

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



Principal's Message: It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas all over the school. It's such an energized time of year with great expectations hopes and dreams. I see in all of our student's eyes the wonder that accompanies this magical time. Throughout the school you can hear classes preparing for the Christmas Concerts to be held on the 18th and 19th of December. At this time I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and I hope you have a restful, relaxing and warm holiday season.

Speaking of warm holidays our Global Citizen's group is once again asking for gently used toques and gloves to be donated and then handed out to those in need. As well there is a food drive and of course the annual Giving Tree is now available in the school lobby.

We have just finished our first reporting conferences of the year. I am so proud of all our students who continue to show tremendous growth and desire to develop even more. Since the district has abandoned letter grades in the intermediate grades I hear comments that some parents are still confused as to how to determine how well their student is doing. Letter grades were even less informative if you think about it. Yes you could take pride in your student receiving a high letter grade as it suggests high performance however what do you know about their learning or what they have learned, nothing. Really all letter grades give in terms of information is how your student is doing in a comparative model. Students getting B's are supposedly better than those who get C's but aren't quite as good as the A students. They create a divided and stratified community with no real bearing on what is being learned, how the learning is taking place or where growth should be focused moving forward. The newer model focuses on what is happening, what your student's learning strengths are and where continued growth is welcomed. It communicates your student's development on a broad continuum to ensure you know if they are within expectations but it does not create a competitive climate between them to other learners. They inform you of your student's actual learning. Ask yourself, if your student gets a C+ in Language Arts what do you know about their strengths and weaknesses." Now, with the current model, you would see they were strong in communicating ideas however their mechanics need more development. It's a very simple example but I hope it helps in developing understanding. If you'd like to discuss this further stop by the office.

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



It's that time again when we hold our annual Christmas Concert. You can hear all the young voices practicing their performances for what sounds to be a fantastic concert. In keeping with tradition at Edith McDermott our younger students (up to grade 5) perform for our audience. The older students work behind the scenes

making this a truly school wide event.

Show times are Tuesday December 18th at 1:00 pm and Wednesday December 19th at 1:00 pm. Due to limited seating, based on fire regulations and community size, we ask that you plan on attending only one of the two performances. As well our PAC is auctioning off the first 2 rows. To participate in the draw please visit the Munch a Lunch website (link located on the school webpage under parent)

As a final note I'd like to remind the entire audience to remain for the entire concert. The teachers and students have worked hard preparing and are deserving of a complete audience. Only in the most unavoidable circumstances should the adults leave before the end and especially not after seeing their own child only. Please be mindful of our neighbours when you park.

Thanks for your understanding.Ho Ho Ho. ...

Some Up Coming Events

- Dec 6th Parent Night Out
6:00-8:00
PAC EVENT
- Dec 11th PAC Meeting
2:30-3:30
- Dec 18 & 19
Afternoon
Christmas Concert 1:00 pm
- Dec 20
Grade 6&7
Entrepreneurial Fair
- Dec 20
Poetry Night
Maple Ridge Secondary
6:30-8:00
- Dec 21
Last Day of School
Christmas Holidays
- Jan 7th
First Day Back
After Holidays

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Christmas is a time for friends and even strangers. success by sharing it with Elementary we take this we have set up a Giving Tree and purchase the item to the school for it to be family who would appreciate Also we have our Global



thinking of others, family, It is a time for sharing our others. At Edith McDermott very seriously. In our foyer where folks and take a tag listed on the tag to return wrapped and given to a it.

Citizens Group collecting toques, scarfs, and gloves to be distributed to our more vulnerable community members. As well we will accept gift cards and non-perishable food items to help keep the shelves of our local food banks stocked. Thank you all in advance

Entrepreneur Fair. On Thursday, December 20th the grade 6/7s at Edith McDermott are having an Entrepreneur Fair in the school gym. Students have been learning about business plans, production, marketing, and social responsibility. The Fair will be open from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm and you are invited to come view and shop for items made and marketed by the grade 6 and 7 students. Item prices will range from 50 cents to \$10.00 with most in the \$1 to \$3 range. All our young entrepreneurs are donating a portion of their profit to charity or using it towards the cost of our grade 6/7 camp. Please help us make this exciting event a success.



Please be mindful of our neighbours when you park.

Literacy Literacy Literacy.....



We continue our focus on literacy here at EME. We've staged a number of events here at the school including dress like you favourite character, literacy campout, author visits, and of course the Magical Mystery Tour which we will be having on a more frequent basis.

Secondary on December 20th from 6:30-8:00. students and librarians at MRSS turn the bistro and students share their poetry and highschool so the poetry and verse can be however for our older students it is a great hear and feel some powerful poetry. I will be evening so if students want to go and parents about having someone there I don't mind for our students just please remember to pick them up by 8.



