

MITCHELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

spotlight

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MITCHELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

September, 2016

Principal's Message

Hello!

I hope everyone had a relaxing, safe and fun summer. I had a very nice summer spending much of my time camping across southern Manitoba with my family. This is a picture of my wife Erin, and son Bennett (and the new one to be named soon depending on when he or she decides to arrive!) camping at Riding Mountain National Park early this summer.



School is quickly approaching and I thought I'd send you a short letter welcoming you to Mitchell Middle School or back for another year! As you know, I am new to Mitchell and have learned much about this great school and community already but have so much more to learn!

Areas of focus for Mitchell MS are literacy/numeracy, school culture, and inquiry learning. I am excited to learn more and see how we continue to move forward into **Inquiry and Deeper Learning**. Important skills we will focus on include: Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, Citizenship, and Character. Also, we want to ensure that 'Our Kids' are Learners and are Literate. These big eight skills are intended to give all people the opportunity to fulfill any goals they set their mind to. Teachers and their students will use technology, paper/pencil, and a variety of other resources in all of our classes to encourage growth in all of these areas. 'Here in Hanover it really is all about our kids and their learning and always has been. Our mission clearly states that we want to provide our kids with the best education possible to prepare them for a productive and wholesome life' (from <http://hsd.ca>).

As a principal I value a school that focusses on kindness/happiness, the process of learning, and ensuring that communication is transparent and consistent. To learn more about me you can follow me

on Twitter (@andrewmead73) or Instagram (@andymead73). Yes, the 73 is my birth year, feel free to do the math.

We have a variety of ways for parents to stay connected to Mitchell MS throughout the year. Check our website often (<http://mms.hsd.ca>) as it includes our blog, school calendar, images of what happens at our school and a wealth of other important information. If you use Twitter or Instagram please follow our school accounts (@MMShanover).

I hope to meet as many of you as possible during our Meet the Teacher event on September 6, 2016 between 4:30 pm and 6:00 pm. This is the first chance we have to begin home and school communication. Also, parents/guardians can make sure that all forms are signed, pay student fees, drop off school supplies and share important information about your child to ensure everyone has the chance to have a successful start to the school year

I think it's important to mention that everyone (including me!), at some point, will make a mistake. It is important that we all respond in a positive/kind manner when faced with a difficult decision and to ensure we keep the lines of communication open.

I am looking forward to a great start to a new school year. Keep in touch!

Sincerely,

Andrew Mead
Principal
amead@hsd.ca
Office: 204-320-9488
Cell: 204-371-6278

Welcome to MMS!

We want to give a special welcome to all new students at Mitchell Middle School this fall. That includes all our grade 5's! We also want to welcome those students who are not only new to MMS, but also to Mitchell itself. We hope you find the community and school to be a perfect fit for your family.

And, another special welcome to new staff members, Mr. Andy Mead (Principal), Mrs. Jerrah-Lee Broesky (5B, French), Mrs. Kylie Burton (6B), Mrs. Pam Neufeld (Asst. Secretary), Mrs. Kara Friesen (EA), Mrs. Tina Flores (EA) and Mrs. Myrna Statkewich (Evening Custodian). We also welcome back Ms. Ronalee Goertz (Guidance). Additionally we welcome a student teacher to our school, Mr. Eric Fast.

Welcome to Mitchell Middle School!

Attendance Procedures

Absences

A small change to the attendance procedures to start the 2016-17 school year.

Homeroom teachers will be taking attendance during AM homeroom (between 9:05 AM and 9:10 AM) time and PM homeroom time (between 12:50 PM and 1:00 PM). Any child not accounted for after 9:10 AM (or 1:00 PM) will be marked absent. At approximately 9:15 AM our wonderful Mrs. Schellenberg will begin to call parents/guardians of children who have not been excused. (IE parents/guardians have not called the school to excuse the absence or late).

To help reduce the number of phone calls made by Mrs. Schellenberg parents/guardians are asked to call the school office (204) 320-9488, email Mrs. Schellenberg (juschellenberg@hsd.ca) or call/text Mr. Mead at (204-371-6278) (or email: amead@hsd.ca) any time prior to 9:00 am the day of the absence. If you know your child will be late or will miss school, please contact the office any time before that date to inform the school of the absence.

Please contact the office directly regarding all matters of excusing absence or lates. This will ensure that your child's attendance is marked accurately. Please leave a voicemail if you call before or after regular office hours which are typically 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

Lates

If a child arrives after 9:10 AM (or 1:00 PM) they will be asked to come and check in at the office. Students who are late will get a note from Mrs. Schellenberg to bring to the teacher they have at the time they arrive. Mrs. Schellenberg will change the attendance from absent to late when the child checks in at the office. After arriving and receiving the note from the office, students are asked to go to their locker and then quickly get to the class they should be in. If you know your child will be late on a particular day, please contact Mrs. Schellenberg or Mr. Mead (contact information above).

