



Muir Lake School
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To: Muir Lake Parents/Guardians
Fr: Murray Marran and Heather Brownlee
Re: Friday Memo for February 19, 2021

Good Afternoon, Muir Lake Families:

It has been a while since the last Friday Memo has gone out. We had Teachers' Convention and Family Day long weekend so with shortened weeks and no school on those Fridays, there was no memo. Since our last Memo we are seeing warmer weather, sunnier days and perhaps, dare we say, the worst of winter is behind us.

So, sit back, grab a cup of coffee and catch up on the school news since our last communique!

I would like to mention that our Junior High Students had their Formal Day yesterday, in a modified version of previous years. Students showed up to school in their Sunday best and spent the afternoon doing various activities in their cohort classrooms. Also, the students constructed an archway so that they could take photos of themselves.

It was nice to see this modified event happen for our junior high students. They have lost so much during this pandemic, so to be able to give back was gratifying for us to see. I would like to thank Ms. St. Amand, Mrs. Rich, Mr. Brown and Mr. Shaw for all their efforts in organizing this afternoon and their commitment to making school a little bit fun again! I know the students greatly appreciated the afternoon.

On that same note, last week the elementary school celebrated Valentine's Day with various activities and card exchanges in their classrooms. I know that students enjoyed the afternoon and appreciated their card exchange. Lots of laughter and excitement was noted by everyone.

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

School registration for the next academic school year opened **February 8th, 2021**. It is imperative that parents register their children in order to guarantee that a dedicated spot on the bus is reserved for September 2021. Late registration does not guarantee a spot on the bus and may take up to 3 weeks to process.

Also, even if your children do not take the bus, it is important to register as these registrations determine budgets and staffing for the upcoming year. The more accurate picture we have, the easier it is for us to allocate resources to staffing, etc. Your timeliness on completing this process is both critical and appreciated. Please avoid any uncertainty and frustration by registering your child(ren) on time. Registration closes **March 25th, 2021**. An email containing a direct link to your child's registration was

sent out by our Division Office, please check for it; if it is not in your inbox then please check your Spam. You can also log into your [PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#) and click the 2021 2022 Registration link on the left hand side of your screen. 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. Pink Shirt Day: *New Information*****

Wednesday, February 24th is Pink Shirt Day. [Pink Shirt Day](#) is a date when each year **Canadians** are asked to take a stand against bullying – and to make that stance public by including an article of **pink** clothing in their ensemble. We look forward to seeing everyone support this invaluable initiative.

3. Parent Teacher Interviews: *New Information*****

[VIRTUAL Parent Teacher interviews](#) are scheduled for Tuesday, March 23rd and Wednesday, March 24th, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. each evening. These interviews will be virtual again and parents need to sign up in order to ensure that they have a dedicated interview time.

Please click on the link [HERE](#) in order to sign up for interviews.

4. School Council: *New Information*****

Our next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 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.

5. 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, March 16th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for this virtual meeting.

6. Second Languages Survey for Muir Lake School: *Repeated Information*****

If you have not filled out the survey on second language instruction for Muir Lake School, please do so. We are looking to see the interest in French language instruction, Spanish language instruction or both (if possible). Your input is both valuable and needed!

Even if your child is not in grades 4 to 9, please fill out the survey as this will help with future years planning as well. This is vital information.

Please find the survey link [HERE](#)



7. Fee Statements: *Updated Information*****

Mrs. Garley has sent out fee statements the week of January 25th, 2021. Please check your email for the statement of any fees or simply log on to your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and click the Fees link on the left side of your screen. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the front office and speak to Mrs. Garley.

8. MCHS Gr 9 Virtual Open House & Registration: *Repeated Information*****

[MCHS](#) will be preparing a pre-recorded video in place of the evening event for “**First-Time Parents**”. This video will be posted to the [MCHS website](#) by the end of February. There will be a Google Form that parents can complete if they have additional questions and would like a call-back or an email response to their individual questions.

MCHS will be hosting a **Virtual Open House** on **Thursday, March 4th from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**. There will be a series of videos explaining programming as well as Gmeets for individual programs. All Grade 9 students and their parents are encouraged to attend the Virtual Open House evening to make their final course selections for Grade 10.

Parents will need to complete the **Parkland School Division 2021-2022 Online Registration** for their son/daughter before making course selections. Registration opened on February 8, 2021, and all parents are required to complete the registration process by March 25, 2021. Muir Lake students will complete course selections at school in March. Powerschool will be open to accepting student course selections for the week of March 15 - 19, 2020.

9. School Development Plan and Stakeholder Engagement: *New Information*****

On February 10th, 2021 Parkland School Division held their annual Stakeholder Engagement Evening. The purpose of this evening is to listen to various stakeholders' opinions about Parkland School Division and its educational programming.

I would like to personally thank our Muir Lake parents that participated in this evening. The gift of your time and input is greatly appreciated and is most valuable in helping the division create their Education Plan.

Continuing with this, Muir Lake School created their School Development (School Improvement) Plan. The focus of this plan is simple: Improve academic achievement of students. We know that being away from the classroom during the pandemic has had a huge impact on students. As a school, we want to address these gaps in the most effective, time-efficient manner possible. The plan outlines what our specific goals and strategies are. Please take a moment to read the school development plan and feel free to contact me if you have any specific questions.

The School Development Plan can be found by clicking on [THIS](#) link.



9. Support for Families with Children Who Have ADHD: *New
Information*****

If your child has been diagnosed with ADHD, Parkland School Division has a variety of resources available to families to help support them and their children with this diagnosis. Please read PSD's Stronger Together Newsletter to learn more.

The Stronger Together Newsletter can be accessed [HERE](#)

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.

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!

