

# Fort Assiniboine School Newsletter



September 2009  
Volume 9, Issue 1

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

To the Parents and Students of Fort Assiniboine School:

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all students to Fort Assiniboine School. We strive everyday to make school a respectful, safe, and caring environment for our students. As indicated in our mission statement: "The purpose of Fort Assiniboine School, together with our community, is to encourage and support individual success." Our staff will work collaboratively within our Professional Learning Communities and with our parents and community stakeholders to build a culture of excellence in learning within our school. Through this commitment to build our culture of excellence in learning, it is our goal to provide opportunities for all of our students to broaden their horizons and forge ties within and outside of our community. Through this, it is our aspiration to offer the chance and support for our students to develop the necessary work ethic, skill sets, and knowledge base to prepare them to be successful citizens in the global and knowledge-based economies of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To help us achieve this, our Three-Year Education Plan, identifies our SMART Goals for the year to place additional emphasis in increasing our achievement in mathematics, increase in formative assessment practices to improve high school completion for students at risk, and increased participation of the home and community in public education.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite all parents and students to our opening barbeque and meet the teacher evening on September 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00 pm. There will be an opportunity meet our staff and ask questions about our your child's programming as well as enjoy a barbecue dinner for all. Please bring all family members for the event if you wish to do so. *In order to assist some of our students who come to school hungry, if you wish to make a cereal or breakfast/cereal bar donation to the students, it would be greatly appreciated.* At 7:00 pm that same evening, our Secondary (grade 7-12) awards will be taking place in the school gym.

I am very pleased to return to Fort Assiniboine School within the Pembina Hills Regional Division this year and continue to look forward working with the parents, students, and staff for the benefit of the students at Fort Assiniboine School. We thank our parents for selecting Fort Assiniboine School as their school of choice and entrusting their children into our care each and everyday. If you have any questions or concerns surrounding the programming for your child, please feel free and contact the school.

Yours in education,

Allan Menduk  
Principal

### Special Interest Articles:

- Open House  
September 17
- Terry Fox Run  
September 24
- \* New Reporting  
Procedures pg 7
- \* H1N1 Info page 8

New School Web site:  
[www.fortschool.ca/](http://www.fortschool.ca/)

### Individual Highlights:

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Aug 31 First Day of School	1	2	3	4 Alternate "Bear" Friday	5
6	7 Labor Day No School	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Open House 5:30 7 pm Awards Night 7 pm for Jr/sr High	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 <b>Terry Fox School Run</b>	25 <b>PD Day</b> No School	26
27	28	29	30			

**Forestry/Energy Fall Workshop 2009**

October 2 - 5

For grade 10-12 students

While at this workshop students have the chance the earn three credits toward their High School Diploma and Forestry/Energy Certificate.

For a cost of \$200.00 per student – includes food (while at camp), accommodations, transportation and rentals. Upon completion of the offered credits, students will receive a \$50.00 refund. Due to sponsorship, the cost of this program is 25% of the price of the actual cost! Space is limited so please complete forms as soon as possible.

## Fort Assiniboine School Important Dates 2009/2010

### August

24: School Office Opens  
27: First Teacher Day PD  
28: School Staff Day  
31: First Student Day

### September

9: Kindergarten Starts (M/W/F)  
4: Alternate Day No School  
7: Labour Day – No school  
17: Open House & Junior/Senior  
High Awards Night  
24: Terry Fox Run 11:00 A.M.  
25: Site Based Analysis No School

### October

2 -6: Forestry/Energy Camp  
7: P/T/S Evening Interviews  
9: No School - P/T/S Interviews  
12: Thanksgiving Day – No School  
TBA: Photo day - Individual pictures  
23: PD Day (No School)  
**28: Early Dismissal**

### November

**6 & 7 Alumni Tournament**  
10: **Remembrance Day Assembly**  
11 -13: Mid Sem. Break No School

**25: Early Dismissal**

### December

4: No School Alternate Day  
9: Christmas Concert 7:00 pm  
18: Last day before Christmas Holidays  
**18: Christmas Break (thru to Jan. 4)**

### January

4: Classes Resume  
14 – 27: Diploma Exams  
28: Last Day, Semester 1  
29: P.D. Day – No school

### February

1: First Day Sem 2  
3: Jr/Sr High Report Cards Out  
4&5: Teacher's Convention – No school  
15: Family Day – No school  
TBA: Cool Camp  
**24: Early Dismissal**

### March

4: Report Cards Out – Elem.  
5: PD Day  
17: Evening Interviews  
19: No School P/T/S Interviews  
**28: Early Dismissal**  
**29 – April 1: Spring Break**

### April

2: Good Friday  
5: Easter Monday  
9: Site Based Ed Planning Day (No School)  
14: Spring Concert  
**28: Early Dismissal**

