

MITCHELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

spotlight

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MITCHELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

December, 2016

Principal's Message

We wish all the families of MMS to have a joyful holiday season. We also want our kids to experience joy every day at school while they learn.

Why do people learn? I don't mean inside school—I mean learning as a part of life. Surely a large part of our learning is necessary for survival and a basic quality of life. But there is another, entirely different, reason to learn. Learning gives us pleasure. This kind of learning is often (but not always) motivated from within, and no outside forces or coercions are needed. We also don't mind the possible difficulties in this learning. We often expect the challenges we encounter; we tend to see them as a natural part of the learning process, so we are far more open to taking risks. Some love to learn about cars, others love to learn about history, and some find great joy in learning how to dance. According to Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi (1990), such learning is an example of flow, which he defines as -the state in which people are so involved in an activity that nothing else seems to matter; the experience itself is so enjoyable that people will do it at even great cost, for the sheer sake of doing it.

If we want students to experience more flow in school—if we want them to see school and learning as joyful—we need to rethink how and what we teach. No longer can schooling be primarily about creating workers and test takers, but rather about nurturing human beings (Wolk, 2007). By helping students find the pleasure in learning, we can make that learning infinitely more successful.

I borrowed these ideas from <http://www.ascd.org/> I think it's important that we encourage our kids to see the joy in their learning and to enjoy school as much as they can. This comes from building strong relationships, creating learning opportunities that are challenging yet safe and most of all engaging.

I hope all of our kids are finding happiness at school, at home, and in the community.
I hope all of our families have a joyful holiday season and Christmas.

Welcome to MMS!

We would like to welcome Jeffrey who joined us in November. Welcome to Mitchell Middle School!

Reminder- If Your Child Is Going To Be Absent



Please be reminded to call the school office (or text/call Mr. Mead at 204-371-6278) when your child is absent for any reason. If we don't receive a call from you, we will call you by 10 AM and 1:30 PM to verify your child's whereabouts. Receiving calls from parents helps reduce the number of calls made by our wonderful secretaries. You may also email the school office (mms@hsd.ca) if that is more convenient. Thank you!

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on the evening of **Thursday, December 1st** from 4:30 – 7:00 pm. See our website (www.mms.hsd.ca) or the note included with your child's hard copy report card for a more specific conference schedule.

Community Christmas

We are again doing the **Community Christmas Food Drive**. Students are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to the school during the week of **December 12th -16th**, to help families in need during the holidays.

Mon., December 12th: Condiment Monday

Tues., December 13th: Toiletries Tuesday

Wed., December 14th: Wheat Wednesday

Thurs., December 15th: Thirsty Thursday

Fri., December 16th: Fun Breakfast Friday!

A letter will be sent home shortly with examples for each



Warriors Athletic Dept.

Skating:

All Phys. Ed. classes will be going skating at the Mitchell



Arena on **Monday, December 12th or Tuesday, December 13th**. Please see the schedule below to see when your child's class will be going. All students must wear a certified hockey helmet. Students wanting to bring along a stick may do so, but must wear a full face mask.

Day 4, Dec. 12th

Per.1/2: 6CS (9:10-10:15)

Per. 3/4: 6T, 7R (10:30-11:45)

Lunch

Per.6/7: 8H, 8R (12:55-2:00)

Day 5, Dec. 13th

Per.1/2: 5B, 5J, 5W

Per. 3/4: 6B, 7T

Lunch

Per.6/7: 7M, 8M



Bowling:

All Phys. Ed. classes will be transported by bus to the Deluxe Bowling Lanes in Steinbach on **Tuesday, December 20th or Wednesday, December 21st**. Please see the schedule below.

Day 4, Dec. 20th

Per.1/2: 5W, 6CS (9:10-10:30)
Per. 3/4: 6T, 7R (10:25-11:45)
Lunch
Per.6/7: 8H, 8R (12:50-2:05)

Day 5, Dec. 21st

Per.1/2: 5B, 5J
Per. 3/4: 6B, 7T
Lunch
Per. 6/7: 7M, 8M



MMS Christmas Concert

We invite you to our Christmas Concert on **Wednesday, December 14th**. Concert times are 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. All 5-8 students who participate in our music and band programs will be involved. Hopefully having two performances will allow more people to enjoy the concert in less crowded conditions.

Dates and Details to Take **Of...**

Monday, December 5th – pick up Mom’s Pantry products between 4pm and 6pm. No food products allowed on school buses.

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

Wednesday, December 14th – Christmas Concert!
Student attendance is required for BOTH the **2:00 pm and 7:00 pm** program for ALL Grade 5 and 6 students, and all Band and Choir students. Please inform coaches, leaders, loyal fans NOW!

