

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,

April is an important month for us here at Meadowlark Christian School. Students and teachers are busily gearing up for the home stretch in their school years. At the administrative level we are very focused on planning for next years school organization. This includes looking at how students will be grouped, timetabling, staffing etc. This process has been underway for quite some time and student pre-enrollment passports will be distributed to students during the second week of March. Once they are returned to us (by April 10th) we will have a clearer picture of actual numbers for the fall and will be in a better position to make some critical decisions.

Having parental input is critical to our decision making process. In order to facilitate the gathering of parent input we have prepared a short questionnaire that you can complete and return to the school. It is attached to this month's newsletter, but it will also be posted on SchoolZone and paper copies will be available in the office if you would like to pick one up. We would appreciate having them returned by Thursday, April 11th. They can be returned to your child's homeroom teacher, directly to the office or emailed to the school (meadowlarkchristian@epsb.ca).

The year is rapidly winding down, but planning for next year is in high gear. As we plan for an organizational structure, our first priority is to utilize our allocated resources in ways that will place the learning needs of our students first. Decisions regarding student groupings and teaching assignments will all be made with the intent of "cranking it up a notch". By that phrase I am referring to the fact that Meadowlark Christian School students currently receive excellent instruction, but we are always striving to be better and to be more responsive to student needs.

Sincerely,

Mr. D. Sweeney

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

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

Get to know your Ward C Trustee, Christopher Spencer:

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

Hot Lunch

The next hot lunch is Dairy Queen on March 21, 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.

High School Registration for Grade 9's

The grade nine students were all given a High School Program Guide on February 12th. This is a general guide, not specific to any one high school. The deadline to submit a pre-enrollment or registration form to your preferred high school is April 15, after which you may have limited options available for high schools. If you aren't selected to attend your preferred high school, you are always able to attend your designated high school or any other school with remaining space.

As most of our grade nines move on to Jasper Place High School, we are bringing in counselors from JP on March 20th to register those kids. If you are not going to go to JP then you must make arrangements with the high school of your choice to get their registration forms and submit them prior to April 15th.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at Darrell.regehr@epsb.ca
Mr. Regehr

Indoor Track & Field News

We have had an incredible Indoor Track and Field Season! Our athletes worked hard and attained many personal bests over the last couple of months. They competed in meets against schools from all over Edmonton and in meets against clubs from all over Alberta. Way to go team! It has been a pleasure to coach this group of athletes. The Outdoor Track and Field Season will begin in April and will be for Grade 1 – 9. Practices will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. A registration and information meeting date will be posted soon.

Highlights:

AB Indoor Games, February 9th

Elementary Relay Teams – received two Gold Medals and three 4th places
Shayna G. won the Gold Medal in Long Jump, jumping 4.79m and competing against athletes from all over Alberta

AB Provincial Track and Field Championships, March 2nd

Rebecca K. – 4th place in Standing Long Jump, 6th place in Shot Put
Megan D. – 5th place in Shot Put

Edmonton Journal Indoor Games – Finals will be on March 16th

Luke S. – qualified for Finals with a first place jump of 4.03m
Junior High Mixed Relay (Shayna G, Jared K, Vinee T, Liam O, Anna J, Andrea W, Caleb O, Simon T)
– qualified for Finals with a 4th best time overall

See you in the Outdoor Season!

Corrine Timmer
MCS Track Coach

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.

★ **NEW!** – a directory of staff email addresses can be found under the Resources tab

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



Mexican Fiesta Night & Silent Auction

Supporting the 2013 Mission for Mexico Trip

Thursday, March 21st, 2013
5:00pm to 7:30pm

Meadowlark Christian School Gym
Admission is Free

\$5.00/person or \$20.00/family for Mexican Cuisine

Come and support our grade nines as they get ready to serve God in Mexico
from April 13th to April 26th.



There will be presentations, entertainment and of course.....
A great Silent Auction



SEE YOU THERE!!!!



Compassion Child

One of the ways in which our school lives out our Mission statement is to help those who are in need. Each division of our school has chosen to support a child through Compassion Canada. This commitment involves raising enough money to support our Compassion Children for the year. Amazingly we can provide food, clothing and schooling for a whole year by raising \$350.00 per child. Divisions I and II raised money throughout February while Division III is raising money during March. If every student in our school raised \$1.00/week or \$4.00 for the month we will reach our goal. We would like to encourage you to challenge your son/daughter to raise this money on their own by doing extra work around the house, helping out a neighbor or even just giving up one can of pop for the week and donating that money. Together we can make an impact in 3 children's lives!!!



