

## **March News**

Welcome to March! Teachers continue to focus on academic skills with students to strengthen their learning. These include, assessment completion, review and reflection, and preparation for assessments through effective study skills. We are also working on some foundational math and reading skills with students.

Our focus continues to be promoting student success and students have been given some tools and lessons on how to foster their learning.

- Be Prepared and On Time
- Attendance Matters - Attendance is a key factor to student success. During consistent attendance, students receive instruction and guided practice for lessons and are able to participate in valuable classroom activities and discussions to support learning. The classroom time can not be duplicated through notes and assignments. Encourage and support regular and consistent attendance to maximize the learning opportunities for your student.
- Work Hard - Study, study, study

On our website, [mayerthorpehigh.ca](http://mayerthorpehigh.ca), under the students and parents tab, you will find our student agenda in a pdf form. Students have also been given an agenda to help them keep track of assignments, due dates and has our rules and policies in it. We have reviewed these with our students over the first two weeks, but please feel free to review them as well. Students were also given a paper and a magnet that has our calendar dates listed for important days.

We look forward to working with you through this educational adventure.

### **Report Cards and Parent Teacher Interviews**

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held ***Tuesday March 5, 2024*** and ***Wednesday March 6, 2024*** from ***4 - 7:30 pm*** each night. No appointments are necessary.

### **PowerSchool Parent Portal**

The parent portal access is the perfect way to keep up-to-date with student assessment and attendance. If you do not have access to the portal for your students please contact the office. Mrs Lane will be available on the 2 nights of parent teacher interviews to assist with any Powerschool issues you are having.

### **Ski Trip Date**

The annual ski trip to Marmot Basin, Jasper will be held Thursday March 7, 2024. The two buses are almost full and we are excited for the recent snowfall. The conditions look like they will be amazing! Participants need to be at MHS by 5:45 am to load for a prompt departure no later than 6 am. There will also be a pickup at Anselmo immediately after. Students must bring money or a lunch and we will also be stopping for supper in Hinton on the way home.

### **Senior High Citadel Trip**

The senior high students will attend the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton to see "The Sound of Music" on Wednesday March 13, 2024. This trip is full!

### **Dinner Theatre**

This year the dinner theatre team will be performing "Camelot and Camelittle". We will see the adventures of Ruth, a young girl who dreams of being a knight. When the knights of the round table laugh at her, she goes on a quest filled with magical creatures in order to start her own queendom. Dinner Theatre rehearsals are well underway! Rehearsals will be every Monday and Thursday from 3:30 to 5 pm. In addition, there will be 3 Saturday rehearsals - April 6, April 13, and April 20th each day from 10 am - 2 pm.

Performances will be held on Thursday April 25 and Friday April 26 at MHS. Catering provided by Terry's Catering. Tickets will be available for purchase April 5th for \$30 per seat. Seats are first come first serve, the night of performances. This year we will be adding a new option: a table of 8 can be reserved for an additional \$40 (tickets and table must be paid for in one payment - \$280).

### **School Council - Parent Advisory Group**

The next meeting will be held Tuesday March 19, 2024 at 7 pm.

### **Scholarships**

The school website has links to a number of scholarships. This is the time for students to begin gathering applications, reviewing requirements, writing essays and requesting reference letters as needed. We will be detailing a number of scholarships with the students and reviewing application package requirements in the coming months.

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### **MHS Wellness Coach - Ms Laura Burger**

March is Brain Awareness month. The brain is a fascinating organ, but the challenge of brain research is also great. With enough awareness and education, we can encourage many people to research the brain and find many great things.

Interesting Fact: Our brain is 73% water, and it only takes 2% dehydration to affect your memory and other cognitive skills.

*Wellness activities planned for this month:*

**March 15th**-(Friday) Celebrating St. Patrick's day we encourage everyone to wear green and get in on the fun of a St. Paddy's Photo booth before classes and at lunch. Photos will be displayed on our "M.H.S. Spotlight" board. All those wearing green will qualify to have their name put in a draw for a SubWay gift card. Also on March 15th, there will be a St. Patrick's day bingo in the library at lunch time with candy prizes.

**March 19th** (Tuesday) Free hot chocolate before classes to practice our hot chocolate breathing and celebrate the beginning of spring!

The “Open Parachute” program, a mental health curriculum program for teenagers, has begun in the grade 7 & 8 Health classes. Please ask them about what they are learning.

**February 28, 2024** was *Pink Shirt Day*. Throughout the month we have been raising awareness about the prevention of bullying and promoting kindness and inclusion. Our very own graphic class student, Elly Walsh, has developed a pink shirt logo for our school this year. Students and staff have had the opportunity to order these shirts to wear on this very important day.



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### **Breakfast Club**

Each morning students have access to complimentary breakfast items. The menu varies daily and is always nutritious, delicious and served with a smile. We serve about 60 students daily. Thank you to Breakfast Club of Canada, Pembina Pipelines and Pembina West Co-op for their donations to our program. If you would like to help support the program, juice boxes and cereal are always appreciated.

### **Sports**

Basketball season is coming to an end this weekend for our teams. The Archery club competes March 14 in Edmonton - Good Luck!

