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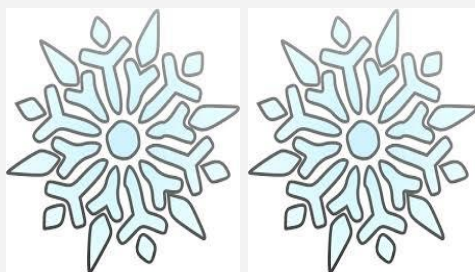
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This Month's Highlights:

- ***School Council Meeting Wednesday January 25 at 7:00 p.m.***
- ***Dress Up Day January 26 – Wish I were on Vacation***



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



Happy New Year, Welcome 2023!

Christmas Joy

Once again, Woodlands County donated turkeys for our whole school Christmas dinner on Dec. 13. Thank you to all our families who donated other food. Thank you to Deb Breikreitz, Rita LaBerge, Brenda O'Brien, Danielle Calahasen, Amber Levy, Tiffany Rondeau, and Vicki Nicholls who cooked, served, and did the dishes. Thank you to Teresa Dekker who played Christmas carols on the piano. Thank you to our volunteers who helped with the White Elephant sale, including Danielle Calahasen, Crystal Wood, Shaneen Beauregard, Kim Barrett, Jenine Lee, Julie Wallace, Irene Williams, Jenny Kuelken, Tiffany Rondeau, and Rochelle Bartier. Thank you to our librarian Megan Petryshen who provided the goodie bags for Santa's visit.

Skating in Jan/Feb.

We are grateful for easy access to a quality ice skating facility for our students. Students will be skating twice a week during their PE classes for January and February. **Students must have a CSA approved hockey helmet.** Extra helmets and skates are available to borrow. If you have extra skates and helmets that you are willing to lend/donate, please bring them to the school. Parents are welcome to join us on the ice and we do need volunteers to help tie skates. Please contact your child's teacher with a note in his/her agenda if you are able to help out.

Trickster Theatre Residency Feb. 21-24

We have successfully applied for and received an \$8,000+ AFA government grant to host a theatre residency. Trickster Theatre Company will be sending 2 professional theatre personnel to work with our K-9 students to write and produce our own play. Our theme will be based on our Bicentennial and include numeracy learning objectives too. The residency will culminate with a community performance on Fri. Feb. 24 at 7:00 pm.

Kindergarten Dates

Please note Kindergarten will be having classes on 2 Wednesdays in February: Feb. 8 (because of Teacher's Convention) and Feb. 22 (because of our Theatre Residency). There will be NO class on March 22 as originally scheduled (moved to Feb. 22).

Annual Surveys

Pembina Hills and Alberta Education will be asking for parent feedback in our annual surveys in February. See the back page of our newsletter for more information.

Please contact me directly with questions, concerns, and suggestions regarding the operation of our school.

Mrs. Lorna Hiemstra
Proud Principal



January 2023

Important Upcoming Days:

Feb 16 - Misty Ridge Ski Trip 6-9
 Feb 17 - NO SCHOOL
 Feb 20 - Family Day NO SCHOOL
 Feb. 21- 24 - Theater In Residence Program for K-9
 Feb 22 - Extra Kindergarten Day
 Feb. 23 - Para Ice Hockey (Sledge Hockey)
 Feb. 24 - Community Performance
 Feb 27 - Jr High Basketball Tourn.
 Mar. 2 Gr. 7-9 Jasper Ski Trip
 March 3 - PD Day NO SCHOOL
 March 8 - Farm Safety online presentations for grades 1-5
 March 17 - PD Day NO SCHOOL
 March 27-31 - Spring Break
 April 7 - Good Friday NO SCHOOL
 April 10 - Easter Monday -NO SCHOOL
 April 21 - PD - NO SCHOOL

Skating Schedule

Watch your Child's Dayplanner for starting dates

Skating in January and February
 STARTING Jan 9th

Mon/Wed	Tues/Thurs
9:30 - 10:15 Gr. 6/7's	
	11:15 - 12:15 K, Gr. 4/5 's
1:15 - 2:00 Gr. 1/2/3's	
2:00 - 3:00 Gr 8/9's	

Students will need their own skates, a CSA Approved helmet, and ski pants.

