

# EDINBURGH BUZZ

December 2023 Newsletter

**Dear Edinburgh Community,**

Welcome to December! Unbelievably, this is already the last Newsletter I will be sending in 2023. In fact, it is the last newsletter I will be sending until late Spring. For those who were not aware, my wife and I are expecting our second child. He is due at the end of January so **I will be taking some time off to spend with my family** after he is born. It is never easy to step away, but I am sure you can appreciate that family is the most important thing, and these are special moments we won't get back. Rest assured – **I will be back**. My replacement in the interim has not been decided but I will send out a message as soon as it is confirmed.

Meanwhile, at Edinburgh Term 2 is well underway. We began the term with another school-wide assembly where we were able to reflect on the successes of Term 1 and set academic and behavioural goals for ourselves. The focus for this term will be on **KINDNESS** and **TEAMWORK** – an especially important value to remember when students begin playing in the snow throughout winter during recess! I look forward to seeing our students leading positive play outside, modeling responsible choices, and demonstrating what the Edinburgh Way truly means.

Of course, there are more school trips and in-school activities planned (CEPSUM, Ceramic Café, etc.) and before we break for the Holidays, we will also take the time to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our school team during Staff Appreciation Day on December 20. I am sure I speak on behalf of our entire school team when I say that we are all very happy to welcome the upcoming Holiday Break!

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and safe December ahead and a very early Happy Holiday to the entire Edinburgh community!!

Sincerely,

**Gaetano Sifoni**  
Principal / Directeur



## Upcoming Events

**December 1**

Home & School Lunch

**December 4**

Trip to CEPSUM (Gr. 3-4)

**December 7**

Home & School Book Fair  
**BASE** Café

**December 8**

EMSB PED Day

**December 13**

Spirit Day!

**December 14**

Governing Board Meeting  
In-person (7pm)

**December 15**

Free Dress / Pizza Day (H&S)

**December 19**

Holiday Concert (K-3)

**December 20**

Holiday Concert (4-6)  
Staff Appreciation Day (H&S)  
TCBY Day (Home & School)

**December 22**

Pyjama Day



## November Highlights

During November, our students participated in many different, enriching activities. Mr. El-Hama was able to invite representatives from **Alvéole** into his Science classes to complement his lessons on the life cycle of plants. The students in K4 and K5 went downtown to visit the **Musée des Beaux-Arts** and on November 7<sup>th</sup> our Grade 6 students participated in a very unique assembly that allowed us to highlight deep connections to our community which took place at the War Memorial of Montreal West. They took part in a guided tour back to school with our students highlighting the stories of Montreal West veterans who grew up in the same neighbourhood as our young students. Meanwhile, back at school, members of the **Royal Montreal Regiment Foundation (Je Me Souviens)** led interactive guided tours of a temporary exhibit set up in our gym. We also had former **CTV journalists** visit our Grade 5 and 6 classes to speak about media literacy and how to think critically about the information we consume.

## Kindergarten Sibling Registration (2024-2025)

Parents whose children are currently attending the school will have priority to register siblings in K4 and K5 between **January 15, and January 19, 2024**. A letter will be sent home at the beginning of January as a reminder to call the main office to schedule an appointment to register. At that time, you will need to bring the following documents with you:

- *Child's long birth certificate*
- *Long birth certificate (or valid passport) of parent that has English eligibility*
- *Photocopy of child's vaccination booklet.*
- *Photocopy of child's Medicare Card*
- *Photocopy of proof of residence (Bell, Videotron, Hydro -Invoice)*

The official elementary school registration day **for new students who do not have siblings** at our school is January 29<sup>th</sup> (with the online system opening January 22<sup>nd</sup>). If you have any friends hoping to join our wonderful school community, please spread the word! [emsb.qc.ca/reserve](https://emsb.qc.ca/reserve)

## Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

A message for parents of students who have an IEP - The revised document was sent home with your child last week. If you have not done so already, please sign and return a copy to your child's teacher. The other copy is yours to keep.

