



Muir Lake School
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Muir Lake School

Friday Memo

September 4th, 2020

Good Afternoon Muir Lake Families:

By the time you receive this email, we will have completed four days of school; two days staggered entry and two regular days. I must say, without any hesitation, Heather and I believe that our entry was smooth, teachers were prepared both in lessons and in the cleaning of their classroom equipment, and that we could not have hoped for a better school re-entry. We would like to take this time to thank students for following the “new school rules” and parents for supporting us by reinforcing these rules at home when discussing school. Your unwavering support is both noted and appreciated. You have truly helped lighten the enormous task ahead of all educators in our building. Thank you.

We would like to take this opportunity to provide clarity on a few items and perhaps this will help answer some lingering questions that you may have.

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. 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.
3. 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.

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

1. We now have clarity on when a student should go for COVID-19 testing or self-isolate from school, and when they are permitted to return to school. Please carefully review the following:
2. 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](#).

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)

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.

3. [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 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 smooth transition from the parking lot into the school:

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. Any adult coming onto PSD property should be donning a mask.

4. Building Entry/Exit:

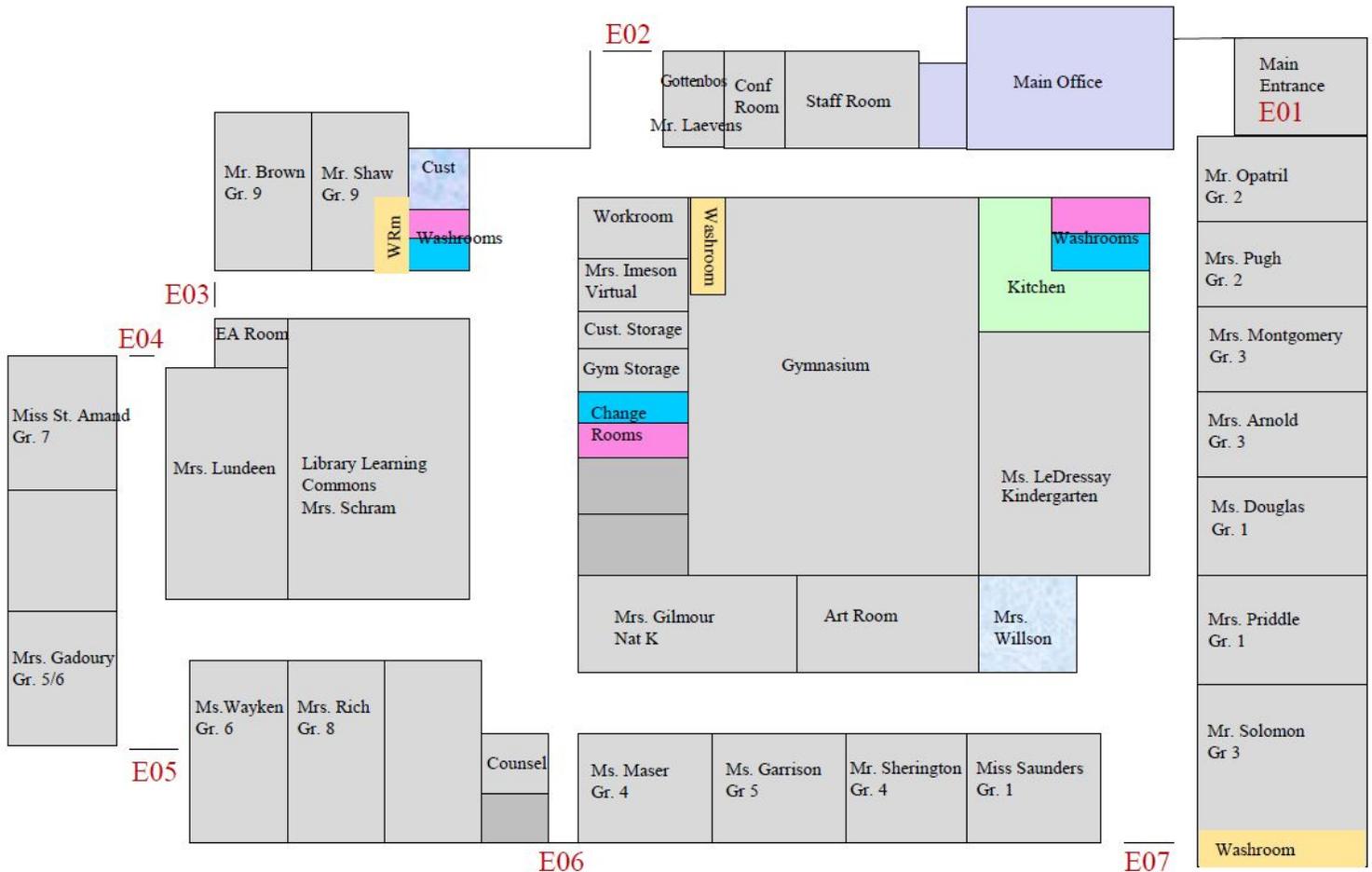
Muir Lake School is limiting the number of visitors in the school in order to minimize exposure risk for students and staff. The [following protocols](#) have been put in place in order to mitigate potential exposure:

1. In order to reduce large numbers of people entering the building at once, there are few changes to our morning procedures and dismissal procedures. Most notably, **students will be able to enter the building at 7:45 a.m.** and go to their classroom. Students will no longer be required to wait outside at an entrance until 8:01 a.m.
2. Once students enter the building, they are to go directly to their classroom and are to avoid hanging out in the hallways, library, etc.
3. 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.