Parent volunteers welcome, however you must be registered ahead of time at the office

Jr High CTF/Option Classes

Jan 4 – Feb 28 (tentatively)

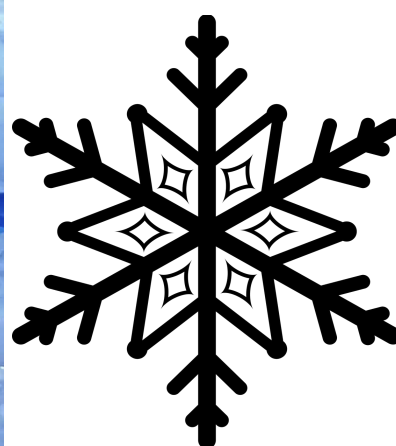
Monday & Wednesday

Basketball Skills, Babysitter Course

Tuesday & Thursday

Debate/Foods

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year Day 	2	3	4 Classes Resume	5 Kindergarten Classes Resume	6	7
8	9 Jr. High Bball hosts Swan Hills	10	11	12 FINS Fish Arrive Parent Society Meeting 10:00 am Library	13 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	14
15	16 Jr. High Bball @ RF	17	18	19	20 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	21
22	23	24	25 Jr. High Bball @ BCHS Parent Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. in Library	26 Wish I were on Vacation Day Dress in your favorite vacation attire Pizza from the Principal	27 Teacher Operational Day NO SCHOOL	28
29 PD DAY NO SCHOOL	30	31	Feb 1 Jr. High Bball @ RF	2 Elementary Bball @Busby	3	4
5 Jr. High Bball @ Swan Hills	6	7	8 Extra Kindergarten Day Trustee School Visit	9 Teacher's Convention NO SCHOOL	10 Teacher's Convention NO SCHOOL	11



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 on the 20th of December.



Dress Up Day

Wish I was in Vacation Day – January 26

Dress in your favorite vacation attire
Examples:

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

School Council

Chair – Danielle Calahasen

Vice Chair – Jennifer Schulte

Secretary/Treasurer– vacant

Next School Council Meeting is the set for

**WEDNESDAY, January 25, 2023
at 7:00 pm in the Library**

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

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

PHSD Board News

2023-2024 school year calendar approved

December 16th, 2022

At the December 14 Board meeting, Trustees accepted the recommendation from senior administration for the 2023-2024 school year calendar.

What has changed?

The notable changes for the 2023-2024 school calendar include

- The first student day is closer to Labour Day than in the previous school year: August 30 (The Wednesday rather than the Tuesday prior to the long weekend)
- a Fall Break: November 6-10 (November 10 is a day in lieu of Remembrance Day)
- the Christmas Break will not take place over split weeks: December 25-January 5

See the calendar

Feedback & Decision-Making

As a division, several factors are considered when developing the school calendar. We solicit feedback from parents and staff recognizing there are a lot of competing needs and different perspectives. Calendar decisions are also influenced by:

- Provincial Achievement Test and Provincial Diploma Exam schedules
- Balancing the number of instructional days in both the first and second semesters
- Statutory holidays
- Collective Agreements
- Most importantly, the educational needs of staff and students (strategic placement of professional learning/non-instructional Days)

From staff we heard:

- Avoid placing PD Days close to long weekends
- Days for PD that do not involve making sub plans
- Fall Break (especially from town schools without alternate calendars)
- Two full weeks at Christmas (not split weeks)
- Collaboration days between teachers & EAs for transition planning
- Start-up day(s) at school (not off-site)

Parent's Society

President - Teresa Dekker

VP - Meghan Koster

Treasurer - Jenny Kuelken

Secretary -Megan Petryshen

Next Parent Society Meeting is the set for

January 12 @ 10:00 a.m. in the library. Everyone Welcome.

