

MCI Newsletter

APRIL 24, 2008

Principal's Message

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parents, please come and meet with our teachers about your son/daughter's educational achievement. Grade 9-11 final exams begin in 8 very short weeks and 6 weeks for our grade 12's. These meetings are intended so that you are informed about areas of strength and areas needing attention so that we can work together in preparing our students as much as possible. If you cannot attend these interviews, please make alternate arrangements. You can e-mail the teachers directly or make an appointment through the office.

Voluntary Withdrawal Date – May 2

This is the last day that students have to drop courses. After May 2, courses and marks cannot be removed from student records.

Communication

Parent-Teacher interviews are not the only time you can contact your child's teachers. Call the school at 867-2794 or e-mail teachers directly (addresses are listed on the school webpage at www.rrsd.mb.ca/mci)

If you would like to receive school information such as newsletters, upcoming dates, and school notices via e-mail, please email Genelle at the office:

gbilcowski@rrsd.mb.ca or

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Thursday – April 24 – 5:00 -7:00

Friday – April 25 – 9-12 & 1-3:30

2008-2009 Timetable

Planning is underway to develop next year's timetable for student courses. Next week we will be surveying our students in homerooms and from our preliminary tally, we may re-survey the students. The purpose for two surveys is so that we can determine which elective courses will realistically be offered. For example, if the first survey shows us that only 6 grade 12 students want to take Law 40S, we will omit Law on the second survey. Those 6 students will then have to select another grade 12 elective such as ELA-Trans 40S, World Issues 40S, etc. This process will allow us more accurate information in the building process and allow for student input.

The second survey will be sent home with students and will require a parent's signature. Parents please discuss your son/daughters' choices with them so that you are aware of their academic goals and how they compliment their career directions.

On Wednesday April 30th, we will be holding a parent session on the registration process. It is primarily intended for parents of next year's grade 9 students, however all parents are welcome.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Martin Ingenmey, John Potter, or Elaine McNabb.

Skateboard Park

In approximately 2001, a group of students organized a committee to establish a skateboard park in Minnedosa. They made application to the Town and to the R.R.S.D. Board. They raised funds, built the ramps, and poured the concrete. The committee took a strong leadership role and maintained their investment so to give skateboarders an appropriate venue to practice their craft and participate in something they loved to do.

Now in 2008, those students are gone. Nobody has maintained the equipment, the concrete is covered in glass, and there have been no skateboard sightings in over 3 years. In fact, students on bikes are the only presence these days. The original committee's 1st rule for facility use, "No bikes allowed." The ramps were not designed for them and it is very unsafe.

As the site is a constant and embarrassing mess, the structures are no longer safe for use, and skateboarders no longer use it, we will be dismantling the skate park this spring and determining another use the tarmac.

To the students who did such a great job in establishing the park, I thank you for providing an excellent recreational venue for many of our youth over the years. It's unfortunate that the fruits of your labor are no longer valued or respected by those who it was provided for.

www.rrsd.mb.ca/mci

Extra curricular Activities at Minnedosa Collegiate

For the 2007 – 2008 school year, Minnedosa Collegiate offered the following sports / teams:

Activity	number of teams	# of MCI staff involved (does not include community coaches)
Golf:	senior boys, girls did not qualify (1 team)	1
Soccer:	senior boys + girls (2 teams)	2
Cross Country:	senior boys and girls (1 team)	1
Volleyball:	senior girls, junior boys + girls (3 teams)	3
Hockey:	senior boys (1 team)	1
Basketball:	junior + senior boys + girls, (4 teams)	1
Curling:	senior boys and girls (1 team)	1
Badminton:	junior + senior boys + girls, (2 teams)	2
Track and Field:	senior boys + girls (1 team)	1
Rugby:	senior boys + girls (2 teams)	2
Totals		
10 Sports	18 teams	15 staff

As a small school, we are proud to offer almost as many teams as schools the size of Crocus Plains, Vincent Massey and Dauphin Regional, with a quarter of the staff available. At times we struggle to make it work, due to our lack of human resources, but through a lot of shared responsibility among our staff, we manage.

Throughout the years, parents and students have asked us to consider adding several other sports / activities, such as: Junior boys and girls soccer, Senior boys tackle football, Senior boys volleyball, Senior girls Hockey, Senior girls fastball, Senior boys baseball, Senior boys Lacrosse, Senior girls field hockey, Bowling and Cricket

This list of activities would be great to add to our school. It would benefit our school's students a great deal. Unfortunately, being a small school, we lack the human resources to do so, therefore they are not offered.

A frequently asked question is "Why do you offer the activities that you do?" (see the first list)

The answer to this is staff members volunteer in areas where they have the knowledge and passion to make these sports work. If we do not have anyone with the proper expertise in an area, we can not offer it. If a community member has the expertise, we still need a staff person to handle the list of duties to run / manage a team. For that we still need a teacher with the passion, knowledge and enthusiasm for that particular sport. When a staff member is pressured to volunteer in an area they do not have the interest or passion for, the activity falls apart because the details are not looked after with the interest or passion that is required. Our list of teams is dictated by our staff's interests and abilities. That is why they volunteer hundred's of hours to run just one team in an area they feel they can contribute.

Other factors we could consider at length in this newsletter are cost, and not enough students to make all the activities viable. These two variables impact us a great deal at present without even adding more to the list.

As a school we hope our students and parents can appreciate what we try to offer, as volunteers, in our extra curricular programs. We realize not everyone will be happy with what we offer. We hope you can understand why we offer what we do.

Manitoba Summer Games – Westman Regional Qualifiers

Do you want to compete with athletes from across Manitoba at the 2008 Power Smart Manitoba Summer Games? Here's your chance!

