



Muir Lake School
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To: Muir Lake Parents/Guardians
Fr: Murray Marran and Heather Brownlee
Re: Friday Memo for October 23rd, 2020

Good Afternoon Muir Lake Families:

Happy Friday! I am writing today's memo after going over our latest summative exam results, our MIPI (math assessments) and our F & P results. Additionally, we have just finished our CAT IV testing, which will give detailed and valuable insight to where our students are at. We, as a school, will be sharing these results with parents once all the data is aggregated. However, without detailed reports as of yet, I can share the following:

1. The pandemic lockdown and online learning platform from March until September has had a huge impact on student learning. Initial assessments indicate that approximately half of our students require added attention in their mathematics instruction and language arts instruction.
2. In order to support students in learning and maximize their potential we need to have a strong alliance between home and school.

It is clear that students benefit from face to face instruction, in school. This is how the foundations for learning in high school and beyond are built. Students who miss large chunks of time will develop gaps in their learning.

In many ways, this pandemic has been a "reset" button. Historically, schools have strived for (and achieved well, in my opinion) adding value-added experiences for students. This was done in all forms of extracurricular activities, field trips, clubs, Canadian and international travel studies, work experience programs, etc. However, have we strayed from our core purpose?

I believe now more than ever, we must pause, reflect on the business of academics and develop our strategies on how to support the best learning possible during the pandemic. As we know, things like regular attendance and prompt arrival at school only serve to help students excel in their academics.. We have an opportunity here to come back to our original purpose and to do what we do best: Teach kids!

1. Mask Policy: Updated Information

1. For Parkland School Division's mask policy, please click [THIS](#) link.
2. ***I want to thank all parents for adhering to the PSD mask policy. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated by administration and staff alike.***

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

1. ***Thank you parents, for following our guidelines in dropping off and picking up students in the morning and afternoon. Drop and pick up has never been smoother and we are***

grateful that we have enhanced safety for our students and our staff. Your cooperation is noted and appreciated.

2. It has been noted that at the end of the day, there are a few cars who are parking along the trees at the Air Cadets Hall by the North entrance off the highway. This is creating difficulty for buses coming into the school parking lot and also for parents wanting to park at the Hall when picking up their child(ren) at day's end. Please either park in designated areas or come slightly later when picking up your child. All students who do not ride the bus are dismissed at 2:35 p.m.

3. Dropping Off Student Items Including Lunches: Repeated Information

We no longer can accept any drop-offs. This includes lunches, water bottles, coats, toques, backpacks, runners, etc. We have cold lunches in the school that can be provided for any student that has forgotten their lunch.

4. 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

5. News from the Westview Public Health: Repeated Information

Grade 6 & 7 students will be vaccinated on December 9, 2020. Consent packages were sent home for grade 6 students a while back and we need to have the signed consent forms back to the front office a.s.a.p.

AHS will try to catch up to any students in other grades who missed immunizations somewhere along the way. 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.

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.**



6. School Council: New Information

Our next School Council meeting will be held on November 24th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. If you plan on attending the meeting please RSVP your attendance by filling out [THIS form](#).

During our last meeting, Mrs. Misty Flynn was acclaimed as president of our School Council. I personally would like to congratulate Misty being this year's president and I look forward to working with her over the next year.

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

7. 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 November 24th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for this virtual meeting.

8. Lifetouch School Photos (Re-takes): Repeated Information

Retakes are scheduled for Tuesday November 17th.

9. Report Cards and IPPs: Repeated Information

Report Cards will be available online on Friday, December 4th, 2020. We will not be printing report cards any longer as they are available online. Please access PSD's [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) in order to access report cards.

IPPs will be sent home at the beginning of November. Please review them, sign the signature page and return that page to school. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Brownlee.

10. Grade Book Reporting: New Information

As of November 2nd, all students' marks will be live (online). Parents will be able to access live, updated marks for their child(ren) in all their subjects. In order to access GradeBook, please click on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) in order access marks.

11. Music Classes: Repeated Information

We are re-introducing singing in music classes in a limited capacity. Students will sing with softened voices and will be required to wear masks at all times while they are singing.

Further, Mrs. Gottenbos will require that students are socially distanced and staggered when they are singing.



For students in grades 1 to 3, Mrs. Gottenbos will invite students to wear a mask and participate in the singing activity. If a child cannot wear a mask, they will have to refrain from the singing activity at that time. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Mrs. Gottenbos at the school.

12. Cold Weather Attire: New Information

Please ensure that you send your child with appropriate cold weather clothing. Lunch hour recess break is ½ hour long and it can be chilly out there. Hats, scarves and gloves are needed most days. It is recommended students also come with wind pants or snow pants.

13. Fees: New Information

Fee statements were sent out at the end of September. This is a reminder to please settle your accounts. Fees can be paid online in the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) or by cheque or cash at the school. Please note, online payments are accepted as well.

14. Resources for Online Parents: New Information

For parents of online learners, PSD is offering a virtual session to provide strategies and support for parents who are struggling with motivating their children in the online learning environment. For information on these valuable sessions, please click [HERE](#)

15. Grade 8 Classroom Change: New Information

Our junior high school teachers have requested that both grade 8 classes be moved to the library, so that classroom instruction can happen at one time without splitting time between two rooms.

Currently, grade 8 is our largest class in the school and there is a full time teacher and educational assistant devoted to this grade. Currently, instruction happens in two rooms, with either a teacher or an EA always in one room or another.

Please note: these students are defined as one cohort as they have physical education and lunch hour recess together. By moving to the library, the teachers will be able to devote more attention to the entire group, plus have the support of the EA in the room.

The same rules apply regarding masks and seating arrangements: students will sit in rows, facing one direction, and must wear masks if they are doing group work, or turning around to speak with other students. Teachers will be wearing masks when circulating through the library.

Library services will not be impacted, as Mrs. Schram implemented mobile library carts at the end of September. Books are taken to individual classrooms on carts and Mrs. Schram signs the books out in the classrooms.

If you have any questions, please call me directly at the school.

15. Grade 9 Cohort at Recess: New Information

It has been requested that the Administration examine the possibility of combining the grade 9 cohorts at recess.



Permission forms were sent home and were due back on the 12th of October. Currently, we are still waiting on some permission forms from families.

Once all forms have been received we will look at those who would like a combined cohort and those who would not. From there, we will develop a plan to try and accommodate both the requests and those who do not want cohort mixing.

It is our intention to have this issue resolved by November 16th, 2020. We thank you for your time and patience in this matter, and please know we are working to resolve this as quickly as possible.

Thank you for taking the time to read our weekly memo!. We hope the information contained within is informative and helpful. Mrs. Brownlee and I would like to wish you a great weekend!

Stay safe and be kind.

