



Muir Lake School
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To: Muir Lake Parents/Guardians
Fr: Murray Marran and Heather Brownlee
Re: Friday Memo for October 2nd, 2020

Good Afternoon Muir Lake Families:

Welcome to October! As I look out my office window, typing this communication I am enjoying looking at the fall colours and feel lucky that we have had such amazing weather. Certainly, this is a memorable Fall!

Please take a few moments to read our Friday newsletter as there are some updates and additional information regarding programming, COVID protocols, and other informational items.

1. Mask Policy: Repeated Information

1. For Parkland School Division’s mask policy, please click [THIS](#) link.
2. If coming on to PSD School Property, all adults **MUST** wear a mask.

2. Illness and COVID testing, mandatory isolation from school and school return: Repeated Information

Important: If your child is ill, please keep her/him at home

Please carefully review the following:

1. Symptoms are divided into two categories: **A** and **B**

Symptoms A:

- Fever
- Cough
- Severe shortness of breath or severe difficulty breathing
- Runny nose
- Sore throat

If your child displays these symptoms at home or at school, we ask the student either stay at home or be picked up at school in a timely manner. Please complete the online [COVID questionnaire](#). The link for the questionnaire is [HERE](#) and can also be found on the [PSD Website](#).

Legally, the student cannot return to school unless there is a negative COVID test or they have self- isolated from the school environment for at LEAST 10 school days and no longer display List A symptoms. Once your child has received a NEGATIVE Covid test and they are well

enough to return to school they are welcome to do so but Families will be asked to sign a [DECLARATION](#) attesting to the above which is [LINKED HERE](#).

Symptoms B:

- Chills
- Painful swallowing
- Stuffy nose
- Headache
- Muscle or joint pain
- Feeling unwell, fatigue or severe exhaustion
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or unexplained loss of appetite)
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Conjunctivitis, commonly known as pink eye

Students displaying these symptoms are to remain at home until the symptoms are no longer present, and then they can return to school. A declaration need not be signed upon return to school.

2. [Pre-existing medical conditions](#): The front-office staff sent home a [google form](#) asking you to identify if your child(ren) ha(s)(ve) pre-existing medical conditions that may have symptoms that are similar to symptoms of COVID. If your child displays List A symptoms or List B symptoms, the school will contact you. At this point, you will inform the school if your child's displayed symptoms are congruent with a pre-existing medical condition or if they are atypical for your child. We also ask that you fill out the Pre-Existing Declaration which is [LINKED HERE](#).

If your child will be absent from school we ask that you please either e-mail us at MuirLake@psd70.ab.ca or call our student absent line at 780-963-3535. Please explain in full detail as to why your child will be absent from school as we are required to track this information. If your child is sick please speak directly to our office staff so that we can determine whether or not it is due to Covid-19 related symptoms.

PLEASE NOTE: You must provide evidence/proof of a pre-existing medical condition. This can be: a doctor's note or a copy of a prescription. If you have questions surrounding this, please feel free to contact the office and we will provide you with additional information and/or support.

3. Student Drop-off and Pick Up: Updated Information

1. **Parents, we ask you to park in the Community Hall Parking Lot.**
2. If driving your child(ren) to school, please drop them off at the crosswalk at the **south end** of the school
3. If you are late and dropping your child(ren) off, please drop them off at the **north end** of the school by the main office doors

4. Dropping Off Student Items Including Lunches: New Information

This is a reminder that if your child forgets her/his backpack, lunch, etc., that parents are **NOT** to drop off these items during the day. We have lunches available at the school in case a student does not have a lunch. Further, there are extra supplies available to students should they have forgotten their bag at home. We do this as per guidelines set out for schools by Parkland School Division and Alberta Health Services.



5. Program Choices and Class Changes: Updated Information

Parents who have chosen virtual schooling and are wanting their child(ren) to return to in-class learning, the re-entry date for these students is November 16th, 2020. Please look for a survey in the next few weeks that will be sent by Parkland School Division that asks your intention as a family. It is important to inform the school if your child is returning to in-person classes.

