



# SANDHILLS NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL – Gilbert Morris

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – Rachel Dika

FVSD TRUSTEE – Tim Driedger

**Care**

**Accountability**

**Respect**

**Excellent Effort**

**School Mission:** *Sandhills Elementary School is a safe, fun place where our minds and bodies grow.*  
January 15, 2019

*Written by Students of Sandhills*

## Grade 1J Fundraiser

To Those who supported our Christmas Giving Project, we, the class of 1J, just really want to say THANKS!! Your support was an incredible encouragement to our fundraising efforts. The students and myself feel honoured that so many people would be so supportive and share the same passion of helping others in need. As a class, we have discussed together the fact that we have so much. At the same time there are others around our world, some not as far as we think, who have much greater needs. This is a small way we can help others to have a better *quality of life*. Thanks to you, we were able to raise \$1108. Wow! THANK YOU!!! To help others in need, these are the items we plan on purchasing for communities around the world through MCC.

**Nineteen Brood of Chickens (\$15 each)**

**Six Goats (\$60 each)**

**Clean Water for six homes (\$75 each)**

We feel privileged to be able to help others in need, and it is our hope that these small gifts will enrich lives in another place. We wonder, however, if maybe we, the class of 1J, have been given a gift of equal value. Through your generous example, we have been able to witness what it really means to give and that it truly is better to give than to receive. That just may be one of the true meanings of Christmas. So, again, thank you!

## Grade 3 Craft & Bake Sale

The Grade 3 classes would like to thank everyone who has helped during fundraisers this year. We are very excited that our Christmas Festival raised \$1644 to donate to the La Crete Food Bank. In February Grade 3 will be leading a Food Drive for the La Crete Food Bank.

*The picture to the right is of all the baked goodies donated by parents for the Grade 3 Christmas Festival on December 14.*





Sandhills Chess Club will be starting up again in the New Year for grades 2 and 3. Permission forms were sent home. *Dates of Chess Club are:*

*Tuesday, January 15 (3:15 - 4:15)*

*Thursday, January 17 (3:15 - 4:15)*

*Saturday, January 19 (1:00 - 3:00)*

*Tuesday, January 22 (3:15 - 4:15)*

*Thursday, January 24 (3:15 - 4:15)*

## Superintendent of Schools Consultation

Superintendent of Schools, Mike McMann, invites parents of **Sandhills Elementary School** to follow up on the findings and results of the consultations held during the 2017-2018 school year and discuss the priorities of the Board of Trustees for the next three years. **The meeting will be held in the Sandhills gymnasium on January 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm.**



## Next Sandhills School Council Meeting

Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00 PM



## Student Progress Reports

*Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>*

Progress Reports are a one-page snapshot of your child's overall achievement to date. ECS T/T progress reports will be sent home **Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.**

## Parent-Teacher Interviews - February 6 & 7

Starting January 21<sup>st</sup> parents can start booking their Parent-Teacher interviews by calling the school office at (780) 928-3947. Appointments can be booked for Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 8 pm and Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 4 - 7 pm.

## New Box Numbers

If you have recently received a new post office box number please call the school office to provide us with that updated information.

# Sandhills Science Fair 2019

***This year, Science Fair is open to Grade 1-3 students that have an adult supervisor.*** The adult supervisor can be a parent, grandparent, guardian, significantly older sibling, etc. Information letters, with permission forms for Science Fair were sent home on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. For interested students, these **permission forms are due by Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.**

All students participating in Science Fair along with their adult supervisor must attend the initial meeting and work sessions. Individual students can work individually or in pairs to complete their science fair project. The school will provide project boards, paper to cover the boards as well as access to the photocopier, library and the die cutter (to make letters) during the work sessions. Any additional materials needed for the experiment or research project must be supplied from home.

**Initial meeting: January 21, 3:30** During our initial meeting suggestions for projects (if students do not have ideas) will be provided. A supervising parent or mentor must attend this meeting.

**Work session 1: February 4, 3:30** The project should be selected and materials collected by this point. If the experiment involves growing plants, or other long term experiments, it should be started by this point.

**Work session 2: February 25, 3:30** Experiments are to be completed and backdrops planned by this point so that any copying, cutting out letters and science fair board can be done at this session.

**Projects due: March 4, 9:00am** Projects must be completed by this date for entry into the Sandhills Science Fair.

**Sandhills Science Fair: March 6** Students that have completed their project by March 4 will be judged on this date.

**Divisional Science Fair at Blue Hills Community School: March 14** Students that perform successfully at the Sandhills Science Fair may be selected for entry into the Divisional Science Fair.



