



Mustangs Memo

April 14, 2023

Library Books: Just a quick reminder to parents to pay a little extra attention when returning books to the Stony Plain Library that they are not Muir Lake School books. We have been notified that some of our books are being dropped off at the public library. Thank you.

Chicks and Chickens: We are having some chicks and chickens visit our school library starting next week. Students will have the opportunity to watch the hatching process via a livecam and also get to hold the chicks. If your child has allergies and you do not want them handling them, then please be sure to communicate this with your child's homeroom teacher.

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.

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

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.

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](#).



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 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. **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, April 18 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, 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.

STRONGER TOGETHER

Parkland School Division Family Supports Newsletter April 2023

Dear parents and caregivers,
Spring looks as though it has sprung, the snow is melting, and we will soon pack away all the warmer weather clothes, and replace them with shorts, t-shirts and sandals. Yay! This month's Stronger Together Newsletter is about Healthy Family Relationships. There are some great strategies and learning opportunities for our families to explore. April showers bring May flowers, so families try to get outside and enjoy the warmer temperatures. Please feel free to contact Vicky Mamcazasz at 780-668-7422 if you have any questions, concerns, or would like to consult about community supports that are available.

Always find time for the things that make you smile,
Vicky and Jenn



submitted by Joel Pukalo

Whether you are married, separated, or divorced, being on different pages as co-parents is an option no family can afford. In blended situations, there may be four co-parents who are working together to parent. Regardless of who you are co-parenting with, it's important to try to be a team as much as realistically possible. In some situations, this is anything but easy, however, your child is worth it. Whether you are either co-parenting with a spouse/partner or co-parenting amicably with another parent in a separate home, we can assume that your co-parent has the best interest of your child in mind. Although you might not agree with their approach, you can both agree that building a strong relationship with your child and keeping them safe is important.

Finding common ground is key to working together as parents. Wouldn't it be great if you and your co-parent were on the same page about everything? Unfortunately, in real life, every parent has different ideas, opinions, and values based on their own learning and life experience. The good news is that even if you have a different approach, chances are you have some of the same goals. On the surface, you can argue all day about your different beliefs and approaches to parenting. However, by learning to "get below the surface" of your co-parent's approach, you will learn that they have very legitimate underlying reasons that lead them to parent the way they do. For example, perhaps your co-parent rebelled as a teenager and they are terrified of your son or daughter doing the same. As a result, they are more likely to lean towards a child-based approach that favors relationships with the child over structure and discipline.

Instead of judging yourself or your co-parent, seek to understand why they are the way they are. Your judgments keep your co-parent stuck in their ditches. Asking good questions and giving grace helps your co-parent learn and grow. With this in mind, when you come across a situation where the two of you cannot agree, take a moment to press pause and ask your co-parent what is the goal or motivation behind their preferred approach. Since children often want an answer now, parents often find it difficult to be on the same page in the moment. Therefore, the best thing you can do for yourself, your partner, and your family is to communicate to your children that you will not provide an answer to their request until both parents have discussed it together and come to a mutual agreement.

Parenting is not about being perfect. There is no formula. Trying to be the best parent or develop the perfect parent playbook may lead to more frustration if you can't give yourself and your family members grace. The best parenting approach is one that balances moderate expectations with a high level of grace teaching children that growing and learning from mistakes is essential to learn. Your best parent playbook is based on plays within a connection-based approach where both parents are on the same page. The right approach is a team approach where both co-parents feel their unique strengths are honored while communicating instead of overcompensating in areas of challenge.

Learning and growing is part of parenting. Parenting is not about finding the right manual. It's about working together as a team to continually build a playbook that works for your family. Communicating and working together as a team to find ways to get unstuck will help you move forward together.



APRIL 25

Strong Families: Strengthening Family Bonds Through Secure Attachment

Parkland School Division is proud to partner with the Alberta Parenting For The Future Association to present another FREE information session for local families.

In our upcoming session, we will be joined on Zoom by Registered Psychologist, Heidi Edgar for an engaging discussion about the concept of secure attachment and the important role it plays in creating a strong and supportive emotional climate within a family system. Parents/caregivers will get a better understanding of secure attachment and what it involves, while learning concrete skills to build secure connections with their children. We will also explore the role of emotions in parent-child relationships and how to maintain meaningful connections, even in the face of big emotions.

