

Principal: Alan Millar
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Principal’s Message: Holy cow it is hard to believe we are already into February. The time truly does fly by in the wink of an eye. One of the things I have come to notice and appreciate here at Edith McDermott is the amount of care the adults have for their children and the amount of support they give them. I know it seems like an obvious thing however I have been around and worked in many environments where it isn’t so obvious. It’s a great “problem” to have.

As we support our children, we want them to develop into capable adolescents and ultimately adults. To support this goal, it is important to help our children develop resiliency and the capacity to deal with a degree

of adversity congruent with their age. Confidence and character are not built in a homogenous problem/adversity free environment. Rather, it is developed, or forms, when students face and overcome appropriate levels adversity and diversity on their own with supportive adults close by. It is in overcoming these that our children mature and develop the codes of ethics, empathy and morality that guide them in making good decisions as they grow up.

Sometimes as parents we care so much that we want to protect them from everything, all the challenges, hurts and bumps, but when we do this, we are actually hindering their ability to handle the truly significant challenges, hurts and bumps that life can bring. It is important to support our children but equally as important is to let them handle things, let them fail and not rescue them every time. This is one of the keys that research tells us we can all do when raising our children to be the capable citizens we want them to be. It is also one of the greatest attributes and strengths of public education where students interact with all members of the community and learn to navigate the social milieu in a successful manner. It is not always pretty, or easy, but it is powerful and exactly what we want as a society, capable citizens.

As always, my door is always open and I welcome all to stop by and say hello...

Alan Millar

Kindness Counts

Every day at Edith McDermott Elementary and in support of international Pink Shirt Day we will be recognizing this with a special assembly on February 27th along with some ongoing activities throughout the month. At our assembly we are hoping to see a “SEA of Pink” so please encourage you student to wear a pink shirt that day. If you’d like the school’s pink shirt, order forms are available through the portal under school fees or at the counter in the office. All orders need to be in by February 11th if we are to have our shirts for the 27th...

Also as part of our celebration and recognition of this special day the Global Citizens club has initiated a school wide activity promoting even more kindness in the form of RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS HEARTS..... Paper hearts will be given to individuals caught doing random acts of kindness and a draw will be held at the assembly on the 27th.

Parking Lot Gossip!!! Many of our families go through all sorts of diverse complex challenges at various times that create challenges for our students. When these things become the topic of idle chatter or “gossip” in the community the difficulty for the student is increased exponentially. As a community we all want the same thing for the students and that is an emotionally safe environment where they can encounter success. If you encounter some discussion on social media, in the parking lot or at the gym regarding negativity toward a student or their family at the very least don’t participate and, if possible, encourage those “chatting” to remember these are all our kids. Thank you for your understanding and sensitivity



CONFERENCES ARE COMING!!!

That’s right the time to **CELEBRATE** our students’ learning is fast approaching. Students and teachers are busily preparing their portfolios so they can show their parents their development and progress towards

their goals. This happens on Thursday February 28th and March 1st.

Some teachers use signups their classrooms, others parent portal. Please check your child’s teacher for



outside use the with how to



Upcoming Dates:

- Feb 6th Monthly Assembly
- Feb 14th Pro-D
No School
- Feb 15th School Not in Session
- Feb 18th Family Day
- Feb 20th School Board Trustees
Visit
- Feb 26th Katzie Conferences
3:00-5:00
- Feb 26th PAC Meeting 7:00-
8:00pm
- Feb 27th Happy Hot Dog Lunch
for Div. 13 & 14
- Feb 27th Pink Day
Assembly 9:00 am
- Feb 28th 11:30 Dismissal for
Conferences
- March 1st Conference Day
No School
- March 15th Last Day of School
Before Spring Break
- March 18th-29th
Spring Break
- April 1st Schools Re-Open



EDITH MCDERMOTT ELEMENTARY

MAGIC

"Reaching for the Stars"



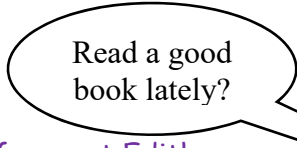
book a conference and celebrate.



