

Sandhills School

PRINCIPAL – Bonnie Hunley

FVSD TRUSTEE – Tim Driedger

September 5, 2017

C
Caring

A
Accountability

R
Respect

E
Excellent Effort

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

Welcome New and Returning Students to Sandhills Elementary!

We were excited to see familiar faces returning and to meet our new families. The staff and I are expecting an excellent year working with students and parents.



Welcome Staff to Sandhills

For the 2017-2018 School Year, we welcome the following Staff to Sandhills:

- Lynette [Cole] John- ECS
- Brittany Matheson- Grade 2
- Rebecca Neustaeter- Grade 1
- Judy Peters- Educational Assistant ECS

A list of school staff and the important role they play at the school is provided in the **Parent Information Handbook**, which can be found at the beginning of the student agendas.

Student Agendas

Sandhills is pleased to offer student agendas for the 2017-2018 school year from grades ECS to 3.

- Agendas are being provided free of charge. If your child loses their agenda a \$10.00 replacement fee will be charged.
- We would ask that parent notes be written in the agendas on the appropriate date.

We hope you find the agendas a useful means of communication throughout the school year.

School Fees

We do not collect school fees at Sandhills.



School Cash Online

You will be receiving information this week regarding our online program. School Cash Online is available to parents for paying for snack cards and yearbooks online. This program is optional to parents.

Student Pick-up Procedures Reminders

There is one designated spot for picking up children at the end of the school day – the sidewalk at the southwest corner of the school.

- Teachers have been instructed to escort children being picked up to that location, and to release them only to parents, or those authorized in writing by parents to do so.
- Parents should be aware that teacher responsibility for supervising students normally ends when the last bus has departed – usually at 3:25 p.m.
- Parents who live across from the school can have their children walked across the street at the end of the day.
- Mrs. Hunley will wait at the front of the school for students who are walking home and escort them across the crosswalk at the end of the day.

FVSD 52 security regulations require that all exit doors to the school, except the Front Entrance, are locked throughout the school day.

- If you need to pick up your child during the day for an appointment, taking your child home early, or are visiting a classroom as a parent volunteer, please check in with the office first.
- You will be asked to sign our “Visitors Book” when you enter and sign out when you leave.



Additional Parking for Sandhills Parents

Additional parent parking is available in the 2 bus lanes closest to the main road. Use of those two lanes by parents will assist in overparking in front of Sandhills.

Note: Buses take priority and will need to exit the bus lanes promptly once Sandhills and Ridgeview students have boarded.

Students After School

If you haven't done so already, please let your child's teacher know the usual method your child will be leaving school each day whether they will be taking the bus (provide a bus #), walking, biking or you will be picking them up.

If you would like your child to go to an alternate destination at the end of the day, please enter that information into the school agenda.

In the event that there is a last minute change of events, office staff are happy to assist. Please call the office before to 3:00 pm. We want to ensure the safety of all students.



Bicycles and Bike Helmet Reminder

All students who ride their bike, skateboard, or scooter to school must have a bicycle helmet on.

We care about your children and want to do our part in ensuring their safety. Thank you for your support.

Fort Vermilion School Division Student Profiles

In order to improve our record keeping of student information, we have sent home **school registration forms for students in grades ECS to 3.**

- If you have a child attending Sandhills this year or in previous years then your child is already registered, however we ask that you **read and correct** this form to assist us in improving our record keeping.
- Update any medical concerns your child has in the **Medical Considerations** section.
- Please be sure to complete the **Anti- Spam Legislation and FOIPP** section.
- **Date and sign the form** on the back of page 1.
- Please have the form returned to the school as soon as possible so we can update our school records.

If you have any questions regarding the form you can contact the school at **780-928-3947**. Thank you for assisting us with this matter.

