

Mission Secondary Newsletter

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

February was an extremely busy month for the entire Mission Secondary community. We have so many fine programs in our school, and I continue to see so much dedication from students and staff to continue to build excellence in all areas of the school. Throughout this newsletter you will recognize our students demonstrating superior work in our classrooms, on our stage, and on our athletic teams.

Our theatre production classes have now completed their auditions for the traditional Shakespeare production in May. Our music department continues to raise money for their festivals. Sitting in on choir rehearsal the other day was an excellent experience; the students in that field are truly dedicated individuals.

In the area of academics, our senior students completed their provincial exams and we are anticipating great results. Grade 12 students are collecting information for their submission of applications for scholarships. We are celebrating Black History Month, and our leadership group has taken on the project called Rice Raiser, a program that supports our local Food Bank.

The basketball season is winding down and what a year it has been. Our Senior Girls team won the Fraser Valley Championships. This is the fourth year in a row for our Girls program. Our Girls team heads off to the Provincial Tournament in Kamloops ranked third in the Province. Our Ski and Snowboard teams had another outstanding season: the Girls Snowboard team won the Fraser Valley Crown and the Boys Snowboard team came second. Both teams are off to Whistler for the Provincials.

Yes, Mission Secondary is a happening place. We have much to be proud of as a school. We continue our strong tradition of excellence on academics, fine arts and performing arts, athletics, applied skills and leadership.

Thanks to all our students, parents, and staff for their continued support.

Jim Pearce
Principal



School Hours

8:44 am – Warning Bell
8:47 – 10:04 – First class
10:10–11:27 – Second class
11:27-12:10 – Lunch
12:10 pm – Warning Bell
12:16 – 1:33 – Third class
1:39 – 2:55 – Fourth class

Following the final bell of the day, school buses are loaded very promptly at the bus loop on the east side of the building.

Scholarship Information

Grade 12 students should be coming to the counselling office to see what is available in the way of Scholarships and Bursaries as there is a lot of post secondary money available.

You are welcome to drop in and speak to **Ms. Francis** about all of the fantastic opportunities.



School Closures / Bad Weather

In case of school closures due to inclement weather, the information will be broadcast on the radio stations as early as possible in the morning of the closures. Please listen to **STAR FM107.1, CKNW AM980, CKWX AM1130**, or check the district website www.mpsd.ca for up-to-date information on school closures.



AVID NEWS

An informational evening is being held March 17 at 6 p.m. in the school library for parents of grade 8 students regarding the AVID program.

Justice Institute of BC Showcase

Field Trip
Friday, March 19
8:50 – 1:45
Cost: \$10

For gr. 10, 11, & 12 students who are interested in policing, corrections, firefighting, or paramedics.

Pick up your permission form in the Career Centre and have it signed and handed in by March 5th.

PAC NEWS

The next PAC meeting will be Wednesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. Cyndi McLachlan will give a 15-minute presentation about Challenge Day, coming to Mission in April. The Challenge Day program seeks to create positive change in schools and communities. Challenge Day will successfully address common issues seen at most schools such as teasing, gossip, rumors, sexism, bullying, apathy, hopelessness, etc. Find out more about this exciting event and how you or your teenager can be part of it at the PAC meeting.

CAREER CENTRE NEWS

Grade 12's

1. Please make sure that you thoroughly read the newsletter that is in your report card envelope. There is very important information regarding applying to post-secondary schools and other information pertaining to graduating from MSS.
2. UFV Advisors will be at MSS on Wednesday, March 24 and Grade 12 students may sign up for a 15-minute appointment. The advisors will be able to answer any of your questions about applying, planning courses, placement tests, etc. Sign up at the Career Centre.

IMPORTANT TO GRADE 12s

Post Secondary Institutions (PSIs)

ALL Grade 12 students who are planning to attend a Post Secondary Institution (University, College, etc.) after grade 12 MUST arrange for their final transcript to be accessible by the Post Secondary Institutions. This "online" process MUST be completed by the end of **April 30, 2010.**

Go to the following link and follow the instructions.

<https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student>

(Notice "https" above.)

You will require your **STUDENT PEN NUMBER** which is printed on each report card - upper left corner. Need help....? See Mr. Love, Mrs. Shaw, or Mrs. Janzen.

MSS Skiers and Snowboarders Off to Provincials

The MSS Girls' and Boys' Snowboarders, as well as Natasha Crick, our lone skier, are off to Rossland February 28 to compete in the Provincial High School Alpine Championships. They will be racing March 1, 2, and 3.

