



Muir Lake School
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To: Muir Lake Parents/Guardians
Fr: Murray Marran and Heather Brownlee
Re: Friday Memo for January 15th, 2021

Happy New Year and Welcome Back, Muir Lake Families!

I hope your Christmas break was restful and relaxing with time well spent as a family. I am looking forward to a more optimistic 2021 where what were considered “normal” activities can once again resume. This pandemic has affected all of us, and I know I speak for us all when I say I look forward to social interactions, gatherings, and travel, just to name a few things.

As we embrace this new year, let’s remind ourselves that this hardship is drawing to a close (vaccines are on the way) and there seems to be a brighter future for all of us on the horizon. In the meantime, let’s remind ourselves of some of our school and community values of patience, grace, kindness and tolerance.

Please, continue to be safe and well. Again, welcome back! We are so happy your children are in the building with us.

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

As we go into a new year, the fight against COVID-19 continues. Westview Public Health staff have received direction that all school health nursing staff will be reassigned to assist with the rollout of the Covid-19 immunization program. Subsequently, effective as of January 04th 2021, all school immunization rounds will be postponed until further notice. We will update our families as we receive more information.

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

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Summative Exams: *New Information*****

Reminder that summative exams for students in Junior High are quickly approaching. The following are the dates for the exams for students in grades 7, 8, and 9.:

Jan 26	Social Studies
Jan 27	Science
Jan 28	English Language Arts
Jan 29	Mathematics

6. Dropping off Items at the School: *New Information*****

I would like to remind families that we CANNOT accept dropped off items at the door. We have a sharp increase of parents calling to try and drop off various items. While there always is “just this once” argument being made, you must understand that we have many “just this once” arguments being made on a daily basis. We are doing this as per Alberta Education covid19 response guidelines, and we are not doing this as a means of inconveniencing people. Please understand that.

If your child has forgotten their lunch, the front office will provide a lunch to that student. We will not let a child go hungry. They will be provided a basic lunch in these instances.

7. Option 2 Learners (virtual): *New Information*****

For students or parents that are wishing to change from in-person learning to virtual learning, I would like to remind you that the next in-take is Feb 11, 2021 with virtual learning starting on Feb 16, 2021. We cannot accommodate students moving from one program to another outside of these dates. It takes planning and preparation for students to move, and these dates are in place in order to make transitions from program to another as smooth as possible.

Also, please note that Option 2 learning does not look the way it did during the first week of school back from Christmas break. During that week, all teachers were teaching online and there was more time for additional Google Meets, one-on-one time, and small group meets. Unfortunately, that cannot be the



case now as most virtual learning teachers have both in-class instruction and virtual learning at the same time.

8. Enhanced Measures Muir Lake School and Parkland School Division:

*****Repeated Information*****

Prior to Christmas break, Muir Lake School was listed by Alberta Health Services as a school in “outbreak status”. This is because of 2 more positive COVID 19 cases in the school at the same time. Once a school is identified as being in “Outbreak Status”, enhanced measures are put in place in order to mitigate or slow transmission of the virus.

Since the break, we have been moved out of “outbreak” status, which is good news. With that being said, we still have enhanced measures in effect in all Parkland School Division schools. To wit, the mask policy is:

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.

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

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, and we also like to thank all of you for bringing extra care and attention to keeping our children safe both at school and home.

