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### Principal's Message: Yep, it's February already!! It's amazing

how quickly the days pass and the weeks and months go with them. One of the things I continue to marvel at in our community is the amount of care the adults have for their children and the amount of support they give them. This community truly possess and understands the ethic of care and that it does take a village to raise a child. I'm sure many of you are rolling your eyes saying here goes Mr. Millar on another of his "how wonderful the EME community is" promotional rants but the truth is this is a wonderful community. 2020 marks my 30<sup>th</sup>

year in education and I've taught in a diverse range of environments from First Nations Reserves and inner-city schools to "socio economically" privileged environments and with all integrity I can state the ethic of care for kids at EME is second to none. This is not something to be taken for granted. It takes a community to be empathetic, understanding, flexible, and most importantly understanding what this journey is all about for our kids. Yes, academics are important but so is the capacity to navigate the social milieu, to develop compassion, flexibility, empathy and strength. These are the ultimate goals we all want for all our kids; we want them to develop into capable adolescents and ultimately adults. It is important to keep this "big picture" goal in mind as we bump through the day to day experiences of a school day.

In support of this "big picture" 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, they are developed, or form, when students face and overcome appropriate levels adversity and diversity on their own with supportive adults close by. It is in overcoming these challenges 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.

For more about developing capable people please read Unconditional Parenting by Alfie Kohn (available in our parent library)

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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> if we are to have our shirts for the 27<sup>th</sup>...



### Global School Play Day

This Wednesday at EME you will find, throughout the day, students and classes engaged in spontaneous unstructured play. From card and board games to charades and Pictionary. The goal is to join in this growing global phenomenon to re-claim some of the innocence and creativity of childhood that has been reduced since the widespread emergence of technology and the greatly increased screen time that has accompanied it.

There are over 72 nations that participated last year with over 1/2 a million students involved. This year the hope is to break a million.



<https://www.globalschoolplayday.com/>

Upcoming Dates:	
Feb 4 <sup>th</sup>	Grade 8 Registration Opens at Noon
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly Assembly
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Global School Play Day
Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lee Edward Fodi Author Visit
Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Instructional Day
Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	School Not in Session
Feb 17 <sup>th</sup>	Family Day
Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Meeting 6:30pm
Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	Kindness Counts Everyday Assembly 9:00 am
Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Family Bingo Night
Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	Crazy Sock Day
March 4 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup>	Scholastic Book Fair
March 5 <sup>th</sup> 11:30	Dismissal for Conferences
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Conference Day No School
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of School Before Spring Break
March 16 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break
March 30	Schools Re-Open After Spring Break

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## 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 March 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday March 6<sup>st</sup>.

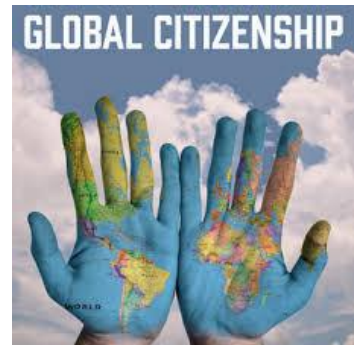
Some teachers use signups outside their classrooms, others use the parent portal. Please check with your child's teacher for how to book a conference and celebrate.



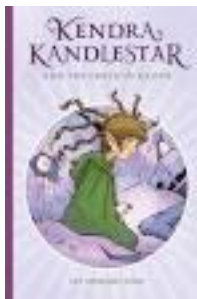
**Athletics:** Basketball is rolling, and all teams have begun to play games. A reminder to all that for many this is their first time playing organized basketball and their skills are developing. This development applies to ur refs as well who are young high school players who may be reffing for the first time. 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.

## **GLOBAL CITIZENS** Our Leadership Group Global Citizens are taking up the SD42

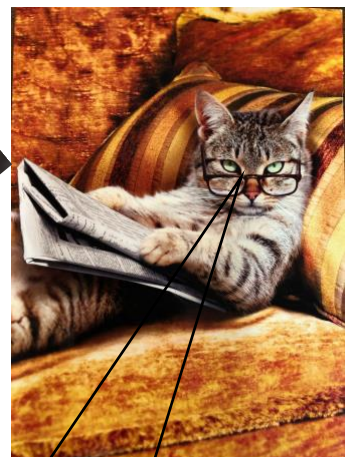
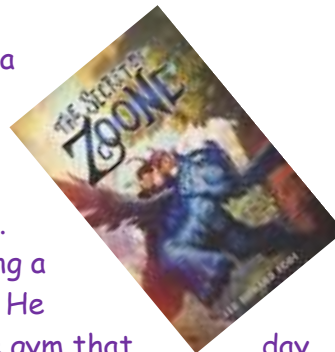
Energy Challenge. If as a school, we demonstrate the most ecologically friendly and supportive programs over the month of February the school could win 400.00. Under their leadership and promotion, I'm confident EME stands a great chance of doing well. And really, it's not about the 400.00 it's about our planet and our need to grow our thinking around consumption, pollution and climate change. Thank you, Global Citizens, for taking up this challenge and leading us all.



