

Principal: Alan Millar  
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Secretary: Audrey Hammer



Oct 2018  
News Letter



**Principal's Message:** Well the first month of school has come and gone and we are headed into fall. The school year has been action packed already with incredible learning going on for everyone including myself. I recently attended a conference on the Mental Health of Children that was extremely powerful. If you around the school come by the office and ask me about it. It truly was impactful.

Our students have been having some terrific experiences from building bird feeders and picking apples and turning them into sauce as they are developing their math and literacy abilities, to some learning the rules of the road on their bicycles. Too often we associate learning with a traditional image of sitting in rows, pen/pencil in hand, listening quietly to the teacher lecture. Research has clearly shown that learning is a dynamic process that occurs through all sorts of modalities and what works for one may not work for another. Therefore, you will see many teachers using a variety of strategies and activities to develop the skills and processes we are responsible to develop in our students. Where the confusion lies for so many of us parents is that we all went through school and we know what it "should" look like ..... Like it did when we went to school... But the reality is "no" it shouldn't.... We have advanced our understanding of development and learning through research and today's classrooms and expectations are far removed from the traditional "basics" of yester year.

For more information on the evolution of education and our understanding of development please come into the school and visit our little adult library, and sitting area, under the stairs. Many of the titles there speak to these very things and apply them to parenting and learning. If you see a title you'd like to borrow please feel free just let us know in the office of which title you're taking....

And finally, as always, 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



Halloween is fast approaching and many classrooms are starting to prepare their activities and events for that day. Many students have mentioned their costume plans so it is a good time to put out a few reminders... We are an elementary school with students as young as 4 and as old as 12. This range can

sometimes make it difficult to define what is appropriate and what is not as the tastes of 12 year-olds can be quite different from that of a 4 year old. So a couple of guiding statements regarding costumes and behaviour on that day...

- We are a school so clothing glorifying or promoting violence, drug or alcohol use or weapons, are not welcome
- All students need to feel safe so "scaring" students who do not want to participate is to be avoided
- Costumes can be worn all day but most classes prefer just in the afternoon
- Masks are allowed but makeup is preferable.
- Costumes should strive to be "spooky" not "scary"
- Mr. Millar has final say.

Please remember we are a community of all ages and as such we need to consider that in our decisions. Thank you.

## West Coast Recess reminder...



As we move into late fall and winter, temperatures will drop, rain, and maybe snow, will fall. This is a friendly reminder to dress your student for the elements as fresh air is an important ingredient for learning and thus students will be going outside in all kinds of weather. It is a good idea to send a change of clothes in as well as many of our students enjoy the pleasures of stomping in puddles....

### Some Up Coming Events

Oct 19<sup>th</sup> Pro-D No School

Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> Photo Retakes

Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> Special Assembly Regarding Terry Fox Fund Raising

Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> Pac Meeting 2:30 PAC  
Welcome Back Movie Night Doors open 7:15

Oct.23<sup>rd</sup> Intermediate Cross Country  
Golden Ears Park

Oct 24<sup>th</sup> Happy Hot Dog Day Div 3&4 provided by PAC

Oct 24<sup>th</sup> Primary Cross Country  
Albion Sports Complex

Oct 25<sup>th</sup> Western Direct Deadline  
PAC

Oct 26<sup>th</sup> Monster Mash Dance PAC

Oct 31<sup>st</sup> Halloween Activities

Nov 8<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day Assembly

Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> Pro-D Day No School

Nov 12<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day  
Observance  
No School  
9:00

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**Literacy Literacy Literacy**..... As many of you know we are really focusing on literacy at Edith McDermott. The world opens up to all who have at least a functional level of literacy and can be quite narrow for those that don't. It is a goal of our school to improve the literacy abilities of all our students.....

In pursuit of our goal you can expect to hear of not only excellent support programming and literacy focused programming in classes but also school wide... This month we have two exciting schoolwide, literacy enhancing, events occurring.....



The first occurs on **October 18<sup>th</sup>** on our Pajama Day..... Students are invited to wear their pajamas to school to earn house points and for the last ½ hour of the school day we will all be gathering in the gym for a literacy campout.... Lights will be low... A campfire will be lit (not a real fire) tents will be pitched and students will be invited to bring a flashlight, a blanket and get cozy with a book for the last ½ hour in the gym.... Parents are invited too however books, pjs, and participation are expectations.