A great opportunity is available for our students at Maple Ridge The library into a verse. This is "mature" chance to there that are worried looking out

Another fantastic opportunity has been the BookFest event which culminated with the participating students going to the local theatre to see the movie rendition of one of their books, "A Wrinkle in Time."

Just Around the Corner Already Planning for Next Year!!!

Kindergarten registration dates have been released by the district.

Jan. 7-31 Kindergarten Registration Opens for our new elementary Cesquenele

Jan 21-Jan 25 Sibling Registration for New Ele.

Feb 1-Feb 4 Choice Registration

Feb 12-Feb 19 General Registration

Feb 27-June 26 Late Registration

If you know of anyone anywhere in the district or is thinking of moving to the district with Kindergarten aged kids please make them aware of these dates or tell them to contact the school

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Snow is in the Forecast.....

Please take some time to visit the district website under the parent tab to review the inclement weather procedure particularly as it applies to school closures. We have included here where that announcement, if made can be found.... Let's hope it doesn't come to it but.... Please be ready..



The decision to close schools is made by 6 a.m. Details are:

- posted on the SD42 Twitter feed ([@sd42news](https://twitter.com/sd42news));
- posted on the SD42 Facebook feed ([SD42Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SD42Facebook));
- shared with News 1130, CKNW, and CBC 690 radio stations;
- posted on the SD42 Website (www.sd42.ca).

BookFair was A Hit!!!! In keeping with a focus on literacy our students and families gobbled up a tonne of books and other related items at our fall BookFest. Raising \$2070.00 for our library to get even more great titles. A special thank you to Tammy Sikor, one of our parents, for organizing and running the book fair. Without her it would not happen!!

Parking....

The weather has gotten cooler and wetter more of our community members drive their students to school.... The more vehicles the greater the impact on safety... As such, it is even more important to follow the guidelines we've established....

- 1) Do not leave your vehicle. Even for a quick second **TOO MANY ARE STARTING TO NOT DO THIS!!!** ...
- 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 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



Three Morning Opportunities for Students As mentioned in all previous newsletter we have

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 utilize the space as described. Would love to see more kids tke advantage of these.



Athletics Volleyball has wrapped up and we are now into Basketball We have had a great turnout and will be fielding a girl's team and two boys teams. Mr. Stublely and Mr. Millar will be working with the boy's teams and Mrs. McMyn, Mrs. Torrence, Mrs. Stanely and Mrs. McLaughlin are working with the girls. Boys practices will be Monday and Wednesday and the girls workout on Tuesday and Thursday after school. Games will begin in the new year. Game days should a line with the practice days announced.



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Our PAC!!!

Is Awesome.... The Next PAC meeting is at **2:30 Dec 1**. They continue to support or students and teacher's and are a big part pf what makes this community such a great place. On Dec 6th they held a Parent's Night Out inour Gym which allowed for many folks to get out Christmas Shopping with out the kids. Thank you PAC You are terrific!



Honouring the Past and Looking to the Future..

It's coming the new logo. We are still welcoming input to our modernized logo which now includes imagery more representative of our area. Here is a proof of an image being considered. Let Mr. Millar know your thoughts at alan_millar@sd42.ca.

In case we don't get to connect between now and the 21st from all of us here at Edith McDermott Elementary we wish you and your's a wonderful, restful Holiday Season and a



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The Redesigned Curriculum at Edith McDermott

CAREER EDUCATION *A lifelong journey*

A person's career is considered their journey through life, and career education encourages students to pursue this journey in personal, meaningful and goal-oriented ways. Educated citizens in today's ever-changing world are open to multiple career-life possibilities for the future and are flexible and able to adapt to emerging opportunities that fit their overarching values and aspirations.

The **career education** curriculum is designed to help students from kindergarten to Grade 12 learn how to effectively manage their life journey towards several possible preferred futures. Through purposeful career-life development, students learn to recognize their evolving interests and strengths, refine their learning goals, and apply this self-knowledge to the exploration of career-life possibilities. Career-life development is a lifelong process of self-discovery, growth in competence, and learning from experiences in educational, work-related, and personal life contexts.



Two of Edith McDermott's finest participating in last years' Entrepreneurial Fair



Redesigned Curriculum: Know-Do-Understand

All areas of learning are based on a "Know-Do-Understand" model to support a concept-based, competency-driven approach to learning. In this model, three elements work together to support deeper learning: **Content (Know)**, **Curricular Competencies (Do)**, and **Big Ideas (Understand)**. BC's new curriculum design enables a personalized, flexible and innovative approach at all levels of the education system. All areas of learning have been redesigned using this model.