



# Neerlandia Eagle Express Newsletter January, 2018

## Living a Christ-Centered Life

Welcome back to school after a busy time of year.

During the lead up to Christmas, and the wonderful Christmas services so many of us are privileged to attend, it is easy to be enthusiastic about the coming of our King. Now however, as we settle back into our day-to-day routines, in the dark days of winter, it is easy to lose our enthusiasm.

How we can continue to live a Christ-Centered life in the midst of our busy-ness is a question that many of us struggle with. James K.A. Smith, a noted Anglican professor of philosophy and congregational ministry studies at Calvin College, says that we need to focus on the habit of worshipping God, so that our love for God, and our wish to live in the world described by Him, will shape all of our actions.

I think that, as we work with our students, we can help them develop this habit in many ways. One way is to be enthusiastic as we pray, sing and teach. We have to intentionally look for and celebrate God's presence in our lives. In order to develop this as a habit, we first have to set ourselves small goals. Today I will notice and praise God for three things, for example, could be a start. If we are intentional about this, and we keep it going for six weeks, we will have started a habit of daily worship and praise. When we have that habit, it becomes "second nature" to us and it begins to shape our days. As it says in Jeremiah 29:13: "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

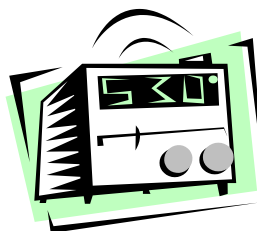
Imagine how much easier it becomes to focus on learning about God's world when we have developed this habit of looking for the good in things, actively seeking God's presence. Our attitudes become positive and that

enthusiasm and positivity begins to draw people into God's world and gives us strength to follow our convictions.

Please support our students in developing this habit of worshipping God daily and in everything they do so that they, and we, can "serve God joyfully in all areas of life."

*Lisa Gehring*

## School Wide News:



### PEMBINA HILLS SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCEDURES

#### Emergency School Closing

(Threats, Inclement Weather, Power Failures and Water Shortage)



When school(s) are closed due to inclement weather (snow, blowing snow, winds causing difficulty and/or low visibility, other weather conditions, which would prevent the safe transit of students to or from school) parents should listen to major radio stations and an announcement shall be posted on the website regarding school closure and bus operations. <http://www.phpschools.ca>. Parents are the first to make a decision on whether or not their child(ren) will be riding the bus in inclement weather.

School bus drivers have the option to make an individual decision not to run if the visibility and/or weather or temperature conditions are such that it is unsafe to do so and they will notify their students.

You can also check on the NPCCS website (click on button that say All Buses On Time) if you want to check if a driver is late or not running.

If students need to be sent home during a school day, the following procedure will take place: Every effort will be made to contact parents via their home/work/cell phone if provided and students will not leave the premises until contact has been made.

## NEWSLETTER SURVEYS

Thanks to all of you that took the time to return forms, email or call us about the monthly newsletters.

A **survey** was sent out to find out if people wished to continue receiving 'printed copies' of newsletters or if they would just like to receive electronically. Approx. 1/3 of the survey forms were returned and from those it was mostly a vote to have just electronic version, a few want to continue with print copy and another few wanted to receive both.

We are still sending home this January newsletter with the youngest child of each family just to give families that did not let us know, one **LAST CHANCE** to let us know.

The February newsletter will be sent out electronically and we will make a list of the few people that indicated that they still want paper copies.

## PEMBINA HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOL SURVEYS

The Pembina Hills Public Schools **Annual Satisfaction Survey** will begin January 4, 2018. Parents of all Pembina Hills students will be contacted by phone and asked to complete a 3-4-minute survey. The information we collect is confidential and anonymous. The survey includes a variety of questions including character education, their child's school environment, and extra-curricular activities. The perspectives we gather from parents are used by the schools and division administration to interpret trends, changes, needs and successes related to our Education Plan strategies. In past years we have achieved response rates of more than 50% using the telephone survey method.

### Missed our call?

You can call us back to complete the survey. Contact Debbie Westman at 780-674-8531 on weekdays, between 11:30 am and 7:00 pm. The survey ends January 24th.

We appreciate all the parents who take the time to participate in our survey.

## LAMP DONATIONS



**Thanks** to everyone who donated food, clothing, toys or money for the Sally Ross School (K-Gr. 12) in **La Ronge, SK.**

Judy & Brian Luckhart delivered our gifts and donations during Christmas Break.

Even though the weather was very cold (-51C with wind chill) they were very excited to receive our items. Some of the students are wearing some of the clothing that was donated (see picture). They were overwhelmed by our generosity!!!

## Upcoming Events

### SWAN SONG - Storytelling by Denise Miller

On Monday, Jan. 29 we will have Denise Miller here at our school for the morning. She will meet with all students during our regular Home Group Assembly at 8:30 a.m. and then she will meet with separate classes for the rest of the morning.

*Denise Miller* is an international Métis storytelling artist and creative communication consultant with a unique ability to engage, entertain, and educate.



