

## Special Interest Articles

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**TENTATIVELY Only**

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## ***This Month's Highlights:***

- **School Council  
General Annual  
Meeting Wednesday  
January 27 at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Hot Lunch January 28  
– Soup and a Bun**

### 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:

### **GROWTH MINDSET**

Individuals who believe their talents can be developed (through hard work, good strategies, and input from others) **have a growth mindset**. They tend to achieve more than those with a more fixed **mindset** (those who believe their talents are innate gifts).

## **Happy New Year, Welcome 2021!**

### **It Takes a Village...**

Since March 2020, our world has been in crisis mode, unpredictable, and sometimes just plain frustrating. Throughout it all our parent support has been awesome. From selling bacon to organizing our White Elephant Sale to guiding our K-6 through a week of learning at home Jan. 4-7, we appreciate you! Thank you to our school staff, including our janitorial crew, who have had to navigate through a multitude of new challenges thrown at them on a daily basis.

### **Creative CoVid Christmas**

Many restrictions have changed how we do things in 2020/21, but we still maintained many of our joyful Christmas traditions here at the Fort School. Once again, Woodlands County donated turkeys for our whole school Christmas dinner on Dec. 15. Thank you to all the families who donated other food. Thank you to the staff who cooked, served, and did the dishes. We didn't sing, but we still enjoyed listening to beautiful Christmas carols played on the piano by Teresa Dekker.

Santa still came to visit and delivered goodie bags supplied by our new librarian Mrs. Petryshen. Mrs. Fleming designed a festive, physically distanced, fire place setting for Santa to discuss Christmas wishes with our students.

The students still bought presents for their families at our annual White Elephant Christmas Sale. The amount of donations was fantastic and we have packaged up gifts for future Mother's and Father's Day White Elephant sales.

### **Dedication to Serving our School**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing School Council chairperson Penny Price for her many years of dedicated volunteer service with our School Council and Parent Society. Our school community has benefited greatly from her tireless efforts to provide additional support for our students and provide a positive parent voice in educational discussions.

### **Parent Voice - Be Informed, Share your Ideas**

Have you filled out the annual Pembina Hills parent survey that was sent out by email in December? Have you attended a School Council or Parent Society meeting? Do you read our school and class newsletters? Do you access our school website and/or Face Book page? Do you read and reply to notes in K-6 student agendas? Do you email teachers? We communicate in many different ways. Please keep in touch, we value your feedback and positive suggestions. And you can always phone Mama Bear and/or the Principal at (780) 584-3751.

Bears Rock!

Mrs. Lorna Hiemstra  
Proud Principal6



Cross Country Skiing



Enjoying our Canadian Winter

**Important Upcoming Days:**

Feb 3 - Extra Kindergarten Day  
 Feb 4 & 5 - Teacher's Convention  
 NO SCHOOL  
 Feb 12 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL  
 Feb 15 - Family Day NO SCHOOL  
 Feb 19 - Dress Up Day - Battle of Alberta  
 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

**TENTATIVE**

**Skating Schedule ONLY**

Watch your Child's Dayplanner for starting dates

Kindergarten – 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
 Thursday's ONLY

Grade 1/2 – 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
 Wed/Thurs

Grade 3 and 4 – 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.  
 Tues/Thurs

Grade 5 and 6 – 2:00 - 2:55 p.m..  
 Tues/Thurs

Junior High – 2:00 - 2:55 p.m.  
 Mon/Wed

CTF – 3:00 – 3:50p.m. Tues/Thurs

Students will need their own skates, a helmet (hockey or bike) and ski pants.

Parents are more than welcome to come and tie skates and skate with their child. COVID measures are to be followed at all times: masks worn in lobby, and stay 2m apart (dressing rooms available to avoid congestion in lobby). Limited # allowed on ice.

**Jr High CTF/Option Classes**

Jan 6 – Feb 27


Monday & Wednesday

Basketball or Coding

Tuesday & Thursdays

Financial Management or Outdoor Pursuits

# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Years Day 	2
3	4 Online Classes Resume for Gr. 7-9  At Home Learning Packages for K-6 Begin	5	6	7	8 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	9
10 Classes Resume	11	12	13 Gr.3&4 "Tornado Hunter" Presentation 1:00	14 Pizza with the Principal.	15 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	23
22	25	26	27 Parent Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	28 Staycation Vacation DRESS UP DAY	29 PD DAY NO SCHOOL	30
31	Feb 1	2	3 Extra Kindergarten Day	4 Teacher's Convention NO SCHOOL	5 Teacher's Convention NO SCHOOL	6



## Student's Activities Report

Thank you to the community for generously supporting the White Elephant Sale



Special Thanks to Mrs. Petryshen and various community business/members for providing the Candy Bags for Santa's visit in the Gym on the 17th of December.



