



Muir Lake School
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April 16, 2012

Mr. Neal Reynolds
Operations Manager
Alberta Transportation, Stony Plain Office
Room 223, Provincial Building
4709 44 Avenue
Stony Plain, AB
T7Z 1N4

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

RE: MUIR LAKE SCHOOL ZONE

On behalf of the Muir Lake School, the Muir Lake School Council, and Muir Lake Community League we would like to request that the issue of the removal of the yellow non-enforceable 30 km tab on the school warning signs posted along Secondary Hwy 779 in the Muir Lake School zone be revisited. This matter has been discussed thoroughly with you in the past, subsequent to the re-engineering and widening of Sec Hwy 779, and the addition of turning lanes in the highway re-construction of 2011. At that time we were advised a Provincial review was ongoing relative to the conversion of school zone signage in rural areas of Alberta, from enforceable to cautionary signs. The signage within the Muir Lake School zone has been cautionary all the while, with a yellow school zone sign and a yellow speed tab, which is confusing when observed in conjunction with the white, enforceable 100Km/hr. signs also posted at each end of the school zone. We are seeking your assistance to remove the 30 km/hr. tabs.

Our School Council worked with you to prepare messaging to the community in October 2011, relative to safe passage through the school zone. This communique was widely distributed by way of the school newsletter and the community league newsletter to all member-residents of our community in the fall/winter of 2011. A copy of this communique is attached for your reference, promoting 100 km/hr. passage through the school zone while obeying the cautionary 30 km/h zone sign relative to school transportation, and the correct navigation of the turn lanes in this school zone.

The situation has now become amplified with a school bus collision on March 21, 2012, at approximately 2:50 p.m., while entering onto Sec. Hwy 779, and being struck by a southbound motorist. The irony of the 30 km tabs in our school zone is that the majority of school related traffic occurs between 7:30 and 8:15 a.m. and between 2:45 and 3:00 p.m., which is well prior to the prescribed enforceable school zone hours in Alberta (8:00 to 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 to 4:30p.m.). The conflicting signs appear to continue to add to the confusion of motorists when travelling this route during school hours. It should also be noted that there is no pedestrian traffic within our school zone. The playground and school bus related pedestrian activity is all contained to the school ground and parking lot.



Additionally, we have been advocating for painted turn arrows on the highway, to augment the turn signs posted near the school zone. The arrows would serve to further alert motorists that the turning lanes are not meant to be used as passing lanes. This transgression is still fairly common, given the seemingly higher utilization of Sec Hwy 779 as a commuter road since its re-engineering.

We have taken the liberty of copying Phyllis Kobasiuk, Councilor, Parkland County, who has also been actively engaged in working with your department to ensure the safety of our children and our community while travelling through this school zone.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to maximize the safety within our school zone.

Sincerely,



Karen Stride-Goudie
Principal, Muir Lake School



Tracey Gerrard
President, Muir Lake School Council



Patricia Harrish
Muir Lake School/Community Liaison

PH/jlg

Enclosure

c.c. Phyllis Kobasiuk
Councilor, Parkland County



REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE

- ~ Students are not able to come to school before 7:30 am as the staff is not here before this time.
- ~ Please let your child's teacher and/or the office know if your child is going to be away from school
- ~ Anytime that your child is dropped off or picked up from school - regardless of the time - they must be signed in or out at the office.
- ~ All visitors must check in at the office.
- ~ When coming to pick up your child, please have the secretaries call their classroom and have them sent to the office to meet you.
- ~ Volunteers - please sign in and out at the office.
- ~ The 4 pm transfer buses are NOT intended for use by the Muir Lake School students. If your child is staying past the regular bus times, for whatever reason, arrangements must be made to either pick up your child or call transportation (780-963-8425) ahead of time to get permission for your child to ride the 4 pm bus.
- ~ As the weather gets cooler, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the fluctuating temperatures.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembrance Day

It's a time to reflect and remember! Muir Lake will be honouring Remembrance Day with a service in the gym on Wednesday, November 9th @ 10:15a.m. Poppies will be distributed to all students (cash donations appreciated). Please feel free to join us as we pay tribute to those who fought for our freedom. Cadets, Guides and Scouts are welcome to wear your uniform for the service.

DRESS CODE

The following constitutes appropriate dress for the students of our school:

Caps/hats/visors/hoods must be removed upon entering the building
Clothing must have appropriate language and pictures
Dress modestly:

- Clothing must cover undergarments
- Midriffs/cleavage must be covered
- Shorts and skirts must be an appropriate length

We are promoting a respectful learning environment for all students. *Students will be requested to change if dress is inappropriate or of a revealing nature.*

FROM SCHOOL COUNCIL . . .

