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This Month's Highlights:

- **Christmas Concert December 14**
- **Christmas Dinner December 19**
- **Christmas Break Dec 22 - Jan 7, 2024**

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



Joy is what happens to us when we allow ourselves to recognize how good things really are.

- Margaret Williams

The Joy of the Christmas Season

School Council & Parent Society

We are fortunate to have so many parents involved in our School Council and Parent Society. Our school council is an advisory board that meets 5 times a year to discuss school and division policies, and provide the principal with ideas and feedback about the operation of our school. The Parent Society's role is to fundraise for projects/items that will benefit our students (they meet a bit more frequently than the bi-monthly council). Both groups post meeting minutes on our school website and accept new members throughout the year. School Council president is Danielle Calahasen faschoolcouncil@pembinahills.ca and Parent Society president is Meghan Koster faparentsociety@gmail.com

Breakfast Snack Program Feedback

The School Council has received an outstanding response for volunteers for our breakfast snack program. We have over a dozen volunteers, all who have completed their RCMP and CW checks, who regularly come into the school to serve food and/or do baking. To maintain good standing with AHS, food must be prepackaged/inspected or we must prepare it in our kitchen, which is periodically inspected. Unfortunately, gone are the days when we could cook at home and bring food into the school. The School Council coordinates volunteers and the purchasing of food, in cooperation with the school and fundraising efforts of the Parent Society. Please fill out and return the School Council survey as soon as possible to provide us with feedback about our breakfast snack program and indicate if you would be able to donate volunteer time and/or food.

Christmas Concert Thurs. Dec. 14

Our new music director, Mr. Matthew Hawken, has been very busy preparing our K-9 students to present a creative version of Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*. There will be singing, acting, and handbells. We have been working hard and are looking forward to having our gym full of family and community members again. Stay tuned as we would like to have an afternoon performance/dress rehearsal to ease the pressure of crowding in the evening. The Parent Society has several fundraisers occurring at the Concert, check out their bulletin on Pg. 3.

Turkey Dinner Dec. 19

Thank you to Woodlands County for their continued support donating turkeys for this special meal. This year, we are returning to the gym for a whole school experience. A form will be sent home asking for volunteers and food donations. Please return the form or contact Mrs. Fleming at the office if you are able to help out.

White Elephant Sale Dec. 19-20

Thank you to our School Council for organizing this heartwarming annual tradition. Check out their bulletin on Pg. 3 for more information.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Fort Assiniboine School staff we wish you a joyful holiday break, hoping you have quality time with family and friends! We are back to school on Monday, January 8, 2024

Lorna Hiemstra

Principal



Merry Christmas

December 2023

Important Upcoming Days:




January 8 - Classes Resume
 January 12- Bear Day NO SCHOOL
 January 17- School Council Meeting
 Jan 19 - Bear Day NO SCHOOL
 Jan 26 - Bear Day NO SCHOOL
 Feb 2 -PD Day NO School for Students
 Feb 7 - Extra Kindergarten Day
 Feb 8 & 9 - Teacher's Convention – NO SCHOOL
 Feb 16 - Bear Day NO SCHOOL
 Feb 19 - Family Day –NO SCHOOL
 March 1 - NO SCHOOL
 March 8 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL
 March 15 - PD Day NO SCHOOL
 March 20 School Council Meeting
 March 22 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL
 March 23-31 - SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL
 March 29 - Good Friday
 April 1 - Easter Monday
 April 2 - Classes Resume



Wear something
RED or GREEN
Tuesday, December 19
UGLY SWEATER DAY
Thursday, December 21

If you are aware of a family in need, whether it be your own or someone else's, that could use a food hamper or bag of toys please call the FCSS office at 780-674-3341 and ask for an application. You can also call the school and ask to talk to Mrs. Hiemstra. All calls are confidential.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4	5	6	7	8 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	9
10	11	12	13 Extra Kindergarten Day	14 Christmas Concert @ 7:00 p.m	15 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	16
17	18	19 White Elephant Sale <i>Wear Red or Green Day.</i> Christmas Hot Lunch Dental Screening K, 1 & 2	20 White Elephant Sale	21 <i>Ugly Sweater Day</i>	22 Christmas Break Begins Dec 22 - Jan 7 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	23 Christmas Break
24 	25 	26 Christmas Break	27 Christmas Break	28 Christmas Break	29 Christmas Break	30
31 New Years Eve	JAN 1, 2024 New Years Day 	2 Christmas Break	3 Christmas Break	4 Christmas Break	5 Christmas Break	6 Christmas Break
7	8 Classes Resume January 4, 2023	9 Classes Resume for Kindergarten	10	11	12 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	13

