



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.*

October 22, 2019

Written by Students of Sandhills

FVSD K-6 Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Contacts

This year, parents will see some changes in terms of how we report your child's progress. The number of reporting periods will decrease, report card comments will be shorter and individualized and there will be two mandatory in-person or over-the-phone contacts with all parents regarding their child's progress.

Fort Vermilion School Division is moving Kindergarten to Grade 6 reporting periods from four times a year to three times a year. The new dates that report cards will be sent home are: November 29, March 12 and June 19. The reason for the change is to allow our educators more time to consider the real growth that happens in young minds from Kindergarten to Grade 6. By lengthening the reporting periods, your child's teacher will be able to provide you with a clearer picture of your child's progress!

Sandhills parents will also see shorter report card comments this year. The comments will focus on how we are supporting your child's academic and social growth.

And in order to better facilitate parents involvement in their child's learning, we are putting a real emphasis on our educators making contact with you in order to discuss your child's report card. We want to talk to you about how your child is doing in school and how we can be partners in supporting your child's education journey. One of the priorities at Fort Vermilion School Division is connectivity so we will make every attempt to meet with you in person at Parent Teacher Interviews (PTI) or speak with you over-the-phone if you are not able to make the PTI evenings.

This year Parent-Teacher Interviews will be on the evening of December 3 and 4.

Thank-you...after school child pick-ups

Thank-you to parents for parking single file in front of the school (nearest the main road) or parking in the parent parking lanes (near the bus lanes) when picking up or dropping off your children. **Teachers are also instructed not to release their students unless the parent is out of the vehicle and standing near the corner of the school at the designated pick-up location.** These procedures ensure that students are always visible during parent pick-ups and that student safety is of utmost importance.

Important Home/Teacher Communication Procedure

If there is a change to the normal end of the day pick-up procedures of your child, including if your child is staying for a scheduled after school event, please write a note in your child's agenda.

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

Healthy Snacks Thursday, October 24

Sandhills will be providing a healthy snack to all students once per month. Please refer to the monthly calendar for the specific dates the healthy snack will be offered to your child. This month, our healthy snack (cheese strings), will be offered to students on Thursday, October 24.

Ice Cream Sale Friday, October 25

The items that are available are mini ice cream sandwiches (60ml), revels (60ml), or non-dairy popsicles.



Soccer Intramurals

Gr. 2-3 soccer intramurals begin on Monday, October 28. Soccer intramurals occurs during lunch recess and lasts for six weeks.

If your child is interested in soccer intramurals, encourage them to sign up for this energetic school activity.



School Council Meeting Monday, October 28 at 7:00 PM

Parents are welcome to join us. This month we will be presenting information on a social emotional learning program (Second Step) that we would like to consider adopting at Sandhills. It's a program that develops a child's social emotional skills in the area of listening, focusing, being respectful, being assertive, managing emotions and demonstrating empathy and compassion.

If you have any items that you would like discussed at the meeting please contact our school council chair, Jason Knelsen, at 780-821-9242, prior to the meeting.

Colder Weather

As the weather gets cooler, we ask that students come to school dressed appropriately. Students will be outside on all school days when the temperature outside is - 25°C or warmer.

Please send your child with clothing and footwear that will keep them warm during outside recess. Students spend 15 minutes outside during morning and afternoon recess and about 20 minutes outdoors at lunch time.

We want your children to enjoy their outdoor activities and stay warm!



Operation Christmas Child

Please be reminded that the deadline for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to be brought to Sandhills School is **Thursday, November 21**. It has been exciting to see shoeboxes come in! We encourage you to prepare a shoebox if you are able to.

After the deadline date, all shoeboxes will be organized and shipped away to less fortunate children around the world. The Annual Packing Party will be held at Ridgeview Central School on **Saturday, November 23, at 7:00 pm!** Come and join the fun!! Volunteers are needed at the Annual Packing Party to help with set up, clean up, organizing, and sorting.



Sandhills Communications

Our school newsletter and other communications (monthly calendar, school supply lists, etc.) are available on our **school website**. In addition, you can also follow **Sandhills Elementary School on FACEBOOK**. Our Facebook page will contain the latest news from Sandhills Elementary as well as Fort Vermilion School Division. Find us and "Like" us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Sandhills-Elementary-School-100695544614868/>

Sandhills Elementary School
School Council Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2019
(DRAFT)

In Attendance: Jason Knelsen [Chair], Bryan Rempel, Tracy Neudorf, Stephen Wieler, Nettie Krahn, Rachel Krahn, Marty Doerksen, Janice Driedger, Bethany Porter [staff member] Gilbert Morris [Principal], Rachel Dika [Assistant Principal]