HealthTALK

April 2013

Public Health Newsletter for Teachers, School Staff and Parents

April is a Dental Health month

Making Dental Education Fun

Have you considered incorporating dental health information into your subjects and making learning about oral health fun?

For example:

- Dental health experiments in a Science lesson.
- Dental songs, poems or crossword puzzles in an English lesson.
- Calculating the number of minutes teeth are "under acid attack" after a sweet treat in a math lesson.

For resources, contact the dental health professional at your local health centre or ask your school nurse.

The Value of Dental Sealants

- Dental sealants are a plastic material placed on the chewing surface of the teeth to protect them from decay.
- Dental sealants can last for many years.
- The combination of sealants and fluoride can reduce tooth decay even further.

Ask your dental professional about dental sealants at your child's next dental visit.

Ahhh, summer is coming: warm, lazy days and fruit juice dripping off chins.

You've seen the commercials that some foods can cause acid erosion of the teeth.

- Acid erosion damages the tooth enamel and once the enamel is gone it cannot be replaced.
- Acid erosion is a progressive process caused by exposure to acids for a long time.

Acidity is measured using the acidity pH scale.

- pH1 = VERY acidic
- pH7 = neutral.
- pH14 = NOT acidic at all

Tooth enamel dissolves at below pH5.5. The following table lists the pH of some common fruits and drinks:

pH of some common fruits and drinks			
Apples	3.9	Grapefruit	3
Apple Juice	3.5	Grapes	3.4
Bananas	5.2	Oranges	3
Blackberries	3.2	Strawberries	3
Blueberries	3.8	Pineapple	3.2
Dill Pickle	3.2	Raspberries	3.1
Ginger Ale	2	Watermelon	5.2

But Don't Fall Off the Fruit Wagon!

Saliva protects your teeth so eating acidic foods with meals when saliva flow is high is a good idea. Other tips:

- Eat cheese or other dairy products along with acidic food.
- Avoid brushing for one hour after eating something acidic.
- Don't swish acidic drinks in your mouth or use a straw.
- Get regular dental checkups.

The Alberta Child Health Benefit Program

Are you worried about the cost of going to the dentist? This provincial program provides health coverage for children in lower income families. It provides free extended health benefits such as dental care, eyeglasses and prescription drugs. For more information or an application form, call 780-427-6848 or 1-877-469-5437 or visit the website at

www.employment.alberta.ca/FCH/2076.htm

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOMESTAY FAMILIES WANTED

Edmonton Public Schools' International Student Program is partnered with Canada Homestay International (CHI) to provide supportive Homestay services to International Students studying in our schools.

Can you provide a safe, welcoming and caring home environment for an international student between the ages of 15 and 18? Can you care for the student as a part of your family? If your answer is "yes", please submit your application!

Homestay families are compensated, receiving \$700 per month for providing accommodations and three daily meals.

For more information and to complete a host family application, please visit the CHI website at:

www.canadahomestaynetwork.ca

For questions, please call George at (780) 328-6479 ext. 2052,
Diamond at (780) 328-6479 ext. 2037 or e-mail
eps@canadahomestayinternational.com.



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 under Publications.

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



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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.
- 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 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

Annual Education Results Report (AERR)

The Three Year Education Plan and an Annual Education Results Report to Alberta Education provides extensive information on the District's plans for the period 2012-2013 to 2014-2015, along with the results achieved during the 2011-2012 school year. The AERR uses Accountability Pillars to report achievement in seven categories and several sub-measures categories. They are:

- **Safe and Caring Schools**
- **Student Learning Opportunities**
Program of Studies, Education Quality, Drop Out Rates, High School Completion Rate (3 years)
- **Student Learning – Achievement (Grades K-9)**
PAT: Acceptable, PAT Excellence
- **Student Learning – Achievement (Grades 10-12)**
Diploma: Acceptable, Diploma: Excellence, Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams), Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate
- **Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship**
Transition Rate (6 year), Work Preparation, Citizenship
- **Parental Involvement**
- **Continuous Improvement**

The Accountability Pillar summary is central to the Annual Education Results Report and includes information on current year achievements, past year achievements and three year rolling averages.

