

Principal: Alan Millar
Email: alan_millar@sd42.ca
Phone: 604-466-9993
Cell: 604-626-2112
Secretary: Audrey Hammer



Sept 2018
News Letter



Principal's Message: Well we are two weeks in so a welcome back may be a little stale however....



WELCOME BACK!!!! The year is already off to a great start with classes buzzing with activity, connections and energy. Students are setting in and teachers are engaging them in wonderful learning opportunities already. At this time I'd like to share with our community a few of the focuses here at Edith McDermott for the upcoming school year and well pretty much for as long as they allow me to be the Principal here.

If you're around the school you're going to hear the word literacy a lot. This includes not just reading books but literacy in general. Our goal moving forward is to make everything we do have a literary element to it; we want to make EME a literacy rich zone. What this means is you will be seeing, and hearing of, monthly school wide literary activities, events (along with daily ones in the classes) and in the general

conversations in the halls. Some of these may mean that if you're in the school you will be expected to stop what you are doing and grab a book/participate....

Speaking of grabbing a book some of you may have noticed a new seating area under the stairs in the front foyer of the school. Along with the nice comfy chairs and lighting you will also find a small library for adults there. Many of these are my personal books and if you see one that catches your eye it would be my pleasure to loan it to you. All I ask is that you leave your name, the title of the book, and the date you are borrowing it with the office. You are also welcome to just come in and sit and read, even with school in session. We want to model the behaviour.... Adults read too...

Another focus for us is to continue to grow the amazing community spirit here at EME. You can expect a lot of emphasis on; the house teams, leadership opportunities for our kids and support and inclusion of our large and diverse community. It's going to a fantastic year you can feel the positive buzz already.

And finally, remember, if you are around the school please stick your head into the office and say hi. My door is always open and everyone is welcome.

Alan Millar

Introducing

Please join us in welcoming three new staff to the EME family One is not a New face to many of you as she is also our PAC President.... Randi McMynn has joined us as an Educational Assistant.

Mr. Cole Faulkner is our new grade 5/6 teacher and we also have a new 6/7 teacher Ms. Cezann Deveaux. All three are excellent additions to our community. Also.... Mrs. Tracey Meaden and Mrs. Cristin Wilson have taken on Support Teacher Roles which strengthens our team. Mrs. Krista Kong has taken on the library and is working to make it a welcoming hub of our school and significantly supportive of our literacy goals.

Lot's of Important Paper Work

Coming home over the first few days of school is some very important paper work that we need to ensure we have the most current information to support students and families. Please keep your eyes out for the student verification form and emergency release form. The verification form needs a once over to ensure the information is correct so we can contact you if need be. The second form was new last year and is equally, if not even more important than, the



verification form. We hear that our area is due for the "big" one (earthquake).

Let's hope it goes into the realm of the really over due and does not interfere with us however in the case that it does we want to ensure our students are safe and that we release them, should you not be able to reach the school,

only in a manner and to individuals, you deem okay. Please take your time and fill this form out meaningfully. If you're new to the area or not overly connect and have difficulty deciding on a safe person to list on the form please let us, at the school, know. We have a number of wonderful parents and families willing to help out in these situations. A portal version is also sent out please complete both.

Some Up Coming Events

Sept 17 & 19 Learn 2 Ride Bicycle Program Grade 4-5

Sept 18th PAC Meeting 6:00 PM

Sept 20th EME Open House
6-7 pm

Sept 21st PAC Welcome Back Movie
Night Doors open 7:15

Sept 24th Curriculum
Implementation Day
No School for Students

Sept 26th PAC Happy Hot Dog Day
Div. 1 & 2

Sept 27th Terry Fox Run
After Lunch

Sept 28th Individual Picture Day

Sept 28th Orange T-Shirt Day

Oct 3 Monthly Assembly
9:00

And, of course, a multitude of amazing things in classes on a daily basis including great fieldtrips.



Information & Research on Combined (AKA SPLIT) Classes

Each school year many of our students are placed into a combined class. Combined classes are a reality in every elementary school, and every child will be in both straight and combined classes during their elementary school years. Some [parents](#) can be concerned about possible negative impacts of being in a combined - there is none. With this in mind, we have put together some information below about combined and straight grade classes to help families better understand:

1. **Research has shown there is no difference in academic achievement between children in split classes versus straight grade classes.**

2. **A single grade class is a multi-grade class as children are all at different stages of development.** Every child develops at his/her own rate and pace.



3. Three common misconceptions about combined classes.

- A combined class is comprised of the more capable students in the younger grade and students who struggle in the older grade.

Truth: **Every class** is balanced both academically and socially whether it is a straight or combined grade class.

- If a child is in the older grade with younger students, they will not be challenged.

Truth: Teachers use differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all the learners in both straight and combined classes. Instruction is customized to students' stages of learning.

