



MITCHELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER December 2018

Principal's Message

I can't believe it's already December! I am so proud of and grateful for the many great things our staff and our kids are doing everyday at school. During the first three months I have seen our staff trying new things to engage kids, kids are working hard to engage in their learning and to show off their learning in new ways. Managing these changes can be hard for everyone involved at school, including the parents and guardians. As we head into the holiday season it's important we take care of each other, including ourselves.

We hope to see all of our students involved in the Christmas Concert on December 13 for both the afternoon and evening performances. The afternoon performance begins at 2:00 PM with the evening performance beginning at 6:30 PM. The evening performance was moved up 30 minutes than previously planned to allow parents who have kids at the SRSS to attend both concerts that evening.

We are working hard to celebrate the small things that happen everyday and to find the good that happens.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe Christmas and Holiday season.

Andy Mead
Principal

Lunchtime Switch – Trial

For the month of December, MMS is going to do a trial switch at lunch hour. We are hoping this switch curtails some lunch behaviour we are trying to change and makes for a smoother transition to afternoon classes.

Currently, students who stay at MMS eat from 11:55 AM – 12:15/20 PM and then go to clubs/recess from 12:20 PM – 12:50 PM.

We are going to flip this for the month of December and see how it goes. So, the new lunch hour will look like:

- 11:55 AM – 12:30 PM Students go to recess/clubs
- 12:30 PM – 12:50 PM Students go to homerooms to eat
- 12:50 PM – 1:00 PM Homeroom time
- 1:00 PM Afternoon classes begin

Currently, we are experiencing some difficulties with getting back into school at 12:50 PM safely and efficiently. This creates a rush and is hard for many students to get ready for their afternoon classes. Switching the lunch hour allows for students to come in from recess, slow down their bodies and minds to get ready for their afternoon classes. Students will have 30 minutes after their recess to prepare for the afternoon. This should have no effect on students going home for lunch. When they return to school they can just go to their homeroom. This switch does not reduce any eating time or recess time.

Students may want to bring a snack for morning break as we will be eating a bit later.

The intent is to create a more peaceful transition to the afternoon to give all of our kids the best chance to learn all day long. We will be asking students for their feedback and be watching to see how the transition goes to the afternoon classes throughout the month of December. If this trial proves to not work, we will switch back to the current model in January.



is it BULLYING?

When someone says or does something *unintentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's **RUDE.**

When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's **MEAN.**

When someone creates a power imbalance and using that power to cause some kind of harm to others (physical, emotional, social, etc), that's **BULLYING.**

Discipline Model at MMS

We are working hard with some of our students regarding general school decorum and behaviour.

The first response is generally helping kids to determine where they were responsible in the conflict. We follow this process.

A good apology has 3 parts.

1. Take responsibility for your part.
2. Say, 'I'm sorry'
3. How do I make it right?
(*this is the hardest and most important part)

The only apology is corrected behaviour.

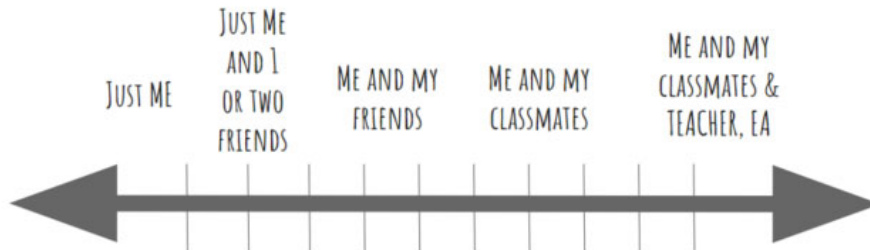
At middle school, many of the discipline conflicts that occur start with kids just trying to have fun. Often, the 'fun' leaves people out or a line is crossed where it's no longer fun for the other party. We refer to the 'Fun Scale' to help kids determine what kind of fun they were having and how it may have been impacting someone else and others.

Mitchell Middle School



THE FUN SCALE

School needs to be fun.



WHO FINDS 'THE JOKE' OR 'MY FUN' FUNNY?

Be aware of how your actions impact others



When we run into difficulty we follow the plan below to respond to students. The potential consequences are not all encompassing.

Response to Unwanted Behaviours

| LEVEL I Minor rule violations that will result in an immediate verbal correction with a consequence. | |
|--|--|
| BEHAVIOURS | POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Running in the building ● Late for class ● Unprepared for class ● Classroom disruption ● Littering ● Put-downs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Verbal correction/"Redo" ● Loss of privileges ● Apology ● Detention ● Clean-up duty |
| LEVEL II Behaviours that are more serious in nature, and that will result in An immediate verbal correction, a logical consequence, and documentation. | |
| BEHAVIOURS | POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chronic Level I behaviour ● Unsafe/rough play ● Non-directed profanity ● Inappropriate displays of affection ● Disrespect to adults | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Verbal correction ● Loss of privileges ● Apology ● Detention ● Behaviour contract ● Contact with parents ● In-School suspension/Class suspension |
| LEVEL III Behaviours that are not tolerated and that will require documentation, parental contact, and more serious consequences. | |
| BEHAVIOURS | POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chronic Level II behavior ● Bullying ● Stealing ● Physical Aggression – punching ● Vandalism ● Intimidation/Verbal threats ● Directed profanity ● Possession of weapon on school grounds ● Possession/under influence of illegal substance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Detention · Suspension · Restitution · Individual Behaviour Plan · In-School suspension/Class suspension · Report to police |



Athletic Dept.

