



## Mustangs Memo

April 6, 2023

**Spring and Kinder Grad Photos:** Lifetouch Photographers will be here to take individual photos and kindergarten grad photos on Wednesday April 12 & Thursday April 13. Please be ready.

**2023 2024 School Year Registration:** Parkland School Division's annual online registration/verification process opened on Monday February 13th. We respectfully request that if you have not already done so, that ALL parents have this process completed BEFORE March 24th in order to insure that your child(ren) has transportation in place for the 2023 2024 school year.

All Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 registrations for both new and returning students will be conducted online for the 2023-2024 school year.

For existing PSD 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/schools/registration>.

Any New-to-PSD students (eg. kindergarten) are directed to complete the "NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION" which can be found on the PSD website at <https://www.psd.ca/schools/registration>. Kindergarten students will need to be 5 years of age by December 31, 2023 (born in 2018).

Families that physically live in the Muir Lake School boundaries with students that are entering grade 10 are reminded that they're directed to attend Memorial Composite High School in Stony Plain. If you have a child that is currently in grade 9 and he/she will **not** be attending MCHS in the fall, then we ask that you please contact us ASAP with where they will be attending for grade 10 so that we can process their transition to high school accordingly. Students that are looking at attending a school other than their designated school need to ensure that they have permission from the desired school to register there.

Parents are reminded that our grade 9 students will be going online in the coming weeks and selecting their grade 10 courses and students will not be allowed to select their courses for MCHS unless their online registration is done. Parents will need to complete the Parkland School Division 2023-2024 Online Registration

for their son/daughter before the student can make their course selection. Parents can find the RSVP link (Returning Student Verification Process) in their PowerSchool Parent Portal.

At this time of the year we are already planning for next year's staffing and class configurations. If your family is planning to not attend Muir Lake School in the 2023 2024 school year, then we respectfully request that you advise us as soon as possible as this will affect our planning process.

If you have already finalized and submitted your child's registration for next year, then we say a big thank you. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school at 780-963-3535 or by email at [MuirLake@psd.ca](mailto:MuirLake@psd.ca)

**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.

**2023 - 2024 PSD Calendar Approved:** The Parkland School Division has approved the new 2023 2024 School Calendar. It can be found on the PSD website at <https://www.psd.ca/division/calendar#grid> and viewed and downloaded by clicking on [THIS LINK](#).

**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.

**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:** When children have a strong awareness of how they move, and how they feel in their bodies, that's when they are starting to embody physical literacy. They're feeling the mind-body connection. Learn more about mind-body connection here: [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). The next lunch order deadline is **April 25th**, so please be sure to get your order in and paid ONLINE before this date.

**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.

**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.

**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](#).



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

# 2023 PARKLAND COUNTY SUMMER DAY CAMPS

In partnership with CHANGE Health



**REGISTRATION FOR PARKLAND COUNTY RESIDENTS OPENS APRIL 3, 2023.**  
**Registration for non-residents opens April 10, 2023.**

DATE	HALL	ADDRESS
July 3-7	Golden Spike Hall	51302 Rge Rd 275
	Duffield Hall	2 1 St, Duffield
July 10-14	Parkland Village Community Centre	60 Parkland Gate Rd
	Graminia Hall	51101 Rge Rd 270
July 17-21	Wabamun Jubilee Hall	5132 53 Ave, Wabamun
	Holborn Hall	51132 Rge Rd 13
July 24-28	Sandhills Hall	52032, Rge Rd 270
	Fallis Hall	53303 Rge Rd 52
July 31-August 3	Clymont Hall	51423 Hwy 60
July 31-August 4	Westland Park Hall	53304 Rge Rd 32
August 7-10	Muir Lake Hall	53424 Hwy 779
August 7-11	Tomahawk Agra Centre	51122 SH 759

**Cost: \$100.00 | Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**For more info or to register, visit [www.parklandcounty.com/SummerCamps](http://www.parklandcounty.com/SummerCamps)**