



École Mary Queen of Peace School  
School Newsletter Notre bulletin de nouvelles  
February 1, 2012 le 1 février 2012

### Recycling Contest Rescheduled

The Recycling Contest that was canceled on Saturday, January 28 is now rescheduled for Saturday, February 11 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. We sure hope you can attend.

### Reminder re Synvoice Phone Messenger

We will use Synvoice to advise parents of an early closure in the event of bad weather. **At the beginning of each message you will hear a request which asks that you press 2 to verify that you received the message. It is important to note that if we must close school due to weather conditions, we MUST check that you have verified receipt of the call BEFORE we allow your son/ daughter to leave on the bus.** If your child is dependent on bussing on that day, we **cannot** allow your child to leave until we hear from you. Considering the busy nature of our office phones on a day like that, you may or may not get through. **For this reason, it is imperative that parents PRESS 2 to verify that they have received messages from our school.** Please inform all other family members of this, so that they are aware of the importance of pressing 2 following receipt of any message.



### Checking School Cancellations via MQP School Web-site

Our school web-site is formatted to enable us to update it off site. In the event of inclement weather, please refer to our web-site at [www.mqp.k12.nf.ca](http://www.mqp.k12.nf.ca) to confirm the **status of classes in the early morning and during the day if the weather deteriorates.** During inclement evening and weekend weather, we will also update you regarding the status of scheduled meetings, extracurricular activities and sports via our website.

### MQP February 2012 Parent Calendar

The parent calendar for February 2012 will go home today. This is also available on our web site at [www.mqp.k12.nf.ca](http://www.mqp.k12.nf.ca).

### February Band Schedules

The February band schedules are now available on our website @[www.mqp.k12.ca](http://www.mqp.k12.ca).

### February School Council Meeting

The School Council will meet Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m. Parents are invited to attend.

### Annual Healthy Commotions Day

Each year schools across the province are encouraged to participate in a Healthy Living Commotion. As part of this initiative, on February 7 and 8 students will attend either bowling or skating in the morning and participate in outdoor activities following lunch. Additional details went home last week. Students are asked to bring a healthy recess snack on these days and are also strongly encouraged to do likewise every day.

### Preference for Cheques Verses Cash

The Eastern School District is encouraging all schools to request cheques if possible. Cheques can be used as receipts and there are less potential opportunities for financial irregularities or discrepancies if organizations deal with cheques verses cash. Also, the web-based accounting system, E-Funds, has very specific denomination data entry procedures (# of nickels, # of dimes, etc.) that are extremely time-consuming for our hard-working secretaries. Therefore, **if possible**, we ask that parents /guardians pay for field trips and fees, etc. with cheques rather than cash.

### MQP Spelling Bee 2012 Winners

Elementary students at École Mary Queen of Peace have been busy sharpening their spelling



**École Mary Queen of Peace School**  
**School Newsletter      Notre bulletin de nouvelles**  
**February 1, 2012      le 1 février 2012**

skills in preparation for our Spelling Bee. The 15 finalists were: Grade 6 - Sarah Muzychka, Jonathan Babin, Cian Mulrooney, Nicholas Gushue and Ben Wall; Grade 5 - Nicolas Keough, David Rowe, Connor Knight, Mark Ford, James Lewis and William Pike; Grade 4 - Ben Oates, Tristan Paronavitana, Ridhi Mittal and Avani Alluri. David Rowe and Nicholas Keough (both in Mme Legge and Mr. MacGillivray's class) emerged as our top spellers. They will compete in the Regional Fair on Saturday, March 3 at the Reid Theatre, MUN Campus. The regional winners will travel to the national capital to further their competitive skills. Thanks to Ms. Cowley for organizing this event and to Ms. Howse, Ms. Burton-Snow and Ms. White for their assistance. Thanks are also extended to Mme Gosse, Mme Legge, Mr. MacGillivray and Mr. Maynard for presiding over and judging the final competition.

### **MQP's February Assemblies**

Our February Assemblies will take place on February 13 in the gym. The primary assembly will be at 8:45 and the elementary assembly will be at 10:30. The grade three students will host the assembly. Parents are welcome to attend one of the assemblies.

### **Janeway Day: Tuesday, February 14**

Every year, Janeway Day in the Schools provides an opportunity for students in the province to help other children. We will have a small school - wide project to support the Janeway Children's Hospital. Tuesday, February 14 will be Dress Down Day (Jeans Day) in support of the Janeway. Students and staff will be asked to donate a loonie if they wish to participate.

### **Regional Chess Tournament**

Good Luck to the students who will represent MQP in the Eastern Newfoundland Regional Chess Tournament on February 4 at MacDonald Drive

Elementary. The top players will qualify for the Provincials on March 24 in Gander. For additional information on the tournament visit [www.chess.nf.ca](http://www.chess.nf.ca) or check our school website later this week.

### **Preventing Head Lice Outbreaks**

Parents/Caregivers have the responsibility to take an active role in the **prevention** of head lice outbreaks by:

- checking your child's head weekly for lice or nits
- talking to your child about **not** sharing hats, brushes, headphones, helmets, hair accessories and other personal items
- tying back long hair

For additional information, please contact a Public Health Office or consult the booklet **Managing Head Lice at Home**, which was forwarded home in December or visit our web site at [www.mqp.k12.nf.ca](http://www.mqp.k12.nf.ca).

### **Addressing Parent Concerns**

In past editions of the District Digest and our school newsletter, the Eastern District protocol to address parent concerns was outlined. The Eastern District encourages all concerns be handled as near the source as possible. For example, if a concern involves a teacher, the concern should first be addressed with the teacher. If unresolved, the concern should go to the principal. When parents / guardians have concerns that cannot be resolved at the school level, the Senior Education Officer assigned to our school can be contacted to assist.

