



OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Principal: James Gushue

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

Grade 9-12 Vice-principal: Greg Bower

Phone: 902-825-5350 | Fax: 902-825-5355

Email: mrhs@avrsb.ca



SCHOOL FUNDRAISERS

Each year, the Student Council holds several fundraisers to assist with the cost of running the school's sports program 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 #4983599 and then enter the student's name and the student will receive credit for the purchase. Giftware and other items are only available to be ordered online.

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 13, 2017.**

FORD DRIVE ONE FOR UR SCHOOL EVENT

On **Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, there will be a fundraising event held at MRHS called *Drive One for UR School* in support of MRHS Student Council. Each household can count for one test drive and earn \$20 towards the MRHS Student Council. The event has the potential of raising \$6000 for the council. The program features a drive component where the Ford dealership volunteers their latest vehicle models for the public to test drive. Parents/Guardians, family members and friends are asked to participate in this fundraiser. After providing proof of a valid driver's license, prospective test drivers will then take a car for a short test drive.

During this event, the grads will be holding a barbeque fundraiser, the debate club will be holding a bake sale, as well as other activities taking place. Please come out and support MRHS!

NEW STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Education has just released a new student attendance and engagement policy for schools across our province. The policy and a supporting operational plan have taken effect as of October 1, 2017.

The policy is designed to identify and address absenteeism before it becomes a problem for students through early and targeted interventions.

Under the policy:

→ students will be considered absent unless they are attending an activity that directly relates to their learning, or a school activity

→ Addressing absenteeism or chronic lateness will vary based on the age, grade and the individual circumstances of the student. Parents/Guardians of students whose attendance pattern is of concern will be contacted by the school at various intervals to discuss attendance issues and to strategize on steps to improve attendance for the student.

→ teachers will not be required to prepare additional materials or release test and exam information ahead of their release to the class

→ Grade 10 to 12 students who miss more than 20 percent of class time for a given course may lose a credit for that course based upon individual circumstance and the professional judgement of the teacher and principal

Parents, students and teachers are invited to provide feedback on the policy and its implementation throughout the year. The department will review the policy and adjust based on lessons learned and feedback received after the 2017-18 school year.

A copy of the policy, operational plan and more information is available at www.ednet.ns.ca/student-attendance-and-engagement-policy. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school.

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 or late, parents/guardians are asked to contact the school at 902-825-5350 before morning classes begin. 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 school has been notified.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The MRHS School Advisory Council Annual General meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 17, 2017** 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.

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 **Wednesday, October 18** there will be an information session for the parents and guardians of grade 11 and 12 students in the band room from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. During this session, Mrs. Arthur will share lots of information about post-secondary planning.

NSCC Open House

There will be an Open House at all NSCC campuses on **Thursday, October 19** 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. The transcripts 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 her know for statistical purposes. Also, grade 11 and 12 students are asked to please fill in **Student Profile sheets** and pass them in to 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, and other educational opportunities.

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.

DEBATE NEWS

On September 28, four students travelled to Acadia University to participate in a debating workshop for the student teachers.

On Saturday, October 7 from 9:00 a.m. to noon, MRHS debaters will gather in Ms. Hubley's room for an impromptu tournament.

On Saturday, October 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., MRHS Debate will be hosting a bake sale and a 50/50 draw at the Ford Drive One 4 UR School event. Please help support the Debate team!

On October 28-29, the Provincial Impromptu Debating Championships will be held for all junior and senior high students at Kings Edgehill. Good luck, MRHS!

Practices for all students in grade 6-12 are held every Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in Ms. Hubley's room (107). All are welcome!

OCEANS 11 CLASS NEWS

On Friday, September 22, Mrs. Rector's two Oceans 11 classes travelled to the Bedford Institute of Technology to attend the "School Days" EXPO 2017. At this Expo, students had the opportunity to speak with marine biologists, physicists, chemists, as well as experts in the fields of climate change. Many of the experts had interactive displays that allowed the students to view the ocean in 3-D, hear and try to simulate whale sounds and learn how ocean research is done by real people. A touch tank and a frozen shark display topped it all off!



From the Bedford Institute, the students clambered back onto the bus and headed to the Halifax Waterfront where they saw the Bluenose II and some military ships. They were also able to experience "Sea Dome" at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. It is a 50 foot geodesic dome, featuring immersive, 360 degree cinematic experiences. The Oceans students attended the showings of "A Whale Story: Surviving Against the Odds" and "Bluenose: The Legend". For most, it was the first time they had seen a 360 degree video.

