



NEWSLETTER

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Thursday, February 12, 2015

School Goal – To increase students' ability to be self-regulated learners and citizens with a focus on oral language, reading and writing.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At EMJS your child's continued success is our number one priority. At the elementary level success is measured academically, socially and emotionally. Student successes can come via a whole host of means including sport, volunteering, helping others, being a friend, or by learning a musical instrument or a part in a play among many others. It is also defined by hard work, kindness and respect. For some students success also means passing a difficult course, getting to school on time in the morning, finding a positive solution to a conflict, or smiling with a new found friend. Success means so many things to each of us. Of course there are standard measures of success (letter grades, work habit assessments, athletic and citizenship recognitions etc.) We provide as many opportunities for success in as many different areas as we can and help our students define success and set the goals they need to achieve it.

As important is the need for us to identify when a student is not being successful, why he or she is not being successful, and what we can do to assist the change. Sometimes it is a small thing, like making a point of saying good morning, or it is offering breakfast and lunch for hungry students. It

is volunteering our time to coach, sponsor clubs, or organize lunch and afterschool events like the basketball program. It is in the extra time that our staff take to find out why misbehavior is happening, and helping students find the ways to make amends or restitution when they have made a mistake or hurt someone.

Through community we are committed to connecting our students to friends, positive role models, course content, the school itself and the world beyond. Over the next few weeks, there are several fantastic opportunities for students, parents, and the community to share in our success. Today we are proud to be showcasing our students' hard work in science through the WonderFair. Wednesday, February 25 is Pink Shirt Day - a day when the entire school and community celebrates our diversity. In the first week of March we will be performing the much anticipated Wizard of Oz.

Brett Johnson
Principal

Laurie Cairns
Vice Principal



Litterless Lunches Coming to Margaret Jenkins

Margaret Jenkins has a long history of teaching and supporting environmental stewardship initiatives. The “Three R’s”, **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**, represent a core value at our school. A few years ago, we changed from using garbage containers in every classroom to recycling stations as we embraced the district-wide recycling initiative. While recycling continues to be very important to us and will continue for clean plastics and paper, many food containers that are labeled as recyclable will end up in the Hartland landfill because we cannot properly clean and process the items on our site. Also we are learning the energy, resources and water needed to recycle many of these items makes doing so a net loss for sustainability.

We are excited to be introducing a school-wide focus after Spring Break on the other two “R’s”, **Reduce and Reuse**. For the remainder of the school year, we will be teaching about **reducing** and **reusing**, introducing the concept of “**Pack it in, Pack it out.**” We are moving toward doing **Litterless Lunches** and are encouraging our school community, both parents and staff, to consider this notion of pack it in pack it out as we shop for lunch containers and food items for ourselves and our kids. Our goal is to have our whole school using labeled reusable containers in which we will place our recyclable and compostable items to take back home to be properly processed for effective recycling and composting.



As our local landfill has a finite lifespan we want to be doing our part to support our community by **reducing** our dependence on “so called” recyclable lunch packaging, and by using **reusable** containers,

to move closer to our goal of zero waste and sustainable practices.



This idea has been inspired in part by the thought provoking video *Story of Stuff* www.storyofstuff.org that shows what are throw away habits are doing to our planet and how we can change our behaviors to build a sustainable system.

There will be much more to come with helpful suggestions and ideas intended to make this change easier and doable for you.

Upcoming Important Dates

K-12 Student Transfers begin	Feb 12
Wonder Fair (Science Fair) grades 4/5s in the gym	Feb 13
Staff Appreciation Lunch - thanks PAC!	Feb 13
Hot Dog Day	Feb 14
ArtStarts Presentation - Faustworks Mask Theatre in the gym at 9:30 am	Feb 18
Pizza Sushi Day	Feb 18
Pro-D Day - No school for students	Feb 20
K-12 Student Transfer requests submitted to board office by 3:00	Feb 20
Hot Dog Day	Feb 25
Pink Shirt (Anti-Bullying) Day	Feb 25
PAC Meeting in the library at 7:00 pm	Feb 26
Wizard of Oz the musical	Mar 3 - 5
Report Cards go home	Mar 6
Last Day before Spring Break	Mar 6
School Reopens after Spring break	Mar 23

Lost & Found

We have collected a lot of misplaced pieces of clothing during the first months of school. All lost and found items have been placed on tables at the front entrance. Please stop by and look things over to see if any of those items belong to your son or daughter.