All school districts in Alberta are compared in two ways: District Achievement versus provincial achievement standards; and District Achievement versus own achievement – three year averages.

The Accountability Pillar uses achievement results from Provincial Achievement Tests and diploma exams and survey results from parents, students and teachers in Grades 4, 7 and 10.

WHAT HAS EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACCOMPLISHED?

- Safe and Caring – 88.5 percent (Excellent)
- Education Quality – 90.6 percent (Excellent)
- Citizenship – 83.2 percent (Excellent)
- PAT's K to 9 (Excellence) – 80.5 percent (Excellent)

WHAT IS EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORKING TO IMPROVE?

- Diploma Acceptable – 81.2 (Issue)
- High School Completion – 68.0 (Good)

The District's Three Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report can be viewed at: http://www.epsb.ca/datafiles/3_Yr_EduPlan_AERR_30nov2012.pdf.

Ask your school principal to see the Accountability Pillar summary for your child's school. Use the information to understand the school's strengths and areas for improvement.

Spotlight on Literacy

WHAT IS INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING?

Inquiry-based learning is about challenging a student's curiosity and wonder. To help them read, write and make sense of what they're learning, teachers encourage students to develop and ask thoughtful questions in order to find answers that build their understanding and knowledge. Inquiry-based learning helps our learners become more creative and independent as they solve real-life problems and connect what they learn back to the curriculum. In this way, students become more motivated to take responsibility for their learning – they actively question and explore the world around them.

Our work in the classroom

In an inquiry-based learning environment, teachers can provide students with opportunities to:

- choose topics of interest that relate to the goals or outcomes of the course;
- consider questions from multiple perspectives and from other subject areas;
- use a variety of sources of information when thinking through a problem, such as books; digital resources; multimedia; the natural environment and traditional knowledge;
- connect the topic of interest to the world around them and apply what they have learned to real life situations;
- try new ideas and revise thinking based on their experience; and
- explore many possible solutions to a problem and consider the pros and cons of each one.

Helping at home

Possible ways to support and encourage inquiry development at home, include:

- reinforcing your child's natural inclination to ask *why?* by asking questions that cause them to stop and wonder;
- fostering your child's curiosity by going places together (e.g., public library, museum, art gallery, and the river valley);
- exploring possible answers together through a variety of sources (e.g., the internet, multimedia, books, pamphlets, Elders, neighbours and extended family members);
- reading or watching TV together and asking open ended questions that lead to meaningful conversations; and
- taking time to talk with your child about current events or issues that interest them.

"Inquiry is the dynamic process of being open to wonder and puzzlements and coming to know and understand the world." – Galileo Educational Network

Literacy links

- Wonderopolis: Where the wonders of learning never cease: wonderopolis.org/wonders
- National Geographic Kids: kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids
- Galileo Educational Network – Early Learning – Parents Section: bit.ly/WmD9dO
- **Other great reads:**
 - The Wonder Book by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
 - What Came First? by Sandro Natalini
 - What Goes on in my Head? by Robert Winston
 - What Does Peace Feel Like? by Vladimir Radunsky

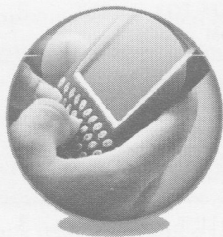
A SMART PHONE CONTRACT FOR PARENTS AND KIDS

My 12 year old son received an iPhone for Christmas after much family soul searching (I was the dissenting voice). Here is a article (slightly edited by me) that I found on line that we found helpful in our conversation. The article starts as a letter from a mom to her son.

Dear Gregory

Merry Christmas! You are now the proud owner of an iPhone. But with the acceptance of this present comes rules and regulations. Please read through the following contract. Failure to comply with the following list will result in termination of your iPhone ownership.

1. It is my phone. I bought it. I pay for it. I am loaning it to you. Aren't I the greatest?
2. I will always know the password.
3. If it rings, answer it. It is a phone. Say hello, use your manners. Do not ever ignore a phone call if the screen



AREN'T I THE
GREATEST MOM
EVER?

reads "Mom" or "Dad." Not ever.

4. Hand the phone to one of your parents promptly at 7:30 p.m. every school night and every weekend night at 9:00 p.m. It will be shut off for the night and turned on again at 7:30 a.m. If you would not make a call to someone's land line, wherein their parents may answer first, then do not call or text. Listen to those instincts and respect other families like we would like to be respected.