Family Christmas
Dinner on

Tuesday, December 19

Student's Leadership Club is looking for donations to help out with our Family Style Christmas Dinner on **December 19, 2023**. We are looking for the following:

- 12 dozen cookies
- 12 boxes of Stove Top stuffing
- 10 dozen buns
- 2 bags of perogies

- 2 large bags Frozen Peas

- 20 lb's Potatoes

- 2 Cranberry Sauce

- 2 Jars Pickles

If you can bring one of these items please contact the office.

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Mrs. Hiemstra & Fort Assiniboine School Student's Leadership Club

Please call the school by Tuesday December 12

Classroom Learning



ANNUAL FORT ASSINIBOINE SCHOOL



White Elephant Gift Shop

is a Christmas Gift Shop set up in the school with new or gently used items. On December 19 and 20, all students (K-Grade 9) pick out gifts for their immediate family members and volunteers help wrap them before taking their surprise gifts home.

We are kindly seeking donations of new or gently used items for our Gift Shop. Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase wrapping supplies.

Items and/or wrapping supplies can be dropped off at the school during regular school hours from now until **Dec 14**. Pickup can also be arranged.

Please contact Danielle Calahasen at 403-837-2256.

Thank you for our support!



**FORT ASSINIBOINE SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

Thursday December 14

**Doors open at 6:00pm for
raffles and bake sale.**

Concert starts at 7:00 pm.

**50/50
RAFFLE**

**GIFT
BASKETS
RAFFLE**

**BAKE
SALE**

**CASH
ONLY
PLEASE**

****Parent Society appreciates your support****

Thank you to the Fort Assiniboine Legion Branch 210 for the generous donation to the school at the November 11 Remembrance Service.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.



PHSD Board News

IT'S DECEMBER!!

That means, it is almost the most wonderful time of the year and my personal Favorite holiday, **Christmas!**

The trustees attended the annual FGM November 19-21, 2023. During the FGM position statements were passed and networking continued. Both of the MLA's for PHSD attended for breakfast and conversations.

Council of School Councils is December 5, 2023 at the regional office.

At the November 22 board meeting, Superintendent Micheal Borgfjord gave his verbal resignation. He has taken the Superintendent position at Black Gold School Division. The board wishes him all the best!

On behalf of the board we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

May all that is beautiful, meaningful and brings you joy be yours this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

Trustee Melissa Hanna

Melissa.hanna@pembinahills.ca

780-333-8753



Recess Fun



School Council

Chair – Danielle Calahasen

Vice Chair – vacant

Secretary/Treasurer– Sara Rouw

Next School Council Meeting is the set for

WEDNESDAY, January 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Library

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

School Council Highlights - submitted by Danielle Calahasen

Danielle Calahasen was re-elected as Chair, Vice-chair remains vacant, Sara Rouw was elected as Secretary.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are looking for a couple volunteers interested in being on a committee to review and update the student handbook.

The **Christmas Concert** will be held on December 14th and we could use a few volunteers to assist with props, costumes and set up/take down of the stage, and stack chairs.

We also will be looking for volunteers to help cook, serve and clean up our **Christmas Dinner** (a Christmas meal served to all students in the gym for lunch) held on December 19th!

The **White Elephant Sale** (where children can shop for new or used items for a small fee for their parents) will take place on December 19th & 20th, with set up on the 18th and clean up on the 21st. We will need volunteers to set up, clean up, help wrap presents and assist children with shopping.

