



# NPCS Eagle Express



December , 2011

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

### OCD and Idol Discerning at Christmas

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Elementary Basketball  
(attached form)

Perhaps you've heard about Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and you can imagine how it applies to Christmas behaviours. You know, like buying gift after gift after gift to the point where the gift buying is more important than the person for whom the gift is intended. Or when putting up strings and strings of lights becomes more important than the occasion the lights should celebrate. Or when we consume rich foods far past the point where we are eating for the sake of eating rather than for the joy of sharing a communal meal.

This past weekend I heard about another kind of OCD, a disorder I had never heard diagnosed this way. I heard Garland Owensby, a Christian humorist, speak on my car radio about Offended Christian Disorder just as I drove past a billboard that proclaimed "Keep Christ in Christmas" and just hours after I received one of the annual emails urging me to boycott stores where the clerk wishes me "Happy Holidays" rather than "Merry Christmas."

Oh, yes, we Offended Christians will show those non-believers what our values are all about! If they want my money for their merchandise they had better wish me a merry Christmas. Whether or not they believe that God so loved the world that He sent His Son, they should know that the way to a Christian's wallet is through the Christmas carols we hear in their store and the proper greeting by the cashier. That is sure to teach them about the love of God for them, right?

But what if we were cured of OCD? What if Christians shopped with a smile on their faces, a smile especially for those harried clerks who have been told not to say "Merry Christmas." She: "Happy Holidays, sir." Me (sincerely): "I really hope that you have a happy and blessed Christmas, too." He: Happy Holidays, sir." Me (sincerely): "I like the music in here. Thank you for not trying to use my favourite Christmas songs just to put customers into a buying mood." Do you not think that might do more to keep Christ in Christmas than complaining about "X-mas"?

At Neerlandia Public Christian School we are **teaching for transformation**. We want our students to make a difference in the world and to be change agents who join Jesus in the redemptive work of making all things new. We want them to recognize the idols of our times; to struggle against injustice, to rebuild broken communities. But we want them to do so because Christ IS in Christmas! As God did not put any pre-conditions on His Gift to us, so we want to work in this world to make a difference, especially among those who don't yet know what Christmas is all about. We don't want our students to be infected with OCD; we want them to be a light in the darkness. What our students learn at this school should make people want to know about the Christ in Christmas who brings joy to the world rather than money in the cash register.

*Looking for a unique gift for Christmas or a stocking stuffer?*

*Give a **NPCS COOKBOOK** to your aunt, grandma, neighbor, or friend this season. It's a memorable gift to be cherished for many years to come.*

*Available at the school office, Neerlandia Co-op or Barrhead Bakery for **\$15.00 per copy.***

Our theme for the month of December is “Idol-Discerning.” Satan tempts us with many idols at Christmas time and most of them are designed to keep us from celebrating and proclaiming God’s love for a sinful people. Let’s not allow our efforts to “keep Christ in Christmas” become an obstacle to our ability to reach out to others with His love.

Drika and I wish all of you Happy Holidays and, in the middle of them, a most joyous and blessed Christmas celebration!

P.S. Did you know that the Christian Church has used the Greek letter Chi as an abbreviation for “Christ” since the early Middle Ages? Did you know that this Greek letter is written as *X* as in *Χριστός*? X-mas has a long and honourable Christian (Xtian?) tradition! It wasn’t until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century that “brand X” began to confuse us.

*Mr. Duthler*

## SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

### SYMPATHY TO MOES FAMILY

The NPCCS staff, students and community were all deeply saddened when they heard the news of the tragic death of the father of a couple of our students, Alekz & Luke Moes. May the Lord continue to bring strength and comfort to the family during this difficult time.

### JR. HIGH CTS CLASSES

Trimester #2 CTS classes begin on Nov. 30 and will end on March 6. The courses offered for Tri. #2 are: Babysitting, Computer, Outdoor Ed, Home-Ec and we have added Electronics. We would like to thank Mr. Alvin Wruk for volunteering to help again with the Electronics class and also to the people who have volunteered to help with Home-Ec classes. If you would still like to help out with a couple of these classes, please let us know. There will be a fee for some of these courses and a note will go home with the students next week.

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

We will be having our Christmas Program on the evening of Wed., Dec. 21 at 7:00 p.m. This will be held in the sanctuary of the church. Everyone is welcome to join us!

CHRISTMAS Donations: As has been done in the past, we are encouraging donations to a charity at this year's Christmas Program. We have chosen this year the **TREE OF HOPE**, the Barrhead Hospital's effort to raise sufficient funds to purchase a **Panda Warmer used for new born babies**. There will be a collection box at the Christmas Program for cash donations and if you want to write a cheque you can make it payable to “Tree of Hope” and receipts will be issued from the Barrhead Health Centre.

