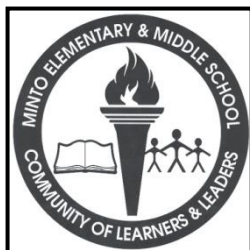


MINTO ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS & LEADERS



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

2017



SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

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

Kynda Bryant
Principal

Craig Richards
Vice Principal

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



Welcome Back to School

On behalf of the MEMS family, welcome to the **2017~18** academic year which marks the 34th anniversary of the opening of **Minto Elementary and Middle School**. We want new students and their families, as well as returning students and families, to feel part of our warm and welcoming school community. We have some new staff, some returning staff and some temporary staff starting off our year with us. We also have two new French Immersion classrooms: Grade 1 FI and Grade 3 FI. Please refer to the charts below for up-to-date information on all of these placements. Please note: teacher grade allocations and student classroom placements are always subject to change at the discretion of the School and/or District Administration.

Although we have Ms. Hemming listed as a Kindergarten Teacher, she has just accepted a temporary position as a Literacy Lead for the Oromocto Ed. Center. **Congratulations, Ms. Hemming!** We are so proud of you and wish you all the best. We look forward to having you back with us soon!



We would like to welcome two UNB interns working with MEMS Teachers this year, Melissa Harris and Yorrick Da Silva. We are excited to have you with us as you prepare for the wonderful profession of teaching. ☺

Primary Level Team	Education Support Services
Cindy Hemming, Kindergarten	Julie McLenahan, EST-Resource
Erin Weeks, Kindergarten/Grade 1	Lori Thurrott, EST-Resource
Cassina deLeseleuc, Grade 1 French Immersion	Todd Wilson, EST-Guidance
Jennifer Thompson Bailey, Grade 1	Specialist Teachers
Megan Keehn, Grade 2	David Best, Physical Education
Debbie McFadden, Grade 2	Lance McNeill, Music/Art/Physical Activity
Elementary Level Team	Daniel Ganong, Pre and Post Intensive French
Laurie Billings, Grade 3 French Immersion	School Administration
Janie Dasset, Grade 3	Kynda Bryant, Principal
Terri-Lynn West, Grade 3	Craig Richards, Vice Principal
Jennifer LeBlanc, Grade 4	Joy Murray, Administrative Assistant
Tammy Best, Grade 4/5	Carolyn Madore, Administrative Assistant (15 hours)
Shannon Cassista, Grade 5 Intensive French	Educational Support Staff
Middle Level Team	Carolyn Madore, Library Worker (14.25 hours)
Cortney Colwell, Grade 6	Terri Guislain, Educational Assistant
Craig Richards, Grade 6/7	Debbie Hay, Educational Assistant
Nic Boucher, Grade 7	Karen Roi, Educational Assistant
Jeanette Clowater, Grade 7/8	Mary Scribner, Educational Assistant
Amanda Snowdon, Grade 8	Patti Taylor, Educational Assistant
	Cathy Vautour, Educational Assistant
	Danielle MacBeth, Student Intervention Worker

Our School **Mission Statement** is posted at the top of each newsletter and in the Student Agenda Handbook. Let's continue to work together as a school community to ensure this statement remains a reality. As we journey toward a Professional Learning Community model at MEMS, we strive to "**promote a spirit of excellence**"!

Parents, please ensure that you review the Student Agenda Handbook for changes/clarifications in policies and programs. Information on our "MEMS SMART Kids" program and Positive Learning Environment Plan (PLEP) is featured in the MEMS Student Agenda Handbook. **Please sign the agenda handbook on page 5** to show you have read it through carefully and encourage your student(s) to use this great organizational tool.

MEMS Open House Family Night

To provide an opportunity for you to meet our Teachers and Support Staff, MEMS welcomes all parents and students to our **Open House Family Night** on **Thursday, Sept. 14th, starting at 6:30 pm**. The format for the evening will include an information session in the cafeteria (10 min.) followed by time in your student's classroom (20 min.) where students will have a classroom-based activity while you chat with his/her teacher. Everyone will be called back to the cafeteria for a bedtime snack which students can grab and go home with.

