



Minto Elementary and Middle School

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Kynda Bryant - Principal
Peter Tomilson - Vice Principal
Joy Murray & Melody Duncan - Administrative Assistants

September 2023 Newsletter

We are printing out the first newsletter of the year for you. You can find future editions on our website (mems.nbed.ca) and on our Facebook page. It is published around the first day of each month.

Welcome to a new school year, everyone! We are excited to introduce you to this year's MEMS Staff for the 2023-2024 school year:

Primary Level Team	Education Support Services
Caitlyn Conrad, Kindergarten	Jennifer LeBlanc, EST-Resource (grades 5-8)
Megan Keehn, Kindergarten	Erin Weeks, EST-Resource (grades K-4)
Cristina Sivitilli, Kindergarten	Terri-Lynn West, School Counsellor
Shara Andrews, Grade 1 French Immersion	Tammy Best, ESS Teacher
Grace Gazzellone, Grade 1	Jennifer Thompson Bailey, Academic Support
Debbie McFadden, Grade 2	
Alexandra Ross, Grade 2 French Immersion	
Elementary Level Team	(not yet hired), Behavior Intervention Mentor
Molly Agar, Grade 3 French Immersion	School Administration
Jonathon Clark, Grade 3	Kynda Bryant, Principal
Lan Hu, Grade 4	Peter Tomilson, Vice Principal
Kevin Lavigne, Grade 4 French Immersion	Joy Murray, Administrative Assistant
Alexandra Green, Grade 5 French Immersion	Melody Duncan, Admin. A. (15 hours), Library (14.25)
Alexandria Morrell, Grade 5	Educational Assistants
Middle Level Team	Cherie Atyeo, Educational Assistant
Lauren Doucette, Grade 6/7 French Immersion	Carly Beek, Educational Assistant
Cortney Colwell, Grade 6/7	Debbie Bishop, Educational Assistant
Bret Hazelton, Grade 6/7	Margie Daken, Educational Assistant
Catherine Boissonnault, Grade 6/7	Terri Guislain, Educational Assistant
Brooklynn Grealey, Grade 8	Debbie Hay, Educational Assistant
Matthew Whipple, Grade 8	Valerie Storey, Educational Assistant
Specialist Teachers	Tina Thibodeau, Educational Assistant
David Best, Physical Education, Athletic Director	Cathy Vautour, Educational Assistant
Jerry-Faye Ward, Music & Art	Denise Thibodeau, Jordan's Principle Support

MEMS's Mission Statement: *Promote a spirit of excellence... be caring, get involved, reach for success!*

MEMS's Vision Statement: *Fostering strong academics in a positive and safe learning environment while supporting individual needs and abilities.*

MEMS Breakfast Program

Our **Breakfast Program** is back in full swing. A HUGE “THANK YOU!” to



Tara MacKenzie who has offered to oversee the Breakfast Program this year. Her help last year was invaluable so we appreciate knowing it is in excellent hands again! 😊 Big thanks to Joy & Melody for organizing the volunteers. Thank you, as well, to the many volunteers who help make it possible to provide breakfast to any and all of our 350+ students who want to enjoy breakfast upon arrival at school.

Memorials for the Breakfast Program received since June have been made in loving memory of: Ernest Colwell, Alfred Gallant, and Herb Demmings.

Friends of the MEMS Breakfast Program~ Generous donations to our MEMS Breakfast Program have been made by: Karl & Jeannine Goguen and Carpenters & Joiners Local 1386. All donations are truly appreciated.

PBIS at MEMS

Look for a letter from our **PBIS** (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) Committee, overseen by Erin Weeks, that will explain our display case full of prizes to be won when students are caught being “paws”itive in our school. Students, take a look at all the prizes in the cafeteria display case.



Head Lice

As the school year begins, please know we will have cases of head lice reported to us. Head lice continues to be common among children, and outbreaks are possible whenever children are together. We will check the children periodically at school but parents should also make a point of checking carefully each night at home.

