



Fort Assiniboine School

Newsletter

September 2026

Volume 26 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

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Growing together: celebrating
the beauty, joy, and creativity
of our little learners. 🌸

A Great Start to the School Year!

Welcome back! We're excited for another busy year. Extracurriculars like **Cross Country** and **Soccer** have started. Please check the **school calendar** for important dates and your child's agenda for updates.

Staff Directory - 2026/27

- Kindergarten, K Prep and Music - Mr. Hawken
- Grade 1/2 - Mrs. Spitzer
- Grade 3/4 - Mrs. Emery
- Grade 5/6, and Math 7 - Ms. Brodersen
- K-9 PE/Health - Mr. Ferguson
- Junior High Humanities & Science/Math 8/9 - Mrs. Payne
- Educational Assistants - Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Wieland, Mrs. Williams (Prep Only)
- Office Staff - Mrs. Fleming

Breakfast Program Volunteers Needed!

Thanks to our volunteers, the breakfast program is running well! We need help:

- 8:00-9:30 AM: serving & cleanup
- 8:00 AM-4:00 PM: baking/cooking (flexible hours)
All food must be prepared on-site per health rules. Contact the office if you can help!

School Council Meeting

- Date: September 15
- Time: 4:00 PM
- Location: Science Lab

Join us to stay informed, share ideas, and support our students!

Questions or ideas? Contact me anytime.

Looking forward to a great year!

Greg Ferguson
Principal

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				August 27	28  Open House 1:30-3:30 p.m	29
30	31 First Day of School	Sept 1 First Day of Kindergarten	2	3 First Day of Kindergarten for ½ of the class	4 Alternate “Bear” Friday No School	5
6	7 Labor Day No School	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 School Council Meeting at 4:00 p.m.	16 Gr. 4-9 Cross Country Running @ Westlock Golf Course	17 Dress like your Favorite Candy (color is fine)	18 Teacher PD No School	19
20	21	22	23	24 Terry Fox Run @11:00 am Lunch Provided	25 Alternate “Bear” Friday No School	26
27	28	29 National Day of Reconciliation Orange T-Shirt Day (See page 3 for more details) Please wear an ORANGE Shirt	30 National Day of Reconciliation No School	Oct 1  Picture Day	2 Complete your 2026-27 Returning Student Enrollment Verification Form by September 30 for a chance to win a \$50 Prepaid VISA Card! 	3

Important Upcoming

- October - Grade 4-6 Soccer Tournament TBA
- October 9 - Bear Day NO SCHOOL
- October 12 – THANKSGIVING DAY NO SCHOOL
- October 23 – PD Day NO SCHOOL
- October 27 - Picture Retakes
- October 29 - School Halloween Activities
- October 30- Bear Day NO SCHOOL

PLEASE watch Your Child's Day Planner for Class Field Trips or Special Activity Days

Main Doors open for students

@8:08 a.m.

Elementary Doors open

@ 8:15 a.m.

Warning Bell @ 8:25

Classes Start (First Attendance)

@8:30 a.m.

Lunch @11:45 a.m.

Afternoon Classes start

@12:35 p.m.

Dismissal @3:50 p.m.

School Registration Form and School Supplies Fees for 2026-27 school year

Can be completed and payable on your Powerschool Parent Portal (see page 4 to access your account). Fees can also be paid at the school office with debit, cash or cheque as a last option. School Supply Fees (K -6 only) will be \$50.00 invoices will be sent home shortly.

☀️ Back Again this year. ☀️

Every FAMILY who completes their 2026-2027 Returning Student Enrollment Verification Form(s) by September 30 will be entered into a draw for a \$50 Prepaid VISA Card on October 2

MEDICATION: We can not administer medications such as Calamine lotion, Polysporin, Afterbite, anything with any kind of medicine in it. If a student requires any kind of medicine (prescription or over the counter) to take during the day, **the medication must be brought in by a parent** to the school office. Medication should be in its 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 the office and teacher, bring those items to the office to make arrangements for safe storage.

Exemplary Teacher Award



Pembina Hills School Division is proud to recognize Rhonda as the recipient of the Exemplary Teacher Award for her exceptional dedication to students and her positive impact on the Fort Assiniboine School community.

Exemplary Parent Volunteer Award



Behind every thriving school community are dedicated volunteers who generously give their time and talents, and Meghan is a shining example of that commitment. Pembina Hills School Division is proud to recognize her as the recipient of the Exemplary Parent Volunteer Award for her outstanding contributions to Fort Assiniboine School.

Awards were presented in June to these two well-deserving ladies.



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

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 asking students to wear an orange t-shirt on Tuesday, September 29.

You can also purchase the 2025 Orange Shirt online. Please contact Mr. Ferguson directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Student Activities This Month

Our students have been busy learning, creating, and connecting with the community! Here's a snapshot of what's happening around the school this month:

- ★ In Kindergarten, we've been busy little bees tending to our new Living Spaces for Little Faces Garden! The students have been enjoying getting their hands in the soil and helping our garden grow. 🐝🌱



- ★ We also have an enthusiastic group of students running at lunchtime as they prepare for the Cross Country Races in Westlock next week. We are so proud of their dedication and effort!
- ★ A number of students have also committed to staying after school for Soccer Practices. It is wonderful to see our students getting active, trying new things, and showing such great school spirit!

