

Fort Assiniboine School Newsletter

September 2023

Volume 23 Issue 1

Fort Assiniboine School
20 -1st Street
Fort Assiniboine, AB
T0G 1A0

Phone:
780-584-3751

Email:
fa.main@pembinahills.ca

Check Out Our Website

at www.fortschool.ca/
and be sure to follow/like our Fort Assiniboine School Facebook page

Latest News
-General -Athletic
-Academic - Special Events

Special Interest Articles

Principal's Message - Page 1

Calendar - Page 2

PHSD Board News & Sports - Page 3

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Free Parent Workshop - page 6

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This Month's Highlights:

Parent Council Annual General Meeting September 20 at 6:00 pm

National Truth and Reconciliation Week Sept 25 - 29

Picture Day - Sept 28

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

Main Doors open for students @8:08 a.m.

Elementary Doors open @ 8:18 a.m.

Warning Bell @ 8:28

Classes Start (First Attendance) @8:33 a.m.

Lunch @12:15 p.m.

Afternoon Classes start @1:00 p.m.

Dismissal @3:52 p.m.

Back to Our Roots

Summer Celebrations & School Startup (picture on page 7)

Our school was involved in Bicentennial Celebrations (July 7-9) as a host site for Indigenous drummers and dancers, and we had a float in the Hamlet Hoedown parade Aug. 19 (thank you School Council and volunteers!). Thank you to our Parent Society for providing pizza and pop for Open House (Aug. 29), which was well attended. We have many new faces (20 new students and 3 new teachers) and it was a great start to get to know each other.

School Ed Plan Priorities

Our School Ed Plan follows priorities from Alberta Education and Pembina Hills School Division - Student Staff Relationships, Numeracy & Literacy, and Support for Staff and students. We are continuing our focus on writing. Success in writing leads hand in hand to success in reading. Our goal is to "bump up" all levels of student writing, whether that be up to grade level or even beyond. We are continuing to develop student rubrics and exemplars to illustrate what different levels of writing look like.

Staff Directory for 2023/24 (picture on page 7)

Kindergarten - Mrs. Greenstien, Mrs. Koster (EA)

Gr. 1/2 - Mrs. Spitzer, Mrs. Wieland (EA- Educational Assistant)

Gr. 3 - Mr. Hawken (LA & Science) , Mrs. Hiemstra (Math & Social)

Gr. 4&5 - Ms. Pybus, Mrs. Kien(EA)

Gr. 6-9 - Mr. Hobson (Math/Science/PE/CTF), Mrs. Payne (LA/Social/CTF), Mrs. O'Brien(EA), Mrs. Nelson (EA), Mrs. Hill (EA)

Office Staff - Mrs. Fleming (Mama Bear) & Mrs. O'Brien

Outdoor Classroom Project Completed!

A HUGE THANK YOU to our School Council for fundraising and getting an Outdoor Shelter built this summer! Grass seed is just taking root and soon students will be able to use the shelter for outdoor learning activities and recess.

School Council - Volunteering for our School Breakfast Program

We have several dedicated volunteers signed up to help with baking and serving breakfast snacks to our students every morning. Health guidelines mandate that all food must be prepared on site. We are looking for a few volunteers who are available from 8-9:30 am to serve food/clean up and a few volunteers to do baking/cooking (anytime 8-4). Volunteers are required to fill out an application form, obtain a criminal record check, and understand protocol and confidentiality in a school setting. Please contact the office if interested.

School Council Sept. 20 6:00 pm in the Library

Our students are fortunate to have such fantastic support from our parents and community. Please join us to keep in touch with the latest issues in education, information, sharing of ideas and provide feedback for the principal. Childcare can be provided - please contact President Danielle Calahasen.

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

Lorna Hiemstra
Principal



September 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	August 28	August 29  Open House 3-6 p.m.	30 First Day of School	31	Sept 1	2
3	4 Labor Day No School	5 First Day of Kindergarten Staggered Entry	6	7 First Day of Kindergarten Staggered Entry	8 Gr 6-9 ODE Fieldtrip	9
10	11	12	13	14 Western Day Dr. Unger Parent Night see Page 6 for more info	15 Teacher PD No School	16
17	18	19	20 School Council Meeting 6:00 pm	21 Gr. 4-9 Cross Country Running @ Westlock Golf Course	22 Alternate "Bear" Friday No School	23
24	25	26 National Day of Reconciliation Orange T-Shirt Day (See page 3 for more details)	27 Jr. High Soccer Tournament @ Fawcett	28 Parent Society Hot Lunch Picture Day 	29 National Day of Reconciliation No School	30
1	2	3	4	5 Terry Fox Run @11:30 am	6 PD Day No School	7

