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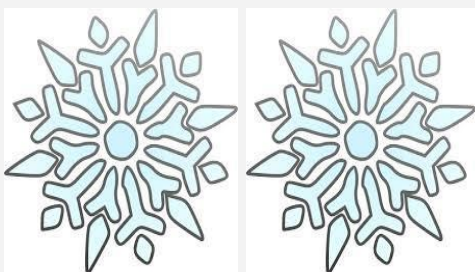
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This Month's Highlights:

- **School Council Meeting Wednesday January 17 at 5:00 p.m.**
- **Dress Up Day January 25 – Pajama Day**
- **Parent Society HOT Lunch January 25**



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 2024!

The Joy of Christmas Traditions

Thank you to County Councillor Peter Kuelken who donated turkeys for our whole school Christmas dinner on Dec. 19. Thank you to all our Fort families who donated other food. Thank you to Deb Breitreitz, Nicola Kostelyk, and Kim Barrett who cooked, prepared for serving, and did dishes. Thank you to our Student Leadership group who helped serve and clean-up. Thank you to the Fort Assiniboine Friendship Club who donated delicious cookies for dessert. 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, Tiffany Rondeau, Mike Calahasen, Sara Rouw, Sole Agosto, Dorothea Uschnig, Jenny Kuelken, and Rochelle Bartier. Thank you to our librarian Megan Petryshen who provided the goodie bags and location for Santa's visit.

Congratulations on your Retirement!

We have mixed feelings as we say farewell to Mrs. O'Brien and our Custodian team Bonny Robinson and Cindy Brong. We are grateful for their many years of dedicated service to our students and school (but they will be missed)! We will be presenting them with cards and a gift in the near future. If any community members would like to send a message/gift, please drop by the school office.

Literacy Rocks

We have intentionally streamlined our academic schedule to include more literacy time and more literacy intervention time. Intervention is a common word in the world of education, and we continue to communicate with parents that it is a "good thing", it is designated time to provide extra support for our students. Our literacy intervention programs have been very successful and we will be sharing our celebrations with parents March 13 & 14 at our annual Celebration of Learning meetings. Progress Reports for K-9 will be sent home March 21.

Skating

We are grateful for free access to a quality ice skating facility for our students. Gr. 8 & 9 students will be skating Tues/Thurs during their PE classes for January as will Gr. 6-9 students who chose the Winter Activities option. We are waiting until February to take our K-7 PE classes skating. **Students must have a CSA approved hockey helmet.** Extra helmets and skates are available to borrow if needed. 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. Volunteers will need to fill out a volunteer form from the office.

Annual Surveys

Pembina Hills and Alberta Education will be asking for parent feedback in our annual surveys in the later part of January and early February. Please take the time to provide us with your feedback, both positive and constructive criticism. 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.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Lorna Hiemstra
Principal



January 2024

Important Upcoming Days:

Feb 16 - NO SCHOOL
 Feb 19 - Family Day NO SCHOOL
 March 1 - PD Day NO SCHOOL
 March 8 - NO SCHOOL
 March 15 - NO SCHOOL
 March 22 - NO SCHOOL
 March 25-29 - Spring Break
 Mar. 29 - Good Friday NO SCHOOL
 Apr. 1 - Easter Monday NO SCHOOL
 April 12 - NO SCHOOL
 April 19 - PD Day - NO SCHOOL
 April 22, 23, 24, 25 and 29 - Swimming Lessons
 April 26 NO SCHOOL
 May 3 - NO SCHOOL

Skating Schedule

K-7 PE classes will be skating in February.
 Watch your Child's Dayplanner for starting dates

Skating in January
 STARTING Jan 9th

Mon/Wed	Tues/Thurs
	2:00 - 3:00 Gr 8/9's
	3-3:50 Gr 6-9 CTF Winter Activities

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

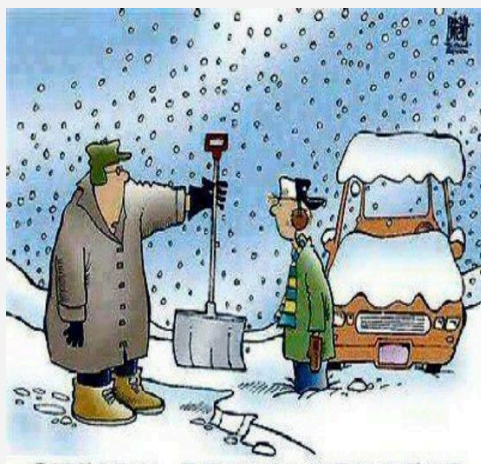
Jan 4 – Feb 28 (tentatively)

