



'We are nearer to Spring  
Than we were in September,'  
I heard a bird sing  
In the dark of December.

- Oliver Herford

# MILES

Macdonell Newsletter

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## Principal's Message

With the Christmas break less than two weeks away and the close of semester only five school weeks from now it seems that this new school year is moving at a very fast pace. When you stop to think about all of the activities in which our students have involved themselves or are planning prior to the close of 2007, one realizes that Miles Macdonell Collegiate's student body is a collection of extraordinary young men and women, committed to academic excellence and community involvement.

Congratulations are extended to our volleyball teams for a great season of play. Our Junior Boys Varsity team captured the provincial title and our Senior Boys Varsity Team were provincial finalists. As well, our improv groups are practising for tournaments in the new year, our cosmetology and nail technology students ran a most successful fundraiser for cancer with their "Cure-a-Thon" on November 22nd, our alumni group presented

"Sisters of the Holy Rock" on November 25th, our Grade 12 leadership students and the Physical Education Department sponsored an Elementary Schools Volleyball Tournament on November 28th. The school production of "FAME" ran for three evenings and two matinee performances to enthusiastic crowds and our students "carolled" at a neighbourhood grocery store. And coming up, we have our Christmas Concerts on Wednesday, December 12th, and on Thursday, December 13th, as well as "Culturama" featuring our first "Bôte à Chansons" on Wednesday, December 19th. Our Key Club students will be preparing a Christmas Dinner at Crossways in Common on Monday, December 17th, our Environment and Social Awareness Group and Student Council will be hosting our own community Seniors' Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 18th and our student council will be holding our second school dance of the year, "our Semi Formal", on Wednesday, December 19th.

Our first day back to classes in 2008 will be Monday, January 7th. The school examinations are scheduled for the end of that month but the provincial examinations begin almost immediately upon the students' return. Please check this newsletter for a schedule of these exams.

On behalf of the staff and students, we wish you a most relaxing and special holiday season. All students in the River

East Transcona School Division will be dismissed one hour prior to the regular dismissal time on Friday, December 21st. At Miles Macdonell Collegiate, the school buses will pick up students at 2:15pm.

If at any time you have questions or concerns, I invite you to contact your son or daughter's teacher advisor, Mr. Land, Mr. Giasson or myself.

Seasons' greetings, and enjoy the holidays.

- V. Laurie

## PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Our last Parent Council meeting was held on November 14th. Our special guest was Ms. Betty Anne Turner from the Manitoba Education Citizenship and Youth School Support Unit. She presented to our council an overview of Bill 13 - "Appropriate Educational Programming".

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 8th, 2008. Our guest will be Ms. Wendy Henriksen, counsellor at Miles Macdonell Collegiate, who will address post-secondary school transitions and post-secondary career studies.

We will meet at 7:00pm in the school library, and hope to see you there.

Principal Ms. V. Laurie  
Vice-Principals Mr. B. Land  
Mr. J. Giasson

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## International Education "Home Stay"

Are you looking for a way to spice things up? Do you want to learn more about another culture?

The River East Transcona School Division offers an International Education Program specifically for students from other countries that wish to complete a portion of their studies in Canada. We are currently seeking Homestay families who would be willing to share their home with an international student during his or her studies with us.

Demonstrating how to wear a toque, explaining cultural similarities and differences and giving midnight hugs at the airport are all a part of being a Homestay family.

Our Homestay Program for junior and senior high school students as well as upper elementary aged students will allow you to do just that! In addition, your own family will have the opportunity to introduce an international student from another country to Canadian life and develop a lifelong, international friendship.

Open your doors to an international student to share your own culture and learn about another!

If you would like to learn more about hosting an international student, please call Ms Cheryl Buhler, Homestay Coordinator, at 667-7130 x 2209 or e-mail her at [homestay@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:homestay@retsd.mb.ca). You can also view our Program website at [www.intl.retsd.mb.ca](http://www.intl.retsd.mb.ca).

## MMC Alumni About Us

### Objectives

- To serve its members and Miles Macdonell Collegiate by serving the alumni of the collegiate.
- To generally promote the image of Miles Macdonell Collegiate in the community and specifically through programs to facilitate the relationship between the school and its alumni, commonly known as "friendraising", in order to promote a continuing affiliation with the school.
- To communicate with all interested alumni to promote a continuing affiliation with the school.
- To advise the school on matters of interest of the alumni.
- To facilitate fundraising among the alumni to enhance the scholarship fund established by the 50th Anniversary Committee.