Wizard of Oz Costume List

People of Oz - grades 4 and 5

Mrs. Clifford will provide a green top. Students are asked to wear black or white pants. Please bring something green - hat, gloves, tie, headband etc. The funnier, the better!

Guards - grade 3s

Wear white top and black pants. Mrs. Clifford will provide hat, vest and spear.

Monkeys - grades 1 and 2

Wear white top and black pants. Mrs. Clifford will provide a vest and wings.

Munchkins - Kindergarten

Wear white top and black pants. Mrs. Clifford will provide an apron. Girls will get a headband and boys a wristlet of leaves.

Students will wear their costumes for dress rehearsals at 1:30 on:

Feb 24 - Divs 1, 2, 9, 12, 15, and 19

Feb 25 - Divs 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, and 18

Feb 26 - Divs 3, 6, 7, 13, 14, 16, and 17

and for show dates at 1:30 on:

March 3 - Divs 1, 2, 9, 12, 15, and 19

March 4 - Divs 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, and 18

March 5 - Divs 3, 6, 7, 13, 14, 16, and 17

Visual Arts Committee

The Visual Art Committee (VAC) workshops have begun at Margaret Jenkins. Last week, Renee Sala led wet felting workshops in 4 of our grade 1 and 2 classes (Mme.

Callin, Mme.

Frketich, Mrs.

Johnson, and Mrs.

Crawford). The kids

learned about different wools and the process of felt making, and then created their own felted bird creature. The kids were ear-to-ear smiles, working with the wool and water. Their beautiful creations will be displayed in the glass case in the hallway by the office.

Renee, director of Crafty Victoria, has been leading workshops at Margaret Jenkins for a number of years now, and she is an excellent kids art



instructor. In her own studio, she teaches PD Day workshops, and after school programs. Info can be found at: www.craftyvictoria.com.

The VAC works to bring in professional artists to lead specialized projects in each class every school year. In April and May we will



welcome Tim Gosley into the school to lead puppet making workshops with the kindergarten classes; and Valerie Salez who will be teaching printmaking to grade 2/3/4 classes. The grade 4/5s will take part in a big legacy art project this year- the creation of a large permanent mural on the green emergency container beside what will be the naturalized playground, with Galen Davison.



We are really excited about this year's projects, and thank everyone for contributing to the fundraising efforts for these creative opportunities for all Margaret Jenkins students.

Sam Dickie
Visual Art Committee

PAC Corner



Staff Luncheon Friday, February 13

A huge "thank you" to the families who have volunteered to help with the Staff Luncheon on Friday. Food can be dropped off in the staff lunchroom by 11am Friday and prizes for the draw can be dropped off to Jess or Anna in the office by Thursday afternoon.

School Twitter Feeds

PAC has agreed to trial the use of Twitter for posting information to parents. Mr. Johnson will be tweeting the daily announcements. If you don't want to use twitter, you can view the posts as a web page. For PAC related announcements, follow @emjs_pac (https://twitter.com/emjs_pac). For school announcements follow @emjs_news (https://twitter.com/emjs_news).

Hot Lunch Days

Our second session of pizza/sushi/hot dog lunches is underway. If you can spare 45 minutes on a Wednesday (ideally 11-11:45), extra help is always appreciated. Pizza/sushi orders are assembled outside the gym and hot dog orders are assembled by the staff room near the office.

Dr. Allison Rees Presentation

Over 120 people turned out for Dr. Allison Rees' presentation on Feb 3. If you have ideas for other guest speakers that you may be interested in helping coordinate, please let us know. Thanks to Starbucks at Fairfield Plaza for again providing free hot beverages!

French Class for Parents

Our inaugural daytime French class for parents is now underway on Monday mornings from 9-10am. There are still a few spaces available and the class will continue after spring break. If you are interested, please contact Laurence at lgrossin@shaw.ca or 778-265-0154.

