



# Mustang Memo



January 12, 2024

## Today's Top Stories



**Winter is here!** With the cold temperatures finally here please make sure your child is dressed for the weather and please label all belongings!



**Playground!!** – Muir Lake School Foundation is excited to be planning for our brand new playground! We have recently received a grant for **\$125,000** and will be matching those funds to ensure we have a beautiful new space for kids to enjoy. We have created a funds tracker so we can keep our students, staff and family updated. Stay tuned for more details to come and to hear about the ways you can help with this project



[Click here  
January Calendar](#)

## JANUARY 2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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28	29	30	31			

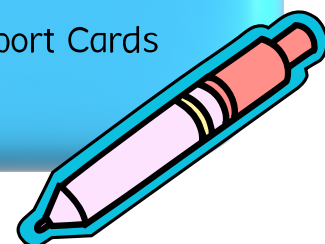
### Important dates

**Ski Club** Starts and runs Mondays

**January 17th** – Cultural Event in afternoon – Magician

**January 23rd** 7:00 School Council Meeting

**January 30th** – Report Cards





**Label, Label, Label!! Please label all of your children's belongings, even the gloves and hats!**

**This way the items can be returned to them instead of ending up in our lost and found!**

*welcome!*

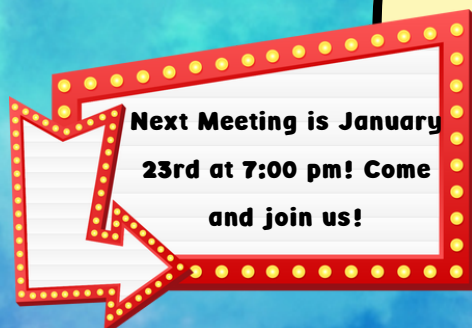


**WE WELCOME TORI PUDE AS OUR NEW SCHOOL COUNCIL CHAIR!**

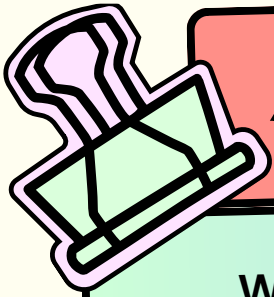
**Hello! My name is Tori, and I am your new School Council Chair. I currently have a child in grade 2, and next year will also have a child in Kindergarten. I have been attending school council meetings since we started at Muir Lake in 2021/2022 under the leadership of Amber, who I would like to thank for serving on council for many years! I look forward to meeting more Muir Lake parents at upcoming council meetings.**

**Please reach out if you have any ideas, questions, or concerns at the School Council Chair email address.**

**[muirlake.scchair@partner.psd.ca](mailto:muirlake.scchair@partner.psd.ca)**



**Next Meeting is January 23rd at 7:00 pm! Come and join us!**



# SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

We now have our very own student Newspaper *The Mustang News*. Click the link below!!

[The Mustang News](#)



