



Ethel M Johnson School

255 Sackville Dr. SW, Calgary, AB T2W 0W7

t | 403-777-8500 f | 403-777-8502 | ethelmjohnson@cbe.ab.ca

<http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b310/default.htm>

Newsletter | December 2017

Principal's Message

The Community-School Partnership

"It is not more bigness that should be our goal. We must attempt, rather, to bring people back to...the warmth of community, to the worth of individual effort and responsibility...and of individuals working together as a community, to better their lives and their children's future."

Robert F. Kennedy

Important Dates

Upcoming:

December 2017

- 5 - Choir Field trip to the Core downtown
- 7 – Gingerbread Night 6:00-7:30
- 8 – Non-Instructional day – no classes for students
- 12 – Choir Field trip to Southcentre Mall
- 14 – Primary Winter Concert 9:15 AM and 6:30 PM
- 15 – Vaccinations round #2
- 15 – Report cards go home
- 21 – Last day of classes before Winter Break
- 21 – Early dismissal at 12:15pm
- 21 – Parent Teacher Interviews 4-8:00 PM
- 22 – Parent Teacher Interviews 8-11; no classes for students
- 25 to January 5 – Winter Break – school closed.

January 2018

- 8 – classes resume
- 25 – fun lunch (Booster Juice)
- 26 – Non- instructional day- no classes for students
- 31 – gr 2/3 going to Telus Spark

December is looking to be an incredibly busy and exciting month here at Ethel M Johnson School, with events for both students and families. We started the month with a breakfast kick-off to the Mayor's Food Drive, where we will be collecting donations to the Food Bank. It was a great school community event eating breakfast together in the gym in our pyjamas. Huge thanks to the Superstore in Shawnessy for donating our breakfast food!

There are also some performances in December for a number of our students. The choir will be performing off-site twice this month-December 5th at the Core downtown, and December 12th at Southcentre Mall. Both will be great experiences for our students, and these experiences provide our students with an opportunity to give back to the community.

We also have the gingerbread house building night on December the 7th. This is a chance for students and their families to come and enjoy a social evening at the school. It should be a fun-filled night!

We have the winter celebration performance on Thursday, December the 14th. Many hours of practice and preparation have gone into this event, and it will be truly amazing! There will be both a morning and an evening performance. I look forward to seeing the final result of all of the hard work that has gone into this event! More information can be found further in this newsletter. Please note: classes that are not performing during the winter celebration will have a separate performance in the spring.

Finally, we look forward to meeting with parents on the 21st and 22nd for parent-student-teacher interviews. Booking information will be coming out shortly. We will also be running our Scholastic Book Fair from the 18th to the 21st.

Of course, without our amazing parent community support many of these events would not be possible. We appreciate the partnership with you, the parents of Ethel M Johnson School, because without you we would not be able to do nearly as much as we do. From volunteering in classrooms, counting money, checking forms, working casinos, attending school council meetings, fun lunches, fundraising initiatives... and of course most importantly working with and supporting your children, it is this partnership that continues to make EMJ the awesome place that it is.

I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the month at our various events!

Chris Radu

Principal, Ethel M Johnson School

cradu@cbe.ab.ca





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School Communication – Sign Up for Email Messages

EMJ will continue to use a CBE system wide communication tool (School Messenger) to provide messages to parents. School messenger will comply with Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation and will require parents to opt in to receiving email and text messages. Please see our website to get signed up and in touch with your school. We see this as an opportunity to better communicate with our parents and students throughout the school.

Illness at School

When a child becomes ill at school, we immediately contact the parent and ask for pick-up. We know that it can be very hard for a parent to simply pick up and leave work. If you have another contact person who could help you out with an emergency, please make sure the office has that information.

Attendance

If your child will not be in school, please remember to give the school a call. We welcome short messages left on our answering machine (403-777-8500). An absence not reported means time spent by our office staff to call out to your home. Thank you for your cooperation!



Music Update!

There are many exciting things happening in Music these days!

WINTER CHOIR

Our Winter Choir has been working hard and is excited to perform 4 times over the next few weeks! Our performance schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, Dec. 5 we are singing at THE CORE SHOPPING CENTRE (324 8 Ave SW) beginning at 12:00

Tuesday, Dec. 12 we are singing at SOUTHCENTRE MALL (100 Anderson Road SE) beginning at 11:30

Thursday, Dec. 14 we are singing at EMJ's WINTER WONDERLAND CONCERT at 9:15 and 6:30

Wednesday, Dec. 20 we are singing at our School's Morning Caroling at 8:45

We would like to welcome family members to attend any of our performances if you are able!