Times Colonist TC10K Award

Our school was awarded a \$1000 prize for best team spirit at last year's **Times**



Colonist 1.5km Family Fun Run.

We would like to try to win the prize this year for having the largest team. You can join us (and so can any of your friends/family) by signing up for either the 10km, half marathon or 1.5km Fun Run on April 26 as part of the **Margaret Jenkins Jaguars team**. Deadline for team registration is March

31. <http://www.raceonline.ca/events/details/?id=747>

Mathletics

A weekly drop-in session at noon for any student with a Mathletics subscription will begin next week.

Naturalized Playground

Meetings are underway to move the naturalized playground project ahead. In the Fall, the committee reviewed the funds raised last year (approximately \$30,000) and revised our designs to fit within this budget (which has to cover all costs including installation). More information will be made available soon.

Lice Check

Thank you to the volunteers who enabled us to hold a lice check on Jan 27. We have found that scheduling periodic lice checks has helped increase awareness and limit its spread in our school. Care is taken to keep results confidential. Head lice are not considered a health hazard so students identified during a lice check are not excluded from school. Their families are notified so that they can treat the situation and the student can return to school the next day lice free. Check out this link for more information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/prevent.html>

Thrifty Foods Smile Cards

Don't forget to use your Smile Cards when getting groceries!



SPC

The School Planning Council (SPC) has been meeting to prepare and review information for submission to the School Board, and will be seeking feedback from parents and other stakeholders in the near future to provide input into the School Plan, which is being updated to support EMJS student success in consideration of the new BC Curriculum that will be introduced next year. The three parent representatives on the SPC this year are: Cathy Costigan, Carolyn Wick and Suzanne Williams. Feel free to contact the SPC if you have questions (spcexec@emjspac.ca)

Contact Us

You can email the PAC Executive at exec@emjspac.ca. Questions about the Hot Lunch Program or Mathletics can go to emjs@hotlunches.net

Our next PAC Monthly Information Session for parents will be on Thursday, February 26, at 7pm in the library. Free childminding will be available for kids 3 years of age and older.

Student Transfer Application Process

February 12 to February 20

Students in the Greater Victoria School District follow a pathway from elementary school to middle school to secondary school. Students at all grade levels (K-12) wishing to change schools, or their pathway, must complete a Student Transfer Application Form.

Our school's pathways are:

- 1) Central to Oak Bay (French Immersion)**
- 2) Monterey to Oak Bay (English Track)**

If you wish your child to join a new pathway, you must complete the Student Transfer Application Form between February 12 to February 20.

A Student Transfer Application Form will need to be completed for 2015-16 if you are:

1. A current Grade 5 student wishing to attend any other District middle school other than the one identified in your pathway (as noted above); or,
2. A current Grade K - 4 student wishing to attend another District school;

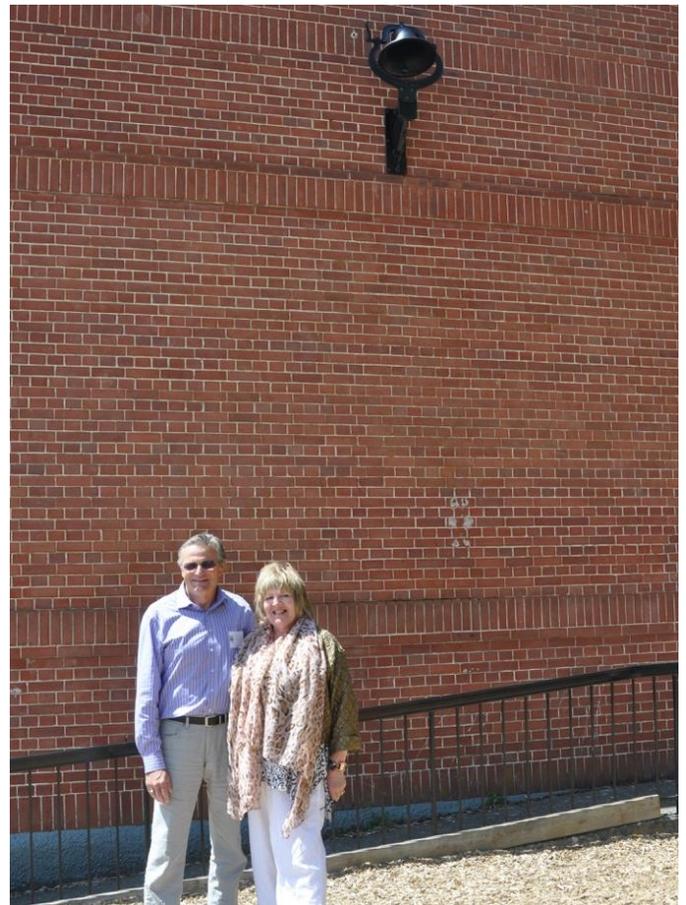
For more information please visit the school district's webpage at www.sd61.bc.ca and look under parent/student resources

