

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

For many of us, August brings with it the anticipation of the first day of school. It really is one of our more "exciting" days as we meet all of our classmates and for staff they finally get to use all of the preparation they have been working on. We are looking forward to the upcoming year and renewing friendships as well as making new ones.

I would like to welcome back all returning students and look forward to meeting all new students as they begin their educational journey at MES. Also, I welcome our new staff: Mrs. Jessica Penner, Mrs. Jamie Penner, Miss Ina Tschritter, and Mr. John Terrick.

Wishing you all the best during the upcoming school year!

WELCOME

Welcome to all the new families that have moved into our community this summer. For some this move has been to not only a new community but a new country as well. We hope you'll feel right at home in no time at all.

CALL IN!

Please remember to call the school, between 8:00 - 8:30 a.m., to let us know if your child is going to be late or absent for the day. Thank you for helping us ensure the safe arrival of all children.



WHEN YOU VISIT...

We value the presence of parents in our school. We want you to feel comfortable dropping in to see your children's special projects, help them with a presentation, or meet with their teacher. In order to keep our school safe for everyone's children, **please report to the office** when you arrive at the school. This way staff members can be sure that an adult they may not recognize do, in fact, belong in the school. On the same note, please don't take offence if you are asked whether we can be of help in directing you to the desired destination - we are just trying to keep things safe for everyone.



PICTURE DAY

This year picture day will be on **October 19th**. More information will follow in the October newsletter.

SCHOOL STAFF 2016 - 2017

Principal:	Mr. J.Thiessen
Vice Principal/Resource:	Mr. J. Terrick
Resource:	Ms. L. Friesen
Kindergarten:	Mrs. J. Thomson Mrs. P. Wiebe Mrs. J. Penner
Grade 1:	Mrs. L. Hrehirchuk Ms. D. Machel Ms. J. Nickel Mrs. M. Wiebe
Grade 2:	Mrs. H. Newman Mrs. J. Penner Ms. K. Swiderski Mrs. J. Thompson Mrs. A. Walton
Grade 3:	Ms. B. Enns Mrs. K. Hiebert Ms. C. Kroeker
Grade 4:	Mr. C. Dyck Mr. G. Durksen Mrs. D. Head Mrs. J. Martens
Language Support:	Ms. K. Swiderski
Reading Recovery / EAL:	Mrs. A. Kampen
Numeracy:	Mrs. E. Peters
Music & Choir:	Mr. A. Bergen
Physical Education:	Mr. S. Reimer
Head Secretary:	Mrs. S. Nickel
Secretary:	Mrs. A. Barkman
Librarian:	Mrs. L. Buhler
Educational Assistants:	Mrs. R. Alexiuk Ms. T. Dilts Mrs. K. Esau Mrs. L. Frechette Mrs. D. Funk Miss K. Johnson Mrs. A. Penner Mrs. S. Reimer Ms. J. Richard Miss A. Tschritter Miss I. Tschritter
Custodian:	Mr. N. Lajeunesse
Custodial Assistant:	Mrs. Irina Seibert Mrs. Helene Reimer

COMMUNICATION

The staff of our school is keenly aware that for students to be successful, home-school communication has to be effective. Several channels of communication should help us accomplish this. Every home will receive the school division's annual calendar, which identifies major divisional events, but also contains many of our own local activities.



Every student (except K.'s) has a Premier Student Agenda. These agendas present an excellent avenue by which two-way communication can be maintained between home and school, while also helping students keep organized.

The MES News will be printed monthly, and a copy sent home with the oldest student in each family. The newsletter is also available on our website along with announcements for special events and other helpful information.

Some special events will still be announced via individual memos from teachers to parents, as teachers deem necessary. And, we do still have the telephone, so please call us, or send notes, if all of the above avenues of communication don't quite do the job.

MES SCHEDULE

8:25	Students enter School
8:35	Opening Exercises
8:43	Period 1
9:15	Period 2
9:45	Period 3
10:15	Recess
10:30	Period 4
11:00	Period 5
11:30	Lunch
12:00	Recess
12:25	Period 6
12:55	Period 7
1:25	Period 8
1:55	Recess
2:10	Period 9
2:35	Period 10
3:13	Dismissal for bus students
3:20	General Dismissal

NOTE: Students that walk or are dropped off at school, should not arrive till 8:25. They will then line-up at their entrance door as below.

K, 1H, 1N	Main front door
1W, 2N, 2SP, 2T	East front door
1M, 2W	North wing back door
3E, 3H, 3K	North side door
4CD, 4H	South side door
4GD, 4M	West back door

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Voluntary student accident insurance forms have been sent out. If you are interested in coverage, just follow the directions on the form. You can phone 1-800-665-8990 if you have any questions.