Also please note that when students return to school they will be placed in the cohort that has available space. We will not be able to accommodate cohort change requests.

6. Parent Teacher Interviews: Updated Information

Muir Lake School will be hosting virtual parent-teacher conferences for parents with students in grades 1 to 9 as well as our Nature Kindergarten students on **Wednesday, Oct 7th and on Thursday, Oct 8th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

If interested in attending, please sign up for a Virtual interview time by following [THIS link](#). Once you have picked a spot, your child's teacher will send a link to the video conference. The links will be sent 24 hours prior to your requested interview time. Also, the link to sign up for virtual conferences will be closed Monday, October 5th at 6:00 p.m. After that time, the link will not be active.

Our kindergarten parent/teacher interviews will take place in November, parents are welcome to sign up by clicking on [THIS LINK](#).

For information on how to log in to School Appointments or how to create your log in account please [click HERE](#).

7. Halloween Celebrations at Muir Lake: Repeated Information

1. Students can wear their costumes to school. This ensures that teachers are not helping students get costumes on, etc. This is specifically being done to minimize unnecessary contact.
2. Masks are encouraged.
3. There will be no school-wide "Halloween Parade". Cohort celebrations (including classroom parades) will take place in individual classrooms.
4. No **shared** outside food, candy, or snacks will be permitted. Parents please do not send any food items to be shared.
5. Toys, novelty items, or other non-food items cannot be sent as teachers will not have the time to sanitize all of these items.
6. There will be no junior high dance.
7. All festivities will start in the afternoon after lunch is eaten.
8. Junior High students will have regular classes for the entire day.
9. Cohorts will not be mixing



8. News from the Westview Public Health: Updated Information

Alberta Health Services will be updating immunizations throughout the school year.

This will include last year's grade 6 students (now grade 7), for whom we were unable to complete the immunization series due to school closures. These students turned in consent forms last year, so AHS will not be requiring new consent forms.

We will also continue with the programs for the current grade 6 and 9 students. Grade 6 will be immunized on December 09, 2020. Please put this in your calendars if you have a child in grade 6. Consent forms and information packages will be sent home shortly.

Grade 9 students will be vaccinated on the same day, December 09, 2020. Consent and information packages will be coming home shortly.

Each class will receive a 20 minute presentation on the vaccinations and it will be an opportunity for the students to ask questions regarding vaccinations.

Finally, as time allows, AHS will try to catch up any students in other grades who missed immunizations somewhere along the way. Most likely, parents will have to phone AHS and make an appointment at a local clinic in order to get the vaccination.

Please note immunization consents provided last year remain valid until immunizations are completed.

If your child has anxiety regarding vaccinations, parents will not be able to sit with their child during vaccinations. You will have to contact your local health unit and make an appointment in their clinic for the missed vaccination.

For tips on preparing your child for immunizations, please refer to <https://www.immunize.ca/pain-management-kids-and-adolescents>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the **Westview Public Health School Team at (780)968-3700 and press 3.**

9. Cohorts, Recesses and Sports Teams: New Information

We have been in many meetings and discussing sport teams, combining cohorts at recess, and how we can provide more socialization opportunities for students.

Currently, we are waiting for WCJHAA (our athletic association) to give a ruling on sports teams and how this relates to cohorting. From there, the Division will create protocols and guidelines for the re-introduction of sports into the school and more specifically, how to combine cohorts.

Coupled with this, Muir Lake School is going to look at these rules for introducing new cohorts and combining cohorts and applying these rules to recess. We know that socialization is a huge element of school life and we understand that students need opportunities, if possible, to safely socialize outside their classroom cohort.



One of our biggest challenges right now is limitation of 50 people (students) in a cohort. Coupled with this, how we manage mandatory masks when cohorts mix.

As our plan is developing, we will have a school wide plan ready for implementation. It is our goal to have a DEFINITIVE plan for parents by our next intake of virtual students on November 16th, 2020.

While you may think this seems to be taking a long time to formulate a plan, please know that our PRIMARY concern is your child's safety and health. We are actively working on this and will not create a haphazard plan.

