



NPCS Eagle Express



October 5, 2011



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Dear Drika,

If I were doing what Mrs. Fisher says I should be doing, I'd be working on an article for the Eagle Express. It would probably start with something like, "Wow! It's October already! Where did September go so quickly?" And everybody reading it would say, "Well, isn't that original! That's what every principal writes every year in the October newsletter."

The fact is, Drika, that it is sometimes hard not to sound like a stuck record. I mean, how many times can I tell the people of Neerlandia how blessed we are with this school and with this community? But the fact is that we are really blessed and while we sacrifice a turkey as part of our Thanksgiving Day celebration this weekend, it will be really sad if our school is missed as we count our blessings.

We can be thankful for the wonderful start to the school year. We have been blessed with a higher than expected enrolment and that relieves some of the budgetary pressures for this year. There is also a good spirit among the students – great, because it means very few visits to the office for discipline issues.

Drika, you know that our staff is exploring the theme of Teaching for Transformation. This year our monthly assemblies are going to focus on various throughlines that show how we are invited to join Jesus in making all things new. In September, we looked at Creation-Enjoying. This month, we are exploring Community-Building. I'm glad that we are continuing the idea of home groups for these assemblies. That means that before we meet in the gym, the home groups meet in various classrooms for some activities related to the theme. You should see the interaction between the students. The primary children are wide-eyed and excited (some a bit scared) as the big kids come and get them from their room and hold their hands as they walk to the home group and the assembly together, the big kids honouring the little ones by listening to their ideas. Community-Building expressed in holding hands!

Last week we had our annual Terry Fox run/walk. It was a real Community-Building experience. Imagine over 400 students from two neighbouring Christian schools sharing this experience with lots and lots of parents and grandparents, many of whom were pushing little people in their strollers! (You should see the pictures in the Barrhead *Leader*!) Kids and adults celebrating the vision of someone who, years before most of them were born, was willing to challenge himself so that others could live through the cancer research funds he raised. Terry Fox has been an inspiration and blessing to millions of people: when we celebrate his Marathon of Hope we in turn can be a blessing to others. Many of the students made a special effort to show their support for people in their families and our school community who are battling cancer. It really fits in with our vision for the school: we are "Learning to Serve" and as children of the King we are "Blessed to be a Blessing." (Yes, the *Leader* says I was involved in the organizing, but I wasn't. We owe a big vote of thanks to the staff members and volunteers who did organize this event!)

Tonight and next week Thursday evening are also celebrations of Community-Building. Our teachers will be meeting with parents to discuss our hopes and goals for the students. We are

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so blessed by the fact that nearly every family participates in these sessions: it's a very tangible expression of our belief in the importance of parental involvement in the success of our students.

Drika, I'm looking forward to being home this long weekend. It's supposed to be sunny on Saturday and Sunday, and perhaps we can finally renew our romantic strolls through the river valley now that I'm walking without crutches or cane again.

With all my love,

Gary

PARENT MEETINGS – Wed., Oct. 5 (today) & Thurs., Oct. 13

A schedule for your meeting times was sent home with your child(ren) on Monday. (If you have lost your schedule, please call the office a.s.a.p.) These meetings are to take place from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. in homerooms.

Jr. High homeroom teachers are: Mrs. Wruk - Grade 7 (Rm. #5)

Mr. Gelderman – Grade 8 (Rm. #4), Mr. Wierenga & Mr. Rayment – Gr. 9 (Rm. #3)

- If you wanted to meet with one of the other Jr. High teachers, please arrange a time with them (schedule is pretty full so it might need to be on another day).

SCHOOL PHONE DIRECTORY

A couple of weeks ago we sent home our Phone Directories with the youngest child of each family. If you didn't receive one, please pick one up in the office (perhaps when you come in for Parent Meetings). If there are any omissions or errors in the information provided, please let us know and we'll make necessary changes.

We noticed that we missed a phone number for Sheri Waggoner: 780-305-3200

FORMS & FEES

Thanks to everyone who was so prompt in getting back their forms and fees to us.

Most of the textbook fees have been collected; however some students have not paid for their Option & CTS fees for Jr. High. Cheques can be made payable to Pembina Hills.

The CTS fees apply to Trimester #1 only:

Outdoor Ed/Photography:	\$10.00
Cosmetology:	\$10.00
Jr. High Band:	\$15.00 (full year course)
Jr. High Art:	\$15.00 per semester
Jr. High Drama:	\$10.00 per semester

If you're not sure if these fees have been paid you can contact Mrs. Fisher in the office.

Also, if you haven't paid your textbook fees these CTS/Option fees can be included in one cheque. A list of people with outstanding fees will be submitted to Pembina Hills Regional Office by Oct. 15, so please give us a call if special payment arrangements need to be made.



