

# Edith McDermott Elementary

December 2025



## Principal's Message

As we wrap up our first term of the school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past few months and share my gratitude for the warm welcome I have received as the new principal of EME. It has been a privilege to join this community and to witness firsthand the many strengths that make this school such a special place.

One of the clearest impressions I've gained is just how dedicated and caring our staff truly are. Every day, they place student learning, wellbeing, and growth at the centre of their work.

Their commitment shows in the thoughtful classrooms they create and the countless ways they support students both academically and personally.

I have also been consistently impressed by our students. They show kindness toward one another, take pride in their school, and contribute to a positive and inclusive environment. Their curiosity, energy, and empathy are a daily reminder of why our work matters.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the parents and guardians who contribute so generously to

EME. Whether volunteering time, offering resources, or collaborating with us to support student learning, your partnership strengthens our school in meaningful ways.

As we look ahead to the next term, I am excited to continue building on the relationships and momentum we have established together. Thank you for your trust, your support, and your commitment to our school community.

Warm regards,

Christina Crump  
Principal

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# Parent/Guardian Information

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## Part 2: The Lost Art of Play

Play is nature's classroom. It's where children try things out, take small risks, and learn the social and emotional skills they'll use for the rest of their lives. In real play, kids practice courage, cooperation, and creativity in ways no screen, or well-intentioned adult directing the play, can replicate.

When children have time for unstructured play with peers, they learn to problem-solve on the spot. They figure out how to handle bumps, both physical and social, and they come out of it more confident and capable. These are the moments that help them discover what they can do, not what we can do for them.

Every time they climb, explore, negotiate, or argue their way through a game, they're wiring their brains for independence and resilience. This is the work of childhood, and play is the medium kids understand best.



But as childhood has moved indoors and online, kids have lost regular opportunities to practice these skills. Safety fears of parents, busier family schedules, and the ease of digital entertainment have all contributed to the decline. The result is a generation that's more monitored yet less confident, more connected online but less practiced in the real-world interactions that form strong social foundations.

Our own school MDI data shows that of our current Grade 6 students, roughly half spend over two hours daily on screens during their free time, with almost 15% logging 4+ hours of daily screen time. This time online replaces the kind of free play that students need to build confidence and resilience. The data reminds us that technology isn't the enemy, but balance is needed.

### **Family Challenge:**

Choose one afternoon this weekend for old-fashioned, unstructured outdoor play.

Adults supervise from a distance, not as referees.

Let kids create the games, solve the squabbles, and decide how the fun ends. Boredom feeds imagination.

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# Parent/Guardian Information

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## Basketball Coaches Needed

- Do you have some skills on the court? Enjoy helping kids develop athletically?

We are looking for a basketball coach for both our boys and girls teams. If you are interested, please email [christina\\_crump@sd42.ca](mailto:christina_crump@sd42.ca) by December 10th.

- Commitment would be for one game a week at 3pm and practice as available.
- For more information, visit [https://elementary.sd42.ca/athletics/basketball\\_main/](https://elementary.sd42.ca/athletics/basketball_main/)



## Breakfast Club

Did you know EME offers a Breakfast Club? At 8am daily at the exterior doors at the front of the school (the ones closest to the gym) students can access breakfast items served out of the kitchen. Menu varies daily, and sometimes includes hot breakfast items. Come check it out : )

## Giving Tree

Our Giving Tree is now up and shining in the front lobby and will be on display for the next couple weeks!

Each tag on the tree represents a gift card that families can purchase to support students and families of Edith McDermott Elementary this Christmas.

By donating gift cards, you give parents the chance to choose meaningful gifts for their own children, which brings joy to children and parents alike during the holiday season.

If your family is able, please stop by, select a tag, and return the corresponding gift card and tag to the office.

Every contribution goes directly to our school community.

Thank you for helping make the season brighter for those who need it most.



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# Parent/Guardian Information

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## PAC News

Happy Holidays from the EME Parent Advisory Council!

As we wrap up another wonderful year, the PAC would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the students, families, teachers, and staff who make our school community so special. Your support, involvement, and enthusiasm help create a welcoming and vibrant environment for every child.

As we head into the break, here are a few upcoming events to look forward to in the new year:

December 01- Annual Christmas Concert Raffle!

Here's your chance to enjoy the show in premium seating while supporting the school! 6 pairs of tickets will be available for the first and second row of the holiday concert. You must already have tickets for the concert to participate in the raffle. Winning seats will replace your original ones.

Deadline to purchase tickets is December 14th and winners will be notified by email on December 15th. Tickets will be available on munch-a-lunch.

December 01 – our last PAC meeting of 2025!

December 03 – pick up of Growing Smiles plants.

Volunteers will be available from 2:30-4:30 in the front lobby of the school to assist pick up of your orders. If you're unable to pick up at this time, please contact the PAC to advise.

January 12 – PAC Meeting: First meeting of the year. All parents and guardians are welcome!

## Leadership Crew Corner

Hello and welcome to the December edition of Leadership Crew Corner. Here you will find school news written by students. You will learn about exciting things about our school, like upcoming events, sports information, and cool things that are happening around our school!

Also note that starting in January we will continue to have a spotlight at one of our wonderful teachers at the school. Have fun reading and learning about our school and how you can get involved. Some upcoming event that you must remember are:

- December 12: Door decoration contest
- December 16: Christmas Concert
- December 18: Entrepreneur fair

### Volleyball

Congratulations to the Grade 6/7 volleyball players. They had a great season. I would like to thank the coaches Mrs. Dauke ,Mrs. Larson, and Mrs. Mack. All of the players have grown so much. They worked hard and tried to win all of their games. The volleyball teams have demonstrated commitment and dedication.

### Spotlight on a Teacher

Coming Soon

## Upcoming Events

Dec. 1-5 - Book Fair  
Dec. 4 - Conferences (**Early Dismissal 11:30am**)  
Dec. 5 - Conferences (**No School**)  
Dec. 15 - Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal  
Dec. 16 - Winter Concert 9am/1pm  
Dec. 18 - Entrepreneurial Fair  
Dec. 19 - Last Day of School (**Winter Break**)  
Jan. 5. - School reopens after break

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