



OCTOBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Principal: James Gushue

Grade 6-8 Vice-principal: Karen Lander-Pinard

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SCHOOL FUNDRAISERS

Each year, the Student Council runs several fundraisers to assist with the cost of running the school's sports and extra-curricular activities. We appreciate the support of our parents/guardians, friends and community members in our efforts to raise money in support of our students.

MAGAZINE CAMPAIGN

The MRHS Magazine Campaign has begun. Parents/Guardians, friends and community members may order online if they wish. Please go to the QSP website—www.qsp.ca—School ID #3707304 and then enter the student's name and the student will receive credit for the purchase.

Please note that the school will not have students going door-to door asking for cash donations. If this ever occurs, ask for the person's name and call the school at 902-825-5350. We need you to be confident that you are contributing to legitimate school fundraisers.

If not ordering online, paying by cheque or credit card is preferred so that students are not carrying cash.

The deadline to pass in orders is **Friday, October 7, 2016.**

ATTENDANCE CALL OUT SYSTEM

Schools in the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board have the option to use an automated system to inform parents/guardians about school closures and special events, as well as distributing information such as school newsletters. MRHS is currently using the **attendance call out module** which will contact parents/guardians when a student is unexcused for one or more classes—the calls go out at approximately 5:45 each evening. Parents/Guardians can decide the method by which they wish to be contacted—any combination of phone calls, texts and emails. Please contact the school office if you wish to only have a certain phone number/email/text to be notified, or if you would like to opt out of this attendance alert system.

Parents/Guardians can also choose the method of contact via the Parent Portal—<http://sisavrsb.ednet.ns.ca>. If you do not have access to the Parent Portal, please contact the school office.

PLEASE NOTE: If a student is going to be absent, parents/guardians are asked to contact the school at 902-825-5350 before morning classes begin so that the student will be marked excused for the day in the database. School office voice mail is available as well to leave messages. By parents/guardians calling in, it will help to avoid unnecessary contact.

Parents/Guardians will not be contacted if the absences are excused.

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

APPLICATIONS TO POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Students and parents are reminded that applications to Nova Scotia Community College are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Apply NOW to avoid disappointment. This can be done online at <http://www.nsc.ca/admissions/applying/>. Also, be aware that "test drives" are available. Students may make appointments to go to the College to check out programs of their choice to see if they are a fit for them via the website.

Applications to universities can be made now with grade 11 marks for early admission. Many students, however, wait until they have first semester results before they apply. Students are accepted based on criteria such as averages and courses completed rather than first come, first served as with NSCC. Bear in mind that entrance scholarships and bursaries have application deadlines that are particular to each institution. Check websites for details.

PARENT/GUARDIAN NIGHT

On **Monday, October 17**, there will be an information session for the parents and guardians of grade 11 and 12 students in the band room. During this session, Mrs. Arthur will share lots of information about post-secondary planning. Also present will be Noel McDonald from NSCC to speak about their programs, bursary information and the application process.

NSCC OPEN HOUSE

There will be an Open House at all NSCC Campuses on **Tuesday, October 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Application to programs can be made at this time if students have an official high school transcript. These can be obtained from Mrs. Beckner in the main office. This is a wonderful opportunity to check out programs!

INFORMATION FOR MRS. ARTHUR

Mrs. Arthur needs to know students' plans for after graduation. When students are accepted to and have decided to attend a post-secondary institution, please let Mrs. Arthur know for statistical purposes. Also, please fill in **Student Profile sheets** and pass them into the main office. Extra forms are available in Student Services and in the main office. This valuable information is used throughout the school year to decide upon nominees for some awards, scholarships and bursaries.

SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY INFORMATION

Applications for scholarships and bursaries are coming in all the time. Please see Mrs. Arthur to get up-to-date information. Have questions or concerns? Come and talk to Mrs. Arthur. Have you won an award, bursary or scholarship, please let Mrs. Arthur know.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS CONTACTING STUDENTS DURING CLASS

Parents/Guardians are asked not to text or call students during class time—this interrupts class. If there is an emergency, please call the school office (902-825-5350) and we will have the student call you back immediately.

TECHSPLOURATION

We are pleased that the MRHS Alumnae Girls will be participating in the Techsplorer Alumnae Conference. This one day conference is designed to provide Techsplorer Alumnae further opportunities to meet role models from a wide range of careers and to participate in hands-on activities. Alumnae include young women in grades 10-12 who participated on a Techsploration school team when they were in grade nine. Students who were not on a Techsploration school team may also participate—by invitation. There will be over 20 female role models representing a variety of sciences, trades and technology careers at this event. It is an awesome learning experience!

