



Muir Lake School

Mail Bag 500 Stony Plain AB T7Z1Y5

P: 780.963.3535 F: 780.963.3536

Website: <http://muirlake.psd70.ab.ca>

To: Muir Lake Parents/Guardians
Fr: Murray Marran and Heather Brownlee
Re: Friday Memo for April 30th, 2021

Good Afternoon, Mustang Families:

I hope this memo finds everyone well! The last week has been busy, as you are all well aware, due to the cases of COVID-19 in the school and moving the grades 7 to 9 classes, as well as a grade 3 class to online learning. First and foremost, I would like to apologize for not putting out a Friday Memo last week, however Mrs. Brownlee and I were contact tracing and preparing teachers and students for online learning. In total we had about 150 students and 5 staff move to isolation. Officially, Muir Lake has moved to “outbreak status” and this is reflected in the provincial online map and other websites such as [SOS](#) that report COVID-19 cases in the province and in schools.

An outbreak is reported when 5 or more cases are confirmed in an investigation, where the disease could have been acquired or transmitted in the school. Contact tracers and public health officials have identified potential exposures and classes have been sent home for online learning in order to limit spread within the school.

An outbreak investigation is considered over when there have been no new confirmed cases in the school for 28 days. Clearly, now more than ever, vigilance is needed in order to protect our community.

In non-pandemic related news, we determined teaching assignments for next year. There have been some changes in work assignments. In order to provide opportunities for teachers to build their personal and professional capacities and expertise, Muir Lake will have the following assignment changes in the upcoming school year:

Teacher	Assignment
Ms. LeDressay	Kindergarten
Mrs. Montgomery	Grade 1 - change from grade 3
Mrs. Priddle	Grade 1
Mrs. Douglas	Grade 2 - change from grade 1
Mr. Opatril	Grade 2
Miss. Saunders	Grade 2
Mrs. Arnold	Grade 3
Mr. Solomon	Grade 3
Ms. Maser	Grade 4

Mr. Sherington	Grade 4
Mrs. Rich	Grade 5 - change from junior high humanities
Mrs. Gadoury	Grade 5
Ms. Wayken	Grade 6
Ms. Garrison	Grade 7 - junior high humanities - change from grade 5
Ms. St. Amand	Grade 7 - junior high humanities and French
Mr. Brown	Grade 8 - junior high mathematics
Mr. Shaw	Grade 9 - junior high science
Mr. Laevens	Elementary and junior high P.E.
Mrs. Gottenbos	Elementary music and musical theatre

These, in turn will support student success by enhancing our school with teachers expanding their professional repertoires.

Finally, one other significant change next year is that Musical Theater will be offered outside the timetable. In the past, students who took musical theatre did it during options class and it was limited to two terms. This created quite a bit of stress for students as they were limited in rehearsal time and the turn around from start to finish was a bit rushed. Further, this option ran two out of three terms and students were limited in the number of options they could take as opposed to other students.

So, as a solution to this problem, we will be offering Musical Theatre after school. The schedule will be determined by the teacher in consultation with the students. Naturally, in my mind's eye, in the Fall, rehearsals/practices will be less and as time approaches the date of the spring production, more frequent meetings/classes will take place.

This change in scheduling adds to student choice and for students to pursue more interests in their option programming. Mrs. Gottenbos will be deciding what next year's production will be shortly and we will be announcing that before the year ends. Naturally, this is presuming that we will be returning to normal next year.

1. Classroom Teacher Requests for 2021/22: *Repeated Information*****

This year, when we were creating classes, we opened up classroom requests because of the pandemic. The school wanted to ensure, as much as possible, that friends could be with friends, etc because of the limitations of cohorts in school and social restrictions within the community. We knew that children would have severe limitations and tried to ease that burden by allowing parental requests for specific teachers and/or classrooms. This created imbalances in classrooms that were unforeseen and not ideal.

For this year, we are operating under the premise that cohorting will not be required due to vaccinations available to people. Therefore, we hope for greater freedom in school, at recess, with sports, etc. With that said, we are **not** taking parental requests for specific teachers or classes this year. Last year, from August 12th until the start of school, Mrs. Garley and I worked on re-arranging class configurations and the amount of time devoted to that was staggering.

There are a lot of considerations when Administration makes classes: gender, learning needs, social needs, population size, etc. have an enormous impact on class composition. Also, teacher assignments most likely will be changing next year once the budget is determined. For these reasons, we cannot honour requests for specific teachers at this time.

2. School Council: *Updated Information*****

Our next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 18th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. If you plan on attending the meeting please [RSVP](#) your attendance by filling out [THIS form](#).

At our next meeting, our School Council President, Mrs. Misty Flynn will be discussing her attendance and representation of Muir Lake School and Parkland School Division at the AGM (Annual General Meeting) for Alberta Schools Councils' Association (ASCA).

