

## Special Interest Articles

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

- ***Hot Lunch February 7 – Spaghetti Sale***
- ***Trickster Theatre Residency Feb. 21-24***
- ***Pink Shirt Day Feb 22***

### **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**

### **Fun in the Sun**



## **Kindness - Building People Up**

**Buddy Lunches are back!** - We are excited for the return of a wonderful tradition - in person buddy lunches exchanges on Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. Students will receive a letter before they leave for Teachers Convention indicating if they are bringing or receiving lunch on Feb. 14 Valentine's Day. The buddy who brings lunch on Valentine's Day will receive one on St. Patrick's Day (March 16). If you have any questions or you know your child will be absent, please contact the office.

**Volunteers Needed for Theatre Residency** - we will need a few parents to help with organizing costumes and props the week of Feb. 21 - 24 and the evening of the performance Fri. Feb. 24. Please contact parent volunteer coordinator Danielle Calahasen at (403) 837-2256.

**Literacy Rocks!** - Pembina Hills School Division has invested heavily in Literacy Support for K-12. Teachers have been attending grade group meetings to discuss literacy strategies (across all subjects, not just LA) and develop a common writing assessment rubric. Educational Assistants (EA) have currently attended 3 out of 4 scheduled district PD days, which include sessions on supporting literacy needs in the classroom. We are grateful for our school's Literacy Coach, retired principal and literacy guru, Darcie Eamor, who visits our K-5 classrooms several times each month to provide literacy support and instruction. Soon you will see writing rubrics being posted on our bulletin boards and hear students talk about how to "bump up" their writing to the next level.

### **What is Literacy Intervention?!**

Thankfully at our last School Council meeting, several parents brought up concerns about the term intervention. Why am I receiving this letter? What does intervention mean? I read every night with my child, what's going on? Intervention is a common term used in education. Teachers are constantly assessing students and adjusting their lessons accordingly. If a student is struggling with a concept and/or has fallen behind, an "intervention" program is put into place. Interventions are specific targeted strategies to assist student learning, often in a small group or even one-on-one. Sometimes interventions are short term over a few days or weeks, sometimes for a few months. We want to emphasize the importance and urgency of literacy intervention, but we are not intending to cause panic/blame. We are all on this learning journey together. Please contact your classroom teacher for further information. I am also available to meet with parents too.

Please keep reading with/to your child, this is the number one factor in learning outside of school. Take time to ask a few comprehension questions about the story's plot, setting, characters, lessons learned, or relate it to your own life. A list of questions is included on the back of our newsletter.

Sincerely,

Lorna Hiemstra  
Principal  
[lorna.hiemstra@pembinahills.ca](mailto:lorna.hiemstra@pembinahills.ca)  
(780) 584-3751

## Outdoor Learning!!



Journaling in the snow!!

### Important Upcoming Days:

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 8&9 Celebration of Learning  
 March 16 - Progress Reports  
 March 10 - Bear Day - No School  
 March 17 - PD Day - No School  
 March 24 - Bear Day - No School  
 March 27-31 - Spring Break  
 April 7 - Good Friday - No School  
 April 10 - Easter Monday - No School  
 April 21 - PD Day - No School  
 April 28 - Alt. Op. Day - No School  
 May 5 - Bear Day - No School

## Skating Schedule

K-5 last week of skating Feb. 6-8  
 Gr. 6-9 will finish Feb. 13-16

Mon/Wed	Tues/Thurs
9:30 - 10:15 Gr. 6/7's	
2:00 - 3:00 Gr 8/9	
2:45 3:45 Gr. 3/4/5	2:45 - 3:45 K/1/2

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

Parent volunteers welcome, help needed to tie skates.

## Jr High CTF/Option Classes

Jan 4 – Feb 28 (tentatively)

