



April 20, 2011

Dear Parents,

Good day! Happy holidays! Spring is upon us and we are down to our final three months of school! Sure signs of spring are the bright flowers dotting the east side of Westminster and the end of cycle MELS exams!

Please remember that the **compulsory** grade 6 English Language Arts exam has started and that the **compulsory** MELS FSL (French Second Language) exams for grades 2, 4 and 6 will start on May 4th. **Compulsory** mathé / math exams for grades 2, 4 and 6 will be starting on May 18th. The Grade 6 students do all three sets of compulsory exams. This is the last big hurdle before their graduation trip to Kingston. Please remind your children to apply a last big academic effort before they start coasting into summer.

Before we go further, a **reminder: colour code** is in effect throughout the year, unless otherwise indicated. Please watch the monthly calendar for updated information. I am very proud when I see our children in their colour code and when they go out to represent Edinburgh School. The Edinburgh Governing Board originally adopted a colour code for promoting spirit, identification, simplicity and convenience as stated in the handbook. Although “skinny” is in, it is written clearly in the Edinburgh Handbook, both boys and girls are NOT to wear “very tight pants or jeans”. Tights/leotards/leggings are not pants and should not be worn as the only lower garment. While this seems to be more of a phenomenon with the girls, I would please ask you to spot check what your child is wearing in the morning to insure it complies with the dress code. I want to thank parents and students for their support and for being conscientious in this matter.

Important Calendar Update and Reminders:

There is no school on May 2nd (Federal Election Day) and on May 13th. Both are professional development days.

****NB: June 8th has now become a regular school day and our Volunteer Appreciation event will be held that morning.**

Literacy:

Our first annual (I hope) **literacy week** was a wonderful success with many activities, guest readers, two assemblies and a fabulous character day! Thanks to Mmes Lucie, Melanie and Catherine for their organization. I was so excited because for a few minutes each day during DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) I could actually read what *I wanted!*

An interesting note – our literacy facilitator, Mme Lucie approached me and explained that the EMSB Pedagogical Services Department was recommending for cycles two and three a series of text books in French – *Littérature en action*. She was pleasantly surprised to learn that Edinburgh, with the help of the Home and School Association, had purchased many books in this series last year. Thank you, once again, for supporting our curriculum. Edinburgh leads the way!

Events:

The final tally of **La Dictée PGL** total amounted to \$2382.20 overall. A cheque for \$1191.10 was made out to the PGL Foundation to support education in developing “French” countries and the remaining half of the funds will be retained by the classes that participated in this event. We always find creative ways to spend our money for interesting classroom items. The overall finalists for each level are: Grade 6 - Rana Gaffar and Gabriella Spiegler; Grade 5 – Kiran Gill-McCabe and Katya Kredl; Grade 4 - Samantha Napoleoni and Kieran King; Grade 3 - Taisei Fu and Kayle Hussein; Grade 2 - Alexia Marcotte and Ian Patterson and Maternelle - Kai Blondin, Samantha Alexa Marino and Jenna Casarcia. Rana was our overall finalist and represented Edinburgh at the *La Dictée PGL* regional finals this year. We appreciate your support!

Our annual **Food Drive** saw 20 very large boxes (equivalent to 40 small ones) make their way to the NDG Food Bank. A big thank you to Vicky Princz, Angela Corinthios, Nicole Barbeau, Kevin O'Connell and Tanya Radhakrishna for all your help. Thanks as well to grade 6 students and some SLC (student council) members for their muscle!

In mid-March, grades three to six students were entertained by the wonderful and creative **storytelling** of fifteen of our seniors: Logan Stack, Cedric Gravel-Switzman, Anna Reiter, Isabella Poliziani, Charlotte Baillie, Benjamin Serafin, Emma McSharry, Owen Miller, Noah Ennis, Maya Gill, Lyndsay Buckles, William Walsh, Madison McLaughlan, Pascal Spiegler and Bridgette Curetti. Logan, Lyndsay and Madison presented stories in both English and French.



Congratulations to Madison (English story) and Logan (French story) who represented Edinburgh at St John Bosco School at the Region 3 Storytelling event on March 25th. William and Benjamin were selected as “runners up”. Special mention goes to Megan Panarello and Matthais Lee Poy-Paxman who were the bilingual Masters of Ceremony at our school storytelling finals. Congratulations to all the children who presented their beautiful stories effortlessly!

Don't forget **Earth Day** this Friday during your holiday celebrations. An item to ponder: As I was scanning the internet the other day, I came across *The Body Shop's* three minute shower challenge. A five minute shower uses, on the average, 100 litres of water according to *The Body Shop's* research. If all Canadians took three minute showers, we could potentially save 292 billion litres of water a year. A small reflection for your Earth Day enjoyment!

The **Mathematica Centrum math competition** took place on April 13th with 39 students from grades three to five participating. Special thanks to our in-house mathematician and organizer Tanya Radhakrishna who has been planning activities, emailing reminders and teaching the math club enthusiasts. Thanks also to Christine Downey, Vicky Princz, Julia Ross, Petrina Lee Poy and John Paxman for their help. We will let you know how our children fared when we get the results.

Under the guidance of Jim Reimer our cycle two and three students are now practicing for the **GMAA HALO Road Race** which will take place on Wednesday, May 4th at Mount Royal. Our students train through the wind and cold – nothing stops them in their quest for excellence!

Our **Spring Concert** featuring our senior students will be held on May 16th at 7:00 pm. The doors will open at 6:45 pm. More information will be coming. Our **Edinburgh Choral** will be touring the Québec City region on May 11th and 12th and will perform their spring concert here on May 26th.

Tuesday, May 10th will be the day our new kindergarten students come to visit an Edinburgh class for the first time. The children and their parents will get an opportunity to spend some time at the school and get a little feeling for “maternelle”. We still have some room in case anyone has moved into the neighbourhood.

On this day our clothing supplier, **The Loft**, will be in school to show off our Edinburgh colour code should you wish to purchase crested products. The Loft will be here on the morning of Tuesday, May 10th at 10:00 am. The clothing will be set up in Room 2, so use the front door and keep to your left.

Our **Lost and Found** articles are beginning to take over the bottom floor! Now that the truly cold weather is over, remind your child to look on the first floor (past the office) for those lost hats, gloves, snow pants, water bottles and so on. Better yet, when you are here in the afternoon for PSA pickup, stroll down to the lost and found section. I am sure you will be surprised at what you might find....

Field day will take place the 13th of June with Tuesday being the alternate day in case of rain. We will get some fresh air and exercise and enjoy a little break after all our year end tests and exams. Keep watching for information as the next two months are crammed with activities.

General information:

Explorations Summer Day Camp: McGill University and the EMSB offer a summer day camp at Royal Vale School that offers children many fun and educational possibilities. It runs through July and is staffed by professional educators. Different registration formats serve the needs of your child. Some bursaries are available for EMSB families. Information may be found at: <http://www.education.mcgill.ca/explorations/>

Don't miss our biggest Home & School activity, the Spring Fair, taking place on **May 19th** (May 20th is the rain day). We have had many requests over the years for various activities, but our manpower, at times, has been strained. If you have a free hour or so, or if you have not volunteered this year yet, please get in contact with Sissi Gravel (Switzman) or Christine Downey (Barnes), the Spring Fair Organizers.

Also, you have one day left to order your Santropol Fair Trade coffee to support the school and enjoy a freshly brewed, organic cup.

Enjoy your holidays and appreciate the wonderful spring weather! As I write this, the weather is pretty dismal, but I know the bicycles will soon be appearing in our bicycle racks behind the school!

Leah Auclair, Principal