Good afternoon Jaguar families, and happy Friday to all of you! We enjoyed a busy, yet fabulous, week here at John Muir and enjoyed the glimpses of sunshine that seemed to sneak throughout our days. This week brought many highlights, of which I would love to share...

As I have so openly shared before, I feel very fortunate to be a part of such a special school community. John Muir occupies a precious portion of my heart, and I truly look forward to my each and every work day. As you are more than aware, the staff at John Muir are a huge driving force behind this caring school community. I am blessed to work with such a talented and loving staff, whom honestly care greatly for the hearts of our Jaguars. Over the past several months we have been lucky to host some future SD 62 staff members, all on their respective university/college practicums. I would like to recognize the efforts of Rachael Radsma (Mrs. Merx's class), Tabitha Chester (Mrs. Purnell's class) and Shala Revet (EA student), whom all enjoyed wonderful practicums within our building. Each of these fine individuals enjoyed much success in their John Muir roles, and will undoubtedly find happiness within their chosen careers. We thank them for their contributions over the past several weeks, and wish them the very best moving forward. In fact, we would love to see each of them back at John Muir one day, this time in more of a permanent fashion!

Lacrosse was the theme of the week here at John Muir! We were treated to the expert teachings of the talented Naomi, our resident lacrosse coach for the past three days. Naomi is one of our district 'Role Models' traveling between schools and districts, where she spreads her vast lacrosse knowledge. Naomi is a very skilled player, but equally as astute in the art of teaching. She understands the needs of individual children, and is swift in her ability to develop natural relationships. We have definitely enjoyed her coaching over the past three days, and look forward to booking her again next year. Her passion was contagious!

It is not my intention to attempt 'small-talk' with reference to the weather, but I do have to bring up this ever-changing topic yet again! We seem to be in another bout of wetness, but you can definitely feel more warmth in the air. On this note, we will be going outside as much as possible. Please attempt to send your child with appropriate weather wear, as that fresh air is so necessary throughout our days. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding with this one!

Our Jaguars definitely have a wide array of talents, and they have been on display in recent days. I am indeed making reference to our upcoming Talent Show on April 30. This is a keenly anticipated event in our parts, and our rehearsals have commenced! At the moment we are having talent show practices over the lunch hour on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This will continue up until the date of the actual show. I am sure that your little one has probably informed you of her/his intention to display said talent, but I will be sending out emails to families with performers at some point next week. If your child is planning on performing, I inform you of their act and any accompanying music or props. I have downloaded and checked (for appropriateness) all of the requested songs at this point, and the choices are top quality! This should be another adorably successful John Muir Talent Show!

With Earth Day quickly approaching, we will be hosting another Jaguar assembly this week upcoming. This is a vital opportunity to promote the importance of taking care of our planet, and I am certain our Jaguars will have some wonderful ideas and insights to share at our assembly. Keep your eyes posted on that bulletin board just outside the office area, as I hear we may have a new theme this week. Thanks in advance to Rasheeda for all of the work she puts into making that board an inviting and informative visual for our school.

Next week is a busy one, but also a shortened adventure here at school. Our next round of Cross-Country is happening this coming Wednesday, and our Jaguars have polished up those running shoes for two more races. If your child is participating on this team, she/he should have brought home a permission form by now. If you haven't seen one yet, please check the backpack or drop by the office on Monday as we have some extras kicking around. Just a quick reminder that Thursday is a 1/2 day in lieu of the Shared Learning Night back in March, and Friday is a Non-Instructional Day. This next week is going to zoom by in a flash!

Attached to the Weekly are the following documents:

\* Youth Engagement Progam

\* Digital Media Presentation

\* Model Request Poster

\* Parent Article--Why More Outside Time?

Please take note of the following dates for your ever-growing calendars:

\* Wed, April 18 Cross-Country @ Westshore Parks & Rec.

\* Thur, April 19 Early Dismissal (Lunch)

\* Fri, April 20 Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)

\* Wed, April 25 Cross-Country @ Westshore Parks & Rec.

\* Mon, April 30 Talent Show

\* Wed, May 2 1st Annual Walk-a-Thon

\* Thur, May 3 Soccer Jamboree @ Westhills Stadium in Langford

As you will notice, this is a very busy time of year in schools. We tend to book many exciting events for these warmer months, as we love to celebrate the successes of our year. One new addition to our calendar this year is that of the Walk-A-Thon. You should have received information regarding this fundraiser, and please feel free to ask questions should any arise. This could be a great initiative for our school, and we extend a huge thank you to the organizers of this event and our beloved PAC for endorsing something of this nature.

I truly hope this weekend brings with it some time for you to enjoy those people most precious in your lives. The recent Humboldt hockey bus tragedy allowed me some forced reflection time. For one, I was reminded just how proud I am to be a Canadian, as our country collectively wrapped around the Humboldt community with empathy and a humanity that is unique to our country. This horrific incident also reminded me about the preciousness of life, and that we need to embrace what we have any available opportunity. Love and support are true gifts in this frantic world, and this weekend is as good a time as any to embrace both of these vital qualities.

Please have a wonderful weekend, and take care of those most important in your world.

Gord