END-OF-DAY ROUTINE

In order to make our after-school dismissal and departure as efficient and safe as possible, we are dismissing only the students who are on buses promptly at 3:13 (Mr. Fuchs #260, Mrs. Dueck #259, Mrs. Harder #264, Mrs. Fisher #238, Mr. Harder #258 and Mr. Penner #310). At 3:20, when the buses are gone, the rest of the students are dismissed, to walk home. If your children walk or bike to school, please remind them that they need to make it a habit to leave the schoolyard as soon as they are dismissed.



ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

Thank you to all parents for keeping our bus loop clear and safe. This is just a quick reminder to all our new students and parents of the bus loop rules:

- 1) Refrain from using the bus loop between **8:00am and 4:00pm** (during school hours).
- 2) If you are dropping off or picking up students please do so from the street in front of the school (please do not drive onto the staff parking lot.)
- 3) Always walk around the front of the first bus, or the back of the last bus (**not between them!**) when more than one bus is stopped in the bus loop.
- 4) Please remind children who walk or bike to school to do so on the appropriate sides of the street so that buses and other vehicles can pass safely.
- 5) Encourage children to take routes to and from school other than Stanway Bay if at all possible.

Thank-you for helping keep your children, and everyone else's safe.

HEAD LICE

Once again we would ask parents to be vigilant about checking their children for head lice on a regular basis. If head lice have been discovered in your child's classroom you will receive a letter to alert you, but with students participating in community activities, clubs, and school activities we cannot be too careful. Also, if you discover that you do have these crawly little creatures, please let the school and the Public Health Nurse know as soon as possible.

THE 4 B'S OF MITCHELL ELEMENTARY

Here at MES we are committed to ensure that all students are welcomed and feel safe during all parts of the school day. Thus, we have initiated the 4 B's of MES as part of our student conduct and school wide behaviour program.

- * BE SAFE
- * BE PRODUCTIVE
- * BE KIND
- * BE RESPECTFUL



PEANUT/NUTS & PERFUME ALLERGIES

We have students who have a life-threatening nut allergy. We are encouraging parents to keep this in mind as you pack lunches/snacks for your children. Please avoid nut products.

Also, please be mindful that strong perfumes can cause an adverse reaction for some students and staff.

Notice - Religious Exercises - Mitchell Elementary School, 2016-2017

The Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division has received petitions requesting that religious exercises be held in Mitchell Elementary School during the 2016-2017 school year.

The petitioners have specified their desire for the recitation of the Lord's Prayer and the reading of a Bible passage or story from the Bible.

As the petitions bear the signatures of parents representing more than 60 students in the school, the Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division has authorized religious exercises, as specified above, to be held before the official instructional day, from 8:35 a.m. to 8:43 a.m., in a designated common area of the school.

Provincial and divisional guidelines will be followed. These guidelines are available from the school office, the divisional administration offices, or on the web site at www.hsd.ca.

Only children of parents who have signed or joined the petition may participate. Parents may join the petition by forwarding a signed note to the Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division, indicating the name and the grade of the students they are signing for.

Notice - Religious Instruction– Mitchell Elementary School, 2016-2017

The Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division has received petitions requesting that religious instruction be held in Mitchell Elementary School during the 2016-2017 school year.

The petitioners have specified their desire for the Discovery Time program offered by Child Evangelism Fellowship.

As the petitions bear the signatures of parents representing more than 25 students in the school, the Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division has passed the required by-law permitting religious instruction, as specified above, to be offered by volunteers during designated half-hour per week classes.

Provincial and divisional guidelines will be followed. These guidelines are available from the school office, the divisional administration offices, or on the web site at www.hsd.ca.

Only children of parents who have signed or joined the petition may participate. Parents may join the petition by forwarding a signed note to the Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division, indicating the name and the grade of the students they are signing for.

Practice of Religion in Hanover School Division

As a Manitoba public school division, The Hanover School Division is obligated to comply with the provisions of *The Public Schools Act* and provincial guidelines governing the implementation of religious exercises and religious instruction. *The Public Schools Act* states that public schools must be non-sectarian. Religious exercises and religious instruction in public schools may only be implemented by school boards in a manner consistent with the Act and departmental guidelines after a parent petition is presented to the school board. Petitions must be submitted annually. The Hanover School Division will continue to provide for appropriate religious exercises and instruction consistent with provincial and divisional guidelines.

Religious Exercises

If the appropriate number of parents of children in a particular school (parental signatures for 60 students) petition for religious exercises of a specific nature for their school, the board will authorize the implementation of religious exercises for that school for that year. Petitions must be presented to the board on an annual basis.

This applies to adherents of all religions presenting a petition with the appropriate number of signatures.

In order for this to be administratively possible, the original petition would need to be presented to the board by the first board meeting in May.

No divisional personnel or board members will be involved in the petitioning process, other than to provide information pertaining to the provincial guidelines governing this process and the presence of enabling by-laws where appropriate petitions are received in a timely manner. No school personnel will be involved in follow-up with students or their families in situations where parents have not joined a petition.

