

Newsletter #4

April 10, 2015



110 DOGWOOD DRIVE, ANMORE, BC V3H 5G1
EAGLEMOUNTAINMIDDLE.CA

Thunderbird News

Principally Speaking

“Our task is to educate their (our students) whole being so they can face the future. We may not see the future, but they will and our job is to help them make something of it.”
— [Ken Robinson, *The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything*](#)

It was wonderful to have so many students, parents invited guests and the community attend Eagle Mountain Middle’s Official Opening Ceremony last evening. We welcomed everyone:

- to a school many years and over \$25 million in the making;
- to a school nestled on the side of a mountain, belonging to the Village of Anmore and with close ties to the City of Port Moody;
- to a facility that is over 62,000 square feet with 3 levels, on a 9.9 acre site;
- to a building design that was awarded the Canadian Architects’ Award of Excellence in 2011;
- to a school that opened in late September 2014 with 550 students and 50 staff;
- to a school where learners are at the centre; and
- to School District 43’s newest middle school!

There will be many more significant events in our school history, but we are definitely proud of the student performers who made our Opening Ceremony so memorable.

Nancy Bennett
Principal
nlbennett@sd43.bc.ca

Jonathan Sclater
Vice Principal
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Award-winning school officially opens for Anmore and Port Moody students

BC Ministry of Education Press Release, April 9, 2015

ANMORE - With a lush green slope as the backdrop, families from Port Moody and Anmore gathered today for the official opening of their new \$28-million Eagle Mountain Middle school.

MLA for Port Moody-Coquitlam Linda Reimer, trustees from the Coquitlam school district (SD 43) and Anmore Mayor John McEwen, along with residents, toured the new facility before joining students and staff for the official ceremony in the school gym.

Eagle Mountain Middle school, located above Heritage Mountain Secondary school, serves Port Moody and Anmore communities and can accommodate 500 students in grades 6 to 8. This new school was designed with interactive learning for students and staff in mind. It provides open spaces for collaboration and a common courtyard to connect different program areas together, and is filled with natural lighting to create a comfortable environment.

The school's innovative design won the 2011 Canadian Architect Award of Excellence. It is built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold standards. B.C. wood was used extensively in the school construction.

This new facility also features a Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC) which provides day care and after-school care for local families through a \$500,000 contribution from the Village of Anmore.

In addition to Eagle Mountain Middle school, SD 43 has been working with the Ministry of Education on other seismic projects supported by the government. These include the replacements of Pitt River Middle school, which officially opened last year, and Centennial Secondary school, now under construction with expected completion next fall. The district and ministry are also developing plans to replace Moody Middle and Banting Middle schools, as well as the upgrade to Minnehada Middle school.

Quotes:

Peter Fassbender, Minister of Education -

"One of our key goals in BC's Education Plan is to create flexible learning environments that encourage collaboration, and can accommodate different learning styles for students as well as staff."

"Eagle Mountain Middle school, with its modern, student-oriented design, is a great example of our vision for B.C. schools. It is a wonderful place for our students to learn, and the on-site Neighbourhood Learning Centre also provides child-care services to Anmore as well as Port Moody families."

Linda Reimer, MLA for Port-Moody-Coquitlam -

"Our Port Moody and Anmore communities have been looking forward to the opening of Eagle Mountain Middle school since the project broke ground in 2012. Families here watched the school being constructed from the ground up, and I am very excited to celebrate this special occasion with them today. This school will be an important part of our residents' lives for years to come."

Judy Shirra, chair, Coquitlam board of education -

"Eagle Mountain Middle is truly a gem nestled into the side of a mountain! This school was winning awards before it was open and we can't wait to see the many awards our students will achieve."

Quick Facts:

- Since 2001, 26 capital and seismic projects worth more than \$119 million have been completed in the Coquitlam school district. In addition, the Province invested more than \$9.1 million for additional space for full-day kindergarten. Since 2001, the B.C. government has committed a total of more than \$4 billion in school capital and maintenance projects throughout B.C.

Learn More:

Eagle Mountain Middle school design by B+H Architects: <http://www.bharchitects.com/en/projects/343>

Eagle Mountain Middle school mission statement: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/middle/EagleMountain/Publications/EMMS%20-%20mission%20statement.pdf>

BC's Education Plan: <http://www.bcedplan.ca/>

Media Contacts:

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Ministry of Education

250 356-5963

Articulation for Students Entering Eagle Mountain Middle

Getting ready to welcome next year's incoming students through our articulation process is an important part of spring. Late in April, our administrators and student services staff visit our elementary associate schools to meet with the grade 5 students and teachers. In these meetings they acquire all sorts of information about our incoming grade 6s. Later in May, class-building begins in earnest as we prepare to welcome approximately 180 new students to Eagle Mountain Middle School. Similarly, secondary school staff will be visiting with our teachers this month to discuss the grade 8s before they enter the final stage of their public school education.

