

MITCHELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

spotlight

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MITCHELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

November, 2016

Principal's Message

"There are two versions of math in the lives of many: the strange and boring subject that they encountered in classrooms and an interesting set of ideas that is the math of the world, and is curiously different and surprisingly engaging. Our task is to introduce this second version to today's students, get them excited about math, and prepare them for the future." Jo Boaler (What's Math Got to Do with It?, Penguin 2008)

It's Numeracy November at MMS and throughout the month MMS staff will have the whole school engaging in a wide variety of math activities. Events will include:

- S-DAS (Stop Drop and Sudoku) every Thursday
- Mystery Number on Wednesday Nov 9th
- Solve This... every Tuesday Kick off start
- Estimation Jar – One per week
- School wide event on November 25 to close Numeracy November

Math is one of those subjects where it seems kids (not just kids) either love it or not. Personally, I would like to change the idea that it's ok 'not to be good at math'. This blog post sums up my feelings quite well: '[Saying 'I'm not good at maths' is not cool – negative attitudes are affecting business](#)'. It is important we all promote a positive attitude when it comes to math.

MMS staff are being encouraged to employ new ideas that positively affect student mindsets that can transform students' experiences with math. A wonderful resource for both parents and teachers is [Youcubed from Stanford University](#). The key to understanding math is making sense of it. Many students believe that math is a set of formulas that have to be remembered – this belief is associated with low achievement. Math is a very creative subject that is, at its core, about visualizing patterns and creating solution paths that others can see, discuss and critique.

The goal of Numeracy Month at MMS is to encourage our kids to enjoy math, to enjoy the process of learning math, to enjoy the struggle of learning something new and to make the math something they can relate to. Being good at math should not be about how fast we can do things in our head or come up with math facts. I recently shared this article with staff at MMS; '[I turn 40 next month and, for pretty much my whole life, I have felt dumb. I'm not.](#)' How many of us can relate to that

article? Our goal is get our kids to gain a deep understanding of the math they see and do every day and to connect it to the world around them. We want all of our kids to be learners in all areas, including Math. We know they all can.

Welcome to MMS!

We want to welcome Kenan who joined us in October. Welcome to Mitchell Middle School!

Numeracy November

Mitchell Middle School once again will celebrate *Numeracy November*. Students will be testing their estimation and problem solving skills in weekly estimation contests as well as a math challenge every Tuesday. We will have a school wide Mystery Number Challenge on Wednesday, November 9th. We will have an activity at the end of the month in which students will work together to solve math challenges.

$$5 \div 2 \frac{3}{4}$$
$$14^8$$
$$3.14^{300,000}$$
$$\sqrt[9]{9}$$

Remembrance Day



Our MMS community will be holding a Remembrance Day service on **Thursday, November 10th** to honour our veterans from all past conflicts and to recall the ultimate sacrifice made by so many who never returned to us. Our invitation extends to parents and members of the Mitchell community to join us prior to the **11:00 am** start of the program.

Music Dates and Details to Take Of...

Wednesday, November 2nd @ 8:00am – First rehearsal of Grade 8 Jazz Band "Breakfast Club".

Thursday, November 3rd @ 7:00pm – Band Booster Parent Meeting for ALL Band Parents

- To be discussed: Mom's Pantry Fundraiser for all Band Students, Grade 8 Overnight Band Trip

November 3rd – 17th – Mom's Pantry Fundraiser for all Band and Music students. Grade 7 & 8 can raise individual funds towards their band trip; Grade 5 & 6 funds raised will go towards the purchase of Choral Risers for MMS.

Thursday, November 10th @ 11:00am – Remembrance Day program featuring Grade 5 and 6 Choirs, Grade 7/8 Choir, Grade 8 Band. Open to the public!

Friday, November 18th @ 7:30pm – Grade 7/8 Choir sings O Canada at the Steinbach Pistons Game. No bus provided. Details to be emailed.

Looking ahead...

Monday, December 5th – pick up Mom's Pantry products between 4pm and 6pm. Please note that orders are NOT to be taken home on the bus.

Monday, December 12th @ 10:15am – Grade 5 Choir sings at the Steinbach Credit Union, to be broadcast on AM1250 radio.

Wednesday, December 14th – Grade 5-8 Christmas Program – Student attendance is required for BOTH the 1:00pm and 7:00pm program. Please inform coaches, leaders, loyal fans NOW!

Saturday, February 25th @ 7:00pm – Grade 7/8 Choir sings O Canada at the Manitoba Moose Game in Winnipeg. Bussing provided. Details to be emailed.

Friday, June 2nd to Sunday, June 4th – Grade 8 Band Trip to International Music Camp at International Peace Garden (15 minutes south of Boissevain). Students will miss one day of instruction. (More information available at the Parent Meeting on Thursday, November 3rd at 7:00pm.)

Life touch

Picture Retakes

Picture retakes will be on **Thursday, November 17th**. All students who were absent on picture day will automatically be on the retake list. If a retake is required you must bring in your picture package together with a note with student's name and homeroom, stating why you are requesting a retake and return it to the school by Thursday morning, November 10th so a list can be compiled for the photographer.



Athletic Dept.

Volleyball Playoffs & Championship

The grade 8 girls' volleyball playoffs will be on **Tuesday, November 15th**. (Location TBA)

The grade 8 boys' volleyball playoffs will be on **Thursday, November 17th**. (Location TBA)

The grade 8 volleyball championships will be held at CMS on **Tuesday, November 22nd**.

