



THUNDERBIRD NEWS

February 17, 2023

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

Kirsten Paterson- VP

PAC NEWS

Hot lunch!

Watch your inboxes for the next round of ordering opportunities for hot lunch. Hot lunch dates will be: March 8, April 19, May 17 and June 7.



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

We are looking for one or two parents to take over hot lunch organization for next year. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact us at 110-PAC@sd43.bc.ca.

Also looking for parents to help out with our annual staff appreciation event happening in May. If you are willing and able to help either with organizing in the lead up or being more hands on the week of, please contact us at 110-PAC@sd43.bc.ca.

It is that time of year where we are starting to plan Grade 8 leave taking activities. If you are the parent of a grade 8 student and wish to be a part of the organizing committee, please email us at 110-PAC@sd43.bc.ca.

Lisa Cable
Chairperson for PAC

YEARBOOKS ~ LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE

Yearbooks are back on sale for a short time. The closing date is February 19th, 2023. After that, no yearbooks will be available to purchase.

Yearbook is a good way to celebrate the achievements of students at an important time in their life. It can become a treasured book that students will love to look back on in years to come and preserve memories of friendships and events. Please go to schoolcashonline and purchase the yearbook.

ALL PAYMENT WILL BE EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE. No cash, cheque or verbal orders will be taken.



Counselor's Corner – February

Happy February EMM Parents and Guardians,

It's wonderful to see more daylight these days as this can really affect our mood. Getting enough sleep, exercise and eating healthy foods also affect our mood, focus, and energy level. Parenting can be a hard and exhausting job at times. Make sure you are taking time to provide yourself with some self-care. This might mean a night out without your child/children. It could

mean setting up a sleep over for your child so you have a night at home to yourself or it could even be getting out in nature and going for a walk without children. Whatever charges your battery, make sure you make time to do it. 😊

If you are looking for extra support right now as a parent, Family Smart is a wonderful resource for parents. They have parent peer supports and provide webinars and videos on various topics such as child mental health struggles. Here is the link, if you want to look at the website. <https://familysmart.ca/>.

Also know that if you are going through a challenging time with your child, you can also reach out to me or other staff at the school. Enjoy the rest of this short month!

Ms. Crista Jones
cjones@sd43.bc.ca or 604-469-1133



Math League Contest

Mr. Kwok will be organizing our first of two Math contests on Tuesday, Feb. 21 which is the [Math League Contest](#). This is open to students of all grade levels who are interested in challenging their numeracy skills. The contest will take place during school time in the Learning Commons and contestants may bring a non-phone calculator to the contest. The top scorers for each grade will receive certificates as well as having their results submitted to Math League. To sign up, students can talk to their classroom teacher or Mr. Kwok directly.



EMM Esports Club

Last year was a successful trial so we will be running a scholastic esports club again this year! Beginning February 16, we will be meeting Thursdays after school from 3-4pm in the Learning Commons and any interested students are welcome to join! We will be using Minecraft Education as the platform to play PvP (player vs. player) games during our weekly sessions, and through playing we aim to gain various skills as an esports player. These skills include strategizing for success, displaying good sportsmanship, as well as maintaining a healthy lifestyle physically, mentally, and emotionally.

For more information about our scholastic esports club, students who showed interest were given a parent consent form to take home, which they must return to Mr. Kwok prior to attending their first session. A copy of the letter is attached to the newsletter. Also attached to the newsletter is the [Parents' Guide to Scholastic Esports published by Esports Canada](#). For more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to Mr. Kwok!



Graphic credit: [Esport Gaming Logo Vectors by Vecteezy](#)

January Minecraft Build Challenge – Rollercoaster Ride

In January, Mr. Kwok hosted a Minecraft Build Challenge for all EMM students and the theme was to create a self-running rollercoaster ride in Minecraft Education. There were six entries entered and all of them were exceptional! It was very hard for our panel of teacher judges to decide. In the end, we would like to congratulate Max P. from Division 11 for his build. His roller coaster took riders to different biomes in Minecraft, and was exceptional in communicating his design in the recording of his work. Honorable mention goes to the entry submitted by Ethan M. and Jade M. from Division 14. A big thank you to PAC for their support in making our build challenges happen for our students!