The students were great ambassadors for MRHS and had an awesome day!

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos will be taken on **Thursday, October 12 and Friday, October 13**. The plan is for grade 6-11 to have their photos taken on Thursday. Grad photos will be taken on Friday. However, if the photographer runs short on time, some classes may have to have their photos taken on Friday as well.

PLEASE NOTE: Parents/Guardians 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 which type of 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 cards, 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'kmaq to "observe October 1, 1986 and every year thereafter as Treaty Day to commemorate the unique and special relationship that exists between the Mi'kmaq and her Majesty". The purpose of Treaty Day is to promote public awareness about the Mi'kmaq culture and heritage for all citizens of Nova Scotia. In 1993, Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy declared October as the official month to recognize and celebrate Mi'kmaq culture and heritage. Each October, community activities, events, sharing and showcasing Mi'kmaq history will take place across Nova Scotia.

GRAD NEWS

Grad Fees: Grad fees of \$50 are due to Ms. Greenlaw. These fees help with the cost of grad all-nighter, prom and safe grad activities. Prom tickets are included for the grad and their date in this cost.

Grad Sweaters: Grad sweaters will be on sale during the month of October. The cost is \$45.00 and it includes "MRHS Grad" on the front, the "18" with signatures on the back and one word on one sleeve. The last date to order a grad sweater is **Thursday, October 26, 2017.**

Grad BBQ Fundraiser: During the Ford Drive One 4 Ur School Event on Saturday, October 14, the grads will be holding a bbq fundraiser—hot dogs—\$1.00/sausages—\$2.00/ beverages—\$1.00 each.

Remind: Ms. Greenlaw is now sending out text reminders via a program called Remind. To receive text messages via Remind, send **@mrhsgrad** to **(902) 708-0297**. This program is a one-way messaging system and phone numbers are not seen by the teacher. Parents/Guardians are more than welcome to join and receive the information and reminders sent out.



remind

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. Please make certain the note has been dated and the bus route number included.

ATHLETICS

Soccer Home Games

Senior Girls—October 10 vs Central Kings

Senior Boys—October 5 vs Central Kings

BAND NEWS

There will be a Band Parents General Meeting on **Thursday, October 5, 2017** at 7:00 p.m. in the Band Room. The first meeting will be used to introduce the executive, collect band fees (or make arrangements), to discuss fundraising ideas and budget, as well as to answer any questions. Band payments can also be received from 6:30 to 7:00 or after the meeting on this date. When paying band fees, please remember to include the registration form with student info.

6TH GRADE NEWS

We would like to welcome all of the 6th graders to their new school. The classes have been off to a wonderful start. The teachers and students kick-started an exciting new academic year with a field trip to Fort Anne and the Habitation/Port Royal on Wednesday, September 27. This was in part to help celebrate Canada's 150th birthday and to also learn about Acadian, Mi'kmaq and other cultures that make up our history. It was a great chance for everyone to get to know one another. The teachers are looking forward to a fun year ahead with the grade 6 students.



DATES TO REMEMBER

October 2-6	-	Grade 6 Provincial Assessments
October 9	-	Thanksgiving Day (No School)
October 12-13	-	School Photos
October 18	-	Grade 11 & 12 Guidance Dept Parent/Guardian Meeting—6:30-7:30 p.m.
October 19	-	Early Dismissal—12:15 p.m.
October 27	-	Provincial Conference (No School)

PARENTS/GUARDIANS CONTACTING STUDENTS DURING CLASS

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

STUDENT INSURANCE PROGRAM

Basic Plan Coverage: The student accident insurance program provides coverage for medical, dental, disability and accidental death & dismemberment on behalf of Nova Scotia students. Every eligible student is automatically insured for Student Accident Coverage, without deductible and at no cost to students, parents or guardians. This coverage applies during school hours, school activities and travel directly to and from school. For more information on this coverage, or to buy extended Gold Plan coverage, you can visit www.sip.ca.

PEANUT SENSITIVE SCHOOL

A reminder that all AVRSB schools are peanut-sensitive due to allergies.

CANADIAN TIRE JUMPSTART PROGRAM

Canadian Tire Jumpstart is a national charitable program that helps financially disadvantaged kids participate in organized sport and recreation. The program helps to cover registration, equipment and/or transportation costs.

The total funding that each qualified child can receive in any one submission period (e.g. spring/summer for baseball, fall/winter for hockey) will vary based on budgets and demand.

For more information on this program, you can visit www.jumpstart.canadiantire.ca or contact your local recreation office. Application forms/fund allocation guidelines are available at the school office.