Important Upcoming Days:

- October 6 - Bear Day NO SCHOOL
- October 9 – THANKSGIVING DAY NO SCHOOL
- October 11 and 12 – Goal Setting Meetings AFTER SCHOOL
- October 20 – PD Day NO SCHOOL
- October 27 – Bear Day NO SCHOOL

Terry Fox Run

Fort Assiniboine School is proud to participate in the **Terry Fox** Annual School Run **Thursday, October 5** approx. **11:30 a.m.**

Come out and join us to help raise funds for Cancer Research Pledge Forms available in office or visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.terryfox.org/"](http://www.terryfox.org/)

Help us meet our goal of raising \$20000.00 Or \$20 per student

Parents are welcome to join us in the run/walk. Please watch for updates on our website, Facebook page, notes and agendas

MEDICATION: We can not administer medications such as Calamine lotion, Polysporin, Afterbite, anything with any kind of medicine in it. If a student requires to take any kind of medicine (prescription or over the counter) in to take during the day, **the medication must be brought in by a parent** to the school office. Medication should be in it's original packaging. Consent forms must be completed, medication will be kept and dispensed as directed under supervision in the office.

For those students with Epipen, puffers, Twinject etc. please inform office and teacher, bring those items to the office to make arrangement for safe storage



Hamlet Hoedown Parade 2023

What is Orange T-shirt Day? Every Child Matters

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) Residential School (1891-1981) Commemoration Project and Reunion events that took place in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in May 2013. This project was the vision of Esketemc (Alkali Lake) Chief Fred Robbins, who is a former student himself.

The events were designed to commemorate the residential school experience, to witness and honour the healing journey of the survivors and their families, and to commit to the ongoing process of reconciliation. Chief Justice Murray Sinclair challenged all of the participants to keep the reconciliation process alive, and as a result of the realization that every former student had similar stories.

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of this project. Former student Phyllis (Jack) Webstad told her story of her first day at residential school when her shiny new orange shirt, bought by her grandmother, was taken from her as a six-year old girl.

The annual Orange Shirt Day opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind. A discussion all Canadians can tune into and create bridges with each other for reconciliation. A day for survivors to be reaffirmed that they matter, and so do those that have been affected. Every Child Matters, even if they are an adult, from now on.

We are in the process of ordering Orange t-shirts for our school population for Thursday September 29. We asking students to wear their orange t-shirt on Thursday September 29. You can also purchase the 2022 Orange Shirt online. Please contact Mrs. Hiemstra directly if you have any questions or concerns.



Important Message for Everyone who Stops in at the School

The MAIN DOORS into the school will be locked throughout the day. Please knock on the door, the window or call the school at 584-3751 and someone will be with you shortly.

We would like to ask **ALL** visitors to the school to check in and out of the building at the office. This includes dropping off lunches, or picking up your child early from school. Please **DO NOT** use the Library as an entrance into the school. While the library is open to the public it is not to be used as an entrance into the school. This request is for the safety of the children, the school staff, as well as yours. For example, if we have a fire drill or lockdown we need to know who is in the building.

School Registration Form and School Supplies Fees for 2023-24 school year

are:

To be completed and payable at Powerschool Parent Portal (see page 5 to set up an account), or at the school office with cash or cheque as a last option. School Supply Fees (K -5 only) will be \$50.00 - invoices will be sent home shortly.

PHSD Board News

Welcome back!

I hope you had a great summer vacation and are rested up for another awesome year!

Board elects 2023-24 Chair and Vice Chair

At the first Board meeting of the 2023-2024 school year, elections were held for the positions of Board Chair and Vice Chair. Judy Lefebvre was re-elected as the Board Chair and Sherry Allen re-elected as Vice Chair. Congratulations to both trustees!

Board Work Plan Approved

Each year the Board sets out a schedule that details the decisions to be made, meetings to be attended and communications to be made. This Work Plan serves as a key resource for the Board and promotes better planning. The Plan for the 2023-2024 year was approved at the August 30, 2023 meeting.

New Positions

From time to time, new positions are created to serve the changing needs of the Division. The Board approved the creation of two new positions: a Senior Driver Instructor to train bus drivers internally and a School Lunch Provider. We welcome the staff members who will fill these roles.

Have a great month!

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

Trustee for West Ward 2 Swan Hills/Fort Assiniboine

Sports Report

Cross Country Running

Gr. 4-9 may participate in the Pembina Hills divisional race at the Westlock Golf Course on Sept. 21. Top Jr. High runners may qualify for Zones (location and date TBA).

