

Principal: Alan Millar  
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Secretary: Audrey  
Hammer



## Principal's Message

I was reviewing the newsletter from this time last year and it only drove home what a strange, strange year 2020 has been. The happy references to Christmas Concerts, athletics, book fairs, the Entrepreneur Fair and all the other exciting things that we usually have going on this time of year are, for the most part, missing or have been replaced by scaled down versions. The good news about this is how these scaled back versions are making us all appreciate the little things that make a school community special. This year we have three Special Fridays in December, PJ Day, Crazy Christmas Hair Day, and of course Ugly Christmas Sweater Day (they don't actually have to be ugly). As well on the 16<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon, most of the classes/cohorts will be participating in a singalong, outside and within COVID guidelines, of some Christmas Classics along with hot chocolate provided by our PAC. It should be a special afternoon.

We have also continued our annual tradition of creating hampers, having a giving tree and collecting food for the food banks as, this being such a difficult year for so many, we didn't want to overlook our vulnerable families. Normally we put the proceeds from our Christmas Concert towards topping up these items however with no Christmas Concert we had no funds. PITT MEADOWS SAVE ON FOODS rose to the occasion and donated 50.00 gift cards for our hampers. Thank you Save On manager Chris Koop for your generosity and care for your community.

We have just finished our first reporting conferences of the year. I am so proud of all our students who continue to show tremendous growth and desire to develop even more. One thing that we can all do to support our student's growth is to engage them in meaningful conversation about their opinions and ideas. In doing this, students become aware of their own voice and their ideas which stimulates the growth of their global and experiential knowledge which are important pieces of being able to read.

In closing, I would just like to thank you all for your continued support of our school and our community at large. We truly are all in this together and I am grateful for being part of this community. Please, stay safe, have a wonderful Winter Break and let's make a collective New Year's wish for a good 2021.

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Alan Millar



**COVID Considerations** We are constantly reflecting and improving our policies and procedures at the school level to enhance our protocols to keep your children as safe as possible. One thing we've instituted that is new is the signage around the outside of the school reminding everyone, including parents, to physically distance as much as absolutely possible. To help us encourage and support children to follow this step we ask that parents and guardians, dropping off and picking up students, please practice it as good role models for the kids. As well, we'd



like to encourage all adults coming to the school to wear a face mask. Again it is for everyone's protection and it also helps the students in their decision making. Not that children need to wear

masks, but it is a reminder of the importance of being safe. Thanks for your understanding...

### Some Upcoming Events

Dec 11  
Crazy Christmas Hair Day

Dec 16<sup>th</sup>  
Carolling Outback and Hot  
Chocolate from the PAC

Dec 18  
Christmas Sweater Day and Last  
Day before Winter Break

Jan 4<sup>th</sup>  
School's Re-Open

Jan 6th Kindergarten  
Registration Opens for Siblings



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### Another Way



Our annual "Giving Tree" is now on display. For those wishing to consider a donation, there will be tags on the Giving Tree indicating needs. With the concerns around COVID we have moved to gift cards as opposed to items. Please feel free to take a tag from the tree and return the donation with the tag to the office. We will happily accept donations up until December 16th. Thank you everyone for your generosity, at Christmas, and all year long!



**STRESS/Anxiety** There seems to be, understandably, an awful lot of it in the air for many of the adults I'm encountering in our community. I have encountered short fused and very anxious parents, guardians, staff and worst of all children. At this time I think it is important that we all recognize this and give each other the benefit of the doubt. Assume the best intent and not the worse. Approach each other with kindness and understanding. These are tough times, and it is important for us to model to our children a sense of calmness and kindness.

### Literacy Literacy Literacy.....

As mentioned all last year we are really focusing on literacy at Edith McDermott and we are doing a bunch of school wide literacy events... One of those events is called a Magical Mystery Tour aka Drop Everything and Read for 20 minutes. When the music comes and the announcement is made everyone will have a minute to drop what they are doing and read..... Everyone means everyone... teachers, parents in the school, Educational Assistants and students will sit and read for 20 minutes. So if you happen to be in the school during one of these sessions please support the students and participate.



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

Kindergarten registration dates have been released by the district.  
Jan 6<sup>th</sup> -Jan 12<sup>th</sup> Sibling Registration  
Jan 20<sup>th</sup>-Jan-25<sup>th</sup> Choice Registration  
Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>-Feb 10<sup>th</sup> General Registration  
Feb 24<sup>th</sup> -July 31<sup>st</sup> Late Registration  
Aug 19<sup>th</sup> Open Registration.

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



**Book Fair was A Hit!!!!** Although scaled back, and only online, the Book Fair was once again very successful. Lots of our students took advantage to stock up on winter break reading. 112 books were purchased resulting in the school being credited with 1,335.43 dollars. Thank you all for your support and happy reading.

### Our PAC!!!

Is Awesome.... The Next PAC meeting is at December 15<sup>th</sup> check out there FACEBOOK page for exact time.... All parents are automatically members of the PAC and are welcome to attend meetings but even more importantly they are welcome to come out and support the PAC and ultimately the school at the events, when allowed, that our PAC hosts. They are always looking for extra hands.. Please consider it as it's a great way for meeting other families in the school and to have a little fun as well



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**Time for Renewal.....** Change can be hard to accept or even understand why it is occurring. That was reflected in the narrow margin of votes for change as opposed to remaining with MAGIC. MAGIC has definitely served us well and become part of the fabric of EME as CEDARS will, once the new logo and presence around the school is completed. There is some great imagery, as well as gratitude, that we are moving to a "name" that is inclusive of all the diverse talents and skills of our students. **CEDARS stand tall and proud** in all areas. The final vote was 164-127 in favour of the change. **Soon you will see it everywhere!!!**



### Lost and Found

For the next week and a bit our lost and found rack is outside at the front of the school. Please come and check it out as it is quite full. Of course when there please remember to physically distance from others.



