###### sunflowerlogo

November

2017

banner with apples and crayons

John MacNeil Elementary

http://jmc.hrsb.ca (902) 464-2488

Dear John MacNeil Families,

Although the days, weeks and months speed by during the school year, I do get a chance almost every day to have a conversation with one of our students. They share their stories they have written, explain patterns in math or express their pride in their works of art. They learn so much in such a short period of time. At John MacNeil we have an amazing staff who support your children’s learning and an amazing community who support our school.

Neil Daigle, Principal

**The cold weather is now approaching. Please make sure that your children are dressed appropriately for the weather.**

Our newsletters will be posted on the website as well as being emailed. This will help us save paper and gives us a way to send home regular and urgent notifications in a timely manner. If you do not have access to a computer, please let us know and we will be happy to print one off for you. *Please note that teachers have up to two business days to respond to emails. Please call the main office for something requiring immediate attention.*

Some important reminders we wanted to share:

* **There is absolutely no driving for unauthorized vehicles on school grounds. Use our Kiss and Go Lane (the roundabout at the beginning of the parking lot). Driving on school property is a safety issue!**
* **Please ensure we have a valid working phone number and we are able to contact you.**
* **Parents must call the office or send an email to make an appointment to speak with the principal, vice principal or teachers.**
* **All visitors must stop and check in at the office when they enter the building.**
* **The main office doors are for emergency or appointment entrance only.** We have students that use that door to get on their bus so it needs to be kept clear.
* **Please do not wear scented products in and around the school.** Many children and adults have strong reactions to the heavy scents in perfumes, deodorants, hair sprays, latex products and other cosmetic products.
* **Cell Phones – Students are not allowed to have cell phones out during class time or at recess and Lunch.** Using them during class is disruptive. Students are not allowed to take pictures and post to social media as this is against our privacy policy.
* **School Begins at 8:30am.** Please be on time for school. Too many students are coming to school late and it makes it difficult for the late child, as well as the class that is already in session.

**Important Dates**

* Nov 9 – Remembrance Day Ceremony
* Nov 13 – Schools Closed in lieu of Remembrance Day
* Nov 15 – Boston Pizza Lunches start
* Nov 21 – Picture retakes
* Nov 22 – Professional Development Day – **No school for students**
* Dec 5 – Reports Cards go home
* Dec 7 – PD in am, Parent/Teacher Interviews in pm – No school for students
* Dec 11, 12 – Holiday Concert

**Holiday Concert**

Our Holiday concert will take place Monday, Dec 11, and Tuesday, Dec 12, at 1:15pm in our school gymnasium. A notice has been sent home detailing the process for the distribution of tickets.

**Messages for Students**

Please do not give messages for students on the phone. It gets very busy in the

office and messages may not get to students in time. Please make sure you confirm after school arrangements with you child before they leave in the morning.

We all know that emergencies happen and you may need to let your child know about changes to their day. We will definitely let you child know when these emergencies happen.

**Head Lice**

Please remember to check your child’s hair on a regular basis. Head lice can happen to everyone but if you are proactive and have open conversations then it will be much easier to take care of. If you do find lice or nits in your child’s hair please let us know. If there is anything we can do to help you we are more than happy to.

**Remembrance Day Ceremony**

Remembrance Day is a special day where people take the time to honour members of the armed forces who have served their country in times of war and conflict. Our Remembrance Day Assembly will be held on **Thursday, Nov. 9th at 11:00 am**. This will be attended by **our students only**, along with a couple of honoured guests. Students in Cubs, Beavers, Sparks, Brownies etc. are also encouraged to wear their uniforms on that day and be part of our procession.

**Early Dismissal/School Closures**

Winter will be here before you know it! Families must be prepared for school cancellations, mid-day school closures as well as delayed starts. For your information our school is Bus Cluster 3, Unit 3 and part of the Dartmouth High family of schools. Decisions regarding midday closures are typically made by 11:00am. A great idea for parents is to sign up for a text from the HRSB to let you know of early dismissals or school closures. You can do this by visiting the HRSB website at www.hrsb.ca.

John MacNeil Newsletter