

HUSKIES HIGHLIGHT REEL

November, 2008

Volume 2, Issue 2

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST :

- Diploma night will be held on Dec. 18th
- Report Cards were released Nov. 14th
- Parent-teacher interviews on Nov. 20th
- School Council Meeting Nov. 26th
- Christmas Pudding due Nov. 26th
- Care Week Dec. 15-19th

Boys Softball – Huskies win Silver!

On October 24th and 25th, the Huskies travelled to Carbonear to compete in the 4A Provincial Softball Championship. It was an 8 team tournament consisting of teams from Stephenville, Bonavista, Goulds, Avondale, Carbonear, Foxtrap and Botwood. The Mount Pearl team advanced through to the semi-finals with a record of 2 wins and 1 loss. They faced Roncalli in the first semi-final game and beat them 9-7 in 9 innings. This win earned them the right to play St. Kevin's in the championship. The game was a real nail biter. After 7 innings of play the game was once again tied 1-1 and extra innings would decide the outcome. In the bottom of the 8th, St Kevin's scored the winning run to claim the provincial championship. The Huskies took home the silver medal and Dan Abbott was awarded the Sportsmanship Award. Congratulations Huskies! Members of the Huskies include:

Dan Abbott, Dean Gordon, Steve Brien, Steve Bartlett, Jesse Burns, Adam Foote, Brent Foote, Ciaran Curran, Andrew Mercer, Zack Giles, Greg Brushett, Mike O'Brien, Paul King (Coach), Dale Miller (Coach).

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Holocaust Survivor Captivates Audience

October 15, 2008 brought our school's population together in the gymnasium for two hours of compelling testimony. We were graced with the pleasure of having the company of Dr. Philip Riteman, Holocaust survivor, a man whose life has been scarred with torture, catastrophic loss, and sacrifice. This man survived the horrors of Auschwitz and Birkenau. These two words describe unthinkable, unbearable, unimaginable conditions and the utmost horror forced upon innocent individuals 67 years ago in Poland.

Dr. Phil, as he likes to be called, is a man of small stature. I first met him at the front doors of his. He stood with his back from me. When I spoke his name, he turned and I was stunned by the warm smile of this great individual who remains scarred by a tattoo bearing the number 98 706 on his left arm. I instantly knew that Dr. Riteman was a man of great strength and courage, a man whose life lessons had brought him back to this very province which welcomed him so many years ago.



Dr. Riteman was rescued from the horrors of the Nazi prison camps by the United States Army in 1945. After having spent four years as a prisoner, he and those still alive were rescued. But, hundreds of thousands were tortured. Lives were lost through senseless acts of torture and hatred by Nazi guards whose sole purpose was to kill and dispose of human beings who, in their eyes, served no purpose. Human beings who, from birth, suffered defects of the mind or body; human beings who chose to love members of their own sex; human beings who were too old or too young; those listed as useless to serve in the German army; those who were teachers and lawyers; those who worked for the govern-

ment. And if you were a Jew, you were also a part of this chosen group.

Two million innocent lives were taken. Every day 20 000 bodies were burned.

Dr. Riteman survived "selection" because he lied. His deception about age and occupation allowed him to become one of the "chosen" ones. One would expect this term to be good. On the contrary, the "chosen" victims served the German army, participating in horrifying acts.

Philip Riteman, a boy of only 14, pretended to be almost 18. His jobs varied: loading wheel barrows with the bodies of the dead, tirelessly filling the wheel barrows with the bodies. If babies and toddlers were the next pile, they would be the next. If he did not work fast enough, he was struck repeatedly by the soldiers who shouted, "move faster." He worked building crematoriums and cutting up dead bodies for autopsy. Work promised he would soon see his own family. Little did he know that the faces of his mother, father, sisters and brothers would never pass

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his again. The hand of his younger sister, which he held when the soldiers ordered them through the first gates of the camp, would be felt by his no more. After selection, his entire family had been disposed of – killed. Philip Riteman had been saved. An irony, this word “saved.” In reality, it meant victims would be tortured over an extended period; used and abused and starved and beaten, working for those who had killed his entire family and all of his neighbours. One million soldiers who had taken over his town, nameless, faceless, they become soldiers of death.

Philip Riteman didn't speak of his ordeal for 40 years. He really didn't think anyone wanted to listen. Still today, he takes no pleasure in recounting the horrors. He misses his family so it is very hard for him to speak.