You can check out all of our submissions [here!](#)



Mr. Kwok – Teacher Librarian

AMBASSADORS CORNER

Pink Shirt Day is on February 22nd, 2023.

Pink Shirt Day is when many people worldwide wear pink shirts to prevent bullying. It's a day to recognize those who are bullied and to stand up for them. On this day, we all stand united to stop bullying by wearing a pink shirt or a pink button to give recognition to this very serious problem.



PUBLIC SPEAKING

Public Speaking season is beginning soon at Eagle Mountain Middle School. Students will have an opportunity to present a speech in front of others. There are several rationales of why public speaking is important. Firstly, there are many times as adults we are asked to speak in front of others, this is a chance to prepare for those opportunities. Secondly, oral language is a mandated part of the BC Curriculum for language arts in all grades. Thirdly, be presenting in front of others, even when it is a challenge, gets easier each time. Finally, being part of a democratic society encourages us all to use our voice to express ideas. Public speaking is a format that provides all students with that stage.

There are a few main formats of speeches that are performed by students. One is called an expository speech which explains an idea to the audience. The second format is a persuasive speech whose goal is to convince the audience to think and take action on a topic. The third format is called a spoken word or slam poetry which is combination of performance using poetry to get the attention of the audience. Here are some dates for students to put in their calendars:

- School finals are April 12
 - District finals are April 18
- Mr. James McConville & Ms. Wendy Chen

SPORTS NEWS February Athletics and Intramurals

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 2, EMM hosted their first ever wrestling meet. Thank you to Mr. McConville, Mr. Martin, and Ms. Murray for making this event possible for our wrestlers as well as the rest of the SD43 wrestling community.

Intramural basketball continues on Tuesdays and Fridays at lunch. The gym is packed every time!

Mr. Anders Nordby - Athletic Director

WRESTLING

Eagle Mountain Middle School Wrestling season is well underway. This is the biggest team the school has ever had with over 40 students registered. Students are excited about the district championship meet that will take place on March 2nd. The coaches have been extremely impressed with the level of dedication students have shown and their willingness to learn a new sport. We have been fortunate to have three high school coaches this year who have been helping coach, supported by our teacher sponsors.

Upcoming meets: Our final meet will be held at Banting Middle School on Thursday, March 2nd.

The rules for the meet will be:

Round robin double elimination tournament

-Wrestlers will be seeded by ability and weight before the tournament

-Two-minute matches

-2 points for a takedown

-2 points for a back exposure

-Match ends at the end of the two minutes, when there is a 10-point difference, or if a pin occurs

-If a wrestler loses two matches their meet is over.

-Gold, Silver, and Bronze ribbons will be awarded to the top wrestlers of each group

-Team awards at the end of the meet will be given out

Parent spectators are welcome to come out to the meet to support our athletes! After the season is over there will be a pizza party hosted for our athletes.

Mr. James McConville jmconville@sd43.bc.ca

Mr. Daniel Martin dmartin@sd43.bc.ca

Ms. Kelly Murray kemurray@sd43.bc.ca

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE EXPLAINED:

Here at **Eagle Mountain Middle**, we are now only accepting online payments to minimize the physical handling of cash. encourage all parents to pay for their child's fees through our **School Cash Online Program**.

As District, we implemented that all mandatory School Policy Forms, parent volunteer forms, and permission

forms are also done through your online account. The online payment process is easy, reliable, and a secure way to pay for all your child's field trips, student fees, yearbooks, and other various items. The program will also provide you with a transaction history, so you can keep track of what you have purchased.

As we are also a **GREEN SCHOOL**, this process also eliminates paper waste as we now have electronic permission forms attached to all field trip payments. This will also eliminate sending cash with your child, and permission forms getting lost in your child's backpack!



