



**Muir Lake School**  
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To: Muir Lake Parents/Guardians  
 Fr: Murray Marran and Heather Brownlee  
 Re: Friday Memo for September 25th, 2020

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Good Afternoon Muir Lake Families:

Happy Fall, Mustang Families! It is hard to believe that we have been in school almost a month already. There seems to be a prevailing calmness that has settled in our building and students have settled nicely into the business of learning. It is nice to see so many things going on in all the classrooms with students engaged in learning. While our situation is by no means the way it used to be, I believe we have created an environment that supports student growth and learning despite all our new protocols and procedures.

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: Updated Information**

1. Masks for students are mandatory for students in grades 4 to 9 in hallways, washrooms, waiting at entry doors, all common areas and in other situations where social distancing is not possible. This includes waiting at the buses and when students board the bus and for their bus ride.
2. Masks are strongly encouraged for students in K to 3 both in school and on the bus.
3. All adults ***must*** 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 if they enter the building.

**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. 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: Updated Information**

1. **Parents, we ask you to park in the Community Hall Parking Lot.**
2. Please note: we encourage parents not to walk their children right to their entry door. The reason we do this is to decrease crowding around doors. Once in the school, there are many staff in the classrooms and hallways that will direct (or take) your child to their designated classroom. Please be assured that if a child appears lost or not able to find their classroom,



we deal with that child immediately. We have increased supervision in hallways and in the school for this very reason.

3. Students can enter the building at their assigned door at 7:45 a.m. and go directly to their classroom.
4. **Parents please do not cut through the staff parking lot to bypass buses. Please DO NOT drive through the pylons that we have set up to stop traffic in certain areas. We ask that the staff parking lot not be used because this poses a significant risk to students when using the crosswalk. Please respect the drop off lane.**

#### **4. Mental Health and Wellness Supports: Updated Information**

As our landscape is ever changing and if you find you or your student struggling we have supports within our community. [This link has all the supports available to you and your family within the Tri County area.](#) Also available is a newsletter ([linked HERE](#)). It is full of great information about the importance of sleep and you will also find many connections to supports and services within our communities. Check out and register for the upcoming [Strong Families session on sleep](#) offered by Dr. Cary Brown.

#### **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 October 5, 2020. Please look for a survey 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. Orange Shirt Day - Wednesday September 30: Repeated Information**

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.

#### **7. School Bus Stopping on Highways: New Information**

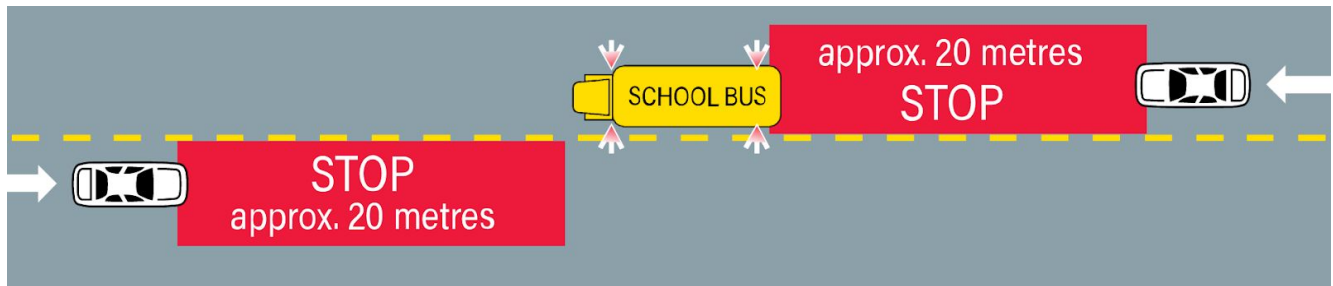
When school bus lights are flashing on an undivided highway (not divided by a median), do the following:

- 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](#).



## **8. Fee Statements: Repeated Information**

The front office has sent Fee Statements out to families for the 2020/21 school year via e-mail. You will notice that there are many fees that have been eliminated for this year because we cannot offer the program/activity/field trip. That being said, fee statements for instrument kits, yearbook (optional), option classes, etc have been set. Please pay your fees online via the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) or send a cheque or cash to school with your child.

## **9. School Council: New Information**

School Council was able to meet virtually for the first time this year on September 22, 2020. During the meeting, Lorraine Stewart gave a PSD Board update and I presented the principal's report. After these informational items were given, the floor was opened up to questions and answers for those parents that were attending.

One item that was discussed was the election of President and Vice-President. At our next meeting, we will hold the election for these two positions. If you plan on attending the meeting please RSVP your attendance by filling out [THIS form](#).

Our next meeting will be held on October 20th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us for this virtual meeting.

## **10. School Foundation: New Information**

The School Foundation met virtually for the first time on Wednesday, September 23, 2020. During the meeting two large items were discussed: 1. The foundation will temporarily suspend the hot lunch and fun lunch program for the time being. Once restrictions ease, Foundation and the school will explore how this program can be safely restarted. 2. The Foundation will be reviewing their bylaws to ensure compliance with provincial regulations.

Everyone is invited to attend Foundation meetings, and we strongly encourage parents to do so. If you plan 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.

## **11. Assessment and Testing: Repeated Information**

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. This will be happening across the school grades with the exception of Kindergarten. 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.***

## **12. 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

## **13. Parent Teacher Interviews: New Information**

Muir Lake School will be hosting virtual parent-teacher conferences 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.



## **14. 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. We will also continue with the programs for the current grade 6 and 9 students. Finally, as time allows, we will try to catch up any students in other grades who missed immunizations somewhere along the way.

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

Throughout the school year, other children who are identified as requiring immunization updates will receive a package. This package will contain information about the vaccines that your child is eligible for, along with a consent form for each vaccine. In order for your child to be immunized, each consent form must be signed and returned to your child's school by the date indicated on the envelope.

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.**

## **15. Overdue Library Books and Other Resources: New Information**

Please ensure that all library books or resources that are overdue are returned to the school. For those items that were not returned from last year, our front office staff has billed you for those missing items.

## **16. Grade 9 Sports Teams and Other Team Information: New Information**

Our grade 9 classes have started playing volleyball after school for those students who are interested. For the time being, cohorts are not mixing so there is no additional exposure for students if they choose to participate.

We are awaiting guidance from the WCJHAA (West Central Junior High Athletic Association) about the formation of team sports, the formation of teams, etc. Once those guidelines are released, and if we are permitted, we will look at more formalized teams that involve students in grades at the junior high level.

Mrs. Brownlee and I would like to take this time to wish you a restful weekend and naturally, if you have any questions regarding the information in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the school and to speak to one of us.

