



Fort Assiniboine School

Newsletter

January 2026

Volume 25 Issue 5

<p>Fort Assiniboine School 20 -1st Street Fort Assiniboine, AB T0G 1A0 Phone: 780-584-3751 Email: fa.main@pembinahills.ca</p> <p>Check Out Our Website at www.fortschool.ca/ and be sure to follow/like our Fort Assiniboine School Facebook page</p> <hr/> <p>Special Interest Articles</p> <p><i>Principal's Message - Page 1</i> <i>Calendar - Page 2</i> <i>Upcoming Days - Page 3</i> <i>PHSD Board News - Page 4</i> <i>School Council - Page 4</i> <i>Ad's and Pictures - Page 5 -7</i></p> <hr/> <p>This Month's Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>School Council Meeting</i> <i>Tuesday January 20 at</i> <i>4:00 p.m.</i> 	<p><u>Happy New Year, Welcome 2026</u></p> <p>Dear Parents and Guardians,</p> <p>We had a truly memorable Christmas concert featuring outstanding performances from our Kindergarten to Grade 6 students, as well as our playschool. Thank you to all staff for their hard work, especially given the shortened timelines. A special thank you to Mr. Hawken for organizing the musical numbers and to Mrs. Payne for directing the play—your efforts made the event a wonderful success.</p> <p>Thank you as well to all the parent and guardian volunteers who helped make the traditional Christmas dinner on December 16 such a success. Both staff and students truly appreciate this cherished annual event.</p> <p>We are also grateful to the Parent Council for organizing the White Elephant Sale. Students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to purchase and share gifts with their families, and this event continues to be a valued tradition in our school community.</p> <p>Literacy and Numeracy Assessments In January, we will conduct mid-year literacy assessments to provide staff and parents with an update on student progress. In addition, government testing for both literacy and numeracy will be administered to our Kindergarten and Grade 1 students.</p> <p>Report Cards This year, we will be issuing a mid-term report card due to instructional disruptions during the first semester as a result of the labour issue. Report cards will be sent home on February 4.</p> <p>Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding the operation of our school.</p> <p>Sincerely, Greg Ferguson Principal Fort Assiniboine School</p>
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January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			New Years Eve	1 New Years Day 	2 Christmas Break	3
4	5 Classes Resume	6 Kindergarten Classes Resume	7	8	9 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	10
11	12	13	14 FinS Fish Eggs Arrive	15	16 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	17
18	19	20 School Council Meeting 4:00 p.m.	21	22	23 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Staff PD Day NO SCHOOL	31
Feb 1	2	3	4 Progress Reports coming home	5 Teacher's Convention NO SCHOOL	6 Teacher's Convention NO SCHOOL	7

Important Upcoming Days:

Feb 6 & 7 - Teacher's Convention – NO SCHOOL
Feb 13 - Bear Day NO SCHOOL
Feb 16 - Family Day –NO SCHOOL
Feb 27 - NO SCHOOL
March 6 - PD Day NO SCHOOL
March 13 - Bear Day NO SCHOOL
March 20 - NO SCHOOL
March 24 - School Council Meeting
March 30-April 2 - SPRING BREAK – NO SCHOOL
April 3 - Good Friday -NO SCHOOL
April 6 - Easter Monday NO SCHOOL
April 17 - Bear Day NO SCHOOL
April 24 - Bear Day NO SCHOOL



Leadership Club School Spirit Dress Up

Nothing definite yet. Anything we settle on next week will be sent home in agendas

PE and Outdoor Recess

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately each day for outdoor activities. **Snowshoeing, skating, tobogganing, or cross-country skiing** may take place on any given day during PE classes and outdoor recess.

Warm clothing, proper footwear, and winter gear help keep students safe, comfortable, and ready to participate.

For Skating

Students must have a **CSA approved hockey helmet**. Extra helmets and skates are available to borrow if needed. 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.

Watch your Child's day planner for dates
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Jr High CTF/Option Classes

Monday & Wednesday

Movie Making

Tuesday & Thursday

Dragon's Den and Indoor Sports

Jan 5 – Feb 27 (tentatively)

Dragon's Den/Entrepreneur CTF.

Students in this class are building their own small business idea.

They will work on creating an interesting product, advertising that product, and participating in a school business fair. Please keep an eye on the February newsletter for more information about the business fair.

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 18th of December.



School Council Update

Chair: Vacant

Vice Chair: Amber Levy

Secretary/Treasurer: Amanda Williams

Minutes from previous meetings are available on the school website:

🌐 www.fortschool.ca

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact **Amber Levy** or **Amanda Williams** at

✉️ FAschoolcouncil@pembinahills.ca

Next School Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 20th at 4:00 p.m.

If you're interested in becoming **Chair of the Parent Council**, please reach out to Amber or Amanda—we would love to hear from you!

💡 **A huge thank you to all of our breakfast volunteers!** Without your time and dedication, our breakfast program wouldn't be possible. Thank you for keeping our students' tummies full and ready to learn!

