

September 30, 2010

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Mission Secondary Newsletter

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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. Looking at our new Middle School configuration our grade 8 students are focused and really engaged in their learning. We also extend a warm welcome to our new staff members in which we have many: Mike Miller, Shelley Bryant, Michelle Morris, Shawn O'donnell, Helen Yanocopolis, Mike Schnieder, Brent Thompson, Erica Jergens, Fran Coutau, Kim Gray and Anja Tarris.

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

MSS. Principal

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.

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 – Bard on the Beach



Into an England ripped apart by civil war strides the gigantic figure of Sir John Falstaff, Shakespeare's most endearing and brilliantly comedic rogue. In this exciting new adaptation of Henry IV, Parts I & II by Errol Durbach, we follow Sir John as he leads the young Prince Hal in a series of wild adventures. As Hal's father, Henry IV, fights a deadly battle to retain control of the English throne, the King and Falstaff engage in an unforgettable struggle for the heart and mind of the future Henry V. Friendship or honour, pleasure or duty, loyalty or betrayal – which path will Hal choose?!

True to its promise, the production offered much hilarity and proved to be a terrific way to kick off our academic year and find inspiration for history literature and theatre.

Study Support

Lunchtime Study Support, in room 221, 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 **Tuesday, September 28th**. Photo retakes will be done on Thursday, **October 21st**. 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.

Peer Counselors

A special thank-you goes out to Mr. Greenshield's Peer Counselors for their donations, the Scholarship Students for spreading the word and to Leadership Student Pooja Rattan and Mr. Sward for doing such a wonderful job advertising the Garage Sale for the Orphanage in Haiti. We raised close to \$500 which means that the children will have food to eat for a few weeks for sure. There is more to be done for this orphanage so see Ms. Francis if you are interested in brainstorming new ideas! Thank-you to ALL staff and students who participated.

Mrs. Francis

A special thank you to all the students and parents who attended the Post-Secondary Information Evening at Hatzic Secondary on Tuesday, Sept. 28th and made it such a big success! Over 300 students and parents from the 3 Mission high schools attended. If you missed the event and would like information on post-secondary education or training, please make an appointment with Mrs. Janzen, the Career Advisor (linda.janzen@mpsd.ca).



***Grade 12's** - The University of the Fraser Valley starts accepting applications on October 1st so it's a very good idea to apply as soon as possible as it means that you will get an earlier course registration date (which can be very important).*

UFV Educational Advisors will be coming to the schools and Grade 12's can sign up for a 15-minute appointment at the Career Centre. Advisors will be at:

MSS on Tuesday, Oct. 5

HPSS on Wednesday, Oct. 6

HSS on Thursday, Oct. 7

Music Notes

The music department is off and running for another exciting year of music making! There are three department concerts scheduled for this year, so mark your calendars!

Wednesday, November 24th, 2010

Tuesday, March 15th, 2011

Wednesday, May 25th, 2011

All of these concerts will take place at the Clarke Foundation Theatre, 7:00 pm - see you there!

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in participating in the music department this year, it's not too late! Please contact Ms. Grant @ kim.grant@mpsd.ca or stop by the music room to learn how you can be involved!

Siwal Si'wes – Aboriginal Department

My name is Erica Jurgens. My family ties are to the Sto:lo and Lytton First Nations. I am the Aboriginal Coordinator for the Aboriginal Department and I am pleased this year to take my assignment at Ecole Mission Secondary. I have worked for the Aboriginal Department for ten years at Ecole Mission Central Elementary, so I am reconnecting with many former families in my new placement here at MSS.

I have been contacting all my Grade 8 families and introducing myself by phone and by dropping by to visit. I will work through grade by grade and do my best to connect with all my families by the end of October. You are welcome to call me at 604-826-7191, or send me an e-mail at erica.jurgens@mpsd.ca, or come by the Aboriginal Room in B Building Rm 113.

Hello, I am Fran Croteau, the left hand for Erica Jurgens. Erica has been a great mentor and wonderful asset to every student, family and community that she has graced. I have been working in the district for 3 years, mostly in the elementary setting, so this is a new challenge that I am excited to take on. I look forward to getting to know your children, hopefully on a 1st name basis, and I encourage you to stop by any time you need to, or just to say "hi". This is going to be an exciting year for us all! If you should have any questions you can contact me at fcroteau@mpsd.ca

Mission Secondary School

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://mss.mpsd.ca>

School Calendar

Sept. 24	Non-Instructional Day – no classes
Sept. 28	Student Photos
October 11	Thanksgiving Day – no classes
October 21	Photo Retakes
October 22	Provincial Pro-D Day – no classes
November 11	Remembrance Day observed – no classes
November 12	Term 1 ends – ½ day assessment, dismissal 11:30am
November 25	Report cards available to parents
November 25	Parent/Teacher interviews (3:30-6:00 pm, 6:30-9:00 pm)
November 26	Non-Instructional Day – no classes
December 17	Last day of classes before Winter Break
January 4	School reopens
Jan 24 - 28	Provincial Exams
January 28	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

The MSS Automotive program is currently looking for car donations. If you have something to donate please contact Mr. Baker at 604-826-7191 or email john.baker@mpsdc.ca

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 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 2010/2011 yearbook will not be available in June so this is your only chance. The Yearbook class is working hard to produce another great edition.