



Mustangs Memo October 5, 2023



Here is our **October** Calendar. You can also read what we have planned for October on our school website at <https://muirlake.psd.ca> and we encourage you to keep up to date of what is going on by visiting our [school calendar](#) on the [website](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Cross-Country Run #4 (Woodhaven/Brookwood) World Teachers' Day	6 Staff Planning & Development Day	7
8	9 Thanksgiving Day	10 School Pictures Board of Trustees Regular Meeting 9:00 am	11 School Pictures	12 Cross-Country Run #5 (Meridian)	13	14
15	16 School Bus Safety Week	17 School Bus Safety Week	18 School Bus Safety Week	19 Grade 6 Immunizations Cross-Country Run #6 (High Park) School Bus Safety Week	20 School Bus Safety Week	21
22	23	24	25 Parent Teacher Conference	26 Parent Teacher Conference 12:00 am	27	28
29	30	31				

General Information

Parking at School Safely: 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 **NORTH** and **SOUTH** end of the parking lot so that they can use the crosswalk which is monitored by the staff. 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.

Visitors to the school are also reminded to respect the blue disabled parking spots that are in both the school and the MLCL Hall parking lots.

Visiting the School: Last year we had new security doors installed in the front entrance. This allows us to leave our front door unlocked. If you are at the school for any reason, please check in at the office.

Morning Supervision: Staff will begin supervision at 7:45am so we respectfully request that you do not drop your children off until after this time. Students will remain outside until the bell rings at 8:00am, then at this time they will make their way to the classroom through their designated doors. If they arrive ANY time after 8:10am they are required to go to the office through the front door to obtain a late slip.

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.

School Fees: Statements for the 2023 2024 school year fees will be going out via email **soon**, if you do 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). 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.



Book Fair: Due to a conflict in scheduling we are postponing our book fair till December. We will let you know dates when they are finalized!

Library News: It is crucial to clear any outstanding library accounts from last year, this will ensure that every student has the opportunity to sign out new resources. I kindly ask for your assistance in checking for any overdue materials that may still be at home and return them to the library as soon as possible.

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](#).

Attendance Matters!!



In PSD, we help support families who need help getting their child(ren) to school. We know there are many factors that affect attendance:

- Parents' work schedule
- Transportation
- Family events
- Appointments

Often families don't realize how much school their child is missing and the impact that has on everyone. They are more behind than you think.

1 DAY MISSED = 2 DAYS BEHIND



19 or more days

Missing just **TWO** days every month can add up to **19** days in a school year. This is the equivalent of missing an **ENTIRE MONTH** of instructional days.



10 to 18 days

Students who are absent an average of 15 days per year miss **1 YEAR'S WORTH** of school by their graduating year.



9 or fewer absences

Students with good attendance generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more.

Bus evacuation Practice Drill

October 18, 2023 will be our first bus evacuation practice!

School bus operators review evacuation procedures with their riders every year to ensure that everyone knows what to do in the event of an emergency. In typical school years, this involves holding a full evacuation drill once every fall and spring where students physically rehearse all steps involved, exiting the bus in an orderly fashion via the emergency exit(s).

Contest

A poster for the STAA Safety Poster Contest. The top left features the STAA logo. The main title is 'THE BUS RULES' in large, bold, blue letters. Below it is a photograph of a school bus on a road. At the bottom, it says 'SAFETY POSTER CONTEST' and provides details about the contest dates (October 15-25, 2023), grades (K-6), and prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each grade. It also includes submission instructions and contact information for STAA.

STAA

THE BUS RULES

SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

October 15-25, 2023
Grades K-6

Each poster must include the theme in order to be eligible.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each grade will win: \$50 gift card, \$150 for their class and their poster framed.

Submit to:
STAA
Box 234
Andrew, AL
35610

News

Cross-Country Running: Please see the information package shown below. Parents are responsible for transportation to and from the races. To register for any of the races, you will need to log in to your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and click on the “Fees” tab on the left hand side. There will be a Cross Country button at the bottom of your screen.

When and Where?

October 12: Meridian Heights **October 19:** High Park

When Exactly? Races begin at 4:15 pm, starting with the youngest runners. Please arrive by 4:00 pm.

Parents of students in grades K4

are required to accompany their child to their running location and they must stay and supervise their child in that location. This year, the cross-country coaches are Mr. Shaw and Mrs. Rich. Please find one of them as soon as you arrive at the race location. Your coaches will make sure you are signed in and have the correct name and race category label. Parents, you are welcome to leave after your child’s race, or feel free to stay and cheer on the other Muir Lakers.

All registered Muir Lake Cross Country athletes need to attend all practices.

Who? Any child from Grade K9.

Parents are responsible for all transportation.

What? Runners compete against children of the same gender and year of birth (e.g. girls, 2010). The races are through trails or an established route through a schoolyard. It is considered to be an accomplishment just to finish the race; some medals and ribbons are given out to the fastest runners. Born 2016-2018 runners run 800 m, born 2012-2015 runners run 1000 m
Born 2011 and older runners run 2000 m.

Cost? \$5.00 for each race registered. Fees cover costs of medals, ribbons etc.

Lost and Found

Our lost and found is starting to fill up. Please remember to **label** your children’s belongings and remind them to check it for missing items.



If you see something of your child’s please tell them to get it on Monday!

Let’s clean this pile up! We also have some prescription glasses and ear buds in the office that were turned in!

Terry Fox Fundraiser News!!



We are proud to announce that as a school we raised \$3230.46 for the Terry Fox Foundation! Great job Muir Lake!

Spirit Wear Fall Fundraiser 2023

MUIR LAKE
MUSTANGS

Deadline is October 31!