MEMS Clothing

MEMS will be taking orders for school clothing until October 20, 2017. Check out our school website to see it in color! All clothing will be black with blue print. Please include cash or cheque payable to MEMS along with your completed order form. For your convenience, you will be able to order at the Open House on Sept. 14th. Christmas is just around the corner. ☺



Prices :	Youth T-Shirt	\$12	Youth Hoodie	\$25
	Adult T-Shirt	\$15	Adult Hoodie	\$30
	MEMS winter hats	\$12	Youth Sweat Pants	\$25
			Adult Sweat Pants	\$30

Signatures available for grade 8s only.

Sizes S, M, L, XL and XXL.

Please see Ms. McLenahan for sample sizes, if necessary.

Celebrations of Student Success

At the **MEMS Recognition Ceremonies**, which took place on June 23rd, 2017, Middle Level students were recognized for their **academic and athletic achievements**. Some of the special awards/recognitions included:

- Outstanding Academic Student in Grade 6~ Silas Austin
- Outstanding Academic Students in Grade 7~ Mya Badger and Jonathan Clowater
- Outstanding Academic Student in Grade 8~ Cassidy Mallery
- Tony Troy Memorial Award for Academic & Athletic Achievement~ Sophia Arsenault
- Female Athlete of the Year Award~ Emma Carney
- Male Athlete of the Year Award~ Aiden Arnold
- MEMS Pewter Medal~ Megan Boucher



Perfect Attendance!

Congratulations to those students who had perfect attendance last year and received a monetary gift as well as a gift donated from a generous community member, Wayne Hoyt. Special recognition goes to: Nathan Moore, Caleb Pelley-Spencer, Jeremiah Millership, Jorja Somers, Wyatt Thibodeau, Jordan Schurman, James Schurman, and Terry Lawson! That's awesome! We put out the challenge to you again this year AND to everyone else, too! ☺

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. Please take this opportunity to encourage your children to **take pride in their work and to 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 help us teach and model this important message to them!

Home is the Key to Homework~ Help Your Children Become Better Students

After a long summer, it can be tough for kids to get their focus back on school and homework, however, **homework is a key part of education** and it's important that kids not only complete it, they should also understand what they've learned. Studies show that **children's achievements in school improve with increased parent involvement in their education** so get involved in your student's homework; you might even learn something new, too! ☺

We offer **10 homework tips** (developed by ABC Literacy Canada) on how to make homework a part of your family's daily routine. Establishing **good homework habits** for younger children help them develop effective study skills for high school and beyond.



1. Have a specific (and limited) time each day for homework. An hour should be enough for younger children. Early in the evening is best so, when homework is done, there is still time for play. Starting later means rushing to get finished before bedtime, when kids may become too tired to concentrate.
2. Have a regular place for homework. For older kids, somewhere "quiet" might be best. Younger kids often do better in a common area like the kitchen or at the dining room table, with an adult nearby.
3. Limit distractions and temptation. Turn off the TV, cell phones and other electronics during homework hour – for the whole family.
4. Parents can do their own routine tasks during homework hour but should be readily available to help, encourage, and answer questions. Please be careful not to do their homework for them.
5. Start with the hardest subject first, since it will probably take the most time and effort.
6. Kids can become overwhelmed with big assignments or projects. Parents can help them break the project down into smaller steps.

7. When kids resist or delay doing homework, parents can help motivate them by using positive language (“When you finish your homework, you’ll be able to …”) instead of negative language (“If you don’t finish your homework, you won’t be able to …”).
8. Kids have different learning styles, and parents can help them develop effective methods for doing their homework. However, if homework is a constant struggle, talk to the teacher.
9. Show kids how the skills they are learning relate to real life. For example, if a child is learning math, collect receipts from the supermarket and calculate the weekly or monthly cost of your groceries.
10. Don’t limit family learning to homework hour. Make learning a part of daily life by embracing everyday learning opportunities.

MEMS Student Fees

At the beginning of the school year, each student is asked to pay **a student fee of \$ 30 (a maximum of \$ 60 per family)** to cover the cost of the Student Agenda Handbooks as well as supplementary materials/resources and special programs which enhance the learning environment. Please forward these fees with your child to the homeroom Teacher before the end of September. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to “Minto Elementary and Middle School”. If you are taking advantage of the “Family Plan” (more than two children), be sure to list the names of all the children and their homeroom teachers so that proper credit can be given. A receipt will be sent home with your child as soon as possible. **Please note:** these fees are separate from School Supplies Fees.



