

## Principal's Message

### HOW TO CONTACT US

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<http://www.k-9christian.com/>

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,

### Importance of Reading

As with most schools, we are always focused on developing the literacy skills and levels of our students. In other words, we are striving to help our students become more proficient readers and writers. Being *able* to read is important, but if students don't understand *what* they are reading, the reading process may become frustrating for them. Teachers are constantly utilizing best practices to enhance the ability of our students to understand what they are reading.

We invite you as parents to be part of this process by showing that you value reading as well. I once read a quote that said, "Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." (1994) ~ Emilie Buchwald This quote speaks to the importance of a parent role model in the area of reading. The following is a list of ideas that parents may use to encourage and promote reading. The list is an excerpt from "Tips for Parents About Reading" and it is published by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory's Comprehensive Center, Region X and Curriculum and Instruction Services. It is used with permission.

### Things to do:

1. Look closely at how time is being used in your home if your child is not reading regularly or enough. Being a good reader at this age means doing lots of reading outside of school.
2. Be clever about creating time for reading—allow a later bedtime or excuse children from a chore like washing dishes if they are reading.
3. Discuss bits and pieces of books that you read with your child. Find out about what she is reading by asking nonthreatening questions like, "What's happening in your book now?" or "What are the characters like in the book you are reading?"
4. Play games like Scrabble, Spill and Spell, Scattergories, and Balder-dash together—they are fun and they reinforce reading skills.
5. Limit television viewing to 14 hours a week. Gradually reducing TV time can increase time for reading.
6. Make time for the library. Encourage your kids to find different types of books—nonfiction informational books, and poetry, history, travel, and cookbooks—at the library to increase awareness of topics and subjects.
7. Encourage children this age to read to younger children and siblings.
8. Give gifts that encourage reading and writing: reading lamps, magazine subscriptions, books, stationary, pens, and blank books.
9. Agree with your child on the time and place for homework. Make sure your child knows this is a high priority. If there are problems staying focused on homework, start a study group, get a tutor, or make a plan.
10. Be confident that it is worth the effort and your child's complaints to do all it takes to help your child be successful in reading and writing.

Thank you for being an active "partner in learning" in the education of your child.

Sincerely,

Mr. D. Sweeney

**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 Boston Pizza on February 27, 2013



Beginning in September 2013, we are in need of a new Hot Lunch Coordinator. If you would be interested in filling this position, please contact the school office.

## **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)

## **Alberta Education Accountability Pillar**

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we're equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 will receive a survey from Alberta Education.

In February, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog. Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly. Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2013, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.



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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)

# HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM GUIDE

The High School Program Guide is provided to Grade 9 students to help them make informed decisions about their high school career.

As a parent or guardian, we encourage you to review the guide with your child to learn more about the choices they'll make as they begin planning for high school.

- transitioning to high school
- core courses
- diploma requirements
- awards and scholarships
- post-secondary options

The High School Program Guide is also available online at [www.epsb.ca](http://www.epsb.ca) under Publications.

[www.epsb.ca](http://www.epsb.ca)



# 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



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## Important information regarding the Pre-enrolment process

The pre-enrolment process at Edmonton Public Schools helps you plan for the upcoming school year, and gives schools the chance to make plans based on the number of students they will expect to welcome in the fall.

**Please consider the following when making choices for the 2013-2014 school year:**

- Collect information about the schools and programs that interest you.
- If you need help finding your attendance area school and the programs it offers, call the Planning department at 780-429-8427.
- Get a feel for different schools by visiting them during their open house events.
- To learn more about our schools, the programs they offer, and their open house dates, visit our website at [www.epsb.ca](http://www.epsb.ca).
- If your child is continuing at the same school, please fill out a passport provided by the school principal.
- Children who are four years of age on or before March 1, 2013 may register in Kindergarten for the 2013-2014 school year. Please contact your attendance area school to find out about registration, open houses and Kindergarten orientation.

The pre-enrolment deadline for all schools is April 15, 2013 unless you are applying to a school with entrance criteria (Crestwood, Grandview, Old Scona & Victoria). The deadline for applying to a school with entrance criteria is March 6, 2013. Visit [planning.epsb.ca/enrolment/pre-enrolment](http://planning.epsb.ca/enrolment/pre-enrolment) for further information regarding the pre-enrolment process.