## 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.



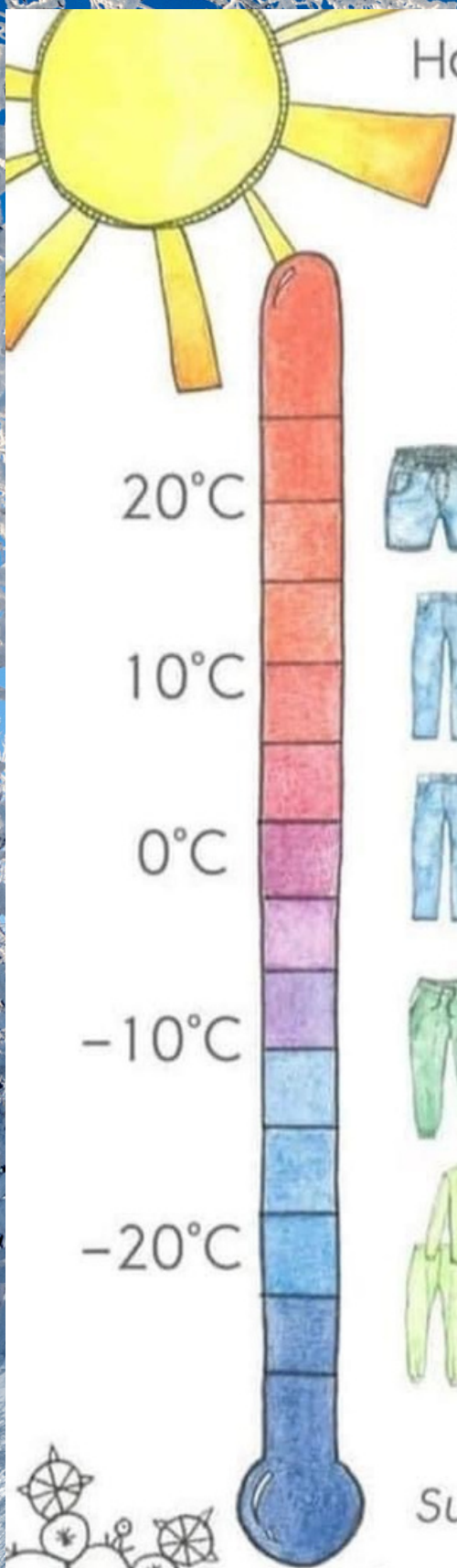
The Spruce Grove Saints have given us tickets to this season's games! If you would like to enter for your chance to win 4 tickets to this coming weeks games click below!

**THE SPRUCE GROVE SAINTS HAVE GIVEN US TICKETS TO THIS SEASON'S HOME GAMES!! ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN 4 TICKETS TO SOME OF THE UPCOMING GAMES!**

**CLICK HERE!**

# How to Dress for the Weather Guide

Outdoor play is a great way to support healthy growth and development. Opening the doors to outdoor play in all kinds of weather provides children and adults with opportunities to spark their curiosity, leading to wonder, exploration and learning. When children have the right clothing for the season it contributes to them having positive, rich outdoor play experiences that just can't happen indoors. Get outside, be curious, let children lead and have fun!



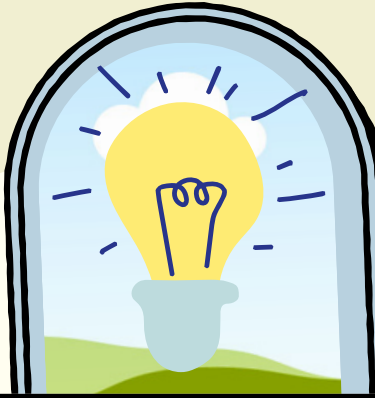
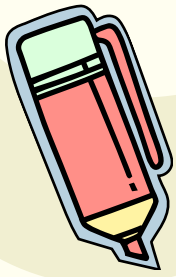
Supporting Outdoor Play Year Round



[www.getoutsideandplay.ca](http://www.getoutsideandplay.ca)



[www.befitforlife.ca](http://www.befitforlife.ca)



## 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. Please do not use the staff parking lot for drop off, the parking lot can get VERY busy, so we appreciate your patience as our top priority is to keep all of our students and staff safe.

**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 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.

**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.

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## **Division News**

**Be Prepared... winter has finally arrived** – Click the link to read the full article. Dress appropriately for the weather and be reminded that in extreme weather school buses may be delayed or cancelled.

### **Registration for 2024–2025 opens February 12**

Parkland School Division's annual online registration/verification process opens Monday, February 12, 2024. All Pre–Kindergarten to Grade 12 registrations for both new and returning students will be conducted online for the 2024–2025 school year. Click the link above for more information

**Strong Families: January 20** – Information Session – Hello to Meal Prep, Stronger Families Style. Click the link above for more information.



# 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.**

## HOT LUNCH MONTH

### PAYMENT DUE DATE

December 2023 – November 24, 2023

January 2024 – January 4, 2024

February 2024 – January 24, 2024

March 2023 – February 23, 2024

April 2024 – March 27, 2024

May 2024 – April 24, 2024

June 2024 – May 29, 2024