



MEATH PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2020

ADMINISTRATORS' MESSAGE

Mr. Matt Gray, Principal

Mrs. Darcie Court, Vice Principal

Hello Parents, Guardians, Students, and Families

Welcome to the start of the 2020/21 school year. I often say that the end of the 19/20 year will be something I'll never forget, but in truth, the opening of the 20/21 school year may stand out in my memory even more.

First, it comes with great excitement. I am ecstatic to join the Mustang family. For many years, I have heard about the longstanding tradition of excellence whether it be in academics or athletics. What I wasn't aware of was how great a community this is. I have been overwhelmed with the support and outreach the community has provided during this startup, and can't wait until the day comes when we can meet in person and I can properly thank you.

However, that excitement was also the worry about what the start of the school year meant. COVID is still very much a part of our world and unfortunately, the return to school comes with new restrictions, anxiety, and concerns for all.

Yet after seeing the first week, I must say how good it felt to see our students back in the hallways. The excitement in their eyes (couldn't see the smiles of their faces), the diligence in their studies, and yes, the accepting and following through with the restrictions that come with our "normal for now" world. All in all, another piece of our normalcy has been returned.

Normally, I would have a list of upcoming dates, however, with restrictions, the only thing I can pass along is Picture Day will be September the 25th. This year we will not be doing class pictures, a class composite will be organized as a replacement.

None of the smooth start to this year would have been possible without your help preparing your child to embrace the changes in the school, without the students accepting

and making the best of it, and finally to the staff at the school who have worked tirelessly to make our students feel welcomed, safe, and secure. I can't wait to see the exciting things the year has to offer us!

M. Gray, Principal



SCHOOL NEWS

Grade 6 to 12 Block Timetables

The grade 6 to 12 students are running on a two month block timetable, running for five terms. Our first week of school in these classes has gone well. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the new timetabling, please contact the principal, Mr. Gray.

Visitors Entering the School

Due to health concerns, our front entrance door is remaining locked at this time. If you are needing to enter the school, please ring the front door bell and be wearing a mask.

If you are here to pick up your child early, please telephone the office at 306-929-2131. Thanks.

Registration Package

Included in the registration package is a blank Registration Form. We ask that parents/guardians complete this sheet when you receive it. The registration form needs to be returned to the school as soon as possible to keep our student/family information accurate. Remember to complete both sides of the form and sign the bottom section of back page. Thank you.

Bell Schedule

Please see our new bell schedule

8:55 a.m.	Classes Begin
11:40 a.m.	Lunch Break
12:25 p.m.	Classes Begin
3:10 p.m.	Final Bell

School Parking Lot

The school parking lot and adjacent street to the school are very busy areas after school. We have a lot of parent vehicles and student vehicles leaving the parking lot at the same time students are crossing the street or that the busses are leaving the parking lot. We would please ask that when leaving the parking lot that you pay very special attention to students crossing the road. Please drive the appropriate speed limit and follow all traffic laws. Thanks in helping keeping our students safe.

School Photo Day

Lifetouch photographers will be at our school on Friday, September 25th to take school photos. Information forms will be sent home with all students. Please review this form. All students will be photographed individually. There will be no class group photo. Proofs will be sent home for you to preview the images before you buy. Photo Retake Day will be announced at a later date.



Meath Park Public School - School Community Council (SCC)

Welcome back students, parents and teachers! For those of you new to Meath Park School - welcome!

We would like to invite you to join our Facebook page - "SCC - Meath Park Parent Council". There you will find details of upcoming meetings and events, as well as topics that affect the school.

Our first meeting will be held Thursday September 24th at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. At this time, we are unsure if this will be an in-person (socially distanced) meeting or virtual meeting. We will let you know the details on our Facebook page closer to the date.

The most noticeable change to our school division is this year's back to school plan. As the COVID-19 protocol will be evolving throughout the year, please use this opportunity to provide feedback or ask questions anytime. One of our roles at the SCC is to be the liaison with our School Trustee. If you have any questions or feedback of COVID or on any other topic, please email our President Tammy Aiken (traiken12@hotmail.com), leave a message with the school or send a private message to the Facebook group.

The Meath Park Public School, School Community Council (SCC) consists of parents of K-12 students, administration of the school, school staff and a student representative. The council meets five times per year to discuss school progress, school initiatives and school concerns. The council provides advice to the administration of the school and to the division Board of Education on policies, programs, and school operations. Members of the council provide a vital link of communication between the school community and the school itself.

Sharing the Road with School Buses

School bus drivers have a difficult job. There are plenty of distractions inside the bus. Knowing this, you should make extra allowances, and be aware of the possibility that the bus driver may not see you or your signals. Rear-end collisions are the most frequent type of crash involving school buses and are usually caused by another driver failing to stop while the bus is loading or unloading passengers.



When approaching a school bus, begin to slow down as soon as the flashing stop lamps come on, so the bus driver can see that you are going to stop. **If you are behind the bus you may not pass once the flashing lights are activated. If you are approaching the bus from the opposite direction and you are too close to stop, you may pass the bus if you do so before the stop arm is extended.** The single greatest threat to the safety of children who ride school buses is motorists who pass when children who ride school buses are loading or unloading.

When approaching a bus that has its stop arm out and its flashing lights activated, as a driver:

- **You must stop no closer than 5 m (15 feet) from the front or back of the bus.**
- **You must not advance your vehicle until the bus driver turns off the flashing red stop lamps and deactivates the stop arm.**
- **Before moving, check to see that all children have safely crossed the roadway.**

Passing a school bus with flashing lights is a serious offence and will result in a minimum fine of \$335.00. You do not have to stop for a school bus if you are travelling in the opposite direction on a divided highway. Some cities, towns and villages may have a bylaw prohibiting the use of flashing red stop lamps and stop arms on school buses. In those communities you are allowed to pass the bus. Drivers are not required to stop for buses displaying four-way hazard lamps, **however, use caution, go slowly and always watch for children crossing.**

Nut Alert Reduce the Risk



The Saskatchewan Rivers School Division and the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region recommend that all Prince Albert and Area School communities work to "reduce the risk" for all students with life threatening allergies (anaphylaxis) by taking the strong initiative and commitment to become *Nut Alert*. Please read the *Nut Alert information below* that provides the rationale for this initiative. Meath Park School will continue their school-wide campaign to provide the safest environment possible for children with life threatening allergies (anaphylaxis) immediately. For more information contact me, the school principal, or a public health nurse.

What are peanut butter substitutes?

Peanut butter substitutes are peanut and tree-nut free spreads that look and taste like peanut butter. They are made from roasted soybeans, brown peas, sunflower seeds or pumpkin seeds. Examples include soy nut, pea and sunflower seed butters.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, September 14 th	-	All Gr. 1 - 12 Students Attend School
Monday, September 21 st	-	All Kindergarten Students Attend School
Thursday, September 24 th	-	SCC Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Friday, September 25 th	-	School Photo Day

Fees:

K-12 Student Fee = \$20
Gr. 9 - 12 Home Ec = \$30
Gr 9 - 12 Construction/IA = \$25
Caution Fee = \$25
Art (Gr. 10-12 only) = \$10
Gr 7 & 8 Home Ec/IA = \$24

Please pay your fees, as soon as possible.

Fees can be paid in monthly installments.