

Principal: Alan Millar
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Secretary: Audrey Hammer



Sept 2019
News Letter

Principal's Message:



WELCOME BACK!!!! Yes we are almost two weeks in but it is still exciting to be back and laying the foundations for another fantastic year here at Edith McDermott. The year is already off to a great start with classes buzzing with activity, connections and energy. We've had salsa making, band presentations and just a generally positive engaging buzz in the school. The students are definitely settling in and teachers are engaging them in wonderful learning opportunities. At this time, I'd like to share with our community a few of the continuing focuses here at Edith McDermott for the upcoming school year.

If you're around the school you're still going to hear the word literacy a lot. This includes not just reading books but literacy in general. Our continuing 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 and atmosphere in the school. There will be times that if you're in the school you will be expected to stop what you are doing and grab a book/participate. We call these Magical Mystery Tours where everyone in the school drops what they're doing and reads.

Another structural piece we are putting in place this year is focused multi aged literacy time. Three days a week, Tues-Thurs, between recess and lunch, students in grades 4/5 and 2/3 will be experiencing intense literacy instruction and activities with different adults. The idea being to focus on student's strengths and weaknesses in literacy and give each an opportunity to soar.

A similar approach is occurring for our intermediate students in the area of numeracy as well. It's about meeting needs, supporting all learners, and having everyone experience success.

Another area of exploration for our school community this year will be exploring our name and logo. Does it reflect who we are? Where we are? What does it mean to be the "Magic" how is that related to our place and our beliefs? Community members can expect to be asked for input as we explore this fundamental question. Who are we and what do we represent?

The adult library beneath stairs remains available to parents. There are numerous titles there and parents are welcome to come, sit, and read as they wait for their student. If you would like to borrow a title, absolutely please do but as these are from my personal library please let me know which ones you would like. 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...

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



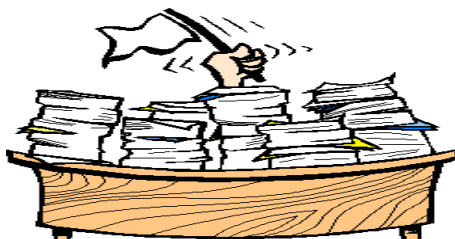
Please join us in welcoming our new staff to the EME family. Mrs. Nancy-Kay White is one of our grade 6/7 combined class teachers.

As well, not new to the school but new to the grade level, Mr. Cole Faulkner is now teaching grade 6/7 combined. Ms. Cezann Deveau has returned to the grade level she is passionate about, grade 4/5 combined.

Also returning to us is Mrs. Noreen Lockhart who has resumed her duties as one of our three support teachers.

Lot's of Important Paper Work

Coming home over the first few weeks 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 information is correct so we can contact you if need be.



Some Up Coming Events

Sept 19th EME Open House
6-7 pm

Sept 23th Growth Planning
Curriculum Implementation
Day
No School for Students

Sept 24th Parent Advisory
Meeting
6:30-7:30

Sept 26th Terry Fox Run
After Lunch

Sept 27th Individual Picture
Day

Sept 30th Orange T-Shirt Day
Assembly

Oct 2 Monthly Assembly
9:00

Oct 4th The ABC of Conflict
Avoidance

Oct 8th at Highland Park

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

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Parking....



We continue to hope that families will begin to walk to school as much as possible or even park a block or two away and walk. It's healthier and it provides less congestion at the school which improves safety.

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

- 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.

Inclement 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 27th** (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 18th, 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 19th**. 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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September 26th is the date of our annual **Terry Fox Run**. We will have a warmup assembly in the gym led by the EME Warm Up Dance Troupe followed by a run around the neighbourhood for our intermediate students and around our field for the primary students. This is always a fun event so please come on out and cheer the kids on or even go for a run with them.... It starts right after lunch.... This year our Global Citizens have forwarded the challenge to the students to raise 2500.00 dollars for cancer research in Terry's name. The Global citizens have made a friendly bet with Mr. Millar. If the school raises \$2500.00 or more Mr. Millar gets to keep his beard but..... has to dye his hair, at the next assembly, the colours of the rainbow and wear it like that for a week.

New Portable

Many of you have noticed the extra portable that has been added to our school grounds. This portable is not the property of the school or district. It was actually placed to support our current Provincial Gov's promise of more daycare spots. Our unit is being run through the YMCA and has nothing to do with the school. Please visit the YMCA website for more information. They offer pre-school and before and after school care for ages 2-5.5 years old.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY SEPT 30th

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.



which is in honour School Survivors. and distribute all our staff and discuss and reflect The assembly will on Sept 30th in the members are but we ask that you

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. If you stay to chat or walk your dog in the field, please be mindful of noise as it is early and some of our neighbours work shift work. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



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FIRST PAC MEETING OF THE YEAR ...September 24th 6:30-7:30pm in the EME Library
New Faces Always Welcome
Child Minding Available

The Edith McDermott PAC asks that you

join us

For a TON of fun and fulfilling events this year! Our focus will be more on social events that also help us raise the funds we need to make our school even more amazing!

