



Principal's Message:

We are off to a fantastic start to the 2021-2022 school year! There is so much to celebrate already. Our amazing Grade 8 W.E.B. (Where Everybody Belongs) Leaders were trained this summer to warmly welcome and support our incoming Grade 6 students. Our Grade 6 students got to participate in W.E.B. Orientation so they could start out their school year confident and connected.

Our staff has been busy getting to know our students so that they can form strong relationships, learn about their dreams, address their needs, and celebrate their abilities. Thank you to our staff for helping our students feel a sense of safety, welcome, and belonging.

It has also been a true pleasure to see students engage in some of the activities that we missed last year. For instance, our gym and fields are filled with sports teams and intramurals. Thank you to all of our coaches! We see students and staff eating the delicious food provided in our breakfast program – thank you Mrs. Martens! We hear our student and staff rock bands as well as our concert bands playing. Our classrooms are an absolute bustle with amazing learning opportunities. What a wonderful feeling!

In this newsletter we will be celebrating some of the amazing things that have happened at Mount Slesse so far as well as give you information about upcoming events. For example, in the month of September we have the MSMS Meet & Greet, Terry Fox Cancer Research fundraising and run, and Truth & Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day learning and honoring events.

We already have so much to be thankful for. Thank you so much for being on this journey with us.

School Fees

School fees are due October 8. Any questions or concerns, please contact our Accounts Clerk: marlene_denny@sd33.bc.ca

Dress for the Weather

Students take their breaks and lunches outdoors. Please ensure your child is dressed for any weather. On sunny days, hats and sunscreen are recommended. On wet days, umbrellas, boots, and jackets are encouraged. On cold days, a warm jacket, toque, and gloves are needed.

We also encourage classes to be outside and active as much as possible; students should wear active-wear and shoes for activity. Feel free to send a change of clothing and/or footwear to store in their locker.



CALENDAR

- Sept. 21—PAC Meeting @ 9 am on Zoom
- Sept. 24—Terry Fox Run
- Sept. 29—Photo Retake Day
- Sept. 29— Orange Shirt Day
- Sept. 30— National Day for Truth & reconciliation (School Closed)
- Oct. 8— W.E.B. Ice Cream Social
- Oct. 8— Early Dismissal (11:30)
- Oct. 11— Thanksgiving (No School)
- Oct. 22— Pro-D Day (School Closed)

Masks

Please be sure that your student(s) are being sent to school with a mask every day.

A message from PAC

Hello Mt Slesse Families!

I'd like to take this opportunity to explain a little bit about what we do as a PAC, and to introduce you to our executive members. All Mt Slesse parents are members of the PAC, and we encourage you to join our monthly meetings, and get involved! As a middle school PAC, we do minimal fundraising, but we participate in various school activities (eg: handing out treats at the end of the Terry Fox Run, organizing the grade 8 celebration, etc.). We also decide how to allocate PAC funds to benefit the students & staff. We always try to be available to answer any questions you have (or direct you to someone with the answers), and we communicate parent concerns to the school administration. We do our best to communicate info to families, so if you're on Facebook, please like our page to see reminders of important dates, events, and volunteer opportunities: <https://www.facebook.com/mtslessepac>. You can reach us anytime via Facebook, or by email at mtslessepac@outlook.com.

One of the few fundraisers we do is our Coupon Book sale. These are on sale now for \$12 each, and order forms will be sent home through the classrooms very soon! (Please note: we can only accept cash or cheques made out to the PAC at this time, even though there are other payment options listed on order form.) We also have our first PAC meeting of the school year on Tuesday, Sept 21st at 9:00am via Zoom (see the link below). We invite you to join us so you can not only hear what the PAC is up to, but also to have your say, and to hear our principal, Mrs Wicker, report on what's going on in the school! Hope to see you there!

Click [here](#) for Zoom meeting link.

Meeting ID: 872 6552 9472

Passcode: 846723

Student Attendance

Regular attendance is closely monitored and is important to a student's success in school. Please remember to phone the school office (604-824-7481) with any absences or if your child will be late. If your child needs to leave the school early, please have him/her **bring a note to the office** as soon as they arrive at school. The office will then issue your child a dismissal slip. Thank you for your cooperation.

Breakfast Club

This year we are happy to provide any student coming to school in the morning that is hungry the chance to EAT BREAKFAST! The side Foods classroom door will be open to students starting at 8am in the morning, where



items will be available daily for those that would like to eat. We will also be providing take-away snacks for students that arrive to school late (offered outside the Foods classroom in the Cafeteria). This food is being offered free of charge to all students. If you know of an organization or business that would like to help us in this program through donations of food or money, please contact Mrs. Wicker or Mrs. Martens at the school (through phone or email listed on the School's website). Our goal is to try to get every child eating breakfast – we welcome you to be a part of it!

W.E.B. Events

Our 2021/22 version of the coveted W.E.B. shirts. The W.E.B. Crew for 2021/22 is excited to kick off this year and plan events again!

Our Grade 8 WEB Leaders have their next upcoming afterschool planning sessions on October 6 and October 18!

Our wonderful WEB Leaders are currently planning an autumn surprise for our Grade 6s, and we are welcoming back the WEB Ice Cream Social in early October!

The W.E.B. Crew cannot wait to celebrate back to school and all our successes during this season!



