

MINTO ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS & LEADERS



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2020



SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

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



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

Kynda Bryant
Principal

Craig Richard
Vice Principal



Celebrations of Success

This year, MEMS held their **Terry Fox School Walk/Run Day** on the half day Friday, Sept 25th. We were excited to walk together outside in our bubbles to raise money for this worthy cause. Due to COVID and online collections, the total amount raised appears to be down from previous years but donations are still coming in. To donate, please use the following link: <http://www.terryfox.ca/MintoElementarySchool>

Anglophone West Safe Schools Week

The **NB Anglophone West Safe Schools Week** is slated for October 19th-23rd. During this week, the students may participate in numerous safety practices including a Fire Drill, Secure the Building/Lockdown, Bus Evacuations and School Property/Safe Site Evacuation. Other safety activities planned for various grade levels involve Health Education curriculum outcomes, as well as the review of various safety rules/programs/activities.

MEMS Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) and Home & School Association

Our first meeting for the PSSC was on Monday, September 28th, 2020. It was followed by our **Home & School Association** meeting which has promptly kicked off our fourth annual **blueberry fundraiser**. We will vote for positions at our second meeting on October 26th. Parents/guardians interested in participating in the **MEMS Parent School Support Committee** for 2020~2021 are invited to attend. Our current committee members include: **Nicole Bailey, Cheryl Colford, Lindsay Glenn, Denise McLong, Danielle Nearing, Jennifer VanLaren, Jillian Yeomans, Jessica Wells, June Cole, Tammy Best** (Teacher Rep), and Kynda Bryant (Principal). **Faith Kennedy** continues to serve as our ASD-W District Education Council representative. The **next PSSC meeting on October 26th** will be held at **6:30 pm** in the library, physically distanced. A huge “THANK YOU!” goes out to these parents who are willing to donate their time to help our school AND to serve on our Home & School Association. ☺

BLUEBERRY FUNDRAISER:



Reminder: Our Blueberry order forms are due on October 9th and **blueberries are to be picked up** at MEMS from 6-8pm on Wednesday, October 14th, and Thursday, October 15th. Thank you, Home & School, for organizing this fundraiser so quickly. **SELL, SELL, SELL!** We will have prizes for top sellers and, every time a student sells a box of blueberries, his/her name will go in a draw for a prize.

THANK YOU, Home & School!

Thanks to the hard work of our **MEMS Home & School** committee and the generous nature of our community, we are very excited to announce we now have **a class set of 30 Apple iPads** to be used in our classroom to facilitate learning. After three years of planning and fundraising, the iPads are now in the hands of our students. A very special thank you from students and staff of MEMS.

MEMS Student Fees

A friendly reminder to Parents/Guardians~ At the beginning of each school year, Minto Elementary and Middle School collects **a student fee of \$ 30 per student** to cover the cost of student activities, locks for lockers, supplementary materials/resources, and special programs which enhance the learning environment.

These fees were due by the end of September. You can still send it in to your child's homeroom teacher or easily pay your school fees on Cashless Schools. Our Admin Assistant will be calling with a gentle reminder. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to “Minto Elementary and Middle School”. A receipt will be sent home with your child as soon as possible. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

School Supplies Fee

For K-5 students, teachers opted to purchase all student supplies over the summer so every student had what they needed on the first day. This fee was due by September 30th. If you have not yet done so, please forward payment. A receipt will be issued.



Christmas at MEMS

Unfortunately, due to COVID regulations, our annual **Christmas Bazaar** will have to be cancelled for this year. 😞 “Thank you!” to those who have been calling in hopes of participating in and supporting our yearly event. We regret to have to make this difficult decision, however, we know it won’t be this way forever! 😊

MEMS Athletics/Sports Program

MEMS is currently offering Cross Country Running to interested Middle School students. Practice schedule will be announced and posted on school Facebook and website. There will be district championships at a date to be determined. We will be following safety guidelines provided by ASD-W. Thanks, Mr. Best, for organizing this sports activity for us!

MEMS Breakfast Program

Our **Breakfast Program** began the first full week of school **and we are in need of VOLUNTEERS** from 7:30-9am. Please contact Joy at the school (327-7016) if you are interested in helping one morning (or more!) each week. Your time would be greatly appreciated. 😊 We cannot run the program without volunteers. A big “**Thank you!**” goes out to Joy who organizes our volunteers and helps oversee the program.

Due to COVID, our menu is limited but **Breakfast Program items are at no cost to our students and everyone is encouraged to partake.** All monetary donations are greatly appreciated and put to good use. We are also accepting **donations of FRESH FRUIT** such as bananas, bags of apples, oranges, pears, etc., that can be served as a single serving. Students will be able to pick an item and get milk from their homeroom’s Breakfast Basket. Please call Joy (327-7016) if you would like to donate fresh fruit, etc. Thank you! 😊

In the month of September (17 school days), we consumed approximately 1005 granola bars, 610 various prepared fruit snacks, 384 banana muffins, 160 cheese strings, a variety of fresh fruit including bananas, clementines and apples, as well as 763 cartons of milk. Thank you to **Joy**, our Admin Assistant, for overseeing the program and for organizing all the new and veteran volunteers who have agreed to participate this year.