If you are already registered for this program, great! If not, no worries we can help you along the way. Please visit the following link to see a to register for your account:

<https://sd43.schoolcashonline.com>

Once you have registered your account, make sure to log back on and add all your children. All children who are registered in SD43 can be added to your account. All you need is their name and birthdate!

STUDENT ABSENCES & LATES

Student absences are more important than they have ever been. The accurate tracking of students in and not in the building is so imperative right now. We would like to remind the parents at Eagle Mountain to please inform the office and homeroom teacher if their child will be away from school. **Please include their reason for not being in attendance or arriving late.** You can call the office at 604-469-1133, use the “Absence Report” function on our school website under “Quick Links” or email at eaglemountainsecretary@sd43.bc.ca.

If your child will be arriving late, you **must** also inform the office. If your child will be dismissed early, we ask that you please inform the office ahead of time. Please make sure we have a time when your child is leaving school. We also ask that you please advise whether your child will be walking or will be picked up from the school for their safety. If you will be picking up your child and the office wasn't informed, please come into the office and we will call your child. Please note that your child will not be allowed to leave early until the office gets a verbal or written permission from a parent.

***Reminder: please do not send your child to school if they are experiencing any symptoms of illness and only return when the major symptoms (fever, cough, etc.) subsided.**

2022-2023 Core Teachers

Team	Div	Assignment	Room	Teacher
Bear	1	6/7	218	Wendy Chen
	2	6/7	219	Barb Buczewski
	3	7/8	P302	Charissa Wong
	4	8	221	Jarod Fong
Eagle	5	6/7	222	Avie Basson
	6	6/7	220	Shaun Leong
	7	7/8	223	Louisa Perro/Lauren Au
	8	8	225	David Grender

Orca	9	6/7	235	Raphael Fernandez
	10	6/7	233	Andrea Shim-Ping/Natalie Hyde
	11	6/7	232	Irvin Samson
	12	8	234	Christina White/Anders Nordby
	13	8	236	Kate Zubick
Wolf	14	6/7	279	Stephen Spagnuolo
	15	6/7	231	Andrea Coupe/Kevin Keeler
	16	6/7	229	Danielle Murdoch/Daniel Martin
	17	7/8	228	Jenn Moody
	18	8	230	Suzanne Clements/Lauren Au
Raven	19	6/7	226	Kelly Murray/Martine Bro
	20	6/7	224	Sara Keeler/Natalie Hyde
	21	7/8	P303	Breana Sievenpiper/Lauren Au
	22	8	P301	James McConville

YOUR OFFICE TEAM

Mr. Andrew Graham	Principal
Ms. Kirsten Paterson	Vice-Principal
Ms. Crista Jones	Counsellor
Ms. Grace Gallaccio	Youth Worker
Ms. Saras Mudaliar	Head Secretary
Mrs. Melissa Newbery	Student Records Secretary

ATTACHED TO THE NEWSLETTER:

1. EC+Parents+Guide+to+Scholastic+Esports
2. EMM Esports Parent Letter
3. Epic Youth Spring Break Camp - 2023

IMPORTANT DATES

February	20	School Closed – BC Family Day
	22	Munch a Lunch (AKA Hot Lunch)
	24	School Closed - District Non-Instructional Day
March	8	Munch a Lunch (AKA Hot Lunch)
	10	Last day of classes before Spring Break
	14-25	Spring Break
	27	School reopens after Spring Vacation
April	7	Good Friday
	10	Easter Monday
	14	Newsletter #7
	19	Munch a Lunch (AKA Hot Lunch)
	21	School Closed - District Non-Instructional Day
May	17	Munch a Lunch (AKA Hot Lunch)
	18	Newsletter #8
	19	School Closed - School Based Non-Instructional Day
	22	School Closed - Victoria Day
June	7	Munch a Lunch (AKA Hot Lunch)
	16	Newsletter #9
	26	Grade 8 Ceremony
	29	Last of School for Students
	30	Administration Day

