



NPCS Eagle Express



January 11, 2012

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Dear Drika;

You'd think I would have learned by now. You'd think that I would have an article ready for Mrs. Fisher to print in *The Eagle Express*. After all, it's the first Wednesday of the month! But I don't, although I've been thinking about it for at least two days, ever since she first reminded me on Monday. The problem is that when you're the principal you have to come up with something that is actually worth reading and even inspiring! Preferably something visionary about Christian education.

But I haven't been able to decide what to write about that I haven't said in previous articles. Perhaps I just haven't recovered yet from our relaxing holiday together over the Christmas break. After all, it was great, wasn't it? No schedules to keep, no deadlines. Just lots of time together and with the kids and grandkids. Even buying a new Corolla for you (to replace the one that was wrecked in what looked like a minor accident) was probably the easiest car purchase we ever made. I'm still so thankful that only the plastic and metal was damaged and that you and the other driver were not hurt at all! Yes, it was a good holiday, but now I'm back at my desk and trying to avoid that "is your article ready" look from Mrs. Fisher.

Hey, I just had a glimmer of an idea! Lori Tiemstra had a wonderful devotion for our staff on Tuesday morning. It was all about how we need to be reminded to be Christlike, to bear the fruit of "Christlikeness." It was a beautiful reminder that we shouldn't keep Christ just in Christmas but to let him live in and through us all 365 days of the year. It reminded me of Brenda Gelderman's January devotion two years ago. As a matter of fact, I also used that as the inspiration for my article in the January 2009 *Eagle Express*. This is what I wrote in response to what Brenda had said then:

What is the official date on which we stop saying "Happy New Year" to people? Why do we stop at all? At our staff devotions on Tuesday morning Brenda Gelderman read an article entitled "Happy Day!" The message was that we need to celebrate the joy and hope of the New Year each day, celebrating the excitement that God in Christ makes everything new for us every day. As the Psalmist would have said it, "This is the Day, Week, Month, and Year that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

The more we realize that this is the year that the Lord has made, the more we will look for opportunities to use our learning to serve Him and all His creation. As Ephesians 2:10 says about the children of the King: "For we are God's



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Health Newsletter (attached)

workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

So, even if we don’t say “Happy New Year” anymore in a few days, I really want us to take up Brenda’s suggestion to begin every morning this year with a hopeful and prayerful “Happy New Day!”

I sort of wish I hadn’t written that two years ago. Then I could have used it now because it is still so meaningful and appropriate. Except that I would add, with Brenda and Lori, the prayer that our happy new days will be filled with opportunities to be Christ-like in our relationships and in our attitudes. Lori closed her devotion by asking us to sing Saint Francis’ prayer as our prayer for this week and the new year: “Make me a channel of your peace.”

Yes! That’s it! I should write about our school’s challenge to help our students pray to be channels of God’s peace, love and grace. It’s the only way that redemptive teaching, teaching for transformation, is going to become reality at NPCCS. If Learning to Serve is going to be anything more than a catchy slogan for our school we are going to have to help our students understand that it is in Christ that we receive the gift of joining Him in making all things new and the gift of Christlikeness as we go about that work of transformational service.

I’d like to write about that, Drika, but I don’t think I’ll get the chance. Mrs. Fisher needed my article an hour ago and I haven’t even started yet. She will just have to find something else to fill my space. Perhaps I’ll write a short article on the upcoming production of *Romeo and Juliet*? In the meantime I’ll think about a New Year’s resolution to get *Express* articles done before they are (over)due.

See you soon, Drika.

Love,

Gary

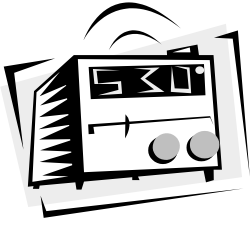
SCHOOL WIDE NEWS



Romeo and Juliet Are Coming to Celebrate Neerlandia’s Centennial!

