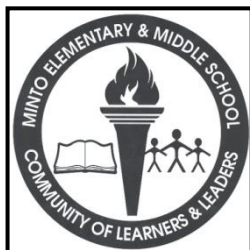




MINTO ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS & LEADERS



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2016



SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Promote a spirit of excellence... be caring, get involved, reach for success!



MEMS WEBSITE – <http://mems.nbed.nb.ca>



Celebrations!

MEMS Home & School~ The MEMS PSSC and Administration are very excited to announce the successful formation of a Home & School Association here at MEMS. As you may recall from the previous newsletter, interested parents and community members were invited to attend the regular PSSC meeting held on Monday, November 28th, at which time an executive was decided upon. Congratulations and thank you to:

Yvette Foulkes~ President
Nicole Bailey~ Vice President
Jennifer VanLaren~ Treasurer
Gillian Yeomans~ Secretary

A huge "THANK YOU!" to those of you who were able to come out and show support. If you are interested in raising funds for our school and in having a say where those funds are spent, we welcome all interested parents, guardians and community members to contact the school for meeting information or plan to attend our next PSSC meeting on January 30, 2017, at 6:30pm. Home & School will convene after the PSSC meeting ends.

Young Chefs~ A *Chefs* program, created for all aspiring young chefs in our Middle School, began on November 14th and will end on December 12th. Our local QNHC Dietician, Kim Miller, along with Public Health Dietitian, Gillian Salmon, have been working with interested students on Mondays after school to create delicious and nutritious snacks, entrees and desserts. A big "Thanks!" to Kim for making all of this possible.

Michael's~ If you have visited our lovely building during or since the Christmas Bazaar, you have probably noticed some fantastic festive decorations. **Michael's**, the arts and crafts store, continues to partner with us and make several generous donations to MEMS. These donations include all the Christmas decorations the students and staff are enjoying this season, plus oodles of craft materials and countless other items teachers and Minlak take advantage of throughout the year. We have been truly blessed by this partnership and we want to say a HUGE "Thank you!" to the Fredericton **Michael's** outlet, as well as to their awesome staff! ☺

Pet Tree~ Part of the *Michael's* donation included a collection of cute frames just perfect for your pet so, like last year, a tree has been decorated with the empty frames and students have been invited to bring in a 2x2 picture of their favorite pet to put in one of the frames. Last year, there was a wonderful and fun collection of the cutest pets which the students got to take home at the end of the season. Let's see how many appear this year!

November 11th~ We enjoyed visitors from the Legion for our Remembrance Day Assembly on November 10th. Several of our MEMS students performed various songs and recitations honoring those who have served. We had the privilege of having Capt. Tara Timmons of the Canadian Armed Forces speak to our student body. Our Legion members were very appreciative of our efforts and we look forward to coming together again next year. Thanks to Joy and Anne Marie who arranged the luncheon for our guests following the ceremony.

Breakfast Program~ Thank you to Joy who has taken over the organization of volunteers. We welcome anyone to contact the school at 327-7016 for more information on how you might be able to help out. The Breakfast Program continues to be made available every day to all students. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, volunteers prepare toast with a choice of Wow Butter, jam or cinnamon toast. Milk is also free for students. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, parfaits (yogurt, granola and fresh berries) and smoothies are a huge hit, **thanks to our volunteers!** (Toast is not offered on the days other items are available.) Students are invited to pick up their breakfast in the Home Ec. Room from 8:15-8:30am daily. In the month of November (19 school days), we consumed approximately 227 ½ loaves of bread, 792 parfaits, 920 smoothies and 1383 cartons of milk. Our young chefs from our currently running *Chefs* program made yummy oatmeal which served 80 of our students. This was a pleasant surprise addition to one morning's menu.

As you can imagine, our Breakfast Program is an expensive undertaking so all donations are greatly appreciated. Gifts through "**memorials for loved ones**", whether made through **Hogg Funeral & Crematorium Services** or directly to Minto Elementary and Middle School, have helped sustain our Breakfast Program. Your generosity is thoughtful and greatly appreciated by students and staff at Minto Elementary and Middle School.

Special thanks to various members of the community of Minto (and beyond) for supporting MEMS students through the Breakfast Program by generously contributing through:

- **Memorials**~ Donations to the MEMS Breakfast Program have been made in loving memory of Louis Patrick (Pat) Madore.
- **Friends** of the MEMS Breakfast Program~ Thank you to **Hogg Funeral & Crematorium Services** for their continued support in looking after and forwarding memorials. This is much appreciated.

The **MEMS Christmas Bazaar** was another huge success this year! With over 70 tables used, we raised **\$1462.65** which is up from last year's profit. Special thanks to **Melody Davidson**, MEMS's Music and Art Teacher, and her committee for making this event one to look forward to again next year. Thank you to all who donated food, helped to set up, decorate and clean up. Santa was superb, as was his photographer, and the local talent on the music stage was impressive. We appreciate all who were able to contribute in some way to make this event successful. Students and staff, as always, went above and beyond.

