



**Muir Lake School**  
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To: Muir Lake Parents/Guardians  
Fr: Murray Marran and Heather Brownlee  
Re: Friday Memo for September 11, 2020

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Good Afternoon Muir Lake Families:

Happy Friday, Mustang Families! We have completed two weeks of school and I am happy to report that Mrs. Brownlee and I are very pleased to see that students have settled into a routine, learning is happening throughout the day, and there seems to be a prevailing sense of calm in the building. We are constantly reminded that children are so resilient and can adapt to different situations, often a lot easier than us adults. The following are some informational items I want to share with you:

**1. Mask Policy:**

1. Masks are optional for students K to 3. Teachers will encourage ALL students to wear masks, however it is optional for the above-mentioned grade levels.
2. Masks for students are mandatory for students in grades 4 to 9 in hallways, washrooms, waiting at entry doors, and in other situations where social distancing is not possible. This includes waiting at the buses and when students board the bus.
3. Students are not required to wear masks in the classroom provided they are seated, facing the same direction, and are distanced as much as possible from one another. Please see PSD's updated mask policy [HERE](#). This policy incorporates the latest directives from Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education.
4. We strongly recommend adults wear a mask when they step onto Muir Lake School property. Masks are required when standing in close proximity to others and particularly when standing near doors, etc (when social distancing of 2 meters cannot be maintained even outside ). Additionally, we require all adults to wear a mask when entering the building.

## COVID-19 INFORMATION

# Stay at Home Guide

A resource to help parents understand when they should keep their child home from school and when it is safe to return to class.

**The bottom line:** students with symptoms must not attend school.



[psd70.ab.ca](http://psd70.ab.ca)

## WHICH SYMPTOM DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE?



### Does your child have ANY of these symptoms?

- fever
- cough (new cough or worsening chronic cough)
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening)
- runny nose
- sore throat

### Yes, that's my child. Now what?

If your child has any of the above symptoms that are not related to a pre-existing health condition, you are **legally required** to have your child isolate for a minimum of 10 days or until symptoms resolve—**whichever takes longer**. Call Health Link 811 or your family doctor, and fill out the AHS Online Self-Assessment tool to determine if your child should be tested.

### When can my child return to school?

Once your child completes the 10 day isolation **or** receives a negative COVID-19 test result and symptoms resolve, a return to school is possible once you submit PSD's Negative Test Declaration ([www.psd70.ab.ca/COVID19.php](http://www.psd70.ab.ca/COVID19.php)).



### Does your child have ANY of these symptoms?

- chills
- painful swallowing
- stuffy nose
- headache
- muscle or joint aches
- feeling unwell, fatigue or severe exhaustion
- gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or unexplained loss of appetite)
- loss of sense of smell or taste
- conjunctivitis (i.e. pink eye)

### Yes, that's my child. Now what?

If your child has any of the above symptoms, you must keep them home from school until symptoms resolve. You should also minimize your child's contact with others.

### When can my child return to school?

Once symptoms resolve, your child may return to class. There is no need to get a COVID-19 test or fill out any paperwork before returning to school.



## REMEMBER

**It is the parents' responsibility to screen their child(ren) for symptoms each day before school.**

Visit [psd70.ab.ca](http://psd70.ab.ca) and click on the COVID-19 quick link to complete the COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire.



## **2. Illness and COVID testing, mandatory isolation from school and school return:**

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

Please carefully review the following:

1. Symptoms are now 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. Families will be asked to sign a DECLARATION attesting to the above upon return to school.**

### **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.



If your child will be absent from school we ask that you please either e-mail us at [MuirLake@psd70.ab.ca](mailto: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:**

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for learning and perfecting our drop off procedures for students and I would like to reiterate what to do for drop off in order to ensure a smooth transition from the parking lot into the school. In my time at Muir Lake, I have never seen the parking lot safer, or a smoother transition into the school from buses and vehicles. We want to thank you for being vigilant