Entrance Doors

As in previous years grade 5 and 6 students should enter through the front doors by the main office. Grade 7 and 8 students can enter through the doors by the Tech Lab (west doors by the parking lot) or through the front

doors by the office. Between 9:15 and Noon the only doors that will remain unlocked are the ones by the front office and the Home Ec. Lab (staff entrance – east side doors near the parking lot). During the lunch hour the back doors to the field and the doors by the Tech Lab will be unlocked for students to go outside for the lunch recess. At 1:00 all doors will be locked except the front doors and the doors by the Home Ec. Lab (staff entrance).

Note - The auto-dialer used previously to contact parents/guardians about their child's daily attendance will no longer be used.

Registration Update Please!

Parents, when you dropped in at *Meet the Teacher* on September 6th, you received the *HSD/MMS Registration Information Update* form to read, fill out, sign and get back to us (if you could not make it here that day, we've mailed it to you). If you've already done all that, thanks! If not, please return the completed form to the school a.s.a.p.

Getting all this paperwork done within the first few days of school will be most helpful to our office staff as well as to teachers. Please include your email address, as this will help us communicate with you effectively.

MMS Daily Schedule

| | |
|-------|--|
| 8:50 | First bell – Students come inside |
| 8:57 | Students report to homerooms/area or Religious Opening Exercises |
| 9:00 | Religious Opening Exercises |
| 9:05 | Students report to homerooms |
| 9:08 | School starts – Announcements/O Canada |
| 9:10 | Period 1 |
| 9:50 | Period 2 |
| 10:25 | 5/6 Recess |
| 10:30 | 7/8 Break |
| 10:40 | Period 3 |
| 11:20 | Period 4 |
| 11:55 | Lunch |
| 12:15 | Noon Recess (Period 5) |
| 12:45 | Homeroom Time |
| 1:00 | Period 6 |
| 1:35 | Period 7 |
| 2:10 | 5/6 Recess |
| 2:15 | 7/8 Break |
| 2:25 | Period 8 |
| 3:05 | Period 9 |
| 3:40 | Bus dismissal |
| 3:45 | General dismissal |

Vehicular Traffic

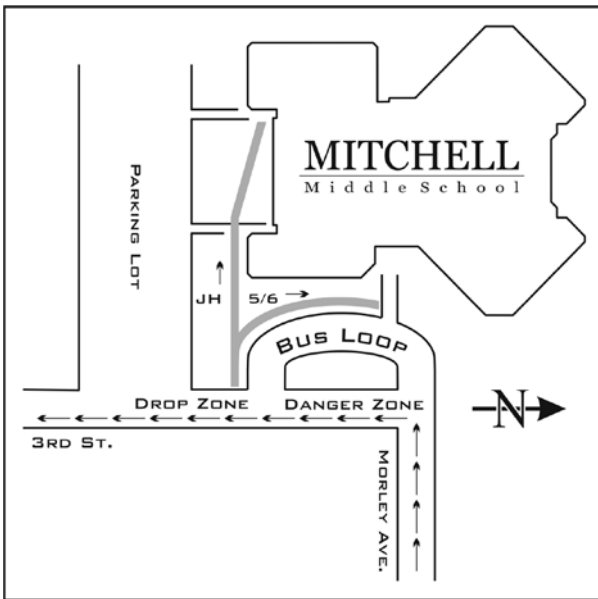
Safety Is Still First!

Some things do not change... safety remains at the top of our list of concerns for our students. Morning arrivals and afternoon departures are potentially the two most dangerous times of the day at school. With numerous

buses coming through the bus loop in the morning and after school, along with a number of parents coming by to drop off or pick up their children, and many other students traveling on foot or by bicycle, traffic is heavy at those two times of the day. **Please!, please!, please!** **pay close attention to the following rules and directives designed to keep your children safe:**

Drop off and pick up your children on the west side of Third Street in front of the school and toward the south end of the bus loop (see the "Drop Zone" area indicated on the accompanying map). Please approach the school from the east on Morley so that all traffic moves past the school in the same north/south direction. Do not drive through the bus loop between 8:30 and 9:00, nor between 3:30 and 4:00.

Do not drive into the parking lot to drop off or pick up children! The parking lot does not have room to safely turn vehicles around, especially when children may be near. Thank-you for continuing to work with us to make the traffic part of our operation run as smoothly and safely as possible.