## November at Edinburgh





## Edinburgh Way & Incident Report Slips

This year, the school team took steps to re-establish expected standards and behaviours for our school - the “Edinburgh Way” ([Code of Conduct p. 5-8](#)). Every family was asked to read through the Code of Conduct with their child and we kicked off the school year with an assembly explaining the importance of encouraging positive behaviours and our plan to celebrate these behaviours at the end of each term.

Naturally, as they learn to navigate social interactions, children can behave in a way that is not in line with the values we are trying to promote in our school. Traditionally, we have always handled these (sometimes minor) infractions as a school team maybe taking away a recess and/or writing a note in the agenda. Last year, the school team discussed the need to **involve parents** more to avoid ‘surprises’ and so that we can continue the conversation at home and reinforce this **partnership** – to remind our students that we are all on the same page when it comes to behaviour. The simplest and most consistent way to facilitate communication was to send home an “incident report slip” as a means of communicating with parents that despite numerous opportunities for the student to correct and learn from their behaviour, the message was not being received the way we had hoped – in other words, an appeal from the teacher that we would like your support to address a specific behaviour.

We used the whole first term as an opportunity to remind students about what the expectations are and discussed at the last assembly that by now expectations should be apparent and will be moving on from warnings. If infractions continue to accumulate, we will set up a meeting to put together a collaborative action plan in place to ensure success moving forward.

## Traffic around the school

One of the strengths of our community is the spirit of compassion and kindness for each other that we value here at Edinburgh. I want to appeal to that spirit today to remind you about the importance of being safe when driving around the school at drop off and pickup (including in BASE). Families are encouraged to cross the road together and drivers should be vigilant and mindful that we are a school zone. Please do not block the entrance to the parking lot and of course, drive slowly around the school respecting the stop signs and speed limit





# Volunteer Opportunities (Home & School)

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make our November events a success!

Looking for a fun way to support your children and their school community? Now's your opportunity! We have a busy December coming up! We need volunteers for:

**Book Fair - December 6-7:** Help set up for Book Fair on December 6, and help kids (and parents!) find books on December 7! [Click here to volunteer for Book Fair.](#)

**Pizza Lunch - December 15:** Help distribute the pizza lunches! [Click here to volunteer for Pizza Lunch.](#)

**Staff Holiday Luncheon - December 20:** Help us show our appreciation and share some holiday cheer with the wonderful school staff!

- [Click here to volunteer to contribute food or drinks.](#)
- [Click here to help set up, serve and clean up.](#)

And if you have not already done so, **volunteers must complete the Judicial Record Verification Form available on the [school's website](#).**

Visit our [website](#) for more information, or [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

## Inspirations Newspaper

In case you missed it, Edinburgh School was proudly featured in the latest edition of the [EMSB inspirations Newspaper](#). You can find the full article below

### [Edinburgh Takes part in Assistive Tech workshops](#)

Also featured in this newspaper, among other things, is a **fantastic article for parents about conflict and bullying and the difference between both**, written by members of our Student Services Department. I encourage everyone to read it and talk about it with your kids. It can be found on [page 14 of the latest edition](#). Or you can click the image to the right to download it

**POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH**

**The difference between conflict and bullying, and how to address both**

*Chloeie Johnston, MSW, Student Services Department*

Parents worry when their children have difficulties with peers and social relationships at school. They want to know how to help them. This article provides some ideas on how to help your child with social relationships at school.

**What are the signs of conflict and bullying?**

Conflict is a normal part of life. It is a disagreement between two or more people. It can be resolved through negotiation and compromise. Bullying is a form of abuse that involves one person using power or force to harm another person. It is often repeated and can have serious effects on the victim.

**Working out conflicts**

It is normal for children and teenagers to have conflicts with their friends. These conflicts are usually about things like sharing toys or taking turns. These conflicts are usually resolved through negotiation and compromise. Bullying is a form of abuse that involves one person using power or force to harm another person. It is often repeated and can have serious effects on the victim.

**EMSB Database of Special Needs Resources**  
Consult our database on our website.

18 INSPIRATIONS

## November at Edinburgh