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The second event is a visit from an actual author for our intermediate students, Rachel Burke, who will share her stories, discuss writing and publishing, and inspire our young authors. Rachel writes stories aimed at adolescents featuring issues and complexities of that age. This will be in the afternoon on **October 26<sup>th</sup>**.

## **Mr. Millar's Beard!!!!!!**

Our community out did itself in support of Terry Fox and the Fight to Find a Cure for Cancer. As a means to motivate our students, Mr. Millar was willing, for \$1000 to take a pie in the face, for \$2000 shave his beard, and for \$5000.00 shave his head. Many of the schools, much larger than ours, raised in the high hundreds and even broke a \$1000.00 however our school and community rocked, raising over \$2000.00 for Terry's cause. Say goodbye to your chin whiskers Mr. Millar **A special assembly will be held at 1:40 on Monday Oct 22**

## **Parking....**

As the weather gets cooler and wetter we can anticipate more of our community members driving their students to school.... The more vehicles the greater the impact on safety... As such, it is even more important to follow the following guidelines....

- 1) Do not leave your vehicle. Even 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

**Athletics** have begun ..... Volleyball is well underway for our grade 6 & 7 boys and girl's. Mr. Stublely is coaching the boy's team and Mrs. Kong & Ms. Stanley are working with the girls. Game days are usually Tuesdays for the girls and Wednesdays for the boys... Please visit Mr. Stublely's or Mrs. Kong's home pages for the actual schedules... Would love to see folks out cheering our teams on during games.

**Cross Country** is also just around the corner. The Primary Cross Country is on Oct 24<sup>rd</sup> at Albion Sports complex... The Intermediate Cross Country Run is at Golden Ears Park. As is the tradition parents are expected to transport their students to and from the events. Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Kong and Ms. Stanely are coordinating the primary run and Mr. Faulkner and Mrs. Mclaughlin are coordinating the intermediate students for October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Alouette Lake.



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## Our PAC!!!

Is Awesome.... The Next PAC meeting is at **2:30 on October 2nd**....  
They are also putting on a family dance for Halloween...

## The Monster Mash

**Friday October 26<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30**

It is a school event so costumes need to be appropriate. For further details please visit the PAC Facebook page or contact Randi or Shannon.

**Entertainment Books**.... Please quadruple check you student's room, knapsack, your home, for any misplaced entertainment books.



## Honouring the Past and Looking to

the Future.. Edith McDermott has always been the home of the Magic. A legacy to be honoured and maintained over time... As part of our evolution to more inclusive and modern practices and philosophies we are exploring updating our STAR logo to include imagery representative of our area. Here is a proof of an image being considered. Let Mr. Millar know your thoughts at [alan\\_millar@sd42.ca](mailto:alan_millar@sd42.ca).



**LIVES in the BALANCE**..... This is a non profit organization, founded by the author of the Explosive Child and creator of the Collaborative Proactive Solutions model for helping children manage, Dr. Ross Greene, providing fantastic resources to parents and educators to assist in supporting our children. Please visit their website at [www.livesinthebalance.org](http://www.livesinthebalance.org) or check out some of their resources at the following facebook pages...

The B Team for Parents of Behaviorally Challenging Kids  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheBTeamLITB/>

Elevate Your Parenting For Parents of All Kids  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ElevateYourParenting/>

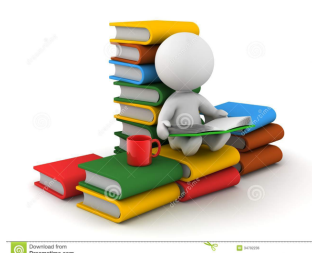
**Coming In January the Red Cross Babysitting Course for students in grade 6 & 7**



## House Teams ....

Well they have taken off.... Ask your student which house they belong to...

Hawks-Green, Owls- Yellow, Ravens-Red, Eagles-Blue



**Three Morning Opportunities for Students** You heard about it on the portal and maybe from a friend, we have started three great opportunities for kids at Edith McDermott from 8:00-8:25.

**In the Library** students are welcome to enter and settle into some reading activities.

**In Room 2027** students are welcome to enter and get some extra help or finish up some homework

**In Room 1011** students by invitation only will be invited to participate in some fine motor skill exercises.

All three areas will have adult supervision and assistance for students. All are welcome as long as they participate in the room as described.