We are all very excited. The season was successful and we hope to translate that success in Rossland at Red Mountain Resort.

Fundraising for the trip is the big job right now. We are having a Burger and Beverage night on March 20 at the Dewdney Pub. There will be a silent auction with some terrific items up for bid: passes to Grouse Mountain (winter or summer) and a 2 pack pass to Whistler Blackcomb; a voucher worth over \$200 for sessions that Mission Yoga and Pilates has donated. Don't doubt a 50/50 as well!!

Anyone who would like to donate other items for the auction please contact Peter Anderson at the school (826-7191).

There will also be a raffle at the B & B for a Rossignol snowboard from Wentings Cycle and Mountain shop, Gnu bindings from Vespers, and a kit with waxes, files, and stomp pads. The tickets are \$5 and there will only be 300 sold. You can see the items in the school foyer in the trophy case. Tickets are available from any of the team members, or Mr. Itkonen.

VCC Fashion Boot Camps

For all designers & stylists ages 13 to 18

March 8 – 12
and
July 12 – 16

More information is available in the Career Centre

Spring Break Campus Tours

Available at most colleges & universities

Plan to attend one at your school of choice

Programming 2010 - 2011 Update

Counselors have commenced programming sessions in English 11, Planning 10, and English 8 classes. Students are selecting courses for next year and we are encouraging them to share their course choices with parents/guardians, our career advisor, teachers and counselors in order to ensure courses selected satisfy graduation requirements, personal interests, career goals, and admission requirements to post-secondary institutions. Counselors will continue this process in February for the remaining students in all grades. Please contact your student's counselor if you need additional information on any aspect of Programming 2010-2011.

**Mission Secondary
School**

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://mss.mpsd.ca>

Drama News

If you are considering a graduation gift for your son, daughter, or friend please consider purchasing a plaque for a theatre chair in his or her honour. Plaques go for \$25 and make a timeless gift to both student and school community. The plaques may be inscribed with any quote you like to commemorate your loved one's years at MSS. Simply contact the school and ask to be forwarded to Mrs. Brown-Evans for further information.

Theatre Production students are hard at work in rehearsal for this year's Shakespearean play, 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' going up May 6-8th and 13th-15th in the Drama Portable at 7pm. Tickets will be \$5 and will be available at the office, in the drama portable, or at the door contingent upon availability at the next Parent Teacher night April 22nd. This hilarious comedy talks of two young men who try to play the field but get 'outed' by their women. Disguises, misconstrued letters and rollicking hilarity promise fun for all. Be sure to put it on your calendar early so you do not miss it!

Acting 11/12 students are beginning a playwriting unit and hope to put up a Directors' Festival of their own works later in the school year. Play dates TBA

Also, grade 9 drama students are preparing an ambitious piece entitled 'New Canadian Kid' by Dennis Foon for school and community audiences alike. This poignant piece tells the story of an immigrant boy and his family new to Canada and narrated in a made up language so that the audience gets a sense of what the foreign language of English sounds like to new Canadians. Play dates are TBA. Other grade 9 students are working on a teen-comedy called 'Jekyll's Hydes,' which speaks to the woes of high school life and the trials and tribulations of the adolescent struggling to acquire a sense of belonging. Playdates also TBA

On January 20th, select drama students appeared as extras in the movie 'Repeater,' which was shot on location in MSS' very own courtyard. The extras' director reported that she had never worked with a more professional group who needed little or no direction from the film company, and were so well trained and enthusiastic. Look for us next fall at the Vancouver International Film Festival!

The drama department along with Bard on the Beach is currently planning for a workshop to be given by one of that company's illustrious actors and/or directors. We have a close relationship with the notorious troupe and are always honored to spend time learning techniques, tried and true on the Vancouver stage.

Study Support

Lunchtime Study Support, room 217, is a place for students to find academic support during the lunch period. Any student in the school may use this quiet and supportive environment as a place to complete homework, obtain help with study skills and organization, or review lessons.

School Calendar

March 5	Last day of classes before Spring Break
March 14	Daylight Savings Time begins
March 15	School Reopens
April 2	Good Friday – no classes
April 5	Easter Monday – no classes
April 9	Assessment/Evaluation – ½ day
April 23	Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
May 6-8	'Two Gentlemen of Verona'
May 13-15	'Two Gentlemen of Verona'
May 21	Non Instructional Day
May 24	Victoria Day
June 29	Last day for students