



# Margaret “Ma” Murray Community School

11504 - 105 Avenue  
Fort St. John BC V1J 0R8  
236-365-6627



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Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

## Mission Statement for Margaret Ma Murray Community School

**We are a caring community. We create, we learn, we collaborate!**

At MMMCS, our vision is to create a welcoming community that will provide creative, hands-on learning experiences. Students are empowered to become kind, inclusive, responsible, and curious lifelong learners.

### School Goals:

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.

Here we are at the end of first term at Margaret Ma Murray Community School. This term has flown by and I hope your children have been as excited about this first term as we have been. We are quickly becoming a community of learners and are especially pleased with the team spirit we are seeing in the activities at the school level. The staff and students have had a lot of fun with Hat Day, airplane contests and House Team Colour Day/Staff vs Student volleyball game. You will see many more house team activities in the coming months. One we are really looking forward to is "Dress Like an Elf Day". Students have been challenged as a whole school to help provide 80 sets of PJs that we can donate to the Christmas Pajama Drive. Students are really looking forward to all the staff dressing like elves, especially the hat that Mr. Mackay will be wearing.

Kindness: We have been working on the kindness virtue over the past few weeks. Students were shown two videos at the assemblies to anchor their understanding of how small acts of kindness can have big aspect. Links are provided below for you:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwAYpLVyeFU> (kindness boomerang) and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rweIE8yyYOU> (colour your world with kindness).

Two of our pods have been recognizing acts of kindness in their classrooms and as a school we will be implementing a kindness challenge in December. The leadership students will be giving out a life sized Grinch with multi-coloured hearts to the pods. The object of the game will be to see if the students can completely cover each Grinch with hearts to help the Grinch grow his heart and develop a kinder mindset. We look forward to seeing which poster can be covered with the most hearts. A reminder of how the Grinch's heart grows is found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMVOnQItqUs>

P.A.C.: The next PAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. All parents are encouraged to join the PAC. The executive is looking for feedback for activities that families would like to participate in.

Volleyball Season: Our students had a great volleyball season this year. We would like to thank the coaches for their dedication and passion for this sport. Miss Nakonechny and Miss Polnik coached the girls' team, Mrs. Francoeur and Mr. Dittmer coached the boys' team and Mrs. Elias-Bertram and Mr. Mackay coached the grade 4/5 team. We were extremely proud at the sportsmanship the teams demonstrated as well as their team spirit. We would like to congratulate the boys' team for their third place finish in league play and their second place finish in the district tournament. It was truly amazing to see this team play their hearts out in the final game, dedicated to the end, encouraging each other. Well done teams! Basketball sign up will happen soon and badminton drop in practices will continue on Wednesday mornings.

Canteen/Special Lunches: So many options for lunch that it can get hard to sort the options out. Families have the following options available through the school: school meals program (daily calendar that you sign up for by month/day), hot lunch special order (sign up on line and pay on line), and daily canteen items (students order at lunch time). Please remember to send in your school meals monthly orders as soon as they are sent out. On line orders for hot lunches can be done at: <http://mmmcs.hotlunches.net> (access code: MMHL). Our first order for hot lunch is December 5<sup>th</sup>.

School Fees: Thank you to all who have sent in their school fees. We will issue receipts as soon as possible. The office accepts cash or check for fees and would appreciate all fees being paid by December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.

Breakfast: Many of our students are arriving hungry each morning. This is due to many factors - taking the bus early, arriving at daycare as early as 7:00 a.m., not eating enough in the morning, families running late etc. There is always a basket of fruit at the entrance way for students to access. We would like to thank the individuals who have provided the food for our breakfast

program. If you are willing to help provide some items for breakfast, please make a donation at the office.

Lost and Found: While in the school for parent-teacher interviews, we encourage you to check out the lost and found in the hallway in front of the cave and also upstairs. There are so many items we cannot get everything in one area. All items will be on display until just before Christmas holidays. At that time unclaimed items will be donated to the Salvation Army.

The temperature is dropping outside and will continue to drop as the month progresses. Just a reminder that the students will be outside until the temperature is -15. Students need to dress appropriately to stay outside for at least 15-20 minutes. We know that families are providing adequate clothing and that the students are choosing not to wear items outside. A friendly reminder from home may help students understand that in order to stay warm, they need to wear their outdoor clothes.

Parking Lot: There daily concerns about the parking lot and entryway of the school. Please remember that it is important to keep all students safe upon arrival and pick up. Vehicles that are parking to drop off are reminded to stay in the drop off zone, not bus zone. This is equally important after school as there are 5 buses to pick up our students, there is a band bus daily and sports teams also accessing a bus on Tuesday and Thursday for games. When leaving the parking lot, please make sure to stop before entering 105<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Although a stop sign has not been installed yet, vehicles must stop to avoid a collision. The staff will also be reviewing rules for road safety with students that walk home. We would appreciate all students using the crosswalks and if all could remain on sidewalks.

Fundraising: We appreciate and thank all families for supporting our fundraisers. Bling, chocolate and Christmas items ordered will all arrive prior to Christmas holidays. The profits from these fundraisers will go towards activities, games, materials, home reading and other items we need for the students and teachers.

Christmas Concert: Our Christmas concert will be held on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Practices have started school wide for this concert and the school really sounds amazing with the sounds of bells and song. We hope that families and friends will be able to make this event and that it will be enjoyable for all. More information will be provided in an update prior to the concert.

In closing, we want to thank you for all your kind words for this first term at Margaret Ma Murray Community School. It has meant a lot to our staff to have positive feedback.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathy Scheck  
Principal

Mr. Hunter Mackay  
Vice Principal

Mrs. Linda Gibos  
Secretary

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26 Purdy's Order is due	27 Report Cards go home	28 Early Dismissal Day @ 1:43 p.m.	29 Early Dismissal Day @ 1:43 p.m.	30 School Closed Interview Day

**DECEMBER**

3 Assembly @ 9:00 a.m.	4	5	6	7
10	11 P.A.C. meeting @ 6:30 p.m. childcare available	12	13	14
17 Assembly @ 9:00 a.m.	18 Christmas concert @ 6:30 p.m.	19	20 Alwin Holland Christmas Concert	21 Last day before holidays



Bannock tacos in the K pod!  
Thank you Mrs. Walker !





Above Top Left: PJ Drive boxes filling up ~ 80 pairs = Elf Day @ MMMCS

Above Top Right: Staff VS Student Volleyball game on November 16<sup>th</sup>

Bottom Top Left: Yellow House Team watching volleyball game

Bottom Top Right: NEAT activities in Pod #1



Top Left: Boys' Volleyball 2<sup>nd</sup> place in tournament

Top Right: Lost & Found by the cave

Left: Whole school watching staff vs student volleyball game