

Newsletter | January 2018

Principal's Message

Happy New Year!



As we wound down the month of December en route to 2018, our school community was left with many fond memories. December felt very much like a celebration, and seasonal themes were evident throughout our work. Art, drama, and music, and community events took centre stage.

On December 7, the gym was buzzing with activity for EMJ's first annual Gingerbread Night. Families had the opportunity to build houses together, and there was a real sense of community in the air. It was a wonderful night, and a tradition to continue for many years to come!

Important Dates

January 2018

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

Upcoming...

February 2018

- 13 – Rocks and Rings
- 14 – Grade 6 to Youthlink
- 15 & 16 – Convention
- 19 – Family Day – no school
- 22 – Fun Lunch (Taco Time)



The winter celebration at Ethel M Johnson was on December 14th, with many of our youngest students performing. It was an amazing performance by all standards. Special thanks to Ms. Dafoe for her hard work and countless hours that went into this production.



As always, our school events would not be as successful without the support of our parent community, who helped out immensely with all events over the course of the month. Thanks to all of our parents that attended our events, and a special thanks to our school council for their continued support.

We wish all of our families a Happy New Year. We look forward to working with you in 2018!

Chris Radu
Principal, Ethel M Johnson School
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Ethel M Johnson School

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

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.



Christmas Store

THANK-YOU!!!

The Paced Learning Program classes would like to thank you for your donations to our Annual Christmas Store. We really appreciate your support! All of the students of EMJ School really enjoy this opportunity! Money raised went to our 3 Adopt-A-Families and to The Magic of Christmas.



Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the Scholastic Book Fair on Dec 21. We sold over \$2,300 in books and made \$1,077 in Book Fair Rewards that will go towards buying new books for the library. It was a great success!!! At the end of the book fair we drew a name for the Family Book Door Prize and Darius from Room 17 won \$25 in books and \$25 in books for his classroom. Congratulations Darius and Room 17. A huge thanks to all of our volunteers that supported the book fair!

Cherise Belisle, Library Assistant



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Kindergarten Registration Information

Registration for the 2018/19 school year will begin Monday, January 22nd. To be eligible to register, students must be five years of age by March 1st 2019. We ask that you bring your child's birth certificate or passport and proof of address to complete the application process.

The number of registrations that we have will determine how many classes we have. All students who reside within our boundary areas are guaranteed a placement at the school; however we are not able to guarantee that every parent will receive the 'time slot' of choice. For the upcoming year, we are planning on having one or two morning classes, but that could change depending on registration numbers.

We will be hosting a parent information night in May. This evening is an excellent opportunity for you to gain insights into the structure of our Kindergarten program, to tour the school and meet other parents. Further information will follow.

Should you have any questions regarding the program or the registration process, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly at 777-8500.

The flyer features a blue header with the text 'cbe.ab.ca'. Below the header is a 2x2 grid of four photographs: a boy smiling, a girl reading a book, a group of children with stuffed animals, and a woman with a child. To the right of the grid, the text reads: '| Kindergarten 2018-19 Registration', 'Kindergarten registration begins Jan. 22, 2018', and 'cbe.ab.ca/kindergarten'. At the bottom center is the Calgary Board of Education logo.

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<http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b310/default.htm>**Talk it out for your mental health**

It can help to talk with someone about how you're feeling. They can listen to you or help you look at things differently. They might also be able to help you figure out why you feel like you do.

Talking about things can be helpful in itself. Sharing can make you feel less alone and help relieve the stress of coping by yourself. The other person may be able to offer reassurance, support, information, or help you connect with services.

When choosing someone to talk to, look for someone you're comfortable with and trust—will respect your privacy, will take you seriously, and will be understanding and accepting.

Things to think about before the conversation:**What Kind of Help do I Want From Them?**

- Just to talk
- To find out where you can get more info
- Help finding services such as counselling

How Do I Want to Communicate?

- Face-to-face
- Phone
- Online
- Email

Starting the Conversation

- Let them know you have something you want to talk about. You might want to write down what you want to say.
- Start by explaining that you need some help with a problem. Think of some examples from your life as this may help them to better understand what's going on.
- If you're not sure how the person will react, try "testing the waters". For example, talk about a story you read in the news and see how the person reacts. This will give you an idea of their views and whether they're likely to be sympathetic.
- You could also start conversation more generally—talk about how you've not been feeling great, rather than saying you're feeling depressed, anxious, or stressed.

Be prepared for a range of different reactions. Remember that someone's first reaction won't be the same as their reaction when they've had time to process what you've said. Life's full of ups and downs, and sharing our experiences with the people who care about us is natural and healthy.



**Happy New Year**

Welcome back! I hope that winter break was a relaxing time filled with family and friends.

We are looking forward to all that 2018 will bring to our schools and system. Your school's website and the CBE website (cbe.ab.ca) are great sources of information for news about our system, information about how you can get involved in engagement projects and great stories from our schools and students.

Many students are writing final and Diploma examinations this month, and I wish you all the best of luck. Have a great semester!

David Stevenson
Chief Superintendent of Schools

Kindergarten Registration starts Jan. 22

Kindergarten is the start of an exciting adventure for your child. CBE schools are open to all children and are committed to embracing every student in a safe and welcoming environment.

Most of our kindergarten programs are half-day, offered either in the morning or afternoon, with hours of operation varying from school to school.

If you are looking to register your child in a CBE school, you'll find everything you need to know to get started on our website.

Registration for the 2018-19 school year begins on Monday, Jan. 22, 2018. If you are interested in registering your child in a program that is anticipating a lottery, the registration deadline is noon on Feb. 13, 2018.

School Registration Lotteries

The demand for student learning spaces continues to exceed the available space in a small percentage of CBE schools, even with the opening of many new schools. The lottery process was established to ensure fair and equitable access to schools experiencing a student population that is either at or over capacity.

All lottery draws for the 2018-19 school year will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018. To be considered for the lottery, registrations must be in place by noon of the day before the lottery, Feb. 13, 2018.

If you have questions, please call your school office.

Report Cards

Starting in January, your child will be bringing home their first report card of the year. Report cards are one of the ways the school informs parents about their child's progress and achievement. We know it's important for parents to understand how their children are doing in school. A student's report card corresponds to ongoing assessment done by teachers. Assessing a student's progress is one of the most important ways teachers support the continued learning of their students.

You may have questions about your child's report card, how your child is being assessed in school, and how to read and interpret the report card. Speak to your child's teacher or visit the reporting and assessment section of our website to learn more.

CBE Night with the Hitmen

Join us on Friday, Jan. 19 for the 7th annual CBE Night with the Hitmen! \$2 from each ticket sold goes towards providing students a nutritious breakfast through CBE's Fuel for School breakfast program. Last year's game raised thousands of dollars towards the 100,000 breakfasts served each year to CBE students, who may otherwise start their school day on an empty stomach.

CBE students, parents, faculty and members of the public are welcome to take in this once-a-year event at a special rate of only \$12/ticket. Bring your whole family and help us reach our goal of fueling learning through our ever-growing breakfast program. Tickets are now available online. Check the CBE website for more information and to find the ticket purchase link.

January 2018