



NPCS Eagle Express



November 2, 2011



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Dear Parents,

One of the things we love at this school is communication with and from the home. We could not be an effective school, and certainly not a Christian school community without effective communication. I could write a whole article on that, and probably will in the future. Today, I would like to raise a caution about some kinds of phone calls we receive.

You know that Mrs. Fisher is very busy with all kinds of administrative duties. Unless she does those well, things at school will not run smoothly and people will blame the principal. So, I need your help to keep her focused.

1. Caller ID is a wonderful invention – most of the time. Quite often students phone home at break times but leave no message when you do not pick up the phone. Your phone tells you that someone called from the school. You call us to find out who called you. When we realize that it was probably one of your children, you ask us to tell them that you are now home and they can call you again. Mrs. Fisher has to check the schedules to see where the class is at that moment and interrupt the teacher with that message. The student will then ask to be excused from class. All of this can be avoided in one of two ways:
 - a. The students should be encouraged to leave a message when they call.
 - b. You may assume that if they did not leave a message it either was not really important or else they will call back. (This applies to calls from teachers as well, of course. You may assume that it was important and that they will call back.)
2. Mrs. Fisher will gladly handle emergency messages from parents to children. It's part of what she does. However, she gets a lot of messages in the course of a day about children who need to go to Aunt Mabel instead of Cousin Mary after school. While she is running down the hall to deliver this message, the phone is sure to ring with another two or three similar messages, some of which get missed because it's hard to find time to check voice mail at the end of the school day. Then parents get upset because the children ended up at Cousin Mary's, anyway.

Here's how to avoid these situations:

If your children need to travel on another bus or go to another location at the end of the school day, or if you will not be home when they arrive, please tell them about it in the morning. If you think they need a reminder, write a note to the teacher in their agendas. Phone the school only if it was impossible to make the arrangements before they left in the morning.

If you do need to inform the children of a last-minute change of plans, call as early as possible so that we can get the message to them before the end-of-school rush.

If there are multiple children who need that message, we will inform the oldest who then becomes responsible for letting the siblings know.

Don't get me wrong, we really do love to hear from you and will try to be helpful. Also, remember that we really would like you to call us when for any reason your child will not be at school. It is important to know that students who are absent have not missed the bus and been left along the road. It saves us a phone call to make sure that you know where your child is.

Thanks for the help,

Mr. Duthler

Contents

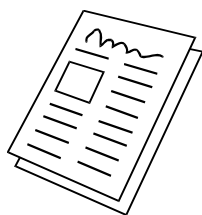
Principal's Message	1
School Wide News	2 & 3
Picture Info	2
CTS/Home-Ec	3
Upcoming Events	3 & 4
Remembrance Day	3
St. Nick Day	3 & 4
Christmas Child	4 & 5
Christmas Program	5
Sports	5
NPCSC/NCES	5
Fundraisers	6
Library News	6 & 7
Calendar of Events	7
Demographic Info. (attached form)	
Library Fundraiser (attached form)	

SCHOOL WIDE NEWS

NPCS uses PowerSchool

What is PowerSchool? PowerSchool is a web-based program that is a communication tool to be used to keep parents up-to-date with their child's progress. This tool is also used in the office to track attendance, fees, demographics, AB Ed info., emergency contacts, medical information, transportation and much more.

The Jr. High teachers have been using this tool for a couple of years already and parents have been able to access the webpage and information. We would now like to include the Gr. 4-6 students and parents and Mr. Raju will be offering a **PowerSchool Training Session for parents on Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Computer Lab.



We will be giving out your Web ID passwords and a pamphlet of what the grading system will look like using PowerSchool. If you are a Jr. High parent that would like to sit in on these sessions, you are more than welcome to do so.

Parents that are unable to attend will receive the passwords and pamphlet home with their child.

What about Grade 1-3? We will be sending home a mini-report with Grade 1-3 students on Thurs., Nov. 10th. We hope to have all Gr.1-9 students on PowerSchool by the end of the school year.

