



## Mustangs Memo

December 9, 2022

**Comprehensive School Health:** Are you running out of Elf on the Shelf ideas? Try these active elf options from [Active For Life](#).

**Spirit Wear:** If you ordered Spirit Wear, the orders have arrived and will be distributed to the classrooms next week. If you need to make special arrangements for pick ups of “surprise items” then please contact our office at [MuirLake@psd.ca](mailto:MuirLake@psd.ca) and we can put it aside for you to pick up.

**Report Cards & Parent Portal Access:** [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). On Friday December 2nd your child’s report card was released online via the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#), please log in to view your child’s report card.

**Art Cards By Kids Orders:** For those families that ordered their child's Art Card By Kids products, you should have received your orders by now as they were distributed to the classrooms last week. Thank you for your support of this school-wide fundraising project.

**Kinsmen Christmas Hampers:** Muir Lake School is participating in the Kinsmen Christmas Hamper collection program again this year. Each grade level in the school has been assigned a family to assist this year. Please check the info [LINKED HERE](#) to find out the ages of the families that your class has been assigned to help this year. This info is also attached at the end of this newsletter. **UNWRAPPED** donations can be sent in to your class and donations **will be picked up on Monday December 12th**. Thank you for your support in this program that helps so many families.

**Winter is Here:** It is looking & feeling like Winter is upon us and probably here for the duration. With the snow comes the colder weather, especially in the morning! Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for all the recess breaks. Please mark your child’s snow pants and boots with their names so that we can ensure that the proper owner has them. Updates on the buses and whether or not they are running can be found on the PSD Website at <https://www.psd.ca/transportation/bus-status>; we encourage you to check there if you have any questions.

**Christmas Concerts are Back!** As things are getting back to normal we here at Muir Lake School would like to invite our students and families to our first in person Christmas Concert in three years. This will take place in the Muir Lake School gym and families are welcome to attend in person, this is not a virtual event. It will be split up over two days. The Grade 4-6 students, the Senior Choir and the Bell Choir will perform on Tuesday December the 20th. The Grade 1-3 students and the Jr. Choir will be performing on Wednesday December the 21st. There are some grade four students in the Jr. Choir, so they will be required to attend both days. The start time will be 6:30 for both performances and we are estimating 30min performance for grade 1-3 and a 45 minute performance for grades 4-6. Please arrive 15 minutes early.

Due to fire regulations, seating is limited and 3 tickets per family have been distributed, we respectfully request that if you are not using all of your 3 tickets, that you return them to school so that others may be able to bring family members.

We will be holding dress rehearsals on each of the two performance dates at 10:00 am in the gym. Families are welcome to attend at this time if they are not able to attend in the evening.

There is no dress code for the students, but we have asked them to "dress nice"; no hats or hoodies please, Christmas sweaters or dress sweaters are fine. Someone will be filming the concert if you are unable to attend. We will email out a download link in the days following the performance. Please feel free to contact our Music Teacher, Mr. Lee Theberge or the office if you have any questions.

The kindergarten concert will take place on Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:15 pm in the gym. Both the Monday/Wednesday class and the Tuesday/Thursday class will participate in this concert. Parents of the Tuesday/Thursday students are asked to drop off their kinder child in the kindergarten room for 1:00 pm and then asked to proceed to the gym and have a seat to wait for the performance. Monday/Wednesday parents are also invited to arrive at approximately 1:00 pm and asked to wait in the gym for the performance to begin. Tickets will NOT be required for the kindergarten concert.

**Sledding at MLS:** Due to the insurance regulations, please be aware that students are not able to toboggan, tube, crazy carpet, bobsled, or sled on a slope of greater than five meters in height or with an incline of greater than 35 degrees. The hill behind the school is too long and too steep for these purposes.

**Spruce Grove Saints Hockey Tickets Draws:** Congratulations to our latest winners! To date, we have handed out 10 sets of tickets, and all of our families have been super pumped to receive our call!

Be sure to get in on the draws by visiting [THIS LINK](#) or go directly to <https://bit.ly/HockeyDraw> and fill it in accordingly. Pick as many or as few as you would like. This does not guarantee that you will get the tickets, just that you will be entered into the draw for them.

Each set of tickets is for 4 people. Games are all at 7 pm and are played at Grant Fuhr Arena in Spruce Grove. We will draw for the 4 tickets the week before the game and contact the lucky winner. We only ask that if you receive tickets and are unable to use them, that you return them to us so that we can forward them to another family that will be able to enjoy the game.



**Dropping off or Picking Up your child at School?** If you are driving your child to school, then we respectfully ask that you drop them off in either the **Muir Lake Hall** parking lot **or** use the drop off lane and let them out at the **SOUTH** end **or** **NORTH** end of the parking lot so that they can use the designated crosswalks which is monitored by the staff. Please assist us in keeping your children safe by not dropping them off in the middle of the drop off lane.

