

MISSION MIDDLE SECONDARY NEWSLETTER

August, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 1

Administrators

Mr. B. Tucker, Principal

Mr. M. Gabriele, Vice Principal
Middle School
(Grades 7 to 9)
604-826-6487

Mrs. H. Grewal, Vice Principal
Grad Program School
(Grades 10 to 12)
604-826-8431

Counsellors

Mr. C. Love

All Grade 11 and 12 Students and
International Students

Ms. L. Francis

All Grade 9 and 10 Students

Ms. K. Bostock

All Grade 7 Students

Mrs. J. Shaw

Grade 7 to 12 Aboriginal Students
and Grade 8 Students

Be on the Look-Out:

A newsletter is produced on the last Thursday of each month. This newsletter is only posted on our school website. If you require a paper copy, please have your child request one from the office. School information and teacher emails are also available on the school website.

<http://mss.mpsd.ca>

Keep Informed!

Principal's Message

Welcome to our new students and welcome back to all of our returning students.

As a new principal here, I look forward to meeting and working with students, parents and staff, and reacquainting myself with students and parents from neighbouring elementary schools where I have worked.

This year, we welcome Mr. M. Gabriele, newly appointed to the role of Middle School Program Vice-Principal, (but not new to École Mission Middle Secondary School). Mrs. H. Grewal continues in her role as Grad Program Vice-Principal.

As an administration team, we look forward to supporting students on their path through the Middle and Grad Programs. We encourage open communication between home and school. Please contact the school through the counsellors or administrators if you have any concerns about any aspect of school life, or if there are special circumstances about your child that we need to know in order to best support his/her achievement.

Regular attendance is essential for student success. Please ensure that your child makes every effort to be in attendance and on time every day. If your child is going to be absent or late, please remember to notify the school.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you during the 2013-2014 school year.

Sincerely,



Mr. B. Tucker
Principal

School Start Up for September 2013

Tuesday, September 3rd (9:00 – 11:30 a.m.)

All students will report to their homerooms for fee paying, locker assignment and pick up of individual new timetables. Homeroom lists will be posted throughout the school. Buses will depart at 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 4th

8:50 – 9:05 Homeroom
9:11 – 10:20 Day 1, 1 (Gr. 7 Assembly)
10:25 – 11:35 Day 1, 2 (Gr. 8 Assembly)
11:35 – 12:20 LUNCH
12:25 – 1:36 Day 1, 3 (Gr. 9 Assembly)
1:40 – 2:55 Day 1, 4 (Gr. 10 Assembly)

Thursday, Sept. 5th

8:50 – 9:05 Homeroom
9:11 – 10:20 Day 2, 1 (Gr. 11 Assembly)
10:25 – 11:35 Day 2, 2 (Gr.12 Assembly)
11:35 – 12:20 LUNCH
12:25 – 1:36 Day 2, 3
1:40 – 2:55 Day 2, 4

Friday, Sept. 6th

8:50 – 9:05 Homeroom
9:11 – 10:20 Day 3, 4
10:25 – 11:35 Day 3, 3
11:35 – 12:20 LUNCH
12:25 – 1:36 Day 3, 2
1:40 – 2:55 Day 3, 1 (Gr. 7, 8, 9 Assembly)

Monday, Sept. 9th

Day 4 – Periods 4, 3, 2, 1
No Homerooms

English and Mathematics Course Placements 2013-2014

Students have been placed in English and Mathematics courses based on their selection and/or recommendation by the teacher as indicated on the June 2013 Report Card. In all cases, these courses satisfy graduation requirements. However, it is suggested you confirm, if necessary, the placement in the English/Communications course and Mathematics course to ensure they satisfy any admission requirements for post-secondary study. You are encouraged to contact Mrs. Janzen (Career Advisor) in September if you have any questions regarding course requirements for entrance at BC's Colleges and Universities.

Notice to Grade 11-12 Students

Students in grades 11 -12 on a semester timetable are required to take four courses per semester. The eight courses in total were selected at the beginning of the school year. It is expected that students will commence the second semester with the remaining four courses they chose at the beginning of the year. Students are reminded that the start-up of the second semester is **NOT** an opportunity to make course changes to the second semester.

