

Fort Assiniboine School  
20 -1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Fort Assiniboine, AB  
T0G 1A0

Phone:  
780-584-3751

We're on the Web!  
See us at:

www.fortschool.ca  
www.facebook.com/FortAssiniboineSchool

## Special Interest Articles

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## This Month's Highlights:

- Kindergarten Open House  
Wednesday May 3  
10:00 - 1:00
- Foothills Brass Band Concert  
and School Performance  
April 14 1:00 p.m. and evening  
community performance

### 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

## Floating into Spring!



## Springing Along into April

### Reading Comprehension Tips

Research shows that reading at home has a positive effect on children's interest and ability levels. We see the positive effects here at school, thanks to our parents. Reading at home should be an enjoyable experience for all. After reading with your child, here are some conversation starters that will also support their comprehension (choose only 1 or 2 of these) : What happened in this story? Which character(s) did you find the most interesting? Why? Which character is most like you? Have you ever been to a place like the setting in the story? Have you had a similar experience? What is this story trying to teach you?

### We're open for Volunteers and Workouts

Do you have a skill that you would like to share with our students, like sewing, knitting, woodwork, art, music, crafts, etc.? Would you like to read with students or help with the breakfast program? If you are interested in volunteering at the school, please drop in to fill out a volunteer form. Child Intervention Checks are only done online now (email [cs.ircnorthcentral@gov.ab.ca](mailto:cs.ircnorthcentral@gov.ab.ca)). Criminal Record Checks with Vulnerable Sector Search are done in person at the Barrhead Police Station on Thursdays, or if not able in person, you can phone them and they will email you the form.

Our workout room is open to the public between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. No charge, but donations for our breakfast program are appreciated.

### Kindergarten Registration & Open House

Please spread the word, Kindergarten registration is open online ([www.fortschool.ca](http://www.fortschool.ca)) and our open house is on May 3 from 10-1. Students must be 5 years old as of Dec. 31, 2023.

### Supporting our School Council & Parent Society

Parents make a positive difference in our school! Please take the time to check out the latest reports, including news about hot lunch, hot breakfast, Co-op Gift Card fundraiser, Highway Cleanup, and Casino fundraiser.

Please contact me directly with any questions, concerns, and/or suggestions about the operation of our school.

Lorna Hiemstra

Principal



## Spring is in the Air



### Important Upcoming Days:

May 3-Kindergarten Open House  
 May 4 - Hats on for Mental Health  
 May 5 - Bear Day - No School  
 May 6 - Parent Society Roadside Clean Up  
 May 11 - Class Pictures/Whole School Picture  
 May 12 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL  
 May 19- Bear Day - NO SCHOOL  
 May 22 - Victoria Day NO SCHOOL  
 June 2 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL  
 June 9 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL  
 June 16 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL  
 June 19 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL  
 June 27 - Last Student Day

**Parents Society  
 Hot Lunch  
 Thursday April 13**

**Shredded Pork &  
 Cheese Burrito**



**With Tortilla Chips, Salsa  
 Sour Cream and Juice \$5.00**

**Parent Society Fundraiser**

**Highway RoadSide  
 Clean Up**

**Saturday May 6, 2023**

Starting at 8:00 a.m. Meeting at the library  
 (with Saturday, May 13 being the alternate day in the event of inclement weather)

This fundraiser will help cover the cost of bussing for field trips (swimming, skiing, sports)

Participants must be 9 years or older - All Participants are required to view the Safety Training DVD

To request a section of roadside to clean please contact

Meghan Koster or Megan Petryshen or call the school and we'll forward your name and number to one of these ladies.

