

EAST ST. MARGARET'S ELEMENTARY

monthly newsletter



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SEPTEMBER 2024

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

September is well under way, and ESM is buzzing with excitement and activity. Please take note of our special school events, and put them on your calendars. They are always available to view on our school Google calendar on the [ESM website](#), which also includes bell schedules and a staff directory where all of our staff emails are listed if you need to reach our teachers.

I know all of you are waiting in the wings to hear news about our school lunch program. A message from the Province and HRCE is coming soon with all the details and a launch date in October.

Yours in Education,
David O'Brien, Principal

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

Lockdown Drill - All Classes

SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

ESM's Annual Terry Fox Walk

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

EVERY CHILD MATTERS - Wear Orange!

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

NO SCHOOL

OCTOBER 3, 2024

School Picture Day

OCTOBER 3, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Home & School Association General Meeting

UPCOMING SAFETY DRILLS

A number of safety drills will be conducted in the coming weeks to better prepare our students for any emergency situation that may happen at school. Most notably are the Lockdown and Hold & Secure drills that are scheduled this week and next. Please note the information in the graphics below, which are also links to a more detailed information letter about the upcoming Lockdown and Hold & Secure drills. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to the school office.

STOP Lockdown Procedure STOP



DO THIS

- ✓ Follow the directions of the person in charge
- ✓ If you're in the hallway, go "immediately to the nearest learning space"
- ✓ Cover all windows and turn off lights
- ✓ Position students where they cannot be seen
- ✓ Turn off or silence cell phones
- ✓ Be silent and stay calm



NOT THIS

- ✗ Do not respond to class-change or dismissal bells
- ✗ Do not evacuate if the fire alarm sounds unless it is unsafe to stay
- ✗ Do not open the door, except to a pre-arranged person
- ✗ Do not leave the learning space for any reason
- ✗ Do not answer a knock at the door
- ✗ Do not open exterior school doors to anyone

*If you are in the washroom when a lockdown happens, hide in a stall and stay quiet.
The lockdown ends only when an administrator or designate opens the door.



Hold & Secure Procedure



DO THIS

- ✓ Follow the directions of the person in charge
- ✓ Go immediately to the nearest learning space
- ✓ Stay away from windows and doors
- ✓ Learning continues as usual
- ✓ Restrict movement in and out of the learning space



NOT THIS

- ✗ Do not respond to class-change or dismissal bells
- ✗ Do not attempt to leave the building
- ✗ Do not leave learning spaces unless instructed to do so
- ✗ Do not open exterior school doors to anyone

Please note:

Staff should keep classroom doors locked at all times to ensure safety in any potential emergency situations.



STUDENT RECORDS

Later this week, the individual listed as Contact 1 for your child in PowerSchool will receive an email request to complete the 2024-2025 Demographic Updates form. **The email notification will come from PowerSchool Enrollment with a subject line of HRCE Student Demographic Update for "Your Student."**

The email will contain details on how to access the form from within the Parent Portal to review and update your address, contact information, and any essential information for your child, including important medical needs that we should know about at school.

Please note: although the notification goes to Contact 1, any contact with Portal access to your child can complete the form.

It's critical that we have the most accurate information each year so that we can contact you quickly in case of emergency, send you important school information, and to understand your child's health requirements.

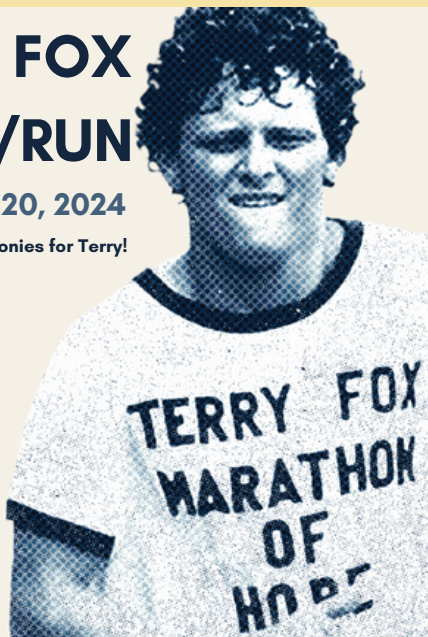
You will also be able to complete the Publication of Student Personal Information and Student Work form in the Parent Portal.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the school office.

TERRY FOX WALK/RUN

September 20, 2024

Don't forget your Toonies for Terry!



SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Are you interested in getting more involved at ESM? We have an active School Advisory Council (SAC) made up of dedicated parents/guardians, school staff and administrators, and community members who work together to improve student achievement and student community well-being through policy, school practices and initiatives, and special funding that ensures all students receive an inclusive education.

ESM is currently seeking nominations for two parent/guardian members. Those elected to each position will serve a three-year term beginning October 2024. You may nominate yourself by emailing ESM at estmehrc.ca. The slate of candidates will be presented to the school body via email on October 7, 2024 and paper ballots will be sent home that day to be returned by October 11, 2024. The first meeting of the 2024-2025 school year will be held virtually on October 15, 2024.

VISITOR POLICY

We welcome visitors to ESM, but for the safety and security of our school, staff, and students, we *require all visitors, including parents and guardians, to report to the office on arrival.* All visitors will be asked to sign-in for the duration of their visit.

Anyone wishing to participate in school activities such as the Breakfast Program, field trips, class activities, etc. must complete a Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Search **AND** a Child Abuse Registry Search prior to doing so. You'll find links and instructions to both below:

1. Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Search - can be done online or through your local detachment. The local detachment requires a letter from ESM, which you can request from the school office at any time. Please provide a copy to the school office.
2. Child Abuse Registry Search - must be completed online. Results will be mailed to your home, usually within 2 weeks. Please provide a copy of the results to the school office.