### May

1: Highway Clean-up  
7: **Alternate Day No School**  
11-14 Provincial Achievement Tests  
TBA All School Photo Day  
24: Victoria Day – No School  
**26: Early Dismissal**

### June

4: No School Alternate Day  
10 – 29: PAT's & Diploma Exams  
  
25: Jr/Sr High Marks Due  
25: Report Cards Out, Last Student Day  
29: Last Staff Day  
30: Jr/Sr High Report Cards Out  
TBA: GRAD 2010

\*\*This list **is not comprehensive** in terms of events and activities that will take place over the course of the year. Further details and particulars of additional important dates will be made available to you through our monthly calendar.

## School Registration Fees

### Fees for 2007/2008 school year are:

\$50.00/child for kindergarten

\$60.00/child for grades 1-6,

\$70.00/child for grade 7-12.

\$30.00/child for Options grade 7 -9

•Students in Kindergarten to grade 8 will receive a day planner for \$5.00 each

•Family rate (4 or more children in a family) is \$230.00 - a family rate form MUST BE FILLED

OUT. These are available at the office.

\*A limited amount of insurance is INCLUDED in the basic fees.

•Payment plans are available, see office for details.

•Cheques can be made to PHRD #7 and returned to the school as soon as possible.

•Fees not paid by September 30 will be charged an interest fee and then sent to a collection agency.

## Fort Assiniboine School Council

***The Community Meeting is still in the planning stage. Information in regards to this meeting will be directly mailed to parents and other stakeholders.***

***For more information please call Peter Kuelken at 780-584-2376***

## Driver's Education

Does your Son or Daughter have a Learner's Permit and are you interested in having them participate in Driver's Education.

Well you're in luck. Regent Driving School has inquired if there would be any students for the Fort Assiniboine School interested in Driver's Ed. If you are interested please call Regent Driving School at 780-707-5461. Cost of the course is \$595.00 plus GST

## Terry Fox Run

Fort Assiniboine School is proud to participate in the Terry Fox Annual School Run on Thursday September 24 approx 11:15 a.m.

Come out and join us to help raise funds for Cancer Research Pledge Forms attached.

## Sports Report

### Elementary Soccer

Fort Assiniboine School's After School Fun Soccer will be running on Wednesdays from 3:30 pm to 4:30pm. It is open to all grade 3,4,5,6and 6 students. Fun Soccer will run throughout the month of September and will conclude on Wednesday October 7<sup>th</sup> with a wind up party to follow. We are looking for parent volunteers to help assist with practices.

### Sr. High Volleyball

Senior High Volleyball starts the week of September 8. Senior Girls practice run Monday and Wednesday's with Miss Barton coaching, and Senior Boys will practice on Tuesday and Thursday's under the watchful eye Mr. Kremp.

### Jr High Volleyball

Junior High Volleyball will be starting shortly if there is enough interest.

### Cross Country Running

After school training starts the week of September 8 as well.

## Check Out Our New Website

at [www.fortschool.ca/](http://www.fortschool.ca/)

Latest News  
Calendar of Events  
-General  
-Athletic  
-Academic  
Special Events  
as well as Classroom Reminders

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# October 20 Picture Day



More info to follow closer to the day

**MEDICATION:** We can no longer administer medications such as Calamine lotion, Polysporin, Afterbite, anything with any kind of medicine in it. We will still provide bandages & ice. If a student brings any kind of medicine (prescription or over the counter) in to take during the day, the medication must be kept in the office and permission forms completed. For those students with Epipen, puffers, Twinject etc. please bring those items to the office for safe storage.

### Student Illness:

We have had a few students that have been sick already this year. We are asking that if your child is not feeling well to have them remain at home until they are well. This is to serve as a precautionary measure to prevent the possible exposure and possible spread of the H1N1 flu. We want to do what we can to ensure the wellbeing of all students, staff, and visitors that come to our building. If your son/daughter becomes sick at school, you will be contacted regarding the pick up of your son/daughter. More information in regards to PHRD response plan for a H1N1 outbreak see page 7 and attached handout "Influenza (the flu) – what can you do? "

## Open House

## September 17

## Awards Night



Come join us on Wednesday September 17 for a Hamburger and refreshment from 5:30 p.m –6:30p.m.

School will be open for tours and for you to meet your child's teacher from 5 till 6:30 p.m.

And stop in and say hello to all our new staff members (3 all together)

**Burgers and juice/pop Supplied**

**(If you able to help out please call Kim at 584-3815)**

**At 7:00 p.m. the 2008 - 2009 Junior/Senior High Awards Commence.**

### "PIZZA WITH THE PRINCIPAL"

In order to encourage the reading of the newsletter, after you have read the newsletter, fill the location below out with the name of your child from a draw for "Pizza with the Principal." One student will be chosen each month for this draw where he/she and one of their friends will have a chance to have a free pizza lunch with the Principal. Ballots are only valid with a parent or guardians signature.

