we start at 7:45 in the cafeteria. If you have an hour to spare in the morning, we would love to have more parent volunteers for this worthwhile program.

Food or monetary donations are also welcome! All donations should be submitted to the school office, Re: "MDJH Breakfast Program".

Please contact Ms. Daisy Hardy (daisyhardy@nlesd.ca), if you wish to participate as a volunteer. Your time is greatly appreciated!



## Cafeteria Service

Full cafeteria service began on **Wednesday, September 6, 2017**. Menu to be posted. *Zipthru* cards are available for food purchases.

## Student Drop Off / Pick Up Student Entrance

- For student drop-off, stay in the left lane in a single line as you enter the school grounds.
- When you turn left in front of the building, proceed as far as possible to the right (closest to the cement divider) before dropping your children off. Please wait for the vehicles in front of you to drop off students before proceeding.
- Through traffic stays to the left in front of the student entrance.
- Busses will enter the school grounds in the right lane and proceed to the far right closest to the building.
- Note: Only staff and alternate transportation should travel in the right lane to proceed around the building.
- Ms. Pike and Ms. Hardy will be out each day, rain or shine, to help direct traffic.



For ALL the latest news please visit our web site @ <http://mdjh.info> OR download our APP—It's Free!

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## Coaches?

The following coaches are needed...

- Cross Country
- Soccer
- Grade 8 Boys Volleyball.



Please contact Mr. Don Mackey at donaldmackey@nlesd.ca and/ or Mr. Scott Mercer at scottmercer@nlesd.ca.

## Safety on and off School Grounds

It is very important that all everyone exercise caution on and around school grounds at all times.

Students need to use crosswalks and behave in a safe manner when going off school property for lunch (parks and eating establishments), and refrain from using the MDE playground.

As well, drivers please adhere to speed limits in our school zone and be extra alert. We strongly encourage you to be alert and careful at all times.



### REMINDER:

In keeping with our Safe and Caring Schools Policy...

**ALL visitors MUST check in at the office!**

**We're on the web!**  
**<http://mdjh.info>**