



July / 2020

Twitter : @MPSSBlueDevil, @mpsslibrary, @krueger\_cathi, @steve\_burroughs  
Instagram : @mckinnonparkathletics, @mckinnonparkbluedevels  
@mckinnonparkfootball,  
Facebook : @mckinnonpark  
Website: [www.granderie.ca/schools/mpss](http://www.granderie.ca/schools/mpss)



# MPSS NEWS

## Message from the Principal:

What a year it has been! When we started last fall, none of us could have predicted where we are today and what we have all been through in order to reach this milestone.

I want to express my sincere thanks to the students and their families, as well as the staff at the school, for their patience and perseverance as we work through the challenges brought about these last few months. Families and staff members have all come together to support our students. I have truly appreciated the support from all in the school community.

As the year ends, I want to say thank-you to all the staff for their efforts throughout the school year in supporting students' learning and achievement, as well as meeting their individual emotional and social needs. From the teachers, to our EAs, clerical staff, food technicians and custodians, your contributions make all the difference to our students. Unfortunately, we must also say some good-byes. Happy retirement to Mr. Holjak, Ms. Nesbitt and Mr. Williams; you will be missed at MPSS, but the Blue Devil family wishes you good luck in the next stage of your life journey. To Mr. Avey, Ms. Bamford, Ms. Gilbertson, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Murchie, Ms. Nash, Ms. Quinto, Ms. Ryglewicz, and Ms. Thomas-Wilson, good luck in your next education assignment, wherever that may be. Keep the 'Blue Devil' spirit alive in you. We appreciated everything that you have done for our students.

Graduates, congratulations and good luck in whatever pathway you follow. You have graduated in a year unlike any other in recent history. The resilience and hard work that you have demonstrated these last few months are commendable and will serve you well as you move on to the next step in your life journey.

Parents and guardians, please take the opportunity to share the report card successes with your teen and reflect on the areas where improvements can be made. Setting goals for next year is a positive starting point.

At any time, but especially during these recent times, it is important that we can communicate regularly with parents and guardians. Please call the school with any updates to mailing addresses, email addresses and phone numbers, so that we can keep you up to date. Updates can also be found on our website [www.granderie.ca/schools/mpss](http://www.granderie.ca/schools/mpss), our Facebook page at McKinnon Park Secondary School or via Twitter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school at 905-765-4466.

I wish you all an excellent 2020-2021 school year. Whatever form school will take as we move into the fall, please know that the staff at MPSS are committed to student achievement and well-being. We are preparing for the students return with some building updates. You may have noticed the scaffolding around the school. We are getting a new roof on the front part of the school and are looking forward to new flooring and blinds in some areas of the school. In preparation for next year, we are also changing our schedule away from a week one, week two where the last period of the day flips, to a straight period one, two, three, four, in order to make it simpler for students. As we move closer to September, we will be communicating our plans for reopening with you according to the recommendations of the Ministry of Education and the local Medical Officer of Health and as always, will do our best to help all students find success.

To all in the MPSS family, have a safe and enjoyable summer vacation and good luck in the future. It has been my pleasure and honour to have served as your Principal this year. I look forward to September and all the renewed hopes and promises it brings. Please take care of yourselves, and each other.

Mrs. Krueger

## Transportation Services

Did you know that the transportation department is around all summer? If you are moving, changing childcare locations or are in need of transportation information, you can contact their staff by calling



519-751-7532 or by emailing [transportation@stsbhn.ca](mailto:transportation@stsbhn.ca).

Thanks to all of our co-op employers for your time and commitment to supervising and training our co-op students. You provide valuable employability skills for our students and assist with the shaping of career goals. MPSS looks forward to working with our co-op community partners again next year. Thank you and best wishes to Mr. Williams, our coop teacher, as he retires. Welcome Mr. Forster to the co-op teacher role.



