

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



Principal's Message: Happy New Year!!!

Welcome to 2020 at Edith McDermott. The return from the Christmas break marks my second-year anniversary here as the Principal. In that time, I have come to understand why so many people refer to this place as a gift, it truly is. The community is accepting, nurturing, supportive, empathetic and positive. It works together to solve problems for all and recognizes the diversity and growing complexities our children are faced with and come with. Thank you for that, as this is a public school; all students are welcome, and we

work together to create a wonderful and safe environment for all. I was truly fortunate to be assigned here, and I am equally as fortunate to continue here. It has been a great first year.

I did some reading over the holidays and one title particularly resonated with me was Michael Unger's Change Your World. In this title Unger explores what it really takes to develop resiliency. In this time of self-improvement and mindfulness he provides an alternate position that moves away from the blame the victim stance of so many of the programs. He speaks of the need for overcoming obstacles, facing adversity and even failing on occasion to truly build resiliency. We see it in students all the time as we, as parents, want to protect them from any disappointment or "pain" however we are not supporting their development of resiliency. We protect them so much that even small hurdles turn into massive mountains of disappointment and anxiety for our kids. Support and guidance is important and support and guidance through adversity is especially important but the support cannot be shielding our kids. Hmmm interesting food for thought and a conversation I would enjoy continuing with anyone who would care to.

Well again, it's been a great two years - thank you to all who have made me feel so welcome and supported. I look forward too many more years here at Edith McDermott Elementary.

Alan Millar

Parent Library We continue to add new titles to our library under the stairs. This library is for parents and guardians and contains books on education, raising kids, brain research and the likes. Parents are welcome to borrow them to read at home or to sit in our under the stairs lobby and browse. If you would like to borrow one of the titles just leave your name and the title of the book with Mr. Millar, Mrs. Hammer or Mrs. Weise at the office. Some recent additions are **I Still Love You** and **Change Your World** by Michael Unger a Canadian Pediatric Psychologist and **Discipline Without Damage** by Dr. Vanessa Lapointe. **Change Your World** explores the development of true resilience in the light of the "self" improvement mindfulness movement so popular today. Both the other titles emphasise the need for the maintenance of your relationship with your child as you problem solve together.

A Reminder as 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/sd42));
- shared with News 1130, CKNW, and CBC 690 radio stations
- posted on the SD42 Website (www.sd42.ca).



SPEAKING OF SNOW

Snow brings with it so much fun. It is fantastic to watch the students out playing and sliding. We get snow so rarely that we want



the kids to take full advantage of it however we need also to think about safety and storage. If you allow your child to bring their sled please be aware that we are very limited to where they can be stored. As well they bring a lot of water in with them creating slip hazards throughout the school. As such, sleds are to be left outside where children line up, as well you may consider sending in changes of clothes as playing hard in the snow means getting wet and it's hard to learn if we're sitting in our classes freezing brrrrrrrrrr.

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LATES Just a reminder of the impact of being late to class. It is difficult for kids to enter a room, by themselves, that is already well into the day. Kids feel isolated and on “stage”. It can be extremely difficult for them to get in synch with the rest of class and this has a significant impact on their learning for that day. Another outcome of entering a class late is that, regardless of how quietly, it disrupts the learning environment for the others which is not particularly fair. So, moms, dads, drivers, kids, leave that few minutes earlier to avoid these unfortunate outcomes.

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

Kindergarten registration dates have been released by the district.

Jan 8-Jan 14 Sibling Registration

Jan 22-Jan 27 Choice Registration

Feb 5-Feb 12 General Registration

Feb 26-June 21 Late Registration

Aug 21-June 2021 Open 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.

Athletics: Basketball is starting, and we have had a great turnout from the students. Mr. Stublely will be coaching the boys and Mr. Millar will be working with the girls. Boys games are Monday and Wednesday and the girls play Tuesdays. Schedules have been sent home with the players and we are looking forward to another fun season. If you need to speak to Mr. Millar be aware, he will not be available after school on Tuesdays.



Literacy Literacy Literacy

It continues to be our focus. As we continue to keep literacy generally and reading specifically as a focus in our school community, parents and guardians can be part of this as well. Casually talk about things you've read. Show authentic interest in the things your students are reading by asking about them. If it's a title you're familiar with let your student know. Talk about it with them. Tell them your favourite part or aspect of the book. Another great way to support a positive attitude towards

reading is to dedicate time in your home where everyone reads. The longer the better but even a few minutes a few times a week can foster a great attitude towards reading.

Parking....

A great New Year's Resolution.... Park a block or two away from the school and walk.... It's a great way to help fulfill that exercise goal and help keep our parking lot safe.