*Christmas  
Program  
7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday  
Dec. 21st*

## ST. NICK DAY



Celebration of Sinterklaas is held on December 5. We will be celebrating it on **Thursday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>** at NPCCS. St. Nicholas accompanied by his faithful companion, Zwarte Piet, will arrive at Neerlandia School at 12:40 pm. He will visit grades K-3 beginning with kindergarten and spending 20-30 minutes in each room. He will pop in and say “Hi” to the other grades.

Each classroom will be arranging their own activities for the afternoon. Most classes will be having a special lunch or snacks throughout the day and parents will be notified of what food items to send along. Also all students will receive a name of a fellow student for which they **make or buy a small gift (\$5 value)**. A poem about the gift or the recipient should be attached to the **outside** of the present. Everyone should have received information in regards to their classroom’s plans, etc. We would like **all GIFTS handed in no later than Tues., Dec. 6** to ensure that each child has a gift. Thank you to all the parents for bringing in food items, etc. to make this day so special.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES

Many thanks to all students and families who donated to Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child this year and filled a shoebox for those in need. NPCCS filled over **50 boxes** in addition to some cash donations.

## PICTURE ORDERS



- **Smart Photography** has sent out our Picture Packages that were taken on October 13.
- **These were sent home with students yesterday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>.**
- If you are missing a picture package or have any questions, please give us a call or you can call Smart Photography directly at: 1-877-838-0800.
- Retake pictures that were taken last week, Nov. 24 will not be available for a few weeks; hopefully they will arrive before Christmas Break.

## SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

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### VOLLEYBALL

The Jr. High ‘A’ Volleyball teams finished their season on a high by bringing home gold medals from the Pembina Hills divisional tournament that was held at R.F. Staples on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>. All of our teams played well this year and we want to say a BIG thank you to all of the coaches and parents that drove to and from games/tournaments, etc.

### BASKETBALL:

#### Jr. High Basketball:

Now that Jr. High Volleyball is finished we will be starting Jr. High Basketball next week. Arjan Koekkoek & Jennifer Tuininga have once again volunteered to be the coaches for our Girls’ Team and Trenton Wierenga & Richard De Vries will be coaching the Boys’ Team.

The girls will practice on Mon. & Wed. and the boys will practice on Tues. and Thurs. The times will be from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. each day up until Christmas break. Starting in Jan. the Gr. 4-6 students will begin their Basketball season and the schedule will change to: Mondays from 5:00 – 6:00 for girls and Tuesdays from 5:00 -6:00 for boys.



### **Jr. High Shoot the Hoops Basketball Clinic:**

Ossie Hinds, Coach of the King's University College Women's Basketball team, will be here on **Friday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.** in our gym for a basketball clinic. All Jr. High students that are planning on playing basketball this year are encouraged to attend this very worthwhile clinic. Please return forms to Mr. Wierenga no later than Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Elementary Basketball:**

Starting in January the Gr. 4-6 students will be encouraged to come out and play some basketball after school. The emphasis will be on fitness and fun. The practices will be on Mon. & Tues. from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. each day. The first practice will be on Monday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>. We request that parents fill out the permission form attached to this newsletter and return to us as soon as possible so we have a record of who is allowed to stay, etc. Mr. Bosma once again, will be running this program.

### **FUNDRAISERS:**



**POINSETTIA ORDERS:** Poinsettias are **ready to be picked up from Southside** greenhouse **on Dec. 8 or 9.** If you were one of the people who ordered these, please take along your receipt when you pick up your plant (they also have Master List in case you have lost your receipt). Over \$400.00 was raised from the Poinsettia sales. NCES thanks you for your support!



**SCENTSY ORDERS:** The Grade 9 class fundraiser for Gr. 9 Graduation was to sell Scentsy products. These orders have arrived and we would like anyone that placed an order to stop by next week (Dec. 5-8) to pick up the orders. You may come to the office for your order. Thank you for your support!

### **NPCSC/NCES News**

School Council positions have now been determined for the 2011-2012 school year:

President: Sonja DeWaal 780-674-6515

Vice President: Wes Wierenga 780-674-4760

Past President: Geraldine Wierenga 780-674-4987

Treasurer: Randy Strydhorst 780-674-8621 & Dave Hospers 780-674-8872

Secretary: Erin Nanninga 780-674-4268

Communications Representative: Heidi Demuynck – 780-674-3325

Community Representative: Beatrice Visser 780-674-6297

The following is a little information about each of the 2011-2012 members of the Neerlandia Public Christian School Council (NPCSC) and the Neerlandia Christian Education Society (NCES).

**Sonja De Waal** 780-674-6515

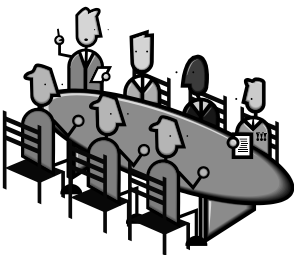
Sonja is married to Egbert. They have three children attending our school. Stephanie – grade 7, Arend – grade 4, Karla – grade 2. Sonja has just finished obtaining her Education degree at the University of Alberta. Sonja enjoys reading, swimming, running as well as camping and hiking in the mountains with her family. Their family attends the Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church.

