

# Panther Tracks

A Publication of Mount Pearl Intermediate

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## From The Office:

### Happening Around MPI:

Science students from homeroom 7-5 combined review, physical activity and hula-hooping as they participated in a revision game. For the activity students were put into groups. One member of the group had to hula hoop while the others were answering questions on the chapter. Students would then change roles as they moved through the activity.

The MPI Improv Team will be competing in the NL Improv Games on Sunday, February 5, 2012 at the Reid Theatre at MUN. Doors open at 7:30PM. We are hoping to improve our second place finish from last year in the Junior High Division. Come along and cheer on the team and have a great bit of fun yourself!

Grade 8 français students along with their teachers Ms. N. Porter, Ms. Flight, and Ms. Dale are working on literature circles this week.

Grade 9 social studies classes are reading 'Millions of Souls: the Philip Riteman Story'. Philip Riteman is a Holocaust survivor whose mission is to educate today's youth on the atrocities committed against millions of Jews and Gentiles by Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime during World War II. From the Pruzhany Ghetto, Poland, Philip and his family were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. There, his entire family was exterminated. As the lone survivor, Philip was used as a forced labourer in five concentration camps, where he witnessed the cruelest treatments that can be inflicted on human beings: degradation, dehumanization, starvation, hard labour, daily beatings, torture, and deliberate, cold-blooded murder. Millions of Souls is told in three parts. First is Philip's account of life in his hometown and as an eyewitness to the struggle for survival in the concentration camps. Second is the story of Philip's exodus to Newfoundland after the war, where he

discovered that there was still some humanity left in the world. Third is the story of Philip Riteman today, and his commitment to spreading his message: "Hate destroys people, communities, and countries. Love binds us all together and makes a better world."

## Panther Paws

Congratulations to our elementary positive panther paw winners for this week: Aloysius Ducey from homeroom 6-3 and Justin Peddle from homeroom 6-1. Teacher nominators were Ms. Sanford and Ms. Wiseman.

Congratulations as well to our positive panther paw junior high winners for this week: Olivia Lundrigan from homeroom 7-1 and Kristen Butt from homeroom 9-4. Teacher nominators were Ms. Dale and Ms. Fry.

### Cooking Workshop:



The cooking workshop originally scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, 2012 will now take place from 2:45PM to 4:15PM on Tuesday, February 7, 2012. During the workshop students will be making pizza calzones. Interested students should register with Ms. Bates as spaces are limited. Cost of the workshop is \$3.00.

### Recognition of Excellence 2012:

The Recognition of Excellence Program 2012 is now open to accept nominations for outstanding school administrators, teachers, support staff and management employees. A direct link to program information, including nomination forms, is available by clicking on the graphic on the District website's main page: [www.esdnl.ca](http://www.esdnl.ca). You can also view the profiles of the 2011 winners. The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 30, 2012.

## Janeway Day in the Schools:

On Tuesday, February 14, 2012 schools across Newfoundland and Labrador will be participating in Janeway Day in the Schools – an annual fundraiser sponsored by the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association. On that day students are asked to make a donation to the Janeway in an amount equivalent to what they would normally spend on recess. Since its beginning Janeway Day in the Schools has donated more than \$927,000 to the Janeway Children's Hospital. Your support on this day is appreciated.

## Is Facebook Making You Mean?



While Facebook and other social media have certainly increased our ability to

communicate with one another, experts say that the various forms of online communication are making problems such as rude comments and insensitive jokes even worse. One of the most important ways in which we communicate with each other is through subtle emotional signals – blushes, flashes of anger in the eyes, change in a person's tone, a grin. Online communication takes all of these signals away. According to Beth Yohe, an associate director for the Anti-Defamation League which runs anti-bullying programs says, "you don't see the impact of what you write." The bottom line, teens need to learn how to behave more sensitively online. Users need to think before they post. The words you post, typed with barely a thought, are out in the world forever. Where do parents fit in? Your teen needs to know that you will be monitoring their online and text communications to ensure they are appropriate; they need to know that they can go to you if they are on the receiving end of negative online comments; you need to make yourself knowledgeable of the online technologies your child is using; and you need to model and discuss appropriate online etiquette. You might be surprised....

## Home Alone with Confidence:

On Wednesday, February 8, 2012 from 5:30PM to 7:00PM, Memorial University's Division of Lifelong Learning in conjunction with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, is offering Home Alone with Confidence, targeting kids 12-years-of-age and older. The object of the presentation is to teach the kids what to do and what not to do when home alone for the first time. Participants will learn how to answer

trouble situations, receive tips on first aid, and much more. Moms and Dads of kids who attend will feel more confident about leaving their 12+ YOs home alone. Cost of the session is \$10.00 to cover the cost of pizza for participants. To register, call MUN Div. of Lifelong Learning at 864-7979 or visit [www.mun.ca/lifelonglearning](http://www.mun.ca/lifelonglearning).

## Someone I Love Has Cancer:



We wanted to bring to the attention of our school community a valuable resource available through social workers at the Oncology Department of the Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Center.

Social Worker, Carolyn Jones, has been running a group for teens O.M.G. (Oncology Meeting Group) who have a loved one with cancer. For more information concerning the group, please contact [carolyn.jones@easternhealth.ca](mailto:carolyn.jones@easternhealth.ca) or at 777-2435.

## Snow and Ice in Paradise:

The Snow and Ice in Paradise winter carnival will take place Friday, February 17, 2012 to Sunday, February 26, 2012. For a schedule of events please visit: [www.townofparadise.ca](http://www.townofparadise.ca)

## Girls in Skilled Trades:



As part of the continued focus on introducing girls to careers in the skilled trades and as a continuation of orientation sessions completed this fall, our grade 9 girls will be involved in three hour workshops at Mount Pearl Senior high as per the schedule below:

Feb. 10: 8:40-11:40 Group 5 - 9-8 (and any other girls who missed)

## Important Dates:



### February 6, 2012 – February 7, 2012

- Beyond the Hurt: Youth Peer Facilitator training session

### February 12, 2012 – February 18, 2012

- Staff Appreciation week

**Tuesday, February 14, 2012**