

New Principal

On behalf of MEI Schools Society, I am pleased to announce the hiring of Mark Thiessen as the MEI Secondary School Principal.

Mark was awarded a Master of Education degree from the University of British Columbia in 2004 with a focus on Educational Administration and Leadership. He also holds a Bachelor of Education degree also from UBC, a Bachelor of Arts degree from Trinity Western University, and a diploma in Church Ministries from Columbia Bible College.

Mark grew up in and attended Cariboo Bethel MB Church in Williams Lake where he served as Sunday School Teacher, Soccer Camp Pastor and Coach, Children's Ministry Leader, and Elder. He and his wife Tracey have recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and together have four children. Their eldest, Brooklyn, attends Trinity Western University in the nursing program, and their sons Jonah (Grade 12), Sam (Grade 10), and Eli (Grade 6) will attend MEI. Mark and his family spent 18 months in Rwanda where he served as Program Director for the Wellspring Foundation for Education and the Vice Chair of the Kigali International Community School Board. He presently serves on the board of the Wellspring Community Foundation for Education.

Mark served as the Superintendent/CEO of School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin). In this role, he led a team that provides education to approximately 4500 students in 23 schools in a diverse geographical area about the same size as the Province of New Brunswick. The distance from the most eastern school to the most western is over 500 km. The district's three smallest schools have less than 20 students while the largest has just under 1400 students.

Mark reported directly to the district's Board of Education and advised the



board in all educational and operational matters. He also worked with a senior leadership team consisting of the Secretary Treasurer, Assistant Superintendent, and three Directors of Instruction. Also directly reporting to him were a District Principal (Instructional Technology), two helping teachers (Elementary Music and Outdoor Education), and staff from the district's Communities That Care team.

Prior to this, and all in District No. 27, Mark served as a principal at the district level and a secondary, middle, and elementary principal at the schools level. As a teacher, Mark taught in elementary and middle schools.

The following is from Mark's application:
"While I have worked in the public education system for my entire career, I have extensive leadership experience working and volunteering for Christian organizations and in my church. I believe that MEI has the unique opportunity to raise up followers of Christ for a calling that is higher than just raising up a new generation of leaders.

'Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.' (Ephesians 4:11-12, NLT)

At this point in my career, I feel strongly that God is calling me to something different. I am truly excited when I think about the impact I could have working with a team of Christian leaders to equip students for Life and Forever."

We are confident that God's hand is in this and are excited about what this hiring will mean for our high school, for

the larger MEI Schools organization, and for the Kingdom of God. Please join me in praying for Mark and his family as they transition to a new home, new schools, and Mark's new role.

Vijay Manuel, Head of Schools

Mark with his family



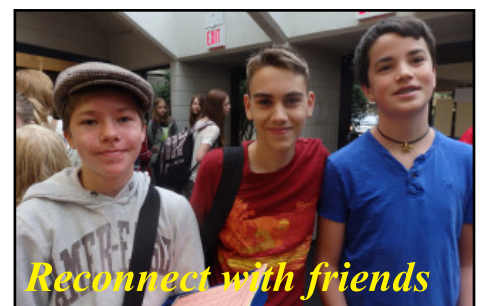
Back to School

**Our first official day back is
Tuesday, September 6**

Homeroom will start at 9:00

Homeroom lists will be posted on the front doors of the school to enable students to proceed to their classrooms for confirmation of their attendance, general orientation, timetable distribution, and locker assignment.

After the morning assembly a pizza lunch will be provided at 11:30. Once you have reconnected with friends you will be free to head home.



Reconnect with friends

Timetables & Changes

Your tentative 2016-2017 timetable is enclosed. Please check to make sure it is complete and that the courses listed on your timetable meet course/grade/graduation requirements and pre-requisites. The MEI Course Calendar is available at http://www.meischools.com/secondary/documents/student_services/coursecalendar.pdf Unfortunately, not all students were able to get their chosen courses. Class size, number of sections, prerequisites, course conflicts, MEI graduation requirements and other factors determined whether students were able to be scheduled into courses of their choice.

