



Muir Lake School
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To: Muir Lake Parents/Guardians
Fr: Murray Marran and Heather Brownlee
Re: Friday Memo for January 22nd, 2021

Good Afternoon, Muir Lake Families:

As the weather turns cold, and as driving conditions are again turning for the worse, I need to remind you about safety in our parking lot, particularly during the morning drop off.

I often talk about what our Muir Lake School and Community values are: patience, grace, and understanding, just to name a few. I believe that these values are the cornerstone of a civilized community and it helps ensure that when we come together as a community, rules are followed in order to ensure safety for everyone.

This brings me to our daily drop offs and pick-ups. I need to emphasize that these rules were not put in place to inconvenience anyone. Your child's safety is paramount to ALL staff at Muir Lake School. Therefore, I ask kindly, please do not give staff a difficult time if we are asking you to follow our drop procedures. As mentioned earlier, we do not put these processes in place to make your life difficult.

To clarify, let me outline some procedures that need to be followed:

1. Please enter the parking lot at the Community Hall (the north entrance). The south exit is a one-way (as indicated by the DO NOT ENTER sign on the highway) and is for exiting the school property.
2. When turning into the school and hall parking lot, please do not drive around a bus that is pulling in. Buses need a wide swath in order to turn in. If they are pulling in, and someone drives past them and does not wait, the bus cannot continue and is ostensibly cut off.
3. Please DO NOT back out of the north entrance onto HIGHWAY 779. The dangers of this are self-explanatory, however we have had people do this.
4. If you are dropping your children off in the Community Hall parking lot, we encourage students to enter the school yard by the Hall and walk on the INSIDE of the blue railing fence in between the school and the hall. This allows for the movement of traffic to the north entrance and minimizes safety concerns for students.
5. Please do not drive in the bus lane whether or not there are buses in that lane. Students are using the crosswalk at the south end of the school and when vehicles are using both lanes, there is a greater chance of an accident in the crosswalk.
6. Also, I would like to add that non-bused students are the last students to be released at the end of the day in order to avoid south-bound traffic impeding buses trying to turn left (heading north) at the parking lot.

Finally, please know that we are doing this for the safety of everyone. Your cooperation, support and your kindness is greatly appreciated by all the people working with your children.

1. Registration for the 2021/2022 School Year: *New Information*****

School registration for the next academic school year will start approximately at the beginning to mid February. It is imperative that parents register their children in order to guarantee that a dedicated spot on the bus is guaranteed for September 2021. Late registration does not guarantee a spot on the bus and may take up to 3 weeks to process. Please avoid any uncertainty and frustration by registering your children on time.

As mentioned, registration will happen in the first or second week of February and you will receive an email from Parkland School Division with the appropriate links in order to register your child on-line. You must also have a [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) account in order to process the registration. If you have any difficulty registering or need assistance with your [Parent Portal account](#), please contact the front office and we will happily assist you with the registration process.

2. School Council: *New Information*****

Our next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16th, 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: *New 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, March 16th, 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: *Repeated 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: *Repeated 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): *Repeated 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. Fee Statements: *New Information*****

Mrs. Garley will be sending out fee statements next week. Please check your email for the statement of any fees. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the front office and speak to Mrs. Garley.

9. GREAT BIG SHOUT OUT: *New Information*****

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Muir Lake School Foundation for their generous support to Muir Lake School this year.

First, the School Foundation has earmarked funds to buy testing materials and remediation materials for early interventions in order to help struggling readers in grades K to 2. Due to this generous support, we are now able to support all students in grades K to 9 at Muir Lake School. As we know, the pandemic has affected all students. By purchasing these supplementary materials, teachers will be able to assess and intervene on the behalf of struggling readers earlier than ever before. We are grateful for this invaluable resource provide by the School Foundation.

Secondly, Muir Lake School Foundation is doing a playground assessment in order to determine what repairs/upgrades are needed to ensure that our playground equipment is up to code and safe for students. Once the assessment is complete, Foundation will make a plan as to how to best tackle the repairs. Again, on behalf of students and staff at Muir Lake School, we thank you for your generous support of our school. This truly speaks to the parent/student/school partnership that makes a great school.



10. Supporting Mental Health and Family Supports Newsletter:

*****New Information*****

Once again, Parkland School Division is offering various workshops/resources to families in order to provide support for students and families and to positively impact mental health. If you are interested in attending one of these invaluable sessions, please check out the Family Supports Newsletter by clicking on this [LINK](#).

11. Stakeholder Engagement: *****New Information*****

On February 10th, 2021, Parkland School Division will be hosting a virtual stakeholder meeting from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This is the perfect opportunity to ensure that your voice is heard in order to help shape the future of Parkland School Division.

Please note that this is specific to the Division as a whole and embraces a global perspective for ALL Parkland School Division students. I strongly encourage anyone who is interested to attend this virtual event.

If you are interested in participating, please email me directly at mmarran@psd70.ab.ca and I will ensure you receive the appropriate meeting links and information.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

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 at home.

