



Mustangs Memo



April 8, 2022

NEW! Kindergarten Grad & Spring Photos: The Lifetouch Photographers will be here to do Spring Photos of all of our students on Wednesday April 13th and Thursday April 14th. Our Kindergarten students will have their graduation photos taken at that same time.

Repeat! 2022-2023 School Registration PAST DUE: Parkland School Division's annual online registration/verification process opened on Monday February 14th and requested that this process be completed **BEFORE March 18th** in order to insure that your child(ren) has transportation in place for the 2022 2023 school year.

All Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 registrations for both new and returning students will be conducted online for the 2022-2023 school year. For returning students, parents can find the RSVP link (Registration) in their [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). For more information, please visit our Division website at <https://www.psd.ca/division/news/post/online-registration-for-2022-2023>.

Students that will be registering for kindergarten for the 2022 - 2023 school year will need to be 5 years of age by December 31, 2022. We invite those students that are registered with a Parkland School Division Kindergarten program to also check out our [Nature Kindergarten program](#) which will run on the opposite days of their regular kindergarten days. For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.psd.ca/programs/programs-of-choice/nature-based-kindergarten>. This is a great alternative to daycare. A Virtual Open House date for our Nature Kindergarten program is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2022 @ 4pm - Nature Kindergarten. Check our website calendar at <https://muirlake.psd.ca/about/calendar> for the link to the Open House.

Repeat! Student Placement: Student placement is a very complex process that we take very seriously. **Teacher/Specialists:** our school staff and specialists (such as teachers, counselor, administration, etc) review student placements several times up until the opening day of the 2022-2023 school year.

In addition to individual circumstances, criteria considered in the placement process include:

Workable instructional groups considering:

- the child's academic needs and strengths
- teaching and learning styles
- the child's work habits

Positive social groups considering:

- placements where a child can work positively and productively with other children in the class
- peer support or conflicts
- establishing the presence of positive leaders in each class
- ratio of grades in split classes

Balanced classes considering:

- gender (male/female)
- students with Special Needs
- students who are English Language Learners
- academic, social, and emotional needs and abilities
- leadership abilities

Other Information considered:

- the past history of students in combined or single grade classes
- school-based resource team recommendations

The class placement process ensures thoughtful consideration of each child's social, emotional, and academic needs is aligned with the need to create balanced and effective learning environments. The assignment of students to classes is decided by a team, which includes the child's current teacher, possible teachers for the coming year, the School Counselor, and the School Administration. This professional team considers each placement carefully as they create classes that include a wide range of students who learn in a variety of ways.

A Note about Combined Classes

Combined class organizations result from imbalances in the number of students in particular grade levels. In today's reality that often means that the school organization needs to include some combined classes. For example, we might have 41 Grade One students, but the class size limit is 25; we would need to create a Grade One class and a Grade One/Two class with the remainder of the Grade One students and some Grade Two students. Depending on the number of students at each grade level, using all of the criteria above may well result in the creation of some combined classes. Many areas of the student's growth are considered in a student's placement such as: social skill development, physical size, independence in work habits, leadership potential, personal initiative, and organizational skills. Consideration is also given to previous placement in a combined class. Please rest assured that if your child is placed in a combined class, the grade appropriate curriculum that is prescribed by the Ministry of Education will be taught.

Repeat! Lunch Program: We are pleased to share that the Fundraiser Lunch program has returned and is available for grades 1 - 9 on Mondays. Our next ordering deadline for the May menus is April 18th. Please see the information [LINKED HERE](#), register for your account, and complete your orders as soon as possible.

In addition to lunch ordering, we have added some of our in stock Spirit Wear items. Water bottles, buffs, and stickers are available for purchase on our Hot Lunches.net site. We will be packing these orders when we close each month's lunch ordering. Any purchased items will be packaged and sent home with your child. An email will be sent to you to confirm the order has been provided to your student. Should you have any questions, please contact the Muir Lake Foundation Team at muirlakelunches@gmail.com.

Repeat! School Fees: Updated Statements of outstanding fees for the 2021 2022 school year are past due, please payment ASAP online by debit or credit card through our PowerSchool Parent Portal at <https://powerschool.psd70.ab.ca/public> or by cash or cheque payable to Parkland School Division (PSD).

Repeat! From our School Council Chair: Should you wish to contact our School Council Chair, Amber Dory, please use our NEW School Council Chair email that has been set up; it is MuirLake.SCChair@partner.psd.ca. School Council meetings are virtual and are set for the third teaching Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is set for Tuesday April 19, 2022, 7pm. [Please visit the LINK here to request a Google Meet link](#). The meeting link will be shared with those interested in attending the day of the meeting.

Repeat! Health Champion: Are you teaching your child(ren) to skate this winter? Skating is a lot of fun for kids—once they get the hang of it. For first-timers, however, it often feels like you spend more time falling than gliding. Keep the focus on fun while kids gain the balance, coordination, and technique they need to stay upright on the ice by introducing simple games that help reinforce basic skating skills. Everything is more fun with friends, so why not plan a group meetup and try out some of the suggestions in this [link](#)?

Repeat! Student Drop Off and Pick Up: For the safety of our students and staff;

- **For everyone's safety we ask that EVERYONE please walk or stand INSIDE the blue fence when picking up their child(ren) from school.**
- Please park in the Muir Lake Community Hall parking lot and for your child in the parent muster area which is located inside the blue fence in between the Community Hall and the school.
- If driving your child(ren) to school, please drive through the drop off lane and drop them off at the crosswalk at the **south** end of the school **OR** drop them off at the Community Hall and have them walk inside the blue fence to and from the school
- Please do not cut through the staff parking lot to jump the line of cars waiting to drop off children in the drop off lane
- If you are late and dropping your child(ren) off (after 8:00am), please have them come in the main doors and report in to the office and get a late slip.

Repeat! PSD Domain and Email Addresses: You may have noticed that Parkland School Division has a new look; a new logo as well as a new domain name. You can now find Parkland School Division at <https://www.psd.ca> and Muir Lake School's new website URL is <https://muirlake.psd.ca>. With the domain name change came new email addresses. An easy way to find your child's teacher's email address is on our school website at <https://muirlake.psd.ca/about/staff-directory>, but our new address format is as follows: firstname.lastname@psd.ca. Please adjust your email address books accordingly as eventually the mail-forward feature will end.

Thank you,
Muir Lake School Admin Team