EMJ'S WINTER WONDERLAND CONCERT

Some of the classes in our school have been busy preparing for our Winter Concert! It will take place on Thursday, December 14th at 9:15 AM and 6:30 PM. Families are welcome to attend! These are the groups that are involved in the show;

- Rooms 1 & 2 (Kindergarten)
- Rooms 13 & 15 (Grade 1)
- Rooms 17 & 18 (Grades 2/3)
- Rooms 8 & 10 (Grades 3/4)
- Rooms 5 & 6 (PLP)
- Winter Choir

If your child is involved in the show, please watch for details over the next few days regarding specific performance details (clothing, arrival times, etc).





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CBC MUSIC CLASS CHALLENGE

During October and November, students in the Challenge Club met after school and learned a song called "It Snowed" to enter in the CBC Music Class Challenge! We submitted our video and it can be viewed here <https://youtu.be/GArHNwEjaAo>

Skill classes

SKILL is working on creating some beautiful art for the display cabinets in our school's main foyer. We are creating a winter themed project to get everyone excited about the fun things winter brings such as snowmen, hot chocolate, stary nights, and getting cozy in front of a fire. The kids are working hard to do their best work and share their learning and creativity with their school community. We hope you like it!

Christmas Store

As in past years we shall be having a Christmas store during the month of December. We are still collecting donations of good quality items to make our Christmas Store a success. We will be accepting donations until December 8th. This is always a great opportunity for students to purchase gifts, at minimal cost, for family and friends. We are also looking for gift bags, wrapping paper and gift tags. Items that cannot be sold at our Christmas Store include: opened personal hygiene items, used clothing, hats and earrings. The store will run from the 11th until the 19th. 50c for each item, or 4 gifts for a toonie.

Please have your child bring any donations to Room 5 or 6. Proceeds of the Christmas store will be used to purchase Wishlist items for our Adopt a Family and The Magic of Christmas (Christmas gifts for Calgarians in need). Thank-you for your support!

Kindergarten

We would like to send a HUGE THANK YOU to Super Store and to Darien's mother in Mrs. Reid's room for supplying us with a variety of snacks to support our learning about healthy food during our nutrition unit this month. We have been learning about dairy, fruit and vegetables, meat and proteins, cereals and grains as well as foods that are sometimes or extra foods. Example: chocolate, ice cream, potato chips etc.

We have been busy making rhyming books and little take home books for the students to read with you that they have created on their own.

We started our Giving project this month and read the book The Giving Tree. A HUGE THANK YOU to all the parents who have brought in items for us to fill out **Warm Feet for the Street** giving project. We are still looking for items if you have any to donate. We are looking for travel sizes of shampoo, soap, Kleenex, razors, shaving cream, etc.

We will be involved in the EMJ Winter Wonderland Concert and are asking you to send your child dressed up in their pajamas.

EMJ's Winter Wonderland Concert is coming up on Thursday, December 14th! Kindergarten, PLP, Grade 1, Grade 2/3, and Grade 3/4 classes will be performing, along with the Winter Choir! Performances will take place in the morning and evening. Watch for specific details to come home soon.





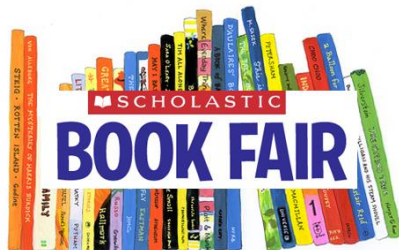
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Library News| Scholastic Book Fair



Please join us in the Ethel M Johnson School Library for the Scholastic Book Fair being held during Parent Teacher Interviews on December 21 (4:30 to 8:00 PM). Students will have an opportunity to visit the Book Fair and purchase books during their regular library class the week of December 18-20. Please note: **The book fair will not be open on Friday, December 22nd.**

The Scholastic Book Fair is a great opportunity for you to help us raise funds for new books within the Library. If you would like to volunteer for the Book Fair, please sign up on the [Signupgenius link](#) on our webpage.