Congratulations to Eco Club members for their hard work and dedication this year. Due to the school closure period, members did not have an opportunity to put into action some of the Eco initiative they had planned for the school. EcoSchools Canada has acknowledged our efforts and awarded McKinnon Park the **Special Edition 2019-2020 EcoSchools Canada seal**. Join us next fall as we come together again and represent M.P.S.S. with green initiatives and promote environmental learning.



## YEARBOOK

Have pictures from your “isolation break”? Did you start a new project, learn a new skill, complete school work on the computer? Send us your pictures (selfies welcome!) of how you are spending your time during the “isolation break,” and we will feature your story in the Yearbook!

Also, if you have any pictures saved on your camera roll of school events, sports or clubs, send them to Yearbook! Please submit photos by **July 31<sup>st</sup>** to be considered.

There are 2 ways you can share your photos:

- 1) In the Dropbox on the Guidance D2L page (Grade 9) (Grade 10) (Grade 11) (Grade 12)
- 2) E-mail [andrea.flowers@granderie.ca](mailto:andrea.flowers@granderie.ca)

**2020-2021 yearbooks will be available to purchase on School Cash beginning the end of August.**

**Yearbooks for the 2019-2020 School Year will be available for pick up by November 2020.**

### An Important Message From Guidance:

If you're planning to move your child to another Grand Erie school in the fall, you must let us know by August 13<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.granderie.ca](http://www.granderie.ca) for more information.

You do not need to contact us if your child is transitioning from elementary to secondary school.

If your child will remain with us here at McKinnon next year, there is nothing more you need to do. You are set for the fall.

All students and families NEW to Grand Erie will have to register for the 2020-21 school year by August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Your timetable was mailed home with your report card. **We have attached a copy of the Drop and Add form** with this newsletter. If you are **requesting a timetable change, please complete this form and mail or email it to [s-mck@granderie.ca](mailto:s-mck@granderie.ca)** back to the school **by August 1**. Please note that where we would normally schedule appointments for timetable changes in the last week of August, due to the current situation with COVID-19, it will be unlikely we are able to make timetable changes after August 13. We apologize for this change in procedure but due to the current situation surrounding the pandemic, these are the directions we need to follow. Please note that many of our classes are full and your request to add a course may not be possible.

Please direct all **transcript requests** to GELA at (519)753-6079.

Summer School applications closed June 26th.

For up to date details from Grand Erie District School Board, the Ministry of Education and Public Health regarding plans for September, please refer to the MPSS website at [www.granderie.ca/schools/mpss](http://www.granderie.ca/schools/mpss).

Enjoy your summer and stay safe!

## A Message From The Student Prime Minister

Oh, what a year it's been! I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to be the Prime Minister of Students' Council especially during a year like this. It goes to show what a strong tight knit community we have at McKinnon Park. The past year was great. We started off the first Friday in September with Grade Nine Day to welcome all of our new Blue Devils. Then, later in September, we had a Homecoming Spirit Week full of fun events with the week ending with our Annual High School Challenge. This year the Blue Devils took home the gold! Later in October, we had a Costume Contest, Fall Dance and the Pumpkin Carving Contest (a student favourite). Seeing the holiday spirit in the school is one the best things. Next thing you know, Christmas tunes are filling the hallways. The 12 days of Christmas were the way for the staff and the student body to celebrate the holidays before the break. We had pictures with Santa, movies in the cafeteria and much more! Then, the New Year rolled around and it was 2020! In February, Students' Council sold beautiful carnations for Valentine's and it was a hit. Later in March we had our annual Spirit Week. The theme this year was Disney. The week had themed days like Disney Duo's and Toy Story Day. The week ended with a successful Dodgeball Tournament that the students loved! Then, the announcement about the pandemic came out and we as a school knew things were going to change! The teachers even made a video to tell the students how much they missed being in the classroom. The student council elections this year had been converted to the internet! I am excited to pass the Prime Minister torch over to one of my friends Brhett Booker. She is a wonderful individual, who always has a smile on her face! She is hard working and determined and will do an amazing job this year! Heather Fisher is this years Deputy Prime Minister! involved and spirited individual. Brhett and Heather will do great things in the year to come, I wish them the best of luck.