**Thanks to everyone who supported our Fundraiser at at the Christmas Concert and
Congratulations to all our Raffle Draw Winners**

REMINDER - 2022 School Vouchers expire on June 15, 2023

Vouchers can be used for reimbursement of school related payments such as

- Field Trips
- Swimming Lessons
- Uniform Rental
- Athlete Fees

School Council Highlights - submitted by Danielle Calahasen

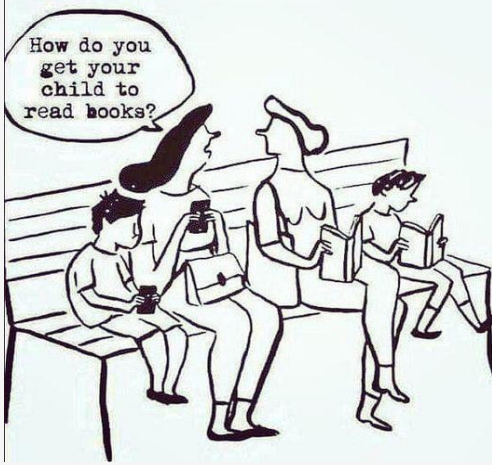
The Fort Assiniboine Parent Council Meeting was held on November 28th. We briefly outlined the role of the Parent Council, distinguishing it from the Parent Society. The Preschool currently has a raffle and tickets are available through the library or any preschool parent. The Superintendent, Mike Borgfjord, attended as did our Trustee, Mellissa Hanna. Woodlands County representative, Peter Kuelkin, discussed the upcoming bicentennial celebrations and how it can hopefully tie into future school agricultural programming. Principal Hiemstra discussed where the funds from Parent Society have been going and outlined the arts grant and drama production coming in February. Please view the minutes on the website once they are available.

We elected a new Vice-Chair, welcome and thank you to Jen Schulte! We are still looking for a secretary and thank everyone who temporarily fills in.

A Woodlands Arts and Music Guild representative attended to offer us a unique music opportunity in the spring which was unanimously agreed upon. We greatly appreciate them thinking of our students! There was an ASCA Engagement Meeting on November 19th. It was discussed that last year's engagement grant can be used in conjunction with this year's grant, giving us up to \$1000 to spend on workshops to increase parent engagement. If anyone has interest, available workshops are posted on the bulletin board in the school. The ASCA conference will be an in-person only this year and will be held in Edmonton April 21-23.

Watch for surveys coming from Pembina Hills to your emails. There will be a brief one on School Calendar input from parents coming very soon. And then the Annual Satisfaction Surveys will be coming out later in February

Fort Assiniboine Public Library



Upcoming Events:

Friday January 20th Movie Afternoon At The Library:

LYLE, LYLE, CROCODILE Start Time 1:30.

Monday January 30th Movie Afternoon At The Library:

THE SEA BEAST Start Time 1:30.

Friday February 10th Valentine's Day Crafts and Cookie Decorating:

11:00-3:00.

Phone: 780-584-2227

Check out new book titles on Facebook (Fort Assiniboine Public Library) or our website <https://fortassiniboinelibrary.ab.ca/>



Fort Assiniboine Arena

Open Skating Schedule

Open skating Saturday & Sunday from 2pm - 4pm (unless arena is booked)

Shinny hockey every Friday from 7-9

Happy New Year!

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.



Sports Report:

Elementary Basketball - league games will start in February. The final tournament will be March 9 hosted by Swan Hills. Schedules and permission forms will be sent home later this month. Mrs. Hiemstra will be coaching.

Jr. High Basketball - league games begin Jan. 9 and the final tournament is Mon. Feb. 27 at BCHS. Schedules and permission forms have been sent home. Mrs. Rhonda Spitzer is coaching the Jr. High Girls and Ms. Miranda Pybus is coaching the Jr. High Boys.

U of A Basketball Game Jan. 28 - This optional field trip will be open to ALL students. The University of Alberta Pandas and Golden Bears will be playing Brandon University. The cost is only \$10 which includes the bus ride to Edmonton and a ticket to the game. Students in grade 5 and younger must be accompanied by a parent. Order forms will be coming out soon.

NEW WINTER SPORTS



ICE HATING



NO-MOBILING



SNOW SHOO-ING



CROSS-COUNTRY FLEEING

©Brian Gordon



Back to the biggest classroom: The Great Outdoors! Grades 3-5 were learning about how we can use snow to keep warm, like the animals do.



Annual Satisfaction Surveys

In February, 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 February 3, 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.



Happy New Year!!