



THUNDERBIRD NEWS

December 20, 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIN



Dear Parents/Guardians and Community members,

It's hard to believe that the Winter break is upon us! For us, the old adage, "Time flies when you're having fun" certainly applies each and every day at Eagle Mountain Middle! We all totally agree that our time spent in this school community continues to be especially rewarding. Great staff, great parents, and great kids are the perfect ingredients for success! We hope this past calendar year has been equally as rewarding for you and your family!

Report cards were issued via MyEdBC on Friday, Dec 6 and we hope that they will inspire some worthwhile conversations at home. Celebrating successes, goal setting and an honest examination of "how to improve" are important components of the reporting process. But most important, is the need for positive communication between home and school. We strongly encourage you to continue to contact your child's teacher(s) whenever you have questions or concerns.

A big thank you must go out to all parents for the wonderful support you demonstrate for your children. We know that this is an exceptionally busy season, yet all the time spent working with your children on homework, talking about school, and helping them through their educational journeys is incredibly valuable for them as well as for us. This allows us to continue to work together with you to help each child achieve their own personal success. It's challenging being a parent, but the rewards are worth the investment!

We would like to thank all those folks who have donated items for our various fundraising activities during this season. Your generosity is very much appreciated. A big thanks to all those involved for providing substantial funding for hampers for several families in our community. Also, thanks to our PAC executive and volunteers who support the work we do here and provide the students with opportunities like the Winter Market, which was a huge success! You are awesome!

On behalf of the Eagle Mountain Middle School Staff, we wish you and your families a safe, happy and healthy holiday and wonderful New Year.

Mr. Andrew Graham - Principal

Ms. Jen Penk - Vice Principal





PAC PIZZA Fundraiser Reminder... tonight! (Friday, Dec 20)

🍕 Pizza for a Cause! Support Eagle Mountain Middle School! 🍕



Kick off your winter break the right way with pizza!! On Friday, December 20, 2024, take the night off cooking dinner to enjoy a delicious meal from Pappa Leo's Pizza (2565 Barnett Highway, Coquitlam 604-552-3366) and help support Eagle Mountain Middle School at the same time! 20% of every whole pizza goes directly to our school – just remember to mention “Eagle Mountain Middle School” when you order for the donation to apply.

Pickup is appreciated, but Pappa Leo's also delivers (yes, even to Anmore!), so everyone can participate. And for those with dietary needs, there are gluten-free options available! 🍕🌱

Let's make it a night to celebrate community and support our students. Mark your calendars, share with friends, and join us in making a difference, one pizza at a time! #SupportEagleMountain #PapaLeosPizza #CommunityFundraiser #PizzaForACause

AMBASSADORS HAPPENINGS



Operation Cozy Toes



Operation Cozy Toes was a huge success this season. Eagle Mountain collected over 1,500 pairs of socks for this initiative, and they will all be donated to a couple shelters in our lower mainland over the break. Thunderbird Ambassadors would like to send out a HUGE thank you to all those who donated socks - whether it was one pair, two pairs or ten, every single pair will help to make a difference for our homeless population in some capacity! We so appreciate your support.

Ms. Au and Mr. Samson





Hello EMM families! 2024 is rapidly drawing to a close and many of our students are looking forward to having some down time over the winter break. We encourage families to help their children set a daily screen time limit over the holidays and also schedule interactive "IRL" activities like playing board and card games, going for walks, playing sports, doing fun outdoor activities, and making memories with friends and family. Setting up a regular routine is a great way to help your children cope with the transition out of school. It will also help them feel prepared when they head back to school in the new year. Wishing you a wonderful and relaxing holiday!

Stephen Balnave, School Counsellor
sbalnave@sd43.bc.ca or (604) 469-1133



Happy December! Each issue of the EMM Newsletter will feature a section on what's going on/will go on in our Library/Learning Commons!

Tabletop Games Tuesdays



Mr. Balnave (our school counselor) and I are running a Tabletop Games Club for students who are interested in playing card games and board games in the Learning Commons Tuesdays after school from 3-4pm. All students are welcome to come and play boardgames and make new connections. We have a crew of students running their own Dungeons and Dragons game each week and they are looking for new members who are interested in the role-playing game. Mr. Balnave and I will be happy to teach participants how to play some of the tabletop games we own and students are more than welcome to bring their own games to play with each other! Please note that this is a drop-in program so no sign-up is necessary. However, we do ask students to communicate with their families if they are planning to attend each week and have a safe way to get home afterwards, especially now that it will get dark early as we enter the winter season.

Magazine Donations

One of our school goals this year is to continue promoting the joy of reading and I know some of our students like to read magazines. Thank you to those who have donated some magazines to the Library! If your family has past issues of magazines (e.g. National Geographic Kids, Highlights, etc.) that you subscribe to that your child no longer reads and are in good condition, please let me know if you would like to donate them to our Library. I think any issues within the past 3 months would be great!



Awesome Reads Over the Winter Break

Here are some books that are recommended by some of the middle school librarians around the district and would make for some great reading over the break!

- [Buzzing](#) (Samuel Sattin) - A moving middle grade graphic novel about friendship, belonging, and learning to love yourself despite the voices in your head.

