




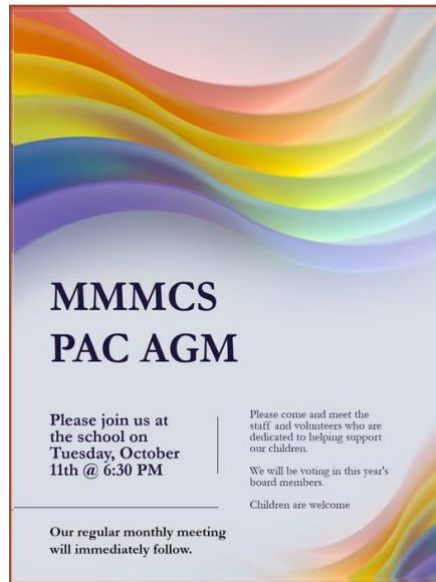
Week Ahead
October 10-14th, 2022
Margaret Ma Murray
Community School



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10 Thanksgiving School closed 	11 PAC meeting @ 6:30 p.m. FSJ Fire Department presentation to grad 3 students 1:00 p.m.	12	13 Fire Drill 2:10 p.m.	14 Firebird Day Wear Red and Black For house team points
17 Assembly @ 9:00 a.m. Bake sale for seniors- All week	18	19	20 Bake sale for seniors	21 Pro-D Day School Closed
24	25	26	27	28 Firebird Challenge Wear house team colours for house team points

P.A.C. Updates: The first Ma Murray School P.A.C. meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11th at 6:30 pm. Parents are encouraged to attend to learn about projects and the P.A.C. will be working on this year. This will be the Annual General Meeting followed by the regular meeting. The P.A.C. will continue this year with the "Growing Smiles" fundraiser. Information can be found at:

https://margaretma.growingsmilesfundraising.com/?fbclid=IwAR0wTRFukcoPTwEG7Tni-KXKXU-KY2ELB23BubWc5eG_pjLfDF-jBn3hsws .



Thank you to all families who attended Open House. It was great to see you all. We look forward to many opportunities to have parents in this year.

Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser brochures and order forms have been sent home. Families who wish may also place an order at:

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/ShoppingMethodSelect.aspx> . Our campaign number for those sending in paper copies of the order form is 41071. Purdy's will arrive by December 10th.

Safety Concerns: In October, we focus on safety. The playground is getting slippery with overnight temperatures dropping making the sidewalks and surfaces icy. Students need to be extra careful at this time. With the extensive fog lately, we encourage students to wear bright reflective clothing if walking to school and make sure that they cross at crosswalks. We are reminding students about crosswalk safety. It's important that all students, parents and staff that are crossing over to the bus area or parking lot, that you use the marked crosswalk and look for traffic. We would also like to remind drivers that the in

front of the school is a school zone and that speed limits need to be followed. Finally, we know that parking is tight at the school. The parking lot is for staff and families and we ask for all drivers to be patient and kind. Please do not block vehicles in their spots to run in to get your children. If you feel it is going to take time to find your child, please park along 105th Avenue to allow others to exit the parking lot.

Student Leadership: Mrs. Comber and Mrs. Bracey are working with intermediate students in leadership activities. Their next focus will be having a bake sale the week of October 17th. The students in leadership will be donating the proceeds from this bake sale to provide "Meals on Wheels" for seniors who are in need. All items will be \$1.00. Donations of baking can be brought to the school each morning that week. Thank you for your support for this worthy cause.

Student Activities: There are many opportunities for student activities within our school. Miss Polnik is offering an art club. Mrs. Fehr and other staff members are offering Yoga over lunch twice a week. Leadership Club happens on Wednesday at lunch. Volleyball teams will begin practices this week. We thank all of our staff and parents who volunteer their time to run these activities.

Kidsport: Are you finding the cost of extra-curricular sporting activities are often too costly to register your children in? Kidsport FSJ is a local organization linked to the provincial organizations that helps provide grants to families for children up to 18 years old to assist with registration costs. Applications and information can be found at:

<https://kidsportcanada.ca/british-columbia/north-peace-ft-st-john/>

We hope families reach out and access this fund.