5. If it goes to school with you, you must follow the school rules regarding its use (and I must be convinced you know what those rules are). If it causes any problems at school, you will lose the privilege of having it.

6. If it falls into the toilet, smashes on the ground, or vanishes into thin air, you are responsible for the replacement costs or repairs. Mow a lawn, babysit, stash some birthday money. It will happen, you should be prepared.

7. Do not use this technology to lie, fool, or deceive another human being. Do not involve yourself in conversations that are hurtful to others. Be a good friend first or stay out of the crossfire.

8. Do not text, email, or say anything through this device you would not say in person.

9. Do not text, email, or say anything to someone that you would not say out loud with their parents in the room. Censor yourself.

10. No porn. Search the web for information you would openly share with me. If you have a question about anything, ask a person -- preferably me or your father.

11. Turn it off, silence it, put it away in public. Especially in a restaurant, at the movies, or while speaking with another human being. You are not a rude person; do not allow the iPhone to change that.

12. Do not send or receive pictures of your private parts or anyone else's private parts. Don't laugh. Someday you will be tempted to do this despite your high intelligence. It is risky and could ruin your teenage/college/adult life. It is always a bad idea. Cyberspace is vast and more powerful than you. And it is hard to make anything of this magnitude disappear -- including a bad reputation.

13. Don't take a zillion pictures and videos. There is no need to document everything. Live your experiences. They will be stored in your memory for eternity.

14. Leave your phone home sometimes and feel safe and secure in that decision. It is not alive or an extension of you. Learn to live without it. Be bigger and more powerful than FOMO (fear of missing out).

15. Download music that is new or classic or different

than the millions of your peers that listen to the same exact stuff. Your generation has access to music like never before in history. Take advantage of that gift. Expand your horizons.

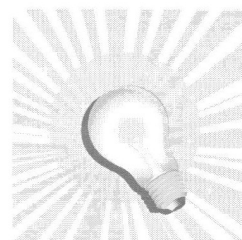
16. Play a game with words or puzzles or brain teasers every now and then.

17. You will mess up. I will take away your phone. We will sit down and talk about it. We will start over again. You and I, we are always learning. I am on your team. We are in this together.

It is my hope that you can agree to these terms. Most of the lessons listed here do not just apply to the iPhone, but to life. You are growing up in a fast and ever changing world. It is exciting and enticing. Keep it simple every chance you get. Trust your powerful mind and giant heart above any machine. I love you. I hope you enjoy your awesome new iPhone.

xoxoxo,
Mom

Source: Huffington Post.com/Janel Burley-Hoffman



Meadowlark Christian School Parent Questionnaire

The staff at Meadowlark Christian School have begun the exciting process of planning for the 2013-2014 school year. We value your input and welcome your perspective about what is happening in our school.

Please take time to consider the following questions and return the comments to us by Thursday, April 11th, 2013. The District Priorities for 2011-2014 are found on the reverse side of this sheet. During our planning process, we will review your comments and ideas, and give them consideration. Thank you for your assistance and support.

1. What, in your opinion, sets Meadowlark Christian School apart from the other schools?
What is it that you see we do very well?

2. Is there something (e.g. - activity, celebration, teaching practice, etc.) you would recommend:

a) adding: _____

b) deleting: _____

3. To improve student achievement and to improve educational services to students what suggestions do you have?

4. Please list four or five items that you would like to see purchased for the school that you feel would enhance student achievement. (Even if there is only one or two items, please write them down...thank you)

Thank you for your interest, time and input into our school plans.

Parent Signature (optional)

Phone Number (optional)

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Feb 28	1	2
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Teacher's Convention no school for students </div>		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				Open House 6:30-8:00 pm	Progress Report #2 posted to Schoolzone	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	School Council meeting - 7 pm			Hot Lunch Day - Dairy Queen Mexican Fiesta	Crusader's Got Talent 9-11:30 am	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Spring Break - no school for students </div>					
31	April 1					
	Easter Monday - no school for students					

Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendars

- April 1 - Easter Monday - no school for students
- April 2 - classes resume
- April 11 - Hot Lunch - Panago Pizza
- April 12 - Commissioning Service for Missions Team - 1:15-2:00 pm
- April 12 - PD Day #3 - no school for students
- April 13 - 26 - Grade 9 Missions Trip
- April 15 - School Council meeting at 7 pm