## **Literacy Literacy Literacy.....**



As you may or may not know literacy is a focus area for us at Edith McDermott Ele. We continue to focus on this not only in individual classrooms but with school wide events. In February, on the 7<sup>th</sup> we will be having a visit from the author Lee Edward Fodi. He will be doing three presentations in the gym that day to all of our students exploring the writing process, and creativity. Lee is known for a number of fantasy titles. Please feel free to join us on that date as well feel free to check out his website: <https://www.leefodi.com> And of course...Still roaming our halls is our friend Felix the cat.. Check out what he has to say throughout our hallways.



Read a good book lately?

**Middle Years Developmental Index** (MDI for short) Letters were sent out over the portal regarding this very important research survey that all grade 4 & 7 students in SD42 will be participating in. Please check your portal messages for more information. Students will begin doing this survey over the next two weeks.

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Yep it's cold out there.... But even more important is it is very wet this year. Please send your student in with a change of clothes as it seems many of them just can't stay out of the puddles. (could you?) 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/wet weather gear.

## Our PAC!!!

Is Awesome.... Once again our PAC is hoping to knock it out of the park with another fun filled E Family Bingo Night. Last year the feedback was nothing but 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. Mark it on your calendars, Feb 28<sup>th</sup> and stay tuned for more details through the PAC Facebook Page as well as the parent portal.



PAC is a great way to get involved in your school supporting students, teachers and the community at large.

**Next PAC meeting Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30 Child minding available.**

**WANTED**

Families to come have a great time together!

Edith McDermott PAC  
Presents Another

★ **FAMILY** ★

**BINGO NIGHT!**

Date: February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 – 8:00  
Bring: The whole family!

Prize packs for each of the 10 rounds have been donated by amazing local friends and businesses

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Bingo Cards & Daubers for Sale. There will be 10 rounds!

\$1.00 per single card/\$2 for a 3 game card  
\$20 for a 10 pack of 3 game cards  
\$2.00 per dauber (or bring your own)

There will be a concession with hot dogs, drinks and snacks

GreetingsIsland.com

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**MORE: Literacy Literacy Literacy.....** Do you have a favourite book or author ??? Ever talk to your kids about it. Maybe it was a favourite book from your school days or one you read recently. Talking about your books and your readings is a great way to reinforce that reading is important. An easy way to support your student's development

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

Both areas 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 5<sup>th</sup> -Feb 26<sup>th</sup> General Registration

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> -June 21 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.

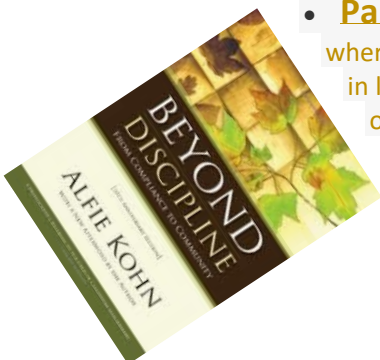
#### A reminder if Snow is ever in the Forecast.....

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/sd42));
- shared with News 1130, CKNW, and CBC 690 radio stations;
- posted on the SD42 Website ([www.sd42.ca](http://www.sd42.ca)).

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



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## The Redesigned Curriculum at Edith McDermott Elementary

### What is the importance of Personal Awareness and Responsibility to the development of healthy, resilient children and youth?

Students who develop personal awareness and responsibility make healthy connections between individual and social behaviour. Within our new curriculum, students are taught how to self-advocate so that they can express what supports they need to be successful in school. The ability to self-advocate develops confidence and self-worth so that children and youth have the courage to convey how they feel in constructive ways, ask questions, admit mistakes and commit to learning in all facets of life. An essential First Peoples' Principle of Learning states that learning takes patience and time. Helping students understand this principle leads to perseverance in challenging times and encourages resiliency. Teaching our students to be personally aware and responsible leads to the development of healthy, whole children and youth.

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

Coming in March: Creative Thinking.



We work with students who have episodes of incompatibility to help them understand and learn new strategies for getting their needs met. At EME we are educators not executioners.



### 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.