

Fort Assiniboine School Newsletter

May 2017

Volume 16, Issue 9

FORT ASSINIBOINE
SCHOOL
20 – 1st Street
Fort Assiniboine, AB
T0G 1A0

PHONE:
780-584-3751
FAX:
780-584-3876

www.fortschool.ca

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School Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 30 @
7:00 p.m.

Come out and share
your ideas about how
you would like to see
the school

Please watch for
notices being sent
home with the students

Everyone Welcome to
attend

May Momentum and Finishing Strong

Strength

Our virtue this month is strength. As the daylight hours get longer and we approach summer holidays, it's easy for us to get out of routine. Please remember the "basics" for success in learning: a good night's sleep and good nutrition. Our students have critical learning assessments (yep, exams and projects) in May and June and need their strength to give their best efforts. Parent and community support is fantastic here and we appreciate it!

Keeping in Touch

Our students have shown much growth in their learning this year, and we still have a lot to pack in to May and June. The learning never stops around here. Please keep checking student agendas, newsletters, our school Facebook page and website for updates and pictures of our school and community activities. Don't hesitate to contact staff directly with any questions that you may have.

Field Trips

Please watch for permission forms and return as soon as possible. If you'd like to join us on a field trip, please contact teachers directly. A HUGE THANK YOU to our Parent Council & Society who provide financial resources through Highway Clean-up and Casino fundraisers to subsidize our busing costs!

May 8 – Gr. 5&6 to Bennett Centre in Edmonton
May 10 – Gr. 3&4 to Skills Canada in Edmonton
May 17 – Gr. 9 P.A.R.T.Y. program in Barrhead
May 18 – K-9 to Neerlandia to see Chris Koch (www.iflcan.ca)
May 25 – K-2 to Whitecourt Children's' Festival
May 23 – Jr. High Track Meet in Barrhead
May 26 – 5-9 to Edmonton Zoo

Join us for Kinnie Starr Presentation May 9th

Please bring family and friends to see Juno award winning singer, songwriter, and hip-hop artist Kinnie Star in the gym Tuesday afternoon at 2:00
<http://canadianschoolpresenters.com/kinnie-starr/>



Appreciation

We need to take time to celebrate our successes and thank all the people who contribute to our school. The students will be organizing a Volunteer Appreciation luncheon on May 31. Watch for you invitation coming soon.

Fort Rocks!

Lorna Hiemstra
Principal Fort Assiniboine School

May School Calendar and Important Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3  For \$2 wear your hat all day	4	5 PD Day NO SCHOOL	6 Road Side Clean Up 8:00 a.m.
7	8 Grade 5/6 to Bennett Center	9 PAT –Gr 9 LA Kinnie Starr @ 2:00 p.m. 	10 Grade 3/4 to Skills Canada	11 PAT –Gr 6 LA	12 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	13
14	15	16	17 Grade 9 PARTY Program	18 Guest Speaker in Neerlandia Chris Kosh	19 Mid Semester Break NO SCHOOL	20
21	22 VICTORIA DAY NO SCHOOL	23 <i>Jr High Track Meet</i>	24	25 K- 2 Children's Festival in Whitecourt	26 Gr 5 – 9 Edmonton Valley Zoo	27
28	29	30 Whole School and K Grad Pictures SU Hot Lunch <i>Parent Council Meeting 7:00 pm</i>	31 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon	June 1 Dress Up Day	2 BEAR DAY NO SCHOOL	3

Important dates in June

- Provincial Achievement Test – See page three
- June 2 - Bear Day – No School
- June 9 - Bear Day – No School
- June 20 - Awards Night 7:00 p.m.
- June 23- Last Regular Classes for Jr. High
- June 23 - Color Me Rad Run
- June 26 to 29– Jr. High Exam
- June 28 – Year End Activity – Whole School
- June 29 – Last School Day

May's Character Trait Focus is "Strength"



As exam season quickly approaches, you are probably looking for resources to help your children prepare. You may wish to consider visiting:

1. Quest A+ is Alberta Education's digital testing solution. This application contains released tests for various subjects. Quest A+ can be accessed from <https://questaplus.alberta.ca/>
2. <http://alberta.exambank.com/index.html>
username: phrd.fort password: Fish
3. <http://www.education.alberta.ca/admin/testing/achievement.aspx>

Provincial Achievement Tests Dates May and June:

- o May 9 9-11 am grade 9 LA Part A
- o May 11 9-11 am grade 6 LA Part A
- o June 19 9-10:30 gr 6 LA Part B
- o June 20 9-10:30 gr 6 Math
- o June 21 9-10:30 gr 6 Science
- o June 22 9-10:30 gr 6 SS
- o June 26 9-11 gr 9 SS
- o June 27 9-11 gr 9 LA Part
- o June 28 9-11 gr 9 Math
- o June 29 9-11 gr 9 Science

PLEASE TRY NOT TO BOOK ANY APPOINTMENT ON THOSE DAYS IF YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER ARE IN GR 6 OR 9

PARENTS:

Please be sure to write a note in your child day planner or call the school office if your child is to stay after school for any afterschool activity (Baseball, hockey, etc).

