

Mission Secondary School Newsletter

Newsletter Nov 2010
Volume 1, Issue 3

Principal
Jim Pearce
Vice-Principal

Joanne Heron (Middle School)
Melinda Dempster (Grad Program School)



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Upcoming Events

Nov 25th
Parent/Teacher
Interviews
3:30-6:00
6:30-9:00

Nov 26th
No Classes

Dec 6th
Dry Grad meeting
@ 7:00pm in the
library

Principal's News

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Where has the time gone? Next week we will be into December. As principal, I am extremely pleased with the effort of our students and staff. They are so focused on learning and teaching.

Over the last month Mission Secondary community has been extremely busy. We have had so many events that have brought our school community together. Our Remembrance Day Assemblies were outstanding. Our Drama class led by Mrs. Brown Evans performed a fabulous play. Our Peer Counselors have been busy at the elementary schools teaching the grade 7's about Cyber Bullying. This has been very informative for our elementary students. The leadership class put on a great dance and they were instrumental in providing the school community with a Great Spirit week. We also had a fabulous Dawalli celebration. All our Football teams made the playoffs this week and will all play in the semi-finals. The volleyball teams had great seasons and I am sure they all enjoyed playing. Finally, with winter setting in, please communicate with your child the importance of staying focused on learning.

This week we will be involved with Parent Teacher Interviews. It is extremely important that parents make contact with teachers to find out how their children are doing. These interviews provide information on many different levels. The teacher may provide parents with study techniques for their children or organizational methods that may improve their child's performance. If your child is having difficulty, please make sure that you make contact with the teacher, counselor or administrator so that we can make a plan to support your child. Remember it takes an entire community to raise a child and we, as a school, can support the family in many different ways.

Sincerely

Jim Pearce

IMPORTANT - PHONE CHANGES

Mission Secondary continues to offer exceptional service to all students and parents. In order to continue with the quality of service we have implemented a new way of communicating with the school. A few weeks ago installation occurred to have new phone numbers for our Middle School and Grad Program School. We needed to do this in order to take pressure off the main office and to ensure our parents and students the best service possible.

When you phone the school and you have a grade 8 or 9 student, please call the Middle School at 604 826-6487 this will ensure that your call will be directed to the proper personnel. If you

have a grade 10-12 student please call the Grad Program School at 604 826-8431 and you call will be forwarded. General enquires can and will be answered by the main office number at 604 826-7191. General enquires may include: balance of accounts, purchasing products from the school such as yearbooks, appointments for the Principal, school calendar, just to name a few. Thanks so much for taking the time to read this and we are hopeful as a school, we will continue to serve our learning community in the best possible way.



“A mind once stretched by a new idea never regains its original dimensions.”

Aboriginal News

Hello, my name is Fran Croteau and I am one of the Aboriginal Support workers here at Mission Sr. Secondary.

I work alongside Erica Jurgens whom many of you already know. Erica has been working in this community for the past 10 years now and is also embarking on a new journey as a high school support worker. We are located on the west side of the building in room # 113.

We are both new to the high school position. Our past work experience was in the elementary setting so I we are looking forward to the new challenges that lie ahead.

We had a couple of ‘meet and greet’ at the beginning of the school year but were not able to connect with all the students that we have on our list. During these visits we had given the children a consultation form that was to be brought back to the school, filled out and signed by a parent/guardian for us to keep in our records. This form will allow us to provide added support in addition to of what they may be

receiving from within the school setting. We are also going to be bringing in cultural presenters so that the children can learn more about the different nations and what goes on within their traditional territories.

Our intention is to gain the trust, confidence and respect from your son/daughter in order to support them in these final years of high school. It is our hope that they look forward to a positive future whether it be to continue with their education or help guide them in the right direction in order to sustain a prosperous outlook on the next big step in their life’s journey.

Sincerely,
Fran S. Croteau
Erica Jurgens

Siwal Si’wes (Our Forefathers’
Teachings)
Aboriginal Education Dept.
7466 Welton Street, Mission B.C.
Phone # (604) 826-3103

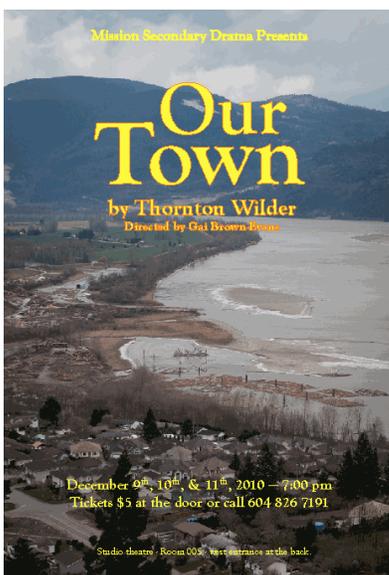
Drama

Mission Secondary's Drama Department tackles the most renowned and performed play in America's history, 'Our Town' by Thornton Wilder this Dec 9, 10 & 11th.

This timeless piece presents three acts which walk us through the daily lives of a precious community much like our own, introducing us to its young and old and inviting us to embrace their human condition. Set at the turn of the 20th century, Wilder's message still prevails- take the time to stop and smell the roses,

life is precious and its tenuousness escapes us when we take it for granted.

