Fort Assiniboine School Newsletter

January 2025 | Volume 24 Issue 5

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

Special Interest Articles

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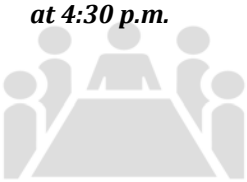
This Month's Highlights:

- ***School Council Meeting Wednesday January 15 at 4:30 p.m.***



- ***Dress Up Day January 16 – Beach Wear Day***
- ***Parent Society HOT Lunch January 28***

Happy New Year, Welcome 2025!

The Joy of Christmas Traditions

We had a truly memorable Christmas concert, featuring outstanding performances from our K-6 groups as well as the playschool. A heartfelt thank you to all the teachers and staff for their dedication, and especially to Mr. Hawken for expertly coordinating the entire event. We also appreciate the Parent Society for organizing the raffle draws during the concert.

A special thank you to the Parent Society for hosting the Christmas dinner on December 17. The countless hours spent on preparation, cleanup, and the efforts of numerous volunteers made this event a resounding success. The students truly appreciated all the hard work.

We are also grateful to the Parent Council for organizing the White Elephant sale. The students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to buy and share gifts with their families. This event continues to be a cherished tradition.

Trickster Theatre Residency: Feb. 18-21

We are excited to welcome Trickster Theatre Company, which will send two professional theatre specialists to work with our K-9 students. Together, we will write and produce a play centered around the theme of "Diversity." The residency will culminate in a community performance on **Friday, February 21** at **7:00 pm**.

Literacy

In January, we will conduct mid-year literacy assessments to provide staff and parents with an update on student progress. Additionally, government testing for both numeracy and literacy will be administered to our Kindergarten and Grade 1 students.

Annual Surveys

The Pembina Hills Annual Satisfaction Survey will take place from **February 3-14**. Parents will receive an email link to complete the survey.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions, concerns, or suggestions about the operation of our school

Sincerely,
Greg Ferguson
Principal Fort Assiniboine School

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		New Years Eve	1 **New Years Day** 	2 Christmas Break	3 Christmas Break	4
5	6 **Classes Resume**	7 Kindergarten Classes Resume	8	9 Jr. High Bball at Swan Hills	10 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	11
12	13	14 FinS Fish Eggs Arrive Jr. High Bball at St Mary's	15 School Council Meeting 4:30 p.m.	16 Beach Party Day- Beach Wear Dress Up	17 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	18
19	20	21 Jr. High Bball Host BCHS	22	23	24 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	25
26	27	28 **HOT LUNCH**	29	30	31 Staff PD Day NO SCHOOL	Feb 1
2	3	4 Jr. High Bball at Neerlandia	5	6 Teacher's Convention NO SCHOOL	7 Teacher's Convention NO SCHOOL	8

Important Upcoming Days:

Feb 6 & 7 - Teacher's Convention – NO SCHOOL
Feb 14 - Bear Day NO SCHOOL
Feb 17 - Family Day –NO SCHOOL
Feb 18-21 - Trickster Theatre
Feb 21 - Trickster Theatre Community Performance
Feb 28 - NO SCHOOL
March 7 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL
March 14 - PD Day NO SCHOOL
March 19 - School Council Meeting
March 21 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL
March 24-28 - SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL
April 4 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL
April 11 - Bear Day - NO SCHOOL
April 18 - Good Friday -NO SCHOOL
April 21 - Easter Monday NO SCHOOL
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Jr High CTF/Option Classes

Jan 4 – Feb 28 (tentatively)

Monday & Wednesday

Film Studies

Tuesday & Thursday

Basketball Skills, Foods

Skating

Skating dates will be at the end of January and early February. **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 can help out. Volunteers will need to fill out a volunteer form from the office.

K-9 PE classes will be skating in Late January. Watch your Child's Dayplanner for starting dates
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Fort Assiniboine Arena

Public Skating Schedule

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

SchoolMessenger®

Please use the School Messenger **Safe Arrive** App to report student absences. Easy and convenient and can be used 24/7

You can still call the school 780-584-3751 if you need to report an absence
**********.

