

Special Interest Articles

Principal's Message - Page 1

Calendar - Page 2

Students Union - Page 3 and 6

Trustee's Message - Page 4

School Council/Parent Society - Page 4

Pembina Hills Survey - Page 5

LEARNING AT HOME AND LEARNING AT SCHOOL - Page 6

This Month's Highlights:

- **Christmas Dinner December 15**
- **Christmas Break Dec 18 - Jan 3, 2021**

Attendance

Please inform the office if your child is going to be away from school or is sick.

You can call at any time as we do have an answering machine.

780-584-3751



Character Trait of the Month.

Joyfulness

Joy is what happens to us when we allow ourselves to recognize how good things really are.

- Marianne Williamson

•••••

JOYFULNESS

Learning At Home Jan. 4-8

Classes begin again on Jan. 4, 2021, but the first week, students will be learning from home. Jr. High will continue with their online learning schedule. Kindergarten to Grade 6 will receive learning packages and a schedule for the week of Jan. 4-7. Establishing a familiar routine will be essential to student success. Classes will be scheduled from 9:00 daily. Teachers will be sending home detailed plans in the next couple of weeks.

School Council AGM January 27

We have a fantastic group of dedicated parents who support our school. Are you interested in learning more about how our school operates? Do you have ideas to share? Please consider attending the **January 27 School Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.** Elections will be held for all executive positions. A HUGE THANK YOU TO MRS. PENNY PRICE who is stepping down as Chairperson after many years of volunteer service.

A COVID Christmas Concert

We are going to miss all our visitors packing the gym for our annual traditional Christmas Concert (darn you COVID). But we are still celebrating the Joy of Christmas and will be recording performances for parents to watch online after Dec. 10. Our Kindergarten, Grade 1&2 will be performing two dances: "Seven Jumps" and "Jolly Jolly Santa Claus". Our Grade 3-6 will perform "African Noel" using boomwhacker percussion instruments.

Turkey Dinner Dec. 15

We are modifying our traditional whole school dinner. Students will be served individually in their cohort classrooms. Thank you to Woodlands County for their continued support donating turkeys for this special meal. We are looking for a few food donations, please fill out the attached form or contact Mrs. Fleming at the office if you are able to help with food donations.

White Elephant Sale Dec. 15- 17 from 1-4

We have expanded the hours of our sale to allow for physical distancing and sanitizing. Thank you to parent volunteer Crystal Wood who will be coordinating everything this year (see page 3). We will be accepting donations of gently used or new items for the sale up until Dec. 10 to allow for sanitizing. Items range from 25 cents to 2 dollars.

Concerns, Questions, Ideas - Please contact the Principal

Please contact me directly to discuss any items related to the operation of our school. I welcome new ideas and solution based, constructive criticism.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Fort Assiniboine School staff we wish you a joyful holiday break!

Lorna Hiemstra

Principal

Merry Christmas

December 2020

Public Skating
at Fort Arena
Saturdays 2-4 p.m.

November 14, 21 and 28
 December 5 and 12
 January 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30
 February 6, 13, 20, and 27
 March 6, 13, 20, and 27

Important Upcoming Days:

Jan 4 - Online Classes Resume 7-9
 - Home Learning Packages Begin K-6

Jan 8 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL

Jan 11 - In School Classes Resume

Jan 15 - NO SCHOOL

Jan 22 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL

Jan 27 - School Council AGM 7 pm

Jan 29 - PD Day NO SCHOOL

Feb 3 - Kindergarten Day

Feb 4 & 5 - Teacher's Convention
 NO SCHOOL

Feb 12 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL

Feb 15 - Family Day NO SCHOOL

Feb 24 - Parent Society Meeting

Feb 26 - NO SCHOOL

March 5 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL

March 12 PD Day NO SCHOOL

March 19 - NO SCHOOL

March 26 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL

March 29 - April 1 - SPRING BREAK
 - NO SCHOOL

April 2 - Good Friday NO SCHOOL

April 5 - Easter Monday -NO
 SCHOOL

April 6 - Classes Resume

Hot Lunch
December 15
Christmas Dinner

Wear something
RED or GREEN
on
Thursday December 17

If you are aware of a family in need, whether it be your own or someone else's, that could use a food hamper or bag of toys please call the FCSS office at 780-674-3341 and ask for an application. You can also call the school and ask to talk to Mrs. Hiemstra. All calls are confidential.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Nov 30	1	2	3	4	5
	Online Classes start for Grades 7-9				BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			Extra Kindergarten Day		BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Christmas Hot Lunch		Wear Red or Green Day.	BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	Christmas Break Begins
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				Christmas Eve 	Christmas Day 	
27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 2021	2
				New Years Eve 	New Years Day 	Classes Resume January 4, 2021
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Online Classes Resume for Gr. 7-9 At Home Learning Packages for K-6 Begin				BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	



