

EMCS Weekly Message for November 24th, 2016

Thank you to those that signed up for the parent/teacher conferences taking place today. When we have open and regular communication between home and school we have the best chance of success for our students. It is a non-instructional day tomorrow which makes it a great opportunity for students to catch up on whatever you find out tonight that they are missing. There are only four weeks of classes until the break so be mindful of the dates below to help your student stay on track.

Bus Passes

Bus passes have arrived and can be picked up before or after school in the office. Please note that effective December 5th Transportation requires that bus passes must be shown to the driver to prove registration.

10,000 Tonight Food Drive

Don't forget the EMCS Leadership Program is once again joining forces with both Belmont Secondary School and Royal Bay Secondary School this year for our district-wide 10,000 Tonight Food Drive.

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, 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.

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.

Survey: SD62 Strategic Plan

The district is working on its strategic and capital plans and needs your input! Help us plan for our students' future by getting involved in the Sooke School District's strategic planning process. Through engagement with parents, staff,

students and stakeholders, we will create a road map that will include milestones to help chart our progress and ensure we remain on track towards achieving these goals.

We know your time is valuable so we've created a short five-question survey. Share your opinions with us – all responses are strictly confidential and anonymous. The survey closes at 4 p.m. on Monday, December 5.

[Take the Survey now](#)

If the above link doesn't work, please copy and paste this link into your web browser:

<http://fluidsurveys.com/s/sd62/strategic-planning/>

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. **If a student is still not on track to grad after May 26th, they will not be eligible to participate in our grad ceremony.** 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. 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. 14th – **Grad Skate** (12:30-2:30)

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**