More info to follow closer to May 6

# April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	March 27 Spring Break	28 Spring Break	29 Spring Break	30 Spring Break	31 Spring Break	April 1
2	3 Classes Resume	4	5	6	7 <b>Good Friday NO SCHOOL</b> Green Shirt Day	8
9 Easter Sunday	10 <b>Easter Monday NO SCHOOL</b>	11	12	13 Hot Lunch	14 Brass Band concert in gym 1:00 - 1:30	15
16	17	18	19	20 National High Five Day Jr. High Badminton Tournament	21 <b>PD Day NO SCHOOL</b>	22 <b>Earth Day</b> (See pg 5 for Earth Day Activities at Home)
23	24	25	26 Gr. 9 High School Orientation @ BCHS (afternoon)	27	28 <b>Teacher Alt. Operational Day NO SCHOOL</b>	29 PHSD Chess Tournament @RF Staples
30	May 1	2	3 Hats on for Mental Health  Kindergarten Open House (10:00 - 1:00)	4 Star Wars Day (May the 4th be with you)	5 <b>BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL</b>	6 Road side Clean Up

### Swimming lessons

- a swim suit and a towel
- extra water/juice
- easy to eat snack example: fruit, granola bars, cookies

<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>April 4, 6,11,18,20,25,27</b>
<b>Class 1 /2</b>	<b>April 4, 6,11,18,20,25,27</b>
<b>Classes 2 /3</b>	<b>April 3,5,12,17,19,24,26</b>
<b>Classes4/5</b>	<b>April 3,5,12,17,19,24,26</b>
<b>Grade 6-9</b>	<b>April 4, 6,11,18,20,25,27</b>



## Kindergarten Registration

Starting March 1, 2023, we are accepting new student registrations for the 2023-2024 school year. Pembina Hills has an online registration system called SchoolEngage. There are two ways to register depending on if you are brand new to Pembina Hills or if you have children already attending our schools.

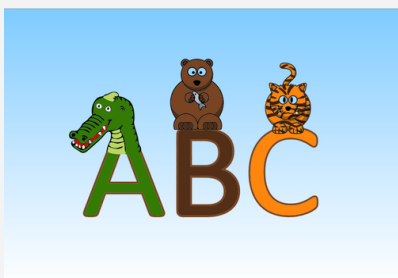
Families who are new to Pembina Hills will need to create a SchoolEngage account. For screenshots and detailed instructions, see the New Student Registration page.

Existing families who want to register a new student (ie. Kindergarten) can access SchoolEngage through their PowerSchool Parent Portal

Before you register...Here's what you will need to provide:

- Proof of age such as a child's birth certificate or immigration documentation (for newcomers)
- Legal land description or rural address (Rural Students only)
- Copies of any court orders affecting student

We will also be hosting a Kindergarten Open House on Wednesday, May 3 from 10 -1 p.m. for you and your new Kindergarten student to tour the classroom and meet the teacher. If you have any questions please call the school office at 780-584-3751.



Barrhead Rotary Music Festival



We are very proud of our grade fives that participated in Individual Speech Arts at the Barrhead Music Festival. **Congratulations!** Thank you to Ms. Pybus for coaching and encouraging our students to perform.

## School Board News

### March 15, 2023 Board Meeting News

*Regional Office ~*

#### Public Education Advocacy

The Board discussed Public Education advocacy plans for the upcoming provincial election. Parents, the public and staff will soon begin to see content on the division and school websites, newsletters etc. promoting Public Education, including sample education-themed questions that the public can use to ask their local party candidate.

#### Board Policies Amended

Amendments to the following policies were discussed and approved: *Policy P07-02 Board Operations – Regular Meetings, Policy P07-01 Board Operations – Organizational Meeting and Policy P07-10 Board Operations – Trustee Compensation.* Updated policies will be available on the division website. See the drafted changes in the [Agenda and Minutes](#).

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Have you heard?

The provincial election is on May 29, 2023.

Ask your local party candidate:

- How will education funding continue to meet the ever-changing needs of students?
- What is on your party's platform regarding student transportation?
- How will your party provide support to staff to implement the proposed curriculum?
- How does your party propose to offer ongoing support for the mental health of staff and students?

Visit [public-schools.ab.ca/2023-election-readiness/](http://public-schools.ab.ca/2023-election-readiness/) for more information on supporting Public Education in Alberta.