November 2020

Raised \$100.00 for Men's Health

Student's Union Report

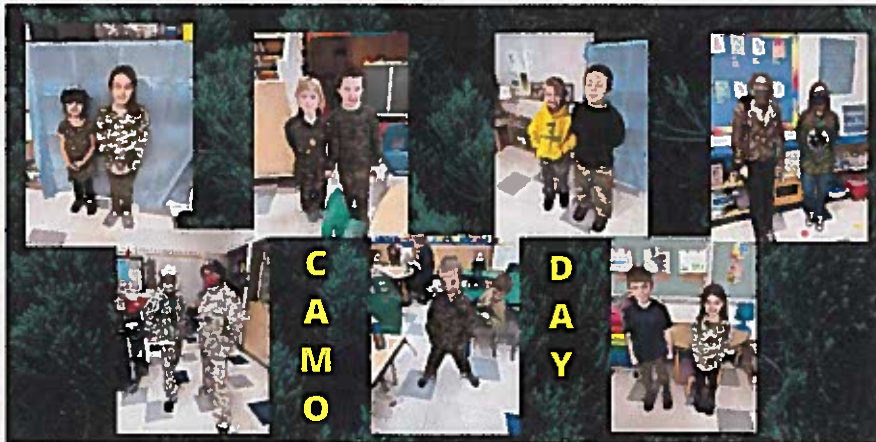
On Thursday November 19 we asked our students to wear mustaches and make a donation to Men's Health



Thanks for the inspiration
Mr. Wyman



Tuesday November 24 - CAMO DAY



White Elephant Sale

December 15 to the 17

Student will have a chance to do some last minute shopping at our White Elephant Gift Boutique. Gifts from \$.25 to \$2.00 will be available.

Limit of 4 gifts per student

White Elephant Gift Donations gratefully accepted until December 10

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE - DONATIONS NEEDED

The Fort Assiniboine School is holding their annual White Elephant Sale, where the students can "Christmas shop" for their family members, and we would greatly appreciate donations for gifts. Gifts for everyone are needed, as well as wrapping paper and small gift boxes or bags.

The school will be accepting donations from Nov. 30 - Dec 10.

This is an event our students look forward to, as being able to shop for and buy gifts for their family members is special to many of them. All donations are greatly appreciated, proceeds go to the Students Union.

If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Fleming at the school office 780-584-3751 or 2020 organizer Crystal Wood @ 780-224-2832

Thank you to everyone who can help!



Upcoming events include:

Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 15

Dress in Red and Green Day on Thursday December 17



Thank you to the Fort Assiniboine Legion Branch 210 for the generous donation to the school at the November 11 Remembrance Service.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.



Congratulations to our 2019 Remembrance Day District and beyond winners.
 Taylor Scarlett - Grade 5 - Junior Essay
 First Place - District Level
 First Place - Command Level (Alberta)
 Third Place - National
 Layla Petryshen - Grade 4 - Junior Poem
 First Place - District Level
 Summer Brunen - Grade 6 - Junior Essay
 Second Place - District Level
 Cheyenne Fern - Grade 9 - Intermediate Poster Black and White
 Third Place - District Level
 Thank you to the Fort Assiniboine Legion Branch #210 for looking after the poster and literary contest at our local level. Congratulations to all of last year's winners and we are looking forward to this year's entries!



Parent Council

Chair – Penny Price

Vice Chair – Roxanne Cross

Secretary/Treasurer– Teresa Dekker

Next Parent Council Meeting is the

General Annual Meeting set for

January 27, 2021 at 7:00 pm in Room 5

Meetings are about an hour long and babysitting can be arranged if we know ahead of time.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Penny Price
 @ e-mail:
ESchoolCouncil@pembinahills.ca

PHSD Board News

No schools considered for closure

The board reviewed the criteria to determine if any schools should be considered for closure for the 2021-22 school year. Schools are assessed annually against the [closure criteria](#), which includes the following factors:

- Are there factors related to the school building?
- Is the school meeting the critical minimum enrolment?
- How many students are we expecting to attend in the future?
- Are fewer than 60 per cent of the students in the attendance area attending the school?
- Does operating the school create excessive costs for the division?