We build all classes very carefully and aim to balance many factors—gender, grade (all classes will be either 6/7 or 7/8 and all TEAMS will be grades 6, 7 and 8), learning profiles, confidence levels, teaching styles, EAL, gifted, social dynamics and more. Our students come from all over the district but predominantly from 4 elementary schools. We ensure that each team has students from each of the associate schools, so your child will know students on their teams but not necessarily in their classrooms. We aim to place each child so that their learning needs, not their friendship desires, can be met. Middle school is a time when students benefit from many opportunities to make new connections with students who share similar interests, as well as maintaining good friendships from the community or previous schools. Structures are in place at Eagle Mountain to allow for maximum opportunities to build a strong network of friends, old and new.

Our students will be in blended classrooms and will be working with the same group of CORE teachers for thirty months of middle school. This is a system that allows staff and students to get to know each other and for students to benefit from consistent teaching styles and expectations, while keeping transitions to a minimum. Our younger grade 6 students will benefit from the learning experiences of the grade 7 and 8 students, in an apprenticeship style of TEAM organization, and our experienced middle level students will have the opportunity to be good mentors.

Over the next months, as next year's plans come together Eagle Mountain, we will be publishing plans, schedules and information on our school website, www.eaglemountainmiddle.ca and we encourage you to visit the website regularly. These are exciting, busy times and we want every family to be well informed.

Important June Events

Please mark the following year-end dates on your family calendars as they have just been recently confirmed:

Friday, June 5—Me 2 We Magic Show featuring World Champion of Magic, Shawn Farquher

Tuesday, June 16—Gr. 6 & 7 year-end field trip

Tuesday, June 17—Gr. 8 year-end extended field trip

Wednesday, June 24—afternoon Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony & Reception

Eagle Mountain Middle Staff Appreciation Luncheon

To show our appreciation for the hard working and dedicated staff at Eagle Mountain Middle, the PAC is hosting an Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday May 7th.

Would you like to be involved? We are looking for salads, salads, salads and sweet treats. If you cannot donate a food item, then we would gratefully accept a monetary donation used toward the purchase of main food dishes, beverages, serving set up and decor.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon notice will be going home with your child on Monday. If you are interested, return the bottom portion of the notice with your child to the office by April 24th. Should you have any questions please contact Kerri Palmer-Isaak kpisaak@hotmail.com or Bonnie Stein bonjs1@yahoo.ca.



Bear Prints – Our bear cubs have been working on their larger inquiry projects over the past few weeks. They have been developing a unique inquiry topic based on their own interests, and have worked to develop higher-level thinking questions based on Bloom’s Taxonomy. Students are now in the process of investigating and researching, and will create inquisitive presentations to express their learning. We look forward to seeing the students’ final products. Over the next few weeks, there will be opportunities for students from all five classes to meet and collaborate on their inquiry projects. Through this process, we hope students will be inspired by their peers and develop a stronger sense of community within Team Bear.

Bear Paths - Since March 30th, our teacher candidates from the University of British Columbia have joined us for their 10-week practicum. Over the course of the next few weeks the teacher candidates will be assuming the responsibilities of Ms. Chen, Ms. Buczewski, Mr. McConville, and Ms. Shim-Ping. They are very excited to begin this journey and look forward to engaging our students in self-regulated learning, encouraging them to be active, critical thinkers, to make informed decisions, and to be reflective of their learning.

Our teacher candidates will begin an integrated unit on ancient China incorporating Social Studies, Language Arts, and Science. Accompanying this unit, students will be reading the novel *Forbidden City* by William Bell. The novel is a historical fiction exploring modern China in the late 1980s, and explores the issues of democracy, the power of speech and media, as well as civil demonstrations.

Written by UBC Teacher Candidates—Michelle Bennett, Diego Esteve-Villanova, Raymond Wong & Shanna Yu

Team Eagle

Eagle Mountain 5 Senses Poem, by Jamie, Div. 6

A place to chuckle, giggle, hustle and bustle,
Our school is more fun than a jigsaw puzzle.
You see students and teachers greeted with care,
Hallways filled with diverting air.
From pancakes to BBQ from our affectionate staff,
Your mouth will water for some time and a half.
Smell the lively trees, so crisp and young,
Or perhaps the scent of fresh paint is more fit to your lungs.
From the ding of the bell to the sound of chairs stacking,
It seems like time just ain't worth tracking.
Sharpened pencils and sheets of blank paper,
Are ready for students' minds and imagination to caper?
EMM is the place to be,
Come on in and you will see!

