



Muir Lake School
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To: Muir Lake Parents/Guardians
Fr: Murray Marran and Heather Brownlee
Re: Friday Memo for November 06th, 2020

Good Afternoon, Mustang Families and Friends:



Naturally, as we head into Fall break, we are reminded of this sombre time of year when we need to reflect upon our freedoms and liberties that we enjoy: freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and the protection of rights of all people in our society.

My grandfather was born prior to World War I, and was a young family man (farmer) with 3 children during World War II and lived to see many other world conflicts. Our family was located in the Medicine Hat/Cypress Hills area and because he was a farmer, he was not conscripted. However he did his part for the war effort.

My grandfather and grandmother billeted German prisoner soldiers and they worked on the family farm. My grandfather talked of sacrifices that he and his family made, particularly with regard to luxury items, food items, and other things that we, today, take for granted. The sacrifices made by our Canadian veterans and by previous generations guaranteed our freedoms today.

Our current situation during this pandemic naturally makes us think of some of things that we have lost or that have been put on hold. It is easy for me to feel overwhelmed and mournful of what was less than a year ago. I believe that this is natural. However, I am reminded that for me personally, the sacrifices that I am making now pale in comparison to my forefathers.

However, the exercise of Remembrance Day, the solemnity of marking this day, and reflection on the sacrifices our veterans and their families made reminds me to put my struggles into perspective. I have so much to be thankful for, and this is due to the selfless sacrifice of countless people both from a bygone era and present day. Simply put, I am grateful for all veterans' contributions to peace and order.

Lest We Forget.

1. Staying At Home When Sick and COVID Testing: ***UPDATED Information***

1. As you may be aware, Dr. Hinshaw changed the requirements for mandatory isolation and/or COVID testing for children in school when they present symptoms. The school division has updated our policies to reflect the changes that the Chief Medical Officer has made.
2. Please click on [THIS LINK](#) to read the updated policy for staying at home/get a COVID test when symptomatic
3. In a nutshell, here is how the symptoms list has changed: Runny nose and sore throat have moved from [Symptoms A list to Symptoms B list](#). It is recommended that if a student displays TWO or more symptoms from the B list, they get COVID tested.
4. Symptom A list students need to self isolate for 10 days or have a negative COVID before returning to school.

2. Student Muir Lake SWAG: ***Updated Information***

1. Mrs. Brownlee worked with a dedicated group of grade 9 students to redesign our Muir Lake SWAG. The students and Mrs. Brownlee met a few times to determine what SWAG the students would like and how to “revision” what we were selling. We are happy to report that the company that has been working with the school has come up with a line of products that we think students will LOVE! To purchase what will be available to students, please take a look at [THIS LINK](#). Enter the company name or shipping address as MUIR LAKE and Promo code PC when ordering for free shipping to the school.
2. Mrs. Brownlee and the grade 9 design team would like to thank Brad from Apollo for his hard work on this project.
3. You can order SWAG at the Muir Lake store now and ordering will be open until **November 15th** in order to ensure that Christmas delivery is possible. Please check out the fantastic merchandise.

3. News from the Westview Public Health: Repeated Information

Grade 6 & 7 students will be vaccinated on December 9, 2020. Consent packages were sent home for grade 6 students a while back and we need to have the signed consent forms back to the front office a.s.a.p.

AHS will try to catch up to any students in other grades who missed immunizations somewhere along the way. Parents will have to phone AHS and make an appointment at a local clinic in order to get the vaccination.

Please note immunization consents provided last year remain valid until immunizations are completed.

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

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



4. IPP's: *Repeated Information*****

Student IPP's have been completed and sent home for parental viewing and input. If you have received an IPP, please ensure that the PINK sign-off sheet has been signed and please return it to the school a.s.a.p. We need to have these parent signatures on file. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Brownlee at the school.

5. School Council: Repeated Information

Our next School Council meeting will be held on November 24th, 2020 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.

