Hello there Jaguar families, and welcome to 2018 here at John Muir! Rumour has it that 2018 should prove a great year to be a Jaguar! We had a wonderful week here at school, now that we have all re-adjusted to those early morning alarms.

It was a wet one here at John Muir. Our school grounds are saturated, yet we will continue to get outside as much as we possibly can. Please try to send in a change of clothes with your child, as we are trying to prevent those midday calls for extra clothes! Just a quick reminder that I will still be taking any prepared and interested Jaguars outside, even on the most inclement of weather days! We experienced one of these days just this past Thursday, as the rain just would not let up! I had approximately 20 little Jaguars join me outside for most of the lunch recess, and they were loving life! I will continue with this trend throughout the remainder of the year.

For anyone with some spare time on Saturday, our PAC will be hosting a bottle drive here at school. This will run from 10-2, and I am certain that any willing volunteers will be welcomed with open arms! If you have some bottles for donation, please bring them over! I believe they are setting up ‘shop’ at the front of the school. Fingers crossed for the rain to stay away!

Ms. Parliament will be starting up our Spring Choir this coming Tuesday. This occurs during class time, and is for any interested students in Grades 2/3/4/5. This is our choir for the spring session, which will be singing some songs for the Sooke Sing Out which takes place in May. As you may remember from our recent Winter Concert, our choir sounds amazing!

Our good ole Lost and Found rack is growing yet again. Please come and take a look through the accumulated wardrobe when you have a minute, as I will be 'downsizing' again near the beginning of February. Thanks for your help with this!

A friendly reminder that there will not be school for students on Monday. This is a Non-Instructional day for students, but offers staff a chance to work together with our new B.C. curriculum. For us it is actually considered a ‘Curriculum Implementation Day’, and we have a variety of workshops to choose from to enhance our capacity with the new curriculum.

You will notice a number of attachments to this weekly. So many important things to share this week:

\* Nature Kindergarten

\* The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

\* Late French Immersion at Journey

\* Vancouver Island Children's Festival

\* "This is Your Child' Brain on Reading"

As I mentioned, a lot of attachments this week! The final one is a copy of an interesting article I came across somewhere in my travels. This one hits home for me as both a parent and an educator. I will let you read this one for yourself, but it essentially highlights the importance of reading for our children. It is a fairly quick read, and one that I hope you enjoy.

Here are some important upcoming dates for your calendars:

Monday, Jan. 15 Non-Instructional Day (No School for Students)

Friday, Jan. 19 Jaguar Assembly

Tuesday, Jan. 23 Discovery Afternoons Begin for three consecutive Tuesdays

Monday, Feb. 12 Family Day (No School)

Thank you for another wonderful week with your precious little ones. When I walked back into the school last Sunday afternoon, I was quickly reminded of how much I appreciate my role at John Muir. This school is a special place, and I look forward to a fantastic 2018 with all of our Jaguars.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Gord