



Mustangs Memo

February 10, 2023

Kindergarten Open House: Parents are invited to register their child for kindergarten for the 2023 2024 school year. Children born in 2018 are eligible to register for kindergarten. We will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, February 16, 2023 from 6:00pm - 7:00 pm. If you, or someone you know lives within our [Muir Lake School Boundaries](#), has an age appropriate child, would like to attend, please do so. Watch our [School Website](#) for more information coming soon.

Nature Kindergarten Information Session: Muir Lake School is excited to announce that we are reducing cost barriers to nature-based education for kindergarten students across the Parkland School Division.

After consultation with the wider community, it is apparent that the demand for nature-based programming remains strong. Our feedback survey highlights that families want to see a version of this program that covers the full kindergarten programs of study so that their children have the flexibility to attend a nature-based program that is the main and only program for their kindergarten experience. It was also highlighted that families want to see more affordable options in accessing nature-based opportunities for days that their child is not attending kindergarten class.

We are excited to announce that Muir Lake School has been granted approval to explore the possibility of two programs for 2023 - 2024:

1. Nature Kindergarten - A full curriculum nature-based program of choice that is funded in the same way as other kindergarten classrooms with no education fee charged to families.
Mondays, Wednesdays, some Fridays
2. Nature Enrichment - An extension of kindergarten and is funded through fees charged to families.
Tuesdays, Thursdays, some Fridays.

We will be hosting two information sessions so that families can learn more about the new nature-based programs being offered for 2023-2024.

Join us at Muir Lake School to learn more:

Thursday 16th February 2023, 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Tuesday 4th April 2023, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

More information can be found [here](#) and an expression of interest can be completed on the Muir Lake School website [here](#) when it is updated.

2023 2024 School Year Registration: Parkland School Division's annual online registration/verification process will open on Monday, February 13, 2023. All Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 registrations for both new and returning students will be conducted online for the 2023-2024 school year. For more information on the registration process, please visit the PSD website at <https://www.psd.ca/division/news/post/registration-for-2023-2024>.

Valentine's Dance & Concession: There will be a Valentine's Day Dance, held in the gym, on the afternoon of February 14th for the grade 7 to 9 students. The gym will be divided into two areas, one for dancing and one for students that want to hangout with their peers and enjoy the music. The dance will begin at 12:30 pm and end at 2:15 pm, allowing students time to help out with cleanup. There will be a small concession available for the grade 7 to 9 students who want to purchase treats. Available items will include chips \$1.00, chocolate bars \$1.00, and pop \$1.50. If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's homeroom teacher.

Order Your School Yearbook Now: Great news! After not producing a yearbook for a few years due to "covid gathering restrictions", we are happy to announce that we will be producing one this year. Yearbooks will be produced over the summer and be distributed in the Fall when they arrive. The cost of the yearbook will be \$25 each and will be available to all K to 9 students. To order one simply go on to the "**Student Fees**" button/link on the left side of your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) account, scroll to the bottom of the fees page, add a yearbook to your cart, pay for it online, and you are set.

NEW!! Breakfast Program Will Continue: We are pleased to say that the trial run of our Breakfast Program this last week was a success. We offer toast (Breads & Spreads) in the kitchen from 7:45 a.m to 8:00 a.m. Fruit bowls are placed in each classroom for all students to enjoy throughout the day.

Students from Mrs. Arnold's Play Leaders group as well as a parent volunteer will be in the kitchen to provide assistance. All students who have missed/skipped breakfast will be encouraged to drop into the kitchen upon arrival to grab a piece of toast or two before the bell rings at 8:00 a.m.



We are looking for one parent volunteer each morning from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. to start toasting and supervise the process. If this is something that you are interested in assisting with, then we encourage you to take a couple of minutes to fill in the form [LINKED HERE](#).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each of our volunteers as well as Mrs. Marcinew, Mrs. Lindemulder, Mrs. Arnold and the student Play Leaders, it is greatly appreciated.

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 as well as other resources that are available.

Optional Opportunity: Smudging is a part of the First Nation culture and is a respected traditional teaching. It is a natural way to cleanse the body, mind and spirit and rid ourselves of negative energy or thoughts. It is a way to help us to be mindful of the present moment and to honor our personal experiences. The natural plant that will be used to smudge will be sage, a natural herb gathered on the prairies which is often used by our First Nation people in ceremony.

Our school division has a smudging protocol which allows us to smudge in our schools. We are honored to have Parkland School Division support these traditional teachings as we know that this is one step forward towards our collective work with Truth and Reconciliation. ([Administrative Procedure 268](#))

Prior to the winter break, our school had the opportunity to learn about protocol for smudge from a local Elder. The students involved received teachings on how to lead a smudge under the supervision of a teacher. This now enables our school to offer all students the chance to join in a smudge on a weekly basis if they chose to. Participating in the smudge is **optional** and students will be given the opportunity to simply observe and pass when the smudge is presented.

Smudge will be available on Monday mornings as soon as the first bell goes and will finish in time for first class. This means that students will not miss any classroom learning if they participate. More details will be shared with students when they are finalized.

If you would like your child(ren) to participate in similar teachings and/or the regular smudge please provide consent by signing the letter linked below and returning it in its entirety to the class teacher.

[Smudge and Elder Teachings Consent Form](#)

Comprehensive School Health: Despite our best efforts to get our kids to move their bodies, sometimes they need to be inspired by someone (or something) other than us. That's where books come in. Thankfully, there's no shortage of inspiring books—from rhyming dances for preschoolers to female empowerment for teens—to encourage kids to get out of their comfort zone, try something new, and move their bodies in a way that feels good to them. Check out these books next time your kids need a little movement inspiration. [Link here.](#)

Food for Thought: We all know that children learn better on a full tummy. We have a fridge in 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.

Lunch Program: If your child will not be at school and you have ordered a hot lunch, please email 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 12:00 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. If you have any questions with regard to any part of the lunch program, please contact the lunch program volunteers at muirlakelunches@gmail.com.

School Council: All parents and guardians are invited to attend our next **VIRTUAL** School Council meeting on Tuesday, February 21st 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.

Winter is Here: Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for all the recess breaks. Please mark your child's snow gear 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.

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.

Parkland School Division is Hiring:



WE'RE HIRING!

Various administration, teaching and support positions are available.

APPLY TODAY

psd.ca/employment/current-openings



**PARKLAND
SCHOOL DIVISION**

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, 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 or by phone at 780-963-3535.

Spruce Grove Saints Hockey Tickets Draws: Congratulations to all of our winners! We hope that everyone has enjoyed taking in the games!

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.

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](#) 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.

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](#).

Muir Lake Playschool Fundraiser: Ladies Night, Saturday, March 4th - Tickets are almost sold out! Theme is Masquerade Party Doors open at 7pm. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by emailing Courtney at Teachers.MLP@gmail.com.

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.

Take care and stay warm, have a great weekend.
Muir Lake School Admin Team