Gifts through “**memorials for loved ones**”, whether made through **Hogg Funeral & Crematorium Services** or directly to Minto Elementary and Middle School, continue to help 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 Wayne Hoyt, Calvin McLean, Billy Forrester, Betty Crawford, Mike Calabrese and Gerald Fulton.
- **Friends of the MEMS Breakfast Program**~ thank you to the generous donations made by Joel & Brenda MacDonald and David & Deborah Raymond. Thank you to **Hogg Funeral & Crematorium Services** whose continued support in looking after and forwarding the memorials is much appreciated.

Special thanks goes out to the generous donation by **Jim Gilbert’s Wheels and Deals** who came to our school with fresh fruit, water bottles, and Breakfast items for our students. It all was much appreciated.

We would also like to take this time to acknowledge the **Minto Retired Teachers** group who have been very generous with donations over the years. They arrive randomly with snacks and school items which are always greatly appreciated. Their influence on children continues to be felt long after the retired teachers leave their classroom. 😊



NB Provincial Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration for the 2021-2022 school year will begin on October 13th, 2020, and will be open for two weeks. Registration is being done online through ASD-W's website under "Parents" for children who will turn five by December 31, 2021, and who start school in September 2021. Once you have completed the online registration form, MEMS will contact you for a follow-up scheduled appointment to complete your child's registration at MEMS from **Tuesday, October 13th, to Friday, October 23rd**, from **8:30 am-4pm**. You will be required to wear a mask and sanitize your hands when you arrive. Please bring **your child's birth certificate, Medicare Number and immunization record** (card or letter from the doctor) when you register. The routine childhood immunization schedule in New Brunswick can be found on the NB Department of Health website: <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/health.html>. If you have any questions or concerns about the required immunizations for school entry, please call **Public Health** in Fredericton at **453-8252**. For additional information about Kindergarten registration, please call the **Anglophone West School District Office** at **453-5454** or **1-888-388-4455** or visit the website: www.asd-w.nbed.nb.ca.



Minlak

Minlak is sending congratulations out to our Board of Directors President Gary DiPaolo on earning Minto's Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award 2020!

Minlak's drop off barn is open 24/7. Check out our website for all the items we accept for recycling.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Storey

Cell Phones

Please remind your student(s) of the MEMS handbook rule stating the use of cell phones is prohibited during the school day, including breaks and noon. Therefore, if students are bringing a phone, it is to stay in their locker from when they arrive until the end of the day. Thank you for supporting us in this matter.

Head Lice

As the school year continues, please know we will have cases of head lice reported to us. Head lice continue to be common among children, and outbreaks are possible whenever children are together. We will check the children periodically at school but parents should also make a point of checking carefully each night at home.

Parent Contact

As you can imagine, there are a whole variety of reasons why the school may need to reach a parent/guardian during the day so it is important we have up-to-date contact information. Please ensure we have a phone number which we can reach you. Call Joy (327-7016) any time to update any information. Thank you! ☺



Ducks Unlimited visit!

A very special thank you goes out to Sam Brewster and her team at Ducks Unlimited for bringing their Wetlands Presentation to our grades 3-5 students. We had a fun-filled hour of learning about the conservation of our precious wildlife. Thank you, again, for thinking of the students here at MEMS.

Thanks, Mrs. Best, for making these arrangements!

MEMS Staff want to say THANKS to Katie Morrell for providing us with 'ear savers' to help making our mask-wearing a little more comfortable. Much appreciated!

Important Dates to Remember

(Please look for the school newsletters shared virtually at the first of the month)



October 4 th -10 th	Fire Prevention Week
October 5 th	World Teacher Day
October 9 th	Blueberry order forms due
October 10 th	World Mental Health Day
October 12 th	Thanksgiving Holiday- no school
October 13 th -23 rd	Kindergarten Registration for students entering in September 2021
October 13 th	Public Health Immunization Clinic for all grade 7 (Tdap and first HPV)
October 14 th and 15 th	Blueberry pickup at school, 6-8pm
October 19 th	Harvey Studios school picture day
October 19 th -23 rd	Safe Schools Week
October 23 rd	Fourth Friday of the month~ early dismissal for students (ALL students, K-8, dismiss at 11:20am); Teacher Professional Learning Activities (pm)
October 26 th	Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) Meeting (6:30 pm) (in library) followed by MEMS Home & School meeting (around 7:15pm)
November 10 th	Remembrance Day Virtual Assembly, 1pm
November 11 th	Remembrance Day (no school)
November 20 th	Professional Learning Activities for Teachers; no school for students
November 23 rd	Parent School Support Committee (PSSC) Meeting (6:30 pm) (in library) followed by MEMS Home & School meeting (around 7:15pm)
November 27 th	Fourth Friday of the month~ early dismissal for students (ALL students, K-9 dismiss at 11:20am); Teacher Professional Learning Activities (pm)



FreshGrade has arrived at MEMS!



Minto Elementary & Middle School continues to focus on ways to personalize the learning environment for students to help make MEMS the best possible place to grow. Every MEMS Teacher will be using a new program to track, share and provide evidence of learning to you on the New Brunswick Global Competencies (Critical Thinking, Innovation, Learning to Learn, Collaboration, Communication and Global Citizenship). Your son/daughter's MEMS Teacher will be using a program called **FreshGrade** to help collect and document evidence of your child's learning and to share their progress with you in a timely manner.

Please look for an informative letter at the end of the month for more details on **FreshGrade**.