1. Parents, we ask you to park in the Community Hall Parking Lot
2. Students can enter the building at their assigned door at 7:45 a.m. and go directly to their classroom.
3. Supervision does NOT start PRIOR to 7:45 a.m.
4. Please discuss with your child(ren) that if they are confused or lost, they can approach one of the morning supervisors and we will direct them to the right door. Minimally, please ensure that your child knows the name of their teacher. For Kindergarten or early grades, this may have to be practiced for a bit. If a child is lost or confused, if they know their teacher's name we can easily and quickly direct or take them to the right entry.
5. Parents, if waiting outside at the Parent Muster Area until your child(ren) go(es) into the school, we kindly ask that you wait **INSIDE** the blue fence. This is to increase personal safety for students and parents as our parking lot is extremely busy.
6. We kindly ask that you do NOT walk with your child to their designated door. We are trying to avoid crowding in these areas (South Playground Fence, for example).
7. Any adult coming onto PSD property must don a mask.

### **4. Building Entry/Exit:**

Muir Lake School is limiting the number of visitors in the school in order to minimize exposure risk for students and staff. The [following protocol](#) has been put in place in order to mitigate potential exposure to COVID-19:

1. We are limiting the number of people in our building. Please note that if you are coming to the school, you need to make an appointment with the front office. Upon arriving at the school you will need to complete our [COVID-19 screening](#), don a mask and sanitize your hands before entering.



2. Parents are not able to walk their child(ren) to their classes. Students should say goodbye to their parents at the parent muster area.
3. If your child forgets items at home (including lunch) we ask that you NOT deliver any items to the school. The office has lunch items and we will give those to students who have forgotten their lunch. For other items, teachers will adapt the activity to accommodate any needed item that has been forgotten at home.

## **5. Program Choices and Class Changes:**

Parents have made their choices for virtual learning or in-class learning. Please remember that if you are wanting to reintegrate back into classroom learning there are specific dates to return to in-class learning:

1. October 5, 2020
2. November 16, 2020
3. January 04, 2021
4. February 16, 2021
5. April 06, 2021

***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. Virtual Schooling:**

For those parents choosing virtual schooling through Muir Lake School. We are busily working to finalize the details on program delivery.

Our virtual teacher is Mrs. Lindsay Imeson and we have just added Annina Clemens as EA support. At this point, Mrs. Imeson should have made contact with you and we have started drawing up tutorial schedules, giving out google classroom codes and identifying students who will need unique or exceptional support.

Further, I sent an email to all virtual learning parents on Wednesday, September 9th, 2020 outlining specifics regarding assessments, teachers of classes, etc. Please take a moment to review that email if you have any additional questions.

We thank you in advance for your understanding as we build this program that is unique to Muir Lake School.

## **7. Orange Shirt Day - Wednesday September 30**

It grew out of the story of a child having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. We encourage everyone to wear orange that day to help bring awareness.



## 8. Muir Lake School Building Improvements:

This is perhaps the most exciting non-covid news that this administration team has had in a long time. PSD has approved the renovation of the exterior of Muir Lake School. The architectural renderings are completed and the job is being sent to tender to determine who will be the successful contractor. As more specific timelines are developed, we will report those updates accordingly. The following are pictures of the architectural renderings and gives us a glimpse of what Muir Lake School will look like after the renovation:

**Strategy - To create a more distinctive identity for the school**

**Theme - Contrast**

- Create contrasting bays to break down the mass
- Warm wood elements at the entry/exit of the school
- Highlight Signage
- Play of textures



**DIALOG**® Muir Lake Community School - Recladding Design Options

August 24, 2020

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## **9. Overdue Library Materials:**

This is a reminder to please return all library books and materials that were borrowed last year to the library. Mrs. Schram is finishing her inventory and we still have quite a few outstanding items. Items that have not been returned were billed to your school fees. If you have any items to return, please do so before September 16th, otherwise, those items will be replaced. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Schram in library at [kschram@psd70.ab.ca](mailto:kschram@psd70.ab.ca)

## **10. School Council:**

Mrs. Misty Flynn and I have been able to meet in order to determine what School Council will look like for the upcoming school year. We will be holding our first meeting VIRTUALLY on September 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in attending this virtual meeting, please fill out this [linked google form](#) with your name and email address and we will send the Google Meet link 24 hours before the meeting. [Simply click HERE to RSVP](#). Also, if there are any agenda items you would like to see on the agenda, please add them to the form. We are hoping for a great virtual turnout and look forward to seeing you in our meeting.