We need your help!

We need to update our information in PowerSchool and obtain cell phone numbers, email addresses, etc. Please make corrections/additions, etc. on the sheets that will be sent home with this newsletter. The more information we have the better off we are in order to meet the needs of you and your child. You will notice that legal names are used because this is our reporting system for Alberta Education, so it must match the Birth Certificate names but the AKA name can be the name that you want us to use for your child. We apologize if there is any incorrect or out-dated information, that's why we need YOU to update and keep us informed.

Also remember to check out our school's web page for information, newsletters and important days at <http://www.neerlandiaschool.ca>

PICTURE PACKAGES



- **Smart Photography** – you should have received your picture packages with your child yesterday.
- **Please return these packages BEFORE/BY DUE DATE of Wed. Nov. 9th** – we need to return these via courier so if we get some in late there will be a \$10.00 fee charged per package and must be sent directly to Smart Photography.
- **Retake Date** has not yet been determined but we will let you know this very soon. If you need a Retake, please indicate this on your package and also if you were absent for the first picture day, then you can have your picture taken on Retake Day.

Lock Down

We will be doing a Lock Down practice at NPCS this coming Thurs., Nov. 3rd. Please refer to last month's newsletter in regards to what will happen, etc. Please discuss this with your child before this practice to ensure they know what to expect.

CTS TRIMESTER #2 CLASSES

Our Jr. High Tri. #2 classes will begin on Nov. 30 and continue until Mar. 6th. Classes for Tri. #2 are: Computer, Baby Sitting, Home-Ec & Outdoor Ed. There will be fees attached to Baby Sitting, Home-Ec & Outdoor Ed courses and students will be given notes when the classes begin. Thanks to everyone who paid for their Tri. #1 fees, however there are a few people that have not yet paid (we will be sending home notices with these students).



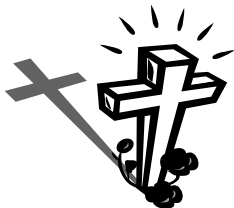
HOME-EC

We need some parent volunteers to help out with our Home-Ec cooking classes that will begin on Nov. 30. Classes are held on every Day 4 from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. We already have a list of a few volunteers but if you want to help out please give us a call.

Mrs. Rauscher, a Program Assistant, will help with planning menus, organizing classes, etc. but would like at least 1 or 2 volunteers per class to help with cooking, etc.

UPCOMING EVENTS

REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY



Our Remembrance Day assembly will be held on **Nov. 10** at **10:30 a.m.** in the gym.

We are excited to announce that we will have a special **guest speaker, Sgt. Vincent Tetreault** at this assembly. He has many years of experience and will have many interesting things to share with us. Everyone is welcome to attend this as well.

Poppies are available to students and we have extras in the office if you would like one.

Donations for poppies are gratefully accepted.

St. Nick Day

*Celebration
of Sinterklaas
at NPCS will
be on
Thurs., Dec.
8 (PM)*

History: St. Nicholas was a man who loved God and who served God by caring for those in need. St. Nicholas was a Bishop in Turkey during the 4th Century who became widely known for his good deeds for people in need—hungry children, sailors, victims of injustice. Because St. Nicholas always wanted people to praise and thank God, not him, he did his good deeds in secret.

St. Nicholas is also known as the patron saint of Amsterdam. Many different versions of the story of Saint Nicholas are told but there are some common characters in each one.

First is Saint Nick's companion, Zwarte Piet (Black Peter). He was a Turkish orphan who traveled as St. Nicholas' helper. His darker Turkish features must have seemed black to the fairer Dutch.

Today, St. Nicholas is portrayed as a gentle figure and Zwarte Piet is a jokester. Children place straw or carrots in their shoes for Schimmel (horse) and St. Nicholas replaces these with gifts and treats. People will also exchange gifts and usually attach a funny poem or verse.