Shoe Boxes~ This year, we had a parent, Jennifer Van Laren, offer to organize our contributions to the **Operation Christmas Child Campaign**. Jennifer is pleased to report that, in total, the Minto community as a whole filled **141 shoeboxes of gifts** for needy children in Third World countries. MEMS contributed around 30 of those boxes. Thanks to everyone who helped in these efforts. Thanks, Jennifer! That's equivalent to 41% of our students receiving gifts this year. ☺

French Second Language Programs~ Parent Information Meetings have been arranged to provide info on the Grade 1 Entry French Immersion Program, Grade 3 Entry French Immersion Program, Grade 6 Entry Late French Immersion Program and Intensive French Program. Two meetings in our area are: Thursday, December 8th, in the Leo Hayes High School Library at 6:30pm, and Monday, December 12th, in the Fredericton High School Theatre at 6:30pm. All parents who wish to enroll their children in the Immersion programs will be required to complete the electronic registration form located on the ASD-W website at: www.asd-w.nbed.nb.ca If parents do not have access to a computer to complete the form, contact Janice Webber at 444-4035 to complete the registration. The deadline for registration is December 20th, 2016. For additional information for Oromocto Education Center students in which MEMS is included, please contact Amanda Desveaux at 453-8682.

Urgent Message to Parents Concerning MEMS Student Safety~

Please remember when dropping off or picking up students, vehicles cannot be in motion around a bus when its lights are flashing. Even when the bus appears to be 'parked' letting students off at the front of the school, it is prohibited BY LAW for a vehicle to be in movement around the bus. The complete distance around the bus is considered a loading zone. If you are dropping off or picking up your student, it would be best to pull up well past the entrance to the school or use the upper driveway to the parking lot. If a bus is around you while you are pulled up by the entrance, drivers are not to have their car in motion until the bus has turned off its flashing lights and has pulled away. It is a matter of safety so we truly appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Bus passes: It is **District Policy** that bus passes are to be used only for one of your student's two alternate locations or in case of emergencies. Bus passes cannot be given for any other locations. Thank you for helping honor this policy.

It is important for the safety of your student(s) that the school have current contact information. Please call the school to update new addresses, phone numbers, change in caregivers, etc. This is much appreciated.

MEMS We Care Group~

A group of MEMS students interested in making a positive impact on their community have launched their latest campaign: WE CREATE CHANGE. Here's how it works:

Each class has been given a jar for students to collect change/money. Once it is filled, that class receives mini candy canes. The class that raises the most funds wins a movie with popcorn and juice in our Theatre.

Launch date: Dec. 5th

Finish Date: Dec. 21st

All proceeds are in support of the Minto Community Resource Centre.

Students have been given a parent information letter outlining details.

Parent-Teacher Interviews in November~

Thank you sincerely for your participation in the recent Parent/Teacher Interviews.

According to our records, we had 218 parents/guardians attend. It is very important your children understand the importance education has in their lives and **your interest in their schooling** is a way of showing this. Your attendance and interest in their school work will assure them you support student learning and achievement. Please take this opportunity to encourage your children to **take pride in their work and always strive to do their best** at school and at home. **Learning is everyone's responsibility** and every moment counts. It will be the framework for their future attitudes about work and responsibilities. Children will **develop as leaders** if they have a sense of direction and understand **the importance of hard work and commitment**. As parents, **please continue to help us get this important message to your children.**



MEMS Primary & Elementary Co-curricular Student Activities

As you are aware, the **MEMS co-curricular student activities** have started for this school year. The activities include **Skating (Primary K – 2 students), Bowling (Elementary 3 – 5 students) & Minto Public Library Visits (K – 5 students)**. Parents are asked for a contribution of **\$5 for skating or bowling (for the year)** to help the school with expenses (ice rental, bowling costs, bus travel expenses, etc.) in these activities. Please check carefully the schedules included in November's newsletter to ensure that your child(ren) are prepared for these events.

For the safety of our students, we are in desperate need for skating helmets that have not expired. If you would like to donate a helmet with a current date, we would love to receive at least 10. Your donation will be appreciated and used by many.

WG Bishop Nursing Home is now being visited by our K-2 students on a weekly basis. A copy of the schedule was included in an information letter sent to our K-2 homes. We are excited to report both our students and the Bishop Home residents are enjoying this interactive activity that is connected to the *You & Your World* curriculum. Thanks to Joanne Myers for partnering with us to create this enriching endeavor.

Dressing for Cold & Winter Weather

At Minto Elementary and Middle School, we expect all our K – 8 students to **be appropriately dressed for cold and winter weather** as they travel on the bus to and from school, as well as when they attend outside recess and Physical Activity classes. When the temperature drops to **-20° C due to the wind chill factor**, we will have inside recess/activities. Please ensure your children understand **we expect them to wear their winter clothes** (hats, mittens/gloves, boots) when they go outside or travel home on the bus. This includes snow pants when they play in the snow. **Please provide a change of clothing for students to keep on hand should they get wet.**



MEMS Christmas Concert

The **MEMS Christmas Concert** will be held on **Wednesday, December 21st, at 6:30 pm** (Snow date Thursday, December 22nd) in our gym. Students must report to their homerooms by 6 pm. Every K-5 homeroom will be performing as a class and some have chosen to commit to an Elementary Choir. The Middle School students have been invited to participate in the MS Choir and in various leadership roles that help the concert run smoothly.

