

# Evangeline Middle School



December 11, 2015

[ems.ednet.ns.ca](http://ems.ednet.ns.ca)

## **Dear Parents/Guardians:**

The holiday season is upon us and another year is drawing to an end. I hope that looking back, you and your student(s) feel that the school year is off to a good start. Time flies, and while it seems like only a few short days ago that we were kicking off the year, looking back, a lot has happened over the past few months. In classrooms, I consistently see students and teachers working hard on a daily basis, coming together as communities of inquiry and collaboration. One of the best parts of my job is visiting classrooms, sitting with students and hearing about what they are learning. I encourage you to have these conversations with your kids at home, it sometimes takes some probing questions, but you'll be glad you made the effort.

In the realm of the arts, our Drama program has once again undertaken to present a musical. This spring they will be bringing *Shrek Jr.* to the EMS stage. Under the direction of Mr. Nelson our band has performed at our Remembrance Day Ceremony and at a very successful evening performance last week.

In athletics our EMS students participated in Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, and Volleyball.

While I'm pleased to say that our cross country team advanced to compete at the provincial level, and that our soccer and volleyball teams performed well regionally, I'm even more pleased by the fact that all of our extra-curricular athletics programs are going strong and providing EMS students with opportunities to be healthy & active. This is in no small part attributable to the efforts of parent and teacher volunteers. Thanks you so much for all that you do on behalf of our students.

Exploratory activities continue to be an area of strength at EMS. Students have had the opportunity to try all sorts of new activities ranging from Curling to Educational Mine Craft. I'm looking forward to see what will be offered in the New Year. Our first winter exploratory will be culturally themed. If you feel like you have a skill set or talent that you would like to share with students please contact us.

Last but not least thirty nine EMS students and staff recently attended "We Day" in Halifax and have brought the message back to the whole school. EMS has a longstanding tradition of contributing to both the local and global communities outside our walls and I'm proud to say that our motto of *Caring & Sharing* is as appropriate as it ever has been.

I hope that everyone has the opportunity to relax and spend some time with friends and family over the break. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Matt

## **Winter Bus Safety**

Stock Bus Company has stressed to us the importance of students standing back three giant steps (about three metres) from the road while waiting for the school bus. This is particularly important during inclement weather when the roads are icy, as there is double the risk of injury. A child could slip towards the bus, or the bus could slide sideways when attempting to stop. Please discuss this important safety rule with your child.

## **Update Information**

It is very important that we have accurate contact information for each student's home. Please make every effort to update phone numbers and addresses as they change.

## **Student Teachers**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the student teachers who have been with us up to and including next week. Your energy and new ideas add to the EMS environment. Good luck with your future plans.

## **Morning Arrivals**

It is important for parents to know that our morning supervision does not begin until after the first bus arrives and that supervision was meant only for bus students. Supervision for students being driven to school or for those walking begins at 8:05 a.m. Students arriving before 8:05 a.m. are putting us in a strained position in terms of supervision. We are also seeing an increasing number of students arriving after the bell to begin morning classes. Classes begin at 8:30 a.m. In order for students to get to their lockers, get organized for the day, hear any early announcements, and avoid disrupting class, they need to be in the building by 8:20 a.m. Life happens – we get that, and occasionally, there are times when you must bring your child early or late. But it is our hope that this is the exception and does not become the norm.

## **End of Day Pick-ups**

Students who are waiting for drives at the end of the day need to be picked up promptly. If they are simply waiting for someone to take them home, then we ask that you make arrangements for departure by 3:15 p.m. If your child is involved in a supervised activity, please try to be punctual, as a staff member is obliged to stay until all students are picked up even though they are volunteering their time after 3:10 p.m.

### **Storm Day Plans**

As we enter the winter season, school cancellations are always a possibility. These decisions are normally made early in the morning by Superintendent Margo Tait, in consultation with the Board's coordinator of transportation. Obviously, they rely on information from the NS Department of Transportation and other resources in order to make an informed decision with the safety of students in mind. Occasionally, school has to be cancelled part way through the day, as our Nova Scotia weather can be very unpredictable. When this occurs, it is important for every family to have a back-up plan in place for students leaving school early due to inclement weather. Please discuss these plans with your child. If an alternate bus is necessary, make sure your child has a bus note. If we can help, please let us know beforehand. The more notice that we have, the more effective we can be in helping to get your child home safely.