Regrets: Tim Driedger [Trustee], Dale Krahn, Linda Neufeld

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** 7:09 PM
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda – Tracy Neudorf, 2nd by Bryan Rempel
3. **Reading and Approval of previous minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes of September 16, 2019 - Stephen Wieler, 2nd by Nettie Krahn
4. **School Report - Mr. Morris**
 - a. *Reviewed School Council Operating Procedures (Bylaws)*
 - b. *Staffing/Enrollment*
 - i. As of September 30th we have 366 students enrolled in Sandhills. Last year, at this time we had 358 students enrolled. Enrollment is down from projected but up 8 from last year.
 - ii. Rebecca Walsh (ECS Kindergarten teacher) has officially resigned.
 - iii. ECS Early Intervention numbers are increasing each day. With 19 students registered, the higher numbers pose a challenge as the current classroom space is limited. We are working on a solution.
 - c. *School Generated Funds Review*
 - i. School generated funds (fundraising such as Mom's Pantry, Sandhills Cookbooks, etc.) will be focused on improving or adding new playground equipment. FVSD will double (up to \$50,000) any school generated funds for school improvement projects like playgrounds.
 - ii. Some discussion occurred about solving the lack of space at the parent pick-up location (southwest corner of the school). Additional sidewalk talked about but funding for this project would likely not come from School Generated Funds.
 - d. *Monthly Presentation Suggestions*
 - i. School Council would like to see the monthly presentations by SHES continue this school year. Reading interventions (Empower, Companion Reading, Levelled Literacy Intervention), Social Emotional Learning programs, writing and/or reading programs, self-regulation (sensory room, calm kits, etc.), parent communication processes, etc. were suggested.
5. **Chairperson Report - Mr. Knelsen**
 - a. *School Council communication process* - Chairperson, Jason Knelsen mentioned that it is preferred to have agenda items added to the agenda prior to the meeting so items can be adequately discussed at the meeting.
 - b. Council member, Marty Doerksen suggested we *add another teacher representative to council.*

**Sandhills Elementary School
School Council Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2019
(DRAFT)**

5. Chairperson's Report continued...

- c. Council would like the *agenda to be emailed out* to all members prior to the meeting.
- d. *Parking issues are still taking place*
 - i. Parking in the fire lane/backing up/double parking are some of the challenges to ensuring student safety.
 - ii. A suggestion was made to block off the area in front of the school for afternoon pick-ups to limit parking to one lane nearest the main road.
 - iii. Council member, Stephen Wieler and Chairperson, Jason Knelsen will meet with administration to discuss a resolution to these issues.
- e. *AGM Attendance* - Council brainstormed ideas on how to increase attendance at the Annual General Meeting. The AGM saw approximately 20 parents in attendance. A presentation by students/teachers specific to each grade could bring out more parents.

6. No Trustee Report

7. Additions to the Agenda

a. *ECS Snack Program*

- i. The ECS snack program has changed to Fridays only due to the fact that ECS students need more time to cover the new phonics, writing and reading programs as mandated by the FVSD.
- ii. If parents would like to help out in classrooms, volunteers are always welcomed by communicating with the teacher.

b. *Hot Lunch Meeting* - October 7 at 10:30 AM

- i. Sandhills will be having a hot lunch organizational meeting for any interested volunteers on Monday, October 7 at 10:30am. During this time a schedule for the year will be made.

8. Next Meeting: September 28, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

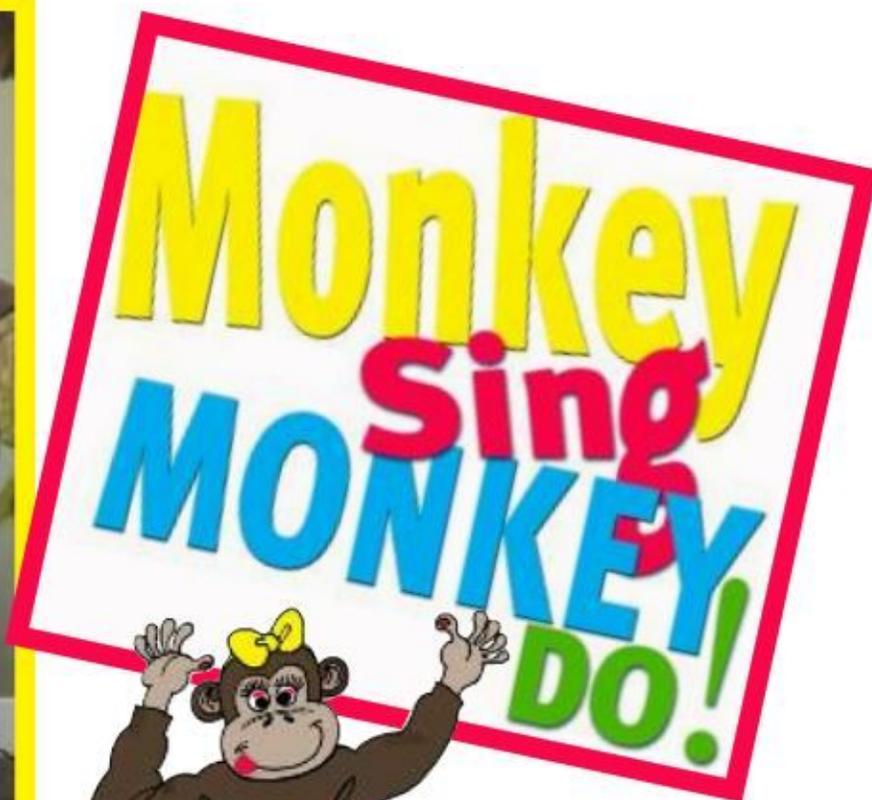
9. Meeting Adjourned: at 8:46 PM by Tracy Neudorf

***Parents are always
welcome to attend School
Council Meetings***





Live Concert



With
Juno Award
Nominee...

MARY LAMBERT

DATE: Wednesday, November 6

TIME: 11:00 am

PLACE: Sandhills Elementary School

www.marylambertmusic.com mary@marylambertmusic.com