6. 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 November 24th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for this virtual meeting.

7. Lifetouch School Photos (Re-takes): Repeated Information

Retakes are scheduled for Tuesday November 17th.

8. Report Cards: Repeated Information

Report Cards will be available online on 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.

9. Grade Book Reporting: Repeated Information

As of November 2nd, all students' marks are live (online). Parents are able to access live, updated marks for their child(ren) in all their subjects. In order to access GradeBook, please log on to the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and follow the links on the left hand side of the page.

10. Grade 8 Classroom Change: Repeated Information

Our junior high school teachers have requested that both grade 8 classes be moved to the library, so that classroom instruction can happen at one time without splitting time between two rooms.

Currently, grade 8 is our largest class in the school and there is a full time teacher and educational assistant devoted to this grade. Currently, instruction happens in two rooms, with either a teacher or an EA always in one room or another.



Please note: these students are defined as one cohort as they have physical education and lunch hour recess together. By moving to the library, the teachers will be able to devote more attention to the entire group, plus have the support of the EA in the room.

Library services will not be impacted, as Mrs. Schram implemented mobile library carts at the end of September. Books are taken to individual classrooms on carts and Mrs. Schram signs the books out in the classrooms.

11. Fees: Repeated Information

Reminder that fees have been posted online and that they are due. Your prompt attention to this is greatly appreciated.

12. Summary of Remembrance Day observation at Muir Lake School: *****New Information*****

Staff at Muir Lake School were saddened this year that we could not hold our annual Remembrance Day assembly at the school. This is typically a time when students listen to veteran speakers, share stories of their personal families who are veterans and who have served, and naturally observe a moment of silence.

We have modified our commemorations to suit smaller group sizes (classrooms) and here are some of the activities that individual classrooms did in order to mark Remembrance Day:

[Video of CAF speakers delivering the speech for all ages](#)

[Video of CAF speakers delivering the speech for children in kindergarten to grade 2](#)

[Video of CAF speakers delivering the speech for youths in grade 3 to 6](#)

[Video of CAF speakers delivering the speech for teens in grade 7 to 12](#)

[Royal Canadian Artillery Band – O Canada](#)

[Royal Canadian Artillery Band - Last Post video](#)

[Royal Canadian Artillery Band - Rouse video](#)

[Royal Canadian Artillery Band - Lament video](#)

[Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers reciting poem “In Flanders Fields”](#)

Feel free to click on any of the above links to watch the videos that were used in school and feel free to rewatch them with your child and as a family.

At 11:00 a.m., as a school we played Taps over the P.A. system and observed a minute of silence for all veterans.

13. Grade 9 Mandatory Isolation and contact tracing: *New Information*****

As you are aware, due to a confirmed case of COVID in our school, a cohort and staff had to go into mandatory quarantine.

Students and staff must quarantine until November 11, 2020, even if a negative COVID test has been obtained.



[Here](#) is a link to the guidelines for when there is a Covid contact within a school.

I want to highlight a section on page 3;

"Students identified as close contacts of a confirmed positive case must isolate for 14 days from the date of exposure. They cannot go to school or attend any public place. Even if they test negative for COVID-19, they must stay in isolation for 14 days.

14. VIRTUAL Scholastic Book Fair: *New Information*****

You are invited to our [VIRTUAL Scholastic Book Fair](#). It will be held November 23rd to 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!

15. Art Cards by Kids Fundraiser: *New Information*****

Our school is participating in the Art Cards by Kids fundraiser. Students have created a work of art in the classroom and the sample ordering cards have been sent home. Parents now have the opportunity to purchase greeting cards with their child's artwork on the front and their name & age on the back. Ordering instructions are included in the card. Visit www.artcardsbykids.com for more info on this exciting fundraiser.

Finally, as usual, Mrs. Brownlee and I would like to wish you a safe and happy Fall break. Naturally, if you have any questions regarding the contents of this Friday Memo, please contact us at the school.

Be safe and be kind.