Please remind your students when walking to school to walk on the left side of the street facing traffic and when riding their bikes to stay on the right. Students walking or biking along 3rd Street between MMS and MES should use the sidewalk.

We are very concerned!

We are very concerned about the serious and increasing danger of students crossing the #52 highway on foot or on their bicycles. Several near misses have been reported where unsupervised students came dangerously close to being hit by motorists as they were crossing the highway. Parents, if you live south of the #52 highway, we at Mitchell Elementary School and Mitchell Middle School urge you to take advantage of Hanover School Division buses and not to allow your

children to walk or ride their bikes to and from school without adult supervision.

The RM of Hanover and the Mitchell LUD are working with the Manitoba Department of Highways to provide appropriate infrastructure that ensures a safe place to cross for pedestrians and cyclists. For now, please help ensure your children's safe transportation to and from school by not allowing them to walk or cycle if it requires crossing the highway unless they are supervised by an adult.

Thank-you for helping keep our/your kids safe!

*Mitchell Elementary School
Mitchell Middle School*

Canada in a Day

CTV presents *Canada in a Day*, a two-hour event broadcast from Screen Siren Pictures, to premiere in 2017 in celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary.

WHAT IS CANADA IN A DAY?

On September 10th, 2016 grab your camera and film your life.

Canada in a Day will be a CTV special created entirely from footage made by Canadians in one day, over 24 hours, and will reflect our thoughts, hopes, and lives. It will be a celebration of Canada for our 150th anniversary. After September 10th you will be able to **UPLOAD** your video clips at <https://canadainaday.ca>.

They want everyone to contribute. People like you.

On September 10th they want you to show us your life. It can be a special occasion or simple moments. It can be anything that matters to you.

This is not something anyone from MMS is expected to do or try, it's just a fun thing to do as a family. If this is something that is of interest, you and/or your family are encouraged to share:

- What you love?
- What you fear?
- What you hope for?
- What does Canada mean to you?

**CANADA
IN A DAY**

MMS Strong Connections

We are planning our annual Mitchell Middle School *Strong Connections* event for Friday and Monday, **September 16th and 19th**. *Strong Connections* is intended to give teachers and students a head start with developing good relationships that will benefit all students both academically and socially.

Strong Connections is a program designed to enhance the start-of-year assessment of each child. *Strong Connections* activities are not tests, but rather they are tasks to help us get to know our students and how they learn in order to know where to begin with instruction.

Rationale for Strong Connections

Hanover School Division priorities state the need for meaningful assessment. *Strong Connections* is a form of authentic assessment done in practical and useful ways. The purpose of *Strong Connections* is to enhance start-of-year classroom assessment with all children. This provides an opportunity for teachers to not only assess, but to get to know your child better. It will help teachers plan for instruction that will effectively address unique learning needs early in the year.

What will teachers learn through Strong Connections?

Teachers working individually with their students in an atmosphere of support and encouragement have an opportunity to collect firsthand information about such things as:

- How they learn.
- Their confidence as learners.
- The learning strategies they possess.
- Their reading, writing and mathematical skills.
- Their approach to problem solving.
- Their attitudes towards school and learning.
- Their ability to reflect upon and set goals for their learning.

How will Strong Connections work?

September 16th and 19th are the days designated for students to attend school one day out of the two. With half the students present, homeroom teachers will have the opportunity to meet one on one with each student to participate in assessment activities in Language Arts, Mathematics, and other subjects. This is an opportunity for teachers to gather information about each child's learning that may not be evidenced during whole class instruction. It is also an opportunity to further develop the teacher-student relationship.

Groups of students will be scheduled to be in homerooms for half of the morning and half of the afternoon. The other half morning and afternoon they will be joining larger 'cross-grade' groups to participate in special athletic and artistic activities. These activities are intended to be particularly enjoyable while helping develop relationships with students in other grades.

On the dates of the program, there will be no regularly scheduled classes. Students will get to and from school in their normal manner (bus or other). We will be sending home further information shortly to let you know which of the two days your students are to be at school. We have coordinated this with Mitchell Elementary School so that no family will have students scheduled on both days. Please call the school if you have any questions.

Mitchell Middle School Student Council 2016-2017

Mitchell Middle School is looking forward to the start of a new school year and is looking for students to participate on the Student Council. Mitchell Middle School's Student Council will be responsible for several events and activities this year, including fundraisers, school spirit activities, community service projects, and other events to involve all students in the Mitchell Middle School experience.