TIMETABLE CHANGES

Students who have an incomplete timetable or wish to make course changes can do so by scheduling an appointment through the office at 604-859-3700. Priority for timetable changes will be given to those students who have an incomplete timetable. Appointments will be available August 29, 30 and September 6.

Students are reminded that in order to request a course change, they **must have a note signed by a parent confirming that they agree with the change.** Students must attend the classes shown on their timetable until a change has been processed by a counsellor or administrator.

Homemade Lunches

The PAC will be preparing homemade lunches from September 8-16. All lunches will be \$5. **Parents, if you wish to be on the volunteer list to help the PAC this year please email Lori at lor2ens@gmail.com.**



Keep in Touch

As our primary method of communication with parents is via email, please let us know if your email address changes. This will ensure that you are kept up to date with school events.

Student Handbook

A copy of the Student/Parent Handbook is available online. Check out the link under Student Services.



School Supplies

Students generally develop their own preferences for keeping notes and subject information. Some specifics you may need include the following:

- Music/drama students need black dress pants and black shoes for music performances. (See more information in the Course Calendar online.)
- Language supplies should include a binder to be used only for language, and a French/English or a German/English dictionary.
- A Bible, preferably "Teen Life Application Bible", New Living Translation, hard cover. A limited supply of Bibles are available in the office for \$30.
- Three ring binders, paper, pens, pencils, eraser, calculator, etc.

Parking

In order to park at MEI, students must register their vehicle and purchase a parking pass for \$20 at the office. **There will be NO assigned parking spots this year as parking will be on a first come, first served basis.** So get to school early to get your best spot.

Driving Guidelines

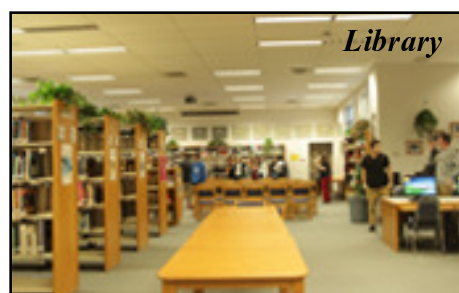
Please obey the traffic directives (arrows and signs). Parents are encouraged to drive through the parking lot and exit through the west entrance by the Elementary School, instead of trying to turn around in congested areas.

Please do not stop and drop off your student in the middle of the high school driveway. The result is congestion and frustration behind you!

If possible, pick your student up from a pre-arranged area.

Photo Day

Every student must be photographed for the school directory on September 9. Order forms will be distributed on the first day of school in homerooms.



P.E. Supplies

Students are expected to wear MEI gym strip for all their physical education classes. Students who already have an MEI gym strip that is in acceptable condition are permitted to use it and do not have to purchase a new set. Those who do not will be required to purchase their gym strip from their PE teacher on the first day of classes. Payment should accompany the purchase. T-shirts and shorts are \$15 each.

Students are required to have a good pair of non-marking running shoes for use on the gym floor in order to avoid causing damage to the floor's surface.

MEI Bus Service

MEI Schools has four user-pay school bus routes: Arnold/Whatcom, Mission, Chilliwack, and East Abbotsford. Bus stop locations are determined based on the addresses of registered riders, but do not provide door-to-door pick up and drop off.

Bus registration forms can be found on the MEI website under "Bus Routes". For details and availability, email busroutes@meischools.com.



Mothers' Fellowship

On Wednesday mornings at 8:30-9:30 mothers and grandmothers of MEI students gather together in the board room to pray for our students, staff and school. Our first meeting will be September 14. Contact Val at val.ritter63@gmail.com or Daniela at daniela@enms.org if you have questions.

Lost & Found

If you lose books or clothing items, please check in the cupboard specifically for Lost and Found items.

It is your responsibility to have the appropriate books and texts for your classes.

