Hello there Jaguar families and welcome to the end of another week here at fabulous John Muir Elementary! I am flabbergasted by the fact that we are only 1 week shy of Spring Break--honestly, the past few months have passed us by at breakneck speed! Seeing that sun today definitely brightened the mood of our school community. Looking at the long-range forecast has me smiling as we seem to be in for a few days of lovely weather! There is nothing like a weekend of sun to perk our spirits, so here is hoping for the best!

We actually seem to be moving past this latest bout of sickness that hit our school like a whirlwind. Thank you to those parents whom have been asked to pick up their child due to sickness. I know that this can be a serious disruption to your day, and we will only call if truly necessary. Fingers crossed that we are relatively germ free for at least the coming week!

Coach B was back at his tennis best this week. It was so nice to have him back sharing his tennis prowess with our students. Not only can he swing a racket with the best of them, but he has some very well refined recess hockey court skills as well. Thanks to Coach B for be so amazing with our staff and students.

Friday brought with it a wonderful opportunity for our Jaguars. Each year we are fortunate to host the Sooke Dance Studio's Performance Crew for an afternoon of dancing entertainment. This year's crew did not disappoint! We were treated to a fantastic show, full of past and present Jaguars! They did an excellent job, and represented the studio well. Our Jaguars provided a wonderfully respectful audience, and seemed to be very grateful for this opportunity. Needless to say, it was a nice end to our week.

You will notice on the upcoming events that we have our Shared Learning Night planned for this coming Wednesday, March 14 from 3:00 pm to 7:00pm right here at the school. As you will recall, this takes the place of the traditional Parent-Teacher Interviews, and has been working extremely well with our school community for the past few years. I look forward to these evenings, as it is a great opportunity to share and celebrate the learning accomplished by each of our Jaguars. I will send out an email this weekend, regarding specific times in each class. There will not be a sign-up sheet, as each classroom will be open throughout the evening. I will send out further information on Sunday evening. We look forward to seeing many of you here on Wednesday evening!

In relation to the above note, report cards will be going out on the last day of school before the break, which just happens to be next Friday, March 16! I receive the luxury of pre-reading each of these reports, and I am always impressed with the amount of care, knowledge and planning that each of our teachers devotes to this process. I am lucky to be part of such a talented staff here at John Muir.

Added to the Weekly are the following:

\* Sooke Basketball Club

\* Parental Support for Student Success

Please add to your calendars the following dates:

Wed, Mar 14 Shared Learning Evening (3pm to 7pm)

 Hot Cocoa & Coffee Afternoon (PAC sponsored)

Fri, Mar 16 Last Day before Spring Break

 Cozy Friday!

 Report Cards Go Home

Tue, Apr 3 Schools Re-Open

I have once again tried to find an interesting parenting article for those interested. This week I came across a piece which outlines some home strategies designed to support your child with school. I found it informative, but as always you need to look at it through the lens of your own family and child. If you ever have any questions about any of these articles, please do not hesitate to ask!

If the weather forecast is indeed correct, this may just be one of those weekends to pack up the family and head outside for some kind of adventure. I polled one particular class today on this very topic and they came up with some interesting ideas. Here is a cross-section of their answers:

\* Go fishing

\* Put up a tent in the yard (but come inside when it gets too cold at night)

\* Go for a family bike ride

\* Play a family game of Mantracker (a fave for many Jaguars)

\* Play soccer on the new turf field in Sooke

\* Go for a family swim

\* Go for a walk

\* Collect rocks at the beach

Please enjoy your weekend, and I hope it involves time spent with those closest to you. Happy Friday all!

Gord