Eagle Mountain Middle is a Great School! by Connor, Div. 6

I hear the clanking of metal, like when chairs are being neatly stacked on the correct stack.
I touch equipment, like dodge balls and pins that can be found in the storage room connected to the gym.
I see nature, like trees and animals in the vast forest.
I taste food, like my lunch that consists of a cheese sandwich and a side snack.
I smell cut grass, like freshly cut grass on the field that we sometimes go to for D.P.A. and other outside activities.
Eagle Mountain Middle is a school that I will remember for a long time.

by Daniel, Div. 7

Eagle Mountain is joy in the air.
It looks like rainbows shining in the sky.
It smells like team spirit flowing in you school.
It sounds like laughter in Disney land.
It feels like brand new presents you open on Christmas.
It tastes like fresh water from the water fountain.
Eagle Mountain is a beautiful, joyful place to be.

By Kaleb, Div. 7
A day at EMM is unforgettable.
I touch desks like the inside of bark.
I taste my delicious hot food like it's dinner time.
I smell the fresh air like I'm in the forest.
I hear the birds like it's the happiest place in the world.
I see smiling kids like it's the weekend.
EMM is the best school.

PE and Athletics

Upon our return from Spring Break, PE classes have been joined by Marcus and Steve, tennis instructors who have been leading a tennis unit in our amazing new gym. Everyday Marcus and Steve comment on how lucky they feel to be running their program in such ideal conditions. Many students have also been choosing to spend their lunch time playing as well. Next week Steve plans to bring some wheelchairs in for students to try wheelchair tennis. Other PE units students may be involved in are football or track and field.

Now that Spring has arrived, we are going outside more for Daily Physical Activity (DPA). Since many of you probably do some sort of Spring cleaning, the teachers at EMM are hoping you will consider donating old sports equipment you don't really use to our classroom supplies. Things like basketballs, soccer balls, frisbees, footballs, tennis balls, bouncy balls, playground balls, etc. would all be used and much appreciated. Just send any items to school with your child to give to their homeroom teacher.

The Spring athletic season is beginning to get underway. This season we are proud to offer badminton, track and field, and rugby. The coaches for these sports are as follows:

Badminton – Mr. Christensen
Track and Field – Mrs. Zubick, Mrs. Murray, and many others
Rugby – Mr. Nordby, Mrs. Chen, and Mr. McConville

Dates and schedules are still being finalized so please make sure your child is being proactive and listening to announcements to ensure they don't miss out on anything. What we do know is that there is a Track and Field Mini Meet on **Wed. April 22th at Como Lake Middle School** and **Wed. April 29th at Moody Middle School**. The Coquitlam District Championships will be held all day at Coquitlam Town Centre on **Wed. May 13th**. Parents are reminded that they are needed as drivers. If you are available to drive students after school to events, please download the required forms from the school website.

The rugby team is looking for extra volunteers to help coach. If you are someone with rugby experience or you know someone with rugby experience, you can contact Mr. Nordby at anordby@sd43.bc.ca he would love some more help.

Summer Learning 2015

SUMMER LEARNING 2015 ONLINE Registration Dates (6:00 a.m. Opening)

Middle Skill Building (Hillcrest, Kway, Scott Creek, Centennial, Charles Best): May 28th

Grade 9 & 10 Skill Building (Charles Best): May 28th

Students must have an account with our online system **BEFORE** registering for courses. Please visit our website and create/update your account **now**. To create an account you will need your child's PEN number, which is available at your home school. *We are offering courses in Art, Band, Computers, Creative Writing, Drama, English (LA and for beginners), French L. Arts (Kway only), Math, PE/Leadership, Science and Tech Ed* (*held at Charles Best and Centennial for students moving into Gr 7 or 8) and more to come!*

Program Dates: July 7 to July 24 Visit www.summerlearningcoquitlam.ca



Thunderbird Code

Recently we have been working with our student body to define and articulate key words for our Code of Conduct. As unveiled and announced at our Opening Ceremony, our students have selected the following four key words to guide their behavioural choices: Respect, Inclusive, Inspiring and Purposeful. As we move forward as a school, this will be referred to as our Thunderbird Code. I wanted to take this opportunity to connect our new Thunderbird Code with our ongoing work on restorative justice practices.

Middle school is a safe environment for young adolescents to learn and grow. As teens grow and their brains develop, they are faced with a never ending list of decisions. What should I wear? Should I press “send”? When should I start my homework? Should I say that or just keep it to myself? Adolescent brains are not yet fully developed and sometimes the decisions they make are not the ones we as adults would hope they make. In my role as vice-principal of Coquitlam’s newest middle school I have numerous opportunities to assist students in the decision making process. When students need my support I offer them an opportunity to engage in restorative practice. This approach to managing behaviours and making decisions has students be reflective, identify the problem or harm, consider who has been affected by their actions and most importantly, create a plan to restore the situation.

