

MINTO ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS & LEADERS



JANUARY NEWSLETTER

2017



SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

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



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



Celebrations!

“The Grinch” was enjoyed by students and staff at our annual **MEMS Christmas Concert** on December 21st, 2016. Through the generous donations at the door, the event earned an impressive **\$1345.40** which will go toward our Drama/Music program at school. A HUGE “**THANK YOU!**” to all parents, families and friends who attended the concert and helped make it successful, as well as to the students and staff members who contributed their time and effort. Very special thanks to **Ms. Davidson** for her direction, leadership and awesome organization. We loved the script she created which made the evening flow smoothly and kept us entertained with her poetic humor. A special thanks to “The Crew” made up of MEMS MS students. There were too many other helping hands to mention names specifically but please know we appreciated everyone who contributed in any way.

As in previous months, **MEMS Breakfast Program** continues to make available **toast** with margarine, jam, WOW butter or cinnamon toast on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. **Milk** is also available to students on these days from **8:15-8:30 am daily**. We serve yogurt parfaits on Tuesdays and smoothies on Thursdays. In the month of December (15 school days), we consumed 205 ½ loaves of bread, 1300 cartons of milk, 400 parfaits and about 650 smoothies. Thank you to our Breakfast Program Workers for your continued support by contributing many volunteer hours.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR BREAKFAST VOLUNTEERS. Please contact Joy if you wish to support our school in this way. (327-7016) Call for details today! ☺

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 and Avard Wasson.
- Friends of the MEMS Breakfast Program~ Donations have been made by the Tuesday Afternoon Bowling Group, the Thursday Afternoon Bowling Group, Minto Holy Rosary Parish, Monteith Underground Services Ltd., Roseveldt Sivitilli and Pauline Johnson. Thank you to Hogg Funeral & Crematorium Services for their continued support in looking after and forwarding memorials. This is much appreciated.

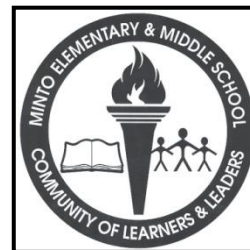
Young Chefs~ Our first session of our *Chefs* program, created for all aspiring young chefs in our Middle School, ended on December 12th with a dinner planned and prepared by our student participants who were able to invite two guests each. A big thank you goes out to our local QNHC Dietician, Kim Miller, along with Public Health Dietitian, Gillian Salmon, who worked with interested students on Mondays after school to create delicious and nutritious snacks, entrees and desserts. We are looking into providing this afterschool event again. Stay tuned!

MEMS WE CARE Group~ MEMS did a fantastic job raising money for the Minto Community Resource Centre with a coin drive before Christmas. Mrs. LeBlanc’s class won the challenge! The school as a whole raised \$921.22 through their change collection. Thank you so much to all who supported this worthwhile effort. Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year to all MEMS families! Thank you, Ms. Thurrott, for overseeing our efforts and for helping us by modeling care for our community members.

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. **Please do not pull up to the front of the school between 8:10-8:30am as that is when busses are unloading. Please do not drive to the left of the bus when the bus lights are flashing.**

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.

On half day departures, busses carrying students in grades K-5 depart from the school by 11:20am. The busses come back to pick up the Middle School students around 12:15pm.

Welcome to Kindergarten Event!



The K-2 Team would like to invite all pre-K students (students entering kindergarten in September 2017) and their parents to an exciting "Welcome to Kindergarten!" event, occurring on January 27th from 1:15-2:15 pm. During this event, students and their parents will participate in a number of hands-on centers and will receive a "Welcome to Kindergarten" bag of books, educational toys, materials and parent resources to take home. We hope to see you there!

MEMS "School Spirit" Clothing

School t-shirts and sweatshirts sporting the school colors and great cub logo arrived before Christmas. They look sharp! If you are interested in purchasing something, please contact Mrs. McLenahan at the school. Thanks, Mrs. McLenahan, for arranging this for us. Join the Staff in wearing school clothing on Fridays! ☺



MEMS Destination Conservation Green Team~ Old Phonebook Drive

MEMS Destination Conservation Green Team is pleased to announce their December's challenge to collect old phonebooks was a great success. Under the direction of Mrs. Clowater, our DC Team was able to collect a total of 391 books! The class winners were Mrs. LeBlanc's grade 4 class who brought in a total of 117 books. Impressive! They were treated to a pizza party. ☺



MEMS is always pleased to **REDUCE, RECYCLE, REUSE & RETHINK.**

Thanks, Mrs. Clowater, for your commitment to this program.

