

# FOUR WINDS PUBLIC SCHOOL

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VP: Christina Dafoe ([christina.dafoe@sturgeon.ab.ca](mailto:christina.dafoe@sturgeon.ab.ca))

## Welcome Firebird Families! Bienvenue aux familles!

We hope that you are still enjoying the last few days of summer holidays. Everybody here at Four Winds is excited to welcome new and returning students to the new school year 2025-2026.

 **Office Hours:** 7:45am–3:15pm

 **Office Staff:** Mrs. Joan Tolsma & Mrs. Kelli Allen — here to help!

*Please note: Office will be closed on Wednesday, Aug. 20th for Professional Development.*

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## Important Updates


- **August 25** → Log into [PowerSchool](#) for homeroom teacher assignments.
- **Weekly Updates** → Check the [Firebird Weekly Update](#) (posted Fridays).

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## Return to School - Ready, Set, Rise!

### Family Night & First Annual Move-in Day

 **Wed, Aug 27, 2025**

 4–6pm

 Food trucks • Meet teachers • Tour the school • Drop off [supplies](#) • A combination lock is required

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## Staggered Start Schedule

- **Thu, Aug 28:** Last names **A–K**
  - **Fri, Aug 29:** Last names **L–Z**
  - **Tue, Sept 2:** All students attend
    - ✓ Bus service provided for students registered as riders with Transportation Dept.
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## Student Arrival & Dismissal

- **Doors Open:** 8:15am (supervision from 8:10–8:25am)
  - **Last Bell:** 2:44pm
    - ⊘ **No cars in bus lane** during:
      - 8:10–8:25am (drop-off)
      - 2:30–2:55pm (pick-up)
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## First Week Highlights

- Homeroom team-building
  - Fearless in the Forest outdoor activity
  - Classroom expectations & routines
  - Teacher family communication plan
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## Deux langues, deux mondes (French Immersion)

- Upcoming French Cultural Activity (Francontre) in September. More information to follow.
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## Firebirds Clubs Day

 **Fri, Sept 12**

- Sign up for clubs, sports, and activities
  - Spirit Day + BBQ lunch 🍔
  - Volunteers needed → [fwps@sturgeon.ab.ca](mailto:fwps@sturgeon.ab.ca)
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## New & Improved for 2025–26

- **School Handbook** → Updated with policies on BYOD, assessment, awards, programs, dress code
- **Open Campus starts September 8th.** Please ensure that your child brings a lunch during the first week of school since Open Campus starts on Monday, September 8th. As a homeroom, Junior High students will be practicing the important skill of leaving campus during lunch time. Students will receive useful social skills on respectful behaviour while in their community as well as skills on supporting their safety.
- **3-Day Rotation Schedule** → The school schedule has been updated to a 3 day rotation. Students rotate through three different days of classes, labeled something like Day 1, Day 2, and Day 3. These rotation days repeat continuously, regardless of the actual day of the week.
  - If there's a holiday or school closure, the rotation just picks up where it left off— so no class gets skipped. The 3-day rotation schedule offers several key benefits for students and families. Most importantly, it creates a more balanced learning experience by spreading subjects evenly across the rotation, ensuring that no class is consistently missed due to holidays, professional development days, or school events.
- **Signature & Complementary Programs** → Our Signature Programs will be at a dedicated time that does not affect core course programming on Day 2 of our rotation. Signature Programs are classes in Sport for Life, Performing Arts, and STEAM for students that completed a spring pre-registration. For students not in a Signature Program, Complementary full year courses will be scheduled at the same time as the Signature Programs and will be different for the elementary than the junior high grade level students. Registration for optional courses will be shared with families **August 27th** and will have a selection form that the student will complete with a parent/guardian.
- **[Bring Your Own Device](#)** → As our school grows, we are no longer able to sustain a 1-to-1 device program in Junior High (Grades 7-9). The BYOD program allows us to continue providing excellent technological resources for our students while managing our school's growth. While Grade 5 and 6

students are welcome to bring their own devices to school, it's not mandatory.

- **Elementary Awards** → Each month, our elementary students will be honored during a special Rise Up Assembly, where we celebrate those who truly embody what it means to be a Firebird. One student from each class will be recognized for demonstrating the core Firebird values of being Friendly, displaying Integrity, showing Respect, and striving toward Excellence. These students inspire their peers and help build a positive, supportive school community. Families are welcome and encouraged to join us during the assembly. These assemblies do replace the year end awards ceremony for the elementary students.
  - **Dress Code Update** → Sweatshirt hoods will not be permitted to be raised and covering the head while inside the school in order to maintain our commitment to reducing disruption in the classroom.
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## Parent Book Club



**Tue, Sept 9 — 5:30pm**



We invite parents interested in studying *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt to our first Book Club. You are welcome to read through the book or to read it chapter by chapter as we progress through the reading as a group.

- Virtual + in-person
  - Monthly meetings
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## First School Council Meeting - Parent Leadership wanted



**Tue, Sept 9 — 6:30pm**

- This is the General Assembly for the School Council, our Parent Leadership team. Elections will take place to select the parent representatives for the School Council.
- All parents, guardians and community members are welcome as elected representatives or members-at-large to attend the monthly meetings. Attending meetings is vital to stay informed and be engaged as partners in education to advise and collaborate in the important work of enhancing learning and wellness for all at Four Winds.
- Four Winds encourages parents to be empowered and represent the voices of our community in the various programs that are offered at school. For instance, School Council would benefit from having the involvement of a parent of a student in French Immersion, in Band, in a specific grade level, and in Signature programs.

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**Contact the Firebird Admin Team anytime.**

We are looking forward to an amazing school year for 2025-2026! Au plaisir de vous revoir à la rentrée!

Regards,

Gidget Bouchard, Principal / Directrice

**Check out Four Winds on our social media sites!**

Instagram: [fourwindspublicschool](#)

Facebook: [Four Winds Public School](#)

Website: [www.fourwindsschool.ca](http://www.fourwindsschool.ca)

School Calendar: [FWPS Calendar](#)