



# 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 15, 2020

Written by Students of Sandhills

## Sandhills Elementary School

### **NEW Procedure: School Council Nominations & Elections**

This school year has seen a number of changes in procedures both at the classroom and at the school level. One of those changes, unfortunately is that the in-person Annual General Meeting will not occur this year. Instead, in consultation with our current School Council Chair, Jason Knelsen, our procedures for nominations and elections for school council will be as follows. **Parents can nominate other parents for school council by calling the school office by Friday, September 18.** The school office will call the nominated parent and ask if they are willing to let their name stand. If so, their name will be added to the election ballot. Election ballots will be sent home in student agendas on Tuesday, September 22. Completed ballots are to be returned by Friday, September 25. In the event the number of nominations fall short of the required number, all nominated parents that let their name stand will form the Sandhills School Council. The newly elected council will meet on Monday, September 28.

**For the 2020-2021 school year, Sandhills has three school council members returning for a second term: Janice Driedger, Nettie Krahn and Bryan Rempel.** School council will consist of 10 parents so there is a need for 7 more parents to be elected to council.

School Councils are “advisory” bodies and parents that sit on school council provide input and advice into matters that assist with the well-being of the school as a whole. The school council represents “all parents” and actively seeks out parent perspectives prior to giving advice on school matters. School council members will also actively support decisions made as a school council.

### **NEW Safe Arrival Procedure**

Sandhills has a new safe arrival procedure that parents should be aware of.

For the safety and security of students the school phone out system will be calling parents when their child is absent without reason. The call will go out every morning at approximately 9:05 am.

**We request that you either:**

- Write a message in your child’s agenda if you know in advance that your child will be absent
- Call the school (780-928-3947) the morning (starting at 8:15am) of your child’s absence and let the office know that your child will be absent.
- Email [sandhillsoffice@fvds.ab.ca](mailto:sandhillsoffice@fvds.ab.ca) to inform us of your child’s absence.

You can also let us know that your child is sick, helping at home, travelling with you, has appointments, etc.

**If you bring your child late please ensure that they enter the front school doors and sign-in at the office.** Thank-you for your cooperation in this matter. We want to ensure your child is safe.

## 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 after 8:45 a.m. **Please do not arrive early as bus lanes will be used by buses for drop-off**
- 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 at 2:20pm.
- 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.

### 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 the Fort Vermilion School Division. Find us and “Like” us on Facebook at:

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

### CARE Bear Assembly

On Tuesday, September 15 all our classes participated in a school-wide virtual assembly. The assembly was different this year as cohorts stayed in their classrooms to learn about the skills they need for learning, our School Motto “CARE” and our school cheer.

### 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.