



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.
September 3, 2019 Written by Students of Sandhills

Welcome Back!

Like at home, the excitement for the new school year surrounds the school staff. In anticipation of the arrival of students, teachers have been very busy this past week preparing their classrooms and planning for instruction. With such dedicated and passionate staff, we are sure to provide you and your children a great year at Sandhills.

As we welcome back familiar faces, a special welcome goes out to our new students, new families and new staff.



Lost and Found

We have a number of clothing items that were not taken home in the Spring. Please come to the school to take a look to see if anything belongs to your child by Sept 13.



New Staff at Sandhills

A special welcome goes out to our new staff that will be joining the Sandhills Team for the 2019-2020 School Year:

- Ryan Feener - PE
- Leanne Sexton - Grade 2
- Rebecca Walsh - ECS
- Mandy Washkevich - Educational Assistant



Welcome back to Julie Lauzon, Grade 3, who is returning from maternity leave.

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.

Students and Medication:

Students well-being is extremely important to Sandhills Elementary School and we recognize that some students may require prescription medication during the 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 with the original prescription. The medication will be kept in the office until the time it is to be administered to the student.**
- **Over the counter medications including vitamins, cough drops, etc. can not be administered by school staff.**

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



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 any food items to school that contain nuts of any kind or peanuts.** This is especially important if you are donating a snack to a class for a celebration. Every student's safety is of our utmost concern and we ask for your assistance in keeping students safe by not sending food items to school that contain nuts and/or peanuts. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.



Intervention Record Checks & Vulnerable Sector Checks

As per Fort Vermilion School Division policy, all parents attending a school field trip as well as when working alone with students, must provide Sandhills with a clean Vulnerable Sector Check and a clean Intervention Record Check. The Vulnerable Sector Check may be obtained at the Fort Vermilion RCMP Detachment and Intervention Record Checks may be obtained at the High Level Children's Services office located at (9814-101 Street).

You must apply in person with 2 pieces of identification with at least 1 piece being photo identification.



Bicycles and Bike Helmet Reminder

All students who ride their bike, skateboard, scooter or ripstick to school must have a bicycle helmet on. Bikes are parked at the front of the school. Children without helmets will not be allowed to ride their bikes home. We care about your children and want to do our part in ensuring their safety.
Thank you for your support.

School Council AGM & ELECTIONS

Parents are invited to come out **Monday, September 16 @ 7:00 pm** to our Annual General Meeting and Elections for School Council. Your school council chair will present a "year in review" reporting on School Council Activities during the 2018-2019 school year. **The following two changes to the SHES School Operating Procedures will also need to be voted upon at the AGM.**

Section 9. Terms of Office - Terms of office will be 5 one-year terms and 5 two-year terms. Any elected member may serve consecutive terms in the same position.

Section 11. Vacancies - 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 we will continue to try to fill the vacancy at subsequent meetings.

We look forward to the election of new School Council members to enhance Sandhills School as a whole and build upon the contributions 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. In order to be nominated at the meeting *you must be in attendance to accept the nomination.* 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.

Fort Vermilion School Division Student Profiles

In order to improve our record keeping of student information, we will send home **school registration forms for students in grades ECS to 3**. Please look for **2019-2020 Student Profile (white paper)** located in the clear pocket of your child's agenda in the next few days.

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 update** 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 (check yes or no)** and **FOIP section (check yes or no to each statement)**.
- **Date and sign the form on page 3 and page 5**.
- 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.

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 by parents to do so.
- Parents should be aware that teacher responsibility for supervising students 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. Designated staff will wait at the front of the school for students who are walking home and escort them across the crosswalk.

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.



Parking for Sandhills Parents



We have three lanes of parking available to parents. One of the lanes is in front of the school closest to the main road and there are 2 additional lanes in bus lanes closest to the main road. Vehicles parked in front of the school must form a single lane nearest the main road. Please park in a single line (do not double park) at all times.

NOTE: Buses take priority and will need to exit the bus lanes promptly once Sandhills and Ridgeview students have boarded. At this point, parents are requested to wait for all buses to depart before leaving the parent parking area.

Running Club

Sandhills is excited to offer a **Running Club** for the month of September. All students from **ECS to Grade 3** are welcome to join this intramural school club. We will meet during noon recess from 12:15 - 12:35 to stretch, move and do a distance run together. The goal is for our students to run/walk 1 km.

We plan to use the Sandhills field and playground area within the boundaries of school property. All students will be supervised and all safety protocols will be in place. If it happens to be raining on a Running Club day, the Club will be held in the gym. **Students will need to wear running shoes and have a water bottle when they participate.**

Some students from this club will be selected to attend the FVSD Cross Country Divisionals meet at Rocky Lane on October 3, 2019.



Bell Schedule for 2019/2020

We are providing you with a copy of our recess schedule as it has changed slightly this year.

Time	Event
8:25 a.m.	School Open
8:41 a.m.	Bell
8:42 – 8:45	Announcements & Opening Exercises
8:45 – 10:15	Instructional Periods
10:15 – 10:30	Morning Recess
10:30 – 12:00	Instructional Periods
12:00 – 12:20	Lunch Time
12:15 – 12:20	Transition Time (New) Students that finish eating by 12:15 p.m. can go outside to play while others that require a bit more time have until 12:20 p.m.
12:15 – 12:35	Noon Recess
12:35 – 2:05	Instructional Periods
2:05 – 2:20	Afternoon Recess
2:20 – 3:15	Instructional Periods
3:15 p.m.	Dismissal