Ministry of Education Satisfaction Surveys - Grade 4 Students and Parents

Soon, we will be sending home the annual parent School Satisfaction Survey from the Ministry of Education. This year, parents may complete the paper form that will be coming home with their child soon or they may complete the survey online using the log on number provided at the bottom of the paper survey.

Please return any paper surveys to the school office.

We value these responses and encourage you to complete the survey. Your feedback provides us the information we need to modify or develop policies and practices that make ÉMJS such a positive place for children and their families. The response rate has been gradually increasing and we would love to have a 100% return. Once again, we strongly urge you to join with other families in our community and let us know what you think by completing the survey. Again this year the Grade 4 students will be responding on line. We look forward to getting all the feedback we can from students and parents.



This photo was taken at the EMJS Centennial Celebration in June 2014 at the unveiling of the new school bell at the Annex. Regretfully, Chris Hall, former Margaret Jenkins student & alumni, who generously donated the bell with his sister Janice Hemming, passed away at the end of December.

Working Through Difficulties

During the school year you may find that your child has run into difficulty. His or her achievement in a subject may plummet; he or she may start claiming never to have homework; he or she may start having trouble with assignments; or he or she may be having difficulties with relationships or may not be willing to go to school. Whatever the issue, middle school students need their parents' assistance in solving problems. In finding a solution to problems parents often need to talk with school personnel. We encourage you to do this before problems become major issues. While having your child resolve problems at school is a goal that we support, sometimes your child may not be able to find a solution on his or her own. Through meetings and contacts with school staff we can better ensure that all the adults are on the same page and are sending a consistent message to your child. It can be intimidating to act as your child's advocate. Making phone calls to teachers or being part of meetings where your child's behavior or academic challenges are being discussed can be difficult. Below are listed some suggestions to do prior to phoning or meeting with school staff.

1. Write down points that need to be addressed. Sometimes it can be difficult to remember all the salient points without your thoughts written down. Include what is to you the root of the problem. A focus at these meetings will be to find a solution that is best for the child or will bring success.
2. Talk with your child to get his or her perspective of the problem. In order to come up with a clear picture before coming up with a plan it is important to have your child's views accurately reflected. It is only when we understand what is driving a child's behavior that we can properly address it. Involve your child in the decision-making process in coming up with a plan of action.
3. List your child's needs for support at school, including learning assistance, more academic challenges, firmer behavior limits or help getting organized.

4. Go into the phone call or meeting with a picture of what you want to see in place. It takes time and a team effort to solve larger problems. Ensure that you come out of a school meeting or phone call with an action plan and a future date to check on how the plan is working.

During the elementary years, students will encounter a variety of challenges. The staff members at EMJS have a wealth of experience in working with students on the trials they have to face. We encourage you to please phone or come in to discuss issues that need our attention and support.

First Annual Big Brothers Big Sisters

FAMILY DAY CLOTHING DRIVE

Beyond the Box

Your donations are the heart of a child's tomorrow

Proceeds from used clothing bring youth & mentors together

February 7-9 during centre operating hours
Bring your used clothing to donation boxes at:

- Crystal Pool
 - Juan de Fuca Recreation
- Donations into the box...
go far beyond the box
www.bbbsvictoria.com