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ have seen and read the Fort Assiniboine Newsletter. I give permission to my Son/daughter

\_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the Pizza with the Principal draw. Please list any food allergies your child may have:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please turn in the entry form no later than September 24, 2009

Everyday in Alberta, there are over 5000 buses transporting students to and from school, travelling more than 400 000 km a day, approximately 10 times around the world (Alberta Government, 2007). For the most part, there are very few serious injuries as it relates to collisions, near collisions, and incidents on the bus. In fact, one study found that a child was 16 times more likely to be injured while riding in a private motor vehicle than on a bus in order to get to school (Alberta Government, 2007). Despite the safety records of bus transportation and drivers training, in order to keep our buses as safe as possible for your children, we ask that you take some time to review with your son(s) and daughter(s) the importance of bus safety. Below are key areas that relate to a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable ride to and from school.

When preparing students to ride the bus, please keep the following in mind:

1. Ensure that students are properly clothed for the weather. They may have to wait outside for a few minutes, as well as walk to the bus stop.
2. To refrain from wearing any strong scents like perfume and cologne. Because of the enclosed nature of the bus, the potential exists for serious allergic reactions for some students.

Students are most at risk when loading and unloading from the bus. While outside the bus, students do not have the protection of the vehicle they will be riding. It is very important for students to use caution when waiting for and leaving the bus stop area. When loading, it is crucial that students adhere to the following:

1. Wait for the bus until it has come to a complete stop at a distance (Minimum one meter). A student could trip and fall in the path of the bus or the bus can slide in icy conditions.
2. Do not rush, crowd and push to get on the bus. There is plenty of time.
3. If your child needs to cross a highway, typically they will be asked to cross in front of the bus. The busses have traffic signals to stop traffic for safe crossings. Despite these signals, students need to watch for the directions of the bus driver and use caution when crossing the road as some vehicles may not stop. They need to ensure that they are following the instructions or the driver at all times.

When students are unloading to go home, it is important that students follow the following guidelines.

1. Students must remain seated until the bus has come to a full stop.
2. When exiting the bus, students must do so in a calm and orderly fashion and remember not to push.
3. Students must be in a safe location before the bus leaves. The driver will instruct students where to be.
4. Students are not to hang around their bus stop. They are to go straight home or to the location in which you have discussed. This will alleviate concerns surrounding their whereabouts of your son(s) and/or daughter(s) after school.

When driving the bus, the driver must maximize the opportunity he/she is focusing on the road as opposed to being distracted by student behaviour. As many of the students at Fort Assiniboine School travel on the highway in order to get to school, the potential for a serious collision exists if a driver is distracted. For example, while travelling at 90 km/h, a school bus will cover 25 meters of distance per second. If the driver has his or her attention focused on student behaviours for one, two, or three seconds, the bus will travel 25, 50, and 75 meters respectively, where there is the potential to veer into the oncoming traffic lane or off the road or colliding with another vehicle. A bus does not need to be in a collision to have students become injured. A bus having to make more aggressive driving manoeuvres through swerving or heavy breaking to avoid a collision, could result in injury if students are not properly seated. While riding the bus, all students are expected to adhere to all of the following expectations:

1. The driver is in charge of the bus at all times. All passengers must listen to the bus driver at all times.
2. Passengers must be seated at all times. Passengers are to only stand up once the bus has stopped for their bus stop.
3. Students are to keep all body parts and belongings inside the bus.
4. Students are to speak quietly, politely, and to refrain from loud noises.
5. Students are not to eat or drink on the bus.
6. Students are to be respectful to others. They are not to take part in bullying activities.
7. Students are to secure personal belongings.

As per safety regulations, the following restrictions are placed as it relates to the transportation of personal property. All personal property should be transported in a secure school bag.

1. Students may only transport personal property provided that they can:
  - A. Store it under the seat or on their lap.
  - B. It does not block the aisle and emergency exits.
  - C. That can be adequately secured as not to become dislodged and move within the bus.
2. The following items cannot be transported on the school bus under any circumstances:
  - A. Animals
  - B. Firearms
  - C. Flammable materials/substances (be aware this includes items such as hair spray, aerosol deodorant, perfume, etc...).
  - D. Anything that is dangerous, objectionable in nature, or that might endanger the safety and well being of students on the bus. This includes oversized sports (hockey sticks) or band equipment, skateboards as some examples.

If you have any questions, please feel free and contact the school at 780-584-3751