



**Muir Lake School**  
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Website: <http://muirlake.psd70.ab.ca>

To: Muir Lake Parents/Guardians  
Fr: Murray Marran and Heather Brownlee  
Re: Friday Memo for December 11th, 2020

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Good Afternoon, Mustang Families and Friends:

As you may or may not be aware, we have had 2 confirmed positive COVID 19 cases in the school over the past few days. This means that Alberta Health Services declares Muir Lake School as officially in “outbreak status”.

So, what does this mean for us as a school community? It means that now, more than ever, we must be vigilant in trying to contain the spread of this virus in our community for the safety of everyone. The new provincial restrictions only serve to highlight and reinforce this point.

I particularly like the advice from Dr. Hinshaw when she gave her press conference on December 8th, 2020. She said,

“This is about reducing the spread, not finding loopholes. Stick to your household. If you are unsure about what to, please err on the side of caution and make the safest choice. Remember: the goal is to bend the curve, not the rules. So please be careful, let’s be kind to each other and embrace the collective responsibility that we all share.”

I would like to personally thank all those families who chose to self-isolate during this school outbreak, even when it was unclear whether or not they should isolate because contract tracing determined they fell into a “grey” area and did not have to.

As families, you have demonstrated an abundance of caution, a caring and a community minded approach to safe-guarding our Muir Lake community. Your sacrifices are both noted and appreciated by your school (staff included) and your community. This is what I have come to know as the Muir Lake community and what makes me proud to serve Muir Lake families.

As we head into our holiday season, let us remember our blessings and let us be kind to one another. Stay safe and have a great weekend.

## **1. News from the Westview Public Health: \*\*\*New Information\*\*\***

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

Our Grade 6 vaccinations on December 9th, 2020 were cancelled due to our outbreak status as a school. These vaccinations will be rescheduled at a later, undetermined date.

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 today, December 11, 2020 in order for your child to receive their vaccination.

Vaccinations for Grade 9 students are scheduled for **January 19, 2021**, provided that we, as a province, return to in-school learning

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: \*\*\*New Information\*\*\***

It was difficult to determine whether or not we would be able to continue with our Christmas concert as Mrs. Gottenbos had to move to isolation and to working from home. Let me assure you, we were all panicking because as a staff, we felt this "virtual concert" was more important than ever.

I am pleased to say that we were able to pull it off and the concert will take place as planned. I need to personally thank Mrs. Gottenbos and Mr. Opatril for making the situation work. Mrs. Gottenbos recorded herself conducting and leading the Christmas songs, sent them virtually to the classrooms and Mr. Opatril videoed the students. A lot of planning, organization and prepping went into this and we are so very grateful for Mrs. Gottenbos and Mr. Opatril's efforts. Thank you, so very much on behalf of the students, staff and parents of Muir Lake School!

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.

## **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. School Spirit Days: \*\*\*Repeated Information\*\*\***

For the month of December, we have been 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 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.

## **6. 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.

## **7. 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 [igarley@psd70.ab.ca](mailto:igarley@psd70.ab.ca). Conversely, you may call the office at 780-963-3535.

## **8. Next week's Memo: \*\*\*New Information\*\*\***

**There will be no Friday memo next week for Friday, December 18th, 2020.**

## **9. Option 2 Learners (virtual): \*\*\*New Information\*\*\***

For students in Option 2 (virtual) learning, there will be changes to your program as Parkland School Division is reconfiguring resources and teachers to provide better programming for the Division's virtual learning students.

First, as we announced this week, Mrs. Lindsay Imeson will be leaving Muir Lake staff to start new adventures in British Columbia with her family. We wish her all the best in her upcoming move and would like to mention that she will be missed in our virtual classrooms. Mrs. Imeson has been the face and voice of our on-line program.



With Mrs. Imeson leaving, this gave Muir Lake School and the Division the opportunity to look at resource allocation and how we could better program for all virtual students in Parkland School Division. There was a lot of thought and planning as to how virtual learning could be reconfigured. Both Parkland School Division and Muir Lake school are pleased to announce a re-configured virtual environment starting January 04th, 2021.

What this means is students will be grouped in more heterogeneous groups (single grades or combined groups such as 5/6, for example) as opposed to groupings spanning multiple grades. So, as a Muir Lake student, this means you will have a change of teacher and the teacher may be located at a different school.

***It should be noted that this reconfiguration only affects students in K to 4 at Muir Lake. Students in grades 5 to 9 will remain with their current virtual teachers.***

## **10. Virtual Learning - All Students K to 9 - Jan 04th to 11th, 2021:**

**\*\*\*New Information\*\*\***

As you are aware, the Government of Alberta mandated that all students in the province attend on-line school for the week of **January 4th, 2021 to January 8th, 2021** with a scheduled return to in-class learning on **January 11, 2021.**

For our students and parents, we will be sending home a virtual learning package next week that outlines the expectations of learning in the virtual environment. Additionally, there will be schedules for each class that clearly outline the times for Google Meets and/or tutorials for your children. Naturally, when you receive the document and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school next week.

## **11. Enhanced Measures Due to Outbreak Status for Muir Lake School:**

**\*\*\*New Information\*\*\***

With the targeted health measures in place for the entire province, and with the recent declaration of an outbreak at our school, we know you are more concerned about keeping yourself and your child(ren) safe.

To help limit the potential spread of COVID-19 in our school and in our community, Muir Lake School is implementing enhanced measures when it comes to mask wearing while in school. Effective immediately, **ALL staff and Grade 4 - 9 students will be asked to wear a mask whenever they cannot maintain minimal physical distancing from others in the school. This will include during class time unless students and staff can maintain a 2 m distance.**

This school protocol will be reassessed after the province reassesses their latest targeted health measures.

Although the use of masks is only one of the preventative measures we can take to help curb the spread of COVID-19, we are confident these enhanced protocols will help to keep our students and staff safe, while maintaining our classroom cohorts.

There will be circumstances at school in which masks will not be required (e.g. outdoor activities or activities in which students and staff maintain appropriate physical distancing) and we will be sure to



respect those needs. Other masking requirements, as part of the Alberta Education school re-entry plan, outside of classrooms remain unchanged.

Students and staff must continue to use the [Alberta Health Daily checklist](#) each day prior to coming to school and to stay home if they are sick. While at school, we continue to encourage frequent hand washing and the use of hand sanitizer whenever possible.

If you have questions regarding this change, please contact the school at 780-963-3535 or via email at [muirlake@psd70.ab.ca](mailto:muirlake@psd70.ab.ca)

Thank you for taking the time to read our Friday Memo. We hope you find this tool invaluable in keeping you informed and up to date with information regarding your child(ren)'s school.

As always, Mrs. Brownlee and I would like to wish a very good weekend and given that there is no Friday Memo for Friday, December 18th, 2020, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a most Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

We know Christmas celebrations this year look vastly different for all of us, however we encourage you to find the joy in the little things and to remain positive and hopefully for what the new year brings.

Stay safe and be kind.

