

## January News

Welcome to 2024! Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a very relaxing and recharging break as we move into the remaining days of semester 1. Our focus continues to be promoting student success and students have been given some tools and lessons on how to foster their learning.

- Be Prepared and On Time
- Attendance Matters
- Work Hard - Study, study, study

**We understand your child will be away at times because of illness and other reasons. Our priority is to eliminate unnecessary absences so that your child can learn, connect and succeed in school!**

### January Exam Week

As we move towards the end of the semester for high school students and the midpoint of the year for junior high students, we have put together both a schedule for exams and some key pieces of information for parents.

We will be conducting an exam week for students in grades 9-12. Courses ending will have a final exam, and courses that are year long will have a midterm exam. During this week, there will not be any regular classes for grades 9-12. Grades 7 & 8 students will have midterms scheduled in the morning, and regular classes in the afternoon. These exams are important to student assessment and to students development as a learner. Exposure to larger assessments under exam conditions early in their jr/sr high academic career helps to prepare students for standardized assessment conditions. Familiarity with these settings can assist students in learning how to manage stress around assessments and studying. We will be working with students on study skills and test taking strategies over the coming months.

All exams start at 9 am. Students will be writing exams in the gym and will have between 1.5-3 hours depending on the exam. Grade 9 - 12 students are only required to attend for their scheduled exams. Bus students are required to remain at school unless being picked up by a parent and signed out of the school.

Grade 7 & 8 students are required to write exams and will be provided with supervised space to study after their exam. This time and space is the opportunity to catch up on work, study for exams and enhance learning. Students will be expected to behave appropriately and use the time effectively. The grade 7 & 8 regular classes will be held in the afternoon - students are expected to attend their afternoon classes.

Grade 10 students will be scheduled in two groups for their final exams. On opposite days they will be taking First Aid certifications. This course will earn them the Standard First Aid certifications for 3 years and one credit.

Exams are to be written on the scheduled date and time. **Please do not schedule appointments and other commitments during this week.** If there are any questions please contact me to discuss individual concerns as soon as they arise.

## **EXAM SCHEDULE CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER.**

### **Stay Focused - Stay Healthy**

It is important to promote healthy learning habits for your students and assist them in remaining focused for the coming weeks. Here are some tips:

- Keep a consistent sleep schedule. Sleep is critical in helping students maximize their potential academically, physically and socially. Students should be getting at least 8 hours of sleep a night.
- Each night, talk about things that students did in class, help them review, check Google Classroom for new and old assignments that need to be completed.
- High school students should spend an hour per course doing homework and/or studying material covered.
- Limit online time/TV time: play a board game or teach them a new card game. Yahtzee is great for practicing numeracy skills!
- Keep students home when they are sick. Sleep and fluids will help them heal quicker and keep from spreading to students and staff.

### **Winter Weather**

The regular winter season has arrived and we need to be prepared. While we do not expect disruptions to the same degree as last year, the safety of students is our primary concern and sometimes this results in cancellation of bus service. During bus cancellations, the school does remain open. Teachers conduct classes (combined if numbers are small), but new material will not be covered. The course outlines for each course describe the expectations for students and availability of teachers on these days. If your student has assignments not completed, whether they are at home or school, these days are a great opportunity to catch up on them (check PowerSchool and GoogleClassroom). Students can also practice literacy skills by reading, and numeracy skills by playing board and card games.

Junior high students will not be attending online classes on these days and there will not be any mandatory work but there may be some review activities, practice or previous work that can be completed. Senior high classes generally have a drop in google meet to clarify concepts or ask questions. Please check the course outlines for more information.

*Diploma exam students will have the scheduled diploma exams regardless of the bus service, your student is expected to be at school for a 9 am start time.*

### **Appropriate Weather Attire**

Although we know that it is not “cool” to wear a jacket, but when it gets cold it is a must. Please speak to your students about the importance of wearing weather appropriate attire, especially on the bus. There can be times where a bus dislikes the weather more than we do resulting in a

breakdown. If students are not dressed appropriately, with a jacket, toque and mitts, they put themselves at serious health risk in frigid temperatures.

### **Ski Trip Date**

The annual ski trip to Marmot Basin, Jasper will be held Thursday March 7, 2024. The ski trip forms will go home at the beginning of semester 2 and the trip will be first come first paid/qualified. Students must be in good standing with the school to participate - fees paid, no behavioral concerns, have all course work completed to an acceptable standard.

### **Dinner Theatre**

Dinner Theatre rehearsals have begun! For the month of January, practices will only be on Thursday's from 3:30 - 5 pm. Starting in February rehearsals will be every Monday and Thursday. This year the dinner theatre team will be performing "Camelot and Camelittle" We will see the adventures of Ruth, a young girl who dreams of being a knight. When the knights of the round table laugh at her, she goes on a quest filled with magical creatures in order to start her own queendom. Performances will be held on Thursday April 25 and Friday April 26 at MHS. More information on tickets to follow.

### **School Council - Parent Advisory Group**

We will continue to meet as a parent advisory group for this year. The next meeting will be held Tuesday February 27, 2024 at 7 pm.

### **Post-Secondary Information**

October 1 marks the opening of post-secondary applications for Fall 2024. Schools begin taking applications from then until generally March 1, 2024. Students have worked on getting accounts for Apply Alberta and taken the early steps in creating their profiles. Any student who requires more assistance can make an appointment to see Mrs. Jager.