Please be advised there is NO Staff supervision after hours on the playground.

Students without notes in their day planners will be sent home on the bus as per regular routine/policy.

School Board News

School board launches superintendent recruitment process

Pembina Hills Public Schools has strong and committed staff who work hard every day to provide high quality education to students within our geographic area and across the province. Our division is more complex than most, with 3,900 students in community schools, 7,800 students with Vista Virtual School and another 44,000 students who count on the Alberta Distance Learning Centre. The board is committed to ensuring that everyone in the division has the support and leadership they need. Therefore, the board intends to have a superintendent in place this August before the start of the new school year. The school board has hired Alberta School Boards Association consultant Jim Gibbons to assist in the recruitment and hiring of a Superintendent of Schools. The current five-year contract for the position of superintendent expires July 31, 2017 and the board has decided not to renew it.

Supporting leaders and building capacity

In order to ensure that our schools have strong leadership through their principal and associate principal the board has approved a minimum amount of administration time that must be budgeted for at each school. Our principals are the leaders in their buildings, and will have increased expectations this coming school year in leading the professional development of staff. In order to enable strong leadership at the school level we have to ensure that principals are provided with the time to lead.

Provincial budget

The budget had a neutral effect on Pembina Hills – changes were the result of our decline in enrolment resulting in a loss of funding. PHPS numbers are declining in the higher grade levels, but seem to be increasing in lower elementary which is a positive sign for the future!

Jennifer.Tuininga@phpschools.ca 780-674-6579

Facebook: Jennifer Tuininga, School Trustee PHRD Barrhead North Twitter: @JennifeTuining

Fort Sports – Bears Rock!

Badminton Report

Thank you Mr. Wyman for organizing and coaching Jr. High badminton. We had a home and away tournament with Swan Hills. In girls singles, Aimee Larsen finished second and Rebecca Rondeau third. In doubles, Olav Hansen and Justin Baker placed third.

The Pembina Hills tournament was held at the massive Westlock Spirit Centre. Our athletes showed strong improvement and had close competitive games. Despite not winning any medals, our athletes gained valuable experience and represented our school well.

Track & Field

Grades 3-9 are busy running, jumping, and throwing to prepare for track and field season. The Jr. High track meet will be held Tuesday, May 23rd at Barrhead Composite.

We will be hosting a grade 3-6 track meet on Thursday, June 8 with Swan Hills coming down for a friendly competition.

We will need parent help for the concession on June 8th. Please contact the office if you are able to help.



Follow us on facebook under the name: **“Fort Assiniboine School”**

Staff will be posting upcoming events, what’s going on in the classroom, parenting tips and tricks and so much more



School Council Meeting

May 30th @ 7:00p.m

Penny Price – Chairperson

Teresa Dekker– Recording Secretary

- Principal’s Report
- Trustee’s Report
- End of Year School Activities

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

Fort Assiniboine Preschool Early Registration

May 15
2 - 4 p.m. or 6 - 8 p.m.

At the Preschool for 3 and 4 year olds Starting in September

Please bring Names/Addresses/phone numbers of Emergency contacts, AHC#, Legal Land Address

Phone Pre-School at 780-674-0537 for more information

Fort Assiniboine Moms and Tot’s

Spring Raffle Tickets

DRAW June 3, 2017

We appreciate your support!

**STUDENT’S UNION
UP-COMING ACTIVITIES**

Hot Lunch Sale

Chicken Nuggets

Tuesday May 30

Watch for Preorder Forms



Dress Up Day

WHAT YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP

Thursday June 1, 2017



Roots of Empathy

Our grade ½ class has been participating in the Roots of Empathy program this year and have had the opportunity to watch our baby “Greyson” grow through-out the year. Roots of Empathy is a program that teaches children about feelings, their own feelings, and the feelings of others (empathy). Once every three weeks a baby and her/her parent(s) visit the classroom. A trained ROE instructor gathers the children in the classroom around a green blanket and together they watch the baby grow. Children learn to respect and care for one another with the lessons through their Roots of Empathy baby.

If you are going to be a parent of an infant who will be 2-4 months at the start of the 2017-2018(September to Mid-November) and would like your baby to be our “tiny teacher”, we would love to hear from you. It is a voluntary commitment that lasts though out the school year, 9 visits into the classroom, 30- 45 minutes each, every three weeks.

Please contact the school if you are interested, or know of someone that might be interested and would like more information at 780-584-3751.

Parent Society Fund Raiser
Highway RoadSide Clean Up

Saturday May 6, 2017

Starting at 9:00 a.m. Meeting at the Rec Center for Breakfast
(Saturday, May 13 being the alternate day in the event of inclement weather)

This fundraiser will be help cover the cost of bussing for fieldtrips
(swimming, skiing, Telus World of Science, etc).