### **Change in Library Books Circulation**

After much discussion at our January 4 Staff Meeting around how to efficiently ensure that library books are readily accessible to students, it was decided to change the structure for school




library book circulation. Class book exchange will be discontinued. Instead library passes will be issued to each teacher for those students who wish to exchange books during book exchange periods scheduled when volunteers are available.


### Assistance Needed for Library Book Circulation


We have accumulated new books in our library waiting to be catalogued for circulation. We are seeking volunteers to catalogue our new library books and / or to assist with book exchanges and re-shelving books. If you can assist please contact Mr. Walter, the Learning Resource Teacher, at michaelwalter@esdnl.ca or call 753-7950 or sign up on our main web page at [www.mqp.k12.nf.ca](http://www.mqp.k12.nf.ca)

**VolunteerSpot**. For additional details check the School Council Memo sent home on Friday, January 28. It is also posted on our web site.


### 5 Tips for the Reluctant Reader


 **Connect reading with your child's passion.** Whether it's soccer, skateboarding or space travel, get a subscription to a magazine on that topic. Also consider general magazines for children, such as *Highlights* or *Time for Kids*. If it has his/her name on the address label, a magazine becomes a personal invitation to read.

 **Tell your child a joke or a riddle — and pull out the book where you found it.** Joke books, riddle books and books of sports trivia are irresistible to some of the most reluctant readers. Keep a book like this handy in the car, in the kitchen or on vacation.

 **Read books with your child that have silly drawings or humor only a kid would love.** You might not like the humor of the *Captain*

*Underpants* series, but your 9- to 12-year-old may love it.

 **Show your child that books are the keys to achieving a desirable skill.** Does she want to put sequins on her jeans? Does he want to do magic tricks? Does he want to learn to care for a new pet? Show them how books can give step-by-step instructions.

 **Introduce series books.** Some may not be great literature, but they can entice a less confident or skilled reader because of their predictable themes and familiar characters. Reading books like the *Encyclopedia Brown* series can help your child prepare for more substantial reading.

**Upcoming Presentation for Parents**  
Child psychiatrist, Dr. Barbara Maddigan, during the session Effective Communication: The Key to Successful Parenting, will share insights and tips to bring out the best in you and your family. The session will be on February 2, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the AC Hunter Library. Call 737-3950 to register.

**Reminder re Access to the Building**  
It was communicated on October 3 that parents and students do not have access to École Mary Queen of Peace School after 3:00 p.m. Monday to Friday or at any time on Saturdays and Sundays unless attending a prescheduled meeting or appointment or function in the gym. Thank you to the parents and students who have been respecting this request.

**Indoor Soccer League News**  
Due to poor weather conditions, Indoor Soccer League games were canceled on January 20, 21 and 28. The games missed will be made up in late March-early April. Next Saturday teams will follow the original schedule for February 4.



### The PTA Invites New Members

The PTA raises funds to support student events (e.g. Gr. 6 School-Leaving Ceremony, outings to outside arts performances), contributes funds for indoor/outdoor active living equipment and helps out at Fun Days, etc. Our main fundraiser is the monthly ice cream sale, but we also host an annual bake sale. Fresh faces and ideas are always welcome, so please come to our next meeting.

### Climate Change Presentations

Between January 28 and February 16, Raphaël Soucy, **Conservation Corps of Newfoundland and Labrador**, is giving presentations to the grade 3-6 students about a very current topic- **climate change and its effects on our planet**. This topic supports specific science outcomes on diversity of life, weather, and habitats. Each session begins with the story "Who Is in Charge of Climate Change". In the story, various animals, noticing the drastic changes occurring in their respective environments, begin to question who is responsible for keeping the planet clean and safe. Ultimately, it's each and everyone's responsibility. The presentations cover such topics as green house gases, global warming, pollution, and habitat destruction. To combat the seriousness of climate change and its effects, the students are reviewing easy ways to help solve the problem. The presentation is engaging and very informative. Students can become more informed and pro-active in this initiative by visiting [www.ccnl.ca](http://www.ccnl.ca) and [www.climatechangeclub.ca](http://www.climatechangeclub.ca).

### Kiss and Ride Volunteers Needed

Thank you to our hardy and diligent Kiss and Ride Lane volunteers. Parent volunteer help is vital if we are to keep traffic moving efficiently and safely during the winter months. If you use this service, why not show your appreciation by volunteering to be a "car door opener" for just **one week** between now and June 21? (Time: 8:00-8:20 a.m.) Please call 753-7950/51 if you can assist.



Free Tim's Coffee or Latte for our volunteers compliments of Lynn Pike and David Bruce and the GREEN Tim Horton's Outlet. Thank you Lynn and David .

### Positive Behavior Support ( PBS) Matrix

PBS is a Safe and Caring Schools initiative to promote safe and caring learning environments and to be proactive and preventative in addressing issues. This week we are focusing on movement in hallways, stairwells and to and from the outdoor play areas. Our school matrix is posted on our website and was sent home in December. Please talk about this week's focus at home.

Parents and guardians **must** restrict use of the office parking lot between 7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.; 11:15 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.; and between 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Please note that this restriction also applies to parents and guardians dropping off students for morning classes (even when arriving late) and for the afternoon kindergarten session. The office parking lot is reserved for buses, office personnel, official visitors, students entering and exiting the play areas during lunch break and parents / guardians picking up students for outside appointments. **Thank you to the many supportive parents who have been respecting this request.**

**Please put student safety before convenience at all times.**