National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

On Thursday, September 30th, Mount Slesse Middle School will be closed for the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. This day serves as a means of bringing awareness to the colonial legacy of residential schools in Canada. We take this time to demonstrate our ongoing support and to honour residential school survivors, their families, and communities. We truly believe that educating our students about the history of residential schools in Canada is a critical part of advancing reconciliation processes. Students and staff are strongly encouraged to wear their orange shirts for our school's Orange Shirt Day on Wednesday, September 29th. We wear orange shirts to serve as a reminder that the impact of residential schools is still felt today and to commemorate Phyllis Webstad, who had her new orange shirt taken away on her very first day at residential school. As part of our learning, we will also be doing a story walk in the community on September 29th. This walk will allow students to actively express their feelings about the dark history of residential schools and pay homage to survivors through art and storytelling.



Fall Athletics

Mt. Slesse is currently offering Cross Country, boys and girls Volleyball and boys Soccer. Our grade 6 boys soccer will be starting shortly. All games and practice times will be posted on our school website under Athletics.

Slesse looks forward to an exciting return to school sports!

WEB News

At the beginning of this month, WEB leaders hosted our annual orientation and officially welcomed our grade sixes to the wolfpack. We played games, went on tours, and made new friends. Thank you to Ms. Savich and our grade eight leaders, we're looking forward to a year of WEB fun!

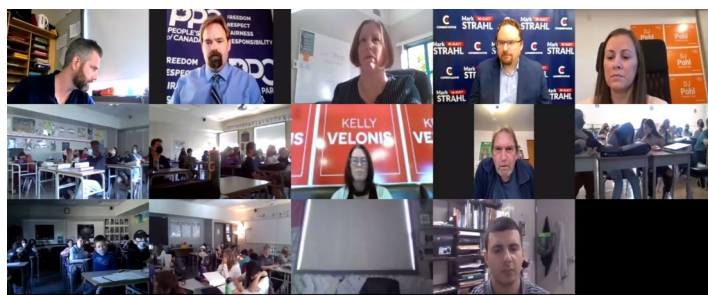


Election News

On Thursday, September 16th, Mr. McLeod hosted an all candidates meeting via Zoom in anticipation of our upcoming federal election. All of our local candidates participated and many major election issues were discussed. Students from across the district Zoomed in and were able to ask thoughtful and challenging questions of our candidates.

On Friday, September 17th, Mr. McLeod, along with some awesome student volunteers, hosted Mount Slesse's student vote. Every class participated and students were able to cast their votes and make their voices heard.

Thank you to Mr. McLeod for his hard work and thoughtful organization!



Thank you!

Mt. Slesse wanted to thank Staples and Murray Honda as well as the other businesses for donating school supplies to local children.

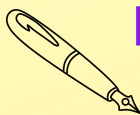


Core 607/608 at the Corn Maze





Library News



Polar Expressions Writing Contest



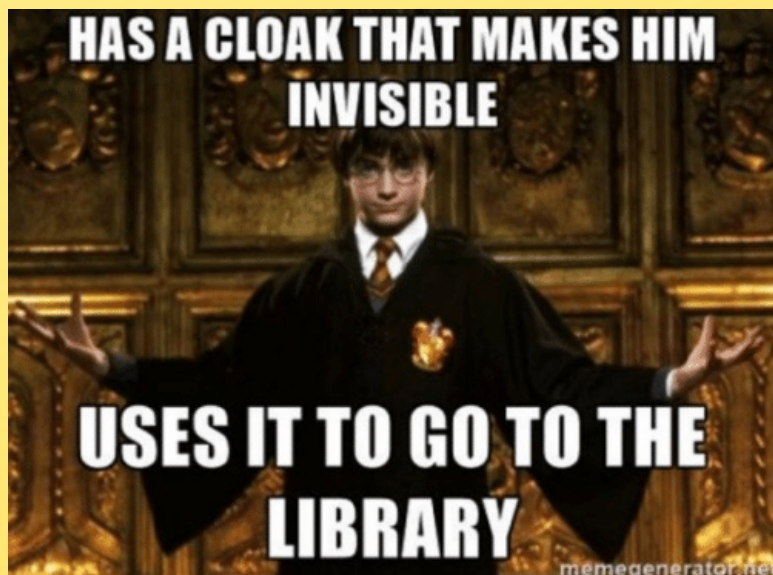
Each year Polar Expressions Publishing holds a writing contest for students across Canada. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 are given the opportunity to win cash prizes AND get their poem or story published in a professionally printed keepsake anthology. Entry forms are available from your teacher, in the library, or online at:

<https://www.polarexpressions.ca/>



Volunteers Welcome!

The MSMS Library is thrilled to invite adult volunteers back this year! All volunteers must complete a Criminal Record Check for our school and are required to sign in at the office for each visit. Please e-mail Mrs. Woodruff if you are interested in helping out in our library this year. laura_woodruff@sd33.bc.ca



Scholastic Book Fair

Mark your calendars for the MSMS Scholastic Book Fair!

Our book fair will run from
Oct. 28th to Nov. 4th

Check out this link for a sneak peak of what will be available:

<https://virtualbookfairs.scholastic.ca/pages/5147226>



GOT BOOKS?

MSMS students can get the books they want delivered to their CORE teacher!

Go to: destiny.sd33.bc.ca

- 1) Choose Mount Slesse Middle School
- 2) Log in. Your user name & password are the same as logging in to the school computers
- 3) Select the "Catalog" tab (top left)
- 4) Go to Destiny Discover (side menu)
- 5) Find a book with the Search bar (top) or by browsing
- 6) Click on a book to see more info or to place a "Hold"

Mrs. Woodruff will deliver the book to your classroom as soon as it is available.