



**Neerlandia**

***Eagle Express***

**Newsletter**

**February, 2018**

### **Random Acts of Kindness**

#### **(or- Being Christian in a non-Christian World)**

It is that time of year once again. The ads have been going on for weeks, maybe months. Valentine's Day is coming- rush to get the perfect present to show your love for the special person in your life. And while you are at it- perform "random acts of kindness."

It is easy to get lost in the hype and stressed out by not measuring up to society's standards. Depression rates soar and many people feel lost and alone.

Why?

As Christians we need to measure ourselves by Christ's standards- not society's. Why do we fail to do this? Maybe this is because we recognize that we can never perfectly measure up to Jesus' standards or feel unworthy. Whatever our reasons, we are human and God knows this. Indeed, it is the reason that He sent Jesus to redeem us from our sins upon the cross at Calvary so long ago.

What then does Jesus say? In Luke 10: 27 Jesus tells His disciples to " *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

He then goes on to tell the parable of The Good Samaritan. You know the one- (Luke 10: 30-37.) A man is walking down the road when he is attacked, robbed and left to die. Many people walk past him, ignoring him or even avoiding him. Finally a man from Samaria sees the man, stops to take care of him and even takes him to an inn. There he takes care of him and makes arrangements with the innkeeper to continue with this care and to pay for it. Jesus then asks "Who is your neighbor?" in this story.

If you had a role in this story which role would it be? I believe that at anytime in our lives we could be any of these people.

How often have you felt beaten down and broken and needed a helping hand? How often have you walked past someone who needed a helping hand, thinking that either you had nothing to offer or that someone else would help? Or- how often have you been the helping hand?

Like so many of His parables, this story is packed with layers of meaning and I encourage you to reread it, asking God to help you understand in your heart and to encourage your actions of support to your neighbours.

And so, I end this message with a prayer for all of us.

Dear God,

We ask that you help us to remember Your unfailing Love for each of us, as was so clearly demonstrated through the life and death of Christ. During this month, where the outside society chooses to focus on random acts of kindness, help us to be intentional in our kindness to one another so that the light of Christ can be seen and felt through our thoughts and actions.

We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen

*Lisa Gehring, Principal*

## **School Wide News:**

**Newsletters** – Thanks for your feedback in regards to receiving the Eagle Express monthly newsletters. Only the families that requested a print copy will receive for this month. If you replied that you can read them online that's great – you should receive an email that a newsletter has been posted to the school's webpage.

If you didn't reply to the survey we are assuming that you are fine with not receiving the printed copy.

We will continue to give printed copies to Assoc. members unless they let us know that this is no longer necessary.

## Upcoming Events

### WINTER WALK DAY

**Winter Walk Day & Snow Fun for NPCCS** students will be on **Friday, Feb. 23** starting at 2:30 pm (weather permitting). Gr. 1-9 students will be walking through the hamlet. After returning to school grounds there will be a few fun snow events set up.

Students - remember to dress appropriately for weather conditions (ski pants, gloves, toques).

### Anti-bullying PINK SHIRT DAY



Show your support for Pink Shirt Day

This is optional and we don't expect parents to go out and buy new shirts. This is just to create awareness!

We encourage all students to wear pink on Thurs., Feb. 22 to support anti-bullying in our school and community.

### SKIING -JR HIGH



Gr. 9 Jasper Ski trip is scheduled for Feb. 13-15, 2018. Forms & fees need to be returned for this trip by Feb. 12. Parents can use online payment method for this.

## Sports

### BASKETBALL:

Jr. High girls practice:

Mondays: 4:50 – 6:00 pm

Wed.: 3:50 – 6:00 pm

Jr. High Boys practice:

Tuesdays: 3:50 – 6:00 pm

Thursdays: 4:50– 6:15 pm



There are two Jr. High tournaments scheduled for Feb. Gr. 8/9 Basketball Tournament at BCH on Thurs., Feb. 22 Gr. 7/8 Basketball Tournament at Westlock Spirit Centre on Tues., Feb. 27. (see schedule for other games, etc.)