MEMS Home & School Healthy Blueberry Fundraiser

The MEMS Home & School are excited to announce that we will be holding our seventh annual schoolwide Blueberry Fundraiser. Each student is encouraged to sell 5lb boxes of **local** (Ed Goguen) frozen blueberries. They are excellent blueberries! This fundraiser will take place soon AND money from each box sold will go directly to the school.



We will have prizes for top sellers and, every time a student sells a box of blueberries, his/her name will go in a draw for a prize. Please stay tuned for details on the dates of the fundraiser and the pickup of the blueberries. Details will be on the order form coming home soon with students.

Early Morning Supervision

PLEASE NOTE: This year, early morning supervision at school begins at 8am. Parents are asked to please make other arrangements for the supervision of their children prior to that time. As a safety precaution, we would appreciate parents dropping off their children after 8am when the doors open. Students are not supervised at school prior to 8am and, therefore, we are not permitted to let the students in prior to 8am. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Allergies – Peanut-Free Environment



Again this year, we have children with severe, life-threatening allergies to peanuts and peanut butter. We ask for your cooperation in the following ways:

- Please be sure your child's hands are washed free of any traces of peanuts before coming to school.
- Please instruct your child of the danger that peanuts are to some students and adults
- Please avoid sending any peanuts or products containing peanuts to school.
- Please remind your child to not share their food.

Parent School Support Committee (PSSC)

The first meeting of our **Parent School Support Committee** will take place at **6:30 pm on Monday, September 18th**, 2023, in the MEMS Conference Room 205. The purpose of the PSSC is to make recommendations on broad educational issues and policies relating to school performance, goals for improvement, family and community involvement and creating an inviting school climate. A school's PSSC consists of 6-12 members. If you are interested in being on the PSSC, please attend this organizational meeting. An election may be held at this initial meeting if we have more than 12 people interested. Our **Home & School Association will meet** after the PSSC adjourn.

Our Home & School are excited to confirm our playground fundraising reached its goal over the summer and we are ready to proceed. More info to come following our September meeting. Many thanks for all who contributed over the years and as we had our final push to make our goal this summer.

Our school has gone cashless! All payments will be online only. This includes: school supply fees, student fees, sports fees, school trips, and school clothes. The cafeteria and weekly popcorn sales will still accept cash.

Cafeteria open!

To make your ordering easier, please use the following link to preorder online:
<https://www.chartwellsk12.ca/>

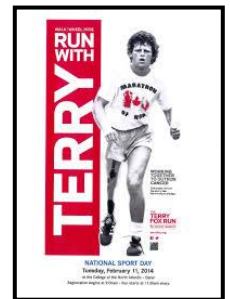
MEMS Athletics



Middle School Soccer Tryouts: The signup sheets for tryouts will be on the gym bulletin board until Friday, Sept. 8th. Tryout schedule will be posted on bulletin board as well as on our MEMS Facebook Page.

Terry Fox National School Run/Walk Day

On the afternoon of Friday, September 29th, MEMS students and staff will be participating in our 20th annual Terry Fox National School Run/Walk Day by walking, jogging and/or running at school. Donations are currently being collected. Special thanks to Mr. Best for organizing this very important event again this year.



Important dates to remember:

- Sept. 5th Signup for MS soccer begins
- Sept. 8th Signup for MS soccer closes
- Sept. 11th pledge sheets for Terry Fox set to go out this week
- Sept. 18th PSSC first meeting for 2023-24, followed by Home & School
- Sept. 22nd Positive Learning Environment Day; no school for students; PL for staff
- Sept. 29th (p.m.) Terry Fox Walk/Run
- October Home & School blueberry fundraiser
- Oct. 2nd National Day for Truth & Reconciliation Day; no school
- Oct. 9th Thanksgiving Monday holiday
- Oct. 10th-13th Registration for children entering Kindergarten in 2024-2025



Meet, Greet 'n Eat



Minto Elementary & Middle School kicked off the new school year with their second “**Meet, Greet ‘n Eat**” Open House with 172+ students in attendance! We were very pleased to welcome our Village Council who barbequed for us. A special “Thank you!” to Robert’s Independent who assisted with food for the barbeque. MEMS Staff was color-coded according to Team.

Together, the MEMS Team wishes you a wonderful 2023-2024 school year! 😊