



# SANDHILLS NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL – Wendy Morris

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – Julie Gallant

FVSD TRUSTEES – Tim Driedger & Benj Friesen

Care

Accountability

Respect

Excellent Effort

**School Mission:** *Sandhills Elementary School is a safe, fun place where our minds and bodies grow.*  
September 2, 2025

*Written by Students of Sandhills*



Today is a very exciting and special day for us all! It is the first day of the 2025-2026 school year. Staff have been anticipating the arrival of the students and have been anxiously and excitedly preparing their classrooms and planning for instruction. We have a very passionate staff who are looking forward to spending the year with your child!

At Sandhills, we are committed to establishing a school that is **a safe, fun place where our minds and bodies grow**. As parents, you can support us by making sure that your children come to school each day rested, healthy and ready to learn.

On behalf of Sandhills, welcome back to school!

## Sandhills Recognized for Achievement in Numeracy

During the 2024–2025 school year, SHES students made tremendous gains in numeracy fluency. Teachers committed to at least ten minutes of intentional fluency practice each day. In Grades 1–3, this time focused on strengthening fact fluency, while Kindergarten students worked on building strong foundational number skills.

The results speak for themselves: year-end assessments showed a 20% school-wide improvement in numeracy. Students are now more confident, capable, and enthusiastic about math.

In recognition of this achievement, Sandhills was honoured with the FVSD Numeracy Award in June. **Congratulations** to our students and staff for their dedication and remarkable growth!

## 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. Every student's safety is of our utmost concern and **we ask that parents do not send/bring any food items to school that contain nuts of any kind, including peanuts**. This is especially important if you are bringing a snack to a class for a celebration. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

## New and Returning Staff at Sandhills

A special welcome goes out to our new staff that have joined the Sandhills Team for the 2025-2026 School year:

- Jeff Driedger, Assistant Principal
- Michael Krahn, PE
- Marie Segovia, Grade 1
- Chantelle Driedger, Grade 2
- Delayna Klassen, Grade 2
- Retchell Del Rio, Grade 3
- Scarlet Esperidion, Grade 3
- Helen Buller, EA
- Megan Giesbrecht, EA
- Rachel Neustaeter, EA
- Lorna Harder, Connection Team

## Cell Phone Usage

The Fort Vermilion School Division has implemented a cell phone policy. No personal devices may be used or be visible in FVSD schools during the school day. This means **staff members will not have access to their cellphones during the school day**. If you have messages during the school day please call the office at 789.928.3947. Parents are asked to to be good role models and keep cell phones out of sight in the building.

## Thank You

Thank you to Home Hardware for their donation of flowers that made for a beautiful display of color, in front of the school, all summer.



## Student Profiles

In previous years your child would have brought home a student demographic form for you to fill out with any changes to your child's information. For the 2025-2026 school year the Fort Vermilion School Division (FVSD) is providing an online re-enrollment form where parents and guardians can review their child's information and sign the form. The online re-enrollment form is for students who attended an FVSD school last year and will be attending an FVSD school in the 2025-2026 school year.

You can now sign in to MyFVSD at [my.fvsvd.ab.ca](https://my.fvsvd.ab.ca) to view students you are associated with and review their student profile.



There are two ways you can sign into MyFVSD:

1. Using a Google (@gmail.com) or Microsoft (@outlook.com) email account that is attached to your contact at school.
2. Through text messaging which will require you to enter the Alberta Student Number (ASN) for one of the students you are associated with. A student's ASN can be found at the top of their report card.

**If you have any questions regarding this process please call the school office at 780.928.3947.**

**Pre-K classes begin on  
Monday, September 15**



## Morning Drop-off Procedures

Parents can begin dropping off their children at **8:30 am each morning**. **The front of the school will be designated for pull-through drop-off only.** Please **do not park in front of the school** during this time as traffic flow will be restricted should vehicles park in front of the school. For those parents requiring wheelchair access or for those that are dropping off students with special needs, please use the designated spots in the front.

**In the morning, parents may park in the first 4 bus lanes. For the safety of students, we request that parents escort their child to the school sidewalk.**

If you have any questions regarding morning drop-off or pick-up procedures please call the school **780.928.3947**.

## After School Pick-up Procedures

**There is one designated spot for picking up children at the end of the school day – the basketball pad 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.
- Students will be dismissed at 3:00 pm each day.
- Teacher responsibility for supervising students ends at 3:10 pm. Please arrive before this time.
- We have three lanes of parking available to parents at the end of the day. **One lane for parking is in front of the school** closest to the main road and there are **2 additional lanes in the bus lanes closest to the main road for parking.** 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 any 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 wait at the front of the school for students who are walking home and escort them across the crosswalk.