*** Families coming to our Christmas Concert are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item or a new, unwrapped toy for one of MMS’s holiday giving projects. Thanks for helping us share with those around us this holiday season!*

Grade 7 and 8 Band and Choir students are asked to wear their black Band shirts with black bottoms (dark jeans in good repair are fine, sweat pants/leggings are not), and dark shoes. This applies to both the afternoon and evening performance.

Grade 5 and 6 Music students are asked to wear their “Christmas Best” - whatever that looks like in your home. I know that many families purchase special Christmas outfits for their kids - this is your chance to get one more use out of them! If you don’t have a special Christmas outfit - just come “dressed up nice”. This applies to both the afternoon and evening performance.

Looking ahead...

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 was shared at the Parent Meeting on Thursday, November 3rd, and emailed to all following the meeting).

Library

Christmas break is just around the corner and what better time to relax and enjoy a good book! Students will be allowed to borrow books from our school library for the break. Please note the books are due back when classes resume on January 9th.



Lost and Found

The Lost and Found bin continues to overflow! Parents please check for your children’s lost items when you come to P/T Conferences this **Thursday, Dec. 1st**. Also, please encourage your children to check the bin for their belongings. Any remaining items will be packed up the following day and donated to a local charity.

Parent Council

The Parent Council would like to thank those who participated in the *Farm to School* fundraiser. We raised \$852.00 towards our landscaping project. Please remember to pick up your orders at Parent/Teacher Conferences on **Thurs., December 1st from 4:30 – 7:00 pm.**

If you have any questions or concerns please contact one of the PAC members.

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

Jamie Karr (Secretary)
204-320-1663
karrmj@gmail.com

Charmaine Toews
(Treasurer)
204-326-9699
charmainetoews@gmail.com

Pam Kehler
204-326-9583
pam@kebler.ca

Naomi Streit
204-371-9938
naomiharder@hotmail.com

Andy Mead (Principal)
204-371-6278
amead@hsd.ca

Daily Announcements

Interested in the daily announcements that we announce to our students every day? Check out this link: <http://mms.hsd.ca/students/daily-announcements/>. This page gets updated daily. It’s a great way to stay up to date with the goings on at MMS.

Winter Issues

Here is some information you just might want to know about for the cold season that is now upon us:

- **Late buses?** In the event that a bus is running late, it will be identified as such under the HSD website (www.hsd.ca). Simply go to Departments > Transportation > **Bus Delay Bulletins**. Click on that icon and check for such information (if you don't have Internet, perhaps check with a neighbour who does). Homes will not be called individually to inform you of buses that are running late.
- **Storm/Cold Day/Bus cancellations?** In the case of school closure or the cancellation of bus service throughout HSD, parents will receive a phone message from the division's information call system, as well as, several announcements will be made **between 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM** on a variety of local and provincial media outlets including: AM 1250, Mix 96.7, SteinbachOnline.com and CJOB. Such information will also be posted on the HSD website.
- **Indoor/Outdoor Recess?**
We strongly encourage students to come to school with warm enough clothes to be able to enjoy 30 minutes outside at noon recess. If the temperature/wind chill drops to below -25°C we consider shortening the outdoors time to just 15 minutes, and if it's just too cold, we call indoor recess (although we really try not to totally cancel outdoor time because of its positive value for our students).
- **Bikes?** Please instruct your children not to come to school on bikes during the winter. Slippery streets make bike travel extra dangerous when mixed with bus, pedestrian, and extra winter vehicular traffic.



Mitchell Middle School Honor Roll – Term 1

Grade 7

Marcus	Sofiya
Mary	Brooklyn
Jordan	McKinnley
Noell	Wyatt
Evan	Rene
Kennedy	Livia
Mackenzie	Princess
Lorna	Shandy
Levin	Vaughn
Karlana	Lauren
Emma	William
Landon	Leon
Tina	

Grade 8

Renae	Annabeth
Cody	Ashton
Abigail	Chase
Evan	Beth
Theresa	Tyson
Cassedy	Alwin
Kirstin	Jovan
Luella	Georgia
Kennedy	Simon
Jeremy	Michelle
Julia	Cassandra
Maja	Payton
Gavin	Hailey
Samuel	Kaylie
Geneva	Mackenzie
Cole	Aidan

Remembrance Day Service

Thank you to Mrs. Sawatzky and all the students and staff for doing a great job preparing for our Remembrance Day Service. Thank you, as well, to all the parents and family members who attended.



The Board of Trustees,
Administration, and Staff of
the Hanover School Division
wish you a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year.



After 30 plus years of being our school secretary Mrs. Schellenberg is retiring.

The list of jobs that Mrs. Schellenberg has handled over the years and the number of lives she has touched is countless. A quick survey of our school and community proves this.