Monday & Wednesday

Basketball Skills, Babysitter Course

Tuesday & Thursday

Debate/Foods

# February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	Jan 30 PD Day No School	31	1 Jr High Basketball @ RF Staples	2  Sweater Day Elementary Basketball @ Busby	3 Deadline for Hot Lunch orders	4
5	6 Jr High Basketball @ Swan Hills	7 Parent Society Hot Lunch Spaghetti	8 Extra Kindergarten Day <i>School Board Visit</i>	9 Teacher's Convention NO SCHOOL	10 Teacher's Convention NO SCHOOL	11
12	13 Jr High Basketball host Clyde	14 Valentine Buddy Lunch  Wear RED day 	15 Elem. Basketball @ Neerlandia	16 Misty Ridge Ski Trip - Gr 6-9  Parent Society AGM 6:30 p.m. Deadline to purchase Fundraising Dinner Tickets	17 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	18
19	20 Family Day NO SCHOOL	21 Trickster Theatre Residency	22 Extra Kindergarten Day Pink Shirt Day  Day Trickster Theatre Residency	23 Para Ice Hockey Day (Gr. 4-9)  Trickster Theatre Residency	24 Trickster Theatre and Fort Assiniboine School Performance 7:00 p.m.  Parent Society - Pre Show Dinner (see Ad)	25
26	27 Jr High Basketball Divisional Tournament at BCHS	28	March 1	2 Marmot Ski Trip - Gr 7-9	3 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	4



Our Elementary classes had fun racing to gather letters to spell their list of words





# PHSD Board News

Board news February 2023

## Student Services presents assurance report

Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Dr. Rob McGarva, presented the Board with a comprehensive report on the support services that the division provides to its students. Dr. McGarva indicated that from the pandemic, we are still seeing high levels of absences this year and that the new respiratory illnesses in children is also impacting academics. Alberta Education provided a learning loss grant but with delays in funding, it has been difficult to recruit staff or move people during the year. Work continues on expanding the impact of job postings.

Dr. McGarva notes that there has been an increase in complexity of needs with some students requiring multiple adults at one time to support them, putting physical and psychological stress on staff. The Mental Health grant allowed Pembina Hills to hire additional staff with training in social work or human services, focused on attendance and connecting families to community resources. School administrators will focus on the well-being of staff. Additional training is being provided for Educational Assistants as well as crisis response training all school staff. New practices are also being implemented with the division's Regulation Specialist.

## 2023-2026 Capital Plan

The Board approved the proposal and recommendation presented by Superintendent Michael Borgfjord for the Barrhead Composite High School Modernization and Right Sizing as its single project for the 2023-2026 capital plan. The Town of Barrhead is currently discussing the need for new community centre partnerships and possible child care spaces, and has expressed an interest in discussing a joint use project with the division.

## 2022-2023 Alternate school calendars amended

In the fall of 2022, Alberta Education released details of the Provincial Achievement Testing Program which included defined dates for the tests. This has created a conflict for four of Pembina Hills Schools (Eleanor Hall, Dunstable, Neerlandia Public Christian and Fort Assiniboine). As a result, the Board approved administration's recommendation that the school calendar for these schools be amended to accommodate the Grade 6 and 9 Mathematics test dates.

Melissa Hanna – melissa.hanna@pembinahills.ca – 780-333-8753

Trustee

## Student's Activities Report

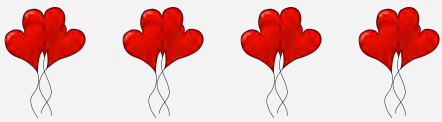
### **Valentines Buddy Lunch**

On Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, Kindergarten through Grade nine will be sharing a special Valentine's Day Lunch.

Each student will be randomly partnered with another student.

Student A will be asked to make two lunches (one for themselves and one for a special Valentine for their partner). Then in March (near St Patrick's Day), Student B will be asked to make two lunches to share with their buddy.

If you have any questions with regards to the lunch exchange, please contact the office.



### **PINK SHIRT DAY**

Wednesday February 22

### **Parent's Society HOT LUNCH**

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Garlic Toast and Juice Box  
- Feb 7

Pre-order forms sent home January 31 due back Feb 3  
\$7.00/per lunch

Cash or Cheque ONLY  
(payable to Fort Assiniboine School Parents Society)



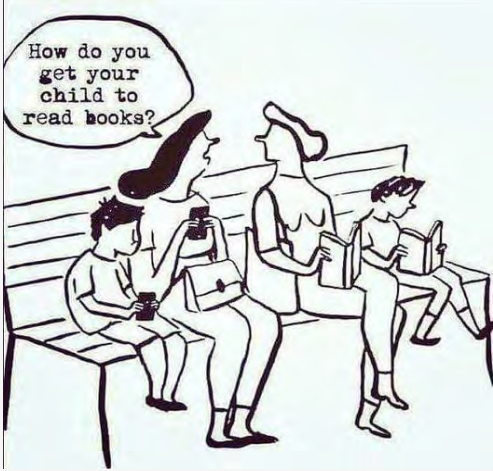
### **Update on Preschool Registration for 2023-24**

Pembina Hills is currently posting registration information for Early Learning registration. Our community has a private preschool program run by Mrs. Jenni Williams. If you or someone you know is interested in registering for preschool, please contact Jenni at (780) 674-0537.