- In a combined class, students will miss grade level curriculum.

Truth: A teacher in combined classroom is to be able to integrate different subject matters and bring students together to promote a one-class atmosphere.

4. Sometimes, children may remain with a teacher for a second year. There are many benefits in continuing with the same teacher and in the same learning environment for more than one year.

- The teacher knows the students abilities and is therefore able to provide appropriate instruction.
- Students can continue a second year with familiar routines and expectations, which naturally leads to leadership skills.
 - The child and teacher have built a relationship of trust over the years. The student becomes extensively familiar with the learning environment and naturally begins to understand himself as a learner and a person.

5. Benefits for the students

- The older students have opportunities for leadership, mentoring and peer support. They learn to be positive, mature role models for the younger students.
- The younger children gain self-confidence and maturity by being exposed to older students.
- There is greater peer-to-peer learning in blended classrooms.
- Students develop friendships across grade levels and instil a greater sense of responsibility for one another, and a better sense of community.

Learn more about how and why combined classes work in this video: https://youtu.be/CqtQ_zUBPjI

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Parking....



It remains my hope that more folks consider either walking to school all together or at the very least parking a ways away from the school and walking in. If you think about it walking beats sitting in line waiting and it is better for you, your student, and our planet as you won't be sitting there idling. Something to consider that's for sure.

However, for those who must drive please follow our simple courtesies.

- 1) Do not leave your vehicleEven for a quick second...
- 2) As the vehicle ahead of you pulls out, pull forward as far as you can
- 3) Make it quick. Remind your students not to "delay" in class or at the curb and don't chat with friends or neighbours.. Get in and get out.
- 4) Be patient and polite. No one is going anywhere fast and "hot" heads create unsafe situations
- 5) Relax and if you have a comment or concern come talk to me... I try to be out there everyday.

Incident Weather

Please remember to send a change of clothes with your child to keep in the classroom, if your child tends to get wet and dirty when our rainy weather begins. Umbrella's, raincoats and boots are also a good idea especially on those cloudy/rainy mornings. We do live in a temperate rainforest and if we only went outside when it wasn't raining, well we wouldn't be outside very much.



PARENT PORTAL REMINDER

DON'T MISS OUT on another announcement, event, newsletter or field trip! These forms/announcements are only communicated from the school through the **Parent Portal**. Recently the District sent out the following consent forms on the Parent Portal to be approved by parents online. Please approve these items if you have not already done so.

- Information Technology & Communication Systems - Appropriate Use Policy
- Outside Media
- Personal Information Consent
- Student Use of Google Drive Services
- Microsoft Office 365 Services
- Walking Field Trip



Individual Student Photos

Photo Express will be taking the individual student photos on **Friday Sept 28th** (class photos will be done in the spring). Proofs of these photos should arrive home a couple of weeks later for you to select/order a portrait package. **Retake Day will be on October 22, 2018.**

Students Away/Late: Again this year we are phoning home to confirm any unexplained absences. To help reduce the volume of this labor intensive process please contact our office the day/night (or earlier if the possible) prior to the absence.

Come Join Us
for an
OPEN HOUSE

We are looking forward to our Meet the Teacher and Open House to be held from **6:00 to 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 20th**. It will be a wonderful opportunity for the Edith McDermott Elementary staff to meet new parents and for the whole community to reconnect. Please keep in mind that your child's teacher has just begun to get to know your son or daughter and is not yet prepared to comment on academic progress.

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ORANGE SHIRT DAY SEPT 28th

In the Spirit of Truth and Reconciliation

On September we will be holding a very special assembly in support of Orange Shirt Day of Residential We will supply orange T-Shirts to students and on their meaning. be held at 9:00 am gym. Community welcome to join us wear orange.

If you would like we will be

the end of the day, please send \$10.00 in an envelope clearly marked with your student's name and division to the EME office.



which is in honour School Survivors. and distribute all our staff and discuss and reflect The assembly will on Sept 28th in the members are but we ask that you

to keep the shirt, as collecting them at

If you are unfamiliar with why we wear Orange shirts, please follow this link: <http://www.angeshirtday.org/phyllis-story.html>

DOGS/PETS IN/AT THE SCHOOL

We all love our pets and want to share them with everyone however please realize that in schools there are community members with allergies and phobias of all sort including to a variety of animals. Please keep your pets home or at least out of the school unless previously arranged with your student's teacher or the Principal. If you bring your dog with you when walking to the school please make sure it remains on leash for the same reasons.... Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



FIRST PAC MEETING OF THE YEAR ...September 18th

6:00pm in the EME Library

New Faces Always Welcome

Child Minding Available

HERE'S TO A GREAT YEAR AT A GREAT PLACE
EDITH MCDERMOTT ELEMENTARY
HOME of the MAGIC!!