4. All cohorts (homerom classes) are assigned a specific entry/exit door to the school. The school has numbered each door and the cohorts that are supposed to use that door are visibly posted on each door. Please note the following:

- Door 1 - Mr. Opatril (Gr. 2), Mrs. Pugh (Gr. 2),
Mrs. Montgomery (Gr. 3), Ms. LeDressay (K)
- Door 2 - Staff Entrance Only
- Door 3 - Mr. Brown (Gr. 9), Mr. Shaw (Gr. 9).
- Door 4 - Miss. St. Amand (Gr. 7), Mrs. Gadoury (Gr. 5/6)
- Door 5 - Mrs. Wayken (Gr. 6), Mrs. Rich (Gr. 8), Mrs. Imeson (Gr. 8)
- Door 6 - Mrs. Garrison (Gr. 5),
Mr. Sherington (Gr. 4), Mrs. Maser (Gr. 4), Mrs. Gilmour (Nature K)
- Door 7 - Miss Saunders (Gr 1), Mrs. Arnold (Gr 3), Mr. Solomon (Gr 3),
Mrs. Priddle (Gr 1), Ms. Douglas (Gr 1)



Please speak to your child about their assigned door and that they must adhere to only using their assigned door. Once the bell rings and classes start, all doors will be locked. All visitors (parents) and deliveries will be directed through Door #1. Please note, that EVERYONE (including parents) who enters the building will be screened for COVID-19 ([questionnaire](#)).

Students will be dismissed at the end of the day by their bus number. This allows students to board buses in their bus cohort. Bus arrival and departure times to and from the school remain the same as last year.

We are kindly asking that if you need to pick up your child early, please call the school office and we will escort your child (if required) to the **PARENT MUSTER AREA** in order to ensure your child is safely passed to your custody.

The Parent Muster Area is in between the Community and the School. Please look for signage on the **BLUE IRON fence** at the front of the school between the school and the community hall. Please note that parents should line up on the **INSIDE** of the fence. ***Outside the fence is the bus lane and your safety is important to us!***

If your child is coming into school late (after the 8:01 start of day bell), they will need to check in at the office, so we are asking that parents ring the doorbell, wait for a staff member to meet them, and enter through the front door.

5. Program Choices and Class Changes:

As per the survey that was sent out by Parkland School Division, parents have the following choices for their child(ren)'s education.

1. Return To In-Person Classes With Enhanced Safety Protocols
2. Teacher Supported At-home-learning with return to Muir Lake on one of the designated return dates listed below. This scenario will look very different from what we experienced in the Spring.
 - a. October 5, 2020
 - b. November 16, 2020
 - c. January 4, 2021
 - d. February 16, 2021
 - e. April 6, 2021
3. Register with Connections For Learning for Online Learning for the entire 2020 2021 School year
4. Register with a Recognized Alberta Home School program for the entire 2020 2021 School year. Please note that home schooling must be coordinated through an Alberta School Board and that there are requirements for assessment and home visits from a licensed Alberta teacher.

Please note: We no longer are able to accommodate cohort change requests. Also, we also ask that you make a DEFINITIVE decision regarding virtual learning or in person learning. Any students who are virtually learning will not be able to re-enter classroom (in school) learning



until October 5th, 2020. If you have any questions regarding re-entry, please contact the school and we will happily provide more information.

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

6. Class Configurations:

This has been an unprecedented year for enrolments at Muir Lake School due to COVID-19 and virtual learning. It is projected that we will physically have approximately 100 students less in our building. Given this we had to make some difficult decisions about combining classes and class sizes. The following is our grade breakdowns

| | |
|------------|--|
| Grade 1: | 3 classes (54 students) |
| Grade 2: | 2 classes (35 students) |
| Grade 3: | 3 classes (47 students) |
| Grade 4: | 2 classes (43 students) |
| Grade 5: | 1 class (23 students) |
| Grade 5/6: | 1 class (22 students) |
| Grade 6: | 1 class (22 students) |
| Grade 7: | 1 class (31 students, physically distanced in two rooms with dedicated EA support) |
| Grade 8: | 1 class (33 students, physically distanced in two rooms with dedicated EA support) |
| Grade 9: | 2 classes (38 students) |

As you will notice, our Junior High classes have been reduced in number with larger class sizes. Unfortunately, due to changes in provincial funding formulas and families opting to do homeschooling or online schooling for the year, we have considerably less students in the building. Being fiscally responsible, our options were somewhat limited. Having said that, we can guarantee EA support for Junior High classes in order to mitigate increased class size.

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



8. 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.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 780-963-3535 or by email at MuirLake@psd70.ab.ca. We wish you a happy and restful long weekend.

