Hi there Jaguar families, I hope you have all enjoyed a satisfying week! If this wet and dreary weather is getting you down, just drop on in to the school as the December energy has arrived and will certainly brighten your day!

As I've mentioned previously (insert broken record comment here), we continue to go outside despite the wet weather. On that note, it wouldn't be a Weekly without my reminders about appropriate weather wear and a change of clothing for your little jaguar. In case you haven't noticed, our school grounds are saturated! Our students love to play outside and they seem totally fine with the mud and water, until they have to bring it inside on their clothing. If you know your child is one of our mud-lovers, it would be more than ok to send in a couple of changes of clothing--nothing like preventative measures!

As I'm sure you are aware, December is a busy month around any school. John Muir is no exception. I thought this may be a good opportunity to remind you that we have our Winter Concert coming up on December 14. We will be hosting this event in the theater at EMCS, our local high school. We tried this last year, and it worked so well for us that we decided to use this facility again. We will be sending home tickets to each family next week. This will be explained in notice form with the tickets, but we will be asking you to send any unused tickets back to the school so that they can be redistributed to any families needing extras. This worked very well last year, and I don't anticipate any problems with this process. For any families not able to make the actual concert, you are welcome to join us for the dress rehearsal. The dress rehearsal will also be at EMCS, and will take place at 11:00am on December 13. The actual Winter Concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 14 at 6:30pm. This is one of those events that brings tears to the eyes, so get ready for a good one!

A HUGE thank you to our PAC, and in particular our fearless president Chantal Cutting. With a less-than-full volunteer base these amazing PAC members, via the leadership of Chantal, were able to pull off a spaghetti lunch for 195 people today! Not only did they pull it off, but it was delicious! We are so lucky to be able to have events such as these at our little school, and we are so grateful to our generous PAC! I overheard several kids raving about the lunch, wishing that this was a daily occurrence! That type of praise is not easily elicited from a 7 year old!

A quick reminder that report cards went home with your child today. That said, I have a few 'lost soldiers' remaining here in the office. Sometimes we have the intention to give things to our parents, but even the best-laid plans implode from time to time. For the first time in my career I had the pleasure to read each and every report card. Needless to say I am proud of the accomplishments demonstrated by our Jaguars, and look forward to helping them reach their potential whilst under our care. Please take a look at the goals set out by your child's classroom teacher, as these will help guide your little one throughout the next term and the remainder of the school year. Reporting time is a great opportunity to celebrate accomplishments, while also setting goals for future successes. When the home and school are on the 'same page', it truly sets the stage for positive growth. Thank you for being such a supportive community!

Attached to the Weekly are the following documents:

\* Free Skating Day

\* PACE Musical

Please Note These Important Upcoming Dates:

Wed, Dec. 6 PAC Craft Night

Wed, Dec. 13 Dress Rehearsal (11:00am)

Thur, Dec. 14 Winter Celebration at EMCS (begins at 6:30)

Fri, Dec. 15 PJ Day!

Fri, Dec. 22 Last Day of School before Winter break

Mon, Jan. 8 School Resumes

Although we, as the adults at John Muir, embrace the month of December and all of its inherent energy, I would be remiss if I didn't mention my own efforts at keeping our building as calm as possible. I realize that this will be a challenging proposition, but I will attempt to impress as much calmness as I possibly can in our Jaguars big and small. The month of December provides us a great opportunity to focus on our three big virtues of kindness, respect, and honesty. However, it also allows us to nurture in our students a true sense of empathy and understanding, as the holidays are not always a time of joy for each and everyone of us. I view our role as educators as one of utmost influence in the lives of our students, and we will take this opportunity to help our Jaguars continue to grow as healthy individuals. Please remind your little ones about the importance of kindness and first time listening for the next few weeks, as high energy and excitement can naturally cloud our intentions. That said, bring on the festive season here at John Muir!

Thank you to those whom actually read through my Weekly each and every Friday. For me, healthy communication is a key to any successful school. Please remember that my office is always open, and I am only an email, a phone call or a quick visit away.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Gord