

Edith McDermott Elementary

	September 2026	
--	----------------	--



Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! Whether you are returning to Edith McDermott or joining us for the first time, we are pleased to welcome you to our school community.

At Edith McDermott Elementary, we are committed to prioritizing the learning and personal growth of every student. We work hard to protect instructional time and develop the core competencies, knowledge, and skills they need to be successful.

Our staff work in partnership with families to meet the needs of our diverse community of learners. We believe that educating children and supporting their growth is a shared responsibility between school and home. Open and consistent communication, along with shared expectations and support from both staff and families, helps our students learn, grow, and thrive.

To help your family prepare for a successful start, we have outlined some important information for the first few weeks of school.

I hope you have had an enjoyable and restful summer. We look forward to welcoming your children back and working together throughout the coming school year.

Warm regards,

Christina Crump
Principal

Rob Aujla
Vice-Principal

Parent/Guardian Information

School Reminders

- School supply fee payments are set up on the Parent Portal.
- If your child's teacher is using a planner this year, you will also be able to pay for the planner through the Parent Portal.
- All student permission forms have been sent out through the Parent Portal.
- Please label your child's clothes as much as possible. The 'Lost and Found' grows throughout the school year as more items are left out and unclaimed. Please check the 'Lost and Found' periodically for missing items.
- Stay up to date with school information by visiting our website at <http://elementary.sd42.ca/edithmcdermott>

New Bell Schedule

This school year, our bell schedule will be slightly different to accommodate an additional 5 minutes of instructional time at the end of the day.

Please make note of the following changes to the bell schedule:

8:25am Warning Bell

8:30am Classes Begin

10:20am Recess Begins

10:35am Recess Ends

11:55am Lunch Begins

12:10pm Outside Bell

12:35pm Lunch Ends

2:25pm Dismissal



Westcoast Recess

We have "Westcoast Recess" and outside lunchtime. Students enjoy exercise and time outside with peers, so please always send outside clothing appropriate for the weather conditions. Since weather can be unpredictable and accidents or falls can occur, **please send a spare set of clothes.**

Attendance

Regular school attendance is a major factor contributing to student success in school. We expect that Edith McDermott students will attend school regularly unless ill and will be punctual every day.

If your child will be absent, please advise us via the Parent Portal, emailing eme_reception@sd42.ca, or by calling the school prior to 8:30am. Please advise your child's teacher ahead of time if your child will be absent for an extended period of time. Students who are late need to report to the office upon arrival.

For safety reasons, confirmation of all absences is required unless a phone call, email, or Parent Portal message has been received by the office.

Parent/Guardian Information

School Parking Lot

In order to ensure the safety of everyone, the school parking lot is closed during drop-off and pick-up times. Only daycare busses and drivers with valid accessible parking decals will be permitted in the parking lot during those times. We encourage families to walk or ride bikes/scooters to school. This will help diminish traffic issues and lessen our environmental impact. Thank you for your continued support.

Class Placement

Class lists are created with great care, taking into account learning needs, social-emotional growth, and peer connections. Our classes will be at or near capacity, so changes to placements are not typically feasible.

Pending district permission, we are hoping to move into new classes by Friday, September 11th. Please expect information on that date regarding this year's class placements.

We know the start of a new year can bring nerves and uncertainty, and it's important that we help our children by modelling patience and resilience. Please give your child time to settle into their new class. If, after September 25, your child is still struggling and you've already spoken with their teacher, you are welcome to contact the office.

Cell Phones

While the School Code of Conduct provides important information regarding a number of areas, I want to draw your attention specifically to the section titled, Personal Digital Devices (aka cell phones):

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has amended the *Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order*, effective July 1, 2024. As such, the following restrictions on personal digital devices (defined as any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet such as a cell phone or tablet) are now in place at Edith McDermott Elementary School.

