



## Mustangs Memo

February 24, 2023

**2023 2024 School Year Registration:** Parkland School Division's annual online registration/verification process opened 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>.

Please have your child's registration/verification completed prior to Friday March 24, 2023 so that transportation can be arranged for next school year and so that we can do our staff and class planning as well. We thank you for your prompt attention to this. With this being said, if you know that your family will be leaving the school, we appreciate the heads up. This also helps with the staff and class planning for the year.

**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.

**PowerSchool Parent Portal Access:** Teachers are currently working on report cards for the students so you may not be able to see your child's marks and assignments on the PowerSchool Parent Portal at this time. We thank you for your patience and understanding. Report Cards will be released online on Friday March 17th. Parent/Teacher Interviews are set for March 22 & 23.

**Parent/Teacher Interviews:** Interviews for the school have been set for Wednesday March 22 and Thursday March 23, except for Ms. Douglas' grade 1 class which will take place on Tuesday March 21 and Wednesday March 22.

Kindergarten and Nature Kindergarten will hold Student Led Conferences where 3 families will be in the room at the same time for 20 minutes. Your child will have the opportunity to show you around the room and demonstrate what they have been doing in the class. Each family will also have time to chat privately with the teacher.

All grade 1 to 9 interview slots will last 10 minutes at which time parents can meet privately with the teacher either in person or virtually from the comfort of their home. [Check THIS LINK to the School Appointments scheduler](#) to book your interview appointment with your child's teacher. **To accommodate for the set up of virtual appointments, the booking system will be SHUT DOWN on Tuesday March 21st at 3:00pm, so please be sure to book your appointment before this time.**

**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:** Family life can get busy and sometimes feel a little hectic. Finding opportunities for quiet mindfulness might be few and far between for many. Small changes and tiny habits can often bring bigger moments of calm for all. Here are some of the small daily habits that bring powerful moments of mindfulness into family life: [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](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 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](mailto:muirlakelunches@gmail.com).

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

**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.

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



A special thanks to the Spruce Grove Saints Hockey Club and Thompson Construction Group for this amazing opportunity for our Community to enjoy the experience.

**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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:MuirLake@psd.ca).

Take care and stay warm, have a great weekend.

Muir Lake School Admin Team