A big thank you to our School Council for entering a float in the Hoedown Parade in August! We would also like to thank the staff and students who took the time to ride on the float and represent Fort Assiniboine School. We appreciate everyone who helped make it a success!



Leadership Club

Bear House Activities for September

Terry Fox Run

Fort Assiniboine School is proud to participate in the **Terry Fox** Annual School Run
Thursday, September 24
approx. 1:00 p.m.

We're super excited to take part in this annual tradition that supports cancer research while building school spirit. Please support our student's fundraising efforts and donate today at:

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/FortAssiniboine>

#terryfoxschoolrun #nomatterwhat @theterryfoxfoundation

Help us meet our goal of raising \$1200.00
Or \$15 per student

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

DDC TRUCKING
Sand • Gravel • Concrete • Trucking

LITTLE RANCH CAFE

★ **DDC TRUCKING** ★
Sand • Gravel • Concrete • Trucking

— Along with Little Ranch Cafe —

WILL BE SERVING

FREE HAMBURGERS

to all our students and staff
prior to the Terry Fox Run!

★
Thank you
DDC Trucking & Little Ranch Cafe



Jr High CTF/Option Classes August 31 - October 29

Monday & Wednesday - Genius Hour or Art

Tuesday & Thursday - Volleyball or CEFL (Career Education and Financial Literacy (7-9))

School Council

Chair – Amber Levy

Vice Chair – Meghan Koster

Secretary/Treasurer– Amanda Williams

Minutes from previous meetings available on the school website: www.fortschool.ca

The Annual General Meeting will take place on September 15 at 4:00 p.m..

If you have questions or are interested please feel free to reach out!

Parent's Society

President - Meghan Koster

VP - Amber Levy

Treasure - Kyla Christianson

Secretary - Jessika Savoie

REMINDER - 2026 School Vouchers expire on June 15, 2027

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

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

Upcoming Activities

Looking for parent volunteers for our upcoming Grade 4-6 Soccer Tournament to take on a concession shift. Date to be determined yet

Please contact the school if available to volunteer

We will be looking for more volunteers for breakfast program starting end of August - please contact Meagan Koster to sign up

Hot Lunches will start in October.



Sports Report

Cross Country Running

Gr. 4-9 will participate in the Pembina Hills divisional race at the Westlock Golf Course on Sept. 16. Top Jr. High runners may qualify for Zones (location and date TBA).

Gr 4-6 Soccer Tournament

We will be once again hosting a Grade 4-6 Soccer Tournament Date to be determined.

After school practices starting shortly

Pembina Hills School Board

There is something meaningful about pausing before the pace of a new school year begins.

Before turning their attention to the many decisions, plans and priorities that come with a new school year, Pembina Hills school leaders, Division leadership and trustees gathered on Monday, August 24, for a morning focused on connection—to the land, to one another and to the work ahead.

The day began with a circle and smudge led by Knowledge Holder Cheryl Devin through Rupertsland Institute. The gathering offered an opportunity to slow down, listen and reflect together, grounding the group in the importance of beginning the school year in a good way.

That focus on connection continued outdoors, as leaders spent time learning and exploring together with Colleen and Dale Kiselyk of *Nature Alive*, who served as canoe guides and Outdoor Learning facilitators at Goose Lake.



For school leaders, time together outside of the usual meeting environment provided an opportunity to build relationships, experience learning in a different setting and reconnect with the land that is an important part of the communities Pembina Hills serves.

While there was plenty of important business to address as the school year begins, taking time to start together in this way was a reminder that leadership in education is ultimately about people and relationships.

As students and staff return to schools across Pembina Hills, the hope is to carry that same spirit of connection, learning and care into the year ahead.

Cindy Carswell Trustee, East Ward 2



Monday-Friday
8:30am - 4:00pm

Closed daily from
12:30pm-1:00pm for lunch

Monday Evening
6:00pm - 8:00pm



780-584-2227
fortassiniboinelibrary@yrl.ab.ca



DISCOVERY

Kids Club and Youth Group

- We meet every Wednesday from 4 - 6 pm in the school Gym
- **SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 TO APRIL 28, 2026**
- Jr and Sr High Youth Group
- or Grades 1 to 6
- **Group Games and Activities**
- **SNACKS**
- God Connections and Discussion/God stories front he Bible. Acyivities and illustrations that bring it to life
- Contact: Krista Fountain 780 - 674-1503 or
Deb Breitzkreitz 780 - 674-1409



"Please note: The Christian Discovery Kids Club is renting our facility for their event. This group is not affiliated with or endorsed by Fort Assiniboine School/Pembina Hills School Division."