Student's Activities

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 19th of December.

School Council

Chair – Danielle Calahasen
Vice Chair – vacant
Secretary/Treasurer– Sara Rouw

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

The next Fort Assiniboine School Council Meeting is on Wednesday, January 15 at 4:30pm in the school.

The next School Council Meeting is this Wednesday January 15th, 2024 at 4:30pm. 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. Our last meeting was held on November 6th. We discussed the Alberta Government amendments to the Education Act and went over recent and upcoming school activities. Please see the website to review the full minutes.

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

Please come out to join us at our next meeting to discuss upcoming events and have your say in how our school is run!

Pembina Hills School Board

Board pushes Fort Assiniboine School Junior High enrolment review to fall of 2025 At the December 18, 2024 meeting, the board revisited the 2024-2025 Grade Configuration and School Closures Report first presented at the November 27 board meeting. The report indicates that the junior high school enrolments at Fort Assiniboine School have met the criteria to trigger a review. The board has opted to take a "wait-and-see" approach with no major changes expected to the program for the 2025-2026 school year. The board will reassess enrolment levels and trends again in the fall of 2025.

Board Approves 2025-2026 School Year Calendar
Each December, the board carefully reviews and considers various options for the division's upcoming school year calendar. This process involves a comprehensive review of several considerations, including compliance with provincial legislation regarding the number of instructional hours that students receive, alignment with provincial exam schedules, collective agreements, statutory holidays, feedback collected from parents, staff and school councils and, most importantly, the best ways to meet the educational needs of our students and staff.

For the 2025-2026 school year, the board selected a calendar with the first day of school on August 27, a Fall Break in November, a Spring Break aligned with Easter and the last student day on June 24. In the coming months, each school with an alternate calendar will develop their calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.

Getting Ready for Election 2025 - School board trustees are elected on a four-year term with a fixed election date. For 2025, election day will be October 20 and the nomination period opens on January 1.

The board addressed several key election preparation requirements including the appointment of the returning officers, procedures for advanced voting and electoral assistance at home, clarifying eligibility for institutional votes including staff participation and passing Bylaw 07-2024 A Bylaw to Require Criminal Record Checks for Trustee Nominations.

To download the nomination form or for more information, see the Alberta School Board Elections Guide. More election information will soon be available on the division website.

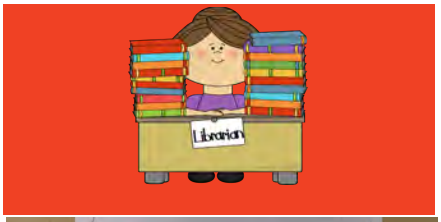
I hope to see you at the School Council Meeting on Wednesday, January 15 at 4:30 p.m.

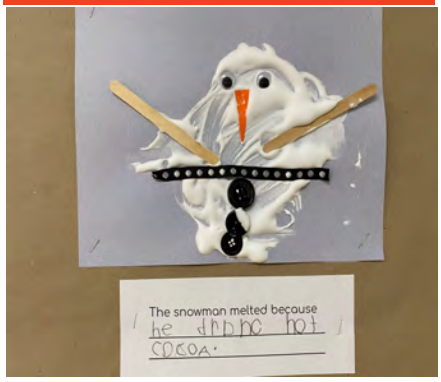
Sherry Allen

Fort Assiniboine Public Library

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

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





The snowman melted because he drank hot cocoa

Starting November 18, 2024, our school began using a new, more efficient online student absence reporting system called SafeArrival!

Parents will be able to report their child's absences 24/7 to the Fort School, in one simple communication through:

The SchoolMessenger app SchoolMessenger website

Central toll-free phone number (division-wide)

An email was sent to all of our families in November with full details.

