



Muir Lake School
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To: Muir Lake Parents/Guardians
Fr: Murray Marran and Heather Brownlee
Re: Friday Memo for December 04th, 2020

Good Afternoon, Mustang Families and Friends:

It is December and the holiday season is fast approaching. Today was a school spirit day and students were encouraged to wear Christmas or Santa Claus hats. I must say, without hesitation, that I was so impressed with the amount of students that wore a hat today. In all seriousness, today has been one of the most successful school spirit days I have seen in a very long time.

Why is that?

As we are dealing with this pandemic, many things that we have taken for granted previously (social gatherings with friends and family, for example) have suddenly ground to a halt. We are restricted in what we can and cannot do and I believe that it has all affected us in many different ways.

So, I believe that when little things come up, like Santa Hat Day at Muir Lake School, we have a renewed enthusiasm for such activities. We look to glean fun and happiness from simple activities that we took for granted in the past and seemingly inconsequential things like Santa Hat Day have a renewed interest and help bring a community like our school together.

Please, let us not be mistaken, there is a powerful message in this - Find the joy in small things. As we head into the holiday season, and as we grapple with restrictions and re-defining what our holidays look like, we do need to find the joy in small things. We cannot take for granted the simplest pleasures in life.

Today, for me, the joy was seeing an amazing amount of children show their school spirit and don a Santa Claus hat. It has made my day. As adults, let's do the same and show our spirit in simple ways and not take anything for granted.

Enjoy your weekend, enjoy preparing for the upcoming holiday and above all, be safe and kind to one another!

1. News from the Westview Public Health: *Updated Information*****

Grade 7 students were to be vaccinated on December 9, 2020. However, due to moving to online learning, this will obviously not happen. Westview Health Clinic will contact you once new arrangements are made for vaccines for grade 7 students.

Students in Grade 9 have received consent packages for vaccinations , if you have not yet returned your consent forms, then either send them to school with a sibling or send them directly to Westview Public Health Unit by December 11, 2020 in order for your child to receive their vaccination.

Vaccinations for Grade 9 students are scheduled for **January 19, 2021**.

Grade 6 students are still scheduled to receive their vaccination on December 9th, 2020 at the school.

For tips on preparing your child for immunizations, please refer to <https://www.immunize.ca/pain-management-kids-and-adolescents>

Here are a couple of documents to refer to if students feel unwell post immunizations during Covid.

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-immunization-during-covid-19-faq.pdf>

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-sch-school-imm-during-covid.pdf>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the **Westview Public Health School Team at (780)968-3700 and press 3.**

2. Christmas Concert: *Repeated Information*****

We are so happy to announce that Muir Lake School will be sharing a pre-recorded Christmas Concert this year! The grade 1-3 Concert will be released on Tuesday, December 15, and the grade 4-6 Concert will be released on Thursday, December 17. We hope that as a family you plan some time to dress up and “attend” these concerts in your living rooms around the fire.

Recording sessions will happen on **Wednesday, December 9 (Grade 1-3)**, and **Thursday, December 10 (Grade 4-6)**. Please send your child in their concert best this day, ready to participate in the performances they’ve been practicing.

The classes listed below have the following costume requests:

- 1S - pajamas and slippers
- 2O - wear green and or red (elf hats will be provided)
- 3S - wear blue and or white
- 4S - bring a scarf
- 6W - wear some red.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Mrs. Gottenbos at dgottenbos@psd70.ab.ca



3. School Council: *Repeated Information*****

Our next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. If you plan on attending the meeting please [RSVP](#) your attendance by filling out [THIS form](#).

Our next meeting will be a virtual meeting and links to the meeting will be emailed to you the day of the meeting.

4. School Foundation: *Repeated 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 will be held Tuesday, January 19th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for this virtual meeting.

5. Report Cards: *Repeated Information*****

Report Cards will be available today, online, Friday, December 4th, 2020. We will not be printing report cards any longer as they are available online. Please access PSD's [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) in order to access report cards.

6. VIRTUAL Scholastic Book Fair: *Repeated Information*****

You are invited to our [VIRTUAL Scholastic Book Fair](#). It will run until December 7th. Check the [link HERE](#) and enjoy a [Family Night](#) shopping online.

- Every purchase earns Book Fair Rewards that will support our library!
- Orders are delivered right to your home! Safe and Easy.
- FREE STANDARD SHIPPING on orders over \$35

7. School Spirit Days: *Repeated Information*****

For the month of December, we will be running Muir Lake School Spirit Days. We encourage all staff and students to participate in these fun days, but please do not feel obligated to go out and buy items for these days.

- Friday, December 11 - Ugly Christmas Sweater Day - not wanting to insult anyone's taste, but we think you get the idea.
- Friday, December 18 - PJ Day - a great way to get ready for Christmas Break; come to school in your jammies! Please remember that they still need to meet the dress code.



8. Contract Tracing for COVID positive cases: *Repeated Information*****

Contract tracing for positive COVID cases in schools has been typically handled by Alberta Health Services. Due to the surge in cases and personnel shortages in AHS, Parkland School Division will be handling contract tracing if there is a positive COVID case to be found in a school. Division Office and the school will be in contact with families of students if they are considered a close contact of a positive case. For more information and a detailed explanation, please see [THIS](#) link for all the details.

9. Nature Kindergarten Fees: *Repeated Information*****

Please note that as all students are moving to on-line learning for the week of January 4th to 8th, 2021, we will not be offering Nature Kindergarten programming at that time. We will prorate fees for that week and that will be reflected in a future billing statement. This should be done closer to the date of re-entry. If you have any questions regarding fees for Nature Kindergarten fees, please contact Mrs. Garley, at the school office at jgarley@psd70.ab.ca Conversely, you may call the office at 780-963-3535.

10. CAT IV (Canadian Aptitude Tests): *New Information*****

In September, Muir Lake teachers administered CAT IV tests to all students in grades 2 to 9. The purpose of these standardized tests is to determine your child's academic growth over the past year and compare that to other Canadian students that are the same age and grade.

You will receive these results this afternoon, and we strongly encourage you to take some to read your child's results. Do remember, these test scores are a snapshot in time, and that growth is continual. Also, we had a serious disruption to learning when we moved to emergency online teaching last March.

If you have any questions regarding your child's CAT IV results please feel free to contact the front office and we can happily go over your child's test results.

Thank you for taking the time to read our weekly memo. We hope they provide the communication you need from the school to keep you informed of the happenings at Muir Lake School. As we know, good communication only enhances the school/home relationship.

As always, Mrs. Brownlee and I would like to wish you a restful and relaxing weekend.

Be safe and be kind.