The tradition of St. Nicholas came to North America with immigrants from Europe. Because our community has a Dutch heritage, the tradition of Sinterklaas lives on. At Neerlandia Public Christian School, St. Nicholas comes to visit with Zwarte Piet for an afternoon. Children exchange gifts in their classrooms and treats of pepernoten (ginger snaps) and candies are given to each child. The gift giving celebration of St. Nicholas' feast day also gives separation from the celebration of Christmas and its true meaning.

Celebration of Sinterklaas is held on December 5. We will be celebrating it on **Thurs., Dec. 8**. 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 if time permits.



Each classroom will be arranging their own activities for the afternoon. Most classes will be having a special lunch or snacks throughout the afternoon 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. Please watch for your child's classroom note regarding their plans for this special day.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our school will participate once again in the **Operation Christmas Child** project. There will be boxes available from the office and from the homeroom teachers. This can be a class project or individual families may want to fill one or more boxes.

Here are some ideas for shoe boxes:

School supplies: pens, pencils, pencil crayons, note pads and picture books

Toys: small stuffed animals, small musical instruments, hair clips, toy jewelry

Clothing: T-shirts, socks

Candy: loose, individually wrapped, hard candy in a sealable bag

Hygiene items: hard soap in sealable bag

You can include a personal note and/or a photo but don't place note inside the donation envelope.



Do not include: toothpaste, food, chewy, crumbly or soft candy including gum, decks of playing cards, used items, no liquids or items that could leak, melt, freeze or break (shampoo, creams, lip balm, bath gels, mirrors or glass items), items that could scare or harm a child (war-related toys, knives, toy guns, etc.)



You can also make a donation as it costs \$7.00 for each shoe box to help cover shipping costs, etc. Place your cheque or cash donation in the envelope from brochure (request from office). Please make **donations** to Samaritan's Purse (cheque) or online at samaritanaspurse.ca (tax deductible receipts will be issued for cash donations of \$15.00 or more but not for the gift items included in a shoe box).

Our deadline for shoe boxes to be handed in to NPCSC is **Friday, Nov. 18.**

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We plan to have the Christmas Program at 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, Dec. 21** in the Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church Sanctuary. Mark this important date on your calendar.

FCC Drive Away Hunger



We received a big **THANK YOU** from Farm Credit Canada for our participation in the Drive Away Hunger campaign again this year.

Last year we collected 775 lbs. of food and this year we collected **1350 lbs. of food.** Thank you to everyone that brought in food items or donated money to this cause.

SPORTS



Volleyball season will be finishing up by the end of Nov. The Gr. 8/9 teams will be playing in Edmonton this weekend and our Gr. 7/8 teams have the opportunity to watch some exciting volleyball games at the Kings Univ. College this coming Sat.

Soccer for Gr. 4-6 students will be finishing tomorrow, Thurs., Nov. 3 (weather permitting). Thanks to everyone who came out and had some fun with Mr. Bosma & Mr. Raju.

NPCSC/NCES NEWS

Thank you to those who've paid their 2011/2012 NCES fees. If you haven't yet paid your fees, kindly forward payment to the school office at your earliest convenience.

\$200.00 - family

\$100.00 - community member

The following are our school council members for the 2011/12 school year.

Positions are yet to be determined.

Heidi Demuynck

Sonja DeWaal

David Hospers

Erin Nanninga

Randy Strydhorst

Wes Wierenga

Beatrice Visser (Community Rep)



Next school council meeting is November 28th at 7:30 p.m. in the school.

FUNDRAISERS:

NCES Poinsettia fundraiser:



The NCES is having a Poinsettia fundraiser. These plants will be from Southside Greenhouse again this year. Feel free to tell your family, friends and co-workers about these beautiful Christmas plants that are for sale.

6" pots for \$17.50 (RED only)
8" pots for \$25.00
10" pots for \$32.50
12" pots for \$40.00

*All prices include GST.

Plants are available in PLAIN RED or MIXED COLORS for all sizes except the 6" pots (Red Only).