## Foothills Brass Band Concert and School Performance April 14

Happy Spring! The Woodlands Arts and Music Guild is proud to be hosting the Foothills Brass Band to the Fort Assiniboine School on Friday April 14 for a Half Day - Elementary Music Instruction and Concert. This 5 piece band is going to put on a short concert for our kids, then visit each class to have an interactive lesson on basic music theory, and introduce the kids to the instruments. They will then be performing a live 2 hour concert at the legion that evening with a catered roast beef supper. Tickets for the evening concert are \$40 for adults, and \$20 for children under 16, and can be purchased online or through Crystal Wood, or Alysha Riebel. The proceeds from this event will help us to continue running future programs like this one. Thank you for your continued generous support.





# Fort Assiniboine Public Library



### Upcoming April Events:

**Monday April 17<sup>th</sup> Movie Night at the Library:**

**The Magician's Elephant**

**Start Time 6:10**

The library will be **CLOSED** Friday April 7<sup>th</sup> and Monday April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for Easter.

The library is now open on Monday evenings from 6:00-8:00 instead of Tuesday evenings.

The library closes daily from 12:30-1:00 pm for lunch.



**Megan Petryshen**  
Library Manager | Fort Assiniboine Public Library  
#20-1st Street  
Fort Assiniboine AB T0G 1A0

Phone 780-584-2227  
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Email

fortassiniboinelibrary@yrl.ab.ca



## School Council

Chair – Danielle Calahasen

Vice Chair – Jennifer Schulte

Secretary– vacant

Next School Council Meeting is the set for

**May 24, 2023 at 6:00 pm in Library**

Parent Council Meeting was held on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are still actively seeking a secretary as well as volunteers for breakfast program, hot lunches, reading program, etc....

The Alberta School Council Association conference and annual general meeting is coming up on April 21-23.

Pembina Hills School Division surveys were returned at 37% participation. Results of which were not available yet and will be discussed at the next meeting. The Alberta Education Surveys had their deadline extended to March 17<sup>th</sup> and so the results were not yet available.

School base planning will be on April 21<sup>st</sup> for a full day. The vision statement will also be looked at. Grade 9 orientation plans were discussed. There will be a representative attending to discuss and course plan with our students and then there will be a tour of the Barrhead School on Wednesday April 26.

Please view our minutes on the school website for more information.

The next Parent Council Meeting will be on Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Danielle Calahasen  
403-837-2256 cell



## FORT ASSINIBOINE SCHOOL PARENTS SOCIETY

### BREAKFAST CLUB: APRIL to JUNE

Looking for daily volunteers to serve breakfast to students (7:45am-9:00am).  
Contact Danielle Calahasen at 403-837-2256.

### FORT MCMURRAY CASINO: JULY 14 & 15

Looking for 10 volunteers for a fun weekend get-a-way. All expenses paid. No experience needed. Contact Megan Petryshen at 780-584-2227.

### HOT LUNCH: APRIL 13

Shredded pork and cheese burritos with tortilla chips, salsa, sour cream, and juice. Order forms due April 11. Looking for volunteers to serve. Contact Megan Petryshen at 780-584-2227.

### CO-OP GIFTCARD FUNDRAISER: STARTING APRIL 3

Parents Society is selling Pembina West Co-Op gift cards for same dollar value.  
Order forms will be sent home with students.

(eg. Pay \$50 to buy a \$50 gift card).

1. Contact Megan Petryshen at 780-584-2227 to order (cash, cheque: Fort Assiniboine School Parents Society or e-Transfer: faparentsociety@gmail.com). Denominations available are \$25, \$50, \$100. No purchase limits. No expiry dates. Still earn your member equity as usual.
2. Pick up gift cards at the Library on May 5.
3. Spend your gifts cards at any of Pembina West Co-Ops (Barrhead: Food Store, Home Centre, Gas Bar, Pre-paid Bulk Fuel, Mayerthorpe: Food Store, Whitecourt: Pre-paid Bulk Fuel & Lubricants).
4. Pembina West Co-Op will pay us 5% of all sales!