Watch for these events, more may be added!

Halloween Party PLUS!	October 22nd
Parents Night Out	Nov 28th
Family Movie Night	Jan 23rd
Family Bingo Night	Feb 28th
Parents Night Out	Mar 12th
Read-A-Thon	April
Parents Fun Night	May 8th
EME Carnival	May 29th

JOIN OUR TEAM
— BE PART OF OUR STORY —

The Edith McDermott Elementary PAC Needs YOU!

1. CHILDREN BENEFIT
Research shows that participating in your child's school and showing engagement helps them perform better academically

2. THE SCHOOL BENEFITS
PAC performs support for school teachers and administration which in turn creates a positive & caring atmosphere in the school

3. MAKE CONNECTIONS
Get to know the teachers & staff better and make life-long friends with other parents at the school!

4. ITS GOOD FOR YOU
Socializing with other parents and volunteering to do good for your child's school is fun, healthy and rewarding!



*Edith McDermott PAC
2019-2020 Meetings*

Meetings are SO IMPORTANT to attend!
We discuss fundraising, events,
and how we spend the funds we raise.
As an EME parent you are a PAC member,
so please come be involved!

September 24th
October 22nd
November 19th
December 17th
January 21st
February 18th
March 10th
April 21st
May 20th
June 16th



All meetings
will be at 6:30pm
in the
School Library

Great Opportunity from Highland Park Elementary

HPE is hosting the screening of the documentary Screenagers on Oct 8 at 6:30. The movie is free but tickets are required. Here's the link to get tickets.
<https://www.eventcombo.com/e/screenagers-film-presented-by-highland-park-elementary-school-36028>

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

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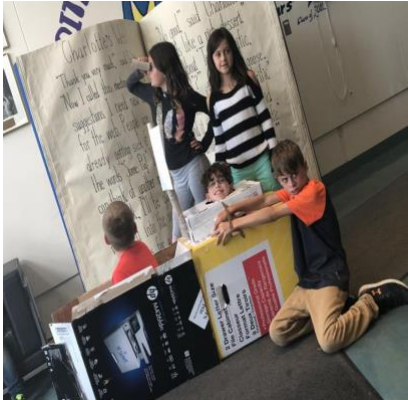
The Redesigned Curriculum at Edith McDermott Ele.

The ability to work effectively with others has become a critically important skill for career and life success. “Coordinating with others” is listed as one of the 10 skills to thrive by the World Economic Forum.

The *Communication* core competency highlights the importance of effective collaboration by focusing on the development of students’ listening skills, students’ ability to engage in formal and informal conversation, and their ability to generate and share ideas. When students work together to accomplish goals in areas such as inquiry, problem-solving, and community projects, they incorporate information from multiple sources of knowledge, perspectives, and experiences. Students learn to appreciate different perspectives and also learn to build consensus. As a result, the creativity and quality of the solutions students propose are both enhanced.

The relational importance of learning for all students is also captured by the First Peoples’ Principles of Learning, which recognize that learning is a highly social process that builds relationships within the family and the community. Ultimately, this emphasis on relationship “reinforces a way of being in the world that helps shape our actions, as we think about how our actions affect those around us.”

–From: Chrona. J. <https://firstpeoplesprinciplesoflearning.wordpress.com/> 2019



The Redesigned Curriculum at Edith McDermott Ele.



How has the curriculum been redesigned & how does this benefit student learning?

The BC curriculum has been redesigned to support the changing world students are entering. The redesigned curriculum is student-centred and flexible, maintains a focus on literacy and numeracy skills, and includes Aboriginal perspectives.

Kindergarten to Grade 10 teachers are already using the new curriculum in all our schools. The redesigned curriculum for Grade 11 and 12 is being fully implemented this September.

So how and what will your child be learning? Each month in our school newsletter, we will highlight a key feature of the redesigned curriculum and share stories about how this feature is being implemented in your child’s classroom. We will also tell you why these skills and abilities will help your child succeed

Below, you will find the first installment of our monthly feature on the redesigned curriculum.

For more information about the BC curriculum, visit: <https://www.sd42.ca/new-curriculum/>



AFTER-SCHOOL
PROGRAMS

“Our vision is for every individual to feel valued and for all learners to reach their potential.”

Edith McDermott Elementary: Fall 2019



SCHOOLS OUT PROGRAM (GR. K-7)

This after-school program is sponsored by United Way and developed by The Family Education & Support Centre. The class is designed to create and cultivate the intergenerational relationships between kindergarten to Grade 7 children and seniors within the Pitt Meadows community.

We will be making a snack and then walking to Wesbrooke Senior Living or to The Pitt Meadows Activity Centre to participate in activities and crafts with the seniors. The Family Education & Support Centre is really excited to bridge the gap between the generations.

Thursdays, 2:30pm - 4:00 pm

Oct. 31 – Dec. 19

Registration fee: \$25

To register: Call Karen Hughes at 604.467.6055 (ext 10) or email reg@familyed.bc.ca.

*Registration starts on Sept. 3