



January 2013

## Principal's Message

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Principal

Mr. Darren Sweeney

Assistant Principal

Mr. Darrell Regehr

Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Edgar Schmidt

Board Chair

Ms. Sarah Hoffman

Ward C Trustee

Mr. Christopher Spencer

Dear Parents,

It's a new year. The dawning of a New Year is such a strange yet miraculous occurrence. The evening of December 31<sup>st</sup> is, practically speaking, no different than any other evening yet it is profoundly different to all of us. We reflect on what has gone before in our lives. Sometimes this reflection is only momentary and fleeting. However, in other cases it is a very somber time of regret and sorrow. We think of what we should have done differently or better. We ruminate about missed opportunities and neglected relationships.

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012 I too found myself embroiled in this type of reflection. However, the following day I happened to watch an episode of "The Green and Gold Gridiron Show". It is a locally produced show featuring the Edmonton Eskimos. Each week during the football season one show is produced. On the episode that I happened to be watching there was a clip of head coach Kavis Reed speaking to the team in the locker room before a game. He said something that resonated with me. He was talking to the players about doing your absolute best, giving all you have because you can't un-ring a bell. His point was that once something is done, you can't undo it so do your best in all situations. Of course he is correct. You can't un-ring a bell. That is very important to remember for a few reasons. One reason is to fully grasp the notion that the old year is done. You can't go back and undo it. The bell has been rung. The second is to look towards the New Year with a new sense of determination and passion. It is to embrace the fact that there will be many, many bells to ring in the coming year. There is a renewed opportunity to ring the bell in a true and good manner.

As the New Year begins I can assure the Meadowlark Christian School community that we always strive to ring the bell in a true and good manner with respect to educating the children in our school. We have had a challenging start to the year, but that bell has rung. We look to the New Year with a renewed sense of optimism and energy. Working with your children is an absolute blessing that we treasure.

"May Light always surround you;  
Hope kindle and rebound you.  
May your Hurts turn to Healing;  
Your Heart embrace Feeling.  
May Wounds become Wisdom;  
Every Kindness a Prism.  
May Laughter infect you;  
Your Passion resurrect you.  
May Goodness inspire  
your Deepest Desires.  
Through all that you Reach For,  
May your arms Never Tire."  
— D. Simone

I would like to wish all of the MCS families a Happy New Year. It will, without a doubt, be a great one!

Mr. D. Sweeney, Principal

**LEARNING** through academics **LIVING** in Christ **LEADING** by serving others **LOVING** with strength of character

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## **Breakthrough Prayer**

### **Ministry**

We are a group of parents at Meadowlark Christian School who are members of Campus Crusade For Christ (Breakthrough Prayer Ministry), which is dedicated to encouraging and supporting schools through prayer. Anyone is welcome to join us for prayer Tuesday mornings at 9:00, upstairs in the staff room, to pray for the students and staff.

If you are interested in finding out more or have any prayer requests please give Carol Milner a call at 780-470-3659 or email at [milners@airsurfer.ca](mailto:milners@airsurfer.ca)

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Get to know your Ward C Trustee, Christopher Spencer:

<http://www.epsb.ca/trustees/ctrustee.shtml>

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### **Hot Lunch**

The next hot lunch is Opa on January 17, 2013



## **SchoolZone**

SchoolZone has become the delivery method of choice for providing school information to parents and students. Access to monthly newsletters, Provincial Achievement test results, HLAT results, IPP's, Progress Reports, school news, and homework are some of the many things available for viewing through SchoolZone.

### **Remember to check for:**

- the monthly school newsletter will only be available on SchoolZone.
- Progress Reports will be posted to SchoolZone in the Student Profile tab. The first progress report will be posted on November 23. No paper copies will be printed.
- Transportation route changes are posted to SchoolZone in the Student Profile tab. Parents of students whose route has changed will be notified via email indicating a change. Information can then be accessed through SchoolZone.
- Provincial Achievement Test results.

