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# READ

## TAKE A BOOK ON A TRIP THIS SPRING BREAK



**Principal's Message:** Well it is March and spring is apparently just around the corner however one wouldn't believe that with the weather we have been having.

We are just wrapping up our term two conferences and based on the feedback I've heard they have gone well for students, parents, and teachers. As I read through the reports I am always interested in the correlations between where a student is in their development and their attendance. It is amazing how students who are not yet meeting or just meeting expectations also often struggle with attendance. Parents are always concerned and ask about ways of

supporting their children's learning, I guess the best place to start is supporting their attendance at school. Make it a priority for the whole family. If there is an extended vacation or absence in your future then make a priority of having your student read during that time. One of the best ways to get better as a reader is to read.

COVID-19, or the Carona Virus as it is more commonly known, is on everyone's mind and everyone seems, supposedly, to have a story or advice regarding it. This "supposed" accurate information drives up anxiety and the irrational behaviour that accompanies it. Please, if you have any questions call the Health Line at 811, ask your questions, and get the facts, misinformation is really not helpful in our current situation.

As we head off for Spring Break I would like to wish everyone a wonderful restful time with family and friends. Have some fun, go on an adventure, take a risk, broaden your's and your student's horizons. I'm not saying this to be sentimental but actually for an alterior motive , supporting the education of your kids. Research clearly correlates life experience with success academically especially as a reader. Experiences provide background knowledge and context. So, think about it, even when you're out having fun, you're supporting your learning.

Alan Millar

***Book Fair is HERE!!!!***

***March 4th-11th***

Thank you to Mrs. Cikor for her dedication and efforts in making this such a successful event here at EME. She could use volunteers to help cover off some of the shifts. Book Fair is open at recess (10:20-10:35) lunch (11:50-12:30) and after school (2:20-3:00). If you can spare some time, at any of those times, please let us know. If you're unavailable to volunteer stop by the book fair anyway to say thank you to Tammy. It's thanks to her that your kids have the opportunity to experience the Scholastic Book Fair at our school and support our children's reading. Tammy has organized the book fair for the last 7 years and this one is her last, as her student moves on to Secondary and Tammy's time as an elementary school volunteer comes to an end.... Thank you Tammy (Mrs. Cikor) for your amazing contribution to our community.



**The Legacy Project**... Our District is about to sign it's 5th Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement. This is a very significant event and to celebrate and acknowledge it's importance each school has been asked to think of a word or image that captures the spirit, essence, or place which represents the school.



their thoughts.

We are talking about this in our classrooms and hope to have something for March 13th. Currently we are the Magic. But what does that mean to us? How is it representative of our spirit, essence or place. It will be interesting to see where the students bring us with

### Upcoming Dates:

- March 4th -11th  
Scholastic Book Fair
- March 10th PAC Meeting 6:30-7:30  
Child Minding Available
- March 13th PAC Parent Night Out
- March 13th Last Day of School  
Before Spring Break
- March 15th-29th  
Spring Break
- Mar 30th Schools Re-Open  
After Spring Break
- April 1st Monthly Assembly
- April 3rd is Hat Day
- April 15th Class and Panorama  
Photo Day
- April 10th Good Friday  
Schools Closed
- April 13th Easter Monday  
Schools Closed
- April 21st PAC meeting
- April 24th  
Jump Rope for Heart & Stroke

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### Athletics:

Basketball has wrapped up for another season and we are moving into the play of Ultimate Frisbee. We are hoping to have enough interest from our grade 6 & 7 students to put a team together. Game play will begin after Spring Break. Mr. Stublely the coach and Mr. Millar helping out as available. The season runs through the month of April and we believe game days will be on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



By Henry Alain



Truth and Reconciliation  
Commission of Canada

We at Edith McDermott Elementary take the responsibilities of the Truth and Reconciliation committee's calls to action very seriously and look to embed them in as much of what we do as possible. I've heard from a few, questions and concerns that strike me as a lacking of understanding of why we are moving through this now and what are we doing around it. Some feel we are doing too much and some feel too little. Ultimately it is a personal decision for everyone but it is important that whatever decision you arrive at it is an informed one. Provided here is the link the BC Ministry of Education Response to the Truth and Reconciliations calls to action. It's worth taking a look at as it provides a greater context of what schools are expected to do..

