



Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School NEWSLETTER February, 2010

Homeroom 8:05 - 8:10
Period 1—8:10 a.m.- 9:25 a.m.
Period 2—9:35 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
LUNCH—10:50 - 11:30 a.m.
Period 3—11:30 a.m.- 12:45 p.m.
Period 4—12:55 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.

Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School
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Principal: Mrs. Smith-McKelvie
Vice-Principal: Mr. Keane
<http://amss.lkdsb.net/>

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE from Mrs. Smith-McKelvie

As second semester begins it is apparent that the school year is flying by! We would like to welcome new teachers Mrs. C. Mathieson, Ms. L. MacLaren and Mrs. T. Odolphy. Sadly we say goodbye to Mr. S. King, Mrs. T. Chapple and Mrs. D. Iaccino.

Our students in semester 1 grade 9 mathematics wrote the EQAO test. Our student athletes have excelled at WOAA and our physical education department planned a grade 9 challenge which was a lot of fun. Many students will be placed in co-op this semester, gaining valuable experience and representing our school. Our own Shawnie Snell and Mitch Blondin carried the Olympic Torch on Christmas Eve. The yearbook club continues to keep track of the year for a lasting memento. The senior Business students enjoyed a tour of the Lambton College business facilities. Our teachers continue to develop Smartboard skills. We have an active school council as you will read later in this newsletter.

It continues to amaze me, as I grow into the job of principal, how giving and caring the AMSS school community is. Our SWAT club has a fundraiser to help assist financially with the devastation in Haiti. Our staff purchased, prepared and served a delicious turkey dinner, to every student in December. We also had a successful food drive for the Inn of the Good Shepherd.

We have been working very hard on our website, making sure that it is full of school related information. Please visit it often at <http://amss.lkdsb.net/>. If you think of something you would like to see on the website please contact Mrs. Smith-McKelvie at the school. This newsletter is available on the website.

EPIPENS

Does your child require the administration of an epipen? If so please call the office at the school. We will ensure a safety plan is put in place for your child.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Student of the month for December was Amy Stewardson

Student of the Month for January was Billy Benson

Student Artist of the month for January was Kim Wolsey

GREEN APPLE SCHOOL PROGRAM AT METRO



The Green Apple School Program is a Metro initiative created to encourage conservation and healthy living. Metro has invested \$1 million into the program, and beginning this Fall, provided hundreds of \$1,000 grants to primary and secondary schools with big ideas for green projects in their communities. Mr. Trevor Jamieson and the green club submitted an idea to create a native species garden for our courtyard. The garden will be showcased at our 40th Anniversary celebration on May 8, 2010.

In this photo Chris Rafuse, Mr. Jamieson, Alex Hall, Mrs. Smith-McKelvie and Dustin Jacques accept a cheque from Bill Newton, Manager of Metro Grocery Store at Northgate.

PASTA FEST

Thursday February 18 the Dante Club 1330 London Road, Sarnia will be hosting a Pasta Fest to benefit the Special Education Class trip in June. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and dinner is served from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Come enjoy All You Can Eat pasta, salad, bread, foccaccio, tea & coffee and 2 meatballs - all for the low price of \$9.00 adult, \$6.00 child, and families with 2 adults & 3 children are just \$30.00. Entertainment is by, "Mercy Sings". Dessert and Bar service will be available. There will be a Silent Auction table with fantastic items to bid on, as well as the draw for our "Fun Things to Do in Ontario" raffle will take place that night. Tickets are available for both the raffle and the dinner from all students and staff in the Special Education Department. If you would like a ticket you can also call the school. It's always a sell out and a lot of fun!



40th ANNIVERSARY

This spring marks the 40th anniversary of AMSS. We will be having a celebration on Saturday May 8, in conjunction with our May Day Sale. If you would like to help out with our open house day please call Mrs. Smith-McKelvie. We are searching for AMSS grads who wish to share stories, or tell us how AMSS enhanced their lives. As part of the celebrations we will have a decades rooms, a slide show, old yearbooks, a display of athletic memorabilia, a BIG cake, math and science demonstrations and a lot more!

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

Students who have not completed **40** hours of community involvement will not receive a graduation diploma. Please discuss this with your son or daughter if they are a potential graduate.

Every grade 12 student has been notified if they have not completed their community service. A pamphlet outlining the rules is available in the main office.