### **Library News**

The Library has been a busy spot in November. We had a Book Fair and received the last installment of the Indigo grant. Thank you to students, parents and staff who supported the Book Fair and you can look forward to lots of new books being available in the library.

We also have four visiting authors coming this year. The first, Sophie Berube has been here this week to hold workshops with our French Immersion students. As well the Hackmatack Books have arrived for the grade six reading group which will start in January. So lots to look forward to in the new year. Happy holidays to all.

### **"EMS Eagle Squad"**

The EMS Leadership group participated in their first official event at the December Parent Teacher. They proudly welcomed parents and guardians offering directions and a warm cup of cider. They sported their newly designed and created Eagle Squad t-shirts.

The Grade 6 and 7 members of the Leadership Team recently participated in "The Youth Engagement Project", a Kings County initiative in which three other local schools came together to learn about and create ground root initiatives to address discrimination. Watch for some upcoming activities to emerge from this group.

### **Driveway Safety**

When parents are entering the parking lot to drop students off in the morning at the crosswalk, please be aware of cars pulling into parking spaces. We would ask that

you travel slowly, and watch for other vehicles.

### **No Idling, Please**

Parents are asked not to leave vehicles running while on school property. The fumes seem to get brought into the building more so in the winter months than at any other time of the year. The quality of the air that we all breathe while at EMS is an important part of the learning within our building. Thanks.

### **'Tis The Season**

With the holidays fast approaching, thoughts turn to traditions, culture and celebration. Each family has different ways of celebrating the season, and it's never too late to start new healthy traditions. Here are some fun examples:

- Involve kids in holiday food planning, shopping, preparation and serving.
- Make vegetables the main feature on holiday platters.
- For a special holiday dessert try a fruit salsa served with pita chips sprinkled with cinnamon and sugar.
- For a festive party drink, try sparkling soda water with a splash of 100% fruit juice.
- Keep moving. Go for a family walk and invite relatives over for games to keep you and your family active and having fun.
- Make the holidays family time by participating in games and activities together and turning off the screen.

### **Farm to School**

The farm to School item for this month were pears, and the students were all given the opportunity to try this local treat.

### **Visitors to Our School**

Some of you have noticed the signs posted at the entrances of AVRSB schools. These signs request that visitors report to the office to sign in and pick up a visitor's pass before proceeding elsewhere in our school. We certainly welcome parents and others to our school. However, it is important for us to know who is in the building. Thanks for your cooperation.

### **The Tree of Hope**

Over the past couple of weeks we have been working hard to raise awareness of our Tree of Hope Campaign. We are on the FINAL stages of collecting new or gently used items including winter clothing, toys, books, board games, stuffed animals or any other donations to share with others in our community at this time of year. We have extended the deadline until Monday December 14<sup>th</sup> to

drop off your donations. You can bring them in on Monday and drop them in the main office or place them in the library beside our Tree of Hope. Help us make a difference for others!

### **Babysitters Course**

Congratulations to the students who successfully completed the Canadian Red Course Babysitting Course at EMS on Friday November 27<sup>th</sup>. We will look at offering another opportunity for this course in the Spring.

### **Drama**

Hats off to all of the drama members who have been working very hard on our upcoming Spring musical, Shrek Jr. We are looking for members of our group to return the Volunteer Forms before Christmas. Don't forget to work on memorizing your songs and lines over the Break!

### **P.T.S.A.**

The first PTSA meeting of 2016 is scheduled to take place on the evening of January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the EMS library. We will be discussing new initiatives and the general state of affairs as we move into the planning phases of the 2016/17 school year.

### **Scent Aware**

Due to the many environmental sensitivities, Evangeline Middle School is a scent aware school. We find the deodorant product, Axe, far too strongly scented for our school. Please ensure that your child refrains from wearing this product to the school, including all school dances.

### **EMS Wish List:**

The following is a list of items that we are currently on the lookout for. We appreciate any and all support that we receive from our community.

1. Exercise Bikes (in decent working order)
2. Breakfast Program Donations (healthy cereal, pancake mix, syrup, bagels etc.)
3. New or gently used winter coats and boots

### **Dates to Remember**

Dec. 16	Dance 7-9pm
Dec. 18	Last Day before Break
Dec. 18	Early Dismissal 11:45am
Jan. 4	First day back after break
Jan. 14	Early Dismissal 11:45am
Jan. 15	Newsletter
Jan. 27-29	Winter Carnival
Jan. 28	Dance 7-9