MEMS Co-curricular Student Participation

Our school is very pleased to provide students with numerous learning opportunities, both inside and outside of our building. We would like to take this opportunity to thank students for modeling good behavior which would warrant their participation in such activities. We would also like to remind students of our expectations (found on page four of our student handbook) which correspond with the Education Act of New Brunswick. Students are expected to:

- ~participate in learning to his/her potential
- ~accept increased responsibility for his/her learning
- ~attend to assigned homework
- ~attend school regularly and punctually
- ~contribute to our safe and positive learning environment
- ~be responsible for his/her conduct at school and to/from school
- ~respect the rights of others
- ~comply with school policies

Complying with these expectations will ensure the student is in good standing for participation in co-curricular and extracurricular events.

MEMS Athletics/Sports

Basketball Tryout/ Practice Schedule- (Week of Jan 9th-13th, 2017)

Tuesday- Varsity Boys practice

Wednesday- JV Boys tryouts

Thursday- Varsity Girls tryouts

Did you know we have a Facebook page?! Please visit "MEMS Athletics" Facebook page for updates.



2016 OEC Badminton Championships

MEMS hosted both the Girls and Boys Badminton Championships in early December. In the girls' tournament, Jenna Flemming won Singles Silver and Katelin Mallory won Bronze. Katelin Mallory and Diane Thompson won Silver in Doubles. Ally Stillwell won Bronze in Grade 7 Singles and Gold with partner Hilary Quigley in Doubles. In the boys' tournament, Joel Curran won Silver in Grade 7 Singles.

Dressing for Winter Weather

At Minto Elementary and Middle School, we expect all our K-8 students to **be appropriately dressed for 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 **-15° C due to the wind chill factor**, we will have inside recess/activities. Please ensure that your children understand that we expect them to wear their winter clothes (hats, mittens/gloves, boots) when they go outside or travel home on the bus and that includes snow pants when they play in the snow.



MEMS Cafeteria “January Blues” Dinner~ Friday, January 20th, 2017 (11:20 am-12:30 pm)

Anne Marie is offering a homemade ham and scallop dinner with fresh roll, milk & dessert for \$ 6! Thanks for providing us with these yummy specials each month. ☺

Closure of Schools Due to Weather and/or Road Conditions

Anglophone West School District is committed to the safe and efficient transportation of students. The District recognizes it may be necessary to cancel or delay bus runs and/or close schools (in the morning or during the school day) to ensure students are not endangered by hazards brought on by poor weather and road conditions.

The Superintendent of Schools makes the decision to keep open or close schools after district transportation personnel provide current information about weather and road conditions. The school district transportation department has access to current weather and road conditions throughout the district through the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure road supervisors, a contracted weather information service provider, as well as other internet sites. Inclement weather predictions are monitored closely throughout the evening and again from 5:00 a.m. onward. Announcements will be made on local radio stations, through a recorded message that can be heard by dialing the district public information line at **1-888-388-4455 (toll free)** or **453-5454 any time after 6:00 am**, and by checking the district website at **www.asd-w.nbed.nb.ca**. **Please listen/watch carefully for ASD-W Zone 8 which is the zone that includes Minto and Chipman schools.**

Good Health to All!

To ensure good health among our school community, please continue to encourage your children to participate in safe & healthy practices by reviewing proper hygiene with your child, such as frequent hand-washing, covering coughs and sneezes in sleeves, avoiding sharing personal items and, of course, staying home when genuinely sick. We will continue to reinforce these practices at school.

Keeping Children Smoke-Free

As January is Tobacco Reduction Month, this is a good time to think about how to keep your child's environment smoke-free.

Tobacco Facts:

- Tobacco smoke contains over 4,000 chemicals including at least 70 which are carcinogenic or cause cancer.
- The top 6 toxins which are released when a tobacco product is burned are: tar, nicotine, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, hydrogen cyanide, and benzene.
- Besides cancer, smoking is responsible for many other diseases.
- Because children breathe faster than adults, they are particularly sensitive to second-hand smoke. Asthma rates are much higher in children whose parents smoke, and children are more likely to develop ear infections if exposed to second-hand smoke.
- E-cigarettes are not recommended by Health Canada because of possible health risks, nicotine poisoning and addiction.