In cases where the board has authorized implementation of religious exercises in a school, based on qualifying annual petitions, schools will provide information to the school community through a newsletter announcement in June and September, indicating that the board has received a petition(s) and passed the required by-law and that parents wishing for their children to participate would need to add their name to the petition(s) by sending in a signed note. New registrants during the year will be informed of the status of religious exercises and their voluntary nature in their school by provision of copies of all of the school newsletters published year-to-date.

The school will provide appropriate space for religious exercises between 8:35 a.m. and 8:43 a.m. before the start of the school day. All schools, except for the SRSS (see below) will have an official length school day starting at 9:08 and ending at 3:40 or later. Exercises will be led by volunteers from the school staff, from the community or from parents requesting the exercises. Attendance will not be taken, nor will school staff enforce attendance or non-attendance, other than to inform parents where appropriate.

Students with permission to participate (parents have signed either the original petition or have added their name to the petition with a signed note) will meet in the designated area during the designated non-instructional time. At no time will religious exercises be broadcast in the school via the PA system or held in a general assembly.

General assemblies are considered to be part of the regular instructional day and will commence at 8:45. Religious exercises on these days will continue to be held before the school day, between 8:35 and 8:43 a.m.

Students not participating would not be required to report for classes until the instructional day begins. Non-participating students at school due to transportation arrangements will be provided with a designated classroom space and will be supervised by a teacher. At 8:43 all students will be expected to be in their homerooms for the beginning of the school day. Attendance will be taken, as well as lates recorded at this time and O Canada and school announcements will be broadcast from 8:45 to 8:55 am, at which time regular instruction will commence.

At the SRSS, which has two official start times, the following adjustment will be made:

Cohort 1 8:43 Start Opening religious exercises: 8:35 – 8:40 Classes start at 8:43. Cohort 2 9:08 Start Opening religious exercises 9:00 – 9:05 Classes start at 9:08 O Canada and School Announcements for all from 9:08 – 9:10

Religious Instruction

If the appropriate number of parents of children in a particular school (Parental signatures for 25 students) request religious instruction of a specific nature for their school, the board will pass a by-law permitting this.

This applies to adherents of all religions presenting a petition with the appropriate number of signatures.

In order for this to be administratively possible, the original petition would need to be presented to the board by the first board meeting in May.

No divisional personnel or board members will be involved in the petitioning process, other than to provide information pertaining to the provincial guidelines governing this process and the presence of enabling by-laws where appropriate petitions are received in a timely manner. No school personnel will be involved in follow-up with students or their families in the case that parents have not joined the petition.

In cases where by-laws have been duly passed by the board based on qualifying petitions, schools will provide information to the school community through a newsletter announcement in June and September, indicating that the board has received a petition(s) and passed the required by-law and that parents wishing for their children to participate would need to add their name to the petition(s) by sending in a signed note. New registrants during the year will be informed of the status of religious instruction and the voluntary nature of this instruction in their school by provision of copies of all of the school newsletters published year-to-date.

The school will provide appropriate space for religious instruction and classes will be scheduled for a single half-hour class per week during the regular instructional day for any given class, based on the availability of appropriate volunteer instructors. Schools may limit religious instruction to the last hour of the school day, may designate a specific day of the week for all religious instruction and may set the total length of the instructional block so that it will not extend the entire academic year. Volunteer instructors for the individual schools will provide parents with a schedule in advance of the commencement of religious instruction each year.

Students with permission to participate (parents have signed either the original petition or have added their name to the petition with a signed note) will meet in the designated area during the designated religious instruction time.

Volunteers must use an approved body of materials that meet the requirements of the division and school mission statements and are appropriate to the age of the students. Volunteer teachers must submit a Criminal Records check and a Manitoba Child Abuse Registry check to HSD in advance of the commencement of the instructional block, in order to qualify.

Any use of extra materials for home study is restricted to those students participating in religious instruction during the approved block of religious instruction. This material may only be distributed in the school by designated volunteer instructors as part of the religious instruction class and collected by the same volunteers. Markers of such materials are not authorized to access the students directly through the school.

Students not participating in religious instruction will be in a regular classroom supervised by a teacher and will be working on the regular Manitoba curriculum for their grade. This work will be supplementary in the sense that it will not create homework or missed essential learning for the students opting in to religious instruction, nor will it create extra busy work or homework for those students not opting in.

MES & MMS ARE VERY CONCERNED

We are very concerned about the serious and increasing danger of students crossing the #52 highway on foot or on their bicycles. Several near misses have been reported where unsupervised students came dangerously close to being hit by motorists as they were crossing the highway. Parents, if you live south of the #52 highway, we at Mitchell Elementary School and Mitchell Middle School urge you to take advantage of Hanover School Division buses and **not** to allow your children to walk or ride their bikes to and from school without adult supervision.

The RM of Hanover and the Mitchell LUD are working with the Manitoba Department of Highways to provide appropriate infrastructure that ensures a safe place to cross for pedestrians and cyclists. For now, please help ensure your children's safe transportation to and from school by **not** allowing them to walk or cycle if it requires crossing the highway unless they are supervised by an adult.

Thank-you for helping keep our / your kids safe!