



THUNDERBIRD NEWS

February 22, 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIN

We are all living in ever changing times!! Just as our students are changing through their growth and maturity, the world is changing at a pace that sometimes is hard to keep up with. Society has never before seen the remarkable innovation and pace of change as we are seeing at this time in our history. Remember the days when you would wonder about something or have a discussion with someone and the information that you needed was not readily available to you? So, you would continue to wonder or debate with your family and friends until you could get yourself to the library to check out the truth of the matter or reference your "World Book Encyclopedia" collection. These days, when we wonder or debate, all we have to do is access the Internet through our computers or handheld devices and the information is right at our fingertips. This use of technology never would have occurred "back in the day".

So how does this all relate to our students? Well, I venture to say that our students and your children are much different learners now than when we were in school. I believe this is because of how information is now communicated, interpreted, and applied. They are exposed to a rapid influx of information that is readily available at their fingertips. When we went to school, we spent a great deal of time researching information and less time applying that information. We memorized lots of things and regurgitated it to our teachers – this is primarily how our learning was evaluated. The students of today still must research information and memorize, but because this information is more readily available to them more time can be spent on learning how to apply the information and synthesize it into their learning activities. Students are required to share information with their peers, learn from each other and apply their knowledge in a variety of ways to demonstrate their progress as learners. All of this requires the use of higher order of thinking skills and good background knowledge in basic skills.

Just as the winds of the seasons are changing so is the face of our schools. The fact is learning is different from what we experienced. As we come to the end of the second term in a few weeks, students will have the opportunity to reflect, with you, on their progress. We encourage you to discuss with your child what it is they are learning; what type of activities they are doing in school and what skills they are using as part of their learning. Finally, I encourage you to contact the teacher if you have any questions about what is happening in the classroom with respect to learning activities.

As Bob Dylan said many years ago, "The Times They are a Changin'" and so are schools and the learning that takes place within them. Opportunities for children to grow up in a dynamic world that is at their fingertips, affords us the opportunity to provide students with learning activities that will enable them to use information in a way that allows them to discover their strengths and use their talents to pursue their dreams.

As a reminder, you can keep in "the Eagle Mountain loop" by checking our calendar on our website and checking us out on our Instagram and Twitter pages.

Warm Regards,



Andrew Graham - Principal



Misti Askew – Vice Principal

PAC NEWS

Hot lunch!

Watch your inboxes for the next round of ordering opportunities for hot lunch. The next Hot lunch date is March 7.

Follow us on Social Media to ensure you get all the important news and announcements. Facebook: @EagleMountainMiddle/Instagram: @paceaglemountainmiddle.

If you are interested in being part of the Grade 8 Celebration at the end of the year, please email PAC.



Michelle Malpas
Chairperson for PAC



Happy February EMM Parents and Guardians,

As winter draws to an end, so too do some of our clubs and teams, such as the Grade 6-7 Boy's and Girl's Clubs, the SSNO Club, and the Basketball and Wrestling Team seasons. We can enjoy fond memories of our wrestling tournament, RAC week events and Pink Shirt Day, even as we anticipate Spring Break, which is just around the corner. This March, as each of you looks forward to spending time with friends or family doing preferred activities, I encourage you to eat healthy, get plenty of exercise and fresh air, sleep at least 8 hours per night, and be kind to yourself and others. By taking care of yourself over the next month, you will feel better and have more energy to do the things you love with the people you love. Here's to a fabulous February 2024!

Steve Balnave
Counsellor
sbalnave@sd43.b.ca

CYPRESS SSNO Club update:



Although the weather has not been the most cooperative, our SSNO Club members have demonstrated much positivity and flexibility; their positive leadership has not gone unnoticed. Our final SSNO Club session on Cypress Mountain is scheduled for Thursday, February 29th. We look forward to another great day on the mountain. Here are just a few reminders: please ensure that snow gear/equipment are clearly labelled with student's name; lost and found items can be claimed from Ms. Chen, room 218; and please check the weather forecast each week so that students can be dressed appropriately for current mountain conditions. Cypress Mountain has gone cashless. Should your child choose to purchase dinner from the cafeteria, only debit and/or credit cards will be accepted. As always, students are encouraged to see a teacher chaperone if they need support!

NOTE: If your child missed a ski day, Cypress Mountain will issue a voucher that will be valid until December 25, 2024. These vouchers will be available after our last session (after all 4 sessions have been completed). There will be an announcement for students to pick up their vouchers. No cash refunds.

