



February / 2020

Twitter : @MPSSBlueDevil, @mpsslibrary, @krueger_cathi, @steve_burroughs, @MPSShistory
Instagram : @mckinnonparkathletics, @mckinnonparkfootball
Facebook : @mckinnonpark
Website: www.granderie.ca/schools/mpss

Message from the Principal Mrs. Krueger:

Another semester has come to an end and a new one begun. We have enjoyed many successes at MPSS this past semester and are looking forward to many more for semester two. Hopefully you will spend some time with your son/daughter reviewing their final semester one report card and together discussing their achievements. It should be a time to celebrate their successes to date, and using feedback from their teachers, develop a plan for further improvement. Very often achievement is correlated with attendance and/or not completing or submitting assignments. Please affirm the importance of attendance with your child and take an active role in their learning by finding out what they are studying and discussing the progress they are making. McKinnon Park Secondary offers many supports to our students to ensure they reach their full potential, whether it be through extra time with their teachers, the After-School Homework Help on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from our Student Success Teacher or our Learning Resource Teacher. In addition, information and resources can be retrieved from our website at www.granderie.ca/schools/mpss, like us on Facebook at McKinnon Park Secondary School, follow us on our twitter @krueger_cathi, @mpss_bluedevil and follow our Student Council on Instagram @mpssbluedevil . We look forward to our second semester at MPSS with the addition of some new staff, while we say good-bye and good luck to others. Very shortly, our students will be choosing their courses for next year. We want the students to make informed decisions about their courses and pathway choices to set them up for future success and ensure they have the necessary requirements for their intended destination. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the school at 905-765-4466.

MPSS NEWS

Graduation Photos Retakes

Attention Grads! Edge Imaging will be at our school on February 25th to retake graduation photos and help you celebrate this moment! Sign up for your photo session online at bookmygrad.ca. School Code MKI . For more information, visit edgeimaging.ca/graduation



Dates of Interest

- Feb. 17—Family Day
- Feb. 25—Grad Photo Retakes
- Mar. 6 —Interim Reports
- Mar. 12 — Parent Teacher Interviews
- Mar. 16—20—March Break
- Mar. 31 — Literacy Test (Grade 10)
- Apr. 10—Good Friday
- Apr. 13— Easter Monday
- Apr. 24—P.D. Day
- May 18—Victoria Day
- May 22—Prom
- Jun. 11—Awards Assembly
- Jun. 21—Instructional Day
- Jun. 25—Commencement

Semester 2 Report Cards will be mailed home

Graduation

Students and parents are reminded that graduation is quickly approaching. In order to make graduation happen, there is a \$20 grad fee that is payable at school cash online. This fee covers the cost of the gowns (which students can keep) and other items such as the refreshments and decorations. When students pay their fee, they also are given the opportunity to vote for this year's valedictorian.



Additionally, please make sure that all of the volunteer hour forms are completed and submitted to Guidance as soon as possible. The completion of 40 hours of volunteer service is a graduation requirement.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test is scheduled for March 31, 2020. If your son or daughter needs to write this test, please refrain from booking appointments or scheduling trips on this date. The test will not be offered again until the 2020-2021 school year. All grade 10 students write the OSSLT.

Education Quality and Accountability Office



More information about the test will be communicated as it approaches.

YEARBOOK



The M.P.S.S. Art Department is proud to offer students **Yearbook** as a course option starting 2020/21. Course code AWD 3M will earn students a grade 11 art credit and provides skill development in the fields of graphic design, photography, journalism and more. See the guidance department or visual arts teachers Mrs. Curtis and Mrs. Flowers for more information to determine if this course is right for you.

Eco Club is currently working to earn the 2019/20 Eco Schools certification for M.P.S.S. This will be our fifth year promoting sustainability and environmental education at McKinnon Park. Coming up in April, the club will run a campaign to highlight Earth Day at the school. Students with an interest in the environment are encouraged to join us in our movement against climate change. Eco Club meets Fridays at lunch in Art room 1117 and new members are always welcome.



The MPSS guitar program gratefully acknowledges the large donation of money, guitars and various equipment from the Crawford family in memory of Bill and Owen Crawford. The money was used to purchase many acoustic and classical guitars as well as a bass guitar and amplifier. Additionally, the family donated a left handed and 12 string guitar. We now have an entire class set of guitars for students to use in class and to sign out if necessary. We offer AMG30 and AMG4M guitar courses. If a student is interested in signing up for this course next year, please contact guidance or Mr. La France with any questions that you may have.



