



MILES

Macdonell Admin Bulletin

FEBRUARY 2009

**NO PARKING AND NO STOPPING OF VEHICLES
ROCH STREET AT
MILES MACDONELL
COLLEGIATE**

Greetings from Administration

Today your sons and daughters will be receiving the third report card of the 2008-2009 school year. We appreciate the effort and dedication given to their studies and applaud their success.

As we begin our second semester of study, I encourage all of our students to continue to focus on their work and to concentrate on doing their best. Our year end examinations are four and one half months away.

During this past semester the staff of Miles Macdonell Collegiate have been working on the priorities of the 2008-2009 school year. We have penned a revised Mission Statement that, we feel, encompasses what we are about here at MMC.

We have also refined our Honour Roll and Miles Macdonell Collegiate Awards of Recognition criteria.

One of the major priorities is our continued study of Assessment practices. This past fall, we have defined our Assessment Beliefs, Strategies and Practices. You will find updates on these three areas in our newsletter. I invite you to read about them.

We have had the opportunity to meet with grade 9 students from Munroe Junior High, John Henderson Junior High, John Pritchard Junior High and Robert Andrews Junior High and on February 11 we will tour students from Chief Peguis Junior High as they decide upon the programs of senior year schools. We will hold two orientation meetings for parents of grade 9 students and we welcome parents to contact us if they require further information.

Wednesday, February 18 - Grade 10 International Baccalaureate

Tuesday, February 24 - Grade 10 Regular, French Immersion and Vocational Programs

Both Open Houses will begin at 7:00 p.m. in our theatre.

Referencing the in house registration for our present grades 10 and 11 students, we will begin the discussions with the students in February. Handbooks and applications will be sent home with our students on Tuesday, February 10, 2009. We hope to complete this registration process by the beginning of March.

Please take time to review our MMC Website. Our teacher portals are almost ready to go live.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, I would invite you to contact your son/daughter's teacher advisor, the vice principals or myself.

- V. Laurie

As of late we have been receiving an increasing number of phone calls from our immediate community referencing vehicles stopped and or parked in front of their properties. This creates a major concern for vehicles either to exit private driveways or to drive on Roch Street in front of the school.

Please note that on Roch Street between Kimberly Avenue and Bronx Avenue, there is to be neither vehicles stopped even temporarily to drop off students, nor parked between 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and between 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

There is a two hour parking zone on Roch Street between Bronx Avenue and Chelsea Avenue between 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. but no stopping after this time.

We appreciate your attention to these requirements and encourage you to drop off or pick up students on the side streets neighbouring the school.

PARENT COUNCIL

Our next Parent Council meeting will be:

**Tuesday, February 17, 2009
Library – 7:00 p.m.**

Presentation: Divisional Policy on Pandemic Preparations

All are welcome and we hope to see you there.

CHANGES IN REPORTING TO PARENTS FOURTH REPORT CARD TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009

Please note that you will see some changes in the fourth report card of the 2008 – 2009 school year. These changes are the result of division wide work and research on the reporting of student learning. The intent of this is to provide a more accurate rendering of student achievement and evidence of learning and reaching the learning outcomes of the curriculum.

As many of you are aware the River East Transcona School Division, in partnership with Manitoba Education Citizenship and Youth, has been reviewing assessment practices. Changes to our reporting of learning to parents are already in place in the Early and Middle years schools. The process of addressing the newest research on assessment and reporting practices is now reaching the Senior Years level.

Providing a percentage grade in the interim report (the first report of a course of study) is not always a valid indication of achievement as often, there has not been sufficient time to gather reliable evidence of learning.

Therefore, in this Interim Report Card, due March 24, 2009, the indication of student learning will have four pieces of reporting information. There will be an Academic Indicator and a Student Engagement Indicator. There will also be anecdotal comments about both the academics and student engagement. This interim report card will not have a percentage mark (with the exception of those courses that run all year, ie International Baccalaureate Courses).

The second report card of May 12, 2009 and the final report card in June 2009 will record students' performance with percentages.

This is the rubric that teachers will use in reporting student learning on March 24, 2009.

For Academics:

CN (Consistently)

- This means that the student consistently demonstrates understanding of the key concepts, consistently is able to apply knowledge and understanding to new contexts and consistently meets academic outcomes independently with teacher monitoring.

FR (Frequently)

- This means that the student frequently demonstrates understanding of key concepts, frequently is able to apply knowledge and understanding to new contexts, and frequently meets academic outcomes independently with minimal teacher support.

OC (Occasionally)

- This means that the student occasionally demonstrates understanding of key concepts, is occasionally able to apply knowledge and understanding to new contexts and occasionally meets academic outcomes independently while requiring ongoing teacher support.

HN (Not Yet)

- This means that the student does not yet demonstrate understanding of key concepts, is not yet able to apply knowledge and understanding to new contexts, and does not yet meet academic outcomes, independently but rather requires significant teacher support.

For Student Engagement:

ES (Established)

- This means that the student demonstrates an interest in learning, in exploring key concepts and investigating new contexts. The student is engaged in the learning process, shows a willingness to question and to discuss and to take risks. The student will independently set specific goals and will implement detailed plans for improvement. The student is prepared for class and submits tasks on time.

DE (Developing)

- This means that the student demonstrates an interest in learning in applying key concepts to familiar contexts. The student is somewhat engaged in the learning process, showing some willingness to question, to discuss and take risks. With support the student will set specific goals and will implement plans for improvement. The student is usually prepared for class and most tasks are submitted on time.

EM (Emerging)

- This means that the student demonstrates a beginning interest in learning, attempting to apply key concepts to familiar contexts. The student is beginning to engage in the learning process and shows a developing willingness to question, to discuss and to take risks. With support, the student is beginning to set some goals and implement basic plans for improvement. The student is not consistently prepared for class and tasks are frequently submitted late.

It is our hope that this new interim report card will offer valuable feedback to both the student and parent to share at the semester 2 parent/student/teacher conferences on Wednesday evening, April 8th and on Thursday afternoon, April 9th.

If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to contact your child's teacher advisor, Mr. Finlay or Mr. Giasson, the vice principals or myself.

- V. Laurie

Check Out The Miles Macdonell Website! www.mmc.retsd.mb.ca