### SPORTS TEAM JERSEY DAY

On **Friday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>** students are encouraged to wear a jersey from their favorite sports team. This is just for fun!!!

## SKIING -JR HIGH



Jr. High students will not be going skiing at Misty Ridge Ski Hill this season as it is not open.

Instead, we have booked a ski day at Tawatinaw Ski Hill on **Friday, January 19. Notes & forms will go home soon.**

Gr. 9 Jasper Ski trip is scheduled for Feb. 13 – 15, 2018, notes and forms to go home soon for this trip as well.

## Sports

**BASKETBALL:** Basketball practices & games already started in December for our Jr. High teams.

Girls practice on Mon. & Wed. & Boys on Tues. & Thurs. Starting on **Thurs., Jan. 11** the practice schedule will change because of Elem. basketball starting.

Jr. High girls will practice:

Mondays: 4:47 – 6:00 pm

Wed.: 3:47 – 6:00 pm

Jr. High Boys will practice:

Tuesdays: 3:47 – 5:30 pm

Thursdays: 4:47 – 6:15 pm

Game & tournament schedules have been handed out to the players.



### Elementary Basketball

This year we will again run an after-school basketball program for the Neerlandia Public Christian School elementary students. Teams will be made of boys and girls from grades 4, 5 and 6. The program will run during the months of January, February, and March from 3:50 to 5 o'clock on Mondays and Thursdays. The emphasis will be on getting some exercise and having fun, while at the same time learning and practicing basketball skills. We will start on Thurs., Jan. 11, 2018.

The only exception to this schedule would be if Jr. High teams have games scheduled here in the gym, in that case the Elem. practices would be skipped on that specific day.

## FUNDRAISERS

Our Gr. 5 Class will be hosting a Hot Lunch on **Thurs., Jan. 25.** They will be offering **Hotdogs/pop.**

Pre-order forms will be sent home on Tues., Jan. 16 and must be returned no later than Tues., Jan. 23. Online orders must be placed by midnight on Mon., Jan. 22.

## MUSIC ENTHUSIASTS



Jr. High Students - Anyone interested in just 'jammin' at noon"? If some of our music enthusiasts would like to play some guitar (or mandolin/ukulele) at noon, Mr. Gelderman & Mrs. Hellinga are willing to help arrange some time to just sit around and share some tunes.

Does **anyone have a guitar (or other)** that they are not using and would allow students to borrow these for these sessions? Please contact the school if you have something that could be borrowed. Thanks.

## School Board News

### Board approves 2018-19 school year calendar

The 2018-19 PPHS calendar features dates common to all schools. Schools operating on alternate calendars will finalize their calendars in February 2018.

### Key dates for 2018-19

First day of school – Sept 4

Christmas break – Dec 24 – Jan 4

Teachers convention – Feb 7-8

Spring break – March 25-29

No school – Oct 5, Oct 19, Nov 23, Mar 8, Mar 15, Apr 12

Last day of school – June 27

### Recognition and Appreciation Awards – Nominate someone!

*Who can be nominated?* Any employee, contractor, parent volunteer or community member who has not been a previous recipient in the category or job family they are being nominated for and meets the nomination criteria.

*Who can do the nominating?* Any student, parent, colleague, administrator, contractor or community member.

*Where do I find more information?* [www.phpschools.ca](http://www.phpschools.ca) Administrative Procedure 40-32 Recognition and Appreciation Awards. There is a form to fill in that is linked under the references.

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## LIBRARY NEWS

### JANUARY LIBRARY HOURS

#### Monday-Thursday

9:00AM-4:30PM

#### Wednesday Evenings

7:00PM-9:00PM

#### All-Day Friday, Jan.19

9:00AM-4:30PM

#### LIBRARY CLOSED

#### for PD day, Wednesday, January 31

**Lego-Building Contest**-will be held **Thursday, January 18**. Theme: "Things That Go". Registration forms available at the library and should be handed in by **Tuesday, January 9**. Please **do not bring in your completed projects before Wednesday, Jan 17**.

**Rhyme Time** begins Wednesday, January 24 and will run 8 weeks (no Rhyme Time Wednesday, Jan. 31)

#### Wednesdays, 10:15-11:00AM

The Neerlandia Public Library AGM meeting will be **Monday, January 22 at 7:30p.m.** Everyone welcome to attend.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 12	Alternate Day, no classes
January 9	- deadline for Lego registrations
January 16	- hotdog order forms to go home
January 18	Lego contest in Library
January 19	Wear your favorite Jersey Day Jr High Ski at Tawatinaw Ski Hill
January 22	Library AGM meeting, 7:30 pm in Library
January 23	-deadline for hotdog orders
January 25	Gr. 5 Hotdog Sale
January 26	Alternate Day, no classes
January 29	Swan Song (assembly/morning classes)
Jan. 31 (Wed.)	P.D. for Staff only, no classes
Feb. 1 (Thurs.)	Alternate Day, no classes
Feb. 2 (Friday)	Alternate Day, no classes

#### Looking ahead:

Feb. 5, Mon.	Extra Kindergarten Day
Feb. 8/9	- Teachers' Convention (no classes)