If you experience problems logging on to SchoolZone, please contact Susan in the school office, for assistance.

### **Cash Payments for School Fees**

If you are paying cash for any kind of school fee we request that you please submit the exact amount (including coins). We do not keep cash on hand in the school office so it is difficult to make change. Thank you.

### **2012 Income Tax Receipts**

2012 Income Tax receipts for Alternative Program Fees and all other donations will be issued by February 28, 2013.

To insure that there is no delay in receiving your receipt, if you have changed your mailing address within the last 6 months, please confirm your address with the school office. If you have any questions regarding tax receipts please contact Sandra Di Cesare at the school.  
(780) 483-6476 or [Sandra.Dicesare@epsb.ca](mailto:Sandra.Dicesare@epsb.ca)

### **Indoor Track and Field Season**

If you are in **Grade 4 – 9** and would enjoy being part of a fun and active group, come and join the Indoor Track and Field Team. Whether you desire to have basic overall fitness or have a passion for running, jumping and/or throwing, this is the team for you!

The season runs from January to March and practices are on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting January 10<sup>th</sup>. On Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, there will be a parent information and registration meeting in Room 11 after school. I look forward to seeing you there!

Registration form can be found on SchoolZone.

Corrine Timmer

Track Administrator/Coach

# The Board of Trustees wants to hear from you

## Opportunity to provide feedback on revised policy on assessment

The Edmonton Public Schools Board of Trustees is currently considering a revised policy on student assessment, achievement and growth. This is the first step in approving a new version of the policy.

As part of the Board's policy development and review process, the Board considers a new or revised policy three separate times. The Board's Policy Review Committee presented a draft version of the revised policy to the Board of Trustees for consideration for the first time at the public board meeting on December 11. The Board approved the committee's recommendation to consider the policy and to post it on the district website for stakeholder input.

Go to [epsb.ca](http://epsb.ca) and click on the banner at the top of the page to view the revised policy and supporting documentation. Parents are encouraged to review the revised policy and provide feedback via an online survey. Input will be accepted until noon, January 31, 2013.

The feedback received will be considered during the policy's review and development.

In addition, the Board will be hosting a teleconference at the end of January 2013, which will provide another opportunity for community members to share their feedback on the revised policy. More information will be available on the district website once the details are confirmed.



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
metro continuing education

## **Metro's Saturday Cool School classes start soon**

January 26, 2013 marks the start of Metro Continuing Education's Saturday Cool School Term 2 for elementary and junior high students.

Cool School is a one-of-a-kind academic enrichment program designed to strengthen study skills, build lifelong learning strategies and improve grades. Courses include math, language arts and science. The program, based on provincial curricula, is taught by qualified instructors and is the District alternative to privately run companies. Cool School is offered at two sites: a north location at Londonderry School and a south location at D.S. MacKenzie School.

[Please click here for more information.](#)

Further information: [Trina Empson](#), Assistant Principal, Academic Success Programs, Metro Continuing, 780-917-8663.

# Young Authors!

## Young Writers' Camps 2013

**February 28 & March 1**

Teachers' Convention-Grades 4-6

Satisfy your need to write with 3 authors and an illustrator at this 2-day day camp.

**March 25 & 26**

Spring Break-Grades 4-6

Pursue your passion to write with 3 authors and an illustrator at this 2-day day camp.

**March 27 & 28**

Junior High Students

Expand your writing skills with the help of 4 local authors at this 2-day day camp.



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*Bright futures  
begin here*

**For more information or to register**

**The Bennett Centre**

Phone 780-468-1439 or

Toll Free 1-800-664-6630

Fax 780-466-3370

E-mail [bennettcentre@epsb.ca](mailto:bennettcentre@epsb.ca)

[www.bennettcentre.epsb.ca](http://www.bennettcentre.epsb.ca) - see **camps** for printable registration form.

9703-94 St. Edmonton, AB T6C 3W1  
(3 blocks east of the Muttart Conservatory)

# OUR DOORS ARE OPEN!



Come in & discover  
what makes our  
schools distinct!

