

September 25, 2009

Volume 6, Issue 1

# Mission Secondary Newsletter

## Individual Highlights:

Late to Class	1
Bus Information	1
International Program	1
Grade 8 Lunch Superv.	2
Study Support	2
Photo Retakes	2
Drama Dept News	2
After School Pick Up	2
PAC Message	2
Post Sec. Info. Evening	3
Wear Pink Day	3
Yearbook Info.	4
Teen Driver Workshop	4
Dress Code	4
School Calendar	4



## School Hours

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

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

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome all new students and staff. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome back those students who attended Mission Secondary last year. To our Grade 8 students, we extend a warm welcome to you and hope you have a wonderful and exciting year. We also extend a warm welcome to our new staff members: **Joanne Heron**, Vice-Principal, **Camielle Laslo**, Aboriginal Liaison Worker, **Kim Grant**, Music Teacher, and **Mary Pat Menard**, Education Assistant.

Mission Secondary continues to provide an opportunity for every student to reach their potential. I am honored to be working with such a dedicated staff. We will collectively give our students the best opportunity to achieve excellence in all aspects of their education.

This year our staff will continue to work collaboratively to support our most vulnerable learners. At Mission Secondary we take pride in offering a wide range of strategies to meet the learning needs of all our students and our staff continues to work hard in implementing new strategies.

Starting the school year on a positive note is extremely important. September is a critical month for establishing study routines and home study habits for the year. Teachers expect homework and assignments to be done on time. I encourage everyone to consistently work hard and have a successful year.

Sincerely,

Jim Pearce  
Principal

## School District Bussing

A letter was sent home over the summer outlining student use of school district busses. Starting in October, 2009, students who use school district buses and live inside the walk limits to the school (4.8 km for secondary schools), students who attend a cross-boundary school, or attend a program of choice, will be subject to a user fee for using school district transportation services.

Fees for these students' use of busses will be collected, at the school, **Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm**. The cost to secondary students is: two-way monthly pass \$30.00, one-way monthly pass \$20.00, two-way annual pass \$240.00, one-way annual pass \$160.00. Visit [www.mpsd.ca](http://www.mpsd.ca) for complete bus fee schedule and multi-student discounts.

## International Program

Mission Public Schools International Program is currently looking for quality home stay families to provide room and board for elementary or secondary international students. These paid positions are a wonderful opportunity to learn more about another culture.

For more details please contact

**Yvonne Turner at  
604.826.6286 ext 322**

Home Stay applications are available at the School Board Office reception.



## Lates

Students are expected to be in class when the bell rings. First class begins at 8:47am. Please encourage your children to arrive to class on time as tardiness demonstrates a lack of consideration for teachers and fellow students. It is also an important life skill for students to arrive on time to help prepare them for the world of work. For those students who continue to arrive late or miss class, we have implemented a Late Club at lunch.

## Drama Department News



Shown here, MSS Drama students attended a rollicking production of *The Comedy of Errors* at Bard on the Beach with Ms. Brown-Evans and Ms. Macaulay. There was a meeting Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> to gear up for the first production of the year: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde. Alumnae Sammie Reeve (stage manager) and Keith McQuade (assistant director) are returning as mentors.

## Study Support

Lunchtime Study Support, in room 162, 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.

## After School Pick Up

Parents are asked not to pick up their children from the west side of the building. Please use the bus loop on the east side instead. Thank you.

## Grade 8 Supervision at Lunch

Grade 8 students are not allowed to leave the school grounds during the lunch hour unless they are going home for lunch. Written permission may be used by parents from time to time to excuse students as necessary, but the school's expectation is that the Grade 8 students are to be on school grounds.



## Photos

Student photos will be taken **Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**. Photo retakes will be done on Thursday, **October 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Students who missed the photo day in September need to get an order envelope from the front office if you wish to have photos taken. If you are retaking photos, the first set of pictures must be returned to the photographer on retake day.

## Message from MSS PAC Chair

Did someone forget to tell the Sun that it is now fall? Although the weather is telling us it's still summer, it is back to school again, and as PAC Chair, I would like to welcome the parents and their teenagers back for another year at Mission Senior Secondary School.

PAC Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the school library. Communication is a key factor in helping your child succeed in high school, and one of the goals of PAC is to share school events, issues and ideas with parents. If you would like to receive the minutes of PAC meetings and other information via email, please contact me, Shelley Janze, PAC Chair, at [ljanze@shaw.ca](mailto:ljanze@shaw.ca), and I will add you to the PAC Members list.