It was through the generosity of Newfoundland, then its own country, who welcomed him in August, 1946. His journey became a long road - the road to freedom from the Nazi prison camps; the road far, far, away from the horrors of torture. Once in Newfoundland, Philip Riteman put a pack on his back, spoke no English, and felt continuous scars upon his soul. Dr. Phil tells his listeners repeatedly, “I don't know why I am here, why I survived. Why did I survive? I don't know”.... Maybe it was to be, so I could tell all of you about hatred, how it is wrong, and how you should never hate another human being.”

This man of extreme courage does not understand, still today, how one human could ever do what was done to millions in Poland in 1941. How can we ever know? How can we console his agony? This survivor of horrific conditions and experiences still cries as he shares his story. This is a man whose gentleness surpasses most all I have ever known. Perhaps he seeks re-birth in words.

Philip Riteman's life has become so much a part of many. His stories have become part of us, his listeners. Blanketed by his words, students listened with baited breath as they heard about mothers and babies murdered in sight of a 14 year old boy - his visions of blood and the screams of horror became such a reality for us all.

This man stood in front of us all and shared, and shared, and shared. He did not want payment; he wanted the ears of the youth. Dr. Philip Riteman wanted the young to know about love and security and families and homes.

His lesson was quite clear: don't hate, just love.

As the morning unfolded, students were humbled by this man of greatness. Teachers and staff were compelled by his sermon in our school's gymnasium.

Tissues and tears aside, we learned something that day. Through the hugs and the tears of this great individual and through the atrocities, we saw clearly that humanity is contained within the hearts of some. Although Philip Riteman has suffered tremendous heartache, he had given a gift to us. We have learned, through him, of forgiveness and tolerance. We have been given a gift of patience and love. And the world has been given the gift of a great man: Dr. Philip Riteman.

MPSH Helping Hands

Every school year students who pass through our classrooms wondering whether their family will be able to afford Thanksgiving dinner, a present for them at Christmas, or even a badly needed winter coat.



MPSH Helping Hands is program we have begun this year so that, if you wish, you can give these students the help they need with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Your donation to the Helping Hands fund will be tax deductible. In addition, you will be recognized on our "Donors Page" of the Helping Hands web site.

Contributions can be submitted at the main office or mailed to:

Helping Hands Fund
Mount Pearl Senior High School
50 Ruth Avenue
Mount Pearl
A1N 2H5

Counselors Corner

Tutoring for Tuition

Eleven new Tutors participated in the training session for Tutoring for Tuition on Wednesday, Oct. 29th. This training was facilitated by Guidance Intern, Mr. Paul Vincent. These tutors, along with our eight tutors who participated in the program last year, will have the opportunity to earn a post-secondary tuition voucher in exchange for providing tutoring to elementary, junior high and high school students. This program will be beginning within the next two weeks so parents and students are advised to contact Ms. Short or Mr. Vincent to arrange tutoring.

AARAO Post-Secondary Fair

On Thursday October 30th, MPSH hosted the annual AARAO Post-Secondary Fair. Twenty-Eight representatives from post-secondary institutions across the Atlantic provinces (including College of the North Atlantic, Memorial University and many of the local private colleges) were on hand to disseminate career and post-secondary information to Level III and Career Development students. In addition, Level III O'Donel High students also visited the Fair. The feedback received from students and teachers was that this was a great opportunity for students to find out about post-secondary requirements and opportunities and to assist with career planning.

A Green Christmas

The Environment and Animal Rights Clubs will be joining forces in the next two months to promote the celebration of a Green and Compassionate Christmas 2008. Watch the halls for posters on how to show true Christmas spirit by caring for the Earth during the festive season.



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Mount Pearl Senior High



This year the students of Mount Pearl Senior High’s Cooking Club plan to help you prepare for the holidays, by taking care of some of your baking needs. In addition to the celebrated pudding, we are offering chocolate cappuccino fudge. All wonderfully delicious and a treat for all. Please place your orders with a student on this sheet or email medinastacey@esdnl.ca for further details before November 26, 2008. Please pay the student or at the office at MPSH.

Thank you for your kind support and enjoy!

Your Name and phone #:

Student’s Name:

Student’s Phone Number:

Student’s Homeroom:

Your info:	# of Puddings @ \$15	# of Fudge @ \$15