Not to be missed, this production pulls at the heartstrings and leaves us all wrapped in the warmth of community while giving us pause, a timely message for the holiday season. Tickets are only \$5 and are available by reservation at 604-826-7191 or contingent upon availability at the door. Doors open at 6:30 pm.



Counseling Corner

**now that it is November, and the newness of the school year has passed, parents are wondering how to keep the momentum going with their teen's success, or, in some cases, how they can promote better work habits.*

Helping your teenager through their high school experience:

During the high-school years, homework gets more intense. Especially after grade 9, high school can begin to feel like pretty serious business as their graduation transition program takes shape.

At the same time, teenagers have to deal with a lot of other big changes. They're adjusting to the physical and emotional effects of puberty, while busy social lives and sports commitments gain importance, and many also acquire part-time jobs. Parents can play a crucial role in helping teens handle these challenges and succeed in school by lending a little help, support, guidance, role modeling, and by knowing what problems demand their involvement and which ones require that they back-off a bit. As a famous comedian once said: "parenting is not for the faint-of-heart", sometimes it's hard to know what to do.

Setting Up For Success:

Make sure your teenager has a quiet, well-lit, distraction-free place to study. The space should be stocked with paper, pencils, a calculator, dictionary, thesaurus, and any other necessary supplies. It should be away from distractions like TVs, ringing phones, and video games.

Your teenager may prefer a private space in which to work rather than being surrounded by parents and siblings. Grant that independence, but check in from time to time to make sure that they haven't gotten distracted.

If your teenager requires a computer for assignments, try to set it up in a common area, (not their bedroom) in order to discourage playing computer games, chatting with or emailing friends, or accessing the Internet for fun during study time. Also consider utilizing the "parental controls" feature through your Internet service provider (ISP) which blocks inappropriate material.

A Parent's Supporting Role:

When it comes to homework, be there to offer support and organization, answer questions, help interpret assignment instructions, and to review their learning. It can be difficult to see your teen become stressed over homework, especially when there's a test or important deadline looming. You can help them out the most by teaching them problem-solving and time management skills that they need in order to get through their assignments. Offering encouragement as they work their way through assignments and test preparation is more important than praising them for a good mark after-the-fact. For example, telling your teen that you are really proud of the time and effort that they are putting into their project or into their test preparation, will encourage a lifetime of strong work ethic. Whereas praise which only comes after-the-fact for high marks focuses less on the important process and discipline necessary to learn.

More tips to help make homework easier for your teen:

- **Plan ahead.** Regularly sit down with your teen to go over their binder and make sure they're organized and up-to-date.
- **Establish a routine.** Send the message that schoolwork is a top priority with ground rules like setting a regular time and place each day for homework (or review) to be done. Make it clear that there's no TV, phone calls, computer game-playing, etc., until homework is done and checked.
- **Instill organization skills.** No one is born with great skills— they're learned and practiced over time. Most kids first encounter multiple teachers and classrooms in grade 8, when organization becomes a key to succeeding. Make sure your teenager is using their planner to help get organized.

**Please contact your teenager's counselor if you have any questions about finding a tutor, peer mentor, or homework assistance for your child.*

Mr. Love: All gr 12s & gr 11s N-Z, Ms. Francis All gr 10s & gr 11s A-M

Mr. Greenshields All gr 8s & gr 9s A-D, Ms. Shaw gr 9s E-Z & all aboriginal students.

By: Ms. Lea Francis (Counselor & Scholarship Coordinator)



Mission Secondary
32939 7th Avenue
Mission, B.C.
V2V 2C5

Phone
Main Office
604 826-7191

Phone
Grad Program School
Grade 10,11,12
604 826-8431

Phone
Middle School
Grade 8,9
604 826-6487

Fax:
604 826-8187

*“Everybody’s Best
 Builds Success”*

We’re on the Web!
<http://mss.mpsd.ca>

Music Notes

CONGRATULATIONS to the music department on a very fine performance during their Winter Celebration! A job well done by all students! The audience was truly put in a festive mood!

There will be a very important meeting for all parents of students in Concert Band and Jazz Band on Wednesday, December 1st at 7:00 pm in the music room (129). At this meeting, the Spring Tour will be proposed... please make sure your student is represented!

Career Center News

Education & Career Fair

On Thursday, Dec.2nd, in the afternoon, there will be a field trip to the Education & Career Fair at the Tradex Centre in Abbotsford. Student permission forms and \$5 (to cover the cost of the bus) are due today, in the Career Centre.

The Career Fair runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with experts in a variety of career areas running half hour seminars and sharing information at booths. In addition, there are representatives from universities, colleges and training schools with information booths. The post-secondary schools represented are not only from BC but also from various parts of Canada. Check out this website to see the list of exhibitors:

<http://www.educationcareerfairs.com/exhibitors/FraserValleyExhibitList.htm>

Entry fee is \$5 but complimentary tickets for parents are available from the Career Centre.

Excellent opportunity to collect information for your Graduation Transition Plan



The Senior, Junior & Grade8 boys football teams advanced to the BC Semi-Finals.

- The Junior boys play Friday November 26th @ noon at Moutat
- The Senior Boys play Saturday, November 27th @ 3:00pm at UBC

GO ROADRUNNERS GO!!!

Focus Volleyball is coming to the Fraser Valley. Tryout times are December 11-12, North Surrey. Please keep in mind this is just the tryout gym. Other gyms closer to home will be used for practices. Go to <http://www.focusvolleyball.com/> for more information