Although receiving information via the electronic highway is great, attending PAC meetings in person is a fabulous way to connect with other parents at the school. At MSS, I have found the school administration to be very open to ideas and issues brought to their attention by parents at the meetings. Positive changes do happen with parental involvement. Our next PAC meeting is Wednesday, Oct 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 at 7 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Thank you,  
Shelley Janze, PAC Chair

## Grade 10, 11 & 12 Students & Parents

Come out and get informed at our  
Post-Secondary Information Evening  
at Mission Secondary School on  
Thursday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 - 9:00 pm

### You'll get:

- Up-to-date information about the schools' programs, tuition fees, application deadlines, etc.
- Info on student services, residences, sports teams, etc.
- Printed info on the school
- An opportunity to ask questions
- An opportunity to compare 2 schools by attending 2 - 45 minute sessions; at the end of the evening there will be a mini-fair in the cafeteria where you can check out other schools and talk to their reps



### Representatives will be here from:

**BCIT**

**SFU**

**UVic**

**UBC**

**UFV**

**Royal Military College/Canadian Armed Forces**

**Trinity Western University**

**Kwantlen Polytechnic University**

**Thompson Rivers University**

**Douglas College**

## Don't miss this great opportunity!

### Anti-Bullying Wear Pink Day – October 1st

David Shepherd, Travis Price and their teenage friends organized a Nova Scotia high-school protest to wear pink in sympathy with a Grade 9 boy who was being bullied...[They] took a stand against bullying when they protested against the harassment of a new Grade 9 student by distributing pink T-shirts to all the boys in their school.

'I learned that two people can come up with an idea, run with it, and it can do wonders,' says Travis, 17, who organized the pink protest. 'Finally, someone stood up for a weaker kid.'

So David and some others headed off to a discount store and bought 50 pink tank tops. They sent out messages to schoolmates that night and the next morning they hauled the shirts to school in a plastic bag.

As they stood in the foyer handing out the shirts, the bullied boy walked in. His face spoke volumes. 'It looked like a huge weight was lifted off his shoulders,' Travis recalled.

The bullies were never heard from again.

Mission Secondary supports this initiative and invites all students and staff to **Wear Pink on October 1<sup>st</sup>** and take a stand against bullying.



### Bullying

Intimidation and harassment of students is not part of school life and will not be condoned. Students involved in harassing or bullying other students are subject to strict disciplinary action.

**Mission Secondary School**

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604-826-7191

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604-826-8187



We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://missionsecondary.mpsd.ca>

## School Calendar

Sept. 28	Student Photos
Sept. 29	Non-Instructional Day – no classes
October 12	Thanksgiving Day – no classes
October 22	Photo Retakes
October 23	Provincial Pro-D Day – no classes
November 11	Remembrance Day observed – no classes
November 13	Term 1 ends – ½ day assessment, dismissal 11:30am
November 26	Report cards available to parents
November 26	Parent/Teacher interviews (3:30-6:00 pm, 6:30-9:00 pm)
November 27	Non-Instructional Day – no classes
December 18	Last day of classes before Winter Break
January 4	School reopens
Jan 25 - 29	Provincial Exams
January 29	Semester Turnaround – no classes

## School Dress Code

Common sense is the key to student dress code and grooming at Mission Secondary. We expect students to dress appropriately while at school. Clothing that is offensive and/or distracts others from learning is not acceptable.

- Clothing must not promote profanity, sex, drugs or alcohol.
- Clothes which are clearly revealing/distracting such as low-cut shirts/tank tops, halter tops, muscle shirts, crop tops showing bare midriiffs, short shorts or rips/tears in the seats of pants/jeans are not acceptable.

Students who come to school dressed inappropriately will be asked to cover up. Repeated violations will result in parents being contacted and the student being sent home.

We believe this dress code is fair and meets acceptable standards for our school as an educational institution which is preparing our students for the world of work.

## Wanted

MSS woodwork, metal work & mechanics classes would be pleased to accept clean scrap wood, metal (any size), leftover nail polish, etc. Please contact Mr. Spruyt if you would like to contribute something.

## Parents of Teen Drivers

Car crashes are the number one cause of death among teenagers. Studies show that when parents take an active role in their teenager's driving education, the teenager's chances of being in a crash can be reduced by up to a third. The BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation is offering help to BC parents to help their teenagers become safer drivers and passengers. They also offer a workshop for parents of teen drivers, *In the Driver's Seat*. Turn to [www.TeenDrivers.ca](http://www.TeenDrivers.ca) for practical resources to help you manage your teenager's learning-to-drive experience. For more information call 1-877-297-2254

## Yearbooks

Yearbooks are on sale now until the end of December for just \$50.00. Due to high demand, the 2009/2010 yearbook will not be available in June so this is your only chance. The Yearbook class is working hard to produce another great edition.