Date: **Tuesday, April 25, 2023**

Time: **6:30-8pm**

Location: **[Online Zoom Webinar / Discussion Group](#)**

Presenters: **Heidi Edgar** (M.Sc., Registered Psychologist, [Edgar Psychological](#))

Please register early to reserve your spot by visiting

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/strong-families-strengthening-family-bonds-through-secure-attachment-registration-61145177727>

For more information, please contact:

Vicky Mamczasz

Family Supports Facilitator

Email: vicky.mamczasz@psd.ca

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		* = Registered/In-person program ** = Registered/Online/Hybrid program * = Online program				Community Craft (while supplies last) Builders Club 2-3pm* Gardening: Seed Saving 1:30-2:30pm*
2		4 Family Storytime 10:30-11am Tech Savvy Seniors 11am-12:30pm & 1-2:30pm Tech Bowl 12-7:30pm Coffee and Cards 1-3pm	5	6 Toddler Time 10:30-11:00am* Tech Bowl 1-5pm	7 GOOD FRIDAY— LIBRARY CLOSED	8 Tech Bowl 1-5pm
9	10	Family Storytime 10:30-11am Tick Tock Time 10:30-11:30am* Tech Savvy Seniors 11am-12:30pm & 1-2:30pm Tech Bowl 12-7:30pm Coffee and Cards 1-3pm Pokémon Club 6:30-7:30pm*	12 Homeschool Meetup 1-3pm Full STEAM Ahead 4-5pm*	13 Toddler Time 10:30-11:00am* Tech Bowl 1-5pm	14 Baby Time 10:30-11:30am* Indigenous Story Telling 10:30-11am Teen Takeover 3-5pm*	15 Tech Bowl 1-5pm Minecraft Mania! 1-3pm**
16	17	8 Family Storytime 10:30-11am Tick Tock Time 10:30-11:30am* Tech Savvy Seniors 11am-12:30pm & 1-2:30pm Tech Bowl 12-7:30pm Coffee and Cards 1-3pm Furry Friend Visit 3:30-4:30pm*	19 DIY Investing 5:30-6:30pm**	20 Toddler Time 10:30-11:00am* Tech Bowl 1-5pm Talking Circle 5:30-8:00pm	21 Baby Time 10:30-11:30am* Teen Takeover 3-5pm*	22 Tech Bowl 1-5pm Earth Day 1-4pm*
23	24	25 Family Storytime 10:30-11am Tick Tock Time 10:30-11:30am* Tech Savvy Seniors 11am-12:30pm & 1-2:30pm Tech Bowl 12-7:30pm Coffee and Cards 1-3pm	26 Homeschool Meetup 1-3pm	27 Toddler Time 10:30-11:00am* Tech Bowl 1-5pm	28 Baby Time 10:30-11:30am* Indigenous Story Telling 10:30-11am Beaded Red Dress Pin Workshop 1-4pm* Teen Takeover 3-5pm* NERF Battle Royale 6:30-7:30pm*	29 Tech Bowl 1-5pm Dungeons & Dragons 1-3pm*
30						

Coffee and Cards **Seniors**

Visit the library to play card games and enjoy a warm beverage. All levels of expertise are welcome. Warm beverages, cards and cribbage board will be provided.

Family Storytime **Ages 2–6**

Travel out of this world and experience this world in new ways with interactive songs and stories that develop school readiness.

Teen Takeover **Ages 12+**

Join us after school for the Teen Takeover. Spend time with friends and enjoy awesome themed activities weekly. From gaming, true crime, anime and food creations.

Fridays 3-5pm.

Gardening: Seed Saving **Ages 18+**

Learn how to save your seeds from year to year! Topics covered will include the easiest seeds to save, when and how to harvest seeds and helpful tips for drying and storing your seeds.

Saturday 1 April 1:30-2:30pm.

Tech Savvy Seniors : Let's Get Digital **Seniors**

This course will help you gain a better understanding of technology: words and terms, how to use various devices, and how technology can help you in your daily life.

In partnership with Tri-Community Adult Learning and Literacy

Earth Day **All Ages**

Enjoy our Earth Day activities including a plant exchange, movie showing (WALL-E) with snacks and a fun earth-related craft.

Saturday 22 April 1-4pm.

Homeschool Meetup **School Age/All Ages**

Make connections with other Homeschool families for resources, support, educational games, and of course, space to study.

Indigenous Story Telling **Ages 2– 6**

Story telling is an important way to learn about and from Indigenous communities. Join Knowledge Keeper Barbara for a fun interactive story telling with songs and puppets.

Alternate Fridays.

Dungeons & Dragon Club **Ages 13+**

Calling all adventurers! Come to the library and join a quest as we play our way through the world of Dungeons & Dragons.

Monthly last Saturday of the month.

Kids Pokémon Club **Ages 7–12**

Visit this facilitated, safe, and inclusive space that is about all things Pokémon!

Monthly, 2nd Tuesday of the month.

NERF Battle Royale **Ages 8+**

Come with your friends and dodge bookshelves in the ultimate Nerf experience! Find out what happens at the library after hours...

Monthly last Friday of the month.

Builders Club **Ages 7-12**

Unleash your creativity in this hour long in-person program. Unleash your creativity with Lego Bricks, K'Nex, cardboard and other building materials. Each month there will be a new challenge along with plenty of time for free play. Monthly 1st Saturday of the month.