*thank you*

- ★ To Julia Reid for her monetary donation.
- ★ To Barrhead Co-Op for their donation of delicious pies for students, staff, and community members in recognition of Pi Day on March 14.
- ★ To Teresa Dekker who dedicated 10 years to volunteering with Parents Society and Parent Council.
- ★ To all parents who donated homemade desserts for our dinner on Trickster Theatre night.
- ★ To the Fort Assiniboine Community and surrounding areas for your continuous support.

*congratulations*

- ★ To Geraldine McRee for winning the 50/50 Raffle on Trickster Theatre night.
- ★ To Laura Desjarlais, Amanda Williams & Rochelle Bartier for winning Gift Certificates to Strawson's General Store.





## Earth Day Activities and Ideas

Celebrate Earth Day by appreciating and respecting the natural world. Here are some ideas to inspire you this year.

### 1. Support Our Pollinators!

Bring native bees and other pollinating creatures to your garden. One way to do this is by selecting the right plants.

### 2. Clean Up Plastic in Your Neighborhood or Local Park

One of the best ways to connect with the Earth is through cleanups! Go on a walk with a trash bag and help to clean up any plastic that you find.

### 3. Swap Out Your Kitchen and Household Products!

Think 100% recycled aluminum foil, chemical-free parchment paper for baking, compostable bags made with potato starch, and even vegetable-based inks on packaging.

### 4. Plant a Tree!

We love our trees! They capture carbon, cool overheated places, benefit agriculture, support pollinators, reduce the risk of disease transmission, and boost local economies.

### 5. Use Wildflowers and Native Plants

Wildflowers and indigenous species are not only beautiful but also attract native and beneficial insects that improve both pest control and pollination—meaning bigger flowers and bigger harvests. Try to simply add a couple of native plants to your garden each year, and you'll be amazed at the difference—they'll bring in pollinators as well as birds!

### 6. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle in the Garden

Caring about yourself and nature means being less wasteful and saving money, too. Who could argue with this? If you are a gardener, here are just a few ideas:

- Buy in bulk when you know that you'll need a lot of topsoil, mulch, compost, or other materials. This cuts down on plastic bags.
- Reuse, recycle, or return old plastic pots and trays.

### 7. Stop Pesticides and Chemicals in the Garden

- Use organic soil amendments to turn your poor garden soil into a nutrient-rich paradise in which plants will thrive.
- You don't need chemicals to get rid of pesky garden pests: Companion planting, natural remedies, and attracting predators to your garden can save you money and also save your plants.
- Some bugs are good for the garden!
- It's easy to use an organic plant fertilizer—made from just weeds and water.
- Gardening and farming methods such as not tilling the soil, growing cover crops during the off-season, and rotating crops help to retain organic materials in the soil.

### 8. Conserve Water!

Avoid overwatering your plants and improve their health by knowing how much your garden really needs. Avoid watering your garden vegetables and plants from overhead, which invites fungal disease. Water at the soil level.

### 9. Get Kids Involved!

Pass down a love of nature and plants to kids. There are lots of opportunities for hands-on learning experiences outside. - Children who grow vegetables, eat vegetables.

Summer, fall, winter, spring,  
The seasons rotate as each brings  
Its special beauty to this Earth of ours.  
Winter's snow and summer's flowers;  
Frozen rivers will flow come spring,  
There is a renewal of everything.  
-Edna Frohock (1906-97)



Check out  
[https://www.almanac.com/  
content/earth-day-date-  
activities-history](https://www.almanac.com/content/earth-day-date-activities-history) for more  
ideas and info/links

 **HAPPY EASTER** 



Thank you to our Parent Society for sponsoring guest speaker David Bouchard! Mr. Bouchard is a well published author and poet and has a collection of over 70 wooden flutes. He shared his message of a life learning with dyslexia and following ones unique strengths . He is a master story teller and we enjoyed listening to him!