- Students are not allowed to access or use a personal digital device during hours of instruction, at EME that is 8:30am-2:25pm Monday-Friday, unless explicitly given permission by a teacher or administrator.
- Students may use a school district provided personal digital device for instructional purposes and/or digital literacy, appropriate to their age and developmental stage, when authorized by a teacher or administrator.
- Students may be given explicit permission by a teacher or administrator to use a personal digital device for accessibility and/or accommodation needs, medical and/or health needs, and/or in order to provide equity to support learning outcomes.
- Students who possess a personal digital device at school must keep it stored out of sight at all times (not on their person) or submit it to their teacher or to the Main Office for storage during instructional hours.

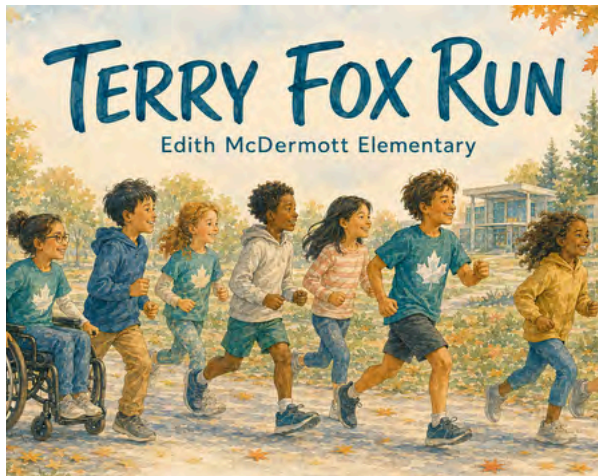
At EME, we recognize the impact unsupervised access to technology can have on childhood brain development, mental health, social development, and we value the importance of focus on learning during instructional hours. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring your child's education is not negatively impacted by the use of personal digital devices.

Parent/Guardian Information

Terry Fox Run

We are excited to announce that Edith McDermott Elementary will be participating in the 46th anniversary Terry Fox School Run, scheduled to take place on September 25th.

We hope you can continue to show the strength and resiliency of this school community with your support of one of our greatest Canadian heroes, Terry Fox.



Upcoming Events

Sept. 8 - Schools Opening Day for Students

12:30pm students begin (except new Kindergarten students who follow a gradual entry schedule)

Sept. 21 - Non-Instructional Day (NO SCHOOL)

Sept. 24 - School Photos

Sept. 24 - Open House/PAC BBQ 5-6pm

Sept. 25 - Terry Fox Run

Sept. 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
(NO SCHOOL)

Oct. 12 - Thanksgiving **(NO SCHOOL)**

Oct. 15 - Photo Retakes

Oct. 23 - Non-Instructional Day **(NO SCHOOL)**

Oct. 29 - Halloween Dance (PAC Event)

Oct. 30 - Halloween Parade

Parent/Guardian Information

PAC News

Welcome Back from EME PAC!

EME PAC is excited to welcome everyone back for a new school year! We're looking forward to another year of supporting our school community, creating fun experiences for our students, and working together to make a difference.

Annual Welcome BBQ — September 24

We're excited to host our Annual Welcome BBQ on September 24th! Stay tuned for the time and more details.

This is a great opportunity to meet your PAC, connect with other families, learn more about what PAC does, and find out about the many ways you can get involved throughout the school year. Whether you can volunteer regularly or just help out when you're able, we'd love to have you join us!

First PAC Meeting — October 5

Our first PAC meeting of the school year will be October 5th at 6:30 PM in the library.

Come join us, meet the PAC team, hear what we have planned for the year, and learn how you can get involved. We'd love to see you there!

Stay Connected with EME PAC

We have a new WhatsApp Channel that will be live at the start of the school year! Follow the link below to join and receive updates from your PAC about upcoming events, activities, volunteer opportunities, and ways to get involved.

Your personal information is not viewable by other channel members.



Munch-a-Lunch Update

Unfortunately, we are sad to announce that we were unable to find a volunteer to coordinate Munch-a-Lunch, which means we will not be able to offer hot lunches during the fall season.

We would love to bring this program back to our school, and we need your help to make that happen! There are a number of ways to support the program, including administrative duties and in-school assistance. You don't have to do it all — every bit of help makes a difference.

If you're interested in volunteering or would like to learn more about what's involved, please contact us at edemacpac@gmail.com.