Council meets on the second teaching Monday of each month. Due to the Fall Break the next meeting is Monday, November 21st.

ROAD SAFETY WITHIN MUIR LAKE SCHOOL ZONE

Alberta Ministry of Transportation has re-engineered the roadway along Secondary 779, and within the Muir Lake School Zone, widening the roadway and adding turn lanes and signage. The turn lanes are to be used for turning and merging traffic while entering and exiting the school and hall lots. Through traffic should use the outside lane in the north bound direction and the inside lane in the south bound direction.

Because the widened roads provide for safer movement of traffic either driving through or using the turn lanes within the school zone, the 30 km speed restriction in the school zone is now deemed **cautionary**. This means that through traffic can travel at highway posted speed (100km/h), but exercise caution in the school zone and slow as necessary as conditions warrant during congested or high use periods. This will allow for free flow of traffic in the through lanes, and restrict the use of the turn lanes to turning or merging/entering traffic only.

We appreciate your continued efforts to ensure safety while travelling through the school area.

MLCS FOUNDATION

The school Foundation is excited that the Track project is almost complete. The area has been seeded and now we wait for Mother Nature to do her thing in the spring - in the meantime, please stay off of the dirt and remember; there are to be absolutely NO motorized vehicles on the track.

HOT LUNCH

Please be sure to return your Hot Lunch orders to the school by Friday, November 18, 2011. Keep Hot Lunch orders & payment separate from Fundraising Lunch and make cheques payable to Parkland School Division #70. If you have any questions please call Gerri-Lou at 780-967-0192. Thank you.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY?

We had a very successful Book Fair! A huge thank you to all who supported this event and especially to all of you wonderful volunteers, we couldn't have done this without you. The library was able to raise \$1400 which will be used to purchase new books. I can't express my appreciation enough. We will have another Book Fair in March, hope to see you there.

Marion Martin
Librarian

FUNDRAISING NEWS

FUNDRAISING LUNCH

If your child is to receive a lunch and doesn't; please have them go to the kitchen immediately and the ladies will help them. Orders are due on Friday, November 18, 2011. Please be sure to keep your fundraising lunch payment and orders (BP, DQ, & Subway) separate from the hot lunch orders - these are two DIFFERENT programs. Cheques are to be made payable to Parkland School Division #70. Should you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call Shauna at 780-968-3840.

GR. 5 CAMP BOTTLE DRIVE

Thank you to all of the parents and students that helped with the bottle drive on October 15th - it was a success - thanks to everyone for donating.

SUTP FUNDRAISER

SUTP books are still available. They can be paid for and picked up at the office. They are \$20 each and \$10 from each book goes to our school. Thank you for your continued support.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE

We will be having a Christmas Craft Sale on Saturday November 5th from 10 am - 2 pm. If you are interested in being a vendor please call now to put your name on the list. Tables will be \$25 and all proceeds will be going to the Muir Lake School. Call Monica at 780-963-8709 for more information or to reserve a table.

COMMUNITY NEWS

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Muir Lake School and Muir Lake Alliance Church will be participating in Operation Christmas Child again this fall. Operation Christmas Child is a charity project which aims to bring joy to very needy children in poverty or war stricken countries each Christmas.

If you are looking for a way to make a difference this season, Operation Christmas Child would be a great choice. The Muir Lake community has provided amazing support in past years, often contributing up to 300 shoe boxes filled with charitable gifts to children who may never have received a Christmas present.

To participate, please have your child pick up a shoe box and leaflet from the office or classroom and bring the filled box back on **November 16th, 17th or 18th**. If you put your child's class name on the box it will be tallied up and entered into a competition for a free classroom pizza party!

There will also be a "Shop at the Hall" event at the Community Hall on November 19th. Mrs. Fikkert will be providing boxes and suitable gifts for you to buy to fill the boxes. The hall will be open from 10 am to 2 pm, and boxes bought at the hall will also be tallied up and entered into the competition.

Thank you to all in advance for choosing to support "Operation Christmas Child". If you need further information you can visit their website at <http://www.samaritanspurse.ca/Operation-Christmas-Child/default.aspx>.

AWANA CLUB

Hey Kids....fun, games, music, drama and much, much more! At AWANA CLUB (for K - gr.10) Wednesday nights 6:30-8:15 at Muir Lake Alliance Church. Call Kathy Newman for more information at 780-968-8566.

AND AT THE MUIR LAKE HALL

Ham and Turkey Bingo

Friday, December 2nd, play bingo and win a turkey or a ham for your Christmas dinner. Doors open at 6:30, Bingo starts at 7:30pm. Families are welcome.