Participates must be 9 years or older
All Participates are required to view the Safety Training DVD

To request a section of roadside to clean please contact
Kristin Machuk at 780-284-3335 or Jenni Williams at 780-674-0537

Breakfast 8-9 am at Fort School with
Safety Training Video to follow

Student Legal Documentation:

Each year, School Finance implements internal controls to ensure that resources allocated by Alberta Education are allocated according to the funding conditions set out in the Funding Manual for School Authorities 2012/2013. The funded enrolment verification process is one of these controls.

To claim a student as eligible for funding, that student must meet the funding conditions set out in the Glossary under Funded Student.

To substantiate the funding claims for the students, School Jurisdictions are required to submit documentation to support age and citizenship, and residency.

Fort Assiniboine School is reviewing all our student files to ensure compliance with Alberta Education requirements, in the event they select for review your child registration file we have to be certain that the following document is in place

*** Birth Certificate or other documentation to support age and citizenship**

Examples of acceptable documentation to support age and citizenship are: Birth Certificate (Canadian), Passport (Canadian), Immigration Papers (including Refugee), Treaty Card (Number), Permanent Resident Card, Adoption Papers, Temporary Resident Papers, Legal Guardianship (Court Order), Parent's Work or Study Permit, Parent's Citizenship

To assist us in supporting our claim for funding for your child's education we need you to provide a copy of the requested documentation to the school.

Please contact Charlene Assenheimer, School Principal, 780-584-3751 if you have any questions regarding this matter or Cindy Jarry, Alberta Education 780-422-0930.



ALBERTA
EDUCATION

Office of the Minister

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am pleased to share with you some information about Bill 1: An Act to Reduce School Fees, which our government recently introduced in the legislature. By introducing this legislation, our government is working to make life better and more affordable for Alberta families.

If Bill 1 is passed, these fee reductions will come into effect this fall and no Alberta family will be required to pay for instructional supplies or materials, or for certain types of student transportation, as outlined below. These two school fees represent approximately 25 per cent of the fees collected each year by school boards, and reducing them would lead to Alberta families saving more than \$50 million annually.

Instructional supplies or materials include fees for textbooks, workbooks, printing and paper costs incurred by their public schools. It also includes any common fees that are charged to an entire student body, or grade cohort. These fees can be referred to as—among other titles—instructional fees, instructional materials or basic fees. To date, school fees have varied significantly from school to school, so your savings will depend on the type and amount of fees currently charged by your child's school.

Bill 1, if passed, will also remove bus fees for eligible students traveling to their designated school. That means that if your child attends his or her designated school and that school is more than 2.4 kilometres away from your home, you will not be charged transportation fees. In some circumstances—for example, if parents choose to enrol their child in a school other than their designated school—fees may still be incurred.

Our government understands that times are tough for Alberta families and is working to make education more affordable. We believe that all students deserve access to a quality education in an Alberta school, and we are committed to reducing financial barriers such as school fees.

Further details about Bill 1 will be released in the coming months, and additional information will be available on the Alberta Education website at <https://education.alberta.ca/>. If you have questions about your school's school fees, please contact your school or school board directly.

Sincerely,

David Eggen
Minister of Education



Board of Trustees
Jennifer Tuininga, Chair
Annette Bokenfohr
Jackie Comeau
Jan Hoffart
Judy Lefebvre
Sheri Watson
Kim Webster
Acting Superintendent
David Garbutt

April 24, 2017

Dear parents and guardians,

RE: Proposed changes to school fees

Earlier this spring, we posted a story on our division website entitled, "How will the govt. proposal to reduce school fees affect parents?". The story was in response to the Government of Alberta announcing the introduction of Bill 1 to reduce school fees. Attached is a copy of Education Minister David Eggen's letter to parents and guardians regarding Bill 1.

The Bill passed third reading on April 19, eliminating the following fees:

Busing fees for students who attend their designated school and who live more than 2.4 kilometres from the school. We do not charge busing fees to these students, so this will not impact families in our school division.

School fees for basic educational services and supplies. This includes things like textbooks, workbooks, printing, software licenses, agendas and paper costs. Currently we charge these school fees to PHPS students: Kindergarten - \$60; Grades 1 to 6 - \$70; Grades 7 to 12 - \$110 to \$140 (varies by school); Family rate - \$300. This fall we will no longer be charging these fees.

We are pleased that the province recognizes the costs associated with these items and will be providing us with a grant to cover the costs.

Please note that we will continue to charge fees for in-town busing and for students who ride the bus to a school other than their designated school.

Also, schools will continue to charge fees for enhanced educational services and non-curricular activities. This includes things like field trips, resale supplies, milk programs, hot lunch programs, sports teams, clubs, etc. For more information on these types of fees, contact your child's school.

We look forward to working with you to provide an excellent education for your children, and are pleased to see the government strive to reduce costs for families.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tuininga
Board Chair