

# EXCELSIOR MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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EXCELSIOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

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BYRON, CA 94514

## THE HAUNTING RACE

Carson Cruickshank (7), and Logan Deal (7), at the haunting of EMS having a blast in the bounce house obstacle race. In this scene the pair are about to race in the bounce house. We managed to get to interview both of them and the information we got was two very different answers and views of the race. When asked Logan said "I felt excited to race in the bounce house." Carson said, "I felt like I'm going to win because Logan is slow and I am faster than him."



## The Fun Of The Play

Excelsior falcons Kiernan York (8), Caterina Sutherland (6), Mia Wong (8), and Mason Kahn (7) showed their talent in the play, "The Day the Internet Died." In this scene Kiernan York is personifying the social media role of always being "live" while doing whatever he could to get all the attention in the room. Even though the internet died in the play, he was still in character throughout most of the play. Kiernan has been in several of the plays at EMS. This is what he said when we asked if he was nervous about getting into this play, "Not really, no, I've been on a stage before, I've done the monster mash before, and was Maui last year." Everyone in this play was very talented, congrats Falcons!



## A SPECIAL INVITATION

On November 17, four EMs students were asked by personal invitation to play with the Blue Devils Band at DVC. They were all incredibly grateful for the amazing invitation. Make sure if you see Eva Arroyo (7), Camilla Cantwell (7), Ryan Ratzburg (8), or Karson Fowler (not pictured), you congratulate them! What an honor!

## Message from the Principal

At the end of quarter two, we caught Mr. H in his office and we got to interview him. When we asked about discipline, he said, "We try to start at the lowest discipline and when action gets worse, we move up the discipline." We also talked to him about the glow rally. He said, "It was fun and the kids were having a good time, but didn't get to see it all because I had to do something." We also got to ask him about how quarter two had been treating him and what was the most challenging part of it, and his answer was that "it was good other than getting injured, and the most challenging part was balancing work and going to classrooms". The last thing we mentioned was the winter concert. He talked about enjoying the song "Carol of the bells" sung by the choir as their first song, and he enjoyed seeing so many people showing up and having fun.

Thanks for all you do for us, Mr H!



## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TRIP!



All of the 7<sup>th</sup> graders went to The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito. They were able to have lunch at the beach and play volleyball. They had a chance to see big blue whale bones. As you can see in this picture the 7<sup>th</sup> graders were required to draw and label the bones of a once real blue whale. All of the 7<sup>th</sup> graders have been learning about marine animals before this trip. When the 7<sup>th</sup> graders saw the whale they were surprised. When we caught up with Mia Kern she said, "It was crazy how big his fins were."



## Upcoming Quarter 3 Events:

### \* Liberty Mini Tour January 8, 2026

Get ready to welcome Liberty High School and all the excitement they'll be bringing to EMS! They'll perform with their band, choir, stand up improve, and color guard.

### \* Liberty High School Registration January 22, 2026

8th graders- get ready! It's that time of year when you get to start picking out your classes for your freshman year at Liberty High School!

### \* EMS School Dance January 30, 2026

Come enjoy the third dance of the year! Semi-formal dance was a hit! Leadership will announce the theme of the January dance when we return- so start your guesses now!

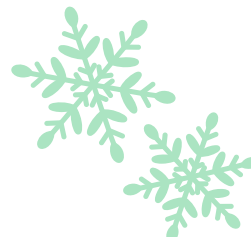
## TRICK OR TREAT FOR CANNED GOODS

EMS students Eva Arroyo (7), Michael Finch (8), Luciano Wong (8), Daejah Gatan (6), stroll around the neighborhood to get canned goods. Before this, they all gathered together and picked groups and started to walk the nearby streets. They knocked on many people's doors and collected as many cans of food as they could. Luciano felt like, "It was fun to run around with your friends door to door". Eva said that she felt, "It was basically just running around and knocking on peoples doors with your friends and getting canned goods." This is an annual event so be sure to come out next year and have some fun while doing a community service! Also seen here is Maddy Winter (8), Courtney Mossor (8), and Racquel Rivers (8).



## VETERAN ASSEMBLY

The Excelsior Middle School band performs during the Veterans Assembly to honor members of the military by playing the theme songs of each branch. Leading up to the assembly, students worked with band director Mr. Ortega to prepare the performance, showcasing the continued improvement of the band program at EMS.





