

Fort Assiniboine School
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T0G 1A0

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780-584-3751
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780-584-3876
We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.fortschool.ca

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This Month's Highlights:

Farewell to Mrs. Breitzkreitz

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

Hang in there - Summer break is just around the corner!



Proud of our School Community

Resilience

We are down to our final few weeks of the 2020-21 School Year. It's been a year. Despite all our challenges, there has been much to celebrate! I am grateful that we get to finish the year together in person. I am grateful for our parent support, especially during the times students had to continue learning at home, and the contributions of our School Council and Parent Society. I am proud of our entire school community of students and staff and parents for their resilience in dealing with the constant disruptions to our learning environment. Fort rocks!

Celebrating Mrs. Breitzkreitz

It is with mixed emotions that we announce Mrs. Breitzkreitz is retiring after teaching here for 30 years. Her standard of caring is phenomenal and she has touched many lives. The school has several projects planned to recognize this amazing woman. If you or anyone you know would like to contribute pictures, words, or join in a "secret" celebration (CoVid friendly), please contact Mrs. Fleming (maureen.fleming@peminahills.ca).

New Staff

We are welcoming two new teachers to our Fort team next year: Mrs. Heather Senger will be teaching Grade 1&2 and Mrs. Patricia Rogerson will be teaching Grade 5&6. Both ladies have extensive teaching experience in classroom and online settings and bring a wealth of knowledge and skills to our school.

Farewell

We also need to recognize a wonderful young lady who began her teaching career here, immediately after she finished her university exams - Mrs. Hoffman. Mrs. Hoffman is an excellent young teacher who cares deeply for her students (dare I say mini-me Mrs. B). Her career has been put on pause as a result of the closure of ADLC, an event completely out of our control. We hope to see her back in our building soon as a substitute teacher and we wish her all the best in her continuing career as an awesome teacher.

Acknowledgement & Reconciliation

The recent tragic news from Kamloops is an example of what our curriculum is trying to deal with. Acknowledgement and Reconciliation. Racism is a tough, tough thing to talk about. Attached is a link to share understanding, knowledge, and tips for dealing with sensitive issues with children. <https://nactatr.com/news/files/RekindledTrauma.pdf>

Keving Cameron summarizes, "The greatest fear for any victim of abuse is that, if they tell, they will not be believed. The other is that, even if they are believed, no one will care. How immense is it when that feeling has been the lot of an entire people?"

Fun Events to Finish the Year

We are bringing in Fitset Ninja on June 10 for some obstacle course fun (www.fitsetninja.com) and on June 17 the Fort Museum has invited our classes to do some gold panning, spinning, and ice cream making.

Lorna Hiemstra

Principal

Virtue of the Month





Our wonderful Mrs. Breitreitz is retiring at the end of this school year after over 30 years of service. If you would like to send a personal message to Mrs. Breitreitz or have photos of her teaching please email to maureen.fleming@pembinahills.ca
Please spread this message to former students and staff 😊

Important Upcoming Days:

- June 24 - Last Kindergarten Day (report cards go home)
- June 25 Last Student and Staff Day (Gr. 1-4 Report Cards go home)
- June 29 Gr. 5-9 Report Cards mailed out
- July 1 - Aug 22 School Office Closed for Summer Break
- Aug 24-26 School Office Open for New Registrations

June 21-24 Jr. High Exams

Thurs, June 17-JH Math

Mon, June 21 - NO EXAMS

Tues, June 22 -JH LA Part B

Wed, June 23-JH SS

Thurs, June 24-JH Science

Fri, June 25-JH Make up day

Students are required to be picked up by a parent after their exams, or a note is required for them to be picked up by someone else.

June 16 - 22 Gr. 5-6 Exams

Wed, June 16 - LA

Thurs, June 17 - SS

Tues, June 22 - Math

Wed, June 23 - Science

Regular schedule classes will continue after students have finished writing their exams

June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	May 31	June 1	2	3 Pizza from the Principal	4 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	5
6	7	8	9	10 NINJA Course (Fitset Ninja)	11 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	12
13	14	15 Citizenship, Long Service, and Retirement Awards 1:00 (virtual)	16	17 * Last day of Classes for Jr High ----- *Grade 9 Farewell Lunch and Cake ----- * Fort Museum Fieldtrip	18 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	19
20	21 National Indigenous Day	22 JH Exam Week Pizza from the Principal	23 JH Exam Week	24 JH Exam Week Last Kindergarten Day <i>Year End Activities</i>	25 JH Exam Week Last Day of School	26
27	28 Office Open	29 Office Open	30 School Closed at 4:00 p.m. for Summer Break	July 1  Happy Canada Day		
Aug 22	23	24 School Open for NEW Registrations	25 School Open for NEW Registrations	26 School Open for NEW Registrations	27 School Office Closed	28