All K-8 students will have the opportunity to view the Christmas Concert during the school day. However, if they wish to return in the evening to view family and/or friends, they may do so **provided they are accompanied by a parent/adult and remain seated with that parent/adult** during the production.

This year, as in recent years, all concert participants will be included in various times of the program so we ask **no student leave until the presentation is over**. The presentation should last approximately 1.5 hours. Please, as a safety precaution, **do not leave with your child unless you have informed your child's teacher, even at the end of the evening.**



Rather than charge an admission fee, we are asking for a **donation/offering at the door**. The money raised at the Christmas Concert goes towards paying expenses incurred in the purchase of a new sound system last year.

A special thanks to **Melody Davidson**, our Music Teacher, for her leadership in organizing the concert. As well, thank you to **participating students (performers and behind-the-scene stage crew & technicians) and staff members** for making this annual event a possibility at MEMS.

MEMS Athletics/Sports News from Mr. Best

Middle School Badminton~ exciting news!

MEMS will host both the Boys' and Girls' OEC District Championships. The Girls' will be held on Thursday, Dec. 8th, with SINGLES play beginning @ 4pm and DOUBLES play @ 5:30pm. The Boys will play on Friday, Dec. 9th, with SINGLES play beginning @ 1pm and DOUBLES play @ 2:30pm.

MEMS Destination Conservation Green Team – Old Telephone Book Drive

The **MEMS Destination Conservation Green Team** is pleased to announce a challenge for the month of December. As you are aware, new telephone books have arrived and the MEMS DC group would appreciate the donation of your **old telephone books**. By doing this, we can avoid hundreds of books being thrown away and have new products manufactured from the old books. MEMS is always pleased to **REDUCE, RECYCLE, REUSE & RETHINK**.

Collection dates are: Wednesday, December 7th, 14th, and by the end of the day on the 21st. Please have the books/stacks/bags labeled with the homeroom teacher's name for whom they are to be counted.

Please do your part to make our planet a better place to be. The books will be totaled on **December 21st** and the class which brings in the most books will be awarded a pizza party!





MEMS Christmas Dinner

A traditional **Christmas Dinner** will be available at the **school cafeteria** on **Thursday, December 15th, from 11:20 am – 12:20 pm**. The meal will include “turkey with all the fixings”, as well as milk and dessert for **\$6.50**. Thank you Anne Marie Fasquel and Sarah Thompson for your dedication to our students.

Christmas Theme Days~ The K-2 Team invites all students at MEMS to celebrate the countdown to Christmas by participating in some special theme days. We will have Pajama Day, Hat Day and Ugly Christmas Sweater/Christmas Colour Day. Each theme day will cost \$1. The proceeds will benefit the K-2 fieldtrip to the Playhouse in February.

Pajama Day—Friday, December 2nd

Hat Day—Friday, December 9th



Ugly Christmas Sweater/Christmas Colour Day—December 16th

Community Connections

The ELF Program (Elementary Literacy Friends) has finished up its fall session. Thanks go out to the volunteers who have come in to read to various grade 2 students. We loved having them and look forward to the next session they will be in to provide support for our students.

Dots for Kids’ Day: Ring a Bell Campaign~ MEMS was honored to have MLA Pam Lynch visit MEMS to address the students via morning announcements in an effort to break through the silence and stigma that often surrounds youth mental health. Pam was able to visit a few classrooms and share with our students. At noon under the direction of our Guidance Mr. Wilson, the entire school rang bells for a full minute to recognize mental health issues and to promote good mental health.

Important Dates to Remember

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|--------------------------------|--|---|
| December 5 th | Hour of Code Week (5 th -11 th)
“We Create Change” begins |  |
| December 8 th | Girls’ OEC District Championships at MEMS
French Second Language meeting at Leo Hayes (6:30pm) | |
| December 9 th | Boys’ OEC District Championships at MEMS |  |
| December 12 th | EYE-DA testing
Finale to the premiere edition of MEMS’s <i>Chefs</i> program
French Second Language meeting at Fredericton High (6:30pm) | |
| December 15 th | MEMS Christmas dinner (Cafeteria) (\$6.50/person) | |
| December 20 th | dress rehearsal for tomorrow’s concert | |
| December 21 st | MEMS Christmas concert (Snow date~ December 22 nd) (6:30 pm)
“We Create Change” ends
Last collection date for old phonebooks | |
| December 22 nd | MEMS MS Christmas dance (Admission \$5.00) (6pm-8pm) | |
| December 23 rd | Last day for students prior to Christmas Break~ half day dismissal (waiting to hear official time) | |
| January 9 th , 2017 | Professional Learning Day # 3 – School Improvement Planning~ no school for students | |
| January 10 th | First day back for students after the Christmas Break | |

May everyone in our MEMS family enjoy a safe and happy holiday season!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2017!

Kynda Bryant
Principal

Craig Richards
Vice Principal