We also ask that for the safety of all staff and students, that you not drive through the staff parking lot, please use the drive-through lane and the crosswalk at the south end of the parking lot.

For the safety of everyone, we remind everyone that there is to be absolutely **NO PARKING on the side of the highway**. The parking can sometimes get VERY busy, so we appreciate your patience as our top priority is to keep all of our students and staff safe. We have asked the Bylaw officers for assistance with this and we would hate to see anyone be ticketed for parking on the highway or worse yet, for someone to be injured. We thank you for your cooperation with this very extremely important safety matter.

**Busing:** If you are picking up your child from school and they will NOT be taking their regular bus home, please notify the driver, teacher, or school office so that the driver is not looking for them at the end of the day and delaying the departures of the buses.

**Guest Bus Riders:** There are to be absolutely **NO GUEST RIDERS** on any of the school buses. This is a huge safety concern should that bus ever be involved in an accident. If your child is having a friend visit after school then a parent will have to pick them up at the end of the day. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Attendance Calls:** If your child(ren) is not in attendance, please be sure to either call (780) 963-3535 and press 1 to access the attendance mailbox OR email the office at [MuirLake@psd.ca](mailto:MuirLake@psd.ca), stating when and why your child will be away. If the office does not know why students are away then the fan-out message will automatically go out as they will be marked as absent with an unknown reason.

**If Your Child is Ill:** We encourage anyone who is feeling ill to stay home from school. If you are exhibiting any of the key symptoms known for COVID-19, we encourage you to access one of the many test kits that are also available at the school. Meanwhile, PSD will continue the following:

- Hand sanitizer will still be readily available at all schools,
- Students will continue to be reminded of the importance of thorough hand-washing hygiene,
- School staff will ensure that appropriate cleaning of high touch areas will continue,
- The frequency at which air filters are changed in PSD has also been increased and air handling/ventilation equipment in all schools has been adjusted to maximize the number of air exchanges within the schools.
- All schools will operate filtration systems that meet or exceed the Minimum Efficiency Reporting Values (MERV) 13 air filtration rate, and
- Where practical, entrances and exits can be used to efficiently reduce crowding during high traffic times of the day.

Should you require test kits or masks, please contact the school office by email at [MuirLake@psd.ca](mailto:MuirLake@psd.ca) or by phone at 780-963-3535.

**School Fees:** Statements for the 2022 2023 school year fees were sent out via email, if you did not receive it then check your junk mail or let the office know. Upon receipt, fees can be paid online by debit or credit card through our [PowerSchool Parent Portal](https://powerschool.psd.ca/public) at <https://powerschool.psd.ca/public> or by cash or cheque payable to Parkland School Division (PSD). These school fees are due in to the office by the end of September. If for some reason you are unable to pay the fees right away arrangements may be made by calling Andy Fuñe at 780-963-3535.

**PSD Stronger Together - Family Supports:** Parkland School Division is proud to partner with the Alberta Parenting For The Future Association to present the upcoming FREE sessions for local families. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the sessions being offered.

**Food for Thought:** We all know that children learn better on a full tummy. We have a fridge outside our office - "The Nutrition Nook" - that is stocked with healthy snacks and food for the students. Kids can access it at any time during the day and out of consideration to everyone's privacy, staff will not be monitoring who uses it.

**Fair Notice - Violent Threat Risk Assessment:** The goal of Violence/Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) process is that every incident of youth violence in our communities be addressed. VTRA is early intervention – which is quite possibly prevention. The process is initiated and managed by school administrators who have received VTRA training from the Center for Trauma Informed Practices. For more information, please visit our [PSD website](#) and read the news article [LINKED HERE](#).

**School Council:** All parents and guardians are invited to attend our next **VIRTUAL** School Council meeting on Tuesday, January 17th at 7 pm. Please click the [LINK HERE](#) to add your name to receive the School Council Google Meet Link. Meetings will be held on the third teaching Tuesday of the month except for December and June. We hope to see you there.

**Canceling a Hot Lunch:** Just a quick reminder that If your child will not be at school and you have ordered a hot lunch, please email [info@bitetoeat.ca](mailto:info@bitetoeat.ca) to cancel their lunch. Please be sure to include your child's name and which school they attend. To receive a credit for the meal, you must notify us by 12pm noon the day before delivery. We will accept late hot lunch cancellations, but no credit will be given. Please note that we cannot give away lunches to other students if you do not notify us that your child will be absent.

**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](mailto:firstname.lastname@psd.ca). Please adjust your email address books accordingly as eventually the mail-forward feature will end.

Thank you, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school at 780-963-3535 or via email at [MuirLake@psd.ca](mailto:MuirLake@psd.ca).

Muir Lake School Admin Team



**WE'RE HIRING!**

**Educational Assistant**  
MULTIPLE POSITIONS AVAILABLE

In this role, you would assist teachers with instructional and non-instructional tasks during class and with other school activities. It's a great chance to get involved in the school community and become a valuable part of the classroom.