Congratulations to the Grade 9 Class of 2020 - 2021



From Left to Right
Back Row: Rowdy Christianson, Jayden Dekker, Tyler Kulak, Wyatt LaBonte
Front Row: McKenna Golden, Martina Auger, Nina Thompson, Kindra Hansen

A look back in time.

Fort Assiniboine Museum



Parents... stay informed about important news from PHPS. Sign up to receive text messages from School Messenger by texting Y to 97833. Your child's school must have your cell phone number on file. If you're not sure, give your school office a call.

<https://www.pembinahills.ca/schools-programs/school-listing/>



How we are all feeling at the end of the school year!



PHSD Board News

Pembina Hills Budget and Education Plan

The Board approved the 2021-2022 operating budget with revenues of \$63.9 million and expenses of \$64.8 million. We are anticipating that students will return to school this fall without additional public health protocols and measures.

The Three-Year Education Plan for 2021-2024 which highlights strategies to improve student learning and results over a rolling three year plan was also approved at the May 26th board meeting. The Education Plan is reviewed and revised annually. It describes the Pembina Hills context, the planning process including stakeholder engagement, plus the priorities, outcomes and strategies. It is located on the division website at www.pembinahills.ca/assurance-reporting/.

Run for School Trustee!

Trustee elections are this fall
October 18th I recall
Submit your name as it's time to run
Four months away, the race has begun!

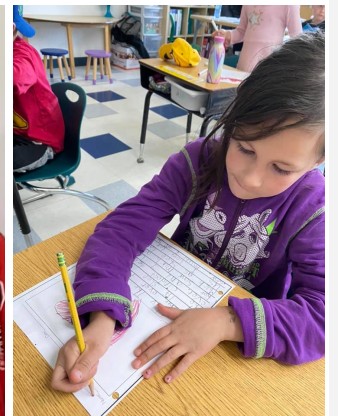
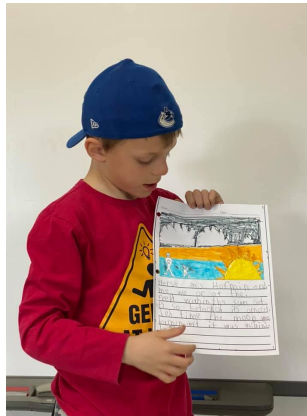
Candidate packages are available online or at Regional Office in Barrhead.

Please join us by livestream for a school board meeting on Wednesday, June 9th or June 23rd starting at 9:00 a.m. at www.pembinahills.ca

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

Grade 1/2 are becoming amazing storytellers!

The Grade ½ Writer's Workshops have expanded their knowledge of what it takes to be a great writer. These students worked so hard to bring their ideas to life with illustrations and descriptive writing. They were excited and engaged and look forward to sharing their work with their classmates.



And we hatched chicks!! Thanks again to Teresa Dekker for loaning us the incubator and eggs!



RF STAPLES SPORTS CAMPS



When: August 23-27, 2021 (Covid pending of course).
Times: Volleyball 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Basketball 1 p.m.- 4p.m.

Grades: (Entering) 5-9 both Boys and Girls
50 Athletes total

Cost: 125.00-cheques can be made payable to RF Staples
Payment will secure your spot!

Each athlete will receive a t-shirt at camp

Coaches: Kyle Beattie/Leanne Huppertz/Wade Hicks

As well as current and past Thunderbird Athletes
to register please email:

Kyle Beattie- kyle.beattie@pembinahills.ca or Wade Hicks- wade.hicks@pembinahills.ca

Fort Assiniboine Public Library is still **closed** to the public!

However, Libraries are scheduled to **open** in Stage 2 (tentatively June 10) and is planning to host **FUN TUESDAYS** in the afternoon during the summer.