Restorative practice gives students the chance to be heard and allows them to make the metacognitive connection between their chosen actions and the resulting situation. The starting point is always having the student tell their story and begin to understand how their actions have not met our Thunderbird Code. Occasionally students are challenged when faced with the responsibility of restoring the harm. However once they recognize who is affected and how, they begin to consider actions that can rectify the situation or repair a damaged relationship. Focusing on restorative practices with students instead of just assigning a punishment for their actions gives them a greater opportunity to learn from their mistakes. One of our goals around appropriate student behavior at middle school is for students to become self-regulating instead of relying on direct adult supervision to produce appropriate respectful behavior.

Middle school students are a work in progress. They have grown beyond being the children of our elementary schools, but not all are ready to make consistent, mature decisions. Our students are trying out new things and learning from their actions. As parents, teachers and administrators we are there to encourage and celebrate their successes, while providing structure and support for their decision making.

Sometimes our students may think they have all the answers, but frequently they are still just searching for the right questions. Thank you for your work, in partnership with our school as we endeavor to develop respectful, socially responsible young adolescents.

Mr. Jonathan Sclater
Vice Principal

Satisfaction Survey

The BC Ministry of Education Satisfaction Survey is upon us again this year. It is an opportunity for parents to provide feedback on Eagle Mountain Middle School’s current strengths, as well as determining where our school needs to focus on improvement. By now, your grade 7 son/daughter should have brought home the Satisfaction Survey letter with your own unique password. Please take some time out of your already busy schedules to complete the survey. It would be greatly appreciated! It will only take 5-10 minutes, but the information collected is extremely helpful in moving Eagle Mountain Middle School forward. To complete the survey you can go to the following website: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm. and enter your anonymous PIN access code. Thank you for your feedback.

Math Contest

Parents - does your son or daughter love math and look for ways to challenge themselves? If so then they should consider competing in a national math contest! Students will have the chance to represent our school as the first ever Eagle Mountain Middle Math contest team. Students in grade 7 and 8 are invited. We will be competing in the Gauss Mathematics Contest which is run through the University of Waterloo Centre for Education in Mathematics. It is an opportunity for students to have fun and to develop their mathematical problem solving ability. Students who are interested will attend some lunch time practice sessions and then complete the contest on May 13, 2015. If your son or daughter is interested in signing up they should see Mr. McConville for more details.



The CENTRE for EDUCATION
in MATHEMATICS and COMPUTING
cemc.uwaterloo.ca

Technology Matters

There is an interesting opportunity for girls to learn more about Information Communication Technology (ICT). Pine-tree Secondary is hosting a future career fair and inviting girls from our school to participate. The date is April 23 which coincides with the International Girls in ICT Day. A free lunch is included. Attendees include school alumni who are working in the technology field or who are studying computer science at post-secondary. There will also be a variety of women technology business leaders from around the Lower Mainland to participate and illustrate the need for more girls in these curricular areas.

If your daughter would consider a future career in technology or computer science please ask them to visit Mr. McConville to get more information and a permission form.

Congratulations

Congratulations goes to Athena, Div. 6, for her accomplishments in the Virginia Waring International Piano Competition in Palm Springs this Spring. Athena placed 20th overall and received 2nd prize for the junior solo final and 1st prize for concerto final. She was the only one of the contestants who won the two finals in this competition. Her prize included \$6500 and a performance with the Yakima Symphony Orchestra in Washington. The contestants were chosen from United States, China, Thailand, Japan, Australia, Ukraine and Canada. Congratulations Athena!



Community Corner

Getting Better Grades in School

When: Wed., Apr. 29, 7:00—8:30; Where: Montgomery Education Center; Instructor: Terry Small, B.Ed., M.A.; Cost: \$45 for the whole family. To register contact Coquitlam Continuing Education, 604-936-4261, for more information visit www.terrysmall.com.

Port Moody Aquarians

The season runs from May to August at Westhill & Rocky Point for children aged 4—18. Register now! www.portmoodyaquarians.ca

Important Dates

April	10	Newsletter #7	20	PAC meeting 7:00 pm	
	16	Core Report #2	June	16	Grade 6/7 to Cultus Lake
	17	District Pro D Day—no classes		16	Grade 8 to Chiakamus
	23	PAC meeting 7:00 pm		24	Gr 8 School Leaving Assembly—afternoon
	24	Explorations term 3 reports home		25	Report Card Pick-up, 8:45—9:30
	30	Grade 5 Student & Parent Night		26	Administrative Day—no classes, schools close
May	14	Newsletter #8			
	18	Victoria Day			