During the first week of May, students at Neerlandia Public Christian School will have the unique opportunity of participating in the production of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*. During that week a team of performers from Theatre Prospero will join us for a 5-day residency program. That means that they will work with the drama students to learn the play and to prepare for a full-scale performance. They will also work with the band and other students for the music and the ball-room scene in the play. And they will work with still other students to design and create the scenery.

As you can imagine, it is going to be an amazing week in which our students will be part of a truly professional drama experience. At the end of the week, on Friday, May 4, there will be a public performance of the play and the whole community will be invited. We will dedicate this event to the celebration of Neerlandia’s Centennial in 2012.



PEMBINA HILLS SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCEDURES

Emergency School Closing (Threats, Inclement Weather, Power Failures and Water Shortage)

If schools are to be closed for the day because of inclement weather, parents should listen to radio stations to find out if the busses are running. They usually begin these announcements as early as 6:30 a.m. on most radio stations.

If a bus driver determines not to make his/her run based on inclement weather, he/she will make every reasonable effort to notify the parents of students on the route.



Clothing – All students riding on a school bus during the winter months shall be required to be prepared for unexpected severe weather conditions. The student shall carry with them appropriate winter footwear, outerwear, including headgear, gloves or mitts. Students inadequately prepared for winter conditions will be reported to the parents and the principal by the driver.

Unforeseen Early Dismissal: Students

All students are to remain in school until alternate arrangements have been made.

If students are dismissed early because of emergency conditions, schools shall attempt to contact parents, or the individuals on the student's emergency contact list. The closure will be announced on local radio stations and on the School/Division Web-site where possible.

Parents (or emergency contacts where parents are unavailable) of primary, elementary and junior high students must be contacted before students are dismissed.

Where it is suspected that no parent is at home or the student's emergency contact is not available, alternate arrangements shall be made.

Unforeseen Early Dismissal: Bussing

When student transportation is affected by unforeseen early dismissal (i.e. inclement weather, power failure, etc.) staff will enact the appropriate notification procedures. At NPCS this will be done by NPCS staff calling home. The Director of Transportation or designate will be responsible for organizing the bus arrivals for early dismissals, but please note that this process may take upwards of one (1) hour or more and the school will keep students in school until the busses are available.



CTS FEES

Our Jr. High students started their Trimester #2 courses on Nov. 30th. Thanks to everyone who has paid fees for these courses, however, there are several students that have not paid their fees.

The fees are: Babysitting - \$15.00, Robotics - \$25.00, Outdoor Ed - \$15.00 and Home-Ec - \$25.00. If you are writing cheques to pay for these fees, please make them payable to Pembina Hills Reg. Div. #7. If you do not know whether you have paid, please feel free to call the office.

RURAL CRIME WATCH POSTER CONTEST

At our assembly on Thurs., Dec. 22, the following students received some prizes (gift certificates) from the Rural Crime Watch Association.

Congratulations to the following students.

Grade 7 winners:

1st place: Nolan Tuininga

2nd place: Dawson Fisher

3rd place: Stephanie De Waal



Grade 8 winners:

1st place: Devon VanAssen

2nd place: Jazmin Chilito

3rd place: Lyndon Krikke

Grade 9 winners:

1st place: Hannah Raju

2nd place: Bryan Aikema

3rd place: Max Vriend

Two of our students, Hannah Raju and Devon VanAssen, also won at the Area level and if their posters are chosen they will be displayed in the Rural Crime Watch calendars.



TREE OF HOPE

We want to thank everyone who made donations to the Tree of Hope project at our Christmas Concert. We received \$748.50 in donations. If a donation was made with a cheque for more than \$20.00 people should have received a tax receipt mailed to them from the Alberta Health Care Centre. **Thank You!**



STUFFY DAY

Elementary students are encouraged to bring to school one of their favorite stuffed animals on Stuffy Day, January 26th.

HOME GROUPS

Our Teaching for Transformation theme for January is “Image Reflecting,” reminding us that we bear the image of God in our daily lives.

Students will celebrate this theme as we meet in Home Groups on Tues., Jan. 31, followed by an assembly in the gym at approximately 9:00 a.m. Parents and community members are always welcome to attend these monthly assemblies that last for approximately 30 minutes.