ASCA is a provincial advocacy group that lobbies the government on matters such as funding, transportation, etc. and is comprised of members of all school councils across the province. Mrs. Flynn volunteered her time to attend and help address issues that all parents in Parkland School Division parents are facing such as Inclusive Education, transportation and provincial funding shortfalls.

Mrs. Flynn will summarize the ASCA AGM and specifically talk about some of the resolutions that were passed or tabled at the weekend meeting. Please join at this Council meeting to learn more about this exciting process and what the outcomes were. For more information, please contact Misty at MuirLakeSCChair@psd70.ab.ca

I personally would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Flynn very much for her time and efforts in attending ASCA AGM. It was a long weekend of debates, resolutions and of course, representing the Parkland School Division. Her commitment to our school, community and school division are appreciated by all. Thank you, Mrs. Flynn.

3. School Foundation: *Updated Information*****

Everyone is invited to attend Foundation meetings, the fundraising society that works to support many worthwhile causes at Muir Lake. We strongly encourage parents to be part of Foundation as one can make meaningful and long lasting contributions to the school. If you plan on attending the next meeting please [RSVP](#) your attendance by filling out [THIS form](#).

Our next meeting, which is also our AGM, will be held Tuesday, May 18th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for this virtual meeting. Also, during the AGM, next year's Foundation Executive will be nominated and elected. If you are interested in contributing or serving on Foundation, please confirm your attendance above and know that you are making a meaningful and lasting impact on Muir Lake School and future endeavours and projects.

Further, I would like to thank Mrs. Anais Lindgren and the Foundation Executive for their tireless efforts and continual support of making Muir Lake School a better place. As a school and as a community, we all benefit from their combined efforts.

4. PAT (Provincial Achievement Tests): *Repeated Information*****

Parkland School Division with the permission of the Government of Alberta, has made the decision not to administer the Provincial Achievement Tests in grades six and nine this year. The rationale for this decision was due to the numerous disruptions of in-person learning since the start of the pandemic. For the official letter from Division Office, please see this [LINK](#). Summative exams and final exams (in house) will still be administered.

5. Construction at Muir Lake School: *Repeated Information*****

We are excited to announce that the exterior renovations of Muir Lake School have started!. In [previous Friday memos](#), I had given the architect's renderings of what the exterior renos will look like. We look forward to a remodelled and rejuvenated school building! On personal note, I must say I quite like the siding. I believe the design complements our surroundings and blends well with our naturalistic setting.

6. New Alberta Curriculum: * Repeated Information*****

Superintendent Shauna Boyce announced that the Parkland School Division will NOT be piloting the new draft Kindergarten to grade 6 curriculum. Please check your email inboxes if you have not read her statement.

Also note, in that email, Superintendent.Boyce provided a [link](#) for the [feedback survey](#) on the draft curriculum. Parents are encouraged to take the survey and give the Government of Alberta feedback on the new curriculum.

7. Stronger Families and Mental Health: *Repeated Information*****

Just like our physical health we need to take care of our mental health. Someone can be diagnosed with mental illness, such as anxiety or ADHD, and if it is managed well can have positive mental health. Mental health issues are really common, 1 in 5 people have a mental health concern. It is important to reach out for help if you think someone in your family is struggling. To read more about this, please click [THIS LINK](#).

In celebration of [Mental Health Awareness Week](#), Parkland School Division is proud to partner with Alberta Parenting For The Future to present another FREE information session for local families. [Click here for more information](#).

8. Revised Bell Schedule for 2021/2022: *Repeated Information*****

Muir Lake School, along with other schools within Parkland School Division, was required to adjust our Bell Schedule slightly due to the fact that there was a slight decrease in operational days from 184 days to 182 days. This reduction was necessary in order to make next year's calendar work for holidays, statutory holidays, etc. (Most notably, Christmas Break). To compensate for this slight reduction, schools have reconfigured bell times in order to add time back to the school schedules so that there is no change in instructional time. Please see the revised bell schedule for next year and also, please note that arrival and departure times for buses remain unchanged

Bell Schedule for 2021 2022

8:00	Warning Bell
8:05 - 8:40	Announcements & Block 1
8:40 - 9:10	Block 2
9:10 - 9:40	Block 3
9:40 - 10:10	Block 4
10:10 - 10:25	Recess
10:25 - 11:00	Recess Transition & Block 5
11:00 - 11:30	Block 6
11:30 - 12:00	Block 7
12:00 - 12:30	K-4 Lunch & 5-9 Recess
12:30 - 1:00	5-9 Lunch & K-4 Recess
1:00 - 1:30	Block 8
1:30 - 2:00	Block 9
2:00 - 2:35	Block 10 & Transition
2:35	End of Day

Thank you for taking the time to read our Friday memo! We hope this weekly communication keeps you informed of necessary informational items at Muir Lake School. Mrs. Brownlee and I would like to take this time to wish you a great weekend. We also like to thank all of you for bringing extra care and attention to keeping our children safe both at school and at home.

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!