Learn more about the SchoolMessenger app in this video: https://vimeo.com/180768415

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

Sports Report

Jr. High Basketball - league games will occur weekly in Jan/Feb. The final tournament Tuesday March 4 at the Westlock Spirit Center. Schedules and permission forms have already been sent home. Mrs. Spitzer is coaching the Jr. High Boys (no Junior high girls team this year). Home games on Tuesday, January 21 against BCJH and Tuesday, February 11 against BCJH times to be announce

Elementary Basketball - league games will occur weekly in Feb. The final tournament will be held on Thursday, Feb. 27 Permission forms will be sent home shortly. Mrs. Emery will be coaching.

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.

Leadership Club

School Spirit Dress Up

Upcoming Dress Up Days

Jan 16

Beach Party Day

Food Bank Donations

Through our Bear Houses, we collectively gathered 112KG's of donations for the Barrhead Food Bank. Congratulations to the Kodiak's for collecting the most KG's

45TH ANNUAL

BARRHEAD ROTARY

music FESTIVAL

MARCH 5-13, 2025

ENTRY DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2025

Categories Include:

* Band * Chamber Ensemble * Brass * Woodwind *
* Percussion * Choirs * Choral Speech *
* Classroom Music * Family or Community Groups *
* Guitar * Ukulele * Handbells * Music Composition *
* Strings * Piano * Piano Duet * Poetry Recitation *
* Storytelling * Drama Scenes * Mime *
* Monologues * Public Speaking * Sacred Reading *
* Reader's Theatre * Improvisation *
* Musical Theatre * Voice - Classical and Pop *

OPEN TO AMATEUR MUSICIANS OF ALL AGES!
COME SHOWCASE YOUR TALENTS!

OPPORTUNITIES TO WIN SCHOLARSHIPS & COMPETE AT PROVINCIALS

barrheadrotarymusicfestival@gmail.com

FORT FUN HOCKEY

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
9:00am: Neerlandia2 vs. Fort Assiniboine Littles (age 4-6)
10:15am: Neerlandia vs. Fort Assiniboine Rangers (age 10-14)
11:30am: Mayerthorpe1 vs. Fort Assiniboine Pistols (age 7-9)
12:45pm: Mayerthorpe1 vs. Fort Assiniboine Rangers (age 10-14)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
9:00am: Thorhild vs. Fort Assiniboine Littles (age 4-6)
10:15am: Thorhild vs. Fort Assiniboine Pistols (age 7-9)
11:30am: Thorhild vs. Fort Assiniboine Rangers (age 10-14)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11
9:00am: Barrhead1 vs. Fort Assiniboine Littles (age 4-6)
10:15am: Barrhead1 vs. Fort Assiniboine Pistols (age 7-9)
11:30am: Barrhead1 vs. Fort Assiniboine Rangers (age 10-14)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18
9:00am: Mayerthorpe vs. Fort Assiniboine Littles (age 4-6)
10:15am: Mayerthorpe2 vs. Fort Assiniboine Rangers (age 10-14)
11:30am: Mayerthorpe2 vs. Fort Assiniboine Pistols (age 7-9)
12:45pm: Rich Valley vs. Fort Assiniboine Rangers (age 10-14)

HOT and COLD DRINKS, BAKED GOODS CONCESSION

Our youth led concession appreciates your support!

SCHOOLMESSENGER®

Intrado

Parents and Guardians

You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

*if your number is Canada-based.

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number.

For CANADA-BASED numbers: 978338

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".

We recommend saving this short code and Caller ID to the contacts on your phone. This will help prevent any 3rd party call blocking systems from interfering with your receipt of important messages sent by the school or district.

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

For CANADA-BASED numbers:

Opt-In from your mobile phone now!

Just send "Y" or "Yes" to 978338

(For Canada-based numbers).

Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes

Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as "short code" texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you've ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

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HAVE YOUR SAY

Parents will be invited to participate in the *Pembina Hills Annual Satisfaction Survey*

February 3-14, 2025!

These surveys provide valuable parent feedback for education planning in our schools and division.

Parents will receive an email in early February with the link to the survey. If you do not receive the link by February 3, contact phsdsurvey@pembinahills.ca.

Thank you for your participation!

Pembina Hills SCHOOL DIVISION