The Miles MacDonell Collegiate Alumni Association has made many contributions to the school and the students since its formation. As a result of the scholarship fund, 14 Miles Mac students have received a total of \$16,500.00 towards their post secondary education since 2002. The Association has provided \$950.00 towards the Multi Media Department, which has been used to provide awards for outstanding students. At the time of the creation of the Association in 2002, the school's Music Department received \$5,000.00 and a total of \$2,500.00 was given to the school to build a new sports case to hold the many trophies and awards won by the school over the years. The EAL (English as Additional Language) Students have received new benches in their area of the school at a cost of \$500.00. For the school's archives two binders of historical articles detailing the school's history were donated. Finally the Alumni Association has provided a grant of \$500.00 towards the cost of starting a Miles Mac literary magazine.

In total the Miles MacDonell Collegiate Alumni Association has provided a total of \$27,709.10 to the school and its students since the formation of the Association

following the 50th Anniversary Reunion in 2002.

### Board of Directors

Included are Elected Officers, Chairs and Directors.

- Honorary Chair Darlene Lindsay
- Honorary Scholarship Fund Chair Bob Kozminski
- Chair Ronald N. Storozuk
- Vice-Chair and 60th Anniversary Co-chair Jim Smith
- Treasurer Leanne Slobodian
- Secretary Maureen Silk
- 60th Anniversary Co-chair Brenda McConaghy
- Other Directors: Susan Tighe, Shelly Makus, Jim Atkin, Lorrie Rogalka, Donna Cudmore, Gina Staples, Ian Martens and Principal Vivien Laurie.

## Cure-A-Thon Success!

On November 22, the Cosmetology department hosted another successful Cure-a-Thon. Seventy-one students provided haircures and manicures to 103 clients resulting in a \$1500.00 donation to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Congratulations and thanks to all who came out and supported this great day!

### Volunteers Needed

Kildonan Personal Care Centre is looking for volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering in the recreation department assisting with regularly scheduled events, outings, special events or meal assistance please contact the Recreation Manager at 334-4633 ext. 310 or by email at [carolynfenny@cplodges.com](mailto:carolynfenny@cplodges.com)

VISIT THE MMC WEBSITE



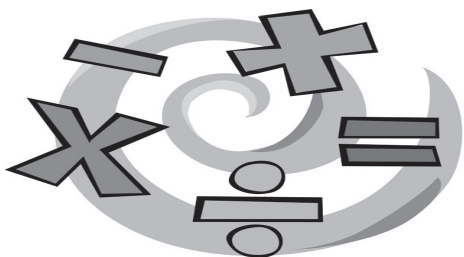
<http://www.mmc.retsd.mb.ca>

## French Improv

The French Improv team hosted it's first tournament this year welcoming Collège Jeanne-Sauvé, Collège Lorette and Collège St.Norbert to our school. There were some really close matches and Miles Mac fought hard to win over the home crowd. Even though the MMC French improv team this year had only one returning member from last year, the new talent rose up to the occasion. This new team ended up taking the first place trophy in this tournament. A special individual mention is made to our team captain Lia Zarrillo who took away a trophy for Star of the tournament. A special thanks to all members of the team present: Lia Zarrillo, Allanah Smith, Mike Gallager, Sam Boyce, Ryan Smith and Amelia Maclean. Finally thanks also to M. Lachance for providing the music for the afternoon. Look for great things from us in the future. Team coach: Mr. Eric Miron.

## From the Math Corner

Did you know... how Google got its name? Google derived its name from the word "googol", a term coined by then nine-year-old Milton Sirota, nephew of the American mathematician Edward Kasner. The story goes, Kasner had asked his nephew to invent a name for a very large number - ten to the power of one hundred (the numeral one followed by 100 zeros), and Milton called it a googol. The term was later made popular and in Kasner's book, *Mathematics and the Imagination*, which he co-authored with James Newman. Later, another mathematician invented the term "googolplex", which represents ten to the power of a googol - a substantially larger number. This was the answer to the final Jeopardy question last week... Math is everywhere!



