



Families First Society  
FORT SASKATCHEWAN

#thisisourvillage



## March 2020 Newsletter

### From the Executive Director:

Hi everyone,

Well I have written many messages for our newsletter over the years, but never thought that I would be needing to write this one.

Due to funding being discontinued by the Ministry of Children's Services, this March will bring to a close many programs that have been near and dear to our communities. We will say good bye to programs like ChIPS, Kids Can Cook, TWEET, Newbees, EPIC and Playmobs. Programs like Let's Play, Coffee Talk and Dadventures. Services like Home Visitation, ASQ's and all parent education programming and workshops will cease. **The last week of these programs will be March 16 - 20, and the final day for the staff connected to these programs will be March 31.**

The Families First building will be open on March 23 and 24 and then closed for the remainder of the month as we complete the tasks that are necessary when programs come to an end. All appointments that have been booked during this time with staff will still be kept. What April looks like will depend on whether or not we have been successful under the Family Resource Network structure, so we will all need to stay tuned for that.

The following programs are NOT impacted and will continue to be available:

- Parent-Child Mother Goose
- Community Kitchens
- Basic Shelf
- Family Violence Prevention support
- Angel Whispers and Bereavement Services
- Steadfast Connector
- Psychologists Angila and Ashley
- Lending Library as staffing permits
- Diapers and infant formula as staffing permits

Families First has applied to be one of the providers delivering services under the new provincial Family Resource Network model. We won't know until well into March whether or not we will be granted any of that funding, but we do know that if we do receive some, it will be much less than we have had historically. We will need your patience and understanding as we sort out what our new normal is.

Please look after one another. Please continue to be the hand up for those who need one – you are all so good at this – and we will let you know as we know more about our circumstances.

Yours,  
Heather  
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### A message from the Families First Society's Board of Directors:

Families First Society has been providing programming and supports to families for over 20 years in Fort Saskatchewan, and for many of those years, for Sturgeon Region as well. Different staff have come and gone and changed over time but relationships have always been at the heart of our work, and we have continued to fulfill our vision of strong, healthy future generations.

Although these are very uncertain times for us, please know we will strive to provide programs, supports and services in the future, even though the Parent Link Centre banner will no longer exist. We know that the values that we hold and our beliefs in the importance of strong families raising their children won't change. The needs of families in our community for programs, supports and services will still be here and we will do our best to adjust to whatever new situation we find ourselves in.

It is hard to say good-bye to staff who have provided such steadfast support, comfort and care and who have celebrated with families, children and individuals over so many years. However, we know that we have the support of the broader community and hope that you will look after each other as we sort out our new future. Families First will get through this uncertain period in time and will continue to be here for the children, youth and families of our community.

**Mark Your Calendars!** For program details please go to our website.

March 2	Let's Play (Bon Accord)
March 2	Newbee Parents
March 2	Dadventures Fort Sask
March 3	Let's Play (Gibbons)
March 4	Kids Can Cook
March 4	No program today for Let's Play (Morinville)
March 4	Dadventures (Bon Accord)
March 5	Speech Language Pathologist
March 5	Let's Play (Redwater) and Coffee Talk (Legal)
March 6	WECAN Order Due
March 9	Let's Play (Bon Accord)
March 9	Newbee Parents
March 9	Dadventures (Fort Sask)
March 9	EPIC <b>LAST DAY</b>
March 10	Let's Play (Gibbons)
March 11	Let's Play (Morinville)
March 11	Dadventures (Bon Accord)
March 12	Let's Play (Redwater) and Coffee Talk (Legal)
March 14	TWEET <b>LAST DAY</b>
March 14	Angel Whisper's - Whispers of Hope Gala
March 16	Let's Play (Bon Accord) <b>LAST DAY</b>
March 16	Newbee Parents <b>LAST DAY</b>
March 16	Dadventures (Fort Sask)
March 17	Let's Play (Gibbons) <b>LAST DAY</b>
March 18	Let's Play (Morinville) <b>LAST DAY</b>
March 18	Kids Can Cook <b>LAST DAY</b>
March 18	Dadventures (Bon Accord) <b>LAST DAY</b>
March 19	ChIPS <b>LAST DAY</b>
March 19	Let's Play (Redwater) and Coffee Talk (Legal) <b>LAST DAY</b>
March 19	WECAN Order Pickup – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
March 22	Dadventures (Fort Sask - Fort Gymnastics Club) <b>LAST DAY</b>
<b>March 25 to 31</b>	<b>Our office will be closed</b>

## DADVENTURES

### Fort Gymnastics Club

9419 - 94 Avenue  
(Old Johnny B Fitt Building)  
Fort Saskatchewan

**Sunday, March 22 (Last Day)**  
**4:00 to 6:00 pm**

(A Light supper will be served)

Families First Society is grateful to offer this program as a proud partner of the **5<sup>th</sup> Generation Network** of Fort Saskatchewan.

**Our office will be closed from March 25 to March 31.**

*Please stay tuned for information for April office hours.*

### Come visit us at:

9901 - 90 Street  
Fort Saskatchewan, AB

**780-998-5595 ext. 221**

(Toll free 587-487-6176)

Fax: 780-998-5503

[www.familiesfirstsociety.ca](http://www.familiesfirstsociety.ca)

[info@familiesfirstsociety.ca](mailto:info@familiesfirstsociety.ca)

### Hours:

Monday to Friday

8:30 am to 4:00 pm



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### Mailing Address:

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