



Welcome Back Newsletter 2018-2019

Upcoming dates:

Sept 10 - Parent council meeting and elections 12:00

Sept 17 - School photos

Sept 19 - Back to School BBQ and Band Rental night 5:00

Sept 20 - Terry Fox run

Day 1 - Y'all ready for this?

When your little loved ones arrive on Tuesday the 4th, they will all gather at the main doors (between the flag poles) for our annual "Titanization" ceremony. If you are driving, please *stop* your automobile before letting your kids out, AND be sure that they are not crossing a street to get to the school.

Parent Council

We are looking for more keen and interested parents to join our council. We meet on the first Monday of the month at noon in the conference room. Our parent council is traditionally very engaged in the school, and they usually get involved in all the fun stuff. If you are interested in the kind of things parent council is involved in, please contact me at 403.556.1003. Our first meeting and elections will be September 10th at noon.

Breakfast for Learners program

This is a very popular program for our students. It is 100% operated on donations of food, cash, and labor. It is so well supported by our community because there is a recognized need to feed some of our students. Many students eat breakfast in our common area in the mornings. If your child eats here regularly and you would like to donate to the program, please contact the school.

First Nations, Metis, Inuit

At EDMS, we believe it important to recognize we sit on Treaty 7 First Nation land as well as the home of the Metis Region 3. To that end, we offer many opportunities to our students throughout the year, Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

Over the last several years we have participated in numerous activities both in school with the entire EDMS population and field trips away. Experiences such as Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump, Rocky Mountain Historical Site, CESD Indigenous Youth Conference, Elder Teachings, sweat lodges, Town of Olds Indigenous Days, beading, family feasts, bannock making, moon time and warrior teachings to name a few. This fall a reading tipi will be erected and blessed in the library for students to enjoy while sitting quietly to read.

If your child is First Nations (status or non-status), Metis or Inuit and you would like them invited to these educational and cultural opportunities, please contact the office or Tracy Laut, Family Wellness at 403-556-1003 to register them.

Website

See www.deermeadow.ca for all of the happenings in and around the school and in the community. Most inquiries at the school from parents are regarding times and dates. All of that can be found on the website. Check the **Calendar of Events** for dates. This is also where we place upcoming community events (if you wanted us to advertise that your dance academy is having a sign up day or there is an open house for the swimming club, etc.).

And, if you want the real goods on Deer Meadow, click on a couple of the video links under "**About Us**" to take you to clips such as "The Meadow is".

Safety

Before anything else, your child needs to be safe at school. Please help us by:

- Dropping your kids off at school where they DO NOT have to cross a road. Middle school minds and distracted driving is a recipe for an oops,
- Letting us know of any severe medical issues as soon as possible,
- Reminding your child of their obligation to be safe and keep others safe, whether that's coming to school on a bus, walking, or being in the halls of DMS.

School focus

One of our school-wide focuses is on literacy. Research tells us that the best indicator of future success in school and beyond, is the ability to read and comprehend grade level material. Our teachers focus on screening and identifying all students. Accommodations are made, and programming adjusted, when we determine students are reading below grade level. We cannot overstate the importance of helping your child be a reader while at home. Newspapers, magazines, fiction, non-fiction – it doesn't really matter. If your child finds something that interests them, encourage them to read, and, read with them.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) is another focus this year. We are finding society-wide that students (people) are less able to adapt to challenging situations. Following the locally developed framework for SEL through Health and Advisory programs will better prepare our students to make positive decisions, take better care of themselves, and interact more positively with others. We are trying to work alongside your roles as parents and guardians in helping to make good students AND good people.

Communication

Look forward to a face to face, or voice to voice meeting, with your child's homeroom teacher before the end of September. Our back to school BBQ/meet the teacher/band rental night is on September 19th. Our parent teacher interview nights are in October and March. In many cases, parents don't request parent teacher interview night because they have been in regular contact with their child's teacher. This can happen via the phone, informal meetings, and emails. If you haven't heard from us, feel free to touch base anytime.

One of the things I most clearly remember as a dad were the stories that my kids brought home from school. I'm so glad that most of those stories could be boiled down to perception. You may find it hard to imagine that their perception was not the same as the teacher's! Imagine your child stating "Mr. Collin hates me. He yells at us all the time!" I suspect you would want to know a little more about this statement. The filter with which we listen to our children is working overtime – especially with middle schooler's. If you have questions or concerns about the goings on at school, listen to your children, then feel free to ask our perspective. We all love kids and, just like you, only ever want the best for them.

At Deer Meadow we have many years of experience teaching adolescents. Beyond all else, we pride ourselves on understanding middle years children very well. As a parent, you may be wondering who this person living with you has become! Rest assured. They are fine little beings and they only get better with our love and support. If you want to understand more about middle years children, click on the link below. It gives a nice summary of common social, emotional, intellectual, and physical characteristics of our kids.

[Middle Years Character Traits](#)

Weekdays 'til 6 policy

Chinook's Edge has created a new policy designed to recognize the need for our people to leave the work world behind for a spell. With that, we are asking that communication with our staff (and our communication with you) is limited wherever possible to the weekday hours until 6 pm. This includes emails, phone calls, and texts. Thanks for helping us all "dial out" a little more often.

Parent fees

Once again this year, your government is picking up the basic school fee. Parents still pay for a few things including academy fees, extra-curricular activities, gym strip, locks, and agendas. Due to the enormous generosity of our community, our annual Spell-a-thon fundraiser has brought in enough money to cover ALL education-related field trips. Last year we raised just over \$22,000 and we didn't even have to sell chocolates! Covering field trips will save parents between \$200 - \$300 per year!

Link to our new cell-phone policy

Please remember to make plans in advance with your child if they require a cell phone at school. Any phone on school property will need to be locked in the student's locker from the time they enter the school until the time they leave. If you ever need to leave a message for your child, even quicker than a text is to call our office. Our office phone number is 403-556-1003 (put us in your favorites), then press #2 to reach a human!

[eDMS Cell phone policy](#) (page 2-3)