## Priority Team Updates

### Technology for Today's Teaching

It is the initiative of the TTT committee to examine how technology is being used within our school in accordance with divisional policy and provincial guidelines. The committee endeavours to establish meaningful professional development opportunities for staff as well as advocate appropriate and worthwhile practice within MMC. The committee is comprised of approximately twenty staff members with varying levels of technical expertise. Our large and diverse membership represents all curricular areas within the school. Educational technology, especially the use of computers and computer peripherals has fast become an integral part of school life. While computer technology is ubiquitous for today's learners, the integration of technology into well established curricular areas can be challenging for staff. The TTT committee exists to help overcome the challenges faced while adopting educational technology. The committee will be providing support and encouragement with the goal of enhancing both teaching and learning with technology.

### Assessment

The focus of this committee is to review the provincial and divisional assessment initiatives and work toward their further implementation here at MMC. The committee is comprised of fifteen staff members. Representation comes from across the curricula and a variety of teaching experiences. Current initiatives include deciphering the directives within the various documents and preparing for staff inservicing and department implementation. The committee is excited to be able to add to the already wonderful programming at Miles Macdonell Collegiate.

### Positive School-Wide Behaviour

The positive school-wide behaviour committee is responsible for the creation of a comprehensive model of behavioral expectations at Miles Macdonell Collegiate.



The committee is presently drafting a survey to collect data on both student and staff perceptions and will access this data to identify any areas of concern. It is the goal to then make recommendations to respond to these areas. The committee has already looked at some beginning strategies for dealing with these "hot spots", and commenced development of the appropriate survey instruments for staff, students, and parents.

## RETSD Deals With Threatening Messages

No doubt you are aware that threatening messages, usually scrawled on washroom walls, have been discovered by administrators in a number of schools in Winnipeg, including some in River East Transcona School Division.

We take these incidents very seriously. We immediately call the police and work with them as they conduct their investigation. Together, we determine appropriate action.

It is worth noting that as of Nov. 7, 2007, police have charged six Winnipeg students, ages 13 to 18, with uttering threats and mischief under \$5,000. Offending students in RETSD will also face severe consequences, including lengthy suspensions or expulsion from their school.

As parents and guardians, you can be assured we will always send a letter home informing you when a threat has been discovered in your child's school. If a specific date was identified in the threat, it will be included in the letter.

The safety of our students is always our highest priority. Together, we must work to ensure our schools continue to be safe places for all members of our community.



## **BUCKEYES SPORTS**

### **MMC Girls Curling**

Due to much interest this year Miles Mac was lucky enough to field 2 girls' teams! And that's what we did, making this year in girls curling one of our strongest, not to mention fun.

We proudly introduce our Premier Team, D'Arcy Maywood (skip), Laura Budowski (third), Lynele Adams (second), Julie Oryniak (lead), and Tasha Denyer (fifth). All of these girls have exceptional curling experience and a strong passion for the sport. Their goal for this year is to win the KPAC Championships and represent Miles Mac at the MHSAA Provincial Curling Championships.

Our second team is a group of girls with very little or no curling experience. They have shown a lot of interest and excitement in learning the sport. Our Developmental Team is made up of Brittany Gaudreau as our skip, followed by Amy Kozak at third, Krista Malyk (second), Nicole Pociuk (lead), and Amelia McLean (fifth). In their first game of the season they played an experienced team and did very well. They were tied at the end of regulation play, and lost on second round skips rocks. Way to go girls!

Our girls play every Monday at 4pm at East St. Paul Curling Club. Come out and cheer them on!

### **MMC Boys Curling**

The Boys Curling team is again showing great skill and teamwork to start the year. At publication the team was 1-0 in league play, and feeling confident about the rest of the season. More updates will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

### **Junior Varsity Boys Volleyball**

This year was certainly a banner year for the Junior Varsity Boys Volleyball team. Our lengthy season began in September and came to a rewarding finish in mid November surrounded by family and friends. During our exhaustive schedule, the athletes had a total of 20 days off during a 70 day stretch. With that in mind, injuries and sickness were indeed something the athletes needed to endure and overcome in order to finish the season well.

Throughout the season, our team developed and improved steadily while enjoying a rise to number one in the JV Urban Provincial Top 10 rankings. We won two of four tournaments entered, placing 2nd and 4th in the other two. In addition, we placed 2nd in the KPAC Championship finals, losing a hard fought battle to MBCI in three close sets. Therefore, we applied and were accepted as a wildcard position in the Provincial Championships with nothing to lose and everything to gain.