### Well the Weather Outside is Only Going to Get More Frightful so here's a couple of reminders....

#### West Coast Recess..

This is a friendly reminder to dress your student for the elements as fresh air is an important ingredient for learning and thus students will be going outside in all kinds of weather. It is a good idea to send a change of clothes in with your child, regardless of their age, as many of our students enjoy the pleasures of stomping in puddles or rolling in the snow if and when it arrives....

#### When 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/SD42Facebook));
- shared with News 1130, CKNW, and CBC 690 radio stations;
- posted on the SD42 Website ([www.sd42.ca](http://www.sd42.ca)).
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*From all of us at Edith McDermott  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

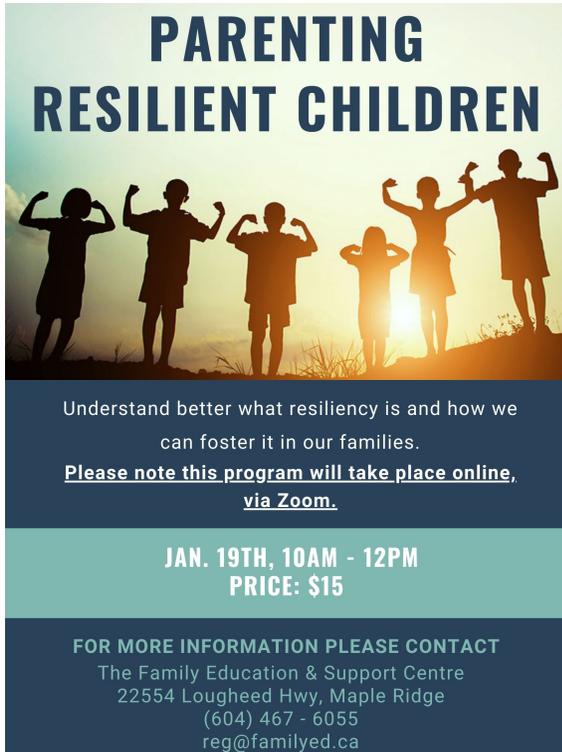
*BE SAFE, BE CALM and BE KIND*



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## Opportunities from

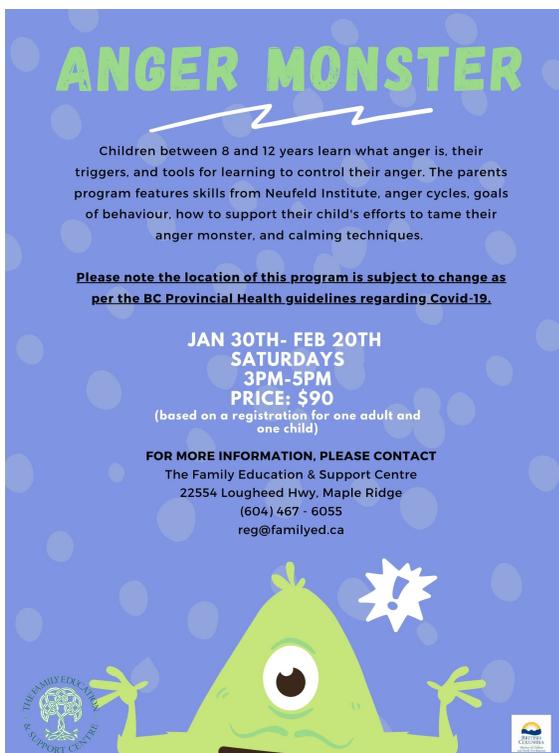


**PARENTING RESILIENT CHILDREN**

Understand better what resiliency is and how we can foster it in our families.  
Please note this program will take place online, via Zoom.

**JAN. 19TH, 10AM - 12PM**  
**PRICE: \$15**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT**  
The Family Education & Support Centre  
22554 Lougheed Hwy, Maple Ridge  
(604) 467 - 6055  
[reg@familyed.ca](mailto:reg@familyed.ca)

The poster features a silhouette of a family of six (two adults and four children) standing on a hill against a bright sunset. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with a dark blue background for the main text and a teal background for the date and price.

**ANGER MONSTER**

Children between 8 and 12 years learn what anger is, their triggers, and tools for learning to control their anger. The parents program features skills from Neufeld Institute, anger cycles, goals of behaviour, how to support their child's efforts to tame their anger monster, and calming techniques.

Please note the location of this program is subject to change as per the BC Provincial Health guidelines regarding Covid-19.

**JAN 30TH- FEB 20TH**  
**SATURDAYS**  
**3PM-5PM**  
**PRICE: \$90**  
(based on a registration for one adult and one child)

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The Family Education & Support Centre  
22554 Lougheed Hwy, Maple Ridge  
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The poster has a blue background with white polka dots. At the bottom, there is a cartoon illustration of a green, one-eyed monster with a single horn and a snowflake on its head. The text is in a mix of bold, sans-serif and serif fonts.

**PARENTING WORKSHOP**

**Conflict Resolution**

Parents and caregivers will learn about: conflict management parenting styles, trigger scale, active listening, open questions for parents, and how to use "I" statements.

Please note this program will take place online, via Zoom.

**Feb. 23 10am - 12pm**  
**Price: \$15**

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The poster features a dark teal background with white speech bubble outlines. The main text is on a bright orange rectangular background. At the bottom left, there is a small circular logo for The Family Education & Support Centre.