



# Montague Intermediate School

## Monthly Newsletter

March 2026

### BINGO NIGHT FUNDRAISER

This year, we are thrilled to host our first annual **Bingo Night Fundraiser in April of 2026**. We are reaching out to local partners to help make it a success.

All proceeds from this event will be directly reinvested into our students' daily experiences and long-term success. By focusing on both academic excellence and emotional health, these funds will allow us to modernize classroom technology, expand our library's diversity, and enhance our mental health and physical wellness programs.

**We are currently seeking donations for our bingo prizes and door prizes.** Whether it is a gift certificate, a physical product, or a specialized service, your contribution will be prominently featured during the event.

**If you would like to contribute, please let us know by Friday, March 13th.** We are happy to arrange a time to pick up your donation, or it can be dropped off at the school's main office.

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### Learning and Growing the STORM Way!

Our fifth Code of Conduct expectation is:

*I will be an inclusive member of our community, collaborating and making meaningful connections with others.*

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Mar 4 → Report Cards
- Mar 5 → Interviews 4:00-7:00
- Mar. 6 → Interviews 8:30-12:00
- Mar. 10 → Grade 9- Brookvale Sking
- Mar. 11 → Corporal Yaschuk- Internet Safety
- Mar. 12 → School Dance
- Mar. 16- 20 → March Break
- April. 10 → Professional Learning Day
- May 1 → Area Assoc. Day
- May 8 → Grade 8/9 Band Trip
- May 13 → Home and School Meeting @ 6pm
- June 11 → School Dance
- June 18 → Grade 7 & 8 Field Trip
- June 19 → Grade 9 Field Trip
- June 22 → Grade 9 Closing @ 1pm



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# ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

Both basketball teams are playing for a medal this weekend at Holland College!

Bronze GIRLS medal game is on Saturday @ 11:00. Bronze BOYS medal game is @ 1:00.

Gold GIRLS medal game is on Monday @ 1:00. Gold BOYS medal game is @ 3:00.



Badminton tryouts will start next week. Sign-up sheet is on the wall beside the gym.



## GRADE 9 TRIP

As soon as details are ironed out, we will have TWO fundraisers (March and April) to help lessen the cost of the end-of-the-year trip to for our grade 9s (day-trip only) on **Friday, June 19th!**

More details to follow. A form will be sent home soon that outlines cost, itinerary and student expectations, so keep your eyes peeled for that!



## COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

All registrations for grade ten courses should be complete at this point. We will print off forms during the first week of March to go home with students.

These forms must be verified and signed by parents/guardians.

ACTT Presentations (suicide awareness presentations) for grade nine students should all be complete by the first week of March. Parents and guardians are encouraged to have conversations with their students about the content of the presentations. If any questions or concerns come up, please reach out to the school.

# Youth Service Workers' Groups Update

Our weight groups will be starting next week.

Our CTE groups are running several times per week and students are enjoying this program.

Our skating group will be wrapping up for the season, and we look forward to starting our spring groups.

## Music Is in the Air



Grade 8/9 Early Morning Band continues to be **Thursdays** beginning at **7:50am**.

These rehearsals will be the only time we get together as a whole band during the week to practice. If for some reason rehearsal will be missed, please let Mrs. Heckbert know. Poor attendance results in the possibility of being removed from any trips or festival performances. If transportation is problematic, please let Mrs. Heckbert know so we can find a solution together.

## Learning Centre Deets

The Learning Centre had a great field trip to Creative Rebel Art Studio in February. Thank you to owner Patrick Guindon for having such a fun and inclusive environment!

Special Olympics swimming at the TCAP has started back up.



## Student Council

Our next fundraising initiative will go towards **Easter Seals**. We will then deliver the funds raised to MCS in the spring where the ambassador will make a visit.

Stay tuned!

# Our Deep Concern with ONLINE ACTIVITY



We are reaching out to our Montague Intermediate School Community to help us deal with the concerning trend that we are experiencing in our building. While many of our students are making positive choices, we've seen an increase in behaviors that are negatively impacting our school environment. These concerns are directly connected to online activities that have occurred outside school hours but generally spill over at school impacting our students' wellbeing, peer relationships, learning environment and our school's ability to operate and provide programming that are essential for many students. Unfortunately, too much of our time and energy is being redirected to dealing with these on-going issues that schools should not be dealing with on a daily basis.

