



SANDHILLS NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL – Wendy Morris

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – Julie Gallant

FVSD TRUSTEES – Tim Driedger & Benj Friesen

Care

Accountability

Respect

Excellent Effort

School Mission: Sandhills Elementary School is a safe, fun place where our minds and bodies grow.

September 17, 2024

Written by Students of Sandhills



Cell Phone Usage

The Fort Vermilion School Division has implemented a cell phone policy. No personal devices may be used or be visible in FVSD schools during the school day. This means **staff members** will not have access to their cellphones during the school day. If you have messages during the school day please call the office at 789.928.3947. Parents are asked to be good role models and keep cell phones out of sight in the building.

New Staff at Sandhills



A special welcome goes out to Ms. Kahan Handy, who has joined SHES staff. For now she will be acting as an itinerant sub in our building. We would also like to welcome Mrs. Jessica Itietie, who is our new kindergarten teacher. She started her position on Monday, September 16. Welcome Ms. Kahan and Mrs. Itietie.



Food Sales



Food sales will not begin until October. You can now purchase \$10 or \$20 snack cards by purchasing online at SchoolCashOnline.com or by sending cash to school with your child. Your child's teacher will write a note in your child's agenda once their snack card is close to empty.

Meet the Staff Night & School Council Annual General Meeting Elections

Parents are invited to come out **Monday, September 23, @ 7:00 pm**. Misbits made by the local company, The Donut Shop, and coffee will be served. **Parents only** are invited to come out to visit, enjoy some sweets, meet the staff, participate in a fun challenge and enter to win a prize. The School Council Annual General Meeting will follow. Your school council chair will present a "year in review" reporting on School Council Activities during the 2023-2024 school year.

We look forward to the election of new School Council members to enhance Sandhills School as a whole and build upon the contribution that past School Council members have made.

If you wish to let your name stand for election at the Annual General Meeting you have two options: 1) **Nomination at the AGM** – at the AGM we will call for nominations of individuals to let their name stand in the election. If someone nominates you, you may accept and your name will be added to the ballot or you can decline the nomination. In order to be nominated by a person *you must be at the meeting to accept the nomination* and consent to having your name on the election ballot. 2) **Call the School** - People may have prior commitments and cannot make it to the meeting. If that is the case and you would like to let your name stand please call the school [780.928.3947] and inform us of your wishes to have your name on the election ballot. We will include your name on the election ballot.

Cross Country Divisionals

Sandhills is hosting FVSD Divisionals Cross Country Meet on **Saturday, September 21 at Pinelodge Bible Camp**. Events will start at **1:00 pm**.

Volunteers are needed. If you are willing to help please call the office at 780.928.3947.

Intervention Record Checks and Vulnerable Sector Checks will be required for anyone who wants to volunteer. See the information on the next page, regarding volunteering.

District Wide Cross-Country Meet



Volunteers in Schools

Intervention Record Checks & Vulnerable Sector Checks

As per Fort Vermilion School Division policy, all parents attending a school field trip, volunteering on a regular basis, or working alone with students, must provide Sandhills with a clean **Vulnerable Sector Check** and a clean **Intervention Record Check**. Volunteers are responsible for ensuring that they give a copy of these checks to each school they want to volunteer at.

If you are required to submit a new Vulnerable Sector Check or an Intervention Record Check it must be completed within the last 6 months in order to be considered valid and acceptable.

The Vulnerable Sector Check may be obtained at the Mackenzie County Office in La Crete (Monday - Friday between the hours of 8:30 am - 4:30 pm). You will require a letter from the school to obtain this check.

Please stop by the school to pick up this letter. In order to obtain an Intervention Record Check go to <https://www.fvsd.ab.ca> click on the hamburger (top left corner), careers, required record checks, Alberta Residents: How to Apply, Intervention Record Check Form. This form can be emailed to High Level Children's Services at the email provided at the end of the form. Email the form back with a scanned copy of government issued photo ID (either a drivers license, or passport).

