



Muir Lake School

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To: Muir Lake Parents/Guardians
Fr: Murray Marran and Heather Brownlee
Re: Friday Memo for November 20th, 2020

Good Afternoon, Mustang Families and Friends:

About a decade ago, I had the good fortune to spend some time with Dr. Jane Goodall. She was an honorary patron of the school where I was working in Calgary. When one meets Dr. Goodall, you are mesmerized by soft voice, her incredible calmness and her ability to grab and hold our attention. She truly is a remarkable person.

I think of her from time to time and I am often reminded of some of her words of wisdom: "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make".

I think now, more than ever, these words have significant impact and importance. We choose to be kind, we choose to help others, we choose to work for the greater good. Our choices have far extending consequences all stemming from what difference, or not, that we want to make.

Education goes far beyond the learning and memorization of facts and reproducing them on a test. Education is based on relationships, the dynamic nature of teacher, student and parent interactions. This triad of interconnectedness is a powerful tool for a young mind in shaping their education and their character.

Here is the difference (I hope) that Muir Lake School makes for your children: they know that school is a harbor of hope and possibility, their community supports them, and that we care for all members of our community. Our teachers want the best for your children. You want the best for your children.

So, with that in mind, I ask you, "What are you doing that makes a difference? What difference do you want to make?"

As we "hunker" down because of weather and other circumstances, let's continue to make a difference and continue to support each other. Be kind, and be safe.

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

3. 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.

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

5. 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.



6. 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.

7. VIRTUAL Scholastic Book Fair: *Updated 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!

8. Art Cards by Kids Fundraiser: *Updated Information*****

Our school Art Cards are HERE! Students will be receiving their cards that families have ordered and will be sent home this afternoon. Thank you to those that participated in this Fundraiser.

9. Stronger Families with PSD: *New Information*****

The [Stronger Families newsletter linked HERE](#) is about Giving Back ... and how giving back supports your health and happiness. We hope you enjoy this newsletter. If you are in need of Christmas hampers etc. please pay particular attention to the **deadline of the morning of November 21**. If you would like to connect about other supports for your family please give Vicki a call at 780-963-8472.

10. School Spirit Days: *New Information*****

For the rest of November and through 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 November 27 - Jersey Day, staff & students are encouraged to wear their favourite team Jersey or T-Shirt
- Friday, December 4 - Santa Hat Day, what better way to kick off the Christmas Season?
- 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.



11. Contract Tracing for COVID positive cases: *New 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.

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

Be safe and be kind.