**Elementary Basketball (Gr. 4-6)** will continue throughout the months of Feb. & March.

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 Parent Council/NCES will be hosting a **Chicken Nugget lunch** on **Tues., Feb. 20** (day after Family Day holiday). The order forms will be going home on Tues., Feb. 6 and need to be returned no later than Thurs., Feb. 15 (online orders can be placed up until Wed., Feb. 14). They will also be providing free ice cream cups for all students. \*let us know if your child has an allergy, etc.

## School Board News

**How does Alberta fund the education system?** Total operational funding for Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) comes from two sources:

- General Government Revenues – \$4.7 billion
- Education Property Taxes (including opted-out boards) – \$2.4 billion
  - This \$7.1 billion dollars is funding for the day to day operation of the 2,388 schools in Alberta. School boards decide how funds are spent locally within provincial requirements, School Act and Regulations, and the Education and Funding Manual.

### School board provides input into provincial budget

As part of the Provincial Budget Consultation the school board submitted the following:

- High school funding – Recognize it costs more to deliver a high school education. Funding for high schools should be applied consistently across Alberta
- Transportation – Predictable and sustainable transportation funding model that considers maximum ride times. In the interim it is critical that:
  - school jurisdictions receive rebates for the carbon levy
  - the fuel price contingency funding be reinstated or incorporated in the funding rates
- Complex needs – School jurisdictions require financial resources to address their local and unique needs, including access to specialized staff in rural and remote communities

- SuperNet – With the contract for the management of the SuperNet ending this year, it is critical that service to schools be uninterrupted and affordable
- Facilities – Ensure adequate and sustainable funding to maintain existing school facilities, including playgrounds

[Jennifer.Tuininga@phapschools.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Tuininga@phapschools.ca) 780-674-6579 H, 780-284-0971 C  
 Facebook: Jennifer Tuininga, School Trustee, Pembina Hills Public Schools Twitter: @JennifeTuining

## LIBRARY NEWS

### FEBRUARY LIBRARY HOURS

#### **Monday-Thursday**

9:00AM-4:30PM

#### **Wednesday Evenings**

7:00PM-9:00PM

#### **All-Day Friday, Feb. 23**

9:00AM-4:30PM

\*Thursday, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> –open only from 9AM-1PM

#### **Library Closed**

#### **Feb. 8 for Teacher's Convention**

#### **& Monday, Feb. 19 for Family Day Holiday**



#### **Lego Competition**

*Thank you to all who participated in our Lego contest! We had 26 entries.*

*The winners were:*

Family- Austin and Jorja Fisher (*The Space Station*),

6 yrs. and under-Frederick Driessen (*The Sinister Robot*)

7-9 yrs. -Sam Pierik (*Amusement Park*)

10-12 yrs. -Jaco Poot (*The Shop*)

### **Kindness Challenge**

Share stories of kindness and compassion!



Starting on Feb. 5, the library is initiating a Kindness Challenge for the whole school. We are asking students to write down acts of kindness that they have witnessed and/or participated in on paper link (paper links are available from classroom teachers and/or the library). These links can then be brought back to school to help make a Kindness Challenge Chain in their classroom. How many links can our school make?

On Feb. 14, we will gather all the chains and celebrate with all the classes with a little something.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 1 & 2, Thurs./ Fri. – Alternate Days

Feb. 5, Mon. – Extra Kindergarten day

- Jr. High students switch Option classes (Art/Drama)

Feb. 8 & 9: Teachers' Convention (no classes)

Feb. 13-15: Gr. 9 Jasper Ski Trip

Feb. 16: Alternate Day, no classes

Feb. 19: Family Day holiday

Feb. 20: Parent Council Chicken Nugget Lunch

Feb. 22: Pink Shirt Day (Anti-Bullying)  
Basketball Tourn. At BCH (8/9)

Feb. 23 Winter Walk Day & fun activities, 2:30 pm

Feb. 27: Basketball Tourn. At Westlock Spirit Centre (7/8)

Feb. 28 2:47 –early dismissal day

Upcoming in March:

Mar. 9 – progress reports to go home with students

Mar. 15 – evening & Mar. 16 – morning: Parent Meeting/Student-led conferences

Mar. 21 – Band Concert (NPCS & Pembina North combined) – AM at Neerlandia, PM at Dapp