Bell Schedule for 2017/2018

The School Day at Sandhills Elementary for the 2017/2018 school year will **begin at 8:45 a.m.**

A schedule is provided below of our school day:

Time	Event
8:25 a.m.	School Open
8:45 a.m.	First Bell
8:46 a.m.	Second Warning Bell - All Students In Class
8:46 a.m. - 8:50 a.m.	Announcements & Opening Exercises
8:50 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.	Instructional Periods
10:10 a.m. - 10:22 a.m.	Morning Recess
10:22 a.m. - 11:47 a.m.	Instructional Periods
11:47 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.	Lunch Time
12:05 p.m.- 12:25 p.m.	Noon Recess
12:25 p.m.- 1:50 p.m.	Instructional Periods
1:50 p.m.- 2:04 p.m.	Afternoon Recess
2:04 p.m.- 3:10 p.m.	Instructional Periods
3:10 p.m.	Dismissal Warning Bell
3:15 p.m.	Dismissal



Day Cycle at Sandhills for the 2017-2018 School Year

Sandhills students in grades 1-3 are on a 5 day cycle in conjunction with the Fort Vermilion School Division. Please review your child's calendar.

Important - ECS will not be following this cycle this year as they run on a Monday to Friday timetable. ECS commences at Sandhills, Tuesday, September 5.

ECS/EI commences Monday, September 11.

Nut Awareness

Please be advised that we **do have known allergies to peanuts/nuts** within our student population at this time. **Please do not** send your child with food that contains peanuts/nuts until further notice. In the event this situation changes, you will be notified.



Students and Medication:

Student well-being is extremely important to Sandhills Elementary School and we recognize that some students may require prescription medication during the school day.

- **If your child is in need of prescription medication while they are at school you must contact the school and come in to fill out a form that provides the school with all the necessary information about the medication and administration times.**
- **Do not send medication to school in your child's backpack.**
- **All medications must be brought to the school by a parent or guardian, be in the original container, and kept in the office until the time it is to be administered to the student.**

If you have any questions please call the school **(780-928-3947)**, we will make sure your child's needs are met.



Physical Education at Sandhills

I am looking forward to this school year as gym teacher at Sandhills.

Please make sure your children come to school every day with running shoes that are easily tied tight enough so they will not fly off while running fast.

Flip flops and heeled/dress shoes are dangerous in the gym and may cause accidents and injuries.

Thank you so much for your help in this matter!

Please contact me if you have any concerns at all.

Mr. White



CARE

Sandhills' motto is: "**CARE.**" CARE Represents:

- C** =Caring
- A** = Accountability
- R** = Respect
- E** = Excellent Effort

Along with the school motto are Fort Vermilion School Division priorities:

All students will improve reading, writing, and digital literacy skills

All students will improve numeracy skills through practical applications of curricular outcomes

All students will be increasingly engaged in learning environments to improve achievement and citizenship skills

At Sandhills we are ready for a new school year and have an excellent education plan that is focused on:

- **Improving our students level of achievement in reading and numeracy**
- **Engaging SHES students as citizens and learners within a healthy active school environment and community.**

We will continue to implement a number of improvement strategies in the classroom, related to student support and improving the culture of reading and math and the promotion of a healthy, active school, during the coming year.

We will also continue to take a school wide approach with the promotion of reading:

We ask that students, with the help of their parents, record the number of minutes the child reads each evening at home in the student agenda.

The number of minutes read will be shared with students and staff. Reading goals will be set at school, and as goals are achieved, we will have school wide literacy celebrations.

We plan to have three literacy celebrations to celebrate home reading by our students.

We ask that students read a minimum of 10 minutes a night and track when they complete books during independent home reading.

Your support at home will make a significant contribution to your child's education. Studies show that children who read independently at home or who have quality reading time at home tend to experience increased success in school.

Children who read increase their motivation to read and have more positive attitudes toward reading.

Independent reading is when your child can select books to read on their own, to themselves, or others. When children can read independently they become confident and motivated readers.

Some simple ways that you can support home reading by your child are listed below:

- Establish a reading routine. [If you are too busy on certain evenings have your child read to a younger sibling.]
- Make reading fun
- Let your child choose the book
- Be comfortable, minimize distractions
- Praise your child for reading
- Encourage discussion about the book

We hope to continue and build upon the success our students have had with home reading over the past number of years.

We can't do this without the parents. Your support with home reading will make all the difference to our collective success. 10 minutes is enough to make a difference!