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/ways-to-learn/aboriginal-education/trc-calls-to-action.pdf>

You may see our journey manifest itself in the outcome of our involvement with the Legacy Project as described earlier in this newsletter, or, in other activities and presences in the school. I highly recommend you don't rely on what you already "know" because, as we know, much of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada was not fully or accurately presented in schools of our generation.

### Literacy Literacy.....

This is an everyday emphasis here at Edith McDermott Elementary. Everyday there are new experiences, learnings and challenges around literacy provided to our students to help them grow. The growth with so many of our students is amazing. We don't have any special literacy event planned for March as it is such a short month however a little hint, there's something big coming down the pike for April. Keep a look out and get involved.

And, come lend your opinion or voice to our "What's Your Favourite Book/Character/Author".



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### Playground Politics

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So many issues and problems arise from our lack of ability, or realization, that there may be other perspectives and that before jumping to the “answer” it is helpful to see things from other’s views. By doing this we are likely to avoid so much misunderstanding and the conflict that comes with it. It helps our students problem solve and build resiliency.

Questions to ask: Is our perspective accurate? What might the others involved have felt? What might others have been experiencing?

This is a fun skill that can be practiced at home with your kids or in the car. Next time you’re watching a movie, reading a book, listening to the radio take a moment and ask your student what they think 2 different characters may be experiencing and or feeling. Ask why do you think they feel that way?

There’s no right or wrong answer just awareness. Another great resiliency builder.

## Our PAC!!!

As always great things are going on and being provided by our Parent Advisory Committee. Last Friday families had a blast participating in the Family BINGO night. It was a lot of fun and there were some great prizes. They continue to provide opportunities to our community right up until Spring Break.

Next Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> PAC is offering a parent’s night out by showing three different movies at EME that evening. Please watch for the posts on the portal and on the PAC Facebook page for details.

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



## Kindergarten Registration!!!

Kindergarten registration dates have been released by the district.

Feb 26-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



Ministry of  
Education

## Student Learning Survey 2020..... For Parents and Students

Every year the Ministry seeks, through the student learning survey, input from those involved with the public education system; students (grade 4 & 7), teachers, parents (of grade 4 & 7 students) and principals. They use the information collected to help guide policy and curricular decisions as well as budgets etc. The more information collected the more accurate and helpful it is. Please take a few minutes and visit their website, if you are the parent of a grade 4 or 7 student and complete the survey. It takes only 30 minutes, but it is an invaluable resource and great opportunity to have a say.

Please choose the option of no logon number when you reach the website. The site is active until April 17<sup>th</sup>

[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat\\_survey/access.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm)

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## The Redesigned Curriculum at Edith McDermott Elementary

### How are teachers engaging students with Creative Thinking?

Creative Thinking is a core competency that is woven throughout our curriculum and is becoming more essential in daily life and the workplace. When students engage in creative thinking, they solve problems from a fresh or new perspective, and create solutions that are unconventional and require “thinking outside the box.” Creative thinking can be developed and improved by cultivating key techniques. Curiosity and open-mindedness are encouraged to provide the space for creative thinking to occur. New ideas and inspiration are developed through individual and collaborative brainstorming, play and periods of reflection. Although novel ideas are encouraged, they must also have value for their intended purpose. Students learn to evaluate their ideas by determining whether they support the well-being of self, community and the land.

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

Coming in April: Place-Based Learning.



The annual Entrepreneur's Fair at EME is a great example of providing opportunities for students to expand their creative thinking. Marketing, product development and advertising are all part of the process.



### 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.

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