



February / 2019

Twitter : @MPSSBlueDevil, @mpsslibrary, @krueger\_cathi, @steve\_burroughs

Instagram : @mckinnonparkathletics, @mckinnonparkfootball

Website: [www.granderie.ca/schools/mpss](http://www.granderie.ca/schools/mpss)



# MPSS NEWS



## **Message from the Former Principal Mr. MacDonald:**

It is hard to believe another semester has come to an end already. It has been another busy one, shared with much laughter, but also with many tears. The important thing was that we shared these times together and supported one another along the way. To all in the Blue Devil family, I wish you

good luck and success in the second semester and beyond. It has been my pleasure and honour to have served as your principal for the past three and half years. McKinnon Park Secondary School holds a special place in my heart – it is my adopted home where I was fortunate to teach and be a vice-principal for nearly fourteen years. As I continue in the next phase of my journey in life, I wish Mrs. Krueger all the best in her role as principal of MPSS and welcome Mr. Burroughs to his new position as vice-principal. I say goodbye to all of the colleagues that I have had the privilege to work with, and bid adieu to all of the students who have, throughout my career in education, taught me as much as I could ever teach them. Goodbye for now.

## **Snow Days Zone #2**

In the event of bad weather, information about school closings will be on the

following stations:

**820 CHAM**

**920 CHML**

**1150 CKOC**

**1380 CKPC**

**107.9 Y 108**

**106.7 CD**

**100.3 CKRZ**

You can also check the board website:

[www.granderie.ca](http://www.granderie.ca)

Look under transportation to see if there are any cancellations. The Board posts information by 6:30 am. Do not check too early!

If school transportation is cancelled then **SCHOOL is CLOSED** for the day!!

## **Dates of Interest**

Feb. 18—Family Day

Feb. 26—Grad Photo Retakes

Mar. 1 —Interim Reports

Mar. 7 — Parent Teacher Interviews

Mar. 11—15—March Break

Mar. 27 — Literacy Test (Grade 10)

Apr. 12—P.D. Day

Apr. 19—Good Friday

Apr. 22— Easter Monday

Apr. 26— Mid-Term Report Cards

May 20—Victoria Day

May 24—Prom

Jun. 14—Awards Assembly

Jun. 21—Instructional Day

Jun. 27—Commencement

## **Graduation Photos**



Attention Grads! Edge Imaging will be at our school on February

26th to take graduation photos and help you celebrate this moment! Sign up for your photo session online at [bookmygrad.ca](http://bookmygrad.ca). School Code MKI . If you

require more information, visit:

[edgeimaging.ca/graduation](http://edgeimaging.ca/graduation)

## **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 27, 2019. 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 2019-2020 school year.

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



### **Message from the Principal Mrs. Krueger:**

Another semester has come to an end. We have enjoyed many successes at MPSS this past semester, both academically and in our extra-curricular activities. 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 their progress. McKinnon Park Secondary offers many supports to our students to ensure that they reach their full potential, whether it be through extra time with their teachers, the After-School Homework Help, through our Student Success team or from our Learning Resource team. In addition, information and resources can be retrieved from our website at [www.granderie.ca/schools/mpss](http://www.granderie.ca/schools/mpss) on our Facebook page at McKinnon Park Secondary School or on our twitter @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. We say goodbye to our long time leader and Blue Devil, Mr. MacDonald, and thank him for his years of service. I look forward to continuing on at McKinnon Park as Principal and welcome our new Vice Principal, Mr. Burroughs, to the Blue Devil family. 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 destinations. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the school at 905-765-4466.



### **Message from the Vice Principal Mr. Burroughs:**

It is with great excitement that I join the McKinnon Park Secondary School community. I have heard wonderful things about MPSS and I am looking forward to working with students, staff and parents as your new vice principal.

I come from a diverse background in education. Born and raised in Australia, I began my career at a small coastal high school before travelling to Europe, where I taught in northern England. I returned to Australia and worked with students in grades 3-12 before moving to Canada. I have been with the Grand Erie District School Board for nine years now, working at Paris District High School and

Grand Erie Learning Alternatives. My work outside of the classroom includes coaching, mindfulness and wellness.

I'm anticipating many new adventures ahead. I hope to support staff and students so that they may be successful, to engage parents and the local community to strengthen school/home connections, and to nurture a school environment that supports learning and positive relationships. I believe success comes when people truly passionate about what they do, and the key is to be CARING enough to make the world a better place.

I've included our infographic showing how CARING people can be successful people. I hope you like it.

I would like to invite you to stop by my office and say hello. I can't wait to meet you and to see the amazing things we can achieve.

### **Smoke-Free Ontario Act: Changes Impact All Grand Erie Schools**

Last fall, the Government of Ontario passed the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, which prohibits smoking tobacco or cannabis as well as all vaping in public areas, including schools.

The new law specifically states that a person cannot smoke or vape in or around a school. This includes all indoor spaces and all outdoor areas like playgrounds and sports fields. It also prohibits smoking and vaping in public areas within 20 metres of the property line of a school or School Board facility. For reference, 20 metres equals 65 feet, or the approximate length of 1.5 school buses.

A person caught smoking or vaping in a prohibited area may be charged with an offence and subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 for a first offence, if convicted.

To assist Grand Erie with this change, the local Health Unit will be providing new signage for all schools and Board facility sites. Through our Public Health Nurses, education information will be available for those who are looking to quit smoking or vaping. The Board will also be removing all traditional smoking and vaping areas.

Understandably, this is a significant change that will require everyone's cooperation. We don't want to see anyone charged. Therefore, we're asking for your support and assistance in ensuring that everyone meets the requirements of this new law.