W. Chen, Teacher Sponsor



Happy February! Lots of things are happening in the LLC this month:

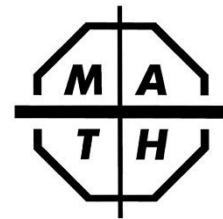
SD43 Middle School Book of the Year Contest – Starting now until April

EMM is participating in the district’s Middle School Book of the Year Contest again this year! Several of the district’s middle school librarians suggested 10 awesome middle grade novels that are recently published and we ask middle school students to vote for the best title. From now until the end of April, students can read as many of the 10 candidates as they want. They can access these titles from our school library, the public library, or online (as ebooks/audiobooks). After reading, students can fill out a ballot that will enter them into our monthly draw for some awesome prizes! At the end of the event, any students who have read at least 3 candidates will be eligible to vote for their Book of the Year and be entered into the grand prize draw for a Chapters gift card!



Math League Math Contest – Tuesday, February 27th, 2024

The first of two Math contests that Mr. Kwok will be running this year is the Math League Math Contest. The contest features 35 multiple choice Math problems that participants will complete in 30 minutes. The questions are different for each grade level. Calculators (non-phones) are allowed. Interested students need to sign up with their classroom teacher or with Mr. Kwok.



EMM Esports Club – Thursdays after school from 3-4pm

Mr. Kwok and Mr. Ross are sponsoring an Esports club at EMM with meetings starting this month. The intention for this club is to allow students to connect with one another in an after-school setting while learning valuable skills such as teamwork and critical and creative thinking in a competitive videogaming environment. For more information, please check out the following links or feel free to contact Mr. Kwok and Mr. Ross:

- [EMM Esports Club FAQ](#)
- [Introduction to Scholastic Esports](#)
- [Esports Canada Parents’ Guide to Scholastic Esports](#)

EMM Staff Book Picks

Every month we will feature some EMM staff members and what their favourite middle grade books are – if you are interested, go check them out from the school library or your local public library!

Ms. Perro (Team Eagle): *Scythe*



"I love the world building in this series. It's eerie, dystopian, and packed with action. The cliffhangers will also cause you to fly through each of the three books, (especially the end of the second one!)"

Ms. Moody (Team Wolf): *The Graveyard Book*



"Nobody Owens, Bod, lives in a graveyard and is being raised by ghosts. He has a guardian! Who is part of neither world. As fabulous as all this sounds,

Bod is being hunted by the one person who has been the cause of so much turmoil for him already. This story of overcoming obstacles, survival, and friendship is not to be missed!!! And there's a graphic novel adaption too 😊."

Mrs. Lockhart (EA): *Trash*



Since I have two middle school children, at this school, I've been lucky enough to hear about some great books! One that stands out is Trash, by Andy Mulligan. Not only is it a fast-paced read with a great story that keeps you hooked, it's an emotional journey that tugs at your heart!"

AMBASSADOR'S CORNER

Pink Shirt Day is on February 28, 2024

A big thank you to all those who purchased our latest EMM "Kindness Is Our Strength" Pink Shirts! With the help of our amazing Ambassadors, production has been underway at school and pre-ordered shirts have been sent home with your child today, Thursday, February 22, 2024.



Pink Shirt Day falls on the last Wednesday of February every year and we are excited to see a sea of pink alongside our latest design for this year's Pink Shirt Day on February 28th, 2024. The mission of Pink Shirt Day is to create a more kind, inclusive world by raising awareness and funds for anti-bullying initiatives. All proceeds from T-shirt sales will be donated to said initiatives. Thank you for your support!



February Athletics

The winter season is winding down and playoffs are coming up. Be sure to communicate with your child and their coach regarding playoff dates and locations.

On February 15, EMM hosted their second wrestling meet. Thank you to our coaches for making this event possible for our wrestlers as well as the rest of the SD43 wrestling community.

The grade 6 basketball jamboree is taking place at Pinetree Secondary School today from 3:20 to 6:30 pm. We hope to see a lot of parents out to support our teams. It is always an exciting time for our grade 6's to participate in a district wide event!

Mr. Anders Nordby - Athletic Director



PRO-D DAY

A reminder that tomorrow, Friday, February 23 is a district wide Pro- D day. Students do not attend.

Staff will be focusing on numerous courses and seminars offered that day throughout the district.

IMPORTANT DATES

February	Event/Holidays/Pro-D
19	Family Day Holiday
23	District Wide Pro-D Day (schools closed)
28	Pink Shirt Day
March	
12	Report Cards Posted
15	Last Day of Classes
18 to 28	Spring Break
29	Good Friday Holiday
April	
1	Easter Monday Holiday
2	Schools Re-open
19	District Wide Pro-Day (schools closed)
May	
17	School Based Pro-D Day
20	Victoria Day Holiday

June	
27	Last Day of School for Students
28	Administrative Day
July	
2-4	Office open from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
5	Office closes for summer
August	
26	Office re-opens
September	
2	Labour Day Holiday
3	Students return after summer break