Framework for Enhancing Student Learning: At planning day on September 23rd, the staff was involved in reviewing school goals, achievement and attendance data. We have set our goals for the year as follows:

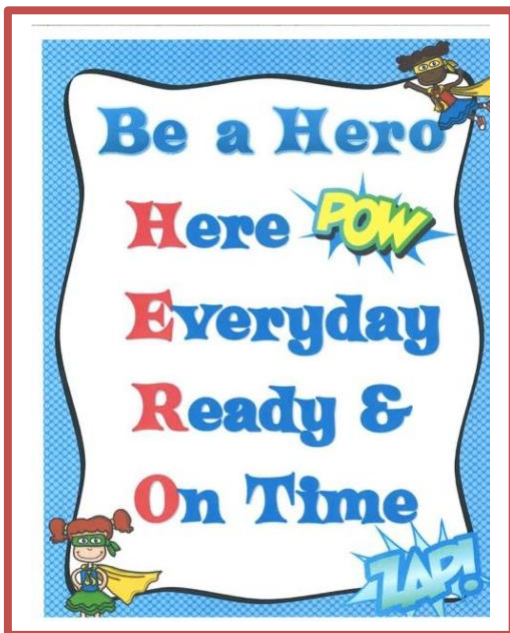
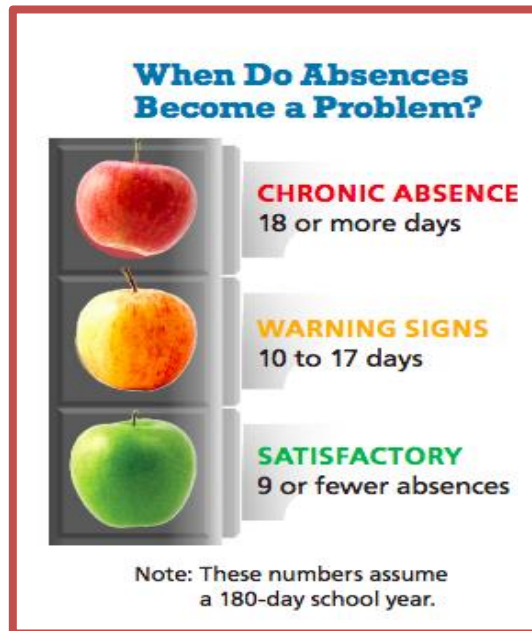
1. To foster a community where everyone feels safe, respected, welcome and accepted.
2. To identify students' abilities and develop personalized opportunities for academic growth.
3. Provide a variety of engaging opportunities for students to develop ADST skills.

We are noticing that an alarming number of students last year missed a significant amount of school and were frequently late. Families often think that missing school in elementary, particularly in kindergarten and primary classes, will not affect student learning. This, however, is a myth. It is true that everything you need to learn to be successful, you learn in kindergarten and carry through the rest of your life. Kindergarten and primary classes provide the foundational skills and work habits that are necessary for further success in older grades. You can't learn if you can't read, get along with others, have socialization skills and good work habits. According to research, students who miss a significant amount of school, have difficulty with reading, writing, math and social skills. These students tend to fall behind in elementary school and have difficulty making friends which then causes stress and anxiety.

Students who miss **20 days** in one year miss more than one full month of instruction. If we think about this, if a student misses one full month every year from kindergarten to the end of grade 6, they miss 140 days and that is almost one full year in elementary. If this trend continues, in middle and high school, that would be another 140 days for a total of 280 days of school or almost two full years of school. Students who miss that much time will have gaps in their learning, will not feel connected to their school community, will possibly have friendship issues and will most likely have trouble learning. Imagine the impact on students if they miss **40 days** each year. That is like missing 4 years of school. School success goes hand in hand with good attendance! Attending school

regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Building healthy attendance habits as early as kindergarten, helps kids in so many ways.

By missing just 2 days of school in the first 20 school days, a child is more likely to experience academic struggles and become a student with chronic attendance issues. Predisposing them to be in the bottom 10% of peers in reading and math in 5th grade. When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Being on time for school ensures that students are there for the beginning of lessons/instruction, for important information regarding the flow of the day and to touch base and check in with their teachers. This morning time is important in so many ways for the success of all students.

We wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend.

Kathy Scheck

Hunter Mackay

Linda Gibos

Staff at Margaret "Ma" Murray Community School