For more information on the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, visit: <https://bit.ly/2FGV4y5>.



C

CHOOSE CAREFULLY. You are free to choose but you're not free from the consequences of your choice.

A

BE ACCOUNTABLE. You are accountable for your behaviour and words. Accept the outcomes of your choices.

R

RESPECT OTHERS. Show respect to other people and their belongings. Above all else, be kind.

I

INSPIRE OTHERS. Be an example for others. Leaders don't create followers, they create other leaders.

N

NEVER GIVE UP. A mistake is a learning experience and a chance to get better. Aim high and dream big!

G

BE GENUINE. Be yourself, act with integrity, be honest and take care of yourself.

Successful people are caring people.



It's not too late. Buy your 2018-2019 yearbook today! School Cash Online: \$30



### Breakfast Nutrition Program

We are halfway through the school year and have been able to offer breakfast food to students every day of the week before class this year.

As a part of running this program, it is vital that we collect some community donations in order to keep the program running. Anyone who would like to contribute any dollar amount can do so with E-CASH online. It is labelled as Breakfast Program. Thanks again for your help!



The

New York trip

is right around the corner! The second installment of \$325 was due on Jan 18th and the third installment is due on Feb 26th (\$320). These payments are made online to E-Cash on our school website. Once these last payments are made, more information on the specifics of the trip will be dispersed.

## MPSS PRESENTS

### LORD OF THE PIES

Dinner & Show

Wednesday, February 20th 2019

\$15 per person

Dinner @ 6pm, Show to Follow

Tickets are available through school cash online

No Sales after Feb 15th.

Dinner will be Roast Beef on a Bun from

Jones Bakery



**FANSHAWE  
COLLEGE**

We are proud to once again offer a Dual Credit with Fanshawe College. There is no cost to the student, and in one class period they will receive the High School "M" level credit, and a full college credit. This college credit may be transferred to other colleges, and universities in Ontario! We also continue to offer the Specialist High Skills Major component that enables the student to receive industry specific training, certificates, and the opportunity to earn substantial scholarships! Grow with the Green Industries!



**EMPIRE**

Announcing a new opportunity for our students. McKinnon Park Secondary School and Empire Communities have formed a partnership that will provide our students the opportunity to earn Co-op credits while working on homes in the new Avalon community of Caledonia. Watch for this new program during the upcoming course selection process for the 2018/19 school year.



Did you know that the GEDSB offers senior French students the opportunity to earn a certificate of bilingualism? The DELF or the **Diplôme d'études en langue française** (Diploma in French Language Studies) is a certification of French-language skills awarded by the French

Ministry of Education. It is to prove the abilities of non-French candidates. DELF certificates do not expire. These certificates will look amazing on a resume! Good luck to the grade 12 French students who will be completing this test later this year!

### Students' Council

Students' council has been hard at work since September to ensure the success of our various events and fundraisers during this remarkably busy first semester. We started off the year with our annual Grade Nine Day where we hosted fun games for MPSS's newest additions, allowing them a chance to unwind and make new friends at the end of their first week. We even had guest speaker and magician Scott Hammell come to speak to our grade nines about getting involved! Our next September event was our annual pep rally leading up to High School Challenge night at the Caledonia Fair. At the pep rally, we kicked off the QSP Magazine and Cookie Dough Campaign. Thank you to everyone who took part in this fundraiser; your support keeps us going! In October, students' council organized a successful Harvest Moon Homecoming Dance with over 230 students in attendance, followed by a \$2 football game buyout the next day. Then, in November, we held 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-biting way to end the school day! Next came December, which definitely 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 Hollywood-themed Semi Formal), students built gingerbread houses, wrapped each other up like Christmas gifts, bid on unknown presents, and more. The 12 Days ended with a student vs. teacher basketball game, where, in an absolute fluke, the teachers 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 second annual Dinner Theatre with a performance from the drama club, a Dr. Suess-themed 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 semester two. Thank you for all your support this past semester!

Marisa Cerasoli,



This year EcoClub is organizing recycling of all types of used writing tools. Used up and empty markers, pens, mechanical pencils and highlighters can be placed in marked bins that are located in the resource room, art rooms and in other classrooms for proper recycling. Students can also earn volunteer hours by helping with recycling collection in the school. See Mrs.

Flowers for details.



**Accepted Items:**  
All plastic writing implements and their lids.  
  
Thank You  
From the Eco Club

### 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.

## COURSE SELECTION 2019-20

Grade specific workshops: Mon FEB. 11th thru FRI. FEB 22nd 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 request an appointment in guidance.*

LOGIN: CareerCruising Link @

<https://www2.careercruising.com/default/cplogin/ERIE>

2019 – 2020 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Select... **McKinnon Park**

**\*DUE DATE** (equal consideration date) for **SIGN-OFF SHEETS: Tues.FEB.26th.**

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



Homework help is available to **ALL** students on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays after school until 4:00 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 12th with Ms. Stubbs

## Homework Help



Time for some fun in the snow! On February 14th, the French department is taking a group of 20 students on a trip to St-Donat, Quebec; with Perspectives. We will be participating in an awesome French cultural program for 5 days. Students will engage in a variety of fantastique outdoor and cultural activities - tout en français!



### 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.



### 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.schoolcashonline.com](http://granderie.schoolcashonline.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 [schoolcashonline.com/Home/Support](http://schoolcashonline.com/Home/Support).

Please sign up today.



Make online payments with  
**SchoolCashOnline**

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

Register at [granderie.schoolcashonline.com](http://granderie.schoolcashonline.com)

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School Cash Simplified