The council positions are all student/peer elected and will consist of the following: President (8th grade), Vice President (7th grade), Treasurer (all grade levels), Secretary (all grade levels), and a representative from each grade level. Students who are interested in student council must:

- Be flexible
- Have and maintain good grades
- Exhibit the potential for leadership
- Display positive classroom behavior
- Have a genuine interest in the welfare of others
- Consistently portray qualities of responsibility, empathy, integrity, and perseverance

Candidate forms can be picked up at the library and are due on or before **Tuesday, September 20th**. Student Council speeches and elections will take place **Tuesday, September 27th, 2016**. Grade level representative elections will take place on **Thursday, September 29th, 2016**.

For more information please direct your questions to Ms. Cuccaro, Mr. Reimer, or Mme Roy.

Home Ec.

All Home Ec. Students are reminded to bring in all their sewing supplies when they come to their first class.

Canteen Workers

Students in Grades 7 and 8 wishing to work in the canteen may pick up an application from Mrs. Roy and return the completed form to Mrs. Roy by **Monday, September 12th**.

Canteen

Pizza will be available on Fridays starting **September 9th** for **\$2.00** a slice. Orders are taken at the canteen before 9:00 am.

6" Subway Sub sales will be on Wednesdays starting on **September 14th** for **\$4.50** each, and students may

choose between ham, cold cut, and pizza subs. Orders may be placed before school at the canteen.

The canteen will officially be open starting **Monday, September 19th**. The following is a list of items for sale and prices are also posted by the canteen.

Canteen Items

Cool Foods

Ice Cream Sandwiches .75

Beverages

Chocolate Milk .75

Juice Box .50

Snacks

Hot Rod .50

Tuna & Crackers 1.50

Nachos & Cheese 2.00

Cheese & Breadsticks .50

Mini Ritz Bits .75

Granola Bars .50

Bear Paws .50

Famous Amos Cookies .75

Muffins 1.00

Cookies (2x) 1.00

Pop Chips 1.00

Sun Chips 1.00

Veggie Chips/Straws .75

Treetop Fruit Snack .25

Fruit to Go .25

Fruit Cup .25

Wagon Wheel .50

Rice Krispies Squares .50

.....AND MANY MORE LIMITED TIME ITEMS

Music Notes



After a wonderful and busy summer with my family, I am returning to school this fall refreshed and committed to another fantastic year here at MMS, and I hope you are, too! An extra special welcome to our new Grade 5 students - welcome to the family!

Grade 5 and 6 students will once again require a **Recorder** for music class. Recorders that were left here over the summer have been sorted into their new homeroom classes and are ready to go. Should you require a replacement recorder, you may purchase one directly from me for \$7.00.

Grade 7 Band "Headstart Days" - nearly all new Band students were able to attend a 30 minute introduction session last week to learn the specifics for their instrument, getting individual assistance to make a great first sound. Those students who were unable to attend will have the option of a make-up lesson over the noon hour at some point in the next few weeks.

The **MMS Band Booster** / Parent Organization is seeking a few more parents to help organize fundraising and special events. Can you help?

Choir for Grade 7 and 8 students is optional, and takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:15pm - 12:45pm (beginning September 13th.) All Grade 7 and 8 students are invited to come try it out, and will have until September 23rd to officially register. Once students are registered for this course, attendance is mandatory as they will receive a Grade on their report card for their participation. (All Grade 5 and 6 students have Choir class as part of their regular weekly schedule.)

Jazz Band – If there is sufficient interest, Grade 8’s will again have the option of joining Jazz Band which will rehearse once per week at 8:00am. More information to follow in October.

Eastman Youth Choir is still seeking singers in Grades 9-12 to join them for their fall season, which concludes with a concert performance with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in December! Please contact me directly if you can recommend any singers for this excellent enrichment opportunity.

Eastman School Choral Workshop Day is set for October 14th, and each school is allowed to send just 20 students from each grade level to this event. Information and permission slips will be coming home shortly with select students.

And with that – I look forward to a wonderful year of making music with your children!

Shannon Sawatzky

Athletic Dept.



Terry Fox Run

- This year’s Terry Fox Run will take place on **Wednesday, September 28th** from 2:30 – 3:30 pm.

Cross Country Run

- All grade 5-8 students may sign up for the Cross Country Run team.
- Cross Country Run #1 – **Friday, September 23rd** at the Steinbach Soccer Complex (tentative start time 1:00 pm).
- Cross Country Run #2 – **Friday, September 30th** at A.D. Penner Park.
- Milk Run October 5th at Kilcona Park, Winnipeg.



Volleyball

- This year’s volleyball season begins on Tuesday, October 4th.
- Grade 7 & 8 girls have tournaments on Tuesdays and the grade 7 & 8 boys tournaments on Thursdays.
- All tournaments will start at 5:30 pm.