Fort Assiniboine School is the only school that didn't meet the criteria for critical minimum enrolment. However, they would have met the criteria if students who normally attend the school had chosen to continue to attend school in person during the pandemic. Fort Assiniboine School also creates an excessive cost for the division in the amount of \$122,127. After careful consideration of the criteria presented, the board decided not to consider any schools for closure in 2021-22.

[See details in the 2020-2021 School Viability Report.](#)

Annual Education Results Report

The Annual Education Results Report provides an analysis of the division's four outcomes defined by the province:

- Alberta students are successful
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit students in Alberta are successful
- Alberta has excellent teachers, school leaders and school authority leaders
- Alberta's K-12 education system is well governed and managed

Results are measured and given an evaluation of excellent, good, acceptable, issue or concern.

Of the 16 accountability pillar measures, the division had excellent results in providing a safe and caring environment, quality of education, parental involvement, preparing students for work and citizenship.

*Only one area was identified as an issue - Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams). The numbers are impacted by the population of Vista Virtual students who only access a few courses to support their high school completion.

[See full details in the 2019-2020 Annual Education Results Report.](#)

Jennifer.Tuiniga@pembinahills.ca 780-674-8570 H, 780-284-0971 C



School Council Highlights - November 25, 2020 Meeting

- Associate Superintendent Brett Cooper explained how Pembina Hills distributes funding from Alberta Ed. Fort Assiniboine is subsidized \$122,000 by PHPS to cover our instructional needs that the AB Ed formula does not cover.
- Mrs. Hlemstra previewed how our Christmas "concert" will be very different this year; students will not be singing, but will be using percussion instruments and movement activities that will be recorded for online viewing after Dec. 10
- Parent surveys begin Dec. 4 (emailed from PHPS)
- Mrs. Payne has developed a new CTF course - Financial Management
- Parents continue to ask for ways to help out at the school through donations or volunteering
- Crystal Wood has volunteered to take over the White Elephant Sale - she will advertise for donations and volunteers to help with the sale and wrapping
- Crystal Wood has volunteered to head up a Communications and Welcoming committee
- School Council AGM is Jan. 27. Elections for executive positions will be held at this meeting.

Parent Society Highlights - November 2020

- Tara McQueen and Teresa Dekker met with the students to discuss their wish lists for things they'd like to see at school. The Society is hoping to create a wish board in the school but will be waiting for the junior highs to return so they can be involved
- Looking into another Fundraiser for January-February, watch for details in January
- The next Parent Society Meeting will be **February 24, 2021 at 6:00p.m.** Parents are welcome to fill out a membership form to join the society at any time to attend meetings or to receive email updates.

Fort Assiniboine Public Library

COVID -19 UPDATES FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES - AS OF NOVEMBER 27, 2020

Alberta's public library decision-makers have a role to play in realizing a shared goal of curbing the spread of COVID-19.

According to the *Libraries Act*, public library boards maintain responsibility for public library service delivery in their community. It is critical that boards continue to exercise their decision-making authority during the pandemic.

Library boards are able to make choices for delivery of library service within the context of the *Libraries Act* and the *Libraries Regulation*, and while following public health orders and other provincial directives related to the current pandemic.

Library boards may decide that they want to pass further measures than the mandatory ones to stop the spread of COVID-19 at this time depending on the specific situation in their community. Again, public libraries are encouraged to offer curbside pick-up and delivery and promote digital resources and online services where possible.

Appointment Only

We are happy to announce that starting Tuesday October 13, 2020 the Fort Assiniboine Public Library will be open for appointments.

Please contact the library at 780-584-2227 between 8:30am-4:00pm to book your 15-minute appointment.

Sorry, **ADULTS ONLY**, and the public washroom will not be available at this time.

BEFORE ENTERING:

You **MUST** get your temperature taken by library staff

You **MUST** wear a mask
You **MUST** sanitize

I would like to thank everyone for their patience throughout this time and continued patience going forward, as things may need to change at a moment's notice.
Hope to see you all in the library soon!

FREE disposable, non-medical masks are available.

**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year**



Annual Satisfaction Surveys

In December, parents will be invited to participate in the Annual Satisfaction Survey. The link will be provided to take you directly to the survey.