Bring on team handball and badminton! Tryouts will be held starting the week of March 11 as follows:

Junior Badminton	Monday and Wednesday 3:30 - 5 pm
Junior Team Handball	Monday and Wednesday 5 - 7 pm
Senior Badminton	Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 - 5 pm
Senior Team Handball	Tuesday and Thursday 5 - 7 pm

### **Spring Break - March 25 - 29th**

- School Resumes April 2, 2024

### **Summer Career Exposure Boot Camps**

NGPS will be running career exposure summer boot camps once again. This program is held in two separate week long sessions from July 1 - 5 and July 8 - 12. Students in grade 9 -12 can register to attend career and skill development focused learning weeks with the potential to earn high school credits. Last year our students engaged in learning about welding, automotives, baking, cooking, forensic sciences, cosmetology, fashion studies and industrial safety. Keep an eye out for session and registration information.

### **Always Looking For...**

The foods lab is always in search of plastic containers and metal cutlery.

The IA shop is always in search of old horseshoes for welding projects.

## Northern Gateway Public Schools Trustee Report

Date of Report: January 22, 2024  
Submitted by: Trustee Deb Koloski ([deb.koloski@ngps.ca](mailto:deb.koloski@ngps.ca))  
Trustee Diane Hagman ([diane.hagman@ngps.ca](mailto:diane.hagman@ngps.ca))

### Highlights from Board Meeting - January 16, 2024

**NGPS Vision, Mission and Values** - The Board began the meeting by recollecting our NGPS Mission: *Northern Gateway Public Schools provides a dynamic and safe learning environment that promotes connection and the authentic application of learning.*

**Policy Committee-** The Board reaffirmed the following policies as amended.

- \*Policy 7 - Board Operations
- \*Policy 8 - Committees of the Board
- \*Policy 2 - Board Work Plan

**Advocacy Committee** - The Committee presented the Advocacy Plan for the 2023 - 2024 School Year. After discussion and a few editing changes, the Board approved the Advocacy Plan for 2023-2024 Board.

**Locally Developed Courses** - The Board approved the use of the following Locally Developed Courses from the Edmonton School Division (at no cost to the Board)

- \*Dance 15, 25 and 35 (all 3 credit courses)

These courses could be offered at summer Boot Camp.

**Critical Incident Response** - Superintendent Bird provided the Board with a detailed overview of NGPS's Critical Incident Response Plan. The Board was provided with information:

- \*Hour Zero - a resource to assist in dealing with real time situations .
- \*CTIP -Centre for Trauma Informed Practice
- \*VTRA - Violence Threat Risk Assessment
- \* NGPS Grief and loss process

More information can be found on NGPS website.

**Transportation Review-** As per motion 5912-23 - that the Board receive an update on the review process of school transportation areas. Superintendent Bird provided the Board with maps that clearly laid out the 5 transportation zones each made up of transportation areas of specific schools:

- \*Valley View
- \*Fox Creek
- \*Whitecourt
- \*Sangudo/Mayerthorpe
- \*Rich Valley/Grasmere/Darwell/Onoway

**School Board Tours** - The Board once again will be doing School Tours. The dates are as follows: Feb. 5th (MHS,EEE and SCS) Feb. 6th (OHS, OES and Rich Valley) Feb. 27th (Homeland Colony, Twilight Colony and OAP) Feb. 28th (Hillside, Harry Gray and Fox Creek) March 11th (Rochfort Colony, Grasmere, and Darwell) March 12th (Hilltop, Percy Baxter, Central School and Pat Hardy).

**Next Board Meeting: February 13th, 2024 @ 10 a.m.**

## Northern Gateway Public Schools Trustee Report

Date of Report: February 22, 2024

Submitted by: Trustee Deb Koloski ([deb.koloski@ngps.ca](mailto:deb.koloski@ngps.ca))

### Highlights from Board Meeting - February 13, 2024

**NGPS Vision, Mission and Values** - The Board began the meeting by recollecting our NGPS Vision: *Northern Gateway Public Schools strives to be the place where students realize their value, discover their talents, and imagine a future where their contribution matters.*

**Presentation: Randy Lovich - Director of Facility Services.** Randy shared with us the IMR Projects for the 2023-24 school year. (Infrastructure and Maintenance Renewal Program). The Board approved the 2023-24 IMR Plan as presented.

**Presentation: Jason Yaremchuk - Director of Information Technology.** Jason provided the Board with an overview of the current technology plan in Northern Gateway. At the present time we are in cycle 2 of the four year evergreening program which is designed to keep schools equipped with updated computers for student use. Our schools are very fortunate that all students have access to a computer and excellent internet access. Our technology team continues to work hard to ensure that we are up and running 24/7.

**Advocacy Committee** - The Advocacy Committee informed the Board that they were in the final stages of completing the brochure, which will be distributed to School Council's in March.

**Critical Incident Response** - Superintendent Bird reaffirmed that parents have easy access to the parent Safety Information link which can be accessed on the website.

**Recruiting Teachers** - Superintendent Bird has attended a number of events at different post-secondary institutions to connect with future teachers.

**Educational Assistant Professional Development** - Deputy Superintendent Jodry and her team organized a one day workshop for all Educational Assistants during teachers convention. (except Valley View as their teachers attend Grande Prairie for convention). The day was very successful and it gave the EA's the opportunity to hear keynote speakers as well as the opportunity to attend other sessions that were tailored to the needs of the students they are working with.

**Upcoming Events** - Board Tours - Feb. 27 - 28 and March 11 - 12

- Alberta Rural Education Symposium - March 3 - 5

**Next Board Meeting: March 19th, 2024 @ 10 a.m.**