Some examples of these issues are the following:

## Online and Social Media Behaviour

- Sharing intimate images.
- Sharing images of other people without consent.
- Creating or following "hate pages" used to post negative comments about peers.
- Threatening or challenging other students to fight using online platforms.
- Gossiping and spreading rumours.
- Creating posts to make fun of other students.
- Using other students' devices to cause conflict.
- Using AI to distort images of others

## Impact on Students

**Student Wellbeing:** Students are feeling emotionally, physically and psychologically unsafe. While in school students are:

- Being isolated by peers
- Worried about being in the hallways or in the bathrooms in case someone does or says something to them.
- Worried about social media posts that are directed towards them that are threatening, demeaning, or otherwise humiliating

**Attendance Concerns:** Students are reporting feeling targeted and are refusing to attend school which is not only negatively impacting their learning, but their social and emotional well being and overall school experience.

**Legal Issues:** Some behaviors have required RCMP involvement due to crossing into legal concerns

## Actions and Response

Our school has been working with students and community partners to address these concerns. Our goal is to educate and support students and families in understanding the impact of their online activities.

### Presentations:

- The Cost of Silence - Allain Pelletier
- Online Safety - Constable Jordan Young
- Parent Online Safety- Mark Campbell, Constable Jordan Young, and Corporal Yaschuk

### Policy:

- Created and reviewed the Code of Conduct with students and the school community.
- Acceptable Use Agreement
- Cell Phone Policy
- Language Policy

**Direct Support:** Guidance, YSW, and Admin meetings with students, parents, outside agencies, and conducting home visits.

**Supervision:** Increased supervision during unstructured times in the day

### Classroom Environment:

- Co-created success criteria for what counts in a positive classroom environment.
- Code of Conduct as a guiding principle

## Next Steps

### Future Presentations:

- Corporal Yaschuk from the Internet Child Exploitation Unit will be visiting our school to do a presentation to the student body. Parents are urged to ensure their children attend on March 11th.
- "Is Your Use Healthy For You" - Department of Health and Wellness.

**Programs/Groups:** "Healthy Relationship" groups

**Direct Communication:** Classroom meetings, newsletters, parent conferences, and student meetings.

Continued →

## How Parents Can Help

The school wants to emphasize that these issues often start outside of school hours and require parental intervention.

**Have Conversations at Home:** Discuss online behaviour and its real-world consequences.

### Monitor Access:

- Use resources provided in the school's in the February newsletter to limit and monitor your child's online activity.
- Routinely monitor online activities and groups
- Routinely view photo and video folders, including recently deleted items

### Educate Yourself:

- Know the platforms your child is using, their purpose, and their dangers
- Know your child's digital footprint, including what they post, what they say, what they share
- Know the privacy settings of each platform
- On how to create fair and respectful online expectations with your child
- Read the resources provided below to learn

**Support Consequences:** When behavior results in disciplinary action, the school asks for parental support in upholding those consequences.

## Resources for Parents and Guardians

### PEI Cyber Safe

<https://www.cybersafecarepei.ca/>

**Expert insight: How to manage conflicts when parenting your teenagers in a digital era:**

<https://news.westernu.ca/2024/07/conflicts-parenting-digital/>

### Internet Safety Tips:

<https://rcmp.ca/en/gazette/internet-safety-tips-parents>

### RCMP Bullying Brochure:

[https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2018/gc-rcmp/PS64-150-2018-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2018/gc-rcmp/PS64-150-2018-eng.pdf)

### How to Protect your Child from Cyber Bullying:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/campaigns/cyberbullying/help-protect-your-child-from-cyberbullying.html>

**How to Deal with Mean Girl Behavior: A Parents Guide to Raising Confident Daughters:**

<https://www.parentcircle.com/how-to-empower-girl-to-face-mean-girl-behaviour/article>