School Supplies Fee

For K-5 students, teachers have opted to purchase all student supplies over the summer so every student has what they need on the first day. This also takes the pressure off parents to find all the supplies which often exceeds \$30. Please forward this fee to your child’s homeroom Teacher before the end of September. A receipt will be issued.

MEMS Data Collection/School Registration & Other Important Forms

Please ensure that **data collection/school registration forms** are returned to MEMS as soon as possible. Please note that the Department of Education and Child Development requires that **mother’s maiden name** be included as necessary information.

Also, please return these important consent forms and documents with your signature as soon as possible:

- Network/Internet Access Forms (Policy 311 – Information & Communications Technologies Use)
- Afternoon School Bus Stops – Appendix A
- Student Photographs & Student Information – Appendix A
- MEMS student agendas – Page 5

MEMS Breakfast Program

Our **Breakfast Program** is up and running! On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, volunteers prepare toast with a choice of Wow Butter, jam or cinnamon toast. Milk is also available. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, volunteers serve our traditional parfaits (yogurt, granola and fresh berries) and smoothies. 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. This year’s startup date was Tuesday, September 5th. A huge “THANK YOU!” goes out to **Becky Callaghan**, our new Registered Dietitian at our Queens North Community Health Centre & Chipman Health Centre, and **Andrew Holloway**, our new Community Developer at the Queens North Community Health Centre, who were here to help assist us on our first day serving breakfast. Another huge “THANK YOU!” goes out to our Admin Assistant, **Joy**, who organizes our Breakfast Program & Lunch Mates Volunteers, and to the volunteers who have agreed to participate this year as we continue to expand our menu. We have purchased a professional rotisserie toaster and we were very excited to have it ready for use at the startup of the year.

During the last school year (167 school days), the program used 1 878 loaves of bread, 13 064 cartons of milk, 5 211 yogurt parfaits, and 6 058 smoothies. Because it is such an expensive program, **donations of Wow Butter or jam, as well as financial support, are much appreciated.** Cheez Whiz does not meet nutritional guidelines as set out by the provincial Nutrition Policy 711 and, therefore, is no longer served to students.

Our school is still in need of additional volunteers in order to provide the following programs for five days each week : MEMS Breakfast Program (7:30-9am) and MEMS Lunch Mates Program (11:30-12:00pm) Please contact Joy at the school (327-7016) if you are interested in helping out one morning or one noon hour each week. Your time would be 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 or making general donations.

- **Memorials**~ donations to the MEMS Breakfast Program have been made in loving memory of Aline Barnett, Jane LeBlanc, Dave Morrell and David Nightingale (for the Music Program).
- **Friends of the MEMS Breakfast Program**~ Diana Deap, as well as **Hogg Funeral & Crematorium Services**, whose continued support in looking after and forwarding the memorials is much appreciated.

Snack and Lunchtime:

Just a reminder... all students have a recess in the morning at which time students need to be provided with a nutritional snack from home. Also, it is imperative home provide their child each day with a suitably sized lunch that is well-rounded with healthy choices. Children are not allowed to share lunches and no free lunch program is available so, if a child comes without a lunch, home will be contacted to bring one in. As well, the cafeteria cannot keep tabs; the food must be paid for at the time of purchase. Providing snacks and lunches for our students is an overwhelming expense which we cannot undertake. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Early Morning Supervision

PLEASE NOTE: early morning supervision at school begins at 8 am. Parents are asked to please make other arrangements for the supervision of their children prior to that time. As a safety precaution, we would appreciate parents dropping off their children after 8am when the doors open. Students are not supervised at school prior to 8am and, therefore, we are not permitted to let the students in prior to 8am. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Because of all the buses operating consecutively in front of the school in the morning, **it is important vehicles do not stop at the main doors after 8:05am.** If you are driving your student to school, please park in the parking lot to walk them in or to drop them off. Thank you for your interest in the safety of our students.

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 only to be used for one of your student's two drop-off locations. In case of emergencies, a different drop-off can be arranged. Bus passes cannot be given for any other location. Bus passes need to be communicated to the school well in advance of bus departure.

MEMS Destination Conservation Green Team

The MEMS Destination Conservation Green Team welcomes everyone back to school and encourages all to participate in working towards a healthier planet Earth by following the club's environmental motto – **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Rethink!**



MEMS Destination Conservation Green Team for the **2017~2018** school year includes:

- Executive Members~ Hilary Quigley, Joy Budgell, Mya Badger
- Executive Assistants~ Emma LeBlanc, Jerisa Fasquel, Jacob LeDuc, Alyssa Beaulieu, Jenna McFadden, Joel Curran

This year, the MEMS DC Green Team will continue to work in partnership with Minlak Training Centre. The DC programs include the collection of newspapers, magazines, catalogues and beverage containers. Remember, Minlak is a great place to recycle electronics.