### Dress Up Day

Staycation Vacation – January 28

Dress as in your favorite vacation attire  
Examples:

Hawaii or Mexico - Beach Wear  
Jasper/Banff - ski wear

**HOT LUNCH**

January 28 - Soup and a Bun

## PHSD Board News

### Division finishes the year with a surplus

The cancellation of in-school classes last year from March-June, and the addition of a very successful summer program at Vista Virtual School left the division with a \$2M surplus at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. While the Accumulated Surplus from Operations is almost \$6.2M, the board has already sent a request to the Minister of Education to use \$1.7M to cover the additional costs at Vista Virtual School due to increased enrolment this year. The board is also seeking Ministerial approval to use \$150K to hire three additional support staff for this school year including one full-time Speech Language Pathologist, one full-time Behaviour Therapist and a half-time Occupational Therapist.

### 2021-2022 school year calendar approved!

The board approved the 2021-2022 division school year calendar. Similar to this year, students will begin next year with a staggered entry on August 31st and September 1st.

- Grade 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 students will attend on August 31st
- Grade 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 students will attend on September 1st

Fort Assiniboine's alternate school year calendar will be reviewed and submitted for approval to the board in February. The approved division calendar is posted on the [Pembina Hills website](#).

### Election 2021

School board elections take place on October 18, 2021. If you're passionate about kids and public education, you may want to consider running for school trustee.

Candidates must complete the [candidate package](#), which is also available for pickup at Regional Office in Barrhead. Nominations for the election of candidates will be received from January 4th until September 20, 2021 at 12:00p.m. (noon).

Jennifer.Tuininga@pembinahills.ca 780-674-6579 H, 780-284-0971 C

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## Parent math night

Tuesday nights from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
From January 2021 to June 2021

Cost \$10

Register online at

<https://www.bhssa.ca/book-online> or call  
(780)674-9643

Barrhead Community Adult Learning has created a Parent Math Night to assist parents and guardians as they help their children learn math. For just \$10, parents can attend a Zoom session every Tuesday from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Parent Math Nights will run from January - June 2021. For more information email [bcal@bhssa.ca](mailto:bcal@bhssa.ca) or phone at 780-674-9643.

## School Council

Chair – Penny Price

Vice Chair – Roxanne Cross

Secretary/Treasurer– Teresa Dekker

Next School 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:

[FAchoolcouncil@pembinahills.ca](mailto:FAchoolcouncil@pembinahills.ca)

**School Council Parent Rep NEEDED for each class**

K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and Junior High

Contact Chairperson Penny Price if interested

## 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. Hiemstra 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 December 13, 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.

**The library will be closed to the public effective Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 12:00 am.**

**We will continue to offer curb side delivery by appointment and interlibrary loans will still be available.**

**This means you can still receive your items, you just can't come inside and pick them out yourself.**

**Please place all items you are returning in the book return outside.**

**The library wireless will continue to remain available from outside the building.**

**We will keep you posted of any changes as they occur.**

**As always, thank you for your continued support.**



**Following the Footsteps of a Legend - Terry Fox 2020**

For many years the Cockell family has been raising funds for the Terry Fox Foundation during our Terry Fox School Run. Peggy Cockell's father, Mr. Robert Hougham was a cancer survivor. Being a left-leg amputee himself, Mr. Hougham had a passion for the Terry Fox Run and had raised more than \$100,000 in the 25 years he had participated in the fundraiser. After his passing in 2018 Peggy and her grandchildren have picked up the reins and are continuing in his footsteps with the hope of raising as much as or more than her father. The grandchildren took the time to make homemade thank you cards to their donors. Pictured below is Peggy with her four grandsons, who all took part in our Terry Fox Run on October 1.

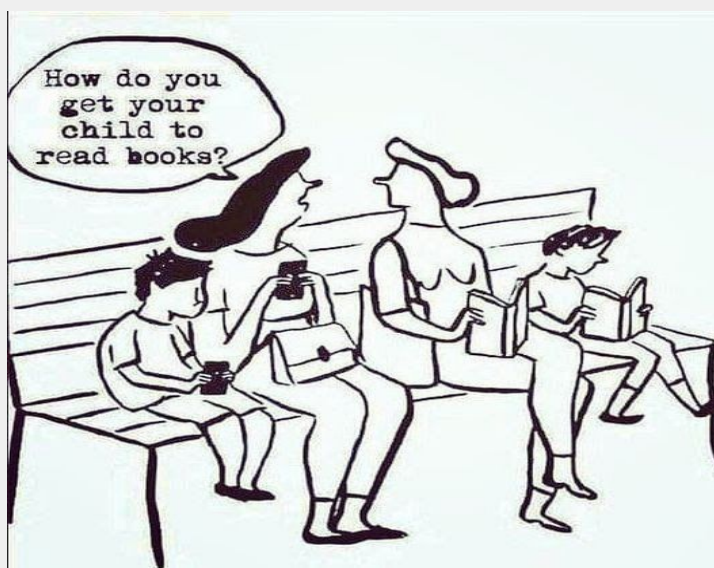


From Left to right: Logan Wood, Peggy Cockell, (Standing) Greysen Shrode, Corbin Wood and Gavin Shrode.



**Winter Wear**

Please be sure that your son or daughter have the appropriate winter wear while traveling on the school bus and while at school. Every effort is made to ensure that all buses are in proper running condition but you never know when something could happen. The weather network site is checked throughout the day as well to monitor outside gym classes and recess times. If you child require any winter clothing please let the office know as we have some items available.



**Happy New Year!**