Elementary Soccer

We have not set any dates for games yet. We are hoping to have a home & away series with Neerlandia and host our own tournament in early October.

Jr. High Soccer

Our Grade 7-9 students will be participating in the Pembina Hills tournament at Fawcett on Sept. 27 during the day and will be back in time for buses.

Elementary Volleyball

Exhibition games are being planned as this newsletter goes to print. The final tournament will be at the Westlock Spirit Center on Nov. 30.

Jr. High Volleyball

Mr. Hobson will be coaching Junior High Volleyball starting in late September. The league schedule is still under construction. The final tournament will be at the Westlock Spirit Center in November.



Fort Library Update

What a great summer we had at the Fort Assiniboine Public Library and we are starting to plan our fall activities. There will be some paint nights and craft nights coming soon. Please keep an eye on our library Facebook page, Instagram, school newsletters and town bulletin boards for more updates.

Thank you so much to everyone that participated in any one of our library events, we are so happy to see so many people wanting to come out and take part.

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Monday September 18th

Movie Night At The Library: The Super Mario Bros. Movie Start Time 6:10.

Tuesday September 19th:

Story Time With Shelly at 3:00

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

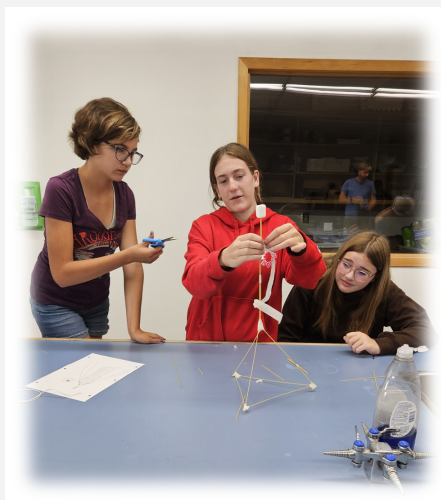


Hum & Strum Music

Is offering Music Lessons for
- Guitar -Piano
- Violin - Ukulele

Lesson will be at the school
during school hours
Starting on Monday Sept 11

Please call Connie Lefebvre at
780-674-8075 to register or for
more information



School Council

Chair – Danielle Calahasen

Vice Chair – Tiffany Rondeau

Secretary/Treasurer– vacant

Next School Council Meeting is the set for:

Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday September 20th at 6:00 pm.

Minutes from previous meetings available 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

Welcome back to a new school year! A big welcome to all our new families as well!

Our next School Council Meeting will be held at 6pm on Wednesday September 20th. This will be our Annual General Meeting in which we will be voting for new board members, and setting the stage for this new school year. All parents and community members are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Please view our page on the Fort Assiniboine School Website. www.fortschool.ca, then find *the parent and student tab* near the top of the page and select *Parent Council*. You will find our previous meeting minutes and contact information. Please note we also have an anonymous email contact link on our page.

School Council serves in an **advisory** capacity to the Principal. Meetings are held every two months. Dates are posted on the Fort Assiniboine School Website. Babysitting can be available if you let us know in advance. By attending School Council meetings you supply input, ideas, and advice to the group. You are under no obligation to do more than just listen and speak your mind.

Examples of items dealt with are classroom splits, new CTF curriculum ideas, school events, parent/teacher concerns, input on new curriculum etc..

We are also looking for school volunteers for our breakfast program and other areas.