Please watch the Fort Assiniboine Public Library website, Facebook page or call Megan Petryshen at the Library 780-584-2227

The library will be closed to the public effective Wednesday April 7, 2021. We will continue to offer curbside delivery by APPOINTMENT ONLY. You must call the library before you come to pick up your items as they will have to be placed outside on the book drop for pick up. This is to ensure there is absolutely no contact between library staff and patrons. Please place all items you are returning into the book return outside. The 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. The library wireless will continue to remain available from outside the building.

We are very disappointed that we must close to patrons again, but we can still make sure you get the movies, books, and magazines you need.

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

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Stay healthy and safe everyone.



BACON FUNDRAISER

Back by popular demand! The bacon fundraiser is back! Details went home with your children last week. Start selling May 27 and you will have until June 10 to sell as much as you can! Pick up details will be coming. Please note: all orders must be placed online.

<https://fortassiniboineschool.myteamfund.ca/>

There is a \$2 processing fee when placing orders. Please set up your child as a seller and share your personal link with family and friends!

School Council

Chair – Crystal Wood
Vice Chair – Roxanne Cross
Secretary/Treasurer– Jenny Kuelken
Next School Council Meeting is the set for

September 29, 2021 (AGM) at 7:00 pm in Room 5
(or ZOOM depending on COVID restrictions)

Minutes from previous meetings avail on the school website: www.fortschool.ca

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Crystal Wood @ e-mail: FASchoolCouncil@pembinahills.ca

School Council Highlights May 26, 2021 Meeting

- Literacy presentation composed by Mrs. Breitzkreitz can be found as an attachment to the May 26 meeting minutes on the school website.
- Outdoor classroom/playground in consultation stages. Task force led by Roxanne Cross. Anyone interested in volunteering for this task force is encouraged to contact the Parent Council via the below contact information.
- Grant proposals task force is a new Administrator and teacher driven group seeking a keen volunteer leader and recruits! Please contact the Parent Council for more information.
- Parents and community member volunteers wanted a trial online student reading program. More details to follow in September 2021.
- Pembina Hills School board elections will take place on October 18, 2021.
- Fort School has received additional funding for certified staff and discretionary spending! Exciting news to be followed up with more details as they come!
- Programming resources task force led by Roxanne Cross is in startup stages. Stay tuned!
- The Parent Council Survey will be sent home with students. We value all honest input!
- Retirement celebration for Mrs. Breitzkreitz! Contact Mrs. Fleming for more details

We encourage our parents/caregivers/guardians/community members to join Parent Council! Help guide growing minds in a positive direction!

Email: faschoolcouncil@pembinahills.ca

Phone/text: Crystal Wood, President, Parent Council, 780-224-2832

- ❖ Parent Reps:
 - Kindergarten - Meghan Koster
 - Grade 1&2 - Jenny Kuelken
 - Grade 3&4- Jenni Williams
 - Grade 5&6 - Megan Petryshen
 - Grade 7/8/9 - Teresa Dekker
- ❖ Next Meeting - September 29, 2021 (AGM)



Parent Society

President - [Tara McQueen](#)
VP - Teresa Dekker
Treasurer - Crystal Wood
Secretary - [Megan Petryshen](#)
Members at Large - Penny Price, Jenni Williams
Next Parent Society Meeting is the set for September (TBA) 2021

in Room 5 (or ZOOM depending on COVID restrictions)



How to Talk to Your Children About the Unfolding Events at the Former Kamloops Residential School

Dr. Marleen Wong

Preface

In the 1800's and through the 1900's Indigenous children in North America were taken from their homes and forced to attend boarding schools. They were punished for speaking their native languages and deliberately stripped of engaging in or even thinking about their spiritual and cultural values and practices. Even in the face of child labor laws, they were made to work long hours in unpaid manual labor. Many of the children were badly neglected. All were emotionally abused if not physically or sexually abused.

Alive today are those who survived the experience of the residential boarding schools. From first-hand experience, they knew children who did not survive. The wounds are deep with words such as historical trauma and genocide used to describe what has occurred.

Dr. Maria Brave Heart defines historical trauma as the "cumulative... psychological wounding over the life span and across generations, emanating from massive group trauma experience." She emphasized that we must be especially aware not only of the effects of multigenerational historical trauma but the ways in which each family and tribal community frames the story and meaning of their losses.

For adults, she identifies four components designed to foster healing from trauma and grief:

- 1) confronting the history;
- 2) understanding the trauma and its effects;
- 3) releasing the pain; and
- 4) transcending the trauma.