Orders are **due no later than 9:00 A.M. on NOVEMBER 10** and will be ready for pick-up **on Dec. 8 & 9 only** from Southside Greenhouse (Open from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.).

If writing cheques for orders they must be made payable to **NCES (Neerlandia Christian Education Society)**.

Students have been given order forms & some customer receipts. **Customers will receive a copy of their receipt for pick-up.** If you haven't been asked by a student to place an order you may drop by the school office and complete an order form. If you have any questions, please call Heather Fisher at 780-674-9484.

Poinsettia
Orders
must be in by
9:00 a.m.
Nov. 10



.....
The **Grade 9** class is having a **Scentsy Fundraiser** to support their Gr. 9 Grad.

Gr. 9 students will be selling Scentsy products from Nov. 1-16. If you are interested in seeing a catalogue we have one available in the office. There are a variety of items available, from various size warmers to Scentsy Bars/Bricks, etc. If you need more information you may contact Lise Wruk or Lorna Strydhorst.

The **Grade 5** class will be hosting a **Sub Lunch** on **Friday, Nov. 18th**. Order forms will go home a week prior.

The **Grade 3** class will be hosting a **Cookie Sale** on Tues., **Nov. 29**. Each cookie will sell for 25 cents during recess and noon hours.

Money raised from these two fundraisers will go towards their Field Trips.

LIBRARY NEWS



November Library Hours

Monday-Thursday

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

Wednesday Evenings

7:00-9:00

Open on Friday, Nov. 18

Library Closed: Remembrance Day-Fri., Nov. 11, Mon., Nov. 14 (& all other Fridays)

LIBRARY Gift Card Fundraiser



The Library is doing a gift card fundraiser again this year. We are asking the community to consider buying gift cards as Christmas gifts, etc. Please see the attached order sheet for more information. (Extra order forms available at the library.) Please bring in your order and cheque made out to the Neerlandia Library Society to the library no later than Tues., Nov. 15. Thank you for your support and if you have any questions phone the library at 780-674-5384.

Rhyme time runs Wednesday mornings from 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. This program is well attended but you may still join us.

Wireless access is now available in the Library, thanks to the PH technicians and YRL personnel.

.....

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:



- Thurs., Nov. 3 Lock Down practice
- Fri., Nov. 4 **Alternate Day**, no classes
- Sun., Nov. 6 Daylight Savings time (fall back 1 hour)
- Wed., Nov. 9 Powerschool session for Parents (Gr. 4-9) at 7:00 p.m.
Deadline for picture packages to be handed in
- Thurs., Nov. 10 Remembrance Day assembly at 10:30 a.m. (Everyone welcome to attend)
Deadline for Poinsettia orders to be in by 9:00 a.m.
- Fri., Nov. 11 **Remembrance Day (holiday)**
- Mon., Nov. 14 **PHRD non-instructional day (no classes)**
- Tues., Nov. 15 Deadline for Library Gift Card orders
- Wed., Nov. 16 Deadline for Gr. 9 Scentsy orders
- Fri., Nov. 18 Deadline for Operation Christmas Child Boxes to be in
Twin/Triplet day for Elem.
Gr. 5 Sub Lunch
- Tues., Nov. 22 Home Groups & Assembly (9:00 a.m.) in the gym
- Fri., Nov. 25 **Alternate Day, no classes**
- Mon., Nov. 28 Extra Kindergarten Day
- Tues., Nov. 29 Grade 3 Cookie Sale
- Wed., Nov. 30 Early dismissal, 3:00 p.m.

Upcoming for December:



- Thurs./Fri., Dec. 1 & 2: P.D. Days for Teachers, no classes
- Dec. 8: St. Nick Day celebrations, p.m.
- Dec. 9, 16 & 23: Alternate Fridays, no classes
- Dec. 21: Christmas Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 22: Science in Motion here at NPCS
- Christmas Break: Dec. 23/11 – Jan. 8/12 (first day back, Mon., Jan. 9/12)

