



**Muir Lake School**

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Website: <https://muirlake.psd.ca>

## Mustangs Memo October 20, 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)	6	7
8	9 Thanksgiving Day	10 School Pictures	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	20 School Bus Safety Week	21
22	23	24 <b>Parent Council</b> 7:00-8:30 pm	25 Parent Teacher Conference	26 Parent Teacher Conference	27	28
29	30	31 <b>Halloween Hot Dog Lunch.</b> <b>Halloween Dance!</b>				

# 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](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.

**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:** November 29<sup>th</sup> – December 8<sup>th</sup>!!

**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](#).

# Parent Teacher Conference October 25-26

[Book now!!](#)

## Halloween Hot Dog Lunch! October 31<sup>st</sup>!



**Donations for (hot) Dogs!** School Foundation is providing all Muir Lake students with a hot dog lunch on Halloween. Instead of charging for the lunch, School Foundation will be accepting donations for our new playground. You can send your donation with your child and it will be collected in the classroom.

Lunch will consist of a hot dog, chips and a juice box. Please send a morning snack.



## Halloween Dance Grades 7,8,9 12:35-2:35

All of our staff and students are invited to dress for Halloween in the afternoon of Tuesday, October 31st. Our kindergarten to grade 6 students will enjoy classroom festivities and our grade 7 to 9 students will enjoy a Halloween Dance in the afternoon where a concession will be available to them and it will consist of chips, pop, & chocolate bars...

Guidelines for Halloween Costumes:

- Costumes must still follow the rules of the dress code implemented in our school.
- No weapons (fake or real) are to be brought to school. This includes, but is not limited to, plastic swords, fake guns, or any type of cane or stick.
- Students are to be respectful of others in the community. Please ensure that we are considerate of other cultures and religions when choosing our costumes.
- No costumes are to be worn until **after** lunch recess. Students will be able to change into their costumes at lunch time for the afternoon activities.



**Remembrance Day Tributes:** Muir Lake School will be holding our annual Remembrance Day Service on Thursday November 10th at 10:30 am and families are invited to participate. Many of us have had friends or relatives who served their country in wartime. We would like to pay tribute to these people by having your child(ren) pin a poppy on our cross during our Remembrance Day Service. Please fill out the form [LINKED HERE](#) to have one of your loved ones honored at our Service. We respectfully request that you please have this done by Friday November 3rd so that we may prepare ahead of time.

## Attendance Matters!!



**PARKLAND**  
SCHOOL DIVISION

# 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.

## Colder Weather

Dress for the weather! The weather is turning colder, especially the mornings. Please remind your children to dress warmly. Please label every item as our lost and found is already full! If an item is labelled it can be returned to your child right away!

## School Council Meeting

RSVP [click here!](#)

School Council is **October 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM– 8:30 PM**. Come meet with us in person for coffee, snacks and discussion in the school library. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and discuss what is going on in the school. Or join via Google Meet by clicking [HERE!](#)

## 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!**

# Items allowed on the bus

## CARRY-ON ITEMS

Carry-on items are permitted on school buses; however, space is at a premium and safety is top priority. The **maximum allowable dimensions for approved carry-on items is 33 x 33 x 59 centimetres (13x13x23 inches)** and items must be able to fit on the lap of the student. All loose items must be in a sealed bag/case. Items blocking aisles or emergency exits on a school bus are in violation of Alberta Transportation regulations and are not permitted.



Larger items that cannot be adequately secured and stored are considered to be hazardous, as they could seriously harm someone in the event of sudden acceleration or a collision.

According to Alberta Transportation and the National Safety Code Standard 10, large unsecured items are not permitted and must be transported in a separate vehicle.

Yes!

### Carry-on items that are allowed on the bus

- Skates (skate guards on, inside a sealed bag which meets the above allowable dimensions)
- Small musical instrument (meets allowable dimensions—flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet)
- A certified and registered guide animal

No!

### Carry-on items that are not allowed on the bus

- Hockey or ringette sticks, golf clubs, snowboards, toboggans, scooters, longboard skateboards, or any other large item that may interfere with the safety and comfort of any student on the school bus
- Large musical instrument (tuba, tenor saxophone, guitar, drums, French horn or trombone)
- Any kind of animals other than a certified and registered guide animal

Does your child play on one of our Mustang Athletics Teams?

For Mustang Athletics and player information click [HERE!](#)

## 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!](#)

# 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: [mlsplaygroundproject@gmail.com](mailto:mlsplaygroundproject@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

[mlsplaygroundproject@gmail.com](mailto:mlsplaygroundproject@gmail.com)



# 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](mailto: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](#)

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

# 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](mailto: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/>

**November 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](#)

[Active for Life.com](#)

[Halloween Activities](#)

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).

Muir Lake School Admin Team