**Look for your child's pre-enrolment passport to be sent home in March.**

[www.epsb.ca](http://www.epsb.ca)



**JASPER PLACE**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**

**Honours  
Information  
Evening**




**Advanced Placement &  
International Baccalaureate  
February 7, 2013 - 6:30 pm**

**General Open House**

**March 7, 2013 - 5:30-8:00 pm**

**BE A REBEL**

8950-163 Street NW  
Edmonton, AB T5R 2P2  
780-408-9000  
[jasperplace.epsb.ca](http://jasperplace.epsb.ca)

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# Spotlight on Literacy

## WHAT IS MATH LITERACY?

For students to be successful in life, they need a strong understanding of math literacy. If we think of math as a language, then our work involves assisting students to be able to “read” math – to not only understand the thoughts, ideas and information presented in the form of symbols, patterns, problems, graphs, tables, etc., but to also help students clearly explain the thinking processes and strategies they use to solve math problems. We are living in a world that’s filled with math challenges – whether we are at work, travelling, cooking or living in our home. The ability to reason, problem solve, visualize, estimate, self-monitor or cross check are important skills for success.

### Our work in the classroom

Teachers support math literacy through the development of seven interconnected math processes:

- **Communicate or talk about math:** students “show their thinking” as well as “show their work” using the language of math, including terms like “sum” or “product.”
- **Make connections:** teachers help students link math literacy to their own life experiences and to other subject areas.
- **Problem solve:** students work with a partner or in groups to try different strategies to solve problems. By listening to others share their strategies, they begin to understand that there are many ways to find an answer.
- **Reasoning:** students learn to give reasons for why they selected a particular strategy to solve a math problem and why that approach made sense to them.
- **Visualize, picture or imagine:** students create a picture in their mind, draw it on paper, or use manipulatives, i.e., blocks or marbles (something they can manipulate with their hands) to assist them in understanding mathematical information and to help them solve math problems.
- **Use mental math and estimation skills:** students solve math problems “in their head.” For example, teachers could ask a question, such as: “How much GST would be added to a \$25 t-shirt?”
- **Use appropriate technology to help solve math problems:** students need to understand which tool (e.g., calculator, spreadsheet software, online math program) would best help them arrive at an answer; they also need to use their reasoning skills to think about whether or not the answer generated by the tool made sense.

### Helping at home

There are a number of things you can do at home to support math literacy:

- Point out how much you use math in your everyday life.
- Try to use math language at home in routine activities like figuring out how to double a recipe. You may wish to ask your child’s teacher for a vocabulary list to support your child in selecting or remembering appropriate math terms.
- Talk about your shopping experiences and discuss how your child might budget for items they may wish to purchase, or how they could get a better buy elsewhere.
- Review statistics on the sports pages of the newspaper or go online to review statistics.
- Work with your child to create schedules that involve time management to deepen their understanding of the concept of time.
- Read stories (see links below) and play games with your child that involve math, including Sudoku puzzles, math memory match games, Othello and Cribbage.

“Children need to do what ‘real’ mathematicians do – explore and invent for the rest of their lives.”

– Susan Ohanian, *author of Garbage Pizzas, Patchwork Quilts and Math Magic*

### Literacy links

Visit the links below to explore recommended books and games that will help your child build strong math skills:

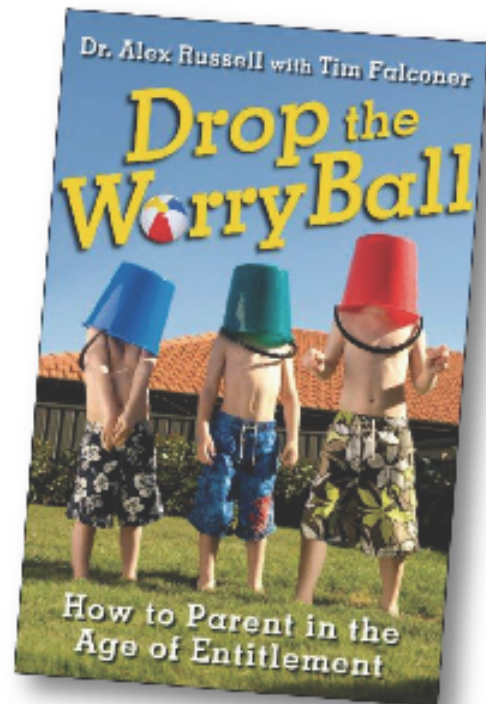
- [goodreads.com/topic/show/639383-math-books](http://goodreads.com/topic/show/639383-math-books)
- [delightfulchildrensbooks.com/2011/10/18/math/](http://delightfulchildrensbooks.com/2011/10/18/math/)
- [dearteacher.com/math-books](http://dearteacher.com/math-books)
- [fuelthebrain.com/Game/play.php?ID=2](http://fuelthebrain.com/Game/play.php?ID=2)

# Drop the Worry Ball:

## How to Parent in the Age of Entitlement

Find out how to avoid the traps in today's stressful parenting culture. Learn how to put down the "worry ball" so children can pick it up themselves. Do so in ways that help maintain your positive place in your children's lives, one that fosters personal growth and close and affectionate relationships.

Presenter Dr. Alex Russell is a clinical psychologist who lives and works in Toronto. Visit [www.russellpsychology.com](http://www.russellpsychology.com) for more information.