## **Fort Assiniboine**

### **Public Library**



#### **Upcoming Events:**

**Friday February 10<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day Crafts and Cookie Decorating: 11:00-3:00.**

**Friday February 17<sup>th</sup> Movie Afternoon At The Library: Disenchanted Start Time 1:30.**

**Monday February 27<sup>th</sup> Movie Evening At The Library: Live Action Pinocchio Start Time 6:00.**

**The library will be CLOSED Monday February 20, 2023, for Family Day.**

**Phone:  
780-584-2227**

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



## **School Council**

Chair – Danielle Calahasen

Vice Chair – Jennifer Schulte

Secretary/Treasurer– vacant

Next School Council Meeting is the set for

**WEDNESDAY, March 22, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Library**

Minutes from previous meetings available on the school website: [www.fortschool.ca](http://www.fortschool.ca)

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

The last School Council Meeting was held on January 25<sup>th</sup>. We are still looking for someone to fill the Secretary position. If anyone is interested please contact Danielle. The Woodlands Arts and Music Guild are moving forward bringing our school an afternoon workshop from a Brass Band which will be held in April. We are actively seeking volunteers for the Breakfast Program and Hot lunches. Volunteers are welcome to help with sports teams, though a teacher must also be present for insurance purposes. If you are interested in volunteering for sports you will require a criminal record check and a child welfare check, please see Maureen in the office. Parent reading was discussed to aid in literacy, further discussions with the principal are underway.

The proposed calendar for the next school year was discussed and presented. Literacy goals for the school were discussed and input on the new report cards were given to the principal.

The Parent Society gave us an update on their fundraisers as did the Preschool.

Woodlands County Representative Peter Kuelken gave us information on looking into Agriculture in Education.

Please see the website for any further information and to view the minutes. The next Parent Council Meeting will be held on Wed. March 22, 2023.



### **Parent Society Highlights - General Annual Meeting Feb 16**

The Parent Society is having our AGM February 16<sup>th</sup> in the library at 6:30. The Executive Positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Member at Large are all up for nomination. If you'd like more information on a position please contact a Society Member. Parents are also welcome to become a member to receive information at any time and not have a role on the board.

President - Teresa Dekker

VP - Meghan Koster

Treasurer - Jenny Kuelken

Secretary -Megan Petryshen

**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 - Athletic Fees

**Our dates to do the next casino fundraiser will be Friday July 14 & Saturday July 15. If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping out we will be looking for 10 volunteers to go to Fort McMurray for this event.**



## **Thank you**

**Woodlands County**

**for coming in and building us such awesome snow hills for the students**

**to play on at recess breaks. As you can see from the smiles on their faces they LOVE them.**



## **Fort Assiniboine Arena**

### **Open Skating Schedule**

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

**Shinny hockey every Friday from 7-9**



*Fort Assiniboine School (K-9)*  
co-creating with  
*Trickster Theatre*  
proudly presents  
*an original*  
**PLAY**  
produced, directed, & choreographed by the students  
*and*  
**DINNER**  
organized by the Fort Assiniboine School Parents Society

**Dinner fundraiser served at 6pm**  
pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw, dessert & drink  
**Tickets \$13 in advance at the Fort Assiniboine Library**  
ticket purchase forms will also be sent home with students



★ **FRIDAY** ★  
**FEBRUARY 24**  
ADMIT ONE 49229442005

★ **FREE ADMISSION to the PLAY at 7pm** ★  
★ **EVERYONE IS WELCOME** ★  
doors open for seating at 6:30pm, no tickets required  
★ **DOOR PRIZES** ★ **50/50 RAFFLE** ★  
For more information, please contact Megan Petryshen at 780-584-2227 during library hours.  
★ Thank you in advance from the Fort Assiniboine School Parents Society ★