🎁 White Elephant Sale Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated items and volunteered at the White Elephant Sale. Our students had a wonderful selection and were able to purchase gifts for everyone on their list.

📊 Annual Satisfaction Survey

Watch for the Annual Satisfaction Survey from Pembina Hills arriving in your email. The survey will be open to parents **February 2–13**. Your feedback is important and valued.

👀 Get Involved!

Please consider joining us at our next School Council meeting to discuss upcoming events and share your voice in how our school is run.



Pembina Hills School Board

Check out our school website for Pembina Hills news and update in regards to:

The Pembina Hills School Division Board of Trustees has approved the **Annual Education Results Report (AERR)** for the 2024–2025 school year, a key accountability document required by Alberta Education and an important way the division shares progress with students, families, staff, and the broader community.

At the December 17, 2025, board meeting, the board approved the **2026–2027 Division School Year Calendar**. The division calendar outlines instructional and staff operational days, establishes the first and last days for students, and sets dates for the fall, winter, and spring breaks for all schools.

And **Winter Weather and School Bus Safety**. It appears winter is here to stay, and with it comes the need to think about school bus safety during severe weather. Remember: schools remain open whether or not buses are running.

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



FORT MAC CASINO

Fort Assinibone School Parent Society is currently seeking 4 volunteers for their casino fundraiser

all expenses paid, please contact Meagan Koster or Megan Petryshen at the Fort Public Library!

FEBRUARY 10 AND 11



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

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 your child requires any winter clothing please let the office know as we have some items available.



Fort Assiniboine Arena

Public Skating Schedule

Monday's 12-5p.m. (except Jan 12)
Friday's 2 -7 p.m. (except Jan 9)
Saturday January 3 and 17 from 2-7
And January 24 from 3-7 p.m.

Shinny the same Friday and Saturday's as listed above from 7-9 p.m.

Arena Booked January 9-11 and Saturday January 31 for Hockey Tournaments



SCHOOLMESSENGER®

SafeArrival

Use SafeArrival to report your child's absences!

Three convenient methods:

- SchoolMessenger app (Google Play or Apple Stores)
- SchoolMessenger website home.schoolmessenger.ca
- By phone 1-833-568-2538 (toll free)

Visit pembinahills.ca/absence-reporting for more information

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)

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



MARCH 11-19, 2026

ENTRY DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2026

OPEN TO AMATEUR MUSICIANS OF ALL AGES!

Band * Chamber Ensemble

Brass * Woodwind * Percussion * Strings

Choirs * Choral Speech * Classroom Music

Family and Community Groups * Piano * Piano Duet

Guitar * Ukulele * Handbells * Music Composition

Poetry Recitation * Storytelling * Drama Scenes * Mime

Monologues * Public Speaking * Sacred Reading

Reader's Theatre * Improvisation * Musical Theatre

Voice - Classical and Pop

SHOWCASE YOUR TALENTS!

WIN SCHOLARSHIPS!

COMPETE AT PROVINCIALS!



For more information send an email to barrheadrotarymusicfestival@gmail.com

January 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 Fort Assiniboine Public Library			1 CLOSED	2 CLOSED
5	6	7 Homeschool Hangout 1pm-2:30pm 	8	9
12  Teen Escape Room 6-8pm	13	14	15	16  Brunch & Story Time 11am - 12:30pm 
19  Paint Night 6-8pm	20	21 Homeschool Hangout 1pm-2:30pm 	22	23
26  Teen + Adult Book Club 6:30pm	27 F.A.L.L. Adult Book Cub 1:30pm 	28	29	30  Brunch & Story Time 11am - 12:30pm 





HAVE YOUR SAY

Parents will be invited to participate in the *Pembina Hills Annual Satisfaction Survey*
February 2-13, 2026!

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 phsdssurvey@pembinahills.ca.

Thank you for your participation!

Survey

Customer Satisfaction Survey

1. Please tick a box on each line to indicate how much you rate level of service

Excellent Good Average Poor

above service?



Junior High Snow Shoeing



When do we cancel buses?



A guide to how we make decisions about busing when the weather is bad



WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

If a big storm is brewing, our transportation department will monitor the weather and gather reports from drivers across the division.



BUSES CANCELLED AT -40°C

Our drivers will not operate their buses when the temperature is minus 40 degrees Celsius or colder at the start of their run.



DECISION MADE BY 6 AM

Division-wide bus cancellations will be made by 6:00 am. For safety reasons, schools will be open even when buses are cancelled.



HOW WE LET YOU KNOW

Your bus driver will contact you directly. We will update the bus route report on the division and school websites, and post notices on the division website and social media pages for widespread cancellations.



IT'S YOUR DECISION

If you are concerned about sending your child to the bus stop or to school because of bad weather or roads—even if our buses are running—you can always keep your child home.



DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

Make sure your child is dressed for the weather—including appropriate footwear, outerwear, headgear and gloves or mitts.

For more information, contact the Transportation Office at
780.674.8510 or visit pembinahills.ca/transportation