This is a difficult and heart wrenching journey for adults. How can we talk with children about this tragedy?

*Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart, PhD (Hunkpapa/Oglala Lakota), Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Director of Native American and Disparities Research at the Center for Rural and Community Behavioral Health, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

For Our Children Today

In this segment, we draw from the work of multiple expert sources: The National Child Traumatic Stress Network, the American Psychological Association, and organizations that educate children about the Holocaust in which six million Jews were exterminated because of hate, bigotry and unrelenting political scapegoating and condemnation. You may recognize common elements. However, we are organizing them to align with what we know about prevention, intervention and resilience research in child trauma, brain science and the healing power of meaningful connections and conversations between caring adults and children.

- Take a moment. Take a deep breath. Take stock of your own emotions before talking about the Kamloops tragedy with your child. The purpose of your conversation is to understand and to address your child's concerns. Your child needs you to be calm and to reassure them that their safety is of greatest important to you.
- Listen to your child's fears, questions, worries to understand what they are thinking or feeling without criticism or judgment.
- You can say something to Protect them If they ask, "How did the children die or Why did this happen?" for example, they may be wondering "Might this happen to us?" A short, honest, and reassuring answer for a young child would be something like, "This happened when children were separated from their parents for no reason except they were First Nations children. They were forced to live in residential schools where they were treated badly. We don't allow this to happen anymore. We have laws against it, and leaders who have told us how wrong it was."
- Connect with them in age appropriate ways. A child in kindergarten or early elementary grades want to know that they and their loved ones are safe. Let them know they can come to you anytime they feel worried or afraid.
- Think together about ways you and your child can reach out and make a difference. You might decide to do a good deed. There may be children in your community who can benefit from kindness and inclusion.
- Model kind and sensitive behavior. Start slowly. In the beginning, keep it brief. Your child will let you know what they are worried about which will change over time as more is known. We know that hundreds of residential schools will now be subject to the same scrutiny as the former Kamloops Residential School. Even though some of the survivors of Kamloops have said that they were not surprised by the discovery of the child graves, there is more trauma ahead if new discoveries are made about other abuses and losses.
- Model tolerance, respect, and civic engagement. The best way to make sure your child grows up to understand the lessons of the history of Indigenous people. Sponsor a family, help out at a food bank, find a way to give back and help make the world a better place for us all.
- In your actions, show that you believe in your child's resilience. Yes, it is a dangerous world, and there are reasons for fear. But they are not alone and together you can use the lessons of the past to help your child feel empowered by helping to create a world that is safer, kinder, and more loving.
- Be creative. Help your child find healing avenues of creative expression, whether musical, visual, linguistic, dance or some other culturally or spiritually relevant way.
- Teach your children how to face a crisis. Be honest and provide reliable information. If you don't know, it's o.k. to acknowledge that. You can say, 'That's a really good question, let's think about how we can find the answers. Don't overwhelm your child with more than they need to know at the time. Your child will be reassured by your honesty. Children can feel secure in a dangerous world if they feel they have a caring adult they can depend upon and trust.
- Share your belief that love is stronger than hate. Help your child move toward constructive actions that fight every kind of bigotry, and prejudice. Share stories of the courage of First Nations heroes in everyday life who have stood up to racism and discrimination. Point out ways in which you have observed your child speaking out, reaching out or helping others at home, at school, in clubs, places of worship or in other activities.

Youth
Entrepreneur
Event with
Sponsorship
Opportunity
and Contest
Prizes



*Lemonade Day!*TM

REGISTRER NOW!

lemonadeday.org/northern-alberta for the JUNE 19, 2021* event

*CFYE is following guidance and guidelines implemented by Canada Public Health and Alberta Health. Adjustments will be made to the program as required. The safety of our kids, parents, staff and communities is our top priority.

TRAINING SESSIONS MANDATORY FOR KIDS + MENTORS / 4:30 - 6 PM

JUNE 2 - VIRTUAL ZOOM TRAINING
combined with 'MY LEMONADE DAY' APP WORKBOOK

Presented by Community Futures Yellowhead East



FOUR STEPS TO SUCCESS!

- 1 SET A GOAL
- 2 MAKE A PLAN
- 3 WORK THE PLAN
- 4 ACHIEVE YOUR DREAM

BUILDING THE **FUTURE** STIRRING UP **SUCCESS**