Absent Students

Please call the school at 905 765 4466 if your son/ daughter will be absent from school. All absences should be accounted for on the day of or, at the latest, on the day that follows the absence. All students must sign in and out at the main office.

If your son/daughter is signing out during the day, please have them come to the office prior to announcements to get a sign out slip to minimize classroom disruptions.

Over 18 Students

By law, any student who is 18 years of age or older must give consent for information to be released to parents or guardians. There is a "Release of Information Form" that must be signed at the school office. We encourage parents to convince their sons/daughters to complete this form.

Breakfast Nutrition Program

The Breakfast Program would like to thank our community contributors for helping to keep the program running and helping provide healthy, nutritious food to our students in the morning and throughout the day. We have received funding through President's Choice and Children's Nutrition Network for Haldimand and Norfolk. We also would like to thank parents and staff for their online contributions. Your donations are vital to helping keep this program running. If you would like to donate, please do so through the **School Cash Online** link on the school website.

COURSE SELECTION 2020-2021

Grade specific workshops: TUES FEB. 18th *thru* FRI. FEB 28th online using **CareerCruising**.

After workshops: Students to complete course selections at home with parents if possible or on own at school ASAP. Students requiring extra help are welcome to sign up for an appointment in guidance.

LOGIN: CareerCruising Link @ <https://www2.careercruising.com/default/cplogin/ERIE>

2020 – 2021 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Select... McKinnon Park

***DUE DATE** (equal consideration date) for **SIGN-OFF SHEETS: Monday March 3rd**

**Note: Students submitting sign-off sheets complete with parental signatures by the deadline will be considered first for oversubscribed classes.*

Students' Council

Since the first day of school, the Students' Council has been hard at work to ensure the success of our various events and fundraisers during this jam-packed first term! The school year started with our annual Grade Nine Day, it was a fun-filled afternoon where we hosted fun games for MPSS's newest additions. This gave students a chance to unwind and form new friendships by the end of their first week. We even had a guest speaker from the Canadian Youth Speakers Bureau come to talk that day as well; his name was Joel Hilchey. He talked to the new students about getting involved in the school community. Our next event in September was our first ever Home Coming Spirit Week. The week was filled with 'home' themed days (Home Away From Home, Dress Like a Tourist Day), leading up to our Home Coming Dance and the High School Challenge night at the Caledonia Fair. Throughout the week, the school was filled with excitement and enthusiasm. On the day of High School Challenge, we hosted a buyout fundraiser that gave students the opportunity to buyout of class and support the Blue Devils football team! Thank you to everyone who bought out and supported Students' Council. In October, we hosted a fall formal dance, followed by successful pumpkin carving contest and costume contest the following day on Halloween. Next came December, which kept Students' Council busy for the month as we ran the 12 Days of Christmas. This annual event allows MPSS students to participate in fun activities during the 12 school days leading up to the winter break to get MPSS into the Christmas spirit! In addition to attending another successful school dance (our Silver Bells Semi-Formal), students built gingerbread houses, wrapped each other up like Christmas gifts, bid on unknown presents, and much more. The 12 Days ended with an intramural handball tournament for MPSS students of all grades. Most teams wore matching custom T-shirts and intimidated the competition with face paint. The tournament was widely participated in and was a great fundraiser. Plus, the championship game was a nail-biter! A student vs. teacher handball game also happened and, in an absolute fluke, the student team managed to head into the Christmas break with a victory. When MPSS returned from the break, students filled out Match-o-Matics questionnaires; the results will be sold on Valentine's Day to help students find their perfect match. In the week preceding exams, Students' Council hosted Send-a-Smile, where students could send their stressed-out pals a smile card and a kind message to spread some positivity before the intense week that was to follow. We look forward to an even better second semester that is packed with more great events. Our third annual Dinner Theatre with a performance from the drama club, Spirit Week ending with our legendary intramural dodgeball tournament, and our extracurricular banquet in June are just a few of the many exciting upcoming events during term two. Thank you for all your support this past semester!

Brooklyn Ambis,
Students' Council Prime Minister



PROM 2020

Save the Date

Friday, May 22nd, 2020

**Marquis Gardens, 1365 Sandhill Dr,
Ancaster**

5:30-10pm

Doors closed at 6:30pm

Dinner served at 6:45pm

Roaring 20s

PROM

Marquis Gardens, 1365 Sandhill Dr., Ancaster

Friday, May 22, 2020

5:30 to 10:00 pm

**Prom Tickets are now available on
School Cash online for \$60.00**

2020 Public Speaking Contest

The Caledonia Legion is holding its annual public speaking competition.