Thanks for everything MPSS it's been a blast!

Brooklyn Ambis

## Tentative Dates of Interest

September 8- First day of school

October 9- Commencement

October 9– P.D Day

October 15- Fall dance

October 29– Student Recognition Night

November 4-Take our kids to work day (grade 9 students)

November 15-P.D Day

December 11– Semi formal dance

February 2-3– P.D. Days

February 4– First day of second semester

April 8-Literacy Test

April 15– Spring Dance

May 14– Prom

June 29– Graduation

## Interact Club

Although our time together was cut short, members of the Interact Club participated in some fun events this year. In September, eleven of us travelled to Toronto and participated in the exciting events of We Day. Three students also made connections with the community by attending and representing MPSS at bi-weekly meetings with members of the Chamber of Commerce. During our time at school, Interact students reached out to the school and to the community to collect used batteries for Me to We's "Zinc saves lives battery recycling campaign". In December, three students attended the Rotary Club Christmas lunch. To wrap up the semester, the Interact Club made two \$90 donations to local food banks - one in Six Nations and one in Caledonia. This year, the Interact Club says goodbye and good luck to Mrs. Nesbitt as she is retiring. She has given so much to this club over many years and she will be greatly missed.

### IMPORTANT!!

Due to COVID-19, the **school will remain closed for the summer**. Furthermore, our staff are on summer holiday and will not be responding to emails or phone calls. Clerical staff will be available on a limited basis (please see below). Please call and leave a message at the school or email us at [s-mck@granderie.ca](mailto:s-mck@granderie.ca) throughout the summer and someone will get back to you but please be patient as we work through the summer holiday season. Your message is important to us and we will get back to you as soon as we can. A member of our clerical team will be working on the following days throughout the summer: July 3, 6, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, August 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, & 13 Our administration and clerical team will be back full time August 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Registration information:** [www.granderie.ca](http://www.granderie.ca)

**Transcript Requests:** 519 753 6079

## Congratulations Student Trustees!!

This past school year, McKinnon Park was fortunate enough to have two of our own students represent all students across the Grand Erie District School Board as Student Trustees. A big thank you to Alex Hauser (South Haldimand/Norfolk Trustee) and la'teieká:nerih Doxtador-Swamp (Indigenous Trustee) for representing McKinnon Park and the rest of the school board, and on a job well done!



Next year, we are proud to announce that la'teieká:nerih Doxtador-Swamp will continue in her role as the Indigenous Student Trustee for a second year, and that another McKinnon Park Student, Ava Burtis, was elected as the South Student Trustee. Congratulations to both of these students on being selected to represent students from across the board for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.

## Celebrating Diversity

June is an important month for celebrating diversity, especially in light of what we see happening in the news every-day. MPSS deeply values diversity and believes that this is what makes us all unique and beautiful. Our school club "Devils For Diversity" has had a tougher run this year due to the pandemic, and many events were cancelled that are important to our student body. However, we will be back and stronger than ever next year.

MPSS will celebrate PRIDE this month by flying the pride flag at the front of the school. Many local PRIDE events have been cancelled or moved online but it is very important for our youth to know that our community supports them and celebrates them every month, not just in June!

"Knowing that we can be loved exactly as we are gives us all the best opportunity for growing into the healthiest of people" Mister Rogers.

MPSS would also like to acknowledge National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st. This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of our Indigenous people.

Devils For Diversity meets each Thursday in room 1060. We are a group that works to ensure that everyone feels safe and welcome in the school environment regardless of race, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation. We do fundraisers, raise awareness around the school, and aim to foster an inclusive school environment. All are welcome to join. See you in September! (Hopefully )

"We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their colour." Maya Angelou

