



Menihek High School
Term 1 Newsletter
October 2012
www.menihek.ca

Attendance is a Priority!

The staff of Menihek High School believes that regular attendance at school is essential for a student's academic and social success. Attendance at school is compulsory under the NL Schools Act, 1997, and parents play a significant role in ensuring that their sons and daughters attend school regularly and on time.

Research supports the view that academic achievement is in direct correlation with regular attendance in school, as is working more than 20 hours per week (McNeal, 1997). Conversely, high absenteeism is one of the most important reasons for lack of success in school. Parental involvement and interest in school and learning is another factor which positively influences students' attendance at school.

Menihek High School congratulates and recognizes those students who place high priority on attending school consistently, and supports parents who place a high priority on school and education. ***Thank you!***

Lateness Initiative

We are pleased with the success of our lateness initiative, and will continue to

implement it during this school year. Please note:

If a student arrives at school late first period in the morning, after recess or first period after lunch, unable to give a valid reason for his or her lateness, s/he will not be permitted to enter that class. They will attend supervised study hall for the remainder of that period, and are responsible for the work missed in their class. If there are students who continue to be late after a reasonable period of time, other consequences will be put into place for these students. Valid reasons include such things as doctor's appointments; reasons that are not valid include such things as went home for lunch and had to walk back, my ride was late, had to wait for a friend, and went out for lunch and the service was slow. This is the case even if parents are aware of their son's or daughter's lateness.

Safe Schools Items

To date, we have completed three fire drills and one lockdown practice.

Anti-bullying Information

Bullying is repeated and aggressive behavior by a person that is intended to

cause harm, fear, or distress to another individual. The Labrador School Board and Menihek High School recognize bullying as a serious and harmful situation, and take a proactive stance against bullying. The Labrador School Board website offers information, resources and links on this topic.

http://www.lsb.ca/ABI/docs/adolescents_for_parents_online_2.pdf

If you know of someone being bullied, encourage them to ***tell someone.***

Gay-Straight Alliance

Menihek students have started a Gay-Straight Alliance, a group which has, as a goal, to promote tolerance of all sexual and gender identities, and to provide an atmosphere where everyone feels safe and accepted. Their first school activity will take place on November 9, where the students in each grade are encouraged to wear a specific color of the rainbow, the international symbol of sexual and gender acceptance.

School Council

Our school council has held its first meeting. Our council members this year are Lori Porter, Kelly Pafford, Kathy LeDrew, Byron Payne, Patti Moores, Karen Power and Ramona Noseworthy. Meetings will be publicized on our school website, www.menihek.ca Anyone wishing to make a presentation to the council is asked to contact the main office at 944-7731.

Bring Your Own Technology

Menihek High School is participating in a Labrador School Board pilot project where students are encouraged to bring their own SmartPhones, tablets, IPods or other devices which could assist them to complete school assignments. Our school is being refitted for better Wi-Fi access, and, before Christmas, all students will complete a series of web lessons explaining responsible use of technology. All students will be asked to sign a responsible use contract as part of this practice.

Facebook Page

Please visit the Labrador School Board Facebook Parent Information page regularly for the latest parent information: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Labrador-School-Board-Parent-Information/336447799778756?ref=ts>

Hallowe'en Activities

Hallowe'en celebrations will be starting early at Menihek, with our School Council spirit week from October 22-26. Each day will have a different theme. Our Hallowe'en dance will be held in the cafeteria on Thursday, October 25. On Friday, October 26, the School Council will be sponsoring a movie with a request for a \$2 charitable donation at the door.

School Renovations

We are happy to say that our gym has reopened after being closed because of

extensive renovations taking place in the form of accessibility elevators going from our bottom to top floors on both sides of our school. This will improve the ability of physically challenged persons to travel around our building.

Although our gym has reopened, it will be several weeks until the elevators are ready for use, as work continues.

School Sports

Menihek Sports teams have had a successful start to the school year. Both Boys' and Girls' Soccer teams won the Labrador Regionals in Goose Bay in September, and travelled to the Provincial Tournaments in October. The Girls placed third provincially, while the boys achieved their highest finish to date, winning the silver medal.

The Menihek X-Country Running team won the Regional competition in September in Labrador West, and will travel to the Provincials at the end of October.

Music at Menihek

Choir rehearses Thursdays at lunch and new members are always welcome!!

Jazz band rehearses Tuesdays at lunch.

Small ensemble rehearsals will start in November as we get closer to our Christmas concert date. (Dec. 18th)

Grade 8 Core French (Mme Parsons-Clements)

We have finished our "unit" on Francophone Countries. Our next topic is

Outdoor Markets and Food. Please check my webpage for more specific information on assignments and due dates.

Yearbook 2013

We are currently taking orders for the 2013 yearbook. The cost of the book is \$45. The book will once again consist of a hard cover with 80 (full color) pages. To place your order the book has to be paid in full at the office by November 23rd. We need to have a minimum of 225 books sold in order for us to sell it at that price. If we do not have enough by that date we will not be able to produce the book. We will only be ordering the number of books that have been pre-ordered. Please get your deposit in as soon as possible for a life-time of memories. Help us save the yearbook!

Menihek Upcoming Events

- October 25- Student Council Hallowe'en Dance
- October 26- Pyjamarama/PM movie in gym(\$2 charitable donation)
- Oct.28-Nov2: Techsploration trip (Yvonne and 6 Grade 9 girls)
- November 8, 12:55-2:20- College Day, Level III
- November 9, 11:15- Remembrance Day Assembly
- November 15- Term 1 Parent Teacher Interviews
- November 30- Grade 9 vaccinations
- End of November- Retakes and Grad pictures (date to be announced)
- Dec.21-School closes for Christmas holiday
- Jan.3-School reopens