**Sandhills Elementary School**  
**School Council Meeting Minutes**  
**December 17, 2018**

**In Attendance:** Jason Knelsen [Chair], Dale Krahn [Vice-Chair], Linda Neufeld [Secretary], Nettie Krahn, Stephen Wieler, Tracy Neudorf, Frank Zacharias, Dale Krahn [Vice-Chair], Mary-Jane Driedger, Robyn Carey [staff member] Gilbert Morris [Principal], Rachel Dika [Assistant Principal]

**Regrets:** Bryan Rempel, Andrew Neustaeter

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** 7:01 PM
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda – Dale Krahn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nettie Krahn
3. **Reading and Approval of previous minutes:** Motion to approve November 19, 2018 minutes - Tracy Neustaeter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Stephen Wieler
4. **School Report - Mr. Morris**
  - a. *Presentation of the Month - Student Support Services*
    - Leah Martens [Mental Health Therapist], Lindsay Bandy [Student Wellness Coach], Nick Gray [Student Wellness Coach], and Taryn Driedger [Child Circle Worker] gave a presentation on the work of the Student Support Services team. Their work includes one-on-one counselling with students, family support, small group and universal (whole class) programming for students.
    - The team presented on the universal programs, “Classroom Caring” and “Fun Friends”. Classroom Caring is part of the health program offered to Kindergarten classes while Fun Friends is delivered to grade one classes.
    - School council gave a favorable response to the work that the Student Support Services team does for the students and families at Sandhills.
  - b. *Parent Teacher Interview Attendance & Feedback*
    - The Parent Teacher interviews were well attended with 74% of students having a parent/guardian attend the interviews.
    - Council felt that for some parents, the fifteen minute interview time slot was too short while for others the time was adequate. It was suggested that if a parent requires additional time, an additional meeting could be scheduled with the classroom teacher for an alternate time. Currently, the fifteen minute interview allows for all parents to see their child’s teacher on one of the scheduled days.
  - c. *Christmas Concert*
    - Mr. Morris thanked school council members with assisting with the stage set-up earlier in the week. As well, thank-you to Jason Knelsen and Stephen Wieler for volunteering their time to build additional stage risers. It was also asked if parents could be requested to assist with the stage take-down at the conclusion of the Christmas Concert. Council agreed that would be acceptable.
  - d. *FVSD Numeracy Letter to Parents*
    - Mr. Morris provided council with a copy of a letter from Terry Gibson, Supervisor of Learning Services-Numeracy that will be sent out to all parents. The letter explains the efforts of the FVSD Numeracy Committee and the plan to improve basic math facts, mental math strategies and a mindset shift around how to teach math.

**Sandhills Elementary School**  
**School Council Meeting Minutes Continued....**

- e. Superintendent of Schools Consultations
- Mr. Morris requested that as many school council members try to attend the consultation with the Superintendent of Schools, Mike McMann, to follow up on the findings and results of the consultations held during the 2017-2018 school year and discuss the priorities of the Board of Trustees for the next three years. The meeting will be held in the Sandhills gymnasium on January 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm. School council members were also encouraged to invite other SHES parents to this consultation.
- f. Outside Recess:
- A concern was raised that having children go outside at -25 °C with wind maybe to cold for students. Mr. Morris indicated that students would not go outside if the temperature reached -25 °C with windchill. It was also mentioned that the decision to have outside recess, even at temperatures warmer than -25 °C would depend on other factors such as harsh winds, whiteout conditions, ice, etc.

**5. Chairperson Report - Mr. Knelsen**

- a. 11. Vacancies - SHES School Council Operating Procedures
- Any vacancies of the School Council will be left vacant for the remainder of the school year. If executive positions (chairperson, vice-chairperson or secretary) need to be filled an organizational meeting will be held. If this fails to fill the vacancy council will continue to try to fill the vacancy at subsequent meetings.
- Jason Knelson made a motion to change section 11. Vacancies of the SHES School Council Operating Procedures to the Fall AGM 2019 for a vote to change it so that vacancies that occurred mid-year would not have to be filled until the AGM - Jason Knelsen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dale Krahn. Carried.
- b. Fundraising - CARE Bear Council Ideas
- Mr. Knelsen shared the ideas that were generated when he met with the Sandhills CARE Bear council in November. When asked what needs or improvements Sandhills students would like to see in the school or outside on the playground several suggestions were made. Of those, building playhouses, expanding the current playground to accommodate students with varying needs, etc. were seen as feasible options.

**6. Trustee Report - Mr. Driedger absent - no report**

**7. Additions to the Agenda**

- a. School Council Positions
- School Council discussed the possibility to have two-year terms for council members rather than one-year terms. Council was in favor of this decision. A motion to change the SHES School Council bylaws in this regard will be made at the next school council meeting.
- b. Playground Pilot Submission to Alberta Education
- The Board of Trustees approved the playground pilot submission for new playground equipment for Rocky Lane School, Rainbow Lake School and Sandhills Elementary School. The existing SHES wooden playground structure will soon not meet code and will need to be removed in the foreseeable future. If the playground submission is approved by the provincial government, Sandhills would gain funding for new playground equipment. At this point, we are unsure when the provincial government will make the announcement as to which project submissions are successful.

**8. Next Meeting:** January 21, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

**9. Meeting Adjourned:** 8:39 PM