



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 7, 2020

Written by Students of Sandhills

Welcome Back!

We are so eager and excited to welcome back familiar faces as well as our new students, new families and new staff. Our teachers, support staff and maintenance staff have been hard at work getting our classrooms and school ready to welcome you back. With such dedicated and passionate staff, we are sure to provide you and your children a great year at Sandhills.



This is a strange time to be sending your children back to school, or to school for the very first time. You may be feeling nervous, apprehensive, or even scared. At Sandhills, we have a staff that is committed to establishing a school that is **a safe, fun place where young minds and bodies can grow** and that includes working with you to make that happen. The role that you will play in making sure your children are healthy each morning before they come to school is the most important safety tool that we have. Please utilize the Screening Questionnaire (attached to this newsletter) daily to decide if your child should attend school. If you have answered “No” to all the questions, your child may attend school. You know your child best and if your child says they “feel sick” or have symptoms that are out of the ordinary (pre-existing) please have your child stay home until symptoms clear up.

We know you’ll have a lot more questions regarding all the new procedures the school now has. We hope that our school newsletters, classroom newsletters, as well as conversations we’ll have with you will help clear a lot of them up. Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher or the school office if you have any questions at all.

Mr. Morris

First Day of School

Tuesday, September 8 will be our first day back to school.



New Staff at Sandhills

A special welcome goes out to our new staff that will be joining the Sandhills team for the 2020-2021 School Year:

- Ms. Monica Kerr (ECS)
- Mrs. Stephanie Acreman (2A)
- Miss. Chantelle Peters (2P)
- Ms. Allison Chiasson (3C)
- Mrs. Morgan Derksen (3D)
- Ms. Christy Lindsey-Wiens (3L)
- Ms. Deborah Wynter (3W)



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 Drop-off & Pick-up Procedures Ensuring Staggered Entry/Exit (NEW)



Each classroom has a designated spot for dropping off and picking up children at the start and end of each school day – your child's classroom teacher should have called you by now explaining the location, times and procedures. If we have missed you, please call the school.

ARRIVAL:

- Buses will arrive between 8:30am and 8:45am. Parent drop-off or walking students can begin arriving at 8:50am. **Please do not arrive early as bus lanes will be used for parent parking.**
- **Please escort your child to their designated spot for entry into the school.** These areas will be clearly marked for the first few days of school. A staff member will meet you there and welcome your child into the school.

DISMISSAL:

- Buses will begin boarding at 2:00pm and depart by 2:15pm to La Crete Public School. Parent pick-up or walking students will be led out to their designated spot to be released to parents or to walk home.
- Teachers have been instructed to release students to only their parents, or those authorized by parents to do so.
- Teacher responsibility for supervising students ends at 2:30pm. Please arrive prior to this time.
- Parents who live across from the school can have their children walked across the street at the end of the day. Designated staff will 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 or take your child home early, please sign in at the office and your child will be brought down to you.

Parking for Sandhills Parents (NEW)



The first four bus lanes are now available for parent parking after the buses have departed. **If you are meeting your child as they come off the bus on the first day, please use the first two parent parking lanes.** If you are bringing your child please do not arrive before 8:50 am to drop-off or 2:20 pm to pick up your child(ren). We must ensure buses have left before we will be releasing students to parents. If you are picking up your child before these times, parents may park single file in front of the school.



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.

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 2020-2021 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, including pre-existing conditions your child has **(NEW)** 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)**. If you would like to receive photos or videos from your child's teacher ensure you check "yes" to these questions.
- **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.

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.



Library Books Return

If your child has library or baggy books that need to be returned please do so as soon as possible.

Library books can be returned to your child's teacher. Thank you for encouraging your children to read.

Nut Safe School Policy

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.** Although classroom cohorts remain together with the same staff members throughout the day, students at times, will share the same spaces...playgrounds, gymnasium, buses, etc. **Therefore, we will continue to be a nut safe school.** Every student's safety is of our utmost concern and we ask for your assistance in keeping students safe.



Appendix

Screening Questionnaire

PARENTS/GUARDIANS/STUDENTS MUST USE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE DAILY TO DECIDE IF THE STUDENT SHOULD ATTEND SCHOOL

Risk Assessment: Initial Screening Questions

		CIRCLE ONE	
1.	Do you, or your child attending the program, have any of the below symptoms:	YES	NO
	• Fever	YES	NO
	• Cough	YES	NO
	• Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing	YES	NO
	• Sore throat	YES	NO
	• Chills	YES	NO
	• Painful swallowing	YES	NO
	• Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion	YES	NO
	• Feeling unwell / Fatigued	YES	NO
	• Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea	YES	NO
	• Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
	• Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
	• Muscle/ Joint aches	YES	NO
	• Headache	YES	NO
	• Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	YES	NO
2.	Have you, or anyone in your household, returned from travel outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3.	Have you or your children attending the program had close <u>unprotected*</u> contact (face-to-face contact within 2 metres) with someone who is ill with cough and/or fever?	YES	NO
4.	Have you or anyone in your household been in close <u>unprotected</u> contact in the last 14 days with someone who is being investigated or confirmed to be a case of COVID-19?	YES	NO

* "unprotected" means close contact without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

If you have answered "**Yes**" to any of the above questions, please **DO NOT** enter the school at this time. You should stay home and use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine whether you need to be tested for COVID-19.

If you have answered "**No**" to all the above questions, you may attend school.