



Mossbank School

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<http://www.prairiesouth.ca/mossbank>

Located on Treaty 4 Territory, the original lands of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the homeland of the Métis Nation



May 2020

Mossbank Playground Update

In terms of progress on the Playground Project, the Home and School has sent out a request for bids to do some cement work. To see the **bid specifications**, you can go to the Mossbank Home and School Facebook page to see the information and where to submit the bid. Bids close on May 15th. It will be exciting to get this project wrapped up.

Playground equipment for the project has been ordered! Once concrete is completed, the equipment arrives, and it is safe to assemble a small crew of volunteers for installation, we hope to complete this project so that students will have access to new equipment when they are once again allowed to use shared play structures.

SCC News

The **Mossbank School SCC AGM and elections** were to be held at the end of April. The division has postponed this until the fall. Just a note: we still have open spots we can fill, so if anyone is interested in joining in the fall, please let us know. The SCC's mandate is to act as the liaison between the school and the community, as well as support the learning goals of the school. Please note that we do not do fundraising on this committee—our fabulous Home and School Association does this big task for our school. And, we GREATLY appreciate everything they do and provide for our students.

2020-21 Staffing and Calendar

Our 2020-21 calendar has been set for the next school year. It can be found on the Prairie South School Division website. Go to the PSSD Home page - click on the Schools tab - select School Calen-

dars. Our 2020-21 calendar is called K-12 Schools. Or follow this link: <https://www.prairiesouth.ca/schools/school-calendars/>. We will be continuing with the alternate school calendar for the fall. We have now started the process of selecting class offerings and creating next year's timetable. Our teaching staff remains at 9.0 FTE teachers, and our EA staff will remain at 2.5 FTE for the coming year.

Track and Field Season

Unfortunately, our Track and Field season will not go ahead this year. It would have been a different year, anyway, because we were not able to use Guthridge Field for meets this year due to the upgrades that were incomplete from last year. The all-weather surface has not been installed yet. Work on the field was scheduled to resume in the summer, which would have missed our outdoor season. In addition, the SHSAA has stopped all athletic practices and competitions. However, if students still want to train themselves for track and field, cross country running, or golfing (you could set up a cool chipping green in your yard), encourage them to track their progress on their own. Unfortunately, our grade 12's will miss their last T & F season. We acknowledge your sorrow--we feel it, too.

Thank you!

- Thank you to everyone who supported out Mom's Pantry Fundraiser!
- Thank you to everyone for your part in flattening the curve of COVID 19!
- Thank you to everyone who has sent in pictures for the yearbook, please keep them coming!

Yearbook

This has been an interesting school year and we would like the yearbook to reflect it. Please send in any and many pictures of your students during the COVID-19 self isolating that we can put in the yearbook. There will be a section on how we learn at home. Pictures can be of doing online lessons, paper copy lessons, working with parents, baking, cooking, sewing, crafting, playing games, doing chores (dishes, cutting grass, vacuuming, sweeping the floor, washing walls, cleaning, etc.) family times, watching documentaries, FaceTiming with friends, playing video games, outdoor activities, social distancing, wearing masks, the sky is the limit. Please email them to me at ander-son.carolyn@prairiesouth.ca. Thank you! Let's make the 2019-2020 yearbook memorable!

Growing Smiles Plant Fundraiser

Orders are due Friday, May 15th. The plants will be delivered to the front of the school on Wednesday, May 27th. If you would like to order plants, you can do so on your School Cash Online account or you can mail in completed order forms along with payment to Mossbank School Box 460 Mossbank, SK S0H 3G0. Please ensure mailed forms are sent in in enough time to be received by the May 15th order deadline.

Upcoming Events:

May 8-No School
May 15-No School
May 18-Victoria Day Holiday
June 2-Wear Pink Day

Mossbank School Update – May 7th, 2020

Greetings, everyone! We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. We can see that the farmers are getting out for seeding—that is awesome! The weather has been cooperating so far, and the sunshine is like a big warm hug. I encourage everyone to get outdoors, get your vitamin D (which is your “happy” vitamin), and enjoy mother nature even in these times of CV19. I just wanted to give you an update of some of the things that are still going on at the school, even though there are no students here, and they are doing learning through online supplemental learning and home experiential learning.