## EMS GLOW RALLY 2025/2026

The glow rally was super fun! Leadership created many games and prizes to win!! Also, they added a bonus, the bonus was the festive falcons shirt- that glow in the dark! The leadership kids picked games and students from the crowd who got to play, as seen in this picture, Cora Labrador (6) "It was way more fun because everyone was yelling and glowing, and there were prizes and so many games!"

## Spirit Days

WE HAVE HAD TWO SPIRIT DAYS SO FAR. THE SPIRIT DAYS HAVE BEEN: SPORT JERSEY DAY AND EMS ALL OUT.



Olivia Wilcken (7), Lauren La Bel (7), Mrs Pridgen, Ivi Pahang (7), and Jilyana Gamez (7) went all out on the pink out spirit day. Jilyana loves to participate in the spirit day. When we caught up with her she mentioned she likes participating because it makes school more fun. When asked which is her favorite she said, "Pajama day! I hope it never changes."



Hypatia Margherio (6), Noah Garcia (6), Liam Ramsden (6), Gloria Perriera (6), all participate in "Anything but a backpack day." Hypatia enjoys spirit days as a new student to EMS this year. We asked Hypatia what's another thing you would bring for anything but a backpack day and her response was, "I would bring a wagon."



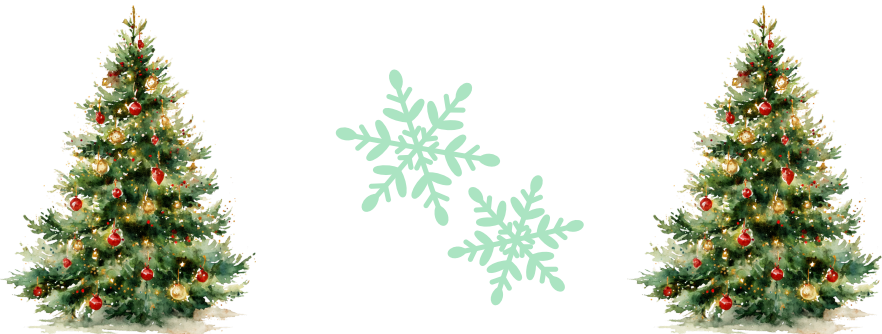
## EMS BASKETBALL 2025/2026

The basketball season has ended with wins and cheers. The team ended their season with 6 wins and 7 losses (Yes, for real). Most people who tried out for the basketball team made it, especially the more skilled players. They didn't have an A team or a B team, but they had a mix of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Sam (8) from the team said, "The season went well but the last game was not great. In the future, I can improve my ball handling and my favorite position to play is point guard." Marisol (6) said, "The season went well but I can improve my dribbling. My favorite game was against Knightsen." Although the season was rough for the team there's always next year to look forward to with the lessons learned. Hopefully next year we can win every game!

## Introducing the Cross Country team!



We're excited to introduce the cross country team, featuring these 2 good athletes who are bringing speed, skill, and school pride to the track! Our 1<sup>st</sup> athlete Conner Conley (6) says, "Cross country improves your time and speed" Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Haley Halverson (6) says, "Cross country is a mile and a half and the mile is a mile so, of course, that's always easier." Mrs. Pridgen, who coached cross country said, "I love coaching, the kids are always so excited and have a lot of energy. I think cross country is cool because it starts really hot then ends really cold." The cross country team truly represents the spirit of our school, and they deserve all the support they can get.



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*Riley Quinn Holman*

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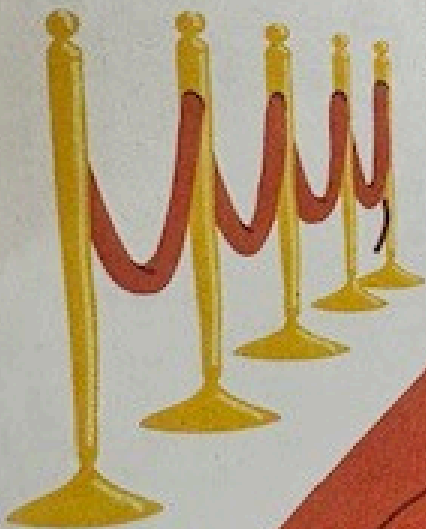
# Join Excelsior PTSA Today!

## Why Should You Join?

Helps support our students and staff with teacher supplies, field trips and assemblies. Help facilitate the Reflections Art Contest and provide Scholarships for EMS alumni!



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memberships  
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