10. School Council: Updated Information

Our next School Council meeting will be held on October 20th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. We will hold the election for President and Vice-President. If you plan on attending the meeting please RSVP your attendance by filling out [THIS form](#).

Please consider becoming a member of this important advisory committee that helps shape and guide the vision and mission of the school.

Our next meeting will be a virtual meeting and links to the meeting will be emailed to you the day of the meeting.

11. Lifetouch School Photos: Repeated Information

School photos will be taken at Muir Lake School on Wednesday October 14th and Thursday October 15th. We will get through the Monday/Wednesday kindergarten and as many other classes as possible on Wednesday and then the Tuesday/Thursday kindergarten class and the remainder of the students on Thursday. So please be prepared on Thursday if you did not get photographed on Wednesday. Retakes are scheduled for Tuesday November 17th.

12. School Foundation: New Information

Everyone is invited to attend Foundation meetings, the fundraising society that works to support many worthwhile causes at Muir Lake. We strongly encourage parents to be part of Foundation as one can make meaningful and long lasting contributions to the school. If you plan on attending the next meeting please RSVP your attendance by filling out [THIS form](#).

Our next meeting will be held October 20th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for this virtual meeting.

13. School Bus Stopping on Highways: Repeated Information

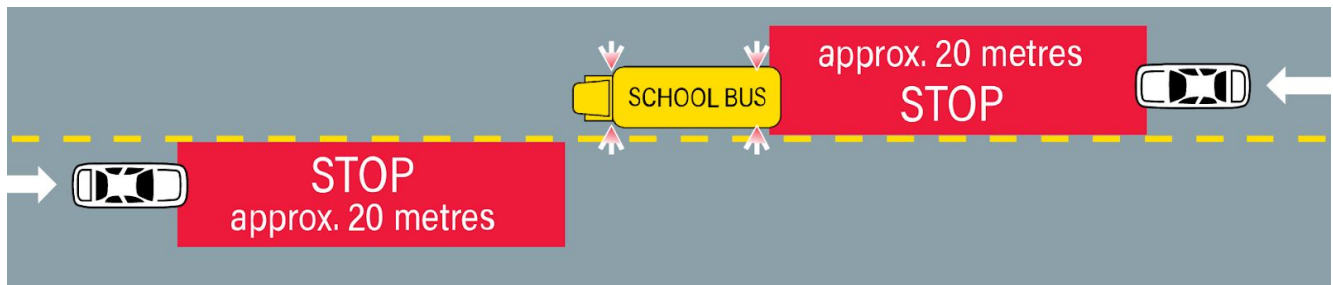
When school bus lights are flashing on an undivided highway (not divided by a median), do the following:

- When you approach a school bus from either direction (from the front or the rear), and it has the alternating amber lights flashing, you must be ready to stop. This is a warning that the



alternating red lights are going to begin flashing and the school bus is stopping to allow students to get on or off.

- If you pass a school bus that has its alternating amber lights flashing, pass with caution.
- When the school bus stops to let students on or off, its alternating red lights will begin flashing. You will also see a stop sign extended from the left side of the school bus. **You must come to a full stop about 20 metres (about 4 to 5 car lengths) away from the school bus.** This distance allows drivers of other vehicles behind you to see the flashing lights and students crossing the highway.
- You must remain stopped until the alternating flashing red lights are turned off and the stop sign on the driver's side is no longer extended.



These rules apply whenever and wherever the school bus lights are activated. Some municipalities have rules for school bus operation specific to their region. For more information regarding traffic rules and buses, please visit the [Government of Alberta website at this LINK](#).



Mrs. Brownlee and I would like to wish you a great weekend. Get out, enjoy the weather and hope rest and relaxation will ensue. If you have any questions regarding the information in this communication, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school.

There will be NO Friday memo on Friday, October 09th, 2020 as this is a PD day. The school will not be publishing memos on weeks where there is no school on Fridays. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a fantastic Thanksgiving.

Be kind and be safe.