**Deadline to purchase Fundraising Dinner Tickets February 16**





## Elementary Basketball Schedule

Thurs. Feb 2 Fort @ Busby  
depart 2:30, return approx  
6:30 pm

Wed. Feb 15 Fort  
@Neerlandia depart 2:00,  
return approx 5:00 pm

Wed. March 1 @ Swan Hills  
depart 3:00, return 6:30

Tues. March 7 Host Swan  
Hills, times TBA

Thurs March 9 PHSD West  
Tournament @ Swan Hills

## Junior High Basketball Schedule

Mon Feb 6 Fort @ Swan  
Hills, depart 3:00, return  
6:30

Mon Feb 13 Fort host  
Clyde, games at 3:00 & 3:45

Mon. Feb 27 Tier II  
Divisional Tournament @  
BCHS



**Misty Ridge Ski Hill**  
Open Regular Hours  
Saturday and Sunday  
10-4  
We are also open  
from 10 till 4 on  
February, Thursday  
the 9th



and Friday the 10th for  
Teachers Convention,  
As well as Monday  
the 21st for Family  
Day

## Please Ask Me Some of These Questions After I Have Read to You

- What was the problem in the story?
- Tell me what you learned from the story?
- What message or lesson does the author want the reader to know?
- What was the author's purpose for writing this? ( to inform, entertain, persuade)
- What is something you would ask the author?
- What was the most important part? Can you show me the part in the story?
- Did this book remind you of another story you have read?
- What might happen in the next story?
- Who are the characters and what did you learn about them?
- Tell me why this story is fiction or nonfiction?
- Tell me about an experience you have had like this?

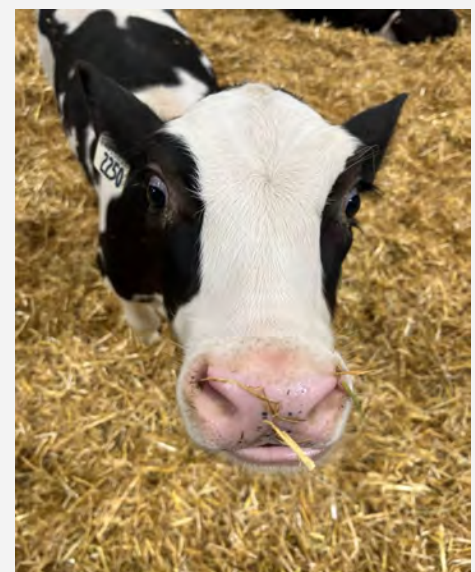
## Introducing "Pixie"

### our latest addition to the school

In the fall Mrs Kiselyk applied for Homeroom Holsteins thru the U of A Dairy Program.

We were assigned calf #2250 - PIXIE  
Born September 8, 2022

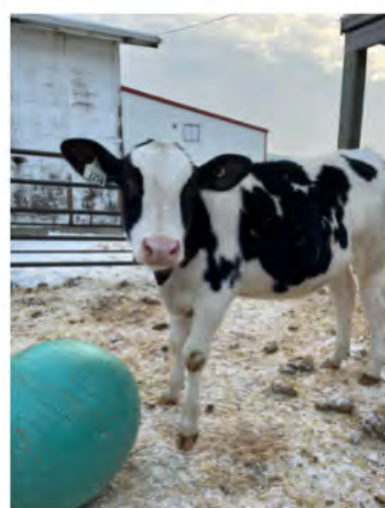
November 2022 Update:  
2250 is the goofiest calf we have in the pen right now. She is always doing her best to be the center of attention. She is best friends with 2251 and you can often find them snuggling in the corner! She is almost old enough to graduate to outside pens!  
January 2023 Update:  
2250 has graduated to the outside pens and is adjusting well. She is growing into a fine young heifer.



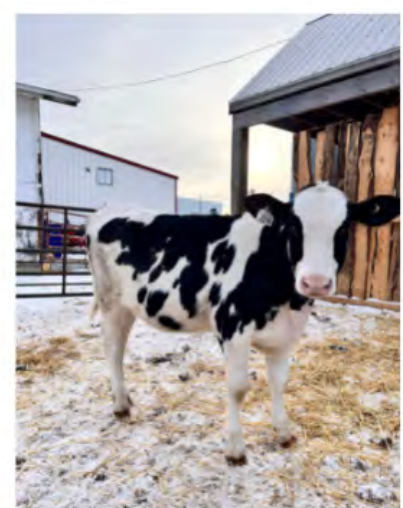
October 11, 2022



September 29, 2022



January 16, 2023



February 5, 2023

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