**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.**



## Picking Up Your Child During the Day

**FVSD security regulations require that all exit doors to the school, except the front entrance, are locked throughout the school day.**

If you are picking 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.**



## Food Sales

Food sales will not begin until October. Please do not send money with your child to purchase a snack card until further notice.

Thank you.



## 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. Please do not send these to school.** If you have any questions please call the school **780.928.3947**, we will make sure your child's needs are met.



## Volunteers in Schools

### Intervention Record Checks & Vulnerable Sector Checks

As per Fort Vermilion School Division policy, all parents attending a school field trip, volunteering on a regular basis, or working alone with students, must provide Sandhills with a clean **Vulnerable Sector Check** and a clean **Intervention Record Check**. Volunteers are responsible for ensuring that they give a copy of these checks to each school they want to volunteer at.

If you are required to submit a new Vulnerable Sector Check or an Intervention Record Check it must be completed within the last 6 months in order to be considered valid and acceptable.

The **Vulnerable Sector Check** may be obtained at the Mackenzie County Office in La Crete (Monday - Friday between the hours of 8:30 am - 4:30 pm). **You are required to have a letter from FVSD in order to apply for your vulnerable Sector Check.** It can be picked up at the Sandhills office.

In order to obtain an **Intervention Record Check** you can go to the FVSD website and there is a fillable Intervention Record Check form you can access. On the FVSD website, type Intervention Record Check in the search bar, click on Required Record Checks, scroll to Intervention Record Check, Alberta Residents: How to Apply, Click on Intervention Record Check Form. Forward your completed form along with a copy of two (2) pieces of government issued ID (one with a photo) as a second attachment to:

CS.IRCNorth@gov.ab.ca Examples of accepted forms of ID: driver's license, AB identification card, Treaty status card, AHC, firearms license, birth certificate, passport. Do not send a copy of your Social Insurance Number.

Alternately you can click on the following link to access the form. [Intervention Record Check](#)

You can also contact High Level Children's Services by calling 780.926.4441 and they will email you a form.

## Outside Break & Lunch Schedule for 2025-2026 School Year

Grades will be cohorted for outside break times to limit the number of students accessing the playground and therefore outside breaks are at different times of the day for each grade level. There are advantages to having fewer students on our playground; less accidents, less conflict and students had better access to the playground structures. Listed below are the start times, dismissal times, outside break times and lunch time for Sandhills students. Copies of your child's daily schedule will be provided by your child's teacher in September.

Time	Event
8:30 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.	Students Arrive
8:40 a.m.	Morning Bell, Announcements & Opening Exercises
10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Kindergarten/Grade 2 Outside Recess
11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Kindergarten/Grade 2 Lunch Time Grade 1/Grade 3 Outdoor Recess
12:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Grade 1/Grade 3 Lunch Time Kindergarten/Grade 2 Outside Recess
1:45 - 2:00 p.m.	Grade 1/Grade 3 Outside Recess
3:00 p.m.	Dismissal
3:00 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.	Parent Pick-Up

District Wide Cross-Country Meet



### Cross Country Running

Cross Country running club for grades 1-3 students will begin **Tuesday, September 16**. Permission slips will go home during the 2nd week of school. Practices will occur Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-3:45 pm. Divisonals will be held at Rocky Lane School later in September.

Intervention Record Checks and Vulnerable Sector Checks will be required for anyone who wants to volunteer. See the information on page 3 of the newsletter.



### Bicycles and Bike Helmet Reminder

**All Students who ride their bike, skateboard or scooter 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.**

### Terry Fox Run/Walk Picnic in the Park CARE Bear/Terry Fox Assembly

On **Friday, September 19**, Sandhills students and staff will be participating in our Annual Terry Fox Run/Walk.

Students and staff, along with any parents that would like to join us, can join our short assembly, which starts at **11:00 am**. Following this, parents are invited to join students walking and running around the school yard. After the 15 minute Terry Fox walk/run, parents are invited to stay with their children to eat lunch in the park (**please bring your own lunch**).

We are encouraging students to bring a Toonie for Terry, before September 19, in efforts to raise \$300 which will be sent to the Terry Fox Foundation to help in the fight against cancer.

Thank you for your assistance in our efforts to assist with this tremendous cause which means so much to so many.