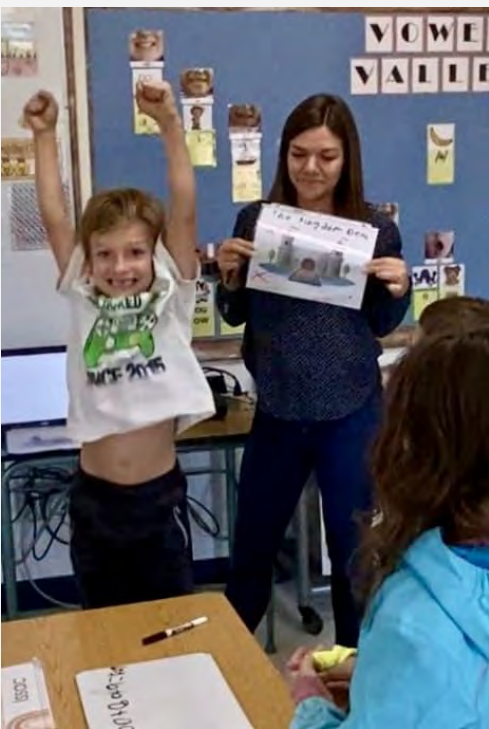
For more information contact Danielle or email faschoolcouncil@pembinahills.ca .

Please see the survey for the Breakfast Snack Program.

Please view the minutes from our last meeting on our school's website for further information or contact Danielle.

The next school Council meeting will be held on January 17, 2024.

Learning in the classroom



SPORTS REPORT

Elementary Volleyball

Our teams traveled to Westlock for the PHSD divisional tournament on Nov 30. The girls were coached by Gr. 9 student Lina Kafka and the boys by Mrs. Hiemstra and Gr. 7 student Cole Druar. Both student coaches did a fantastic job encouraging our young athletes and helping them develop their skills. The elementary tournament is strictly for skill development and no playoffs or medals are awarded. Our students did us proud with great skill improvement and sportsmanship. Thank you to our parents for all their support throughout the season!



**Elementary
Volleyball Team
2023**



Jr. High Basketball

Games will begin shortly after Christmas Break. The league schedule is still being finalized, but teams will play one game per week. The Divisional Tournament will be held Tuesday, February 27th at the Westlock Spirit Center.

Elementary Basketball

Games will begin right after Christmas Break. Most games will be on Wednesday nights. The league schedule is still being finalized. The Divisional Tournament will be held Thursday, Feb. 29 at Barrhead Elementary School.



**Family Skate with Santa
sponsored by
the Fort Assiniboine
Agricultural Society**

**Fort Assiniboine Arena
December 16th, 2023
1pm-4pm**

**Join us for crafts, hot chocolate or
apple cider.**

**Please register by calling 780-584-2100
Registration deadline December 8th**



Fort Assiniboine Public Library

Upcoming December Events:

Friday December 8th Wreath Making

1:00 p.m. \$10.00 for a large wreath
\$5.00 for a small wreath. Please contact the library to register.
All ages welcome

Friday December 15th Christmas Crafts and Cookie Decorating 11:00-3:00

Tuesday December 19th Babies Books & Bonding With Shelley at 2:15

Tuesday December 19th Story Time & Craft With Shelly at 3:00 All ages welcome

Friday December 22nd Movie Afternoon At The Library: Home Alone Start Time 1:30

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

The library will be CLOSED for Christmas Monday December 25th, Tuesday December 26th and Wednesday December 27th.

The Library will be closed for News Years Day Monday January 1st, 2024.

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



Fort Assiniboine Arena

Open Skating Schedule

Public Skating is Saturday's 2 - 4 pm unless a booking takes place.

December 2,9,23,
Public Skating 2-4pm

Christmas break = December 27-29 Public Skating 10-3pm.



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](#) (**EVERYONE should have an account from last year**)
- Click on Registration and Permission Forms in your main menu

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 December 8th.

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. If you are not sure if you have completed all your forms or not please contact the school 780-584-3751

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

Pembina Hills School Division

IF YOU HAVEN'T COMPLETED THIS DEMOGRAPHIC UPDATES YET - PLEASE DO SO AS SO AS POSSIBLE



DO YOU LOVE TO SING CAROLS??