- [Mexikid](#) (Pedro Martin) - A poignant, hilarious, and unforgettable graphic memoir about a Mexican-American boy's family and their adventure-filled road trip to bring their abuelito back from Mexico to live with them.
- [Thieves' Gambit](#) (Kayvion Lewis) - The Inheritance Games meets Ocean's Eleven in this cinematic heist thriller where a cutthroat competition brings together the world's best thieves and one thief is playing for the highest stakes of all: her mother's life.
- [The Misfits: A Royal Conundrum](#) (Lisa Yee) - When a notorious thief is out for priceless treasure (gems! cats! general decorum!)—who're you gonna call? An elite team of crime-fighting underdogs, that's who! The Misfits are on the case in this hilarious illustrated series from Newbery Honoree Lisa Yee and Caldecott Medalist Dan Santat!
- [The Flicker](#) (H. E. Edgmon) - Perfect for fans of The Marrow Thieves, Hatchet and The City of Ember, H.E. Edgmon's middle grade debut offers a bittersweet tale of hope and survival, a modern classic for the climate change generation.
- [Millionaires for the Month](#) (Stacy McAnulty) - After seventh graders Benji and Felix "borrowed" \$20 from a lost wallet, the billionaire owner challenges them to spend over \$5 million dollars in thirty days in order to learn life lessons about money
- [The Human Kaboom](#) (Adam Rubin) - The author of the #1 New York Times bestsellers Dragons Love Tacos and The Ice Cream Machine returns with another hilarious, irresistible collection of six explosively different stories with the same exact name.
- [New Dragon City](#) (Mari Mancusi) - Set off on a high-stakes, action-packed adventure in this story about friendship, survival, and fighting for ones you love, perfect for fans of Wings of Fire and How to Train Your Dragon.
- [Select](#) (Christie Matheson) - One girl and her soccer team take a stand against the bullies who push them too far in this brave, inspiring novel that celebrates girl power and the true spirit of sports. Perfect for readers who love The Crossover and Fighting Words.
- [Alterations](#) (Ray Xu) - For fans of Gene Luen Yang's American Born Chinese and Svetlana Chmakova's Awkward, this funny yet poignant middle-grade coming-of-age story highlights the struggle of feeling invisible while yearning to be seen by all.

Mr. Kwok
Teacher/Librarian



Music Happenings

Thank you to all the parents/guardians who came out to watch our Winter Concert on December 10, which was a great success! The Beginning Band, Advanced Band and the Choir worked hard to bring you a lovely evening of music and entertainment. Students that have only been learning their instruments for four months did an amazing performance for their first concert of the year. They were very proud of their accomplishments.

It's a good idea to keep up their skills over the break so that we can go forward and prepare for the field trips and performances in the new year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone!

Mrs. Sharon Ipe
Performing Arts Teacher

ATHLETICS AND



Grade 7 Girl's Basketball Team



The basketball season is upon us! We are currently recruiting grade 7 girls interested in joining the team. No matter your experience level, all are welcome! The season will begin the first week of January and run into early March. Please see our basic practice/game schedule below. If you are interested, pick up a permission form at the front office and hand it in to one of the coaches - Ms. Bro, Ms. Chad, or Ms. Manning as soon as possible.

- Practices: @ Eagle Mountain, Mondays after school (3-4pm)
- Games and some Practices: @ EMM and other schools, Tuesdays (3-4:30pm)
- Playoffs: To be determined

* * * * *



Schools are not routinely closed due to snow or other inclement weather conditions. All schools in School District 43 (Coquitlam) will remain OPEN, if possible, during winter weather, including snowfall.

However, on occasion, a district-wide or partial-district closure is required due to extreme weather. Partial-district closures affecting individual schools may occur due to the very different

geography within our school district. If there is a partial-district closure affected schools will be identified. The decision on schools remaining open or needing to be closed, because of extreme weather, occurs **before 6:30 a.m.** so that families can plan and make alternate arrangements.

Any district-wide or partial-district closure will be decided and communicated by 6:30 a.m. via the School District 43 website www.sd43.bc.ca and CKNW AM 980 radio, CKWX 1130 radio and CBC (690) radio.

While the District tries to make the best decision with the information available, the weather does change quickly. Therefore, when schools remain open, decisions to stay at home during challenging weather conditions should be made by each family.

Extreme weather can also impact transit. Transit schedules may face significant changes or cancellations due to the weather conditions. Parents seeking information on transit schedules need to consult the Translink website: <http://www.translink.ca/>

We encourage families to continuously check the School District 43 website for updates and changes: www.sd43.bc.ca

Learn more about SD43's process for emergency and inclement weather status updates at: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/NewsEvents/Pages/EmergencyInformation.aspx>



DATES TO REMEMBER

Mark your
calendar!

DATE	DAY	ITEM	NOTE
20	Friday	Last Day of Classes	Winter Break (to Jan 5)
Winter Break (Dec 21 to Jan 5)			
JANUARY			
1	Wednesday	Happy New Year	Welcome 2025!
6	Monday	Welcome Back!	Students Return
FEBRUARY			
3	Monday	Pro-Day Day (school based)	Students do not attend
17	Monday	BC Family Day	Holiday
27	Friday	District Wide Pro-Day	Students do not attend
MARCH			
14	Friday	Last day of classes	Spring Break
31	Monday	Welcome Back!	Students Return
APRIL			
18	Friday	Good Friday	Holiday
21	Monday	Easter Monday	Holiday
25	Friday	District Pro-D Day	Students do not attend
MAY			
16	Friday	School Based Pro-D Day	Students do not attend
19	Monday	Victoria Day	Holiday
JUNE			
TBA		School Wide Field Trip	
TBA		Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony	Gym
26	Thursday	Last Day of Classes	
27	Friday	Administrative Day	Schools closed (office open until July 4)