Monday & Wednesday

Basketball Skills, Hydroponics, Foods

Tuesday & Thursday

Winter Activities and Art



SORRY, SON...THERE'S NO APP FOR THAT

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 New Year Day 	2	3	4 Kindergarten Classes Resume	5	6
7	8 Classes Resume Jr. High Bball at BCHS	9 Kindergarten Classes Resume	10 Elementary Basketball @ Dunstable	11	12 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	13
14	15 Parent Society Meeting 2:00 pm Library Jr. High Bball host BCHS	16 FINS Fish Arrive	17 School Council Meeting 5:00 p.m. Elementary Basketball host BES, 4-5	18	19 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL Jr High Basketball Tournament in Neerlandia	20
21	22 Jr. High Bball at RF Staples	23	24 Elementary Basketball at Clyde	25 Parent Society Hot Lunch Dress Up Day - Pajama Day	26 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	27 Optional Field Trip U of A Pandas & Golden Bears Basketball Games
28	29 Jr. High Bball afterschool Practise 4:00 - 5:15	30	31 Elementary Basketball at BES	Feb 1	2 PD DAY NO SCHOOL	3
4	5 Jr. High Bball host Swan Hills	6	7 Extra Kindergarten Day	8 Teacher's Convention NO SCHOOL	9 Teacher's Convention NO SCHOOL	10

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 21st of December.



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 5:00 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

Board approves gym expansion for Barrhead Composite High School Modernization and Right-Sizing Project

The Barrhead Composite High School Modernization and Right-Sizing project was approved for design funding in March 2023. This exciting project will involve a top-to-bottom update of the school, providing necessary upgrades to mechanical, electrical, roofing and exterior components of the school. All classrooms will be modernized, including Career and Technology Studies (CTS) and Drama spaces.

One of the significant project components involves converting the existing West gym into an open student gathering area. To create the best programming options for both students and community users, changes were proposed to both the remaining Centre and East gyms.

While Alberta Infrastructure is funding the project overall, an increase in the size of the East gym would fall outside of the scope of the approved (and funded) project. To expand the East gym as a value-added item, the Board of Trustees passed a motion to contribute \$1.5 million from reserves towards the expansion.

Board Chair Judy Lefebvre expressed her appreciation for the members of the public who attended the meeting and provided their valuable feedback regarding the proposed design and the process. The Division looks forward to working with stakeholders throughout this exciting project.

2024-2025 school year calendar approved

Trustees approved the 2024-2025 school year calendar as recommended by senior administration.

Extensive consultation was completed with school administrators, staff, and parents. Stakeholders overwhelmingly supported continuing a fall break in November (first introduced in 2023-2024), which resulted in a slightly earlier start date of August 26, 2024, for staff and August 28, 2024, for students.

Next Board Meeting is January 17, 2024.

Melissa Hanna

Melissa.hanna@pembinahills.ca

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 - January 25 - to be announced

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

School Council Highlights - submitted by Danielle Calahasen

The next School Council Meeting is this Wednesday January 17th, 2024 at 5:00pm. All parents and community members are invited and encouraged to attend. You can find the agenda on our website. We are still looking to elect a Vice-Chair, if you are interested in the position please attend this next meeting.

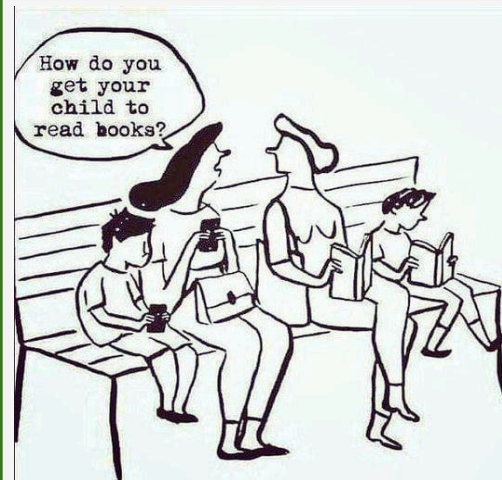
For information on our last meeting, please see the minutes located on our website.

The School Council helped coordinate volunteers for the Christmas White Elephant sale. It went very well. If anyone is interested in volunteering in our school, please contact the school.

Our School Trustee visited our school in December, and felt very welcomed and enjoyed her time with the staff and students.