Danielle Calahasen-Chair

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

#####

Parent's Society

President - Meghan Koster

VP - Michyla Kerr

Treasure - Jenny Kuelken

Secretary - Megan Petryshen

Next Parent Society Meeting TBA

REMINDER - 2023 School Vouchers expire on June 15, 2024

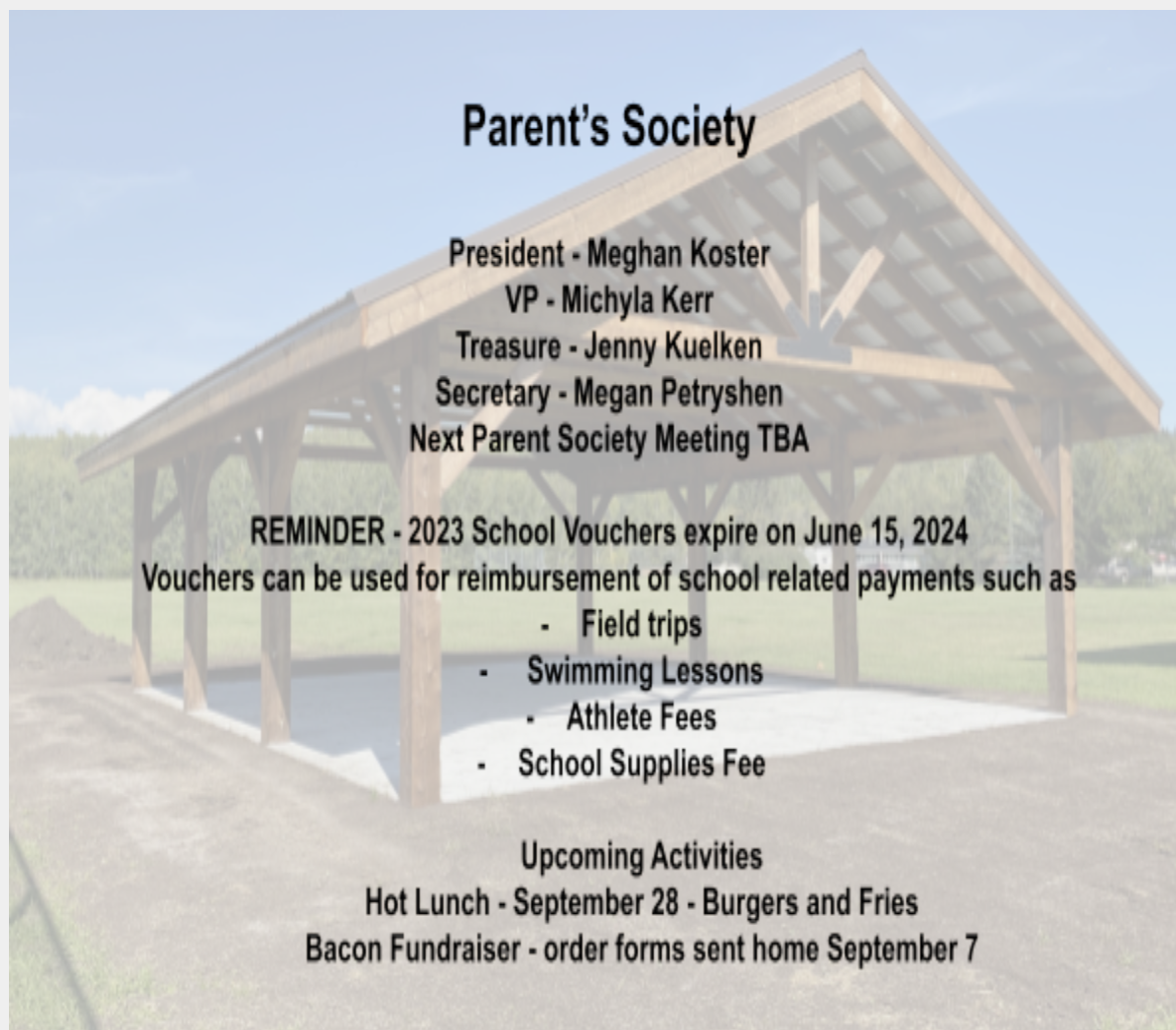
Vouchers can be used for reimbursement of school related payments such as

- Field trips
- Swimming Lessons
- Athlete Fees
- School Supplies Fee

Upcoming Activities

Hot Lunch - September 28 - Burgers and Fries

Bacon Fundraiser - order forms sent home September 7





Our school division is using an online system called SchoolEngage to collect and process student enrolment information, annual demographic updates and permission forms. All families will be required to fill out forms online through your PowerSchool account. This will include the information connected with student registration as well as permission forms for field trips etc. To open SchoolEngage:

- [Sign in to PowerSchool](#)
- Click on Registration and Permission Forms in your main menu
- If you do not have a PowerSchool account you will need to create one.

When you open SchoolEngage, you will see that you have been assigned the **Student Demographic Update Form** for your child(ren).

- The Student Demographic Update shows all of the information we have in our system. We need you to check that the information we have on file is correct. Please review, make corrections and changes if needed.

This form also collects these annual consents and permissions:

- Student FOIP
- Technology Acceptable Use
- Field Trip Within Walking Distance
- School Physical Activity

Please submit the form (for each child) by September 17th.

Need help?

If you need help creating your PowerSchool account or logging in, please call our PowerSchool administrator Melody Nelson at 780-305-1359 or email studentsupport@pembinahills.ca. If you are unable to complete your form online, please contact your school office to make other arrangements.

Thank you for helping us improve the efficiencies of our student information systems.

Pembina Hills School Division



Violence Threat Risk Assessment

How Pembina Hills responds to threats of violence

Young people dealing with difficult situations and challenges they can't resolve may resort to high risk behavior which puts them and others in danger. Because we want to keep *all* students and schools safe, we are working with our community partners to respond to and support those students who may pose a risk.