Teachers and support staff have been working both from home and from the school on creating **supplemental learning** opportunities and staying connected with students through Google Classroom applications. I have seen some really great things happening: staff embracing and conquering new technology (especially when technology is not their forte!), creating innovative and interesting lessons, holding Zoom and Google Meet meetings, reading to students, and organizing/cleaning areas of the school, just to name a few. We also have some families who have difficulty with internet/wifi in their homes, so there is a lot of emailing and paper deliveries that have also been done to provide students with options to learn. In addition, several of our staff members are also supporting their own children in supplemental learning at home. This has also been a great time for the staff to take part in professional development opportunities through online webinars and learn a lot about things like learning disabilities, instructional strategies, assessment strategies, classroom management, behaviour, and mental health, just to name a few. I have also been sharing some fun learning activities on the **Mossbank School Facebook page** rolled out by Prairie South School Division. Even if you are not able to take part in the supplemental learning sent out by teachers, there are always little fun practical activities that you can do in these Facebook shares.

In terms of **assessments**, March 13th was the cut off date for marks set by the Ministry of Education when CV19 hit. From there on in, marks were frozen, and student would receive those marks or better (their mark will not go down from March 13th). These marks are reflected in the student and parent **portals** (term 2 for K-8 students and term 3 for the 9-12 students). Moving forward, any work assessed for students will be entered into their last term (term 3 for K-8 students and term 4 for 9-12 students). Teachers are gradually posting assessment results—be sure to click on the correct term to view. Please be patient with teachers posting because students are all at a different spot. If you get **locked out of your portal**, I will send you reset instructions the next day to get you back up and running. Report cards will still be sent out via the portal at the end of June.

What is going to happen in the fall? Honestly, we don't know. What we do know is that students will be in different places in terms of their learning. As of this week, we have 89% of our students who have logged on to do supplemental learning (digitally or by paper), but again, everyone is in a different spot and have done different amounts of work, and that's okay. We know that this is not the same as a regular school. So, we, along with the Ministry, will figure out the best way to handle the “return to school.” In the meantime, I am still creating the new timetable for next year, hoping that we will be up and running as usual.

Grad 2020 had previously been set for Friday, May 29th. As soon as we know of any changes in the plans to open up the province from the government, we will be able to plan for a celebration of some kind. One thing we do know for sure is that our graduations are very much community celebrations, and we will continue to honour that in some way. **Our nine graduates** this year are Jordan B., Ayden J., Megan K., Payton M., Alicia B., Chisholm P., Teagan S., Cameron S., and Isabel W. We look forward to celebrating you all and this achievement.

Our **Student Well-Being** goal, **Conflict Resolution**, is a life-long skill, and we hope that you can incorporate some of the strategies at home. Building resilience is a big deal when it comes to kids coping with life.

So, how do we build resilience with our kids? Here are some tips:

1. Be a good listener. Allow kids to talk about how they feel about an issue. Acknowledge their feelings and be prepared to share how you feel, too! They will then understand it is okay to feel sad, angry, anxious, or blue. These are normal things.

2. Help them understand that not everything is “fixable.” Lots of things in life are not fixable—we just figure out how to live with different situations. Help them find a new normal when things cannot be fixed.

3. Look for the silver lining. Sometimes, the silver lining can be found quickly, but sometimes, it takes a while. Talk about what those silver linings are/could be and embrace them as they come to light.

4. Look back. Our lives are always changing, so when we look back at the hard times, we can see that we CAN move forward into a good place, even though we struggle at times. We need to acknowledge the hope that things will get better even if they are not great right now.

All-in-all, the main thing is to keep the lines of communication open with your kids. They are looking to you to guide them through their lives. It is probably one of the most powerful things you will ever do! This has been such a unique experience for all of us, and we need to acknowledge that what is the most important thing, in the end, is our connection to each other.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us 306-354-2449. And, don't forget to check out our website at <https://schools.prairiesouth.ca/mossbank/> or our Facebook page: Mossbank School. Stay safe and continue to wash your hands and social distance to continue to flatten this second curve for our health care workers.

-Leanne Rutko – Principal
~Kindness Matters: Kind Thoughts-Kind Words-Kind Deeds~