As the weekend unfolded, it was a KPAC Championship finals rematch against MBCI with our 'Bucks' coming out on top with a JV Urban Provincial Championship banner.

None of our accomplishments this season would have been possible if it were not for the dedication, hard work, commitment, and team work of all athletes, parents, managers, and coaching staff.

Thanks for a memorable season – good luck to our athletes in their respective club volleyball seasons during the winter.

Coach: Colin McDonald

Assistant Coach: Ramona Rohringer

Junior Coaches: Ben Cudmore & Sean Bailey

Roster: Devin Mulvaney, Reid Mclennan, Karl Zborowsky, Matt Poetker, Eles Thiessen, Mike Boni, Mitch Oswald, Zach Duncan, Lindsey Habib, Kevin Bommersbach, Scott Friesen

Managers: Lukas Bruzell, Mark Smith

Team Captains: Kevin Bommersbach, Scott Friesen & Lindsey Habib

### **Junior Varsity Girls Volleyball**

The Junior Varsity Girls volleyball team had an excellent season this year. They improved from one game to the next, and never looked back. They finished second in KPAC, and had a strong showing in Provincials. Unfortunately, they lost in the quarter-finals, but played their hearts out. Thank-you to all the girls and their coaches for all of their time and commitment to the development of the team.

### **Varsity Girls Volleyball**

The team had an excellent season this year. They finished first in the Big Spike Tournament, and advanced to the playoff rounds of all other tournaments. They were consistently ranked as one of the top 10 teams in Manitoba. The girls were ranked as high as 3rd, which speaks to the talent of this team. They headed into the K.P.A.C. finals undefeated in league play, with a 10-0 record, but lost a hard fought battle to the Lord Selkirk Royals. The Buckeyes then finished their season with a loss in the Provincial quarter-finals. We would like to thank all the girls for their time, commitment, and dedication to the team. A special thank-you goes out to our graduating players for their commitment to the Buckeye program, and for leading by example: Megan Dudeck, Samantha Moskwa, Christine Reimer, Stephanie Sabourin, Meredith Stoesz, and Melissa Unrau. A special congratulation goes out to Megan Dudeck, Christine Reimer, and Melissa Unrau for being selected to the Manitoba Volleyball Association's 2007 High School Graduating All-Star Team. Christine and Melissa are to be congratulated once again for being chosen as one of the top 10 female volleyball players in Manitoba. Certainly a well deserved recognition!

Team roster: Julie Christie, Genevieve Collins, Megan Dudeck, Mackenzie Jeffrey, Carly Gacek, Samantha Moskwa, Christine Reimer, Stephanie Sabourin, Meredith Stoesz, Gabi Szymd, Melissa Unrau, & Kyra Young

Manager: Cassandra Kalyniuk

Assistant Coach: Mrs. S. Cockriell

Coach: Ms. N. Melon

## Varsity Boys Volleyball

The team finished the KPAC season undefeated in regular season play, however the team fell short of winning the KPAC championship in a close conference final 3-2 to their division rivals from River East Collegiate. The boys regrouped, and were seeded 6th going into the Provincial championships. The team had defeated their first round opponents from Winkler, the Garden Valley Collegiate Zodiacs and then upset the 3rd seeded team the Niverville Panthers for an appearance in the final four.

On Friday Nov 30, the Miles Mac Buckeyes defeated Mr. Au's former team the Dakota Lancers in the semi final. This led to a rematch of last year's final with the Buckeyes facing the top seeded St. Paul's Crusaders. It was an exciting match with the boys dominating the first set 25-19. St. Paul's then regrouped and won the next 3 sets. All in all, to be the Provincial finalists is a great honour in itself. The team learned a lot about volleyball and themselves this year and that is what is truly important. Congrats on a fine season gentlemen!

Dan Penner and Ben Cudmore were named to the Manitoba Volleyball Association's 2007 High School Graduating All-Star Team. Well done!