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 January

Fort Assiniboine Public Library



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

Public skating Saturday from 2pm - 4pm (unless arena is booked)

PEMBINA HILLS SCHOOL DIVISION



SATURDAY, APRIL 27
RF STAPLES

Grades 4 - 8 will play from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
The top two students from Grades 4 - 8 will compete in the Grades 5 - 12 tournament in the afternoon

Grades 5 - 12 will play from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

\$10 Registration Fee - please pay upon arrival

Open to all Grade 4's to 12's in the school

division

64 Player Limit

Deadline to Register is April 25th

PRIZES:

1ST Place - A Brand New Chess Set
2ND Place - Consolation Prize

To register, E-mail Mr. Buchko at:
jerry.buchko@pembinahills.ca



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 occur weekly in Jan/Feb. The final tournament will be held on Thursday, Feb. 29 at Barrhead Elementary School. Schedules and permission forms have already been sent home. Mrs. Hiemstra and Gr. 9 student Lina Kafka will be coaching.

Jr. High Basketball - league games will occur weekly in Jan/Feb. The final tournament is on Tues. Feb. 27 at the Westlock Spirit Center. Schedules and permission forms have already been sent home. Mrs. Spitzer is coaching the Jr. High Girls and Mrs. Hiemstra is coaching the Jr. High Boys.

U of A Basketball Game Sat. Jan. 27 - This optional field trip will be open to ALL students. The University of Alberta Pandas and Golden Bears will be playing the University of Regina. The cost is only \$15 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.



Youth & Parent Internet Safety Summit

— January 26 & 30, 2024 —

Join two upcoming FREE workshops on youth internet safety!



Invitation to Youth & Parents:

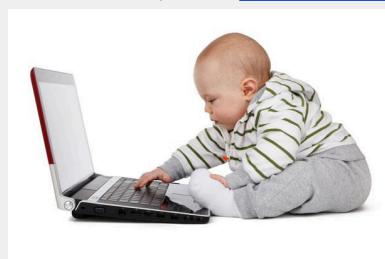
Internet Safety Workshops

Attention youth & parents! Gain tools to safely navigate the online world at two upcoming **FREE workshops**, designed for parents and youth in Grade 7-12.

- **Workshop #1** will help gain insight into online child and youth exploitation, adolescent psychology, online risk factors, and courageous parenting.
 - Join this IN-PERSON workshop at **6:30 p.m. on January 26, 2024**
- **Workshop #2** will give tools to help identify cyberbullying, prevent technology-facilitated sexual violence. Parent youth online, and foster a healthy digital lifestyle.
 - Join this VIRTUAL webinar at **6:00 pm on January 30, 2024**

Both workshops require pre-registration.

To sign-up or find more details, visit www.barcc.ca/m/cyber-summit



Alberta Education Assurance Survey

Information for parents and guardians

About the survey

Every year, Alberta Education surveys students, their parents and all teachers on behalf of schools and school authorities to assess what is working well and where there is room for improvement. The survey asks students in grades 4, 7 and 10, and their parents, about their thoughts, feelings and experiences in school. The survey will be administered between January and March 2024. In some schools, all students in grades 4 and above and their parents will be surveyed.

Participants will be asked questions on a variety of topics, such as welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments; student learning engagement; and parental involvement. The survey does not ask for names and cannot be used to identify individual participants.



Why is the survey needed?

Alberta's Assurance Framework requires school authorities across the province to report their performance according to a number of different measures that provide key information about how the education system is doing. A provincial survey allows all school authorities to be measured on the same things at the same time.

Participation in the survey is voluntary:

- All participants may opt out of taking the survey at any time with no repercussions and/or skip any questions they do not wish to answer.
- All responses are anonymous. The survey does not collect personally identifiable information and Random Access Codes will be used to group responses by survey type, school and authority.
- Only grouped data where there are more than six responses are reported.
- All data collected will be managed in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
- If you have any questions regarding the survey or your child's participation, please contact your child's school directly.



How will I take the survey?

- Parents or guardians are issued a single-use Random Access Code mailed through Canada Post to complete the survey online.
- The code must be used to access the survey and helps Alberta Education group your response as being from a parent/guardian. It **is not** used to identify individuals.
- Monitor your Canada Post mailbox starting late-January 2024 for the survey invitation package from Alberta Education.
- Parents or guardians with more than one student in an eligible grade will receive a separate survey invitation package for each child.
- Paper copies of the survey can also be requested through your school principal once the survey opens.



How will students take the survey?

- Students complete the survey at school.
- Before the survey begins, your child's teacher or school staff will explain to the students that the survey is not a test – there are no right or wrong answers. They will also explain that there are no repercussions for opting out of participating and that they may skip questions they do not wish to answer.
- Responses are submitted anonymously. Random Access Codes will be used to group responses by survey type, grade, school and school authority only.

Details about the assurance measures and how to obtain results are available online at www.alberta.ca/alberta-education-assurance-survey

If you have questions or concerns about the survey, please contact your school principal.



Pembina Hills Annual Satisfaction Surveys

In January, parents will be invited to participate in the Pembina Hills 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!!



Basketball



Elementary



2023-2024