### **Scholarships**

The school website has links to a number of scholarships. The **Masonic Higher Education Bursary** can be applied for online at <https://mhebf.digitaltea.com/index.php> and the deadline to apply is **February 1, 2024**.

The **Schulich Leader Scholarship** - Every high school in Canada can nominate ONE student per academic year going into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math at specific universities. Visit [schulichleaders.com](http://schulichleaders.com) to see eligibility requirements. You must be nominated in order to be considered for this scholarship. If you think you should be nominated, please reach out to Mrs. Jager today! The deadline for nomination is **January 31, 2024**.

The **TD Scholarships for Indigenous Students** are open for application at <https://www.td.com/ca/en/personal-banking/solutions/student-advice/indigenous-student-scholarships-grants-and-bursaries/>. Visit the website for information on eligible programs, and to apply. The deadline for applications is **January 16, 2024**.

### **Art Club**

Ms. Burger will be holding an after school art club on Wednesday's from 3:30 pm - 5 pm.

### **PowerSchool Parent Portal**

The parent portal access is the perfect way to keep up-to-date with student assessment and attendance. If you do not have access to the portal for your students please contact the office.

### **Breakfast Club**

Each morning students have access to complimentary breakfast items. The menu varies daily and is always nutritious, delicious and served with a smile. We serve about 80 students daily. Thank you to Breakfast Club of Canada, Pembina Pipelines and Pembina West Co-op for their donations to our program. If you would like to help support the program, juice boxes and cereal are always appreciated.

### **Sports**

Junior and Senior Basketball have begun and will be competing through to March. Our junior high home tournament will be held on February 16 & 17.

Archery begins Tuesday's at 8 am, with scheduled competition in March. Soon after Badminton and Handball teams will begin their seasons. Good Luck to all our athletes and thank you to the coaches and volunteers that make these happen.

### **Always Looking For...**

The foods lab is always in search of plastic containers and metal cutlery.

The IA shop is always in search of old horseshoes for welding projects.

<b>Final Exam Schedule Jan 2024</b>		
<i>All exams start at 9:00 am or 12:30 pm</i>		
Wednesday Jan 10	Diploma Exam	Diploma ELA 30-1/30-2 Part A
Thursday Jan 11	Diploma Exam	Diploma SS 30-1/30-2 Part A
Monday Jan 22	Diploma Exam	Diploma Math 30-1/30-2
Tuesday Jan 23	Diploma Exam	Diploma ELA 30-1/30-2 Part B
Wednesday Jan 24	Diploma Exam	Diploma SS 30-1/30-2 Part B
<b>LAST DAY OF CLASSES GR 9-12 Wednesday Jan 24</b>		
<b>Thursday Jan 25, 2024 @ 9AM</b>		
	Final Exam	ELA 20-1 Part A
	Final Exam	SS 20-2 Part A
	Final Exam	ELA 10-1 Part A - Group 1
	Final Exam	ELA 10-2 Part A - Group 1
	Group 2 - FIRST AID ALL DAY	
	Midterm	ELA 9 Part B
	Midterm	ELA 8 Part B
	Midterm	ELA 7 Part B
<b>Thursday Jan 25, 2024 @ 12:30 PM</b>		
	Final Exam	ELA 20-1 Part B
	Final Exam	SS 20-2 Part B
	Final Exam	ELA 10-1 Part B - Group 1
	Final Exam	ELA 10-2 Part B - Group 1
	Group 2 - FIRST AID ALL DAY	
	Midterm	ELA 9 Part A
	Midterm	ELA 8 Part A
	Midterm	ELA 7 Part A
<b>Friday Jan 26, 2024 @ 9AM</b>		
	Diploma Exam	Chemistry 30

	Final Exam	Science 10 - Group 1
	Final Exam	Science 14 - Group 1
	Midterm	Math 9
	Midterm	Science 8
	Midterm	Science 7
	Group 2 - FIRST AID ALL DAY	
	<b>Friday Jan 26, 2024 @ 12:30 PM</b>	
	Grade 7 & 8 Regular Classes	
	<b>Monday Jan 29, 2024 @ 9AM</b>	
	Final Exam	Math 20-1
	Final Exam	Math 20-2
	Final Exam	Math 20-3
	Final Exam	ELA 10-1 Part A - Group 2
	Final Exam	ELA 10-2 Part A - Group 2
	Group 1 - FIRST AID ALL DAY	
	PAT	PAT Science 9
	Midterm	Social 8
	Midterm	Social 7
	<b>Monday Jan 29, 2024 @ 12:30 PM</b>	
	Final Exam	ELA 10-1 Part B - Group 2
	Final Exam	ELA 10-2 Part B - Group 2
	Group 1 - FIRST AID ALL DAY	
	Grade 7 & 8 Regular Classes	
	<b>Tuesday Jan 30, 2024 @ 9AM</b>	
	PAT	PAT Social Studies 9
	Final Exam	Physics 20
	Final Exam	Science 20
	Final Exam	Science 10 - Group 2

	Final Exam	Science 14 - Group 2
	Group 1 - FIRST AID ALL DAY	
	Midterm	Math 8
	Midterm	Math 7
	<b>Tuesday Jan 30, 2024 @ 12:30 PM</b>	
	Grade 7 & 8 Regular Classes	