



November / 2019



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# MPSS NEWS

## Message from the Principal

It has been a busy start to the semester, both academically and with extra-curricular activities. Mid-term reports were sent home with students earlier this month. Parents please spend some time with your M.P.S.S. student reviewing their report card and together discussing their achievement. Celebrate the successes that they have achieved and address the struggles that they may be facing. Use the feedback that was provided by teachers to develop a plan for further improvement during the remainder of the semester.

The administration and staff at M.P.S.S. are committed to creating a safe and caring school culture where students can achieve to their potential. That potential, we hope, will be one in which students achieve at the provincial standard of 70% or greater and not simply a passing grade. Very often achievement is correlated with attendance and finishing/submitting assigned work. Please reaffirm the importance of good attendance with your student and take an active role in their learning by finding out what assignments may be outstanding.

At the beginning of this month new legislation from the Ontario Government came into effect regarding cell phone use. The use of cellphones in the classroom does not change for Grand Erie Students with the new legislation. Cellphone use has always been for educational purposes only. Grand Erie educators and school administrators will continue to use their professional judgment when it comes to cell phone use in the classroom. Any misuse of cell phones will be addressed through progressive discipline, as it always has been. Please reinforce this message at home as many students are distracted by their cell phones and their learning may be negatively impacted.

To ensure student success, staff are always willing to support your student(s). After school **homework help** is available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the Learning Resource room from 3:00 to 4:30p.m. Parents are encouraged to participate in the school by attending School Council meetings, Parent-Teacher Interviews or the various school activities that are hosted by teams and clubs at M.P.S.S. All are welcome to attend our next school council meeting on January 20 at 6:30 in Library Seminar Room. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school at 905-774-4466. School information can also be obtained by viewing our social media links through our website at [www.granderie.ca/schools/mpss](http://www.granderie.ca/schools/mpss) or like us on Facebook at McKinnon Park Secondary School or on our twitter @krueger\_cathi.

### Dates of Interest

Dec 5—Christmas Plant Sale	Jan 30 & 31—P.D. Day	Apr 13—Easter Monday
Dec 5—Future Grade 9 Information Night	Feb 6—First Day Of Semester 2	Apr 27—Mid-Term Report Cards
Dec 12—Semi-Formal	Feb 7—Semester 1 Report Cards	Apr 24—P.D. Day
Dec 9-13—Graduation Photos	Feb 17—Family Day	May 7-Grade 7 Parent Night
Dec 19—Band Concert	Mar 6—Progress Reports	May 13-Blue & Gold Day for Future Gr. 9
Dec 20—Last Day Of Classes	Mar 12—Parent Teacher Interviews	May 18—Victoria Day
Jan 6—Welcome Back	Mar 16-20—March Break	May 22—Prom
Jan 23—Exams Begin	Mar 23—Classes Resume	Jun 11—Extra Curricular Banquet
	Mar 31—Gr. 10 Literacy Test	Jun 19—Exams Begin
	April 10—Good Friday	Jun 25—Commencement

## ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

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, the day that follows the absence. Please remember to include the reason for the absence in your message.

If your child needs to sign out throughout the day, please call the office or have him/her provide the office with a note **prior to 9:00am** so that a sign-out slip can be provided. This will minimize classroom interruptions.

## Snow Days Zone #2

In the event of bad weather, information about school closings can be found on the following websites.

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!!

[www.stsbhn.ca](http://www.stsbhn.ca) - School Transportation Services closures

[www.granderie.ca](http://www.granderie.ca) - Schools and Board Facility closures

**Grand Erie's Twitter Account (@GEDSB) and Facebook** - [www.facebook.com/GEDSB](http://www.facebook.com/GEDSB)

Closure information is also shared with local radio and television media.

The Board's Inclement Weather Policy can be found <https://bit.ly/2HoC1YX>

## Future Grade 9 Student and Parent Information Nights at Grand Erie

Preparing for secondary school is an exciting time! There are many decisions for students and their parents to make, including: which school to attend, what classes to take, and what extracurricular activities to join.

That's why Grand Erie District School Board has designed a series of information nights to help students and their families make the best possible choices. For the Full Schedule visit [Granderie.ca](http://Granderie.ca)

M.P.S.S. will be hosting Grade 9 Information Night & Open House December 5, 2019 From 6:30 to 8:30

Parents are invited to attend various schools to learn about specialized programming.



**It's not too late. Buy your 2019-2020 yearbook today! School Cash Online: \$30**

## Over 18 Students

By law, any student who is 18 years of age or older must give consent for any school related 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.

## Semester 1 Exams Schedule

Period 1 Exams January 23, 2020 9am-11am

Period 2 Exams January 24, 2020 9am-11am

Period 3 Exams January 27, 2020 9am-11am

Period 4 Exams January 28, 2020 9am-11am

Please note : No other classes are scheduled for remainder of the day

In the event a of a snow day occurring during the regular exam schedule, Jan 29th is also a scheduled exam day. Departure times for all Six Nations busing during exams is 12pm.

