Settling in Throughout September

What a month!
September was a very busy month with lots of new faces joining our school. Due to the increased enrollment that we weren’t expecting, it meant some major changes in staffing, reorganizing of classrooms and shuffling offices. Although we were scratching our heads at times trying to problem solve, we finally came up with a plan to ensure that the students receive the topnotch teaching they have grown accustomed to getting. Words cannot explain how the MHS staff always put the needs of the students first and how much they role model flexibility and cooperation at all times.

September also saw our gardens harvested, with a bounty crop! The greatest surprise was a giant zucchini that we were able to haul in along with all of the other veggies. We also had families gather together for our yearly Open House and Feeding the Fire Ceremony. And let’s not forget berry camp, bird camp, the Terry Fox Run, cross country running, strike for the environment and the observance of “Orange T-shirt Day”!

Upon reflection, it is no wonder September sped by!

THANK YOU 5/6 MACNEIL!

Every grown-up in Canada has heard the name Terry Fox and knows the story of his sacrifice and his passion for spreading the word about the need for cancer research. But not every child understands or knows of this hero’s story. Mr. MacNeil’s Grade five and six students showed MHS their leadership abilities by helping to organize our annual Terry Fox Run this year. We want to say thank you so much to Mr. Mac and his students for helping our young folks continue to keep Terry’s legacy alive.
NEW TIMETABLE WITH SOME SLIGHT CHANGES

As mentioned previously at the Open House and in the front article, MHS saw a leap in numbers, and new classes had to be created. Now, with fifteen classes, we had to move our day into ten periods instead of eight so that the new classes could receive specialties such as music, gym and language classes. The shift in scheduling did change our eating times by about fifteen minutes, so we would like to ask parents and families to respect that if they are dropping food off, they come during the recess times. If it is during your work break, we will need to ask you to stay with your child and eat with them as we are really stretched and cannot supervise them outside of the scheduled recess breaks. If you drop off and cannot stay with them, they can always have their food at the second break, and we will happily give them snacks or a lunch from our kitchen for the first break. We will never allow a child to go without food if they are hungry.

Here are the new break times
– 11:00-11:20 – First play period
– 11:20-11:40 – First Nutrition break
– 1:40-2:00 – Second play period
– 2:00-2:20 – Second Nutrition break

Finally, because of our location, in the downtown core, we are a closed campus. This means that we do not permit children to leave the property at break times unless they have been signed out with a parent or guardian. We started this policy about ten years ago and it has helped to keep our students safe during the cold, dark, winter months when roads are slippery, as well as keep our older students attending in the afternoons, and finally this policy has prevented any difficulties with downtown social issues being brought into the school. We are all safer because of this agreement. We welcome you to come in at any time and have lunch with your child, or staff!

Thank you 7/8 Students and Ms. Horen

On September 30th, the Grade Seven and Eight students in Ms. Horen’s class led an assembly and subsequent activities to honor “Orange T-Shirt Day”. They were divided into groups and visited every classroom in the school and completed an activity with the students about why it is important to acknowledge the legacy of Residential School. Their activities were age appropriate for the various classes, and were geared towards helping the children learn and reflect upon the theme, “Every Child Matters”. The youth read stories, showed a video and helped the students complete a craft to mark the occasion. MHS purchased orange t-shirts for all staff and the grade 7/8 students who led the presentations, from a company that contributed a portion of money from each t-shirt to the Jordan’s Principle “Caring Society”. The Caring Society is a child-first and needs-based charity that ensures First Nations children have equitable access to all government funded public services.
MHS Open House and Feed the Fire Ceremony

It was a chilly evening with some sprinkles of rain, but it didn’t keep the families away! We saw a lovely crowd gather to meet the staff and catch up with each other after spending the summer months apart. A special mahsi goes to Chief Sangris for coming out and welcoming us, as well as to the YKDFN drummers who came and assisted our youngsters in drumming and prayers. We were so pleased at how many drummers performed; from grandpas, dads, uncles and cousins to our own students. We also want to thank all of the staff and former staff, for helping to prepare the meal of chowder and bannock with the fish and veggies being fresh from the lake and our school gardens. We hope that “sharing what we have” will help guide us throughout the year in a safe journey through education and learning.

Sleep At Night and Work During the Day

There are nine Dene Laws to which we have aligned our school calendar. The leadership team met and decided which Law was most applicable to the school calendar and as a school we will use these laws to guide our holistic teaching.

For the month of October we are focusing on teaching/encouraging the students to be sure they are getting enough rest. Research states that 5-14 year olds need between 9-11 hours of sleep a night so that they can be refreshed and alert to learn.

Setting a regular sleep schedule with consistent bedtime routines will help your child improve in the amount of rest they get. As well, cutting back screen time such as television and video games two hours before bedtime will help limit sleep disruptions…for adults too!

Thank you for you donations!!!

- Terrilyn Hayden – for school supplies
- Lynn Elkin and Special Olympics – toques and toboggans
- NWT Wellness Society – monetary donation to our Breakfast and Lunch Programs
Mildred Hall School  
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Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 1E5

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Get Your Name in the Newsletter Draw for a PRIZE!!

Name:_________________
Grade:_________________
Grown up Signature:_________________

Pizza 2.50/slice!  
Bring your $ Wed/Thurs  
and eat on Fridays, to be guaranteed a slice!

October 2019

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The parents that come out to the MHS PAC meetings are a very welcoming and friendly group of people who have very diverse backgrounds but one main interest...to make our school an even better place than it is now!! It was through the PAC that we were able to advocate to have our parking lot changed to be more safe and more efficient. If it wasn’t for the MHS PAC, the parking lot would probably still be dysfunctional and unsafe. The PAC also helps staff with hosting events like our Family Dances, the Ecology North Coffeehouse, and have even been known to make costumes for our concerts and display posters for educating our students about things like nutrition, bullying, screen time and keeping active.

NEW PARKING LOT: A SUCCESS!!!

It seemed like it took a very long time, but MHS finally got a renovation to it’s school parking lot and drop off. We are so happy with how well our community adapted to the changes! The first couple of days were a little confusing for everyone while we worked out the “bugs” but now everything is running a lot more efficiently. We are going to make a couple more little tweaks this weekend and it should be completed.

A huge thanks goes to the YK1 maintenance staff under Elvis Beaudoin’s direction as well as to Konge construction for getting everything done on the ground. Behind the scenes we absolutely need to acknowledge Tram Do, Ed Lippert, and Mike Gibbons for their support from YK1 District Office. From the City of Yellowknife we need to say a huge thank you to Wendy MacDonald and the Municipal Enforcement Division.

Reminder... any vaping products brought onto school property will be confiscated and disposed of. Depending on the situation, the student could be suspended out of school for several days. This includes the drops as well as the machines. Vaping is VERY dangerous for youngsters and is not permitted in or on our property.