IMPORTANT DATES

February 10, 11 – Grad Photo Sign Up
February 12 – Add/drop deadline
February 14 – Valentine’s Day
February 15 – Family Day Holiday
February 16 – Option Sheet Process Begins
February 16 – Gruen Von Behrens anti tobacco presentation
February 17 – Grad Photos
February 18 – Pasta Fest
February 22 – Health and Safety Audit
February 25 – School Council Meeting 7:00
March 11 – Quarterly Reports
March 15-19 – March Break
March 29 – Immunization Booster Shots 8:30
April 2 – 5 Good Friday – Easter Monday Holiday
April 8 - Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test
April 20 – Report Cards Issued
April 29 – Parent Teacher Night / School Council

OPTION SHEETS

Option Sheets will start the third week of February and will be done by the third week of March. Student Services staff will visit classrooms to ensure students understand the option sheet process. Students will bring a verification form home for parent/guardian signature.

MARCH BREAK

March Break occurs from March 15-19, 2010.

ATTENDANCE

Regular classroom attendance is integral for student success. We encourage parents to contact the school office as soon as the absence is known. You can call 24 hours a day as there is an answering machine to leave attendance messages. Contact 519-542-5505.

If you are planning a family vacation, please try to schedule it outside of school time. If it is during school time, please have your daughter/son stop by the Main Office and notify the secretarial staff. This will help our Vice-Principal and teachers when dealing with attendance and course work.

SCHOOL BUS INFO

Alexander Mackenzie is located in **ZONE 2**. Further information on school bus transportation is available at www.schoolbusinfo.com. Please listen to the radio for notice of bus cancellations. Anytime buses are cancelled due to inclement weather, please note that the school remains open. If you drive your child to school on a snow day, they must be picked up by the end of the school day, which is 2:10 pm.

NOTE: Students must ride the bus they are assigned to. Temporary bus passes are for school business only. Buses are not allowed to transport students to visit friends etc.

LIBRARY NEWS

The library circulation number has already surpassed last year's total.
2008-2009 was 4,014 2009-2010 to date is 4453!

YEARBOOKS

Your A.M.S.S. yearbook staff is hard at work making this year's great photos, stories and memories come to life in an amazing yearbook just for you. A.M.S.S. 2010 yearbooks can be ordered now in Mustang Alley for \$40.00. Order yours today! It's sure to last a lifetime! Payment Plans are available. Please contact Mrs. Somerville to set yours up. Would you like to support the AMSS yearbook? If you or someone you know, has a business they can purchase an ad in the yearbook. Business card sized ads are \$50 and are tax deductible. Yearbook ads last a lifetime and are read by many people. To purchase an ad, and support our yearbook, please call the school and speak to Mr. Van Praet.

EQAO TESTING

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test will be administered on April 8, 2010. Passing this test is a requirement for graduation. If your child is in grade 10, or has been unsuccessful on the test in the past, they will be writing the test on that day. There will be accommodations in place for students who require them. Please make sure your child is in attendance at school on April 8, if they are writing the test. We will be having practice sessions in the weeks leading up to the test.



MORNING SNACK PROGRAM

The AMSS program is free, inclusive to all students and operates every morning in the Resource room. This program serves a variety of food which may include juice, fruit, bagels, muffins and granola bars.

All support is volunteer based and is funded through donations as well as various fundraising events held within our school. If you would like to donate to the AMSS Morning Snack Program, please call the school.

GOODWILL PARTNERSHIP

Our school has an ongoing partnership with Goodwill. Many of our students work in Mustang Alley, the Goodwill store. Other students are working on co-operative learning opportunities through Goodwill. If you have used clothing or household articles, please consider donating them to Goodwill through the Goodwill donation box located on our school property.

HOUSE SYSTEM

The house system continues to be supported by our school community. The goal of the houses is to encourage students to display the characteristics we expect of our graduates. At the end of the year the winning house will be awarded "The Gilfoyle Cup" a beautiful trophy donated by our former Principal Mr. Gilfoyle, and named by us in his honour.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our School Council is a panel of parents, students and staff members who meet approximately once a month to advise the principal on school matters. Parents are invited to attend council

meetings whether or not they are a council member. If you are interested in serving on the council, please contact the principal to indicate your interest, or come to the next meeting of the year which will be held on February 25, 2010 at 7:00 pm.