Edmonton Public Schools serves the unique strengths, needs and interests of over 80,000 students through regular community school programming and more than 30 alternative programs. Choosing a school or program is an exciting and important decision, and there's no better way to find the right fit for your family than to visit an open house.

Find the school for you at:

## OPENHOUSE.EPSB.CA



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Spotlight on Literacy

## WHAT IS LITERACY LEADERSHIP?

A literacy leader is a person who has strong ideas, beliefs and goals related to literacy and research-based literacy instruction. At Edmonton Public Schools, the principal is the key literacy leader in the school. They work with other school leaders to plan, implement, support, promote, communicate and monitor literacy learning. In many schools, "literacy leadership teams" – made up of the principal and other staff – are formed to support effective literacy strategies and practices in every classroom. These teams also work with district consultants who are literacy specialists to help ensure literacy learning opportunities are strengthened across all subject areas for all students.

### Our work in the classroom

Principals and other literacy leaders demonstrate their leadership in many ways; some of them include:

- talking about their beliefs around the importance of literacy learning for student success with staff, students, parents and the community;
- involving their school community in creating a strong literacy plan and supporting everyone to be on track towards realizing their collective goals;
- organizing professional learning opportunities for teachers and other staff, as well as mentoring and coaching them, so that the best literacy instruction possible is provided to each student across all subject areas;
- purchasing or gather the necessary resources to support research-based literacy instruction – from books to online resources, to literacy interventions for struggling learners;
- making literacy the focus of almost every activity; and
- supporting literacy learning through the students' first language as well as through the teaching of a second language.

**"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."** – John Quincy Adams

### Literacy links

- Below are two articles from the Peel school district that offer great tips and strategies on strengthening literacy skills for young children and teens:
  - Parents Boost Learning: [bit.ly/ULGpNK](https://bit.ly/ULGpNK)
  - Help your Teen Improve Reading and Writing Skills: [bit.ly/TYXSG7](https://bit.ly/TYXSG7)
- abc 123 – Reach Every Student (Ontario Ministry of Education) – provides excellent resources on supporting literacy development in a number of different languages for parents: [bit.ly/UhczSV](https://bit.ly/UhczSV)

### Helping at home

As a parent, you are a literacy leader. Your leadership in literacy started the day your child was born and will continue throughout your lifetime. To help strengthen your ability to be a great coach and mentor to your child at home, try some of the following:

- **Lead by example** – show that you enjoy reading your own books, magazines, newspapers or become a member of the public library.
- **Make it a priority** – set aside a regular time when literacy is the focus for the entire family – everyone reads, everyone writes or everyone goes online together.
- **Get involved** – promote literacy learning at your school by becoming a reading buddy, participating in Read-in Week or supporting literacy fundraisers like book fairs.
- **Be a motivator** – provide your child with positive feedback when they share a personal piece of their writing with you or when you see them reading.
- **Build up a home library** – encourage family and friends to give books as gifts. Take trips to book stores or check out garage sales and school fairs for gently-used books.
- **Take advantage of everyday moments to support literacy development** – i.e., while traveling in the car, play audio books and ask your child questions about the story you're listening to.
- **Be informed** – read each monthly Spotlight on Literacy document – especially noting how you can support literacy at home.

# January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
December 22 - January 6 - Christmas break						
6	7 Classes resume	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Hot Lunch Day -Opa	18	19
20	21 School Council meeting 7 pm	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendars

- February 5 - Gr. 5 & 9 Immunizations Round 1 (p.m.)
- February 8 - Interim progress report
- February 14 - Parent/Teacher conferences 2:30 - 7 pm
- February 18 - Family Day - no school
- February 25 - School Council meeting 7 pm
- February 28 & March 1 - Teacher's Convention - no school for students
- March 23 - 31 - Spring Break - no school for students
- April 1 - Easter Monday - no school for students
- April 2 - classes resume