Join Hedwig Betz at the United Church in Fort Assiniboine
Wednesdays at 7pm
All ages welcome

Ft. Assiniboine Community
CHOIR

This is a 4 week FREE program
That starts Wednesday NOV.29th and runs until Wednesday DEC.20th

Program taught by Hedwig Betz sponsored by Woodlands Arts and Music Guild



FORT FUN HOCKEY

INVITES EVERYONE TO COME CHEER ON OUR YOUTH FORT HOCKEY TEAMS PLAY ON HOME ICE

Saturday, November 18 @ 10:30am
Thorhild vs. Fort Assiniboine Pistols (age 4-9)

Saturday, November 18 @ 12:00pm
Thorhild vs. Fort Assiniboine Rangers (age 10-14)

Saturday, December 16 @ 9:30am
Neerlandia vs. Fort Assiniboine Pistols (age 4-9)

Saturday, December 16 @ 11:00am
Neerlandia vs. Fort Assiniboine Rangers (age 10-14)

HOT and COLD DRINKS, BAKED GOODS CONCESSION

All proceeds go to our new team! Thank you for your support!



***It's Beginning to
Look a lot like
Christmas***



***Fort Assiniboine
Friendship Center***
COME SEE SANTA
Dec 9th 6-8:30 p.m.
Hot Chocolate and
Goodies for the
Kiddos



***Fort Assiniboine
Friendship Center***
New Years Eve December 31st
1-4 PM Finger Food POTLUCK
All Welcome
For more information please call
Laurie Budney at 780-584-2495



Annual Satisfaction Surveys

In January/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 December 15, you can contact Debbie Westman at debbie.westman@pembinahills.ca

What does Pembina Hills do with the surveys?

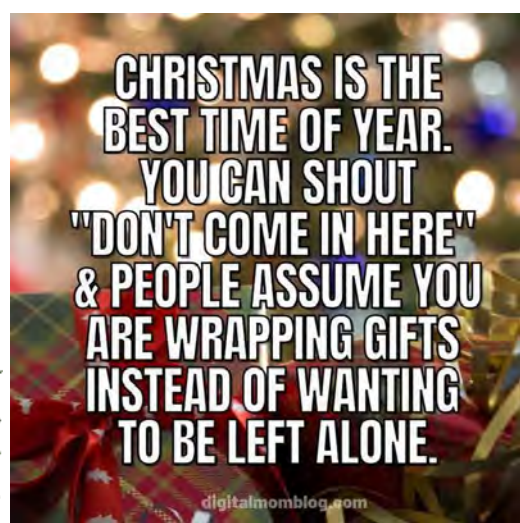
- Regional office administrative staff, school administrators, teachers and trustees review the survey data.
 - Comments are read by administration only. No comments will be shared publicly.
- School data is reported in the school's education plan.
- The data from all of the schools is combined to create a division summary that will be reported at a public Board meeting. The compiled data is also recorded in the Division Education Plan.



**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS
CAROLS SUPPER**
December 16th 5-8pm
Enjoy a christmas dinner at
the legion in Ft. Assiniboine
With live music done by
Joyful Melody Trio

JMT live carols	- 5:00 - 5:45
Woodlands choir	- 5:50 - 6:10
JMT live carols	- 6:15 - 7:00
Hedwig Betz Violin	- 7:00 - 7:30
JMT live carols	- 7:30 - 8:00

Adult Dinner Ticket \$15 each
Kids Dinner Ticket \$ 5 each
There will be raffle prizes,
door prizes, and 50/50
Sponsored by Woodlands Arts and Music Guild



**Fort Assiniboine School Council
Breakfast Snack Program Survey**

(Note this is not a full breakfast service.)

Currently we have two volunteers each day that come in to serve breakfast, clean up afterwards and often will bake for the day(s) breakfast. We also have a Pembina Hills School Staff member that currently comes in and usually begins the prep work for our Breakfast. In addition we have a couple people throughout the week that will come in to bake for our program.

Food items we have served last year and this current year are: muffins, pancakes, biscuits (cheese or regular), cinnamon buns, fruit crisps, scrambled eggs (with cheese or without), bacon(donated), hash browns, fruit cups, granola bars, cereal (shreddies, mini wheats, cheerios, rice Krispies), Fresh fruit served occasionally (usually donated), Milk.

Please complete the following survey and return to the school by Thursday Dec 7, 2023

(Optional) Name _____ Contact Info _____

- 1. What would you like to see served** for our school's Breakfast Snack Program?
- 2. Are you willing to donate store-bought foods** towards our school's Breakfast Snack Program? **If so, how often?**
- 3. What would you like to ensure is not served** at our school's Breakfast Snack Program?
- 4. Are you willing to come and bake** for the school's Breakfast Snack Program? **If so, how often?**

