

EMCS Weekly Message for November 18th, 2016

Congratulations EMCS Leadership!!

A huge congratulations to the Edward Milne Community School's Leadership class, this year's recipient of the National Philanthropy Award for Youth in Philanthropy.

The EMCS Leadership class is honored to be recognized for their passion, energy, and a commitment to support their community through a variety of Leadership initiatives. Their focus on helping those in need is unparalleled and unwavering, and begins in September with their annual Cops For Cancer fundraising event, which collected over \$5,000 this year for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Most recently, the group has been working tirelessly on the 10,000 Tonight food drive, an event which brought the three secondary schools together last year in order to collect 10,000 non-perishable food items in one night. Last year's event raised over 24,000 items in just 4 hours. With the EMCS Leadership group's focus on the Sooke Food Bank, they are hoping to raise even more this year.

The group has also been asked to be involved with the Sooke Lion's Club in organizing this year's Sooke Santa Claus Parade and Christmas Tree Light-Up.

With an ongoing commitment to building and fostering community collections, the EMCS Leadership group is very deserving in being honored with such as prestigious accolade. Congratulations, EMCS Leadership Class!

Report Cards

Report cards were distributed in homeroom on Wednesday. If your student was not in attendance, their report card is available for pick up in the office. If you have any questions regarding the report cards or the honor and effort roll, please don't hesitate to contact the office or if appropriate, the teacher.

Parent Teacher Conferences will take place Thursday, November 24th from 1:30pm to 7pm.

The online sign-up for parent/teacher interviews is open and interviews are next Thursday from 1:30 to 7pm, if you are unsure of how to register the instructions are below.

Teachers will be in our "Commons" area, seated at desks with name tags. Format will be appointment only, no drop in.

EMCS uses an on-line booking program called School Appointments to book appointments with your child's teacher. It opened at 8am on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 and closes at 6pm on Wednesday, November 23, 2016.

<https://emcs.schoolappointments.com/admin/>

Please see attachments for detailed parent instructions for using the on-line booking system. If you have questions, please call the EMCS office at 250-642-5211.

Pay your child's school fees online!

Parents/Guardians have the opportunity to pay for school and district fees online. SD62 uses School Cash Online, a program which provides parents with the convenience of paying school and district fees online.

To sign up to use School Cash Online, please follow these steps:

1. Read the [Instructions](#)
2. Fill out the [Consent Form](#)

You must fill out a separate consent form for each child.

EMCS basketball is planning a 24 hour Hoop-A-Thon this year to raise money for our basketball teams. The event is planned for Thursday November 24th and Friday November 25th from 1:00 pm to 1:00 pm. The Thursday is Parent Teacher Interviews at EMCS and the Friday is a Pro D day.

Participating student-athletes would stay at the school from 1:00 pm Thursday until 1:00 pm Friday, taking turns participating in the game. No students would be playing for 24 straight hours. We will provide dinner Thursday night, breakfast Friday morning and snacks throughout the event. Staff will be on site for the complete 24 hours. Throughout the event we will have the theatre open as well showing movies.

We are issuing a challenge to each of the teams to see which can raise the most money-per-player. The team that accomplishes this will receive an undisclosed reward.

The EMCS Graduation Class of 2017 is fundraising with Purdy's Chocolatier! This program gives 25% of the sales back to the individual students and the profits earned will be put towards Graduation and Prom fees.

Students should return the completed order forms and money to Kimberly in the office by Wednesday, November 30, 2016. **Please make cheques payable to SD #62 (EMCS).** There are additional order forms in the counselling suite.

To order online, and pay by credit card; log in to purdysgpp.com and simply type 9797 into the search bar. Click Join the Group. Be sure to write your name, the student's name and EMCS in the additional information field.

Students will be able to pick up orders at the school and deliver after Wednesday, December 7, 2016.

If you have questions, please contact Kimberly at the office, or Amber O'Quinn at 250-642-5211

The **EMCS Leadership Program** is happy to once again join forces with both Belmont Secondary School and Royal Bay Secondary School this year for our district-wide 10,000 Tonight Food Drive.

Belmont started this drive a number of years ago, and it has become the Western Communities' largest food drive, providing much-needed support to local food banks. With 3 secondary schools now in the district, a challenge was put forth last year to broaden the event even further, with the schools hosting their own drive in order to collect 10,000 non-perishable food items each... in one night. Last year, the three schools collected 13,000!

EMCS will be running our part of the food drive on a different night, but this remains a united event for a great cause. EMCS's 10,000 Tonight Food Drive will be on Thursday, Dec. 1, with Belmont and Royal Bay's food drive on Wednesday, Dec. 7. Both evenings will be from 5-9pm.

All donations can be dropped off from Nov. 28 to Dec. 1 in the EMCS office. Donations dropped off on the night of the event can be brought to the EMCS foyer. All of the food collected through EMCS will be going to support the Sooke Food Bank.

For more information, or if you would like to volunteer for the event, please email emcs.tentonight@gmail.com.

Parents/guardians of Grade 12 students:

Here is some information that may be useful as you support your son/daughter during their Grade 12 year.

Post-Secondary Applications

Students are able to apply NOW for most colleges, universities and tech schools. A step-by-step guide for applying for post-secondary is available on the EMCS website.

(Look under the Students tab.... Graduation.... Apply for Post-Secondary)

Many programs at Camosun fill on a first come, first served basis so it is best to apply early.

Scholarships & Bursaries

Many Grade 12 students are registered in the Scholarship 12 course. This course will guide students through the process of preparing and applying for scholarships and bursaries. As well, there is a step-by-step guide for how to apply for scholarships and bursaries on the EMCS website.

(Look under the *Students* tab.... *Graduation.... Scholarships Bursaries & Student Loans*)

Grade 12 Checklist

To help Grade 12 students stay organized and on track, we've produced a month-by-month checklist of things to do during Grade 12. The checklist is available on the EMCS website.

(Look under the *Students* tab.... *Graduation.... Information & Announcements*)

EMCS Grad List

Only students on the EMCS Grad List will be eligible to participate in the EMCS Grad Ceremonies and purchase prom tickets. The Grad List will be posted at the beginning of May, with the final cut-off being May 26. Please see the EMCS website for full details.

(Look under the *Students* tab.... *Graduation.... Information & Announcements*)

Important information regarding distance learning courses (online, paper package courses)

One of the requirements for getting on the EMCS Grad List is that any distance learning (e.g. WestShore, SIDES) courses that are required for meeting BC grad requirements must be completed by the beginning of May. Also, please be aware that many universities require that distance learning courses be completed (and final mark issued) well before the end of the school year. This deadline varies among post-secondary schools.

School Counsellors

Grade 12 can be a stressful and busy time. School Counsellors provide academic & career counselling as well as personal counselling. We are happy to help with issues like: Stress management, Anxiety, Depression, Relationship issues, Substance use, Scholarships & bursary applications, Career exploration, Post-secondary application process - etc.

More information on school counselling services can be found on the EMCS website.

(Look under the *Students* tab.... *Counselling Centre*)

Nov. 24th – **Learning Conferences** (3hr early dismissal)/**Hoop-a-thon**

Nov. 25th – **Non-Instructional Day**

Nov. 28th – **Screenagers** (6:30-8:30pm in the EMCS Theatre)

Dec. 1st – **10,000 Tonight Food Drive**

Dec. 7th – **PAC Meeting @ 6:30pm**

Dec. 15th – **Winter Band Concert** in the theatre by donation

Dec. 16th – **Santa's Breakfast & Locker Clean out**

Dec. 16th – **Last day before Winter Break**

Jan. 3rd – **Classes resume**