A promotional banner for kindergarten registration. At the top left is a blue bar with the text 'cbe.ab.ca'. Below this is a 2x2 grid of four photographs: a young boy smiling, a girl reading a book, a group of children with stuffed animals, and a woman with a young boy. To the right of the grid, the text reads '| Kindergarten 2018-19 Registration' in purple, followed by 'Kindergarten registration begins Jan. 22, 2018' in blue. Below the text is the URL 'cbe.ab.ca/kindergarten' in blue. At the bottom center is the Calgary Board of Education logo and name.



A holiday message from your Chief Superintendent

December is upon us, and as we gather together throughout this month to celebrate with those closest to us, we take time to reflect on the year that has passed, and look forward to the future.

I am sincerely grateful for the dedication of our staff, our students and our families; together, we work to ensure that each child at the Calgary Board of Education can grow, learn and succeed.

Best wishes for a warm, safe and happy holiday season.

David Stevenson
Chief Superintendent of Schools

Updates from your Board of Trustees

As we near the end of 2017, we'd like to thank you for your commitment to your children's education.

We are committed to ensuring that the education your child receives at the Calgary Board of Education is the best it can be. As a board, we have begun meeting with government to advocate on behalf of our system, including with the Minister of Education and MLAs in our city. As we begin to build strong relationships and solidify our priorities as a board, we'd like to hear from you about what is important to you. You can connect with your trustee or all of the trustees at boardoftrustees@cbe.ab.ca.

Proposed changes to the *School Act*

On Nov. 15, the Minister of Education tabled Bill 28: The School Amendment Act.

The *School Act* sets out the goals, roles and responsibilities of Alberta's Early Childhood Services to Grade 12 (ECS-12) education system. If passed, Bill 28 will amend the *School Act* to better reflect what is in the best interest of current and future students.

December 2017

The bill includes proposed changes to:

- Enable the Minister to set certification requirements for principals and superintendents
- Authorize the Minister to establish standards for education service agreements
- Establish a common age of entry to kindergarten of five years of age by December 31
- Revise the process for establishing a separate school district
- Ensure the government can provide clear and updated transportation eligibility criteria prior to the 2018/19 school year

If passed, some of these changes will take effect immediately, while others will be phased in. For more information, visit Alberta Education's website: <https://education.alberta.ca/legislation-and-regulations/school-act/>

K – 12 Math Strategy rolling out

The CBE's K-12 Mathematics Strategy rolled out to the system this fall. Many schools have incorporated a focus on math in their School Development Plans. Some of the ways the strategy is being implemented on a system level include:

- The CBE's participation in two research partnerships in math teaching and learning including one with the Werklund School of Education around game design in mathematics. The other involves 50 elementary mathematics teachers participating in a learning series on improving mathematical content knowledge for teaching and analyzing student work for assessment and next steps.
- Professional learning opportunities for individual teachers and schools are being offered
- 25 math learning coaches are working with selected K-9 schools on enhancing mathematics teaching and assessment



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Ethel M Johnson | Calendar of Events

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Principal | Mr. Chris Rodu

Assistant Principal | Mr. Dan Jones

DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	01 Pyjama Day and Start of Food Bank Collection	02
03	04	05 Winter Choir to "The Core" Shopping Centre 	06	07 Gingerbread house Family event 6:00 - 7:30pm 	08 Non-Instructional day - no classes for students	09
10	11 Christmas Store opens in PLP rooms 	12 Winter Choir to Southcentre Mall	13	14 "Winter Wonderland" Concert - 9:15am and 6:30pm 	15 Vaccinations round #2 Report Cards go home	16
17	18 Scholastic Book Fair begins for students to look	19 Christmas Store closes	20	21 Early Dismissal at 12:15pm Parent Teacher Interviews 4-8pm Scholastic bookfair open to families	22 Non-Instructional day - no classes for students Parent Teacher Interviews 8am-1pm	23
24 	25 Christmas Day Winter Break Starts	26 Winter Break December 25 to January 5, 2018 (Classes resume January 8, 2018)	27	28	29	30
31	01 <i>Fortunary Happy New Year</i>	02	03	04	05	06

Important Notes:

EMJ School Hours: September 2017-2018

Kindergarten AM Monday - Friday 8:00-10:43am

Grades 1-8

Monday-Thursday 8:00am - 10:15am

Friday Early Dismissal 12:15 pm

Recess

10:15-10:30

Lunch

11:35-12:20

PM

12:20-2:30pm

