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# Muheim Communiqué

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École Muheim Memorial Elementary  
3659 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue PO Box 2260 Smithers, B.C.  
TEL.: 250-847-2688

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**Volume 1 Issue 1**

**September 2025**

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## Student Land Acknowledgement

*My name is Stella and I was born in Smithers. I live and learn on the traditional lands of the Gidimt'en (Bear Wolf Clan) territory, home of the Witsuwit'en Nation. I appreciate the clean rivers all around me. I like to swim in the lakes. I look after this land by not littering and picking up litter to show respect to our world. ~Stella, Grade 4*

## Principal's Message

Welcome to a new school year at École Muheim Memorial Elementary, home of the Muheim Marmots (ditni)! We acknowledge with gratitude that our place of learning is located on the unceded Gidimt'en Bear Wolf Clan Territory, home of the Witsuwit'en Nation. We deeply appreciate the time and care families have taken to prepare children for the start of school, and we warmly welcome you to a school with a big heart, where dedicated leaders care for children in a compassionate and supportive way. Our team is looking forward to an exciting year of learning, growing, and building lasting memories together with our students and families. We are proud to carry forward the Muheim motto:

At Muheim,  
we take care of ourselves,  
we take care of each other,  
we take care of our school and,  
we take care of our world.  
À Muheim,  
on prends soins de nous mêmes,  
on prends soins des autres,  
on prends soins de notre école ET,  
on prends soins du monde qui nous entoure.

## Contact Information

If any of your contact information has changed (address, phone numbers, emergency contacts, e-mail address) please let the school office know so that we can update our student information system. You can email the details to [mmeoffice@sd54.bc.ca](mailto:mmeoffice@sd54.bc.ca) or call us at (250) 847-2688.

## Facebook

Please follow "Muheim Elementary School" on Facebook for important information, reminders and upcoming events!

## Before and After-School Care

We are excited to welcome the YMCABC as a third-party childcare provider to our building. If you need any information regarding the before and after-school program, please contact Desirae Thomsen at [desirae.thomsen@bc.ymca.ca](mailto:desirae.thomsen@bc.ymca.ca). This program is managed and run through YMCABC.

## Muheim Elementary Staff

Name and Role
Mme Forstbauer/ Ms. Long (K/1 – Div. 12) French Immersion
Mrs. Schelter/ Mrs. Eller (Gr. 2/3- Div. 9) English
M Levenson / M Collins (Gr. 5/6-Div.4) French Immersion
Ms. Neiser (Gr. 5/6-Div. 3) English
Ms. Hitchmough (Gr. 6/7-Div. 1) English
Mme Topott (Gr. 6/7-Div. 2) French Immersion
Mrs. Hoffman – Learner Support
Mme Pinkerton – Learner Support
Mme Curley (Gr. 4/5-Div. 5) French Immersion
M Gagnon (Gr.3/4 -Div. 6) French
Ms. Page (Gr. K-Div. 13) English
Mme Melymick (Gr. K-Div. 14) French Immersion
Mrs. L'Orsa (Music/Prep)
Ms. Hoffman (Gr.1/2-Div. 11) English
Ms. Sikkes – Teacher Librarian
Mme Chantrill (Gr. 2/3-Div. 8) French Immersion
Ms. Young/ Ms. Long (Gr. 4/5-Div. 7) English
Mme Leblanc (Gr.1/2-Div. 10) French Immersion
Mme Lapointe – Support Staff/French Language Support
M Gilson – Support Staff/French Language Support
Mrs. Richardson– Indigenous Support Worker
Ms. Van Velzen – Support Staff
Ms. Clarke – Support Staff/Breakfast Program
Ms. Vandenbosch – Support Staff
Ms. Schibli – Support Staff
Ms. Herbert – Support Staff
Ms. Mosley – Support Staff
Ms. Geronazzo – Support Staff
Ms. Gideon – Support Staff
Ms. Moodie – Support Staff/Breakfast Program Coordinator
Ms. Connors – Office Administration
Mrs. Shewchuk – Attendance Secretary/Library Clerk
Mrs. Bokongole- Custodial
Mrs. – Trinh Custodial
Mrs. Dingwall – Custodial
M Levenson – Vice Principal
Mme Pesce – Principal

It takes all of us - staff, families, and community - to nurture the promise in every child. 😊

### Muheim Open House

We will be holding our Open House on Thursday, **September 18th from 5:30pm – 6:30 pm**. This is a chance for students to show families their fabulous learning spaces all around the school, including their new classroom! Students are excited to introduce you to their teacher as well as other staff members who support them. We are looking forward to having you join us.

### Mornings and After School

When dropping off in the morning, please remember that our supervision **is in the back of the school** where the playground/fields are located. Outdoor supervision in the morning starts at 8:25am. Once students arrive, they head to the back of the school until the warning bell rings at 8:55. If a lot of students start congregating at the front well before 8:55, this could lead to a number of safety issues. Similarly, after school, we are asking parents/guardians to wait for students on the sidewalk at the front. Our younger students will be brought out front by their teachers, while our older students will be dismissed and walk around to meet their parents/guardians/rides on their own. The school is the safest place for children to become more independent by coming to meet you.

### School Drop-Off, Pick-Up & Parking

The businesses that own the parking lots on the corner of King and Third, adjacent to the post-office and the theatre, have asked that the gravel lots not be used for parking.

### School Supplies

We are collecting a fee of **\$45 for all grades**. As well as an additional \$8 per student if your child's teacher requested an agenda or communication pouch. We would appreciate payment for student supplies sometime during the month of September. If you are sending payment with your child, please send exact change with your child or write a cheque payable to *Muheim Elementary School*.