## Football

Congratulations to Dustin Herda who was recently awarded the Rookie of the Year Award at the Winnipeg High School Football League Awards Banquet. This is one of the major awards of the year and Dustin won the award over several other candidates from across the league. Dustin is a grade 10 student/athlete at Miles Mac who finished the year among the top of all receivers in the league. Dustin has been playing football since he was 8 years old and is also a member of the Manitoba under 17 Provincial Team. Miles Mac was represented well at the banquet with several football team members nominated for many awards. Other players who were nominated include: Anthony Beach, Josh Doherty, Mike Hazel, Brett Bell, and Adam Miller.

## Emergency School Closing Cancellation of Transportation During Severe Weather Conditions

In the event that it is necessary to close schools and/or cancel transportation because of severe weather conditions, the following procedure will be followed:

a) The decision to close schools and/or cancel transportation will be made by the Superintendent in consultation with the Director of Transportation

b) The decision to close, if it is made, will be conveyed to the Director of Transportation in Sunrise for all affected Springfield students.

c) The decision will be communicated to the media:

CBC AM 990 & FM 98.3	CFWM BOB FM 99.9
CBC (French)	CHIQ-94 FM 94.3
JOB AM 680	CKY FM 102.3 Clear FM
CJKR Power 97	CITI 92.1 FM
COOL FM 99.1	CKSB (French) FM 90.5
CKMM Hot 103.1	QX104 FM 104.1
CFRW AM 1290	CKY TV & CITY TV

d) Everyone is asked to listen to the media for announcements regarding school closing and/or cancellation of transportation.

e) If it is necessary to close schools, or bus students home early during the school day because of severe weather conditions, schools will be contacted by phone by the Superintendent's Department.

f) In the event that transportation is cancelled in the morning, this cancellation will apply for the whole day.

g) Processes specific to school bus transportation cancellation are attached.

When deciding about sending students outside at recess, the "go or not go" number of  $-27^{\circ}\text{C}$  is a guideline only. The Principal of the school has the latitude to make a decision, when the temperature is in the range of  $-27^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-27^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), and will do so taking into consideration local school micro-climate conditions, i.e. is the playground



protected from wind by natural or human made barriers? Also, other considerations will be such things as the condition of the children and/or the attire of any one child on any given day.

As implied in the attached Guidelines For Schools from Environment Canada, children might be kept indoors when in the opinion of the teacher (Principal) the clothing is inadequate for the weather conditions, despite these children having to get to and from school in this attire.

Overall, if judiciously applied and interpreted on the side of caution and good sense, the guidelines should protect our school children from the adverse effects of extremely cold weather.

Wind chill of  $-45^{\circ}\text{C}$  or greater will dictate cancellation of school buses within the division. If cancellation occurs before the start of normal school bus transportation, parents and schools will be informed by the same means used to notify people during snowstorms as to school closures. If the cancellation occurs after the school day has commenced, normal means of notifying students and parents will be used.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Report Cards	Christmas Concert (Daytime) International Ed Winter Camp	Christmas Concert (Evening) International Ed Winter Camp	JV Girls Basketball Tournament	JV Girls Basketball Tournament	JV Girls Basketball Tournament
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Key Club Christmas Dinner	Seniors' Christmas Dinner	Culturama (Day) Dance	Cosmo + H/CC Luncheon	Last Day before Break (2:15p Dismissal)	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**DECEMBER**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	School Opens	English 40S Provincial Exam TA Meeting	English 40S Provincial Exam	English 40S Provincial Exam	English 40S Provincial Exam V. Girls Basketball Tournament	V. Girls Basketball Tournament
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	French 40S Provincial Exam	French 40S Provincial Exam	French 40S Provincial Exam Staff Mtg – 2:30p Dismissal	French 40S Provincial Exam V. Boys Basketball Tournament	V. Boys Basketball Tournament	V. Boys Basketball Tournament
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Math 40S Consumer Exam	Math 40S Applied Exam Grade 10/11 English Process Exams	Math 40S Applied Exam Grade 10/11 English Process Exams	Math 40S Pre-Calc Exam Grade 10/11 English Process Exams	Semester 1 Final Exams Begin	
27	28	29	30	31		
	Semester 1 Final Exams	Semester 1 Final Exams	Semester 1 Final Exams	Semester 1 Final Exams		

**JANUARY**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION – VISIT THE WEBSITE – [HTTP://WWW.MMC.RETSD.MB.CA](http://www.mmc.retbsd.mb.ca)**