Counsellor Appointment Times in August, 2013

In August, grade 12 students will receive a copy of their September course program (timetable) in the mail. Grade 12's and students NEW to MMSS are encouraged to make an appointment with a counsellor in August prior to school start-up to ensure the courses they have selected are appropriate with respect to satisfying graduation requirements and future post-secondary plans. Please call the school after August 16th to set up an appointment with a counsellor.

August 2013 ONLY Appointments as Follows:

- Mr. Love - Grade 12 students and NEW Grade 11 and 12 student registrations.
- Ms Francis - Grade 9 and 10 students and NEW Grade 9 and 10 student registrations.
- Ms. Bostock - Grade 7 student/parents, and NEW Grade 7 student registrations.
- Mrs. Shaw - Aboriginal Grades 7 to 12 students and Grade 8 students and NEW student registrations for Aboriginal and Grade 8.

Students from grade 7 - 11 who wish to see their counsellor will have an opportunity to do so if time permits in August or appointments with their counsellor can be made during the first week of school in September.

Parents and students should be aware that there will be charges for the following:

- Athletic Contract (members of athletic teams only) – Grade 7 - \$35.00, Grade 8 - \$75.00, Grades 9 - 12 \$125.00
- Band Instrument rental (this is from an outside agency)
- Football Fee – Grade 8's - \$125, Junior - \$250, Senior - \$300
- Tourism Certificates (optional) - \$20.00
- Yearbook (optional) - \$50.00 or \$55.00 after January 31, 2014

School Supplies

Students will need basic school supplies: pens, pencils, erasers, ruler, notebook, glue sticks, binders etc. For the first two or three days of school, students should bring paper and a pencil. Teachers will inform students of their requirements for their classes during the first week.

Due to a Ministry directive, there will be no smoking by anyone on school property.

Parents are encouraged to pick up their child's **report card**. Due to the cost of postage, please make every effort to pick them up at the main office of the school.

Aboriginal Department

The Mission Aboriginal Department would like to thank Kathleen MacKillop from Leq'a:mel First Nations and a Riverside practicum student for applying, gaining and utilizing funds awarded from the New Relationship Trust Grant. We have received a variety of learning resources that challenge the mind, assist in cognitive thinking skills and allow for fun learning. What a wonderful addition to our department that will be shared with all Middle School students. We would like to express our thanks on behalf of the Aboriginal Department and all students who will have the opportunity to enjoy. Have a fantastic and safe summer. See you in September!

~ Janice Hawk and Kim Gray, Aboriginal Liaisons, MMSS Middle School ~

Our Block Rotation

- Day 1 = Periods 1, 2, 3, 4
- Day 2 = Periods 1, 2, 3, 4
- Day 3 = Periods 4, 3, 2, 1
- Day 4 = Periods 4, 3, 2, 1

Important Student Information

Student Timetables

The school's master timetable was computer designed in response to student course requests. Staffing decisions and hiring was also based upon these requests. Course changes are often difficult to make, however, some students for very good reasons, will need adjustments to their timetables. We will do our utmost to ensure that these are dealt with in a timely manner.

All students will report to their homerooms on the first day of school to receive a new timetable. Homeroom lists will be posted throughout the school.

Student Parking

Students are advised to park along 7th Avenue (where permitted). Students are **NOT PERMITTED** to park in the staff parking lot, which includes all parking areas on the school property. Violators will be towed at their expense.

Roadrunner Package

Roadrunner Packages cost \$25.00 and will be available from your homeroom teacher the first day you attend and up to Friday, September 9th. Package includes: rental of locker and lock, ID card and student planner. To pay for this package we encourage students to bring a cheque in the amount of \$25.00 made payable to Mission Middle Secondary School or the exact amount in cash. This package is optional.

Textbook Deposit Fee

All secondary school students in the Mission Public School District pay a textbook deposit fee of \$100.00 when first entering a secondary school. This deposit is returned to students when they have completed school or upon transferring out of the school providing all textbooks issued to that student have been returned and any outstanding fees have been paid.

Student Photos by "Vibrant Photos" - Monday, September 30th

Student photo packages range in cost from \$23 to \$36. Package information and payment envelopes will be given to students approximately two weeks prior to photo day. To purchase portrait packages, please bring the full payment with you to the photographer. You can pay by cash or cheque made payable to **Vibrant Photos**. Please include Student Name, School Name, Grade and Phone Number on the back of your cheque. Vibrant Photos will **NOT** accept postdated cheques. Retakes are October 29th.

