

We would like to commend all of the students, parents, staff, and community organizations who have pulled together to ensure that EMCS students have meaningful learning experiences this fall! The sense of community at our school has been stronger than ever through 2020. Students are commended on their resilience as they have successfully adapted to new systems and have been focused on their education.

We look forward to welcoming students back on January 4th. In the meantime, we wish that all families find ways to enjoy one another and the outdoors over the next two weeks! We also recognize that the holidays can be a stressful time and have included community resources below that are available throughout the break.

10,000 Tonight Goal in sight!

The EMCS Campaign for 10,000 Tonight for the Sooke Food drive has almost reached a goal that seemed impossible at the beginning, and we're not done yet! Online donations are still being collected until Friday, December 18th, after which the grand total raised by our town will be posted.

For every \$1 donated/raised, the Sooke Food Bank is able to purchase \$3 worth of food for their clients. If you'd like to contribute, please click on the "donate" button on our webpage!

Thank you to all of our EMCS families for sending donations with their students, and to the businesses and community members participating in the collection jars – these collections alone raised a whopping \$1663.30!!! Thank you also to CUPE 459 for their \$500 donations. They provided the same donation to Royal Bay and Belmont for their 10,000 Tonight food drive as well.



EMCS Leadership students accepting a donation from CUPE 459 Grounds Maintenance member Michelle Gaiger.

Governor General's Award

We are proud to announce that the recipient of the 2019-2020 Governor General's Academic Medal is Marin Clarkston. The Governor General's Academic Medal recognizes outstanding academic achievement and is awarded annually to the student graduating with the highest average at schools all over Canada. Currently, Marin is in her first year at the University of Victoria. The staff at EMCS would

like to congratulate Marin and wish her good luck in her continued studies. Marin was acknowledged as the Governor General Award recipient for EMCS at the Sooke School Board of Trustees monthly meeting on December 15th.

Holiday Spirit Week:

(Please keep in mind that all of our COVID protocols are still in place during this week)

Thursday, Dec 17: Festive Outfit Day – wear red, green, white, anything that puts you into the festive mood!

Friday, Dec 18: T’was the Night Before – PJ DAY!!! Prepare for Winter Break in your coziest pyjamas

Bringing home the Holidays!

EMCS Band presents a virtual Christmas performance! [Click here to watch it.](#)



EMCS Band Winter Performance 2020

And the SD62 PACE program invites everyone to join them for their online performance, tickets on sale now!



PACE AT HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!
Virtual show tickets can be purchased now using the following link:

<https://www.ums.bc.ca/events/pace-at-home-for-the-holidays2020>

Cost for the online link to view the show is \$27.50
Once you have paid for the ticket an email with the link will be sent to your email address so you can watch the show anytime between
December 22-January 4, 2021

Our PACE Academy students have been working incredibly hard since September
- rehearsing in parking lots (1 student to a parking space).
- filming socially distanced on green screens.
- recording songs wearing masks with their backs to each other.
- filming big dance numbers in groups of 5.
-----and this list goes on.

Students have been littered with hand sanitizers at every turn. Following safety protocols in a performance setting is not for the faint of heart! But through it all their spirit and their work ethic have been inspiring.

You CAN'T miss this show! It is a one-of-a-kind PACE response to our challenging time!

YEARBOOKS

All yearbook purchases can be made here: <https://www.schoolcashionline.com/>

Interested in helping create the 2020-21 yearbook? See the “Daily Student Announcements” on our website or app for instructions! Everyone is welcome to submit artwork or photos for the yearbook!

Grade 12 Grad Updates!

BOOK YOUR GRAD PHOTOS NOW!

There are still spots available to book for January 11-15. Go to [schedule.prestigeportraits.ca](https://www.schedule.prestigeportraits.ca) and enter Sooke as the city. If you have any questions, please contact Bruce at 250-744-4100 ext. 1 or brgibson@lifetouch.ca.

Please note that there are some changes due to COVID-19 protocols.

- We do provide white shirts and ties for the gentlemen, but we recommend they bring their own white shirt if they have one.
- There are no “Buddy photos” this year and we are limiting only 1 set of casual cloths due to cleaning time in between sittings.
- Grads are welcome to bring in a prop such as musical instrument, sports jersey and stick etc.
- 1 person at a time in photo area, no family members or friends allowed.

Vancouver Island University: Experience VIU online event

VIU is hosting three Experience VIU online events:

- Saturday, January 16 from 9:00am to 2:00pm, or
- Wednesday, January 20 from 1:00pm to 6:30pm, or
- Thursday, January 21 from 1:00pm to 6:30pm

This event is for everyone! Anyone interested in post-secondary studies should attend—from high school students and their parents, to those who have been out of school awhile and are ready to explore their options.

During Experience VIU, you will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about VIU’s 120+ programs
- Meet with recruiters and other VIU reps

- Find out about how to finance your studies
- Learn about many resources available to students
- Hear from current students and faculty
- Watch videos and download resources
- Explore the Escape Room game

Registration link: [Vancouver Island University: Experience VIU online event](#)

Don't forget you can also book a private meeting with UVic Recruiter Stephanie Parker by clicking here! [Book an appointment](#) / [Register for an upcoming event](#)

Opportunities for Everyone!

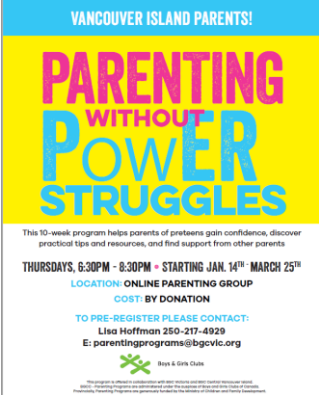


We sincerely hope that no one requires any of the following resources over the holiday break. However, this nine-page list of specialized local assistance/provision/intervention for economic concerns (food and shelter), physical and mental health problems, substance abuse issues, victimization, transportation requirements, and just plain loneliness, is well worth filing away for further reference, by both youth and family members.

Canadian Coast Guard College Virtual Presentations - January 12, January 28, or February 9 at 4:30pm (Sooke time). Learn about the Coast Guard's Officer Training Program! Register online by [clicking here.](#)

PISE has some wonderful new scholarship and bursary opportunities available for youth developmental athletes. The deadline to apply is January 17, 2021. Click on this link for more information: <https://www.pise.ca/scholarship-opportunities/>

Virtual Parenting Groups - *Parents Together* and *Parenting Without Power Struggles* are online parenting groups offered by the Boys & Girls Club of Victoria. Please click on the posters for more information!



Stay in the loop

You can find updates on our website <http://emcs.web.sd62.bc.ca/>, the Wolverines App, and the District website <https://www.sd62.bc.ca/>.

We continue to encourage parents and guardians to reach out to the school via phone (250-642-5211) and email (emcs@sd62.bc.ca) with any questions you may have!

Important dates:

December 21st -Jan 1st – Winter break

Jan 4th – Back to school! Octa 4 Begins.

Jan 8th – Report cards published to [MyEd portals](#) by 4pm

Jan 11th – 15th – Grad photos (book online at schedule.prestigeportraits.ca)

Jan 12th – EMCS PAC Meeting at 6:30pm via MS Teams

Jan 25th – Jan 29th – Literacy and Numeracy assessments Window

*The EMCS Wellness Center is open each Wednesday, 12pm-3:30pm

Looking for information from a previous Weekly Message? Check our [Archive by clicking here!](#)