



Muir Lake School
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To: Muir Lake Parents/Guardians
Fr: Murray Marran and Heather Brownlee
Re: Friday Memo for November 27th, 2020

Good Afternoon, Mustang Families and Friends:

As you are all aware, the [province of Alberta continues to implement more restrictions](#) in order to stem the surge of COVID cases. As we move to online learning and students attending virtually, I am reminded of some of our lessons that we have learned from the last time that we started education. These lessons were hard-learned and thankfully, we have the gift of hindsight to draw from in order to improve our **virtual** learning environment. Here is what the new online environment will look like:

1. Students will start school promptly at 8:10 a.m.
2. If a student is not logged in the morning, they will be marked as absent or truant.
3. The Google classroom is the repository of all the resources needed for your student in order for them to complete their studies.
4. Last spring, when we were moved to online learning, the Ministry of Education said that all students would be promoted to the next grade level. This is NOT the case now. Students that do not attend virtual school or who do not complete their required work will receive a "0" (zero) on assignments not turned in.

For those students who are moving to online learning effective Monday, November 30, there was a memo sent home yesterday outlining the expectations of the virtual learning environment. Please take time to (if applicable) to familiarize yourself with that document.

For elementary students, please understand that there is **NO extended Christmas break**. K to 6 students will attend classes until the **18th of December** and then start their Christmas break. Elementary students will resume their studies online on **Monday, January 04th, 2021**. Winter break is still only 2 (two) weeks long.

I must admit, as much as I dislike moving to online learning, I do understand the need for it. Cases of COVID are growing at an alarming rate in the province and we must all do our part to bend the curve downward. Social distancing, hand sanitizing and wearing a mask are now more important than ever. Let's take care of one another, and let us draw on the amazing spirit we have in the Muir Lake Community by protecting everyone - young and old.

Now, more than ever it is imperative to protect everyone! Be kind, and be safe.

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 will obviously not happen. Westview Health Clinic will contact you once new arrangements are made for vaccines for grade 7 students.

Students in Grade 9 are receiving consent packages for vaccinations and these packages are being sent home PRIOR to these students moving to online learning.

Please note: Grade 9 consent forms must be returned by families to the Westview Public Health Unit by December 11, 2020 in order for your child to receive their vaccination.

Vaccinations for Grade 9 students are scheduled for **January 19, 2021**.

Grade 6 students are still scheduled to receive their vaccination on December 9th, 2020 at the school.

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.**

2. Christmas Concert: *New Information*****

We are so happy to announce that Muir Lake School will be sharing a pre-recorded Christmas Concert this year! 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.

Recording sessions will happen on **Wednesday, December 9 (Grade 1-3)**, and **Thursday, December 10 (Grade 4-6)**. Please send your child in their concert best this day, ready to participate in the performances they’ve been practicing.

The classes listed below have the following costume requests:

- 1S - pajamas and slippers
- 2O - wear green and or red (elf hats will be provided)
- 3S - wear blue and or white
- 4S - bring a scarf
- 6W - wear some red.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Mrs. Gottenbos at dgottenbos@psd70.ab.ca

3. School Council: *New 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: *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, January 19th, 2021 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: *Repeated 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. School Spirit Days: *Repeated Information*****

For the month of 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, 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.



9. 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.

10. Nature Kindergarten Fees: *New 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 jgarley@psd70.ab.ca Conversely, you may call the office at 780-963-3535.

11. Nature Kindergarten Facilities: *New Information*****

We have noticed (from viewing our trail cameras on the school playground) that some of our families are using our Nature Kindergarten outdoor tent and mud kitchen on the weekend.

While I am happy that families are choosing to use the school grounds and facilities for recreational purposes, I do have to ask that we stop using Nature K facilities on the weekend. There are two reasons for this request:

1. Due to COVID and with an abundance of caution, I would like to ensure our equipment is used by the least amount of people possible
2. Some people are not cleaning up after use or are leaving garbage, etc in the outdoor facilities once they have used them. Our teachers are cleaning up first thing Monday morning after people have used the facilities. Naturally, this is not fair to our teacher.

I thank all of you, in advance, for adhering to this for the time being until such time that we can come up with a solution so that both students and the community can use the equipment.

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 we know, good communication only enhances the school/home relationship.

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

Be safe and be kind.

