

MORRIS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2011

VISITOR SIGN-IN

In an effort to continue to provide a safe and secure learning environment for your children and a safe work environment for staff, we are asking all people who come to the school to please stop by the office to sign in and to get a visitor's pass to be worn while in the building. Thank you very much for your cooperation. If you have any questions please contact me anytime at 746-2612 ext. 223.

Mr. Darren Skog

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR NOTES

- There is a **new website**, developed by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, called **textED.ca** that educates teens on how to use technology respectfully. Face book and cell phones allow our youth to connect with each other in amazing and positive ways; however, when technology is misused, disrespected, or abused it can lead to difficult situations and serious consequences. This site contains interactive games, safety tips, contests, and Q&A for kids who are being bullied online. I encourage parents to pay particular attention to the acronymic section; though it does not contain all of the more negative texting terms such as POS (parents over shoulder) it is a good start in learning the language. Technology is great as long as it does not purposely hurt others.
- **The Early Admission** application deadline for the University of Manitoba is February 18, 2011 and the University of Winnipeg is March 1, 2011. Information is available in the guidance office as well as online at each university. **Apply early** in order to be considered for **University Entrance Scholarships!**

EMAIL ADDRESSES

We are asking for all parents who have email addresses to please notify us ASAP of them - we want to have an updated data base of these addresses in the event that we need to evacuate come spring time - this will help us with trying to keep communication lines open at this time. Please email your address to Tara at tbraun@rrvvsd.ca.

VALENTINE'S DANCE

The grade 7/8 students will be having a Valentine's Dance on February 4th. Tickets are \$10 and are on sales from January 17 - 31. The dance is from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. with the doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Ticket includes chocolate fountain with all the fixings and all guests are automatically eligible for a variety of door prizes.

6th ANNUAL MAVERICK WINTER FUN DAY

On Friday, February 11th Morris School will be having its 6th annual Maverick Winter Fun Day. There will be a number of activities planned for the kids throughout the day. Grades 7-12 students who wish to, have the opportunity to go the Holiday Mountain snowboarding or skiing - forms are in the office. Money due by the end of Thursday, January 27th. If there are any parents wanting to help out during the day please call Corinna at 746-2612 ext. 234.

MILK TICKETS FOR SALE

Just a reminder to parents of grades 1-6 students that sheets of milk tickets can be purchased at the office for a cost of \$10 - this gives you 10 tickets.

WEDNESDAY WALKING CLUB FOR GRADES 1-4

The Grades 1-4 Walking Club have kept going over these cold winter days. Although the number of walkers/runners is lower, there have been several diehards. With indoor recess we moved into the gym for Walking Club this past week. Congratulations to Troy McDougall. He completed his 20 laps and received his Toe Token.

Thank you to the grade 5/6 students who have been helping out.

K-6 BIRTHDAY PARTY INVITATIONS

Birthdays are important for children, but there have been some concerns regarding invitations in schools. To avoid hurt feelings of children, please email, phone or mail invitations to out-of-school parties from home. We would greatly appreciate if you did not ask teachers to pass out birthday invitations. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION NIGHT

There will be a Kindergarten Registration night on February 24TH at 6:30 in the Kindergarten Room. You can take this time to meet Ms Popovits, the kindergarten teacher and to register your child for the upcoming school year. Your child must be 5 by December 31, 2011 in order to register. A birth certificate is required.

A Kindergarten Information Night will be held in the spring. A date for this has yet to be set.

MAVERICK CURLING

The Morris Maverick Curling teams consist of the following this year:

Senior Boys: Danny Braun, Travis Dreger, Cody Catellier, Matt Marion, Tyler Hesford

JV Boys: Chris Dominguez, Corey Mazinke, Nolan Hildebrand, Kaelan Linklater-Anderson

Senior Girls: Taylor Braun, Courtnie Kehl, Lauren Wiebe and Sabrina Janke

All three teams have participated in the qualifying Step 1 and Step 2 bonspiels that were held in Winkler this year. All teams have done very well and have shown considerable improvement throughout their very short season. Good Job!!

The Senior boys have qualified to attend the Zone play-off bonspiel on February 11 & 12 being held in Portage la Prairie. Congratulations and good luck boys!!