Bowling: All Phys. Ed. classes will be transported by bus to the Deluxe Bowling Lanes in Steinbach on Tuesday December 11th or Wednesday December 12th. Please see the schedule below.

Tuesday Dec. 11th Day 1:

Per. 1 & 2: 8R/8M (9:10 - 10:40)
Per. 3 & 4: 7T / 5B (10:25 - 11:55)
Lunch
Per. 5 & 6: 5J / 6B (12:55 - 2:25)
Per. 7 & 8: 6JB / 8H (2:10 - 3:35)

Wednesday Dec. 12th Day 2:

Per. 1 & 2: 6H / 6T (9:10 - 10:40)
Per. 3 & 4: 5W / 5L (10:25 - 11:55)
Lunch
Per. 5 & 6: 7M / 8F (12:55 - 2:25)
Per. 7 & 8: 7R (2:10 - 3:35)

From the Music Room



Christmas Concert:

The students have been working hard to get ready for our Christmas concert coming up on **December 13th**. Please invite your family and friends. They will be performing at **2:00pm** and at **6:30pm**.

Please have your children at the school by **6:10**. Grades 5 and 6 will wear nice dress clothes and grade 7 and 8 will wear their band t-shirts and dark pants. Please note that student attendance is mandatory for **BOTH** performances. The concert will be about an hour long.

Choir Performance:

MMS Lunch Choir performs at SCU at 10:15, Thursday, **December 20th**. Permission slips will be posted in Parent Portal for approval shortly.

Band Fundraiser:

Coffee orders will be ready for pick up the week of December 10.



Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found bin is overflowing! Please

remind your children 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.

MMS Community Christmas

We are once again doing the Community Christmas food drive. Students are encouraged to bring food items to the school during the weeks of **December 3rd-7th**, to help families in need during the holidays.

Monday Dec. 3rd- Mama Monday (baby necessities, for example, wipes, diapers, baby food, etc.)

Tuesday Dec 4th- Toiletries Tuesday (eg. toothpaste, shampoo, etc.)

Wednesday Dec 5th- Wheat Wednesday (eg. pastas, granola bars, etc.)

Thursday Dec 6th- Thirsty Thursday (eg. water, juice, tea, etc.)

Friday Dec. 7th- Fun Breakfast Friday (eg, cereal, oatmeal, etc.)

Employment Opportunity

HSD is actively looking for new Spare Bus Drivers. This is a great casual part-time job where you control the amount you want to work. The Hanover School Division Transportation Department provides all of the training you need to be a successful bus driver. If you are interested please email rwarkentin@hsd.ca for more information.



Camp Cedarwood

It's almost here! Camp Cedarwood for our grade 8's! The time at Cedarwood is usually the students highlight of MMS and they never regret coming.

Before we go, we have a parent meeting planned for Thursday, **January 10th** . We will outline what our time there will look like, help clarify the expectations of students and answer any questions parents have that we haven't thought of! The meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. in the Library (Learning Commons Room).

A Consent Form has been added to your child's Parent Portal account for approval. Paper forms are also available at the school. The cost is \$110 per student, and these fees are also payable on the Parent Portal. We will be collecting paper Consent Forms and payments at the meeting as well. Please make cheques payable to Mitchell Middle School.

Please contact your child's homeroom teacher if you are unable to make the meeting or have pressing questions at this time.

Thanks,

Darren Martens
Venessa Hildebrand
Carl Reimer
Melanie Friesen
Bud Penner

DECEMBER

2018

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|---|---|--|--|-----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 Day 1 Community Christmas Dec 3-7th | 4 Day 2 | 5 Day 3 Day Wonder 10:30 Subs \$4.75 | 6 Day 4 | 7 Day 5 Pepperoni & Bacon Pizza \$2.00 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 Day 6 | 11 Day 1 Phys Ed. Classes Bowling | 12 Day 2 Phys Ed. Classes Bowling Subs \$4.75 | 13 Day 3 2:00 & 6:30 | 14 Day 4 Day Wonder 2:25 Steak & Cheese Pizza \$2.00 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 Day 5 | 18 Day 6 | 19 Day 1 Subs \$4.75 | 20 Day 2 Choir Singing at SCU at 10:15 | 21 Day 3 Day Wonder 1:00 Double Cheese Pizza \$2.00 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 Christmas Break (Dec 24-Jan 4) | 25 Christmas Day | 26 Boxing Day | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 New Years Eve | | | | | |