SEPTEMBER 2026

at the Fort Assiniboine Public Library



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1 No event	2 No event	3 Coffee, Conversation & Connection 10-11 AM	4 Busy Bodies 10-11:30 AM
7 CLOSED Labour Day	8 Walking Group 10 AM	9 Homeschool Hangout: Little Chefs 1-3 PM Rec Night 6-8 PM Fitness Centre Open 6-8 PM	10 Coffee, Conversation & Connection 10-11 AM	11 Busy Bodies 10-11:30 AM Adult Paint Night 6-8 PM
14 Books, Songs & Signs 10-10:45 AM Family Movie Night 6-8 PM Popcorn provided!	15 No event	16 Rec Night 6-8 PM Fitness Centre Open 6-8 PM	17 Coffee, Conversation & Connection 10-11 AM	18 Busy Bodies 10-11:30 AM
21 Books, Songs & Signs 10-10:45 AM	22 Walking Group 10 AM	23 Homeschool Hangout: Fun with Science 1-3 PM Rec Night 6-8 PM Fitness Centre Open 6-8 PM	24 Coffee, Conversation & Connection 10-11 AM	25 Busy Bodies 10-11:30 AM Movie Afternoon 1:30-3:30 PM
28 Books, Songs & Signs 10-10:45 AM Teen + Adult Book Club 6:30 PM	29 F.A.L.L. Book Club 1:30 PM	30 Rec Night 6-8 PM Fitness Centre Open 6-8 PM		

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

BOOKS, SONGS & SIGNS
Mondays • 10-10:45 AM
Ages 0-3

BUSY BODIES
Fridays • 10-11:30 AM
Ages 2-6 • Active play, games & movement fun!

HOMESCHOOL HANGOUT
Wednesdays • 1-3 PM
Hands-on learning & social time for homeschool families!

RECREATION NIGHT
Wednesdays • 6-8 PM
Meet in the field north of the school
Everyone welcome! Healthy potluck snacks; outdoor sports & games, weather permitting.

COFFEE, CONVERSATION & CONNECTION
Thursdays • 10-11 AM
A weekly drop-in for adults.

WALKING GROUP
Tuesdays • 10 AM
All ages. Meet at the Library.

FITNESS CENTRE
Wednesdays • 6-8 PM
Call Fort Assiniboine School for more open times.

WE'RE GROWING TOGETHER!

We're in the process of redesigning and adding programming for all ages and interests and there are many new events this month!

We value your input!
We're looking for feedback to help us plan programs and events that matter most to our community.

ALL PROGRAMS ARE DROP-IN • EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
OUR LIBRARY. ♥ OUR COMMUNITY. ♥ OUR PLACE.



I'M JUST NOT SURE HOW
MY CHILD WILL SURVIVE
BACK AT SCHOOL
WITHOUT 6 BREAKFASTS,
2 LUNCHES AND 367
SNACKS DAY

FORT ASSINIBOINE
FUN TEAM
HOCKEY
AGM
HAVE YOUR SAY. HELP SHAPE OUR SEASON.

BULLETS **PISTOLS** **RANGERS**

YOUR COMMUNITY.
Join us as we plan for the season ahead.

IMPORTANT UPDATES
Financials, programs, scheduling and more.

GET INVOLVED
Volunteer, support and be part of the team!

BE THERE. BE HEARD.
★ TOGETHER WE MAKE HOCKEY HAPPEN! ★

Unable to attend but want to share your ideas and/or concerns, want to volunteer or need the player registration link, please email us at fafunteamhockey@gmail.com.

WHEN:
THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026
6:30 PM

WHERE:
FORT ASSINIBOINE
LIBRARY
20 1ST STREET, FORT ASSINIBOINE, AB

★ **ONLINE PLAYER REGISTRATION COMING SOON!** ★

REMINDER

Complete the annual
Returning Student
Enrollment Verification
Form in your
PowerSchool Parent
Portal

Navigation

- Grades and Attendance
- Grade History
- Attendance History
- Email Notification
- Teacher Comments
- School Bulletin
- Class Registration
- My Schedule
- School Information
- Account Preferences
- Payments, Consent & Transp Forms
- Report Card
- New Registration & Enrollment Verification**

Pembina Hills
SCHOOL DIVISION

📌 EACH YEAR, PARENTS OF RETURNING STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE ANNUAL RETURNING STUDENT ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION FORM. PARENTS SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED AN EMAIL ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 29 (TO EMAIL ADDRESSES ON THE STUDENT'S FILE) TO COMPLETE THIS FORM THROUGH THE POWER SCHOOL PARENT PORTAL.

! THIS IS AN IMPORTANT FORM TO ENSURE SCHOOLS HAVE THE MOST UP-TO-DATE CONTACT/DEMOGRAPHIC AND MEDICAL/HEALTH INFORMATION AND ALSO CONTAINS THE YEARLY CONSENTS FOR FOIP, WALKING FIELD TRIPS, THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES.

👉 PARENTS: PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THIS EMAIL, OR DO NOT SEE FORMS TO COMPLETE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL. A BIG THANK YOU TO PARENTS WHO HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED THIS FORM!



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

Greg Ferguson - School Principal

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

"Little hands,
beautiful blooms,
and big smiles."