- 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. 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 every day **but not during basketball season.**



Report Items #PartWaysOK

By: Henri Alain

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TWO Great Morning Opportunities for Students

Continue As mentioned in previous newsletters, we have two great opportunities for kids at Edith McDermott from 8:00-8:25, especially as the weather continues to be wet and cold. Also, we hear of so many students with lots of responsibilities and activities outside of school which is amazing but can make completing homework challenging this time can be used to help balance school with those other responsibilities.

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

In Room 1011 students are welcome to come work on home

Both areas will have adult supervision and assistance for students. All are welcome as long as they utilize the space appropriately. We would love to see more kids take advantage of these opportunities.



Our PAC!!!

PAC continues to do outstanding things in support of the EME community.... On January 23rd they will be hosting a family movie night at EME. A chance to chillax and spend an evening out with the entire family. Please see the details below. The Next PAC meeting will be held on the same evening once the night gets rolling. If you are new to EME or not but are wanting to get involved, PAC is a great way to do this.



GLOBAL CITIZENS

The Global Citizens Leadership group, after attending the ME to WE celebration at BC Place with other students from across the province. Under the guidance of Mrs. Torrence and Mrs. McLaughlin, have begun thinking globally but acting locally. One of the causes they have taken on is Education in Kenya. So far through the sale of bracelets and receiving donations for volunteer work they have raised \$ 580.00. They are also exploring ways of reducing, reusing and recycling here at the school as part of the global movement towards fighting climate change. We are very proud of this group.

GRADE 8 Transition and Registration

January 16 – grade 7 parent evening at 7:00pm at THS – hosted by DPAC

January 28 – Student Support Services Information Evening at 7:00pm at

THS

February 4 – Registration opens at noon on the parent portal (this is date and time stamped)

March 1 – Families will be advised of placement

March 5 – Transfer requests due. They will be considered in order of catchment, sibling, other.

Refer to the website for the whole transfer process.



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KINDNESS COUNTS

February 26th is National Pink Shirt Day. Traditionally Edith McDermott has extended this day to be everyday as represented by our PINK Shirts Logo.



However, we also acknowledge the specific day, Feb 26th by all wearing PINK. If you are new to the community or need to replace your student's at EME Kindness Counts Everyday shirt, please check out the parent portal. Shirts cost \$10.00 and are available in an assortment of sizes. Orders need to be in by January 31st.

Social Media Awareness, Digital Footprints, and Cyberbullying

Our PAC has partnered with Davie Jones' PAC to bring to our students this very important, and informative, presentation. It is never too early ...

Please feel free to attend.

K/1 time & Location: 9am DJE Gym

Gr 2-4 time & Location: 11am DJE Gym

Gr 5-7 time & Location: 1pm DJE Gym

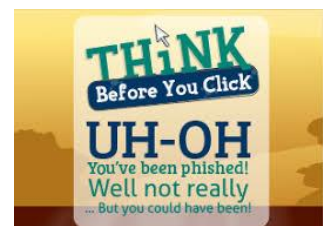
For Parent Resources please check out: <https://saferschoolstogether.com/parent-resources/>

For a more information about would will be covered in the sessions, "Safer Schools Together" has provided the following:

"The student sessions will focus on lessons and content that is most applicable to the age group in attendance. This presentation will cover all things digital, from digital citizenship to the criminal consequences of cyberbullying. Some of the most prominent concerns currently surrounding student's use of social networking sites and smartphones will be discussed.

Topics covered will include: how to practice netiquette (online etiquette), how to recognize and respond to cyberbullying, the criminal and social consequences of cyberbullying behaviour, self-peer exploitation, digital media habits and oversharing, digital addiction, piracy and plagiarism.

The illusion of anonymity online will be spoken to in cautioning students from misrepresenting themselves online and creating false profiles. Geo-localational settings will be covered the dangers of social media and cell phone misuse as well. Finally, a discussion of personal media habits will engage the audience and prompt them to reflect on their own digital lives and how it is affecting them."



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Red Cross Babysitting!

Babysitting

1 day- 7 hrs., for Grade 6+

\$60 + GST Online Registration

So you want to be a babysitter? Or, your parents want you to take this course so they feel confident leaving you at home alone?

Different from all other Babysitting courses! Babysitting with First Aid Hero emphasizes first aid and learning through real life scenarios. Active role-play! Interactive and fun! Covered in this course:

- ❖ *Exploring the Business of Babysitting*
- ❖ *Creating Safe Environments*
- ❖ *Safely Caring for ages 0-12*
- ❖ *First Aid Skills*

WHERE: Edith McDermott Elementary, 12178 Bonson Rd,
Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 2L5

WHEN: Friday, February 14, 2020

TIME: 8:30am – 3:30pm

COST: \$60 + \$3GST = **\$63.00 TOTAL**, Register Online and SAVE \$5!