- If you are interested in coaching one of our teams this year, please contact Bud Penner at 204-320-9488 or email bpenner@hsd.ca.

practices of washing desks and cleaning up carefully after lunch.

Parent Council

We would like to thank the existing members for the support that the Parent Council provides for our school. We would gladly have another two or three energetic and creative parents take up the challenge of helping our school continue serving its community well. Please call Mr. Mead at 204-320-9488 or 204-371-6268 (call/text) or email amead@hsd.ca if you are interested.

Josie Unrau (President)
204-381-3994
ourodyssey@icloud.com

Jamie Karr
204-320-1663
karmj@gmail.com

Charmaine Toews
204-326-9699
charmainetoews@gmail.com

Andy Mead (Principal)
204-320-9488
amead@hsd.ca

Mitchell Middle School Honor Roll – June 2016

Grade 7:

Rena
Ashton
Hailey
Theresa
Mackenzie
Maja
Taylor
Gavin
Kennedy
Alwin
Jovan
Abigail
Cole
Julia

Brittney
Payton
Beth
Tyson
Aidan
Chase
Evan
Georgia
Jeremy
Kirstin
Cody
Cassedy
Michelle
Sawyer

Grade 8:

Melissa
Krista
Elizabeth
Julianna
Isabelle
Logan
Hollie
Malachi
Timaya
Brooklyn

Alyssa
Angelina
Vanessa
Josie
Jernie
Kai
Chloe
Abigail
Anastassiya

Mitchell Rec Hockey

Mitchell Rec Hockey for grade 3 to 6 is starting in October. Cost is \$120 for the year with Saturday morning ice time. Visit mitchellrec.weebly.com for more information and to register. Space is limited.



Last Printed Newsletter

In an effort to reduce the amount of paper Mitchell Middle School uses to print monthly newsletters this will be the last newsletter we will print for all students. Starting next month we will be emailing our newsletter to all parents/guardians and posting it on our website (<http://mms.hsd.ca>)

We are happy to continue to provide printed copies of our newsletters to any family that would like it. To be added to the list of paper copies we send home please call the school office at (204) 320-9488, email Mrs. Schellenberg (juschellenberg@hsd.ca) or contact Mr. Mead at amead@hsd.ca or call/text 204-371-6278.

Connect with Mitchell Middle School

To get a glimpse into what happens every day at Mitchell Middle School please follow our social media feeds.

We are now on Twitter and Instagram and we will be posting some images of student work and students and teachers showing what they know, how they learn, how they interact and the amazing things that happen in and around our school every day. We will respect HSD permissions to publish information parents/guardians sign at the beginning of the school year (HSD Permission to Publish Form). There are updated forms that parents will receive as part of the registration verification that will be sent home. Forms will also be posted on the HSD website and school websites.

To follow along please connect with us on Twitter and Instagram at @MMShanover.



Allergy Alert!

This fall we have a student in Gr. 7 with a peanut allergy and we need to ask you to avoid sending snacks and lunches with peanut content, especially if your child is in this grade. This may be an inconvenience to you and us at times, but please realize how important it is that we all cooperate. We would want the same care taken should any of our children have similar health care needs.

You can also help us make the school as safe as possible for all students by reminding your children to wash their hands with soap regularly, especially after eating, and to cooperate diligently with classroom

SEPTEMBER

2016

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|-----|
|  | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 Labour Day (No Classes) | 6 Admin/PD Day (No Classes) Meet the Teacher Evening 4:30 – 6 pm | 7 Day 1  Welcome! | 8 Day 2 | 9 Day 3 Double Cheese Pizza \$2.00 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Day 4 Canteen Workers Application Forms Due | 13 Day 5 | 14 Day 6 Sub Sandwich \$4.50 | 15 Day 1 | 16 Day 2 Strong Connections Day 1 BBO Chicken Pizza \$2.00 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 Day 3 Canteen Opens Strong Connections Day 2 | 20 Day 4 Student Council Candidate Forms Due Parent/Child Program Begins | 21 Day 5 Sub Sandwich \$4.50 | 22 Day 6 | 23 Day 1 HSD Cross-Country Run #1 Pepperoni Pizza \$2.00 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 Day 2 | 27 Day 3  Student Council Speeches & Elections | 28 Day 4  Terry Fox Run Sub Sandwich \$4.50 | 29 Day 5  Student Council Grade Level Representative Elections | 30 Day 6 HSD Cross-Country Run #2 Ham & Pineapple Pizza | |
|  | | | | | | |