How long will it take?

- We know it takes time to participate in surveys, and time is precious.
- The questions are brief and use rating scales to make them quicker to answer.
- We estimate that it will take 5 to 10 minutes.

Will I be able to comment?

- There are opportunities for you to provide written feedback at the end of the survey.

How do I participate?

- Click or tap the link in the message you receive. It will take you directly to the survey.
- You can respond to the survey using a desktop computer, laptop or mobile device.

Are my responses anonymous?

- Your email address will be collected and connected to your responses.
- Collecting the address eliminates the chance of duplicate responses and enables us to trace issues that might arise in the completion of the survey.
- Comments are reviewed by administration and considered during the planning process.
- No comments are reported publicly.

I have more than one child in this school. Will I get an email like this for each one?

If you have several children in a single school:

- You *should* just get one message.
 - We have tried to minimize duplicates but given the complexity of families, and because we rely on the information that schools have on file, you might get more than one message for this school.
 - IF that happens, you only need to respond one time. We apologize in advance for the extra messages.

How do I respond if I have several children in a single school?

- Please respond to the questions while thinking about the overall experiences of your children in that school.

I have children in another school too. Will I get a survey for that school too?

- If you have children in more than one school, you can respond to a survey for each school.
- Each message has a link to the survey connected to that specific school.
- Please respond to the questions while thinking about the children in that specific school.

What if the survey doesn't have questions related to my concerns?

- If you have comments or wish to discuss something that has not appeared in this survey, please contact your school principal directly.

What if I haven't been contacted to do the survey?

- If you haven't received a message by December 15, you can contact Debbie Westman at debbie.westman@pembinahills.ca

What does Pembina Hills do with the surveys?

- Regional office administrative staff, school administrators, teachers and trustees review the survey data.
 - Comments are read by administration only. No comments will be shared publicly.
- School data is reported in the school's education plan.
- The data from all of the schools is combined to create a division summary that will be reported at a public Board meeting. The compiled data is also recorded in the Division Education Plan.



Meet our SLP Team

(speech-language pathologist)



Natasha Madden



Jamie Hickie

These wonderful ladies join our school staff once a week to provide assistance to both students and staff!

Learning in class and on the Playground



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

DECEMBER LEARNING AT HOME AND LEARNING AT SCHOOL

Tuesday, December 1st, 2020

RE: December Learning at Home and Learning at School

We have had a few questions about learning from home and we wanted to clarify the information for everyone. On November 24th, the Government of Alberta announced new provincial health measures that impacted schools. The order stated that students from kindergarten to Grade 6 are to continue to come to school. As a result, our school is not impacted by the learning at home order, at this time. We will be learning from home from January 4th-8th and more information on this will come. Pembina Hills is not expecting teachers to provide instruction for students in class and at home at the same time with the following exceptions. Teachers will provide instruction at home in the following situations:

- When a class or group has to isolate because of their close contact to an individual in their cohort who tested positive. In this situation, the teacher will provide support for learning at home to the whole class.
- When the whole class is expected to be learning at home from January 4th to 8th. In this situation, the teacher will provide instruction for the whole class while they learn from home.
- When individual students are sick and need to stay home. In this situation, teachers will provide short term work to keep up with the class (as possible, depending on the nature of their illness).

As per the government announcement, learning in class is still continuing for all kindergarten to Grade 6 students in Alberta. As a result, if parents choose to keep their children home in December (or for reasons outside of the exceptions listed above), those students will be considered absent and they will miss a significant amount of class instruction. Should this cause concern, parents may seek exemptions from in-class learning by contacting their teacher and school principal. These requests will be sent to the Director of Student Services who, in consultation with principal and teacher, will make the final decision. We do continue to follow AHS guidelines in ensuring our school is as safe as possible for everyone and look forward to a fantastic month of December learning together and finishing the year of 2020!



Family Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 15

Student's Union is looking for donations to help out with our Family Style Christmas Dinner on December 15, 2020. We are looking for the following:

- 4 bags of frozen mixed vegetables
- 12 boxes of Stove Top stuffing
- 8 dozen buns

If you can bring one of these items please fill out this form and you will be contacted.

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Mrs. Hiemstra & Fort Assiniboine School Student's Union

Name: _____

I can bring in the following item:

Please return to school office by Wednesday December 9, 2020

	1 Bag of frozen mixed vegetables
	2 Boxes of Stove Top Dressing
	1 dozen buns