As in the past, Minlak will hold a contest and provide a treat for the class at each level who brings in the most recyclable materials (as long as they meet minimum requirements). Thank you so much for your participation and support. Thank you to our Teacher Facilitator, Mrs. Clowater! ☺

Elementary Literacy Friends (ELF) Program

Volunteers Needed at MEMS!

Elementary Literacy Friends (**ELF**) is a supplementary volunteer-based reading achievement program that helps Grade 2 students who would benefit from one-on-one reading activities. Elf provides volunteers with training, materials and all of the support necessary for each volunteer to make a positive, lifelong impact on a student. Volunteers do not need previous teaching experience, only a willingness to help and commit to the Elf requirements. Following an initial three hour training session, the volunteer is matched with a student. The volunteer works with the student for one hour at the end of the school day, twice a week for 10 weeks.



To learn more about ELF or to register for training, please visit them online at www.elfnb.com or call 1-855-898-2533.

Head Lice

As the school year begins, please know we will have cases of head lice reported to us. Head lice continues 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.

Allergies – Peanut-Free Environment

Again this year, we have children with severe, life-threatening allergies to peanuts and peanut butter. We ask for your cooperation in the following ways:

- Please be sure your child's hands are washed free of any traces of peanuts before coming to school.
- Please instruct your child of the danger that peanuts are to some students.
- Please avoid sending any peanuts or products containing peanuts to school.
- Please remind your child to not share their food.

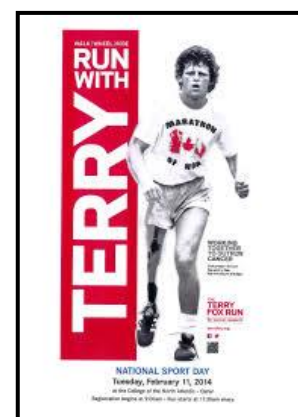


Parent School Support Committee (PSSC)

The first meeting of our **Parent School Support Committee** will take place at **6:30 pm on Monday, September 25th**, in the MEMS Conference Room 205. The purpose of the PSSC is to make recommendations on broad educational issues and policies relating to school performance, goals for improvement, family and community involvement and creating an inviting school climate. A school's PSSC consists of 6-12 members. If you are interested in being on the PSSC, please forward your name to the school as soon as possible and please attend this organizational meeting. An election may be held at this initial meeting if we have more than 12 people interested.

Terry Fox National School Run/Walk Day

On Friday, September 29th, MEMS students and staff will be participating in our 14th annual Terry Fox National School Run/Walk Day by walking, jogging and/or running at school. This year, students will be given a pledge sheet the first week of school so they can collect donations. We would like to thank everyone for their support. Special thanks to Mr. Best for organizing this very important charitable event again this year.



Minlak Training Programs

Minlak is back hard at work and looking forward to working with our school family. We want to remind everyone to recycle for Minlak. Parents can drop off their recycling items in our drop-off barn (open 24/7). Minlak would also like to remind people that we can now accept old electronic devices (in the same barn). Please follow us on Facebook and check out our website www.minlak.com for all the info on what we accept. We provide day programs for adults with disabilities. As well, we are having a fundraising breakfast at the Minto Legion on Saturday, September 23rd, from 8-11am. It is sponsored by the Atlantic Regional Carpenters, Millwrights, and Allied Workers local 1386.

School Pictures

Please note: **Harvey Studios** will be at MEMS on **Wednesday, October 4th**, to take this year's school photographs. **All K-8 students will be photographed for school records.**

MEMS Athletics/Sports Program

A big "Thanks!" to **David Best** who will continue to serve as **Athletics Director** (327-7049) at Minto Elementary & Middle School again this year.

- The Middle School soccer tryouts will begin the week of September 11th from 3-4:30pm. Interested students should be prepared for two tryouts with shorts, t-shirt, and sneakers/cleats. Please note our school dress code in the student agenda as this applies to athletics, as well. Schedule of tryouts will be posted on the gym bulletin board.