Athletics: Basketball is rolling, and all teams have begun to play games. A reminder to all that for many this is their first time playing organized basketball and their skills are developing. Please don't get caught up in the excitement to the point of coaching from the sidelines or questioning the refs. There may be specific instructions that you are unaware of that the coaches have given, or skills being focused on that your support may interfere with. Of course, come out and cheer on the good play of all.

Literacy Literacy Literacy.....

As you may or may not know literacy is a focus area for us at Edith McDermott Ele. We have had a number of activities already this school year promoting reading and writing from author visits to participation in Book-Fest and of course our literacy campout in the gym.... This coming month be on the look out for a new "friend" in the halls of EME..... He'll be promoting and encouraging reading until the end of the year....



Yep
it's cold out there....
And we thought we
were done with
winter. Just a
reminder to dress for
the cold as we do not

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stay indoors due to temperature. As always our younger students get it however some of our grade 5, 6 and 7's need a little reminder. Hoodies worn all year around are not cold weather gear.

Playground Politics

WITS

Last month we talked about the use of our WITS for problem solving and provided another strategy that parents can reinforce with their student when even WITS aren't working and that was get **LOUD** draw attention to yourself. This month the extra strategy is the **SNAPPY COME BACK/LEFT TURN**. In this instance "snappy" does not mean "smart alex" or insulting rather it simply means quick. This is a strategy that helps kids respond to peer pressure as well as some put downs. The idea is to build up the ability to respond quickly in a non-escalatory manner. It's not meant to correct, or one up, the assailant but rather is meant to keep our children safe until they can move away. It's meant to remove them from the "victim" zone.

(Put down) “You’re ugly!!!
(Comeback) “How about those Canucks”
HUH?

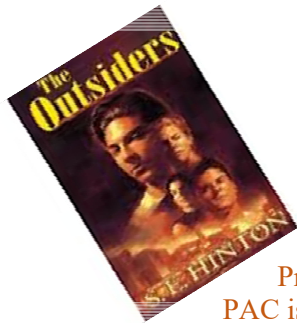
It doesn't give the assailant anywhere to go and often stops the situation from escalating. This is a fun strategy to practice at home with your kids or in the car. Pick a put down and then, with your kids, brainstorm "non-escalatory" often "humorous" comebacks together. A great resilience builder.

Our PAC!!!

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Is



Awesome.... Once again the EME PAC knocked it out of the park with its recent Family Bingo Night. The feedback we've received is absolutely positive. A fun time was had by all and it was a great and inexpensive way for a family to spend an evening together positively interacting.



Also, we'd like to thank the PAC for their recent support of the Young Actors Program that visited each classroom and for helping us maintain our sports jerseys. PAC is a great way to get involved in your school supporting students, teachers and the community at large.

Next PAC meeting Feb 26th 6-7



MORE: Literacy Literacy

Literacy..... Do you have a favourite book come on into the school and share the title or Favourites chalk board soon to be hung in our lobby. students, but community members to include their titles read is a powerful message to motivate our students.

or author ??? Please name with us on our We encourage, not only and names. Seeing that adults

Open Rooms in the Morning... With the cold weather we'd just like to remind parents and students that the school is open or at least three rooms are from 8:00 am and student's are welcome to access them. For safety sake we ask that students not linger in the halls or go to their classrooms before the bell but they are welcome to enter the school and access these rooms



The Library students are welcome to enter and settle into some reading activities.
Room 2027 students are welcome to enter and get some extra help or finish up some homework.
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. We would love to see more kids take advantage of these opportunities.



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

Kindergarten registration dates have been released by the district.
Feb 12-Feb 19 General Registration
Feb 27-June 26 Late Registration

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

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A reminder if Snow is ever 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).



Adult Book Stop: Under the stairs at EME is a small adult where there are books on parenting, supporting students in school life. A couple more titles have been added. Come check them out you'd like to borrow one just leave your name and the title at the

library
and in
and if
office.