Mail Fee: \$65 + \$3.25 GST = **\$68.25 TOTAL**, extra charge for administration.

HOW TO SIGN UP:

Online- Please follow the Registration Link online <http://www.firstaidhero.com/babysitting-vancouver.html>

in the Edith McDermott row.

Mail- Fill in the Registration Form Online or attached along with your payment written to Marla Rosen, post-dated 7 business days prior to the course and, mail to First Aid Hero, P.O. Box 19111, Vancouver, BC, V6K 4R8. Please write your child's first/last name on the bottom left part of the cheque. **By mail fee is \$68.25 total.** Registration only accepted once payment is received.

By Mail Deadline: Friday, February 7, 2020.

Online Deadline: Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 7pm.

Late Registration accepted online only.

About *FIRST AID HERO*

Authorized Red Cross Training Partner, First Aid Hero, specializes in Babysitting and other recognized First Aid courses for children. Marla Rosen, President & CEO, is a Red Cross Instructor, Lifeguard, professional children's performer and Montessori teacher. Instructors of First Aid Hero are paramedics, fire fighters, police officers, lifeguards and other qualified professionals.

For more information contact Marla 778-322-7442 or marla@firstaidhero.com
www.firstaidhero.com

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The Redesigned Curriculum at Edith McDermott Ele.

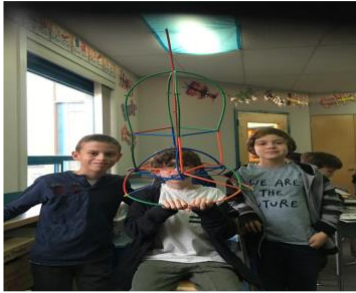
What is the role of critical and reflective thinking in the development of students?

Critical and reflective thinking is a significant Core Competency that plays an essential role in the development of a child's reasoning skills across all subject areas from kindergarten to Grade 12. When a student analyzes a situation from different perspectives and identities, it widens their own experience and encourages them to question and investigate further. Teachers facilitate students as they develop their critical thinking skills to evolve and substantiate their ideas and are encouraged to act on feedback received by their teachers and peers to adjust and refine their thinking. These skills enable students to form conclusions that reflect research, experimentation, thoughtful discussions, and personal reflection. Critical thinking skills also play an integral part in the social, emotional development of a child as it encourages self-awareness and responsible decision-making.

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

Coming in February: Personal Awareness and Responsibility.

Critical thinking can be seen in every aspect of what we do at Edith McDermott Ele. Students are continually challenged to make decisions and these decisions are made based on a synthesis of a student's knowledge and experience.



Core Competencies: What are they and why are they in the new curriculum?

The new curriculum centres around the following three core competency areas: **communication, personal and social, thinking**. They are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in deep learning and life-long learning. Competencies are evident in every area of learning and in every grade, and come into play when students become actively engaged in their learning. During the school year, students will have an opportunity to self-assess their proficiencies in these core competencies.

EDITH MCDERMOTT ELEMENTARY
 AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

"Our vision is for every individual to feel valued and for all learners to reach their potential!"

Edith McDermott: Winter 2020



MINDFUL MOVEMENTS YOGA (GR. 2-7)

Yoga classes have far-reaching positive benefits both physically and mentally for children. Meet new friends as you improve your strength, flexibility, balance and focus in a non-competitive, non-judgmental environment. Gentle breathing exercises, calming techniques and relaxation designed for children form an integral part of each class.

Mondays, 2:30pm – 3:30pm, Sensory Portable
January 13 – February 24 (no class Feb. 17)
 Registration fee: \$45
 To register: <http://schoolsdistrict42.perfectmind.com>
 More info: Drea Owen 604.346.9815 or drea_owen@sd42.ca

UNITED WAY SCHOOLS OUT MULTICULTURAL PROGRAM (GR. K-7)

This after school program is sponsored by The United Way of the Lower Mainland and developed by The Family Education and Support Centre. It is designed for students from kindergarten through Grade 7 to develop a greater knowledge of different cultures through crafts, activities and food. The Family Education Centre is excited to explore other multifaceted cultures in our world and looks forward to sharing the experience with you!

Thursdays, 2:30pm – 4:00pm
January 9 – February 27 (no class Feb. 13)
 Registration fee: \$25
 To register: Please call Grace at The Family Education and Support Centre at 604.467.6055
 *Financial support is available upon request



Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows School District | 23225 Oliver Avenue, Maple Ridge, BC | 604 463-0200 | 604 463-4881