The date of the competition is: Saturday February 22, 2020

The time of the competition is: Registration at the Legion at 9:30am

Speeches commence at 10:00 am

Candidate's speeches will be judged according to their respective grade level at school.

There are 3 different divisions- Grades 4-6; Grades 7-9 and Grades 10-12

Local Prizes are: First Place \$25.00 Second Place \$20.00 Third Place \$15.00

See Library for forms and more information

Homework help is available to **ALL** students on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays after school until 4:30 pm in Learning Services. This is a great opportunity to catch up on missing work, get extra help and support, study for tests, and get organized! Homework Help for Semester two will begin Tuesday, February 18th

Homework Help



Zinc Saves Lives!

GOT OLD BATTERIES? PUT THEM IN THE BIN OUTSIDE OF THE FRONT DOOR OF MCKINNON PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL

Over 450 000 children die each year from zinc deficiency. By recycling your old batteries they stay out of the landfill and save lives.

How it works:

The old batteries get recycled and the amount of zinc in each battery gets matched and donated to children in need.

One AA battery provides enough zinc to save 6 children's lives.



Come Exercise Blue Devils!

A busy life provides lots of excuses for skipping daily fitness activities, but mornings are usually free and clear for those who are willing to get out of bed for the sake of their health and wellness. The McKinnon Park Exercise Room is now open every morning at 7:45 for those who are looking to squeeze a workout in before school. Interested students should pick up a consent form in the gym and find a workout buddy in order to take advantage of this opportunity. The work out room is also open Mon—Thurs from 3pm—4pm. See Mr. Lucier in the gym office for more information.



Order your 2019/20 yearbook now through school cash online. There are still a few copies of last year's book (2018/19 year) available for purchase. Please see Mrs. Flowers or email andrea.flowers@granderie.ca for purchasing details.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

School Cash Online is McKinnon Park Secondary's preferred method of payment for all school fees as well as everything from field trips to yearbooks.

School Cash Online allows parents to pay school related fees safely, quickly and easily. By using School Cash Online, you help increase efficiency and security at schools. Teachers and secretaries are then able to focus their time on helping students, and not on counting cash.

School Cash Online shows all of the school fees that are applicable to your student online for purchase. You can then choose to pay these fees online. You can also stay informed of upcoming events and keep track of which school fees require your attention.

Register today – a simple task that takes less than two minutes – by visiting granderie.schoolcashionline.com and navigating your way to the School Cash Online page. You will need your child's student number (found on report card), last name and date of birth to register. Should you encounter any difficulties, you can use the parent help desk at 1(866) 961-1803 or visit schoolcashionline.com/Home/Support.

Please sign up today.

NOW AVAILABLE

Make online payments with
SchoolCashOnline

- ✓ Field trips
- ✓ Sports Events
- ✓ Activity Fees

Register at granderie.schoolcashionline.com



IMPORTANT EXTREME COLD WEATHER INFORMATION

MY SCHOOL IS LOCATED IN ZONE:



NEW!

What happens if there is extreme cold weather in Grand Erie?

- * If outdoor temperatures reach -30 degrees Celsius (without wind-chill) at 5 a.m. **OR** there is a high risk of frostbite (10 minutes or less) as of 5:45 a.m., transportation will be cancelled. **All Grand Erie schools, however, will remain open.**
- * A decision on whether transportation is cancelled for the day will be made by 6:30 a.m.
- * If transportation is cancelled, the decision will be posted on the Board's website at www.granderie.ca and Twitter account (@GEDSB). It will also be shared with local media.
- * Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk will also communicate the decision to riders, post on Twitter (@STSBHN) and share on their phone line: **519-751-7532, ext. 7.**
- * There are two options for transportation cancellations: All Schools **OR** Schools by Zone:
 - * Grand Erie has four zones: **Zone 1** – Norfolk County; **Zone 2** – Haldimand County; **Zone 3** – Brant County; **Zone 4** – City of Brantford
 - * Grand Erie Students from Six Nations of the Grand River or Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation are located in **Zone 2** – Haldimand
 - * **Your School is located in: Zone 2 – Haldimand County**
- * For information on Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk, visit: www.stsbhn.ca. For delays or cancellations, visit: www.transinfobhn.ca/Cancellations.aspx