HOCKEY ACADEMY

Hockey Canada Skills Academy Being Proposed For The Fall Of 2011

In an effort to continue to offer exciting and innovative programming for our students here at Morris School we are in the process of applying for a Hockey Canada Skills Academy to commence in September of 2011. The school will be looking to implement programs in Grades 5/6, 7/8 and also two, for credit, courses in the high school. Details about the program and further information will be shared at a parent information night that is being planned for February 16th, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the school band room. We will be sending you an invitation to join us at the school for a night of information sharing and discussion. Invitations to join us will be mailed home in the next week. Please watch your home mail for the invitation. All parents of children currently in Grades 4-11 will be invited to attend this information sharing session.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the school at anytime.

Mr. Darren Skog

I LOVE TO READ MONTH

February is "I Love To Read" month. Although students are encouraged to read all year long - there is extra encouragement throughout February. One activity that is done throughout the month is "Stop, Drop and Read" !!

WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE MELISSA STEELE TO VISIT MORRIS

Melissa Steele, who is the Winnipeg Public Library's Writer-in-Residence, will be making a trip to Morris for a two hour Writer's Workshop. This event is being co-hosted by the Valley Regional Public Library and Morris School. Melissa will be at the Morris School on Thursday, February 10th between 11 and 1 p.m. Any members of the public or school students who are interested in more information should contact Dianne DeKezel at 204-746-2612 ext. 223. Melissa is the 21st Writer-in-Residence at the Winnipeg Public Library. She won the John Hirsch Award for Most Promising Writer back in 1999. She has taught Creative Writing at the University of Manitoba, acted as a mentor with the Manitoba Writer's Guild and worked as a radio journalist. She is the author of two short story collections from Turnstone Press, one of which was the winner of the Margaret Laurence Award in 2006. This is an opportunity to meet and work with a published writer. There will be no cost to the event. Participants must bring a bag lunch and pre-registration is required as there is a limit to the number of people who can attend the workshop.

STAFFING CHANGES

We would like to mention a couple of staffing changes that have or will be occurring in the school recently. Ms Stephanie Allison, who covered for Mrs. Susan Wedel while on maternity leave, was done her term at the end of December - Welcome back Mrs. Wedel to the grade 5/6 classroom!!

Mrs. Bonnie Dreger is taking a leave of absence for the second semester - she is being replaced by Ms. Karen Johnson. She will be teaching English, Art and Drama. She has been involved in the Arts for many years and began drawing and playing piano around the age of five. My interest continued and I decided to pursue a Fine Arts degree at the University of Manitoba. She also continued playing music and learned to play guitar while in high school. Ms. Johnson will be offering guitar lessons after school for anyone who would like to learn to play. She is looking forward to working with the staff and students at Morris School.

GRADES 1-6 ACTIVITY HOUR

Just a reminder to parents that Mrs. Bially is running an activity hour Tuesdays and Thursdays in the early years gym from 3:30 - 4:30. There are different sporting activities and games played throughout this hour. Grades 1-3 is Tuesdays and Grades 4-6 is held on Thursdays.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 4 - Grade 7 & 8 Valentine's Day Dance
- February 4 - Maverick Hockey -GVC @ Morris - 7:30 P.M.
- February 8 - Grade 7/8 Curling Funspiel
- February 8 - Varsity Basketball - Vita @ Morris - 6:00 P.M.
- February 9 - Maverick Hockey -PCI @ Morris - 7:30 P.M.
- February 9 - Grade 7 & 8 Basketball - Starbuck @ Morris - 4:00 P.M.
- February 10 - Melissa Steele visits Morris School
- February 10 7 & 8 Basketball - St. Malo @ Morris - 4:00 P.M.
- February 11 - Maverick Winter Fun Day
- February 11 - Ski/snowboard trip to Holiday Mountain
- February 14 - Happy Valentine's Day
- February 15 - Varsity Basketball - RVS @ Morris
- February 16 - Hockey Academy Information Meeting-7:00 P.M.-School Theatre
- February 17 - Grade 7 & 8 Divisional Curling Bonspiel
- February 18 - NO CLASSES - Divisional In-service
- February 21 - NO CLASSES - Louis Riel Day
- February 22 - Varsity Basketball Semi-Finals
- February 24 - Kindergarten Registration Night - 6:30 - Kindergarten Room
- February 24 - Varsity Basketball Finals