Friendly reminders: There is a \$20 fee to play soccer, payable by cash or cheque made out to MEMS. As well, parents are reminded they are responsible for transportation to games.

3-5 Basket Fundraiser

*The grades 3-5 classes are excited to announce that they will be hosting a fundraiser which will be ongoing over the next few months. All money raised will help support extracurricular activities for the grades 3-5 students. Each class has created a different themed basket and raffle tickets will be on sale from now until the middle of December 2017. Winners' names will be drawn at the Christmas concert and winners will be able to collect their baskets before leaving or in the following days. Tickets will be available from grades 3-5 teachers and during most special events held at the school between now and December 2017. Baskets will be on display in the cafeteria display case and we encourage you to visit the school in order to take a peek at the different themes, and to purchase some tickets to help support grades 3-5 activities throughout the year. Thank you, in advance, for your kind support. "Thank You" from the Grades 3-5 Team.

GRADE 5 - SNIDER MOUNTAIN FRENCH CAMP

The grade 5 students are VERY EXCITED to announce that they will be going to Snider Mountain Ranch French Camp at the end of this school year, in June. This trip is a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn French while socializing with other students from around the province. There is a fee associated with this trip and therefore the grade 5 classes will be hosting a number of events / fundraisers throughout the year. Please stay tuned for further announcements as the year progresses and we look forward to having the community's support as we plan and host our fundraising events. Thank You from Mlle Cassista & Mrs. Best.

Popcorn

The grade 5 students will once again be selling fresh, movie theatre style popcorn every Wednesday for \$1 a bag. The money raised from the popcorn sales will help pay for the grade 5 students to attend their end of year French Camp trip to Snider Mountain. Thank you from Mlle Cassista and Mrs. Best.

MEMS Student Agenda Handbooks 2017~2018

The following information is included in the **MEMS Student Agenda Handbook**. Parents should peruse the information carefully & **sign on page 5** to indicate that they have seen it and are aware of its contents.

MEMS School Administrators' Message

MEMS SMART Kids Initiative to support Positive Behavior

Positive Learning Environment Plan:

- The Roles of Parents/Guardians
- The Duties of Pupils
- Expectations – Safety, Achievement, Interactions & Surroundings
- Stages of Interventions
- Automatic Suspensions
- Parent's/Guardian's Signature

MEMS Students Schedules 2016~2017

MEMS School Policies

- Celebrations of Student Success & Students in Good Standing
- School Attendance
- Hours on Instruction
- Student Sign In/Out
- Visitors/Volunteers
- Parents/Guardians/Other Volunteers
- Students Cell Phones & Digital Cameras
- Administration Office/School Telephones
- Expensive Toys & Electronic Games
- Spectators at Athletic/Sports Events & Other Extra-Curricular Activities
- After-School Transportation Services
- Dress Expectations
- School Closures During the School Day
- Allergy Alert – Peanut-Free Environment
- Allergy Alert – Scent-Free Environment



Important Dates to Remember

September 14 th	Immunizations – HPV # 1 Vaccine (grade 7 girls only) & Tdap (grade 7 girls & boys)
September 14 th	MEMS Open House, 6:30pm
September 22 nd	Early dismissal for ALL students at 11:20am Teacher Professional Learning Activities (pm)
September 23 rd	Breakfast Fundraiser for Minlak Training Programs at the Minto Legion, 8-11am
September 25 th	PSSC meeting in MEMS Conference Room with Home & School meeting to follow
September 26 th	Early dismissal for ALL students at 11:20am for Professional Learning in pm for Teachers
September 28 th	First Middle School dance, 6-8pm
September 29 th	Terry Fox Run
September 29 th	Student fees due (K-8)
September 29 th	Classroom supplies fee due (K-5)
October 1 st -7 th	Wellness Week
October 4 th	School Pictures (Harvey Studios)
October 9 th	Thanksgiving Day~ holiday
October 10 th -15 th	Kindergarten Registration for 2018-19
October 16 th -20 th	ASD-W Safe Schools Week
October 16 th -19 th	MEMS Book Fair
October 20 th	School clothing orders due

Please note: This school year, there are five Tuesdays throughout the year when students will be dismissed early so Teachers can participate in Professional Development. September 26th is one of them. This year, for ALL of our half days (including these five Tuesdays and forth Fridays of the month), ALL students from Kindergarten to grade 8 will be departing the school at 11:20am.