Our Spirit Wear Fall Fundraiser is back on now! Funds raised will go towards supporting our new playground! These also make great Christmas gifts! Click here to place your order!

[Order Now!](#)

Spruce Grove Saints Draw!!



The Spruce Grove Saints have given us tickets to this season's games! If you would like to enter for your chance to win 4 tickets to this coming weeks games click below!

[Click here!](#)

Picture Day



Picture Day is October 10th and 11th

Foundation – Playground News

We have exciting news!!!!

Our large playground has provided endless hours of fun and enjoyment for our school and community with many pieces now in need of replacement. Muir Lake School Foundation is working hard on a plan to build a new fantastic and inclusive playground! An early stage look at our replacement can be viewed below; please recognize that we are just getting started and exact equipment pieces will likely change prior to construction.

We have started the process and are planning to be under construction by summer 2024 intending to be open by back to school September 2024!

Our initial steps have been completed and we are underway!

This project is slated to require over \$250,000 to be secured in a combination of government grant funding, Muir Lake School Foundation fundraising, and community donations. We have recently submitted documents requesting federal grant funding and should be hearing back early this fall about our first application.

We are grateful for Parkland County's initial contribution to help us kick off our project. Thank you to Councillor Phyllis Kobasiuk for advocating for our much needed project - we appreciate yours and Mayor Gamble's funding presentation at our recent board meeting.

We are excited to get this project going and will be reaching out to keep you updated and to ask for help in the coming months. As our first request, we are looking for personal and corporate sponsors so please email us if you or a company you know may be interested in discussing this opportunity. Tax receipts will be available for any monetary donations.

Any questions that you may have can be directed to our email at: mjlsplaygroundproject@gmail.com



We are also looking for corporate sponsors to help us in building our exciting new playground!

Spread the word!

Any questions can be made to

mjlsplaygroundproject@gmail.com

Athletics



Muir Lake Mustangs: We would like to extend an offer to our community for the opportunity to coach our amazing Junior Girls Volleyball team as well as our Junior Girls Basketball team. If you are interested taking this opportunity, please contact the school as soon as possible.

Food Programs

Food for Thought: We all know that children learn better on a full tummy. We have a cooler inside our office that will be stocked with healthy snacks and food for the students. They will be able to access it at any time during the day and out of consideration to everyone's privacy, staff will not be monitoring who uses it.

***In keeping with Parkland School Division's commitment to student success and well-being, we are once again working to promote healthy eating and create a positive food environment for all students.*

*We would like to acknowledge the President's Choice Children's Charity Power Full Kids program in providing support for food security at Muir Lake for the 2023 - 2024 school year.***

Breakfast Club – We have started our Breakfast Club for the year and it is busy! Breakfast club is for everyone! We know that mornings can be busy. Every morning starting at 7:45 till 8:10 our kitchen is serving up toast and other healthy options. We are always looking for more volunteers to help the program run smoothly. Reach out if you are available during these times to help out at christine.ellert@psd.ca.

Lunch Program is Back!! Bite to Eat is excited to begin another year of hot lunch service to Muir Lake students. Deliveries will again be on Mondays & Thursdays.

[Order Here](#)

<u>HOT LUNCH MONTH</u>	<u>PAYMENT DUE DATE</u>
November 2023	October 25, 2023
December 2023	November 24, 2023
January 2024	January 4, 2024
February 2024	January 24, 2024
March 2024	February 23, 2024
April 2024	March 27, 2024
May 2024	April 24, 2024
June 2024	May 29, 2024

Volunteers Needed

We have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities this year!!

School Council – We want to hear your voice!

All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend our next **Hybrid** School Council meeting on Tuesday, **October 24 at 7 pm**. You can attend in person in the school library or attend through Google Meet by clicking [HERE](#). We hope to see you there! Meetings will be held on the third teaching Tuesday of the month except for December and June. Next Meeting is October 24, 2023 7:00 pm.

Click the link to RSVP - [RSVP](#)

A school council is made up of partnership between parents from the school community, the school administration, as well as teachers from the school. On occasion it can also include students from the school. To become involved in school council, all you need to do is come to the council meetings. The School Council is an active member of the Alberta School Council Association. Through this membership, our school council ensures that the voice of our school community is heard on a provincial level.

Parent Foundation - The MLCSF has raised money via 50/50 raffles, quad raffle, silent auctions and dances, casinos, spell-a-thons and cookbook sales, along with many small and substantial donations. With the help of matching government grants and continuing dedication of our volunteers and corporate donations from Prairie North Construction and Myshak Sales and Rentals, among many others, we have been able to improve our school grounds with a dynamic \$125,000 playground area, and a quarter-of-a-million-dollar rubberized running track and soccer pitch.

We believe that physical activity and active families are vital to the well-being of our community. The students of the school, area residents and visitors already enjoy our facility, and we know that the playground, track and soccer field will only enhance our school and community for years to come. We are hoping that with your help we can continue with the next phase of this project and bring the dream to fruition. The MLCSF is made up of various volunteers and executive officers. These positions include Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, and Directors. The committee gets together once every couple of months or so, depending on the need at that time.

If you or someone that you know is interested in helping out with the Foundation, or if you have any questions, please contact the Foundation at muirlakefoundation@gmail.com.

Community News

Alberta Parenting for the Future October Calendar: Here is a link to the October Calendar of Events offered by Alberta Parenting for the Future.

<http://albertaparenting.ca/events/>

October Stronger Together Newsletter: Each month, Parkland School Division's Student Services team compiles a newsletter for parents and guardians of students. Inside you will find information, opportunities and strategies to help you and your family connect with us on your child's educational journey. Each month we will provide you with information about mental health and ways we can work together to support your family.

[Stronger Together Newsletter](#)

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.

Muir Lake School Admin Team