A huge thank you to all of the community members who have donated to our daily breakfast program. Milk, cereal, fresh fruit, cheese, muffins, and yogurt are just some of the items you have helped to provide. Any contributions are appreciated and we will continue to accept donations via cash online throughout the year.



# McKinnon Park

## Christmas Sale

December 5, 2019 6pm—8pm

**During Future Grade 9 Night Open House  
In the Greenhouse**

*Traditional Christmas plants and decorative indoor planters available*



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

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



### Come Exercise Blue Devils!

A busy life provides lots of excuses for skipping daily fitness activities, but we can help. 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. Please check in the gym office for more information.

## Bonjour!

### MPSS French students are heading to Quebec!

From February 12-16, 2020, students will be travelling to St-Donat, Quebec, a beautiful village in the heart of the Laurentians. Students will be immersed in a French environment and will participate in many "fantastique" activities such as skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, a French music workshop, a scavenger hunt in the village and so much more!

See Madame Clarke in room 2028 or email [wendy.clarke@granderie.ca](mailto:wendy.clarke@granderie.ca) for more information.



## Homework Help



Devils for Diversity will be starting our annual GIVING TREE warm clothing drive this month and into December. We collect new outerwear items to donate to a local charity for families in need.



Mittens, toques, scarves, snow pants, jackets, and boots of all sizes are needed. If you would like to donate, please leave items in the front office of the school, or feel free to donate to the GIVING TREE via Cash Online through the school website.

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!

Learning Services is also open most mornings before school begins and most lunch hours in order for students to use the computers, catch up on work, or study.

# McKinnon Park Secondary School

## Mathematics Department

### Extra Help

If you are having difficulties understanding concepts in math class it is best to get extra help as soon as possible.

Ask your teacher. You might have to book a time in advance depending on the teacher's schedule.

or

Access the online Homework Help Program if you are in grades 9 or 10. This free on-line site focuses on confidential one-on-one help in mathematics for students. It is available Sunday – Thursday from 5:30pm to 9:30 pm. This site can be accessed at:

<https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org>

or

Attend Homework Help after school in Room 1036 on Tuesdays/Wednesday/Thursdays until 4:30 pm.

or

If you are in grade 9, ask your teacher if they have access to IXL, an interactive website.

### Success In Math

Attend Classes.

Take complete notes.

Do your homework daily!

- Attempt all questions.
- Refer to your notes to model solutions.
- Check your answers to make sure you are practising the correct techniques and processes.

Ask questions in class.

Get extra help when needed.



### Math Contests

Contests provides students with a source of mathematics enrichment, to help develop problem solving skills and enables them to see how their mathematical skills compare to thousands of other students across Ontario and Canada. Rather than testing content, most of the contest problems test logical thinking and mathematical problem solving.

#### University of Waterloo

Registration with Fee payment is due on or before the date listed in the following table. Fees are not refundable.

Grade	Due Date	Fee (\$)
9	Feb 07	5
10	Feb 07	5
11	Feb 07	5
12	Mar 20	16

If you have any questions or are interested in participating in these contests please see Ms. Werezak in Room 2046 at lunch.



# Attention Grade 12 Students Applying to Post Secondary



## **January 15, 2020**

Deadline to submit your completed application to the OUAC.

**Note:** The OUAC still processes applications received after this date and distributes them to the universities; however, specific university deadlines will apply. The initial application includes all final grades from completed Grade 11 and 12 courses and a list of all current-year courses in progress.

## **January 23, 2020**

Target date for Ontario universities to receive all application data and grades from the OUAC for applications submitted by January 16, 2019.

## **February 4, 2020**

Recommended last date for students to submit university and program changes and additional active choices to the OUAC to be considered for early admission. **Note:** This is a recommended deadline. The OUAC will still accept and process application changes at any time.

## **February 28, 2020**

Target date for Ontario universities to receive all final first-semester grades and current full-year grades for 4U/M courses from the OUAC.

## **May 5, 2020**

Target date for Ontario universities to receive second-semester midterm grades and interim grades for full-year courses from the OUAC. Grades the OUAC receives earlier than the deadline will be sent to Ontario Universities when received.

## **May 27, 2020**

The latest date all high school applicants can expect a response from an Ontario university. This includes an offer of admission; a refusal; or a deferral.

## **June 1, 2020**

The earliest date an Ontario high school student may be required to respond to an Ontario university offer of admission and give a financial commitment. (e.g., registration deposit, residence deposit, etc.). All other admission-related elements, including scholarships, other forms of student assistance or financial incentives, and offers of residence are considered part of the offer of admission. Therefore, a student may accept these other offers before June 3, 2019, but Ontario universities will not compel a student in any way to make a decision earlier than this date.