Grade 6 Volleyball Tournament

Our gr. 6 volleyball teams will be hosting Blumenort on **Thursday, November 25th**. The gr. 6 boys will be playing in the morning from 10:45-11:45 am. Our gr. 6 girls will be playing from 1:15-2:15 pm. Parents are welcome to come and watch that day!

Report Cards and Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 25th is when our students will get their first report cards of the year. All grade 5 to 8 students who requested it will have their report cards emailed. All other report cards will be sent home with the student. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on the evening of **Thursday, December 1st**. Please wait for more detailed information on the schedule for that event.



QSP Fundraiser

Thank you for helping make our annual magazine fundraiser another great success. Students sold over \$5,500 worth of magazines, which gives us a profit of approximately \$1,800.

As in the past, the profits from magazine sales by Grade 8 students will be directly credited to the cost of their retreat at Camp Cedarwood. Students earned \$580 towards camp fees.

The balance of the profits, \$1,220, will be put towards our Parent Council's landscaping project here at MMS.

Our Grand Prize winner was Gavin from 6T, congratulations Gavin!

Thank you to all students who sold subscriptions and to all parents and school staff who supported them in these efforts.

Just in case you missed your opportunity to order your magazine subscriptions through the school, now you can order online and your order is processed instantly. The program runs throughout the school year. The school earns the same profits per subscription as on the regular catalogue program. QSP will send a quarterly report and profit cheque to the school. To order simply go to WWW.QSP.ca and enter the school name or the school group number **3739265**.

Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found bin is overflowing! Please remind your students to check for any items they may be missing and take them home. Periodically the bin is emptied and the contents brought to the MCC Thrift Store.

Parent Council

The Mitchell Middle School Parent Advisory Council has been planning a large landscaping project, which will include planting numerous trees and shrubs around the school grounds. Not only will this beautify the property, it will provide shade in years to come, and of course is good for the environment. We invite you to participate in working towards this goal with us. We hope to begin with phase one of planting in the spring of 2017 and finish the project in 2018 as funds are available.

Last year, with the spring concert raffle and year-end pizza lunch, we were able to raise about \$1800.00 towards the project. This year we will once again be doing the Farm to School fundraiser and offering fresh, locally grown vegetables for sale. Order forms will be going home in early November and the vegetable bundles will be available for pickup at the Parent/Teacher Conference on December 1. We hope you will participate in this fundraiser with us.

We are excited for the year ahead and have a couple of new members that we welcomed to the Parent Council this year. Feel free to contact any one of us if you have questions or ideas. We meet monthly with our school principal, Andrew Mead, and want to make sure that the parent interests and concerns are represented.

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Head Lice

It is that time of year when we are faced with the possibility of an outbreak of head lice. Head lice are small insects that live on the scalps of humans. While they may be found anywhere on the head, they usually prefer to live on the scalp along the neckline and behind the ears. When lice bite the scalp they cause itching.

Head lice are very small – each one about the size of a sesame seed. They are usually grayish white or transparent. Some may even take on the color of the person's hair. Lice are usually hard to see because they move so quickly.

Lice lay eggs called nits. Nits are small, white and oval. Lice lay the nits on the hair close to the scalp. Each nit is attached to the hair with a cement-like substance. Therefore, they cannot be washed out or flicked off like dandruff.

Anyone can get head lice. It is common in places where people work or play together in groups for long periods of time. It is common in classrooms and daycare centers because of the closeness of children and their belongings.

Contrary to popular belief, uncleanliness does not cause head lice. Head lice cannot jump or fly and you cannot get them from animals or pets. You get lice by having close head-to-head contact with someone who has head

lice or sharing things that come in contact with a person's head or neck, such as combs, brushes, caps, barrettes, coats, etc.

Please help us prevent an outbreak of head lice by reinforcing with your child not to share combs, caps, etc., and by checking your child's head regularly. If head lice or nits are found please notify the school immediately. Feel free to contact the school or Public Health Nurse, Debbie Deklein at 204-346-7027 for further information.

Red Cross Babysitting Course

This course is designed to prepare adolescents 11 years and older for babysitting. Participants need to bring a doll or teddy bear, pencil, eraser, and a lunch. Students will need to be signed in and out by an adult.

Date: Saturday, November 26, 2016

Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Where: Red River College – Steinbach Campus

Tuition: **\$59.00**

Please register in person or by phone minimum 5 business days prior 204-320-2500.

In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

by John McCrae, May 1915



NOVEMBER

2016

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 Day 1 HSD Board Meeting (Public)	2 Day 2 Sub Sandwich \$4.50	3 Day 3 Mom's Pantry Fundraiser Begins Band Parent Meeting at 7:00 pm	4 Day 4 BBQ Chicken Pizza \$2.00	5
6  Daylight Saving Time Ends Turn Clocks Back One Hour	7 Day 5	8 Day 6	9 Day 1  Mystery Number Day Sub Sandwich \$4.50	10 Day 2 Remembrance Day Assembly 11:00 am	11 No Classes  Remembrance Day	12
13	14 No Classes Administration/ Professional Development Day	15 Day 3 Gr. 8 Girls' Volleyball Playoffs	16 Day 4 Sub Sandwich \$4.50	17 Day 5 Picture Re-takes Gr. 8 Boys' Volleyball Playoffs Mom's Pantry Fundraiser Ends	18 Day 6 WE Day Winnipeg Pepperoni Pizza \$2.00	19
20	21 Day 1	22 Day 2  HSD Volleyball Championships at CMS	23 Day 3 Sub Sandwich \$4.50	24 Day 4	25 Day 5 Term 1 Report Cards Issued Ham & Pineapple Pizza \$2.00	26
27	28 Day 6	29 Day 1	30 Day 2 Sub Sandwich \$4.50			
						