**APPLY TODAY**  
[psd.ca/employment/current-openings](https://psd.ca/employment/current-openings)

 **PARKLAND**  
SCHOOL DIVISION



## Kinsmen Christmas Hampers

Again this year, our school is sponsoring families through the Kinsmen Club of Stony Plain Christmas Hamper program. The Hamper Program helps those that are less fortunate in Stony Plain and Parkland County. Last year over 2000 residents were supplied with food, toys and gift cards for much needed necessities and they are expecting an increase this year.

Each grade level in the school has been assigned a family. It is our hope that we will be able to make Christmas a happier time for these families through our community's generosity.

To comply with COVID-19 protocols, the Kinsmen is NOT asking for non-perishable food items, but these items will be forwarded to the Parkland Food Bank should you wish to donate them.

For information on how to make a cash donation or to see a list of Gift Donation Ideas simply go to the Kinette Club of Spruce Grove Website @ <https://www.sgkinettes.ca> that is [LINKED HERE](#).

Items donated ***should not be wrapped*** and should be in to the school **before Friday, December 9th**.

Thank you for your part in making Christmas brighter for these families!

**Kindergarten – Ms. LeDressay & Mrs. Cattroll**

**Family #1**

1 adult female & 1 adult male  
2 girls ages 7 & 14

**Gr. 5 – Mrs. Gadoury & Mrs. Rich**

**Family #6**

1 adult male  
1 girl age 13  
3 boys ages 8, 10 & 16

**Gr. 1 – Ms. Douglas, Mrs. Lee, & Mrs. Priddle**

**Family #2**

1 adult female & 1 adult male  
2 girls ages 5 & 10  
2 boys ages 3 & 4

**Gr. 6 – Mrs. Arnold & Ms. Wayken**

**Family #7**

1 adult female  
1 girl age 8  
2 boys ages 14 & 16

**Gr. 2 – Mrs. Pugh & Miss Sanders**

**Family #3**

1 adult female & 1 adult male  
3 girls ages 4, 9, & 15

**Gr. 7 – Ms. Garrison**

**Family #8**

1 adult male  
1 girl age 12  
2 boys ages 2 & 13

**Gr. 3 – Mrs. Knowles, Mr. Opatril, & Mr. Solomon**

**Family #4**

1 adult female & 1 adult male  
1 girl age 11  
3 boys ages 1, 6 & 9

**Gr. 8 – Miss Hong**

**Family #9**

1 adult female & 1 adult male  
1 girl age 2  
1 boy age 5

**Gr. 4 – Ms. Maser & Mr. Sherington & Mr. Hudson**

**Family #5**

1 adult female & 1 adult male  
3 boys ages 7, 12 & 14

**Gr. 9 – Mr. Brown & Mr. Shaw**

**Family #10**

1 adult female  
1 girl age 1  
2 boys ages 11 & 15





## **STONY PLAIN AND WEST PARKLAND**

# **CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2022**

**THANK YOU** to the students and their families, and all staff at the local area schools that support the Christmas Hamper program in Stony Plain and west Parkland. For the 44<sup>th</sup> year, the Stony Plain Kinsmen and volunteers are working to make Christmas brighter for local families struggling with a limited income. Our goal is to support families in need with food and gifts for the holidays. Last year, with your help, we assisted 697 families in our area and supported over 2000 residents! We anticipate a significant increase this year.

We will continue with the changes to the Christmas Hamper program made in recent years. We will NOT be asking for non-perishable food items. If you do receive food donations, we will be happy to take them to the Parkland Food Bank for you. We will collect monetary donations, gifts, and local grocery store gift cards to 'upsized' the Parkland Food Bank's December hampers for all clients. We will continue to run the gift portion of the program as usual and will collect and distribute gifts and gift cards to children 17 and under.

To ensure a diverse selection of age-appropriate gifts, we are asking for donations of new, unwrapped gifts or gift cards that are based on gender and age. For children 10 and older, gift cards are ideal. Please refer to <https://www.stonyplainkinsmen.ca> for additional information and gift ideas. Last year, we provided gifts to 837 children in our area!

**THANK YOU** for your incredible support of local families at Christmas. Best wishes for a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season!

Sincerely,  
The Kinsmen Club of Stony Plain

**GIFT IDEAS (Children 9 and under)** • Lego Games • Stuffed animals • Puzzles • Sports equipment • Barbies • Monster High • Disney Princess • Little People • Super Heroes • Thomas the Train • Hot Wheels • Craft kits • Dolls • Other popular children's toys. Please do not send "weapon" toys.

**LOCAL GIFT CARD IDEAS (Children 10 and over)** • Red Apple Store • Superstore • Wal-Mart • Landmark Cinemas • Canadian Tire • Michaels • Sport Chek • Winners • Chapters Indigo