I recently asked the school and community what Mrs. Schellenberg means to you or how she has helped. These are some of the responses from MMS staff, students, parents and community members:



- "Judith... Not a day goes by that I don't need something from her. She is dependable and on top of things. She's the right balance of sweet and sassy which keeps you on your toes but cares for you when you are in need. "
- I've always appreciated the quotes she sends every morning in the emails we receive from her like 'Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it. I thank you for all you have done and being there when I needed you.'
- Thanks for helping make MMS such a great place to teach! You will be missed!
- Judith kept this school running, if you ever needed an answer for just about anything... go to Judith!
- Mrs. Schellenberg was at MMS ever since I can remember and every time I walked into the office, whether it was for a band aid, to drop something off, or to show off the pajamas that I made in home ec, she was always there with a smile :)
- It was always nice to know that when I called the school, there would be a kind, sweet voice at the other end to take my message. Mrs. Schellenberg will be greatly missed. She has been so very appreciated over the years that our kids have been in MMS! All the best during your well-deserved retirement! ☐
- Always happy and has brightened many thx Judith.
- She is always so happy, so caring and always on top of things. She's so pleasant and comfortable to be around. She's the person I go to for information about everything I need to know about the school. I will miss her a lot.
- Always friendly and helpful.
- JUDITH I LOVE HEARING YOUR VOICE WHEN I CALL, YOU RECOGNIZE MY VOICE AND KNOW MY KIDS!!!! I have always appreciated you sooo much!!!
- She was so kind and friendly when she handed us our late slips
- Judith has been wonderful to our daughter Petra, and a great help to my wife and myself, Judith has always been very welcoming anytime we have had to visit the school.
- When we knew we were relocating to Mitchell and arranged a school visit, Mrs. Schellenberg made sure that we felt very welcome. She gave us a tour of the school and introduced us to staff that shared interests with our son. She made sure that we knew about community events over the summer where we might meet our new neighbours, and left us with a sense that MMS would be a great place for our children to be. We're sorry to hear Mrs. Schellenberg is leaving, but we wish her a wonderful retirement.
- She is always kind, friendly and helpful
- Congratulations on your retirement Judith! We have appreciated your positivity and genuine care of our girls during their years at MMS.
- She keeps it real, and is so approachable and helpful.

- "As my neighbor growing up, you watched over my siblings and I. Now, you've spent the last 12 years watching out for my sons. It was so comforting knowing the person behind the voice on the phone. You always went above and beyond to help. THANK YOU "
- She always greets you with a smile and is very helpful! We will miss you!
- Loving and Sweet
- Mrs. Schellenberg is very nice and understanding. When I call to say that my child is sick, she always wishes to get well. We will miss her!
- I connected with Judith mostly by phone-sick child, appointments, family holidays, etc. Judith always has a friendly voice and she is always sincere in the way she spoke with me. I'm so happy for Judith, that she can retire and spend more time with her family. I pray many blessings on her and her family- the amount that she has blessed our family and all the families of MMS through the years! Happy retirement :)
- Judith is more than a secretary. She is a friend. Thank you Judith for 'taking me under your wing' when I first started. Your kindness and acceptance has not gone unnoticed. We've enjoyed many good times. Enjoy your retirement, puttering around your flowerbeds and garden, working with your glass, and spending time with your family. Take care and don't be a stranger :)
- She is amazing, all my kids know and love her.
- She is the glue that keeps MMS together and functioning. She not only was the first secretary when MES opened and got it started, she was also the first secretary for MMS and has amazing organizational skills to help develop strong ground roots and structure for a school to function not once but twice. Mrs. Schellenberg has developed relationships with many students and staff throughout the years to make Mitchell a great place for learning and it all starts in the office where we can all say we have learned something from Mrs. Schellenberg, a great teacher and secretary. Thank You Mrs. Schellenberg. We will miss you.

I think this sums up how important Mrs. Schellenberg is to our school and community. We wish you nothing but the best in your retirement. Please don't be a stranger. You are always welcome at Mitchell Middle School. Shakespeare said it well 'I can no other answer make, but, thanks, and thanks.'



DECEMBER

2016

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:00 pm and Pick Up <i>Farm to School</i> Orders	2 Pepperoni & Bacon Pizza \$2.00	3
4	5 Pick up Mom's Pantry Orders Dec. 5 4- 6pm	6	7 Sub Sandwich \$4.50	8	9 Steak Pizza \$2.00	10
11 Community Christmas Food Drive Dec. 12-16	12 Phys. Ed classes going skating at Mitchell Arena Dec. 12 or 13 Gr. 5 Choir Sings at SCU	13	14  Christmas Concert 2:00 pm & 7 pm Sub Sandwich \$4.50	15	16 Community Christmas Food Drive Ends Double Cheese Pizza \$2.00	17
18	19	20 Phys Ed classes going bowling in Steinbach Dec. 20 or 21	21 Sub Sandwich \$4.50	22 Last Day of Classes	23	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31
						
		<i>May the peace and blessings at Christmas be yours; And may the coming year be filled with happiness.</i>				
<i>Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!</i>						See you back on January 9 th !