**Wednesday, February 27, 2013 from 7 to 9 p.m.**

Oasis Centre – Conferencing and Events, 10930 – 177 Street NW

Ample free parking is available. For a map of location, visit [www.epsb.ca/datafiles/OasisCentreMap.pdf](http://www.epsb.ca/datafiles/OasisCentreMap.pdf).

**This event is FREE but pre-registration is required as seating is limited.**

To register, click <http://2013getca.eventbrite.ca> or call Jean at 780-429-8039.

You can also access the registration page using this QR-code:



Please note that this session is for **adults** only.

*Note: Photographs may be taken at this event which may be used on co-sponsors' websites and in other publications.*

Audrey's Bookstore will be on site with copies of the book for purchase.

Co-sponsored by:



# 10 TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY ONLINE

- 1** THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK!
- 2** KNOW WHO YOUR FRIENDS ARE
- 3** TIGHTEN YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS
- 4** AVOID DISCLOSING YOUR LOCATION
- 5** DON'T SHARE YOUR PASSWORD AND CHANGE IT REGULARLY
- 6** TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS
- 7** UNDERSTAND NEW FEATURES SUCH AS GEO-TAGGING BEFORE YOU TRY THEM
- 8** BE AWARE OF YOUR ONLINE REPUTATION
- 9** PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY, AS WELL AS THAT OF YOUR FRIENDS
- 10** BE DISCREET

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PRIVACY, VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR YOUTH, PARENTS AND EDUCATORS AT:

[YOUTHPRIVACY.CA](http://YOUTHPRIVACY.CA)



Office of the  
Privacy Commissioner  
of Canada

ISBN IP54-43/2012E  
CAT. NO. 978-1-100-20448-2



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WATCH US ON YOUTUBE: PRIVACYCOMM

WRITING BY MARK SLUTSKY  
ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL BULLER  
LETTERING BY CHRIS TUCKER

## Making mealtimes more pleasant

It is normal for children to be choosy eaters, but picky eating can make mealtimes tough.

Remember that as a parent, you decide which foods to serve, and when and where to serve them.

Allow your child to choose how much food they eat and whether they eat a certain food offered.

This can help make mealtimes more pleasant.

See the tips below to help with mealtime struggles:

- **Do not be a short order cook!** The whole family should eat the same foods. Your child will learn to like more foods by being exposed to them. Over time they will learn to eat and enjoy what you eat.



*A good way to avoid your children from becoming a bit picky at mealtimes is getting them involved in meal preparation.*

### For more information...

- For help with mealtime struggles, visit [www.ellynsatter.com/](http://www.ellynsatter.com/)
- Alberta Health Services school nutrition website: [www.albertahealthservices.ca/2925.asp](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/2925.asp)

- **Get rid of distractions.** Turn off the TV, sit down as a family and enjoy each other's company.

- **Offer familiar foods with new foods.** Even if your child won't eat a new food the first time, keep

offering it. It can take a child many tries before they accept a new food. As a child gets older, try foods

again that they may not have liked before. Tastes can change over time.

- **Avoid using food as a reward or punishment or bribing your child to finish his or her meal.** This teaches your child that certain foods are better or worse than others. You want your child to enjoy all foods. Eating should be pleasant, not a duty or a chore.
- **Involve your child in shopping for food and making meals.** Children who help choose and prepare their food are more likely to eat it.

- **Be a positive role model.** Eat a variety of healthy foods. Do not expect your child to eat a food if you're not willing to try it first.

## Cut down the screen time in your children's bedrooms

One simple way to have healthier children is to ban the TV from their bedroom.

Children with bedroom TV's are more likely to get less sleep. Children whom do not get enough sleep tend to score lower on tests, have more mood disor-

ders and are more likely to be overweight.

Many children also have other electronic devices in their bedroom like video games, computers, and mobile phones which can make it very difficult to get the recommended 10-11 hours

of sleep for a child between the ages of 7 to 12.

Take the TV and other electronic devices out of their room, have them read a book or tell them a story before bed to help them unwind, relax and get ready for a good night's sleep.

# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Gr. 5 & 9 Im- munizations Round 1 (p.m.)  Grad Parent meeting 7 pm	6	7	8  Interim progress report	9
10	11  Hot Lunch Order forms due	12	13	14  Parent/ Teacher conferences 2:30 - 7 pm	15	16
17	18  <b>Family Day</b> no school	19	20	21	22	23
24	25  School Council meeting 7 pm	26	27	28  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Teacher's Convention</b> no school for students         </div>	March 1	

## Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendars

March 14 - Open House 6:30-8:00 pm  
 March 15 - Progress Report #2 posted to SchoolZone  
 March 21 - Hot Lunch Day - Dairy Queen  
 March 21 - Mexican Fiesta  
 March 23 - 31 - Spring Break - no school for students  
 April 1 - Easter Monday - no school for students  
 April 2 - classes resume