Annual Terry Fox Run/Walk Wednesday, September 25



On **Wednesday, September 25**, Sandhills students and staff will be participating in our Annual Terry Fox Run/Walk. Students and staff, along with any parents that would like to join us, can join our short assembly, which starts at **11:00 am**. Following this, parents are invited to join students walking and running around the school yard. After the 15 minute Terry Fox walk/run, parents are invited to stay with their children to eat lunch in the park. (**Please bring your own lunch**).

We are encouraging students to bring a Toonie for Terry, before September 25, in efforts to raise \$300 which will be sent to the Terry Fox Foundation to help in the fight against cancer.

Thank you for your assistance in our efforts to assist with this tremendous cause which means so much to so many.

CARE Bear Assembly Thursday, September 26

Parents are invited to join Sandhills staff and students at their monthly CARE Bear Assembly at **10:45 am** on **Thursday, September 26**.

Orange Shirt Day Friday, September 27



No School - Monday, September 30 National Day for Truth & Reconciliation


The Canadian government designated **Monday, September 30** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, beginning in 2021. This responds to Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action 80, which states that the federal government will work with Indigenous people to establish a statutory day to "honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process".

Students can wear orange on Friday, September 27 to commemorate this day.



Handicap Parking **NEW**

We have 4 new handicap parking spaces in front of the school. Two of the spaces are specifically designed for wheelchairs. Please leave these parking spots for those who need them.

Cheese Pizza Sale
Friday, October 4. 
Orders Due - Thursday, October 3
by 10:00 am



Each week, as part of their Health and Wellness Curriculum, Sandhills students learn about skills that can help them in school, at work, and in life, such as listening, focusing attention, making friends, and problem-solving. You can help at home by talking to your child about Second Step and helping to reinforce what they are learning at school. In each newsletter, we will highlight a Second Step skill so that you can help your child see how these skills can help them at home, too

Second Step Spotlight
Skills For Learning - Listening



At our school, students work hard to be the best learners they can be. One skill for learning is to listen with attention. When students listen with attention, their eyes are watching the speaker, their ears are listening, their voices are quiet, and they are still. This week, encourage your child to be a great listener every day!

New
Information

Update Nut Safe School Policy

We are committed to providing all students a safe environment in which to learn. We consistently have some students attending Sandhills who have allergies. Some allergic reactions can be more serious than others. Peanut/Tree nut allergies can cause serious allergic reactions and we wish to prevent this from happening. **We ask that parents do not send food items to school that contain peanuts or nuts of any kind (this includes peanut butter).** This is especially important if you are donating a snack to a class for a celebration. Students can bring Nutella sandwiches for their own lunch. Every student's safety is of our utmost concern and we ask for your assistance in keeping students safe. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Bus Safety

This week our students have been taking part in bus safety presentations. Thank you to Cindy House for facilitating these presentations to students.



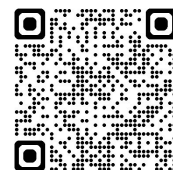
Student Profiles

Thank you to those parents who have already updated their child's information in MyFVSD. In previous years your child would have brought home a student demographic form for you to fill out with any changes to your child's information. For the 2024-2025 school year the Fort Vermilion School Division (FVSD) is providing an online re-enrollment form where parents and guardians can review their child's information and sign the form. The online re-enrollment form is for students who attended an FVSD school last year and will be attending an FVSD school in the 2024-2025 school year.

You can sign in to MyFVSD at my.fvsd.ab.ca to view students you are associated with and review their student profile.

There are two ways you can sign into MyFVSD:

1. Using a Google (@gmail.com) or Microsoft (@outlook.com) email account that is attached to your contact at school.



2. Through text messaging which will require you to enter the Alberta Student Number (ASN) for one of the students you are associated with. A student's ASN can be found at the top of their report card.

If you have any questions regarding this process please call the school office at 780.928.3947.