Program **age recommendations** are simply a guideline for content.

SGPL welcomes all community members to participate in our events, regardless of age or ability!

Walk-ins are welcome if space allows for registered programs (i.e. no-shows).

Reminder: Children ages 11 and younger must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver in the library.

Tech Bowl **All Ages**

Splash into our Tech Bowl this season!

Explore and play with some of your favourite tech such as OSMO, OZOBOTS, iPads, video game consoles and classics such as our retro tech.

New Hours:

Tues 12-7:30pm;

Thurs 1-5pm;

Sat 1-5pm

(hours may be subject to change)

Community Craft **All Ages**

New month new craft. Come and pick up your Take & Make kit* at the library front desk. This month we will be offering take home crafts to make a no sew sock bunnies.

**While supplies last*

Talking Circles **All Ages**

Join our Talking Circle as we share various gifts, wisdom, stories and teachings from our local Indigenous community and neighbours.

Participants can expect to establish a sense of community in a safe, sacred space while gaining a mutual understanding of one another regardless of their various backgrounds.

This program will be held at the Spruce Grove Public Library and light refreshments will be provided.

This program is presented in partnership with the *Spruce Grove FCSS*.

Beading Workshop: Red Dress Pin **Ages 13+**

Learn the basics of beading to honour the memories of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirited people across Canada.

Friday April 28 from 1-4pm.

Furry Friend Visit **All Ages**

Spend time with a pet therapy dog—read and learn together, or just spend some time relaxing with a new friend. Monthly, third Tuesday of the month January 17 - May 16.

Behind the Stacks Podcast **Ages 18+**

Listen to our podcast and learn about the library world, books, our community and so much more.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Virtual Author Workshop 4-5pm*	2 Family Storytime 10:30-11am Tick Tock Time 10:30-11:30am* Tech Savvy Seniors: 2 sessions Tech Bowl 12-7:30pm Coffee and Cards 1-3pm	3	4 Tech Bowl 1-5pm	5 Teen Takeover 3-5pm*	6 COMIC CON 2023 Builders Club 2-3pm*
7	8	9 Family Storytime 10:30-11am Tick Tock Time 10:30-11:30am* Tech Savvy Seniors: 2 sessions Tech Bowl 12-7:30pm Coffee and Cards 1-3pm Pokémon Club 6:30-7:30pm*	10 Homeschool Meetup 1-3pm	11 Sensory Play Hour 10:30-11:30am* Tech Bowl 1-5pm Talking Circle 5:30-8:00pm	12 Teen Takeover 3-5pm*	13 Tech Bowl 1-5pm RPG My Little Pony 1-3pm*
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21	22 VICTORIA DAY	23 Family Storytime 10:30-11am Tick Tock Time 10:30-11:30am* Tech Savvy Seniors: 2 sessions Tech Bowl 12-7:30pm Coffee and Cards 1-3pm	24 Homeschool Meetup 1-3pm	25 Tech Bowl 1-5pm	26 Teen Takeover 3-5pm* NERF Battle Royale 6:30-7:30pm*	27 Tech Bowl 1-5pm Dungeons & Dragons 1-3pm*
28	29	30 Family Storytime 10:30-11am Tick Tock Time 10:30-11:30am* Tech Savvy Seniors: 2 sessions Tech Bowl 12-7:30pm Coffee and Cards 1-3pm	31	 <p>Comic Con Join us on May 6, 2023 to celebrate Free Comic Book Day</p>		* = Registered/ In-person program ** = Registered/ Online/Hybrid program * = Online program

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Tuesdays 10:30-11am.

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Fridays 3-5pm.

Tech Savvy Seniors : Let's Get Digital **Seniors**

This course will help you gain a better understanding of technology: words and terms, how to use various devices, and how technology can help you in your daily life.

In partnership with Tri-Community Adult Learning and Literacy

Teen Author Workshop **Ages 13-17**

Join us for this special author workshop to celebrate Canadian Children's Book Week. Learn about character building in this free virtual workshop with authors Sarena and Sasha Nanua.

Monday 1 May 4-5pm.

Homeschool Meetup **School Age/All Ages**

Make connections with other Homeschool families for resources, support, educational games, and of course, space to study.

Comic Con/Anime Matsuri **All Ages**

Join us on Saturday May 6 for Comic Con 2023 here at the Spruce Grove Public Library 10am-3pm, followed by Anime Matsuri 3-5pm.

All ages and fandoms are welcome. See sgpl.ca for more info and the full schedule of events and activities.

Dungeons & Dragon Club **Ages 13+**

Calling all adventurers! Come to the library and join a quest as we play our way through the world of Dungeons & Dragons.

Monthly last Saturday of the month.

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Monday
May 1
4-5pm
via Zoom

13-17 years



Author Workshop with Sarena & Sasha Nanua

Learn about
character building in
this free workshop

Canadian
Children's
Book Week