FUNDRAISERS

CHICKEN NUGGET LUNCH: The NPCSC/NCES will be hosting a Chicken Nugget lunch on Thursday, January 26th. Order forms will be coming out a week or so prior to this date, so watch for these to come home with your children.

SPORTS NEWS

BASKETBALL



Elementary Basketball:

The Elementary Basketball practices will be on Mon. & Tues. from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. each day. The first practice will be on Monday, Jan. 16th.

We request that parents of Gr. 4-6 students fill out the permission form attached to Dec. newsletter and return to us as soon as possible so we have a record of who is allowed to stay. Mr. Bosma once again, will be running this program.

Jr. High Girls & Boys should also have handed in their forms and fees before Christmas. If you have not done so, please give to coach or hand in to the office a.s.a.p.

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE	
January – March, 2012	
Mondays:	4:00 – 5:00 – Elem. Basketball 5:00 – 6:00 – Jr. High Girls
Tuesday:	4:00 – 5:00 - Elem. Basketball 5:00 – 6:00 – Jr. High Boys
Wednesday:	4:00 – 5:30 – Jr. High Girls
Thursdays:	4:00 – 5:30 – Jr. High Boys

NPCSC and NCES NEWS

Council members:

- President: Sonja DeWaal 780-674-6515
- Vice President: Wes Wierenga 780-674-4760
- Past President: Geraldine Wierenga 780-674-4987
- Treasurers: Randy Strydhorst 780-674-8621 & David Hospers 780-674-8872
- Secretary: Erin Nanninga 780-674-4268
- Communications Representative: Heidi Demuynck – 780-674-3325
- Community Representative: Beatrice Visser 780-674-6297



NPCSC/NCES Fundraiser Committee is looking for some **VOLUNTEERS** to put together a **Fundraiser Evening**. It will coincide with the Theatre Prospero (Romeo & Juliet) evening that will be happening between April 30 and May 4. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Heather Fisher at 780-674-9484 or Erin Nanninga at 780-674-4268.

School cookbooks (3rd edition) are still available from the office, Neerlandia Co-op or Barrhead Bakery for \$15.00 each. These make great gifts for anytime of the year. Next meeting of the NPCSC/NCES to be held on Mon., Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the staffroom. Parents are always welcome to join us for any of the monthly meetings.

LIBRARY NEWS



January Library Hours

Monday-Thursday

8:30-12:00; 1:00-4:30

Wednesday Evenings

7:00-9:00 pm

No Fridays Open

Rhyme Time begins Feb. 1

Every Wednesday

10:15-11:00AM

Feb. 1-March 21

For ages 0-3 years and siblings

Call the library to register

780-674-5384

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Jan. 13 - *Alternate Day*

Jan. 20 - *Alternate Day*

Jan. 26 – ‘Stuffy’ Day – Elem. students to bring their favorite stuffed animal
- Chicken Nugget Lunch served by Parent Council

Jan. 27 – *Alternate Day*

Jan. 31 – Home Groups and assembly at 9:00 a.m.

Advance notice:

Feb. 2 – Grade 5 Edmonton field trip

Feb. 6 – Monday, extra kindergarten day

Feb. 9 & 10 – Teachers’ Convention (no classes)

Feb. 15 – Grade 6 Edmonton field trip

Feb. 24 – Evergreen Theatre (Princess Prudence...) at 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. at NPCS gym

June 8th – Grade 9 Graduation – mark this date on your calendars

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOST: A white DS Nintendo with Games: Phineas & Ferb on it was lost by a student before the Christmas holidays. If anyone knows the whereabouts of this item, please contact the school office (780-674-5581) or Erin Nanninga (780-674-4268).

Attention all young people: There is a **Youth Gym Night** every Tuesday evening at the Barrhead Composite High School from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. This is for all children ages 10 and up, bring a friend or parent to come out and play sports. There is no cost to join this event so come out and have fun. For more information you can contact Erin Nanninga.