## **July 13, 2020**

Target date for the OUAC to send all **remaining** final grades to the universities. The OUAC will attempt to contact all schools that have not provided their grades.

## **Early June to August 2019**

The [Admission Information Service \(AIS\)](#) allows you to determine which Ontario universities still have spots available in first-year undergraduate programs.

## **February 1, 2020: Equal Consideration Date**

Apply on or before this date in order to receive equal consideration for admission to programs starting the following fall. After this date, colleges consider applicants on a first-come, first-served basis until programs are full.

**Note that applications to [Highly Competitive Programs](#) must be received by this date in order to be considered. As these programs receive a high volume of applicants, all seats may be filled by February 1.**

Applicants are encouraged to complete their applications well before the Equal Consideration Date, as website volumes on the online application are at their highest at this time.

Many programs continue to accept applicants after February 1. Use our [Find a Program](#) tool at any time to find programs that are still open.

## **February 1, 2020: Earliest Offer Date**

This is the earliest date that colleges may begin to send offers of admission to programs for the upcoming academic year. Offers will continue to be issued until programs are filled or wait-lists are established.

## **May 1, 2020: Deadline to Confirm Offers of Admission**

Applicants must confirm their acceptance of an offer of admission by this date. Log in to your [ontariocolleges.ca](#) account to [confirm your offer](#). Colleges may extend offers of admission after this date. Each college will set the deadline to confirm offers made after May 1, and this deadline will be communicated to you with your offer.

## **Mid-June 2020: Tuition Deposit Due at the Colleges**

The colleges require payment of a tuition deposit in mid-June to secure your spot in your program. Each college sets its own tuition deposit amount and payment deadline. This information will be communicated to you by the college.

OSAP, or the Ontario Student Assistance Program, is a financial aid program funded by both the provincial and federal governments that helps you with the costs of postsecondary education.



Funding through OSAP includes:

**Grants** – money that you don't have to repay.

**Loans** – money that you will have to repay when you are finished school.

OSAP considers many different factors when determining financial need including:

- Your educational costs (tuition, fees, books, whether you are living away from home, travel costs, where you are studying, etc.)
- The financial resources you have available to contribute towards your own postsecondary education (family income, savings, scholarships, etc.)

Watch this video for an overview of the application process – how to register, apply, get your estimate, provide your supporting documents, check your status and get your funding.

[www.ouac.on.ca/applying-for-osap/](http://www.ouac.on.ca/applying-for-osap/)

Learn more about OSAP terminology:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/learn-about-osap>

Estimate how much OSAP you may be eligible to receive by using the OSAP calculator:

[https://osap.gov.on.ca/Aid\\_Estimator](https://osap.gov.on.ca/Aid_Estimator)



### **Scholarships & Bursaries Websites**

There are many organizations and companies that offer scholarships, awards and prizes, often based on competition. You must actively seek out and apply for these awards. The internet is a great source of information – do your research and remember to apply early.

[scholarshipscanada.com](http://scholarshipscanada.com)  
<http://www.canlearn.ca>  
<https://yconic.com>

Note: Please register on these websites with your parents to avoid any unsolicited contact from a third party (ie: Visa)

### **Financial Aid from Colleges & Universities**

You can check with the college or university you have applied to and research what financial aid programs they offer. You could be eligible for Bursaries, Scholarships, work-study programs, or summer employment opportunities. Contact the school directly for further information.

<http://www.electronicinfo.ca/scholarships>,  
<http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/colleges/paying-for-college>

### **Renewable vs Non-Renewable Scholarships**

A renewable scholarship is awarded for more than 1 year. Each year, the recipient must meet the university's stated criteria to continue receiving the scholarship.

A non-renewable scholarship is awarded for 1 year only. In some cases, you can re-apply for subsequent years; in other cases, you may not be permitted to re-apply.

### **Employment/Club Membership Scholarships**

Look into scholarships offered by community groups and local organizations that you or your family belong to as these groups often have special scholarships available only to members and their families.

**For example: 4H, Rotary, Legion, Rangers, Hockey, Lions Club**

Likewise, ask your parents and family about any financial support programs that may be offered through their workplace. Many companies provide scholarships to employees and their families.

**For example: Unions for steelworkers, teachers, first responders**

### **MPSS Graduation Scholarships**

All **MPSS graduates** can apply for a variety of scholarships provided by our school and our local community. We offer subject specific academic awards, athletic awards as well as citizenship/ leaderships awards. Students can apply for these awards at the graduation meeting that is held every January by the graduation committee.

### **Self Funded**

It's a good idea to save money from any part time or summer jobs to help pay for your education. Another option to consider is investing savings through a bank/financial institution – so that money can earn interest – if you plan to attend college or university in the future.

ie: A Registered Education Savings Plan (**RESP**) is an investment vehicle used by parents to save for their children's post-secondary education in Canada. The principal advantages of RESPs are the access to the Canada Education Savings Grant (**CESG**) and a source of tax-deferred income.