On June 7th and 8th, the Westman Regional Qualifiers will be held in Killarney to determine who will join Team Westman to represent our region at the Provincial Summer Games in Carman. If you're 10 years of age or older, there's a sport for you! You can choose from archery, beach volleyball, golf, sailing, soccer, swimming, table tennis, track and field, or triathlon.

The registration deadline is May 23rd. Registration forms are available from the Sport Manitoba – Westman Region office located at 340 – 9th Street in Brandon or can be filled out online at www.powersmartmanitobagames.ca. For more information, visit the website or call 1-866-774-2220 ext. 4.



Mandatory Grade 11 and 12 Physical Education / Health

All high schools in Manitoba are required to deliver mandatory Physical Education / Health beginning in the 2008 – 09 school year. Students entering grade 11 in the 2008 – 09 school year are required to earn these credits in both grade 11 and 12, for a total of 30 credits to graduate (previous years that number was 28 credits).

As this is a transition year, students entering grade 12 in 2008 – 09 only require the grade 12 Physical Education / Health credit, for a total of 29 credits. All subsequent years will require the 30 credits to graduate.

Our local school board has made the decision to implement these courses as 100% “in”, meaning all topics and activities will be offered by the school. Some school divisions are offering these credits with an “out” component, meaning students must complete some or all of their physical activity on their own time, with no school or teacher supervision. In this case there must be a parent / teacher sign off procedure to ensure student activities are conducted safely, and all activities are appropriate.

Students in our division will have the option, however, to do some activities as an “out” component. The reason for this is to allow students flexibility and choice in the activities they do to complete their grade 11 and 12 physical education / health credits. The hope then is students will have a more positive experience with physical fitness / exercise and activities, given more choice and ownership.

Grade 11 students can opt out of 25% of the school offered activities. Grade 12 students can opt out of up to 50% of the school offered activities. It is up to the student to pursue these “out” activities on their own time. Out of class activities can include non school based teams, non school based activities such as dance classes, and personal fitness routines done on their own time. School activities such as interschool sports teams, and school intramurals, can all count towards the “out” activities a student has the option of choosing.

One area the student can not opt “out” of is the health component of the course. This will make up 25% of the course time.

These courses will be evaluated as complete / incomplete. No percentage grade will be given upon completion. All activity time must be accounted for, as well as the health and fitness assignments and tests given by the teacher.

If you have any questions about these new programs offered at Minnedosa Collegiate, please contact Mr. John Potter at 867-2794. He will be pleased to answer any of your questions.

Athletic Eligibility

This year we have implemented an athletic eligibility program. The purpose of this is to help ensure that our student's priority at our school is academics. Although athletics are important, academics must come first.

To implement this, we ask that our student athletes have their teachers complete an "Athletic Eligibility" form. The teachers comment on a student's mark, attitude, attendance, and effort. If a student is attending regularly, has a good attitude, and is achieving at an acceptable level for that individual, they will be approved for athletic participation. If a student is working below their potential, is not attending school regularly, and/or is displaying a poor attitude, their attention privilege may be suspended. Once the student responds positively and displays an effort worthy of their abilities, this privilege will be reinstated.



Boys and Girls

Rugby Home Game Schedule

- April 25: Souris @ Minnedosa
- May 6: Crocus @ Minnedosa
- May 23: VMassey @ Minnedosa

Career Development & Exploration

Wow, it's hard to believe that spring is here, and that our career weeks have come and gone! I am very pleased that my first year as a coordinator of this program has gone well, we've had some great successes within the program.

I am now getting geared up for our **community volunteer day**, we have set the date for this as **Wednesday, May 14, for the afternoon**. We will go out with our entire school and volunteer with various groups and organizations. All students will be asked to sign up for these tasks and work with members of the organization. Staff members will be on hand as well and we all will be giving back to our community which does so much for our school. Participation on this day will also look great on anyone's resume, and may inspire some of our students.

Just a couple of reminders:

1. All journal assignments for grade 12 career prep. are now past due, I still need a few, your credit depends on this journal!!
2. Grade 11 students, your career prep. journal and evaluations are due, please get them in to me ASAP
3. Volunteer day for the entire school is Wednesday, May 14, PM only, please dress appropriately for that day.

Thanks to all those who participated in the Career Dev. program. I look forward gearing it up again next year and making it even better! Happy spring everyone!

Marlies Soltys
Career Development & Exploration Coordinator

Student Council Report

Student Council is planning a spirit week from April 28 to May 2.

Dress up days include:

- Monday—Pajama Day
- Tuesday—70-s Day
- Wednesday—Hawaii Day (limbo at lunch)
- Thursday—80's Day
- Friday—opposite gender day

Elections for Executive positions begin next week with nominations being open from April 28th to May 7th at 12:13 pm.

Speeches will take place on May 8th with voting in home-room on May 9th.

SENIOR BAND CONCERT

May 22nd
7:30 pm
TCS Pit



Grade 10 Students Win at Western Manitoba Science Fair

On March 18th seven Grade 10 students participated in the Western Manitoba Science (WMSF) in Brandon. These students earned the opportunity to attend the WMSF by placing at our own grade 10 science fair. These students represented Minnedosa Collegiate very well, receiving the following recognition:

Jennifer Lochhead	Silver	Individual Life Sciences 9-10
Tiana Janzen & Staci Retzlaff	Bronze	Group Health Sciences 9-10
Tizita Galbraith & Kacie McLeod	Silver	Group Health Sciences 9-10
Laurel Grant & Kailey Bradco	Gold	Group Health Sciences 9-10

2008 Western Manitoba Science Fair

Congratulations to **Miss Hammell** on receiving the **Christie's Office Plus Award**. This award was presented in grateful recognition of the time and effort contributed by an instructor in order to support the quest of youth in their pursuit of knowledge and excellence in the fields of Science and Technology.

