

Mission Secondary Newsletter

September 26, 2013

Volume 10, Issue 1

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome back for another school year, all students, families, and staff. We extend a special welcome to those who are new to this school community, particularly our grade seven students. Staff members are looking forward to assisting students in the middle and grad school programs to achieve their personal best.

This year, staff will continue to work collaboratively on our school goals: to improve student literacy, to improve success rates for all learners, especially our most vulnerable learners, and to use common assessment practices to improve student achievement.

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. Regular consistent attendance is essential. I encourage everyone to consistently work hard and have a successful year.

Sincerely,

Brian Tucker
Principal



Photos

Student photos will be taken on **Monday, September 30th**. Photo retakes will be done on Tuesday, October 29th. There is a discount for families with 3 or more students in the school. Photo envelopes can be picked up at the main office.

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.

Skateboard Policy

In our student Handbook it states that skateboards are **not allowed** at school. Some students and parents requested that we reconsider this rule in order to allow students who live some distance from the school to have their skateboards accessible for use at the nearby skateboard park immediately after school. This policy has been reviewed by school staff. Students may now bring a skateboard to school, providing they meet the following expectations:

- The skateboard must be carried on and off school property and locked in the owner's locker during the school day
- The skateboard must not be ridden on school property at all, inside or outside the building

Students who fail to meet these expectations may have their skateboards confiscated and will lose the privilege of being allowed to bring skateboards to school. The school recognizes that there are legal concerns and safety concerns with using skateboards as a method of transportation and does not encourage or condone the use of skateboards as student transportation.



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.



Yearbooks

Yearbooks are on sale now until the end of December for just \$50.00. After December they will be \$55.00 each. The Yearbook class is working hard to produce another great edition.

ERASE Bullying

Last year, the provincial government launched the ERASE (Expect Respect And a Safe Education) bullying program. This is a comprehensive prevention and intervention strategy designed to address bullying and harmful behaviours in schools. There is a five year plan, includes following:

- Online tools -smart phone ap for students to report bullying anonymously
- Safe school coordinators in every district
- Stronger codes of conduct
- Provincial guidelines for threat assessment
- New online resources for parents
- Formal protocols
- Provincial advisory committee including police, schools, social agencies
- Provincial pro d day dedicated to reducing bullying
- Training for pre-service teachers

The online tool for reporting bullying anonymously can be accessed at the following link: <http://reportbullyingbc.ca> This link has also been added to our school website.

Drama Department News

MSS Drama students got off on an early field trip to Bard on the Beach's 'Elizabeth Rex' Sept 11th. We were both wowed and inspired by the performances given. As well, the fabulously performed piece by Canada's renowned writer Timothy Findley, was hugely informative. We learned much about the Elizabethan era and the struggles the queen endured as a female monarch in a male dominated world. Bravo Bard and thanks



The Drama Department is pleased to announce it is already nose to the grindstone working industriously on upcoming productions.

The Theatre Production class' read through for the fall production of George Kaufman's 'The Man Who Came to Dinner' will take place Tuesday Oct 1st. This, from the same author who wrote hilarious crowd pleaser 'You Can't Take It With You' which we put on two years ago. We are very much looking forward to wrestling with this 1930's comedy all about the relationships behind Hollywood types in their everyday and ridiculous lives. Uproariously funny, this play promises to tickle the funny bone. Production dates are Dec 12,13, 14th. Be sure to mark them on your calendar. Tickets will be available at the beginning of December from the school office or by phoning in a reservation. See you there.

Drama 9/10's are working on a hilarious version of 'Alice in Wonderland' for school performances. Community members may attend. Performance dates to be announced.

MSS Community Recreation Class

September Report: This month students hit the ground running with two major activities. Saturday September 14th was our first hike of the year. It was a beautiful day for a hike up Sumas Mountain in Abbotsford. Many of the students enjoyed a refreshing dip in the lake at the top. This was a great 10km warm-up hike for the big adventure up at Garibaldi Park the following weekend. September 20-22 was a three day, two night backpacking trip just past Squamish. After a grueling first day up to the Taylor Meadows camp, students set up camp for what would be home for the next two nights. Day two involved a beautiful walk through alpine meadows, followed by an intense climb up to the famous Black Tusk. The students did awesome! The hike out the next day was pouring rain...but nothing stops MSS Comm Rec! So proud of the tough MSS Comm Rec kids for completing the 29km weekend. Can't wait for next month's adventures.



Students on the Comm Rec Trip

Dry Grad fundraiser

Mission Arts Council
33529 First Ave.
Haunted Mansion's "Fractured Fairytales"
Wednesday Oct 23 from 7-9pm
\$10 per ticket
Children aged 8-13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Aboriginal Program

Welcome to our new and returning Aboriginal Students and their families. My name is Tracy Carr and I will be the new Aboriginal Liaison for the grad program. Kim Gray and Janice Hawk will be working in the Middle School program. We look forward to meeting and working with the students and their families. We started off this year with a trip on September 18th to the "Truth and Reconciliation" Conference in Vancouver. We sponsored five students to go and listen to the "Young People Healing the Past and Building the Future" seminar. This was a cross-cultural dialogue among young panelists who are facing the intergenerational impacts of human rights violations such as the residential school, Japanese interment and Chinese head tax, and turning reconciliation into action. All the students enjoyed the trip and learned a great deal about these issues. We will be having a gathering in early October to discuss these issues and what the students learned. The Middle School was also invited to a Drumming Performance by Jason Thompson from the Leq'a: mel First Nations.

Cross Country News

Grade 7 and 8 Cross Country is well underway here at MSS. The team participated in the first race of a four part series held at Clearbrook Park in Abbotsford. Top ten finishers include Janie Green, Jadyne Weiss, and Martyne Konings. So far our Grade 8 Girls are in 2nd place for overall team awards. Way to go, Mission!

CAREER CENTRE NEWS

Grade 11's & 12's



"Like" the Mission Career Centre on Facebook

When you "Like" Mission Career Centre, you'll be kept in the loop with the latest news from colleges and universities, volunteer opportunities, field trips coming up, and much more information that is important as you prepare for your life after high school.

Coming soon:

- Christian University and College Fair, Monday, October 7th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm at Pacific Academy, 10238 168th Street, Surrey.
- UBC Information Evening, Monday, October 30th, at the Clarke Theatre @ HPSS, 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://missionsecondary.mpsd.ca>

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 12 parents interested in helping with Dry Grad 2013, please contact Mrs. Grewal via email hardeep.grewal@mpsd.ca.



2013 - 2014 Year at a Glance

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

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 midriffs, 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.



Grade 7 and 8 Supervision at Lunch

Grade 7 and 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 7 and 8 students are to be on school grounds.