Techsploration, a not-for-profit organization, is a joint initiative of the Nova Scotia Community College, Women in Trades and Technology (WITT-NS) and the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency.

DEBATE NEWS

On October 14-15, junior and senior high students will travel to Sacred Heart School of Halifax to attend provincial debating impromptus . Good luck, debaters!

From October 26-31, MRHS will host the National Debating Seminar. This year marks its 50th anniversary and Middleton is the smallest area to have ever hosted this event. The seminar brings students from all across Canada as a cultural, educational and competitive debating opportunity. This year's theme is Immigration/Emigration: Then and Now. The actual debating will take place at MRHS on Saturday, October 29 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Spectators are welcome. We would like to thank the community for their support in hosting this wonderful event and wish MRHS debaters, Mia Fraser and Skylah Van Wagoner, great success at the tournament.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

A reminder to parents/guardians that school photos will be taken on **Tuesday, October 11 and Wednesday, October 12**. The plan is for grade 6-11 to have their photos taken on Tuesday. Grad photos will be taken on Wednesday. However, if the photographer runs short on time, some classes may have to have their photos taken on Wednesday as well.



PLEASE NOTE: Parents will be able to see a proof before purchasing. A proof will be sent home approximately one week later with students, and parents/guardians can then decide if they want to order a package. The proof will have information on what packages are available and costs. A reminder that no hats or bandanas are to be worn in school photos. All students will have their photo taken as they are used for student ID's, the school database and yearbook.

TREATY DAY AND MI'KMAQ HISTORY MONTH

Treaty Day, held annually on October 1, celebrates the signing of the 1752 Treaty of Friendship and Peace, as well as marks the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia. In 1986, Grand Chief of the Mi'kmaq Nation, Donald Marshall Sr., invited all Mi'kmaw to "observe October 1, 1986 and every year thereafter as Treaty Day to commemorate the unique and special relationship that exists between the Mi'kmaw and her Majesty". The purpose of Treaty Day is to promote public awareness about the Mi'kmaw culture and heritage for all citizens of Nova Scotia. In 1993, Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaw Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy declared October as the official month to recognize and celebrate Mi'kmaw culture and heritage. Each October, community activities, events, sharing and showcasing Mi'kmaw history will take place across Nova Scotia.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The MRHS School Advisory Council Annual General meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.

Interested parents/guardians and community members are invited to attend.

SCENT AWARENESS ENVIRONMENT

Students, staff and visitors to the school are asked to please consider the sensitivity of others and help contribute to a scent-reduced environment by refraining from wearing strongly-scented products.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 3-7 -	Grade 6 Provincial Assessments
October 10 -	Thanksgiving—No School
October 11-12-	School Photos
October 17 -	Grade 11 & 12 Guidance Dept/Parent Meeting—6:30-7:30 p.m.
October 18 -	SAC Meeting—7:00 p.m.
October 19 -	Early Dismissal—12:15 pm
October 28 -	Provincial Conference (No School)

BUS PASSES

Students requesting bus passes to travel on a bus other than their own must have a note from home. These can be redeemed for a pass at the office before school and during recess and lunch breaks only—**not at the end of the school day.** We cannot accept phone calls throughout the day to issue bus passes.

ATHLETICS

BADMINTON: Students are invited to play badminton on Sundays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the new gym. No badminton experience necessary.

UPCOMING MONARCHS SOCCER GAMES

October 5 -	Senior Girls vs Digby -	4:30 p.m.
October 6 -	Junior Girls vs AWEC -	4:30 p.m.
October 11 -	Senior Boys vs NKEC -	4:30 p.m.
October 13 -	Senior Boys vs Digby -	4:30 p.m.
October 17 -	Junior Girls vs Digby -	4:30 p.m.
October 20 -	Junior Boys vs Digby -	4:30 p.m.

BAND NEWS

The MRHS Band Parents Association will be holding a Pie Fundraiser in October. Please watch for information that will be sent home soon with band students. This fundraiser is to raise money for the band trip account.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mountain Ridge 4-H Registration—October 23, 2016 at 6:30 p.m., Kinsmen Hall, Dodge Rd. - General Meetings held 4th Sunday of the month. For further information, please contact Shelley Parsons at 902-765-8446 or karie.parsons@parsonsinvestments.ca.