<b>School Day Schedule</b>		
Morning	8:55am Warning Bell	9:00am Class Starts
Recess	10:30am	10:45am
Lunch Break	12:15-12:30pm Eating period	12:30-1:00pm Outside playtime
<b>School is dismissed for all students at 3:05pm</b>		
<b>Thursday dismissal for all students is 2:00pm</b>		

### Individual Student AND Class Photo Day

Students will have their individual photo as well as class photos taken on **Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**. Preview packages with ordering and payment instructions will be distributed about two weeks later. **Retakes will be scheduled and the date is TBD.**

### Safe Arrival:

To assist with our Safe Arrival procedures, family members are requested to download the safe arrival app. It is located on the school district website under the student tab. If you are unable to download the app, please email ([mmeoffice@sd54.bc.ca](mailto:mmeoffice@sd54.bc.ca)) or call the school (250-847-2688) after 8:15am if a child is going to be absent or late. Please inform the office and not only the classroom teacher. This way, we can be sure all children are accounted for. In the event that your child is absent and we have not received communication on their whereabouts, the safe arrival program will send out an automated call to all contacts listed on your child's profile, including emergency contacts. If your child is late arriving to school, please have them sign in at the office so that you do not receive a call.

### Bus Students and Expectations

#### **Please remind students of the bus riding hat trick:**

- (1) remember your bus pass every day
- (2) know your after school plan
- (3) if bus plans change during the day, please inform us.

Our Maintenance Dept. has asked us to reinforce that children must have bus passes. Please ensure bus passes do not get covered with stickers or tape as they will not scan if they are compromised. Children who ride the bus came home with a bus expectation notice – please review this with your child if you have not already done so. An electronic copy will be emailed to families as well.

### Cell Phones & Electronic Devices

Students should not have cell phones at school. If they do have cell phones that are needed for after school communication, they must keep their device in their backpack. Smart watches can also be a distraction. If your child has a Smart watch that is interfering with learning, their teacher will reach out to you.

### Toys at School

If children choose to bring an item from home that they wish to play with at recess/lunch, please remind them that they do so "at their own risk." If students have special, sentimental, expensive items, it is best that these items remain safely at home.

### Dressing for the Weather

Please ensure your child comes to school with appropriate clothing for various types of weather as we know the weather can change throughout the day. A change of clothes in their backpack or stored in the classroom would be beneficial. Please ensure all clothing and footwear is labeled with your child's name. If they do not yet have a pair, all students will need a pair of indoor runners with non-marking soles.

### Extra-Curricular Sports/Activities

The purpose of elementary school sports events is to encourage participation and to foster a healthy competitive spirit based on fair play and sportsmanship. At Muheim students are encouraged to take part in a variety of physical health activities. We offer a range of extracurricular activities outside of class time.

### Terry Fox School Run

Muheim students will be participating in this year's Terry Fox School Run. It will be held at the school and will take place on Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, just after our visit from the Cops for Cancer presentation. We are proud to continue the legacy of one of our country's greatest heroes. We hope you will join us and support this wonderful cause by donating a loonie or a toonie. Our goal is to reach the equivalent of \$2.00 per student, which this year will be about \$610.

### District Soccer Tournament

Muheim will be hosting the fun-focused district soccer tournament this year on Thursday, September 25 from noon to approximately 6pm. The fun tournament is open to students in grades four through seven. Sign up for soccer begins on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Cross Country Run

The annual district Cross Country Run is on Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at Riverside Park. Children will walk after school down to Riverside before the run begins. Parents will be required to pick students up after the run.

### PAC News

It's a fresh new year at Muheim, and your PAC executives are looking forward to the fantastic year ahead. PAC is a collective voice from Muheim parents/caregivers who volunteer to help make our school a better place! All voices are welcome at our monthly meetings that are always held Monday evenings at 6pm in the school library. We offer various fundraising opportunities

throughout the year, we support & run many events, and supply the students with outdoor sports equipment, additional funds to bring in special guests & bussing money for class field trips to reduce the cost for students each year to name a few of the awesome ways we make a difference. Our first fundraiser starts right away! Keep your eyes open for the Rancho forms coming home! If you are curious & would like to be involved, come to a meeting, like us on Facebook "Muheim Memorial Elementary PAC." Read the PAC section of the newsletter, check out the bulletin board when you enter the front of the school, or connect with the PAC chair: [muheimpacchair@gmail.com](mailto:muheimpacchair@gmail.com)

Your 2025/2026 voted in Executives are:

Chair: Jen Mio

Vice Chair: Amie Wittke

Secretary: Hailey Ross

Treasurer: Mike Sanborn

Pizza hot lunch coordinator: Tara Williston

### District Elementary Band Program 2024-25

Mr. Jordan Daviel at Smithers Secondary will be teaching Grade 6 and 7 Concert Band again this year. All practices will be held at Smithers Secondary in the music room. It's not too late to sign up for band! We have forms in the office. Band schedules will be posted monthly in the office as well. If you have questions, please contact Jordan Daviel by email at [jordan.daviel@sd54.bc.ca](mailto:jordan.daviel@sd54.bc.ca)

### Upcoming Calendar

Sept 15	PAC Meeting 6pm, library
Sept 16	Cops for Cancer Visit (9:40am)
Sept 16	Terry Fox Run (approx. 10am)
Sept 18	Student & Class Photo Day
Sept 18	Muheim Open House & Meet the Staff <b>**5:30 – 6:30pm**</b>
Sept 19	Muheim Spirit Day – wear green, gold, yellow, black or white
Sept 25	Soccer Tournament (noon – 6pm)
Sept 29	Muheim Orange Shirt Day
Sept 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation Observance - <b>School Closed</b>
Oct 9	Cross Country Run – Riverside Park
Oct 13	Thanksgiving Day – <b>School Closed</b>

Sincerely,

Mme Liliana Pesce  
Principal