Our school administrators have completed intensive safety training through the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response. Working with Evergreen Catholic Schools, government agencies, the RCMP and community partners, we have developed a prevention and intervention protocol to guide our response to students who may pose a threat.

Fair Notice

I am sharing this message to give parents fair notice that our school will address and respond proactively to any high risk behavior and threats.

It is important for all parties to engage in the threat risk assessment process. However, if for some reason, there is a reluctance to participate in the process by the threat maker or parents and guardians, the assessment procedures will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment.

Our commitment to proactively respond to threats is a key element of this protocol. As always our goal is to keep our students and schools safe. We thank our protocol partners for working with us to sustain healthy, caring learning environments for the students we serve.

If you have questions, please give me a call at 780-584-3751

Lorna Hiemstra - School Principal

More information can be found on the Pembina Hills Public Schools website at www.pembinahills.ca
Under Schools and Programs



Pembina Hills School Division is pleased to offer a **free evening parent session** with

DR. MICHAEL UNGAR

Renowned expert on resilience, parenting and risk



Nurturing Resilience: Nine Ways Families, Schools and Communities can Help Children Thrive

In this fast-paced, story-filled presentation, Dr. Ungar will show that our children's resilience is much more than their individual ability to overcome adversity and just as much the result of how well their families, schools and communities work together.

Dr. Ungar will also provide nine practical strategies that parents, caregivers and educators can use to help children heal, regardless of a child's emotional, psychological or behavioral issues.



Thursday, September 14, 2023



7:00-8:30 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Coffee will be available



R.F. Staples Secondary School Theatre

RSVP to your school's principal
to ensure adequate space

Michael Ungar, Ph.D. is the founder and Director of the Resilience Research Centre at Dalhousie University. His ground-breaking work as a family therapist and resilience researcher is recognized around the world. He has authored 250+ peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and 17 books.

For more information about Michael Ungar and his work, visit:
<https://www.michaelungar.com/>



FORT ASSINIBOINE FUN HOCKEY LEAGUE

PISTOLS (APPROXIMATE AGE 4-9) or RANGERS (APPROXIMATE AGE 10-15)

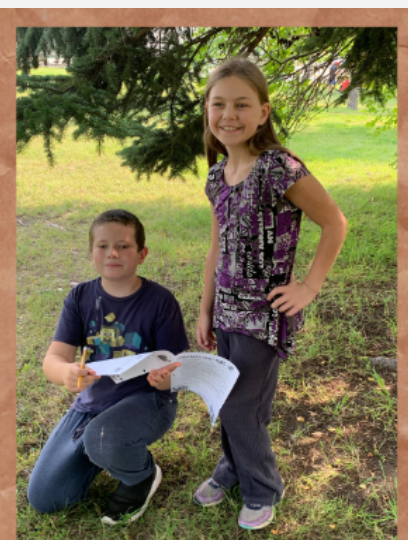
AGM (Annual General Meeting) and Registration:
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
HOCKEY ARENA (UPSTAIRS)
6:30PM

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Elections
2. Treasurer report
3. Fair Play Code of Conduct
4. Practices
5. Games
6. Start/end dates
7. Fees
8. Volunteer coaches (both teams)
9. Tournaments
10. Volunteers
11. Registration
12. Round table



Outdoor



Learning



Mrs Greenstien



Our 2023 -
2024 Staff



Mr. Hobson and
Mr. Hawken



Bicentennial Celebration



Bicentennial Celebration

A Big THANK YOU!

TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL **COMMUNITY MEMBERS** FOR CONTINUOUSLY SUPPORTING THE FORT SCHOOL. WITH YOUR DONATIONS AND SUPPORTING OUR



FUNDRAISERS, THE PARENT SOCIETY WAS ABLE TO BRING THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM/GAZEBO TO A REALITY! PLEASE STOP BY AND USE WHAT YOU ALL CONTRIBUTED TO. THE TABLES AND SEATING WILL BE INSTALLED SOON!

TO **JOSH GERVAIS** FOR HIS PROJECT MANAGEMENT, KNOWLEDGABLE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.

TO **PEMBINA PIPELINE CORPORATION** FOR THEIR MONETARY DONATION.

TO **FORTIS ALBERTA** FOR THEIR MONETARY DONATION.

Sincerely, the

FORT ASSINIBOINE
School

PARENT'S SOCIETY

President: Meghan Koster

Vice President: Michyla Kerr

Treasurer: Jenny Kuelken

Secretary: Megan Petryshen