**Jr. High
CTS/Option
Fees due**



FIRE SAFETY WEEK

Next week is Fire Safety Week (Oct. 11-14) and next week Tues., Oct. 11, we will have a visit from members of the Barrhead Fire Department. Students will be given some handouts in regards to fire safety. Please review these safety rules and plans with your children.

LOCKDOWN QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Neerlandia Public Christian School continually focuses on the safety and the well-being of the children in our care. One way we practice safety is by helping students understand what to do in emergency situations. We have developed strategies to ensure that students are well cared for during emergencies. Throughout the year students and staff perform practice drills so that emergency protocols are clearly understood by the staff and students. You are probably familiar with fire drills, but we also practice school lockdowns. Generally, lockdowns are a bit scarier for students than the fire drills are, and it may be helpful for you to discuss them with your children if they show signs of stress about the practice.

What is a lockdown?

A lockdown drill is an emergency response to keep children and adults safe in a situation where there is a viable threat to their well-being. An intruder in the school, a report of the possibility of an armed person in the vicinity of the school, a threat that has been made toward a person or persons at the school or dangerous circumstances in or around the school would be reason for the school to move to a lockdown.

What happens during a lockdown?

When a lockdown is needed, an announcement over the public address system of the school. Students and staff immediately move to safe areas in the school. Teachers will bring children in hallways into classrooms and lock their doors, lights are turned off, blinds and shades are pulled. Students take cover and remain quiet.

How long will a lockdown last?

It is important to remain calm and quiet but also to realize that in a lockdown situation, it could last for an extended period of time.

Why do we have to practice lockdowns?

Drills are important as they help us learn how best to respond in emergencies and be prepared for these situations through practice and knowing how to keep safe. Through practicing drills in a safe, age appropriate, and calm manner, children will learn to better cope with the concerns and anxious feelings that may arise.

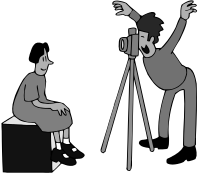
How can parents help?

Parent support of their children is important to reduce anxious feelings when such a drill is practiced. Your involvement will be very important to reassure your child when feelings of worry or concern are expressed. Reminding children that this is another way we learn to keep ourselves safe. The school is undertaking these lockdown drills carefully and thoughtfully. Before each drill, teachers will be giving children important messages about learning to be safe. In the event of an emergency lockdown that is not just a drill; parents will be directed by police to a reception area where news and updates would be provided. Parents are asked not to come on school property during a lockdown.

If you have any questions please feel free to discuss these with your child's teacher or call me at the school. Thank you for your support.

Mr. Duthler, Principal

NPCS PICTURES



- **Smart Photography** will be here on the morning of **Thursday, Oct. 13**, to take individual pictures. Background forms will be sent home with each student as soon as we receive them (hopefully by tomorrow).
- **Pictures will be taken in the Library.** You can bring in your pre-schoolers during recess break; however, these packages cannot be included with the Family Picture Plan.
- **Proofs** will be received back in 7-10 working days and then orders can be placed.

OCTOBER ASSEMBLIES



Our **Thanksgiving Assembly** will take place this **Thursday, October 6** (tomorrow). This will begin at **3:00 PM** and we invite everyone to join us in the gym. We will be handing out 'collection bags' for anyone that wants to participate in the FCC Drive Away Hunger campaign. We ask that students bring in these donations for the Food Bank no later than next week Thurs., Oct. 13. The FCC organizers will weigh the food (by classrooms) and then the total weight will be recorded as our school's donation. The food collected from our school will be donated to the Barrhead Foodbank. Cash donations will also be accepted (\$1.00 = 2 lbs.); these can be sent with your child or dropped off in the office.

Our **Home Group Assembly for October** will take place on Tues., Oct. 18 at 9:00 a.m. Students will meet in their groups at 8:35 and then proceed to the gym at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend our monthly assemblies. The theme for this month is Community-Building.

TERRY FOX RUN



It was great to see the number of parents, pre-schoolers, Covenant School students and friends join us for the annual Terry Fox Run last Wed., Sept. 28, 2011.

Thanks to several volunteers for helping with set-up and clean-up and to Heather Fisher & Mr. Duthler for taking some great photos (check them out on the bulletin boards when you come for parent meetings). Some of these pics even made it into the Barrhead Leader. Once again the Neerlandia Coop donated post-run popsicles for all participants. Local donations will be forwarded to the foundation and receipts issued where requested. **Close to \$900.00** was raised. Thanks to everyone!

FUNDRAISERS:



We still have available the 3rd edition of the Neerlandia Learning to Serve III **cookbooks**. These would make great Christmas gifts to give to family & friends. They are available in the school office or at the Neerlandia Co-op for \$15.00 each. (Cheques can be made payable to NCES). Thanks for your continued support!