Demographic and/Freedom of Information Forms

It is up to parents to contact the school if and when there are changes to demographic information (i.e. phone number, address, etc.). If you have received the Freedom of Information form, please sign it. Please have your son/daughter return this form to the office or their homeroom teacher on the first day of school. The Freedom of Information form is retained for 5 years. Parents must notify the school if there is any change to this form during the school year.

Internet Access Forms (Grade 7 & 8 Students)

Internet Access forms are required for students to access email and the internet. Parents should carefully review the School District Regulations BEFORE completing the access request on behalf of their child. Access forms can be forwarded to the school on the first day of classes.

Grade 12 Students

All grade 12 students will pay a \$60.00 grad fee. This is to cover the commencement ceremonies, the rental of the gown, the cap, and the grad tea.

Conduct Expectations

Respect, Responsibility, Safety

Mission Middle Secondary students are expected to:

- Think safety first
- Attend all classes
- Arrive on time
- Complete all work to a high standard
- Be prepared for all classes
- Care for school property and equipment
- Respect yourself, others, learning and the environment
- Demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours

Part of showing respect for yourself, others, learning and the environment includes dressing appropriately for school. Some clothes appropriate for the beach, for a party or for the gym, may not be appropriate for the classroom. Clothing which is a distraction to fellow students, staff members or which is otherwise not conducive to a positive learning environment, should not be worn to school. Specifically, clothing worn at school should not:

- Reveal underwear, bare backs or midriffs
- Include logos, words, or symbols which are discriminatory based on ethnicity, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, colour or physical or mental disability
- Include logos, words or symbols which promote alcohol, tobacco, drugs, gang, terrorism, violence or death

Students must wear shoes at all times. Hoods may not be worn in the building. Students may wear hats in hallways, but not in classrooms unless permitted by the teacher. Hats may not be worn in the office or at assemblies.

FAILURE TO MEET EXPECTATIONS WILL RESULT IN PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE

including, but not limited to, warnings, parent conferences and suspension.

Enjoy your summer vacation.

Keep safe.

See you September 3rd.

2013 – 2014 Year at a Glance

September 3, 2013 September 20, 2013 September 30, 2013 October 14, 2013 October 29, 2013 October 25, 2013 November 8, 2013 November 11, 2013 November 12, 2013 November 12 - 15, 2013 November 21, 2013 November 22, 2013 December 20, 2013 Dec. 23, 2013 - Jan. 3, 2014 January 6, 2014 January 27 - 30, 2014 January 31, 2014 February 3, 2014 February 5, 2014 February 10, 2014 February 13, 2014 February 14, 2014 February 20 - 21, 2014 March 14, 2014 March 17 - 21 2014 March 24, 2014 April 4, 2014 April 7, 2014 April 16, 2014 April 17, 2014 April 18, 2014 April 21, 2014 May 16, 2014 May 19, 2014 May 23, 2014 June 5, 2014 June 13, 2014 June 16 - 18, 2014 June 16 - June 23, 2014 June 26, 2014 June 27, 2014	First day of School, dismissal at 11:30 am Non Instructional Day, No Classes Student Photo Day Thanksgiving Day, No Classes Picture Retakes Provincial Pro-D Day, No Classes End of Term 1 ½ Day Assessment Remembrance Day, No Classes Term 2, Rotation 2 Begins Grad Photos Parent Teacher Interviews (3:30 - 6:00 and 6:30 - 9:00 pm) Report Cards Available for Pick-Up Non Instructional Day, No Classes Last Day before Winter Break Winter Break School Re-opens Provincial Exams End of Term 2 Turn-A-Round Day, No Classes Term 3, Rotation 1 Begins Grad Photo Retakes Family Day, No Classes Report Cards Available for Pick-Up District Pro-D Day, No Classes BC Winter Games, No Classes Last Day Before Spring Break Spring Break School Re-opens End of Term 3 ½ Day Assessment Term 4, Rotation 1 Begins Parent Teacher Interviews (3:30 - 6:00 and 6:30 - 9:00 pm) Report Cards Available for Pick-Up Non Instructional Day, No Classes Good Friday, No Classes Easter Monday, No Classes Non Instructional Day, No Classes Victoria Day, No Classes Prom & Dry Grad Commencement Last Day of Formal Classes School Exams Provincial Exams Report Cards Available Noon - 4:00 pm Administrative Day
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