Tips for Talking to Children:

- Take advantage of opportunities to let your child know about the harmful effects of tobacco.
- Talk to your child about peer pressure and practice how to say “No”.

What Else You Can Do:

- Quit smoking, and/or be a positive role model.
- Protect your child from second-hand smoke.

Need Help? Go to: www.smokershelpline.ca or call toll-free **1-877-513-5333**.

<http://www.nbatc.ca/en/>

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hc-ps/tobac-tabac/body-corps/index-eng.php>

Skating and Bowling~ 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 at the end of this newsletter to ensure that your child(ren) are prepared for these events. We are still looking for donations of certified helmets for skating.

Important Dates to Remember

- January Tobacco Reduction Month
- January 20th MEMS cafeteria’s January Blues Dinner (\$6)
- Exam week for HS... we say goodbye to our MMHS Co-op students
- January 27th Half Day early dismissal for students (K-5 at 11:20am, 6-8 at 12:15pm)
- Teacher Professional Learning Activities (pm)
- “Welcome to Kindergarten” for September 2017 Kindergarten students and parents, 1:15-2:15pm
- January 30th MEMS Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) Meeting (6:30 pm)
- January 31st Roland Bibeau French concert for K-8, 12:45pm (sponsored by Bilingual Learning Environment Plan Grant)
- February National Inclusive Education Month
- February 6th Intensive French block two begins
- February 13th Heritage Week: “Celebrating 150 Years!”
- February 16th Middle School Valentine’s Dance (6-8pm, \$5 admission)
- February 23rd MS Swim Trip for students in good standing
- February 24th Professional Learning Day #4 for Teachers (no school for students)

Happy New Year, everyone!

Kynda Bryant
Principal

Craig Richards
Vice Principal



ELEMENTARY GRADES 3 – 5 BOWLING SCHEDULE

Wednesdays 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm
(Leaving MEMS at 12:35 pm)

MEMS Students in Grades 3-5 will be going bowling this school year on
Wednesday afternoons from approximately 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm.

Parents are welcome to attend at the Holy Rosary Bowling Alley if they wish to help out.
Each student is asked to bring in \$5.00 (for the year) to help cover the cost of this activity.

Date 2016-17	Class	
November 9		S. Cassista
November 16		J. LeBlanc
November 23		T. West
November 30		T. Best
December 7		L. Billings
December 14		S. Cassista
December 21		J. LeBlanc
January 18, 2017		T. West
January 25		T. Best
February 1		L. Billings
February 8		S. Cassista
February 15		J. LeBlanc
February 22		T. West
March 1		T. Best
March 22		L. Billings



PRIMARY K – 2 SKATING SCHEDULE

Tuesdays 12:45 – 1:45 pm

(Leaving MEMS at 12:25 pm)



ALL STUDENTS MUST WEAR A CSA APPROVED HELMET IN ORDER TO GET ON THE ICE

MEMS Students in Grades K - 2 will be going skating once again this year.

The students will be at the arena from approximately 12:35 pm - 1:45 pm.

Parents are welcome to meet their children at the rink, help with skates & to skate with them if they wish.

Each student is asked to bring in \$5.00 (for the year) to help cover the cost of this activity.

Date 2016-17	Classes
November 22	Grade 2- Sivitilli, Keehn & McFadden
November 29	Grade 1- Dasset & Thompson Bailey
January 17	Grade K- Hemming & Weeks
January 24	Grade 2- Sivitilli, Keehn & McFadden
February 7	Grade 1- Dasset & Thompson Bailey
February 14	Grade K- Hemming & Weeks

K – 5 VISITS MINTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Thursdays 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm

(Leaving MEMS at 12:35 pm)



Date 2017	Classes
January 19	West - Grade 3/4 - 21 students
January 26	Best- Grade 3- 25 students
February 2	Weeks- Gr K- 16 students
January 9	Hemming- Gr K- 16 students
February 16	LeBlanc- Gr 4- 27 students
February 23	Dasset- Gr 1- 17 students
March 2	Thompson Bailey- Gr 1- 18 students
March 23	McFadden- Gr 2- 19 students
March 30	Keehn- Gr 2- 19 students
April 6	Sivitilli- Gr 2- 19 students
April 13	Cassista- Gr 5 IF- 17 students
April 20	Billings - Gr 5 IF - 17 students