Gr. 9 Hot Lunch – Our Grade 9 class will be hosting a hotdog sale on **Tues., Oct. 25**. This fundraiser is to support the sponsorship of the Grade 9 Foster Child. Order forms will come out one week prior to the lunch.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

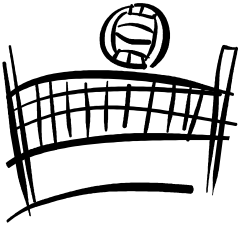
Grade 4-6 soccer is continuing every Tues. & Thurs. (until it gets too cold) from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Thanks to Mr. Bosma & Mr. Raju for coaching and allowing the kids to have some fun.

Jr. High Volleyball is into full swing. We have a Gr. 7/8 Girls (B) team coached by Mr. Rayment and a Gr. 8/9 Girls (A) team coached by Mrs. Stacey McBeth. We also have two Boys teams (A & B) and Mr. Gelderman is looking after these.

Volleyball Schedule

Gr. 8/9 Boys & Girls ‘A’ team

Sat., Oct. 15	@	BCHS	Tournament
Wed., Oct. 19	@	BCHS	League game
Fri./Sat. Oct.21/22	@	Spruce Grove	Tournament
Tues., Nov. 1	@	Westlock RF	League game
Fri./Sat., Nov. 4/5	@	Edmonton Christian	Tournament
Tues., Nov. 22	@	Westlock RF	Tournament

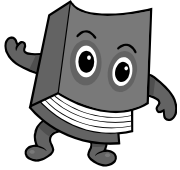


Gr. 7/8 Boys & Girls ‘B’ team

Wed., Oct. 12	@	Westlock RF	games with RF & St. Mary
Sat., Oct. 22	@	BCH	Tournament
Mon., Oct. 24	@	NPCS	League game w/RF
Thurs., Nov. 3	@	NPCS	League game w/Jarvie

It is a busy time with practices, games & tournaments. We love for parents and siblings to come out and cheer on the students at games or tournaments; however it is becoming more of a problem with siblings staying after school for practices. If students are not participating in an activity then we ask that they either go home or be in the gym or outside (soccer) and not in the Computer Lab, classrooms or hallways of the school. The only students allowed in the Computer Lab are those waiting for their practice times. Janitors are trying to clean and teachers are trying to plan during this time and it can be very distracting having students running through the school. If students do stay you must realize that they are un-supervised whether they are inside or outside of the school and staff are not responsible for any injuries or mishaps that may occur.

LIBRARY NEWS:



October Library Hours

Monday-Thursdays; 9:00-12:00; 1:00-4:30 , Wednesday evenings 7:00-9:00 pm

Friday, October 14: 9:00-12:00; 1:00-4:30

Library closed for Thanksgiving Day - Monday, October 10

Rhyme Time will be starting again on Oct. 19 (more news to come) .

Neerlandia Library Chocolate Bar Fundraiser



The chocolate bar fundraiser has wrapped up for another year and was very successful. A special thank you to all the students in grades 4-9 for selling the chocolate bars. We keep ordering and selling more bars each year.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support of this major Library fundraiser.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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| Oct. 5 | Scheduled Parent Meetings (4:30 – 7:30 pm)
Georgia Graham, illustrator in the Library (a.m.)
First day of Preschool (a.m.) |
| Oct. 6 | Thanksgiving Assembly (3:00 pm) |
| Oct. 7 | Day in lieu of P/T/S meetings – no classes |
| Oct. 10 | Thanksgiving Day holiday |
| Oct. 11 | Fire Prevention presentations (K-Gr. 6) in p.m. |
| Oct. 13 | Student Picture Day (a.m.)
FCC Drive Away Hunger, weigh-in (2:30-4:00 pm)
Scheduled Parent Meetings (4:30 -7:30 pm) |
| Oct. 18 | Home Groups & Assembly (9:00 a.m.) |
| Oct. 19 | Rhyme time begins in the Library |
| Oct. 20 | deadline for Rural Crime Watch posters |
| Oct. 21 | Alternate Day, no classes |
| Oct. 25 | Gr. 9 Hot Lunch |
| Oct. 26 | Early dismissal at 3:00 p.m. |
| Oct. 26 & 27 | Grade 8 Cool Camp |
| Oct. 28 | Alternate Day, no classes |
| Oct. 31 | Elementary Crazy Hair & Hat Day |
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REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Tawatinaw Valley Freeriders Club is accepting registrations for the 2011-2012 Ski Season. There are several different programs offered.

To register or for more information contact Toni Siegle 780-348-5483,

info.tvfr@gmail.com