## **11. Field Trips and Play Parkland:**

Parkland School Division and this Administration take your child(ren)'s safety very seriously. Our goal is to provide education in a healthy, happy environment. As cases of COVID 19 continue to rise in the province, we had to make some difficult decisions regarding field trips and Play Parkland.



For the above-mentioned reason, we have cancelled Play Parkland as this is offered at the Tri-Leisure Centre. As we know, recreational facilities have been somewhat problematic with the spread of COVID 19, and we decided that until a vaccine is developed, we will cancel this activity for our elementary school.

Regarding field trips, we are postponing ALL field trips until January. At that time, Administration will do a risk analysis of potential field trips and decide then if the trip should proceed or not. For the time being, we have stopped all trips.

## **12. Assessment and Testing:**

All students will be undergoing a few assessments (MIPI, Fontas and Ponnell, and CAT IV) in order to identify where each student is at in their learning. As you are well aware, four months of on-line emergency teaching certainly had an impact on individual learners. This is why we are testing all students throughout the year to benchmark where they are at and to identify what target areas or gaps need to be taught in order to catch up. If you have any questions regarding this testing, please email Mrs. Brownlee at [hbrownlee@psd70.ab.ca](mailto:hbrownlee@psd70.ab.ca)

Summative testing: Summative testing will continue this year in the same way as we did last year. All students in grades 7 through 9 will be formally tested in their core subjects every 6 (six) weeks. The following are the dates for summative testing so please add them to your calendar:

<b>Summative Test Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summative Test</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Day</b>
Summative Test Number 1	October 13th	Social	8:12 - 10:10 Blocks 1-4	1
	October 14th	Science		2
	October 15th	L.A		3
	October 16th	Math		4
Summative Test Number 2	December 1st	Social	8:12 - 10:10 Blocks 1-4	3
	December 2nd	Science		4
	December 3rd	L.A		1
	December 4th	Math		2
Summative Test Number 3	January 26th	Social	8:12 - 10:10 Blocks 1-4	1
	January 27th	Science		2
	January 28th	L.A		3
	January 29th	Math		4
Summative Test Number 4	March 9th	Social	8:12 - 10:10 Blocks 1-4	2
	March 10th	Science		3
	March 11th	L.A		4
	March 12th	Math		1



Summative Test Number 5	April 27th	Social	8:12 - 10:10 Blocks 1-4	1
	April 28th	Science		2
	April 29th	L.A		3
	April 30th	Math		4
Summative Test Number 6	June 21st	Social	8:12 - 10:10 Blocks 1-4	2
	June 22nd	Science		3
	June 23rd	L.A		4
	June 24th	Math		1

***Naturally, we encourage regular attendance and not to miss any of the above test dates. Please schedule appointments, family trips etc, around these dates. Students who do miss one of the exam dates will write the missing exam upon the first day of re-entry to school. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly and I can clarify things.***

### **13. Sharing of Food:**

Due to Covid restrictions, we ask that you do NOT send food to be shared with the class to school, for example cookies or cupcakes on your child's birthday. We understand that you would like to celebrate your child's special day, but we just cannot allow it to happen this year. Thank you for your understanding.

### **14. Dropping Off Items for Your Child**

If your child forgets their lunch or water bottle at home please be assured that we have food here for them in this situation. The students are also allowed to use the water fountains. Please do not attempt to drop off items for them as we are limiting traffic into the school. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding with this matter.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office. Have a safe and happy weekend!

