Hi there, and welcome to the end of another fantastic week here at the one and only John Muir Elementary! These four-day weeks seem to be over before we know it. That said, of course we were able to pack in a lion’s share of learning, love and fun. Here is hoping your week was enjoyable as well.

We are fortunate to still have the gymnastic equipment on loan from Poirier Elementary. If you haven’t been able to take a peek in our gym, please do before the end of next week. Our Jaguars love this equipment, and are very motivated to get down to the gym to practice and perform! We have the equipment until next Thursday, which will allow us four more days of fun!

There was energy and love in the air this past Wednesday, as we celebrated Valentine’s Day with a Jaguar flair. Although this is one of the ‘official’ days on the calendar to display our affection for others, this is honestly something we do consistently well in this school. In my position, I tend to take much time to reflect on the culture of our little school. I embrace the love, affection and level of care on display at our school, as it is part of the very fabric upon which this school is built. Days, such as February 14, only emphasize this point on a larger scale. We truly have a special place here at John Muir, and I am proud to be a Jaguar.

I know I sing the praises of our PAC on a regular basis, but this recognition is fully deserved. These hard-working and dedicated parents devote an abundance of their own time and effort to our school, allowing us so many great opportunities and materials. Without their support, our Jaguars would not be able to go on field trips, have Discovery Afternoons or enjoy the latest classroom technology to the level that we do here at John Muir. With government funding tightening over the past number of years, it has been the work of PAC’s across our district that allow our schools to prosper in many regards. We are so thankful for the work that they do for our Jaguars! Thursday offered another chance to highlight one of the many things our PAC does here at John Muir. It was a hot chocolate afternoon! It was wonderful to see so many of our students, staff and parents enjoying a warm hot chocolate outside after school. Thanks again to our PAC, you are truly amazing!

I have to add, it was fantastic having a week of relatively dry weather! Just having that sun pop out for a few minutes here and there, really did have a great effect on the general mood for all of us. As I’m writing this I’m looking at the drizzle coming down outside my window—at least our gardens will be very healthy again this year!

We are still battling the sick germ here at John Muir. Just as I’m thinking that we have moved past this bug, it seems that a whole new faction of our school population takes the hit. If your little one is complaining of an upset tummy or head/chest cold, please know that it is making its rounds throughout our school! We are giving regular reminders for handwashing and taking care of our bodies, so hopefully this will help.

Attached to the Weekly are the following:

• How Much Is Too Much?

• Harmony Project Description

• Harmony Project Fundraiser

Please add these important dates to your calendars!

Fri, Feb 23 Non-Instructional Day (No School for students)

Wed, Feb 28 Pink Shirt Day

Wed, Mar 14 Student Learning Tours

Fri, Mar 16 Last Day before Spring Break

Thank you to those of you whom have sent me messages regarding the articles that I have been attaching to the Weekly. I will continue to post articles of interest that I discover throughout my days. This week’s addition is a short little ‘suggestion’ article regarding scheduling of activities for our young ones. I found it informative—not that we can take everything we read and follow it as written! This one just offered some helpful reminders.

I hope this weekend offers you a chance to spend some quality time with family and friends. If you can get outside, with your little ones, for some fresh air it goes a long way towards physical and emotional well-being.

Please enjoy your weekend, and take a moment to feel grateful for the important things in your life.

Gord