**Wes Wierenga** 780-674-4760

Wes is a general trades person and farms with his wife Ramona in Neerlandia. Wes is also the bus driver of the *Neerlandia Express bus*. They have seven children: Colton, Whitney, Luke – grade 12, Mariah – grade 9, Isaiah – grade 5, Austin – grade 3 and Noah, still at home. Their family attends the Emmanuel Reformed Church.

**Geraldine Wierenga** 780-674-4987

Geraldine and Julius have four children: Daniel – grade 4, Jesse – grade 7, Janaye – grade 8. Jordan attends grade 12 at Barrhead Composite High. Julius is a welder and owns Platinum J. Enterprises Ltd. Geraldine enjoys music, gardening, camping, sewing and reading. Their family attends the Neerlandia Canadian Reformed Church.



**Randy Strydhorst** 780-674-8621

Randy grew up in Neerlandia and attended Trinity Western University to obtain his BBA (Bachelor of Business Administration) in 1997. He returned home and began farming, purchasing his first piece of land in the summer of 1999. In December of 1999 he married Carla De Groot and has 4 children: Hailey – grade 4, Kianna – grade 3, Avery – grade 2 and Amber - age 4. The Lord has blessed Randy and Carla with a farm life and family that keep them both on their toes. They attend the Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church.

**Dave Hospers** 780-674-8872

Dave is married to Christina. They have four children attending our school. Jan – grade 7, Matthys – grade 6, Henry – grade 4, Marian – grade 2. Dave is involved with the Alberta Pork Association. Dave and Christina farm a mixed hog and grain operation. Their family attends the Neerlandia Canadian Reformed Church.

**Erin Nanninga** 780-674-4268

Erin is married to Mike. They have three children attending school. Naomi – grade 8, Kayla – grade 6, and Ethan James – grade 3. Erin works for Canada Post and enjoys running, hiking, cooking, scrapbooking and photography. Their family attends the Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church.

**Heidi Demuynck** 780-674-3325

Heidi is a single parent to Mackenzie - grade 8 and Sophia - grade 4. Heidi attends the Barrhead Alliance Church where she is a Sunday School teacher. Heidi also volunteers as a Truth and Training councillor and serves on a sponsor committee for the Barrhead Royal Canadian Air Cadets.

**Beatrice Visser** 780-674-6297

Beatrice currently lives in Neerlandia with her husband Rick. They have 4 children Reuben, Kevin, Nathaniel and Carline. They attend the Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church.

Next school council meeting is JANUARY 30TH, 2012 at 7:30 pm. Parents and community members are always welcome to attend the monthly meetings.

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## LIBRARY NEWS



### LIBRARY HOURS

**Monday-Thursday**

9:00-12:00; 1:00-4:30

**Wednesdays**

7:00-9:00 p.m.

**No full-day Fridays**

**Library closed for Christmas Break Dec. 23/2011-Jan. 8/2012.**

We will be **open 2 days** during the holidays:

**Thursday, Dec. 29 and Thursday, Jan. 5**

**10AM-7PM**

Library will be **closed DEC. 1 and DEC. 2 for Professional Development**

### GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER



**Library gift cards are in!** These can be picked up at the Library this week.

Call us if you have any questions (780-674-5384).

We want to give a **big thank you** to all who supported our gift card fundraiser!

We made over **\$700.00**. In case you missed ordering this round—watch for our gift card fundraiser in the spring.

### USED BOOK SALE

Dec. 1-29

.50 cent/book or other offers

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**



- Dec. 1&2: P.D. for teachers, no classes
- Dec. 8: St. Nick Day celebrations, p.m.
- Dec. 9: Alternate Day, no classes
- Dec. 14: Jr. High Band Concert, 3:15 p.m. in the gym
- Dec. 16: Alternate Day, no classes
- Dec. 21: Christmas Program, 7:00 p.m. at Neerlandia CRC  
(church across from school)
- Dec. 22: Science in Motion, PM in our gym
- Dec. 23: Alternate Day, no classes

Christmas Break: Dec. 23/11 – Jan. 8/12 (first day back: Mon., Jan. 9, 2012)

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(please tear off and return to NPCCS)

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**GRADE 4-6 BASKETBALL  
PERMISSION FORM**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_  
(parent/guardian name) (child's name)

**give permission for my child to participate in the after-school Basketball program at Neerlandia Public Christian School . The games/practices will take place each Mon. & Tues. (4:00 – 5:00 p.m.) from Jan. 16/12 to approximately the end of March , 2012.**

**I am responsible for ensuring that my child/ren have transportation arrangements made for each day that my child/ren stay to play.**

**Note: Only students playing basketball should be staying after school.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)