



Neerlandia  
Eagle Express  
Newsletter  
Sept. 4, 2018

Hello everyone,

Welcome to a new school year! We are so excited to work with your children this year. Our theme from the Prairie Center for Christian Education (PCCE) this year is “Living the Story”.

As educators, we are heavily involved in the writing of a child’s story. We all have memories of school when we were growing up - good, bad, awful. It probably depends on the circumstances and the year. If I were to ask you to recall who your teachers were, you likely can recall either all of your teachers, only the good ones, or only the scary ones. The reason I even bothered to get into being an educator is because of my grade 5 teacher and the impact he had on my life. I never had the fortune of attending a Christian school growing up, but of all my wonderful teachers, my grade 5 teacher stands out as having an incredible impact of showing us all an incredible amount of love and acceptance. I know I’m not the only one from my group of classmates that would recall him as our favourite growing up - yet I believe I am the only one from our class who became a teacher.

So why did I become a teacher (then a principal) in the first place? Honestly, because I felt like that is what God called me to do. My sense was He wanted me to work with youth and adults to have a positive and meaningful impact on their lives and make the world a better place for them.

Whenever I recited the Lord’s prayer in my previous school location, when we got to the part where it says “thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven” I often reflect on the time I decided it really was God asking me to go into education and make life positive for kids - allow God to use me to bring the kingdom to those around me in my own unique way.

Now that I have this unique and valuable opportunity to work with a team of staff in a Christian setting, I really believe God gives our staff a sacred and important role of being a part of the story that your children are living and writing everyday. What kind of person are they going to be? What choices will they make in their life? How much

potential do they have academically, physically, socially, and are we doing all we can to help them develop to their full potential? Most importantly, are we following God’s truths and teachings and passing these along to your children to help them know who He really is and what His heart is all about?

It’s an incredible responsibility we have as a staff to work with each and every one of these children and youth to help them write the story God intends for them - I look forward to it with great anticipation and excitement. It is my prayer that I will not lose focus of this and I can join this staff to fulfill His plans for each child. If you made it this far, thanks for taking the time to read this.

Brett Seatter

## School Wide News:

### WELCOME BACK BREAKFAST

Thanks to everyone who came out this morning to help us celebrate the start of another new school year.



A BIG thank you to the Coutts River Logging crew for cooking and to our NCES (Parent Council), staff members & volunteers for setting up, preparing & serving this delicious breakfast.

### Welcome to New Families

We are very excited that we have new students joining our school community for this school year. They were introduced this morning at opening assembly. We welcome the Kenyon family: Taryn (gr. 4), Nathan (gr. 5), Tressa (gr. 7) & Nolan (gr. 8). Also a welcome to Chloe Roska (gr. 4) as she will be joining her sisters Brooke & Keira. We hope that everyone will help them feel welcome.

We have several new children (20) also joining us in the Kindergarten class and several of these are new families to our school & community.

We will also have 22 children joining us for our Preschool program on Wednesdays, beginning on Oct. 3. Thanks again to Jill Olthuis for continuing as our preschool teacher.

## Staffing News

We are happy to announce that we have four new staff members for the 2018/2019 school year.

Brett Seatter – Principal

Jason Ferster – Grade 3 Teacher

Brent Wierenga – Grade 5 Teacher

Megan Ferster – pt.-time Jr. High Band Teacher

We hope that they all will feel at home and part of our school community.

We ask that you continue to pray for healing for Mrs. Vold who is still on a medical leave.

## FORMS! FORMS!! FORMS!!!

We will be sending home a **Family Package** for all Grade 1-9 students that include:

**Eagle Express Newsletter and forms mentioned below:**  
**Student Demographic Verification & Section 23 & FNMI** declaration is on the back of the demographic page – required  
**Signature on both sides.**

**Technology User Agreement** form F5-01

**Permission & Acknowledgment of Risk** form F6-08A

**Field trips (within walking distance)** form F6-03

Please **sign these forms (both sides of paper** where required) and return to school a.s.a.p. – **total of 5 signatures per student**

\*Note: Kindergarten students & New students have already completed some of the above forms so they DO NOT have to complete again.

**Student Insurance Brochures:** All students pay a \$1.00 insurance fee that is included with the instructional fees and that covers the student for accidents that happen at school or during school events, however, if you are interested in additional insurance coverage check out the Kids Plus Accident Insurance website: [www.kidsplus.ca](http://www.kidsplus.ca) or call their toll free number: 1-800-556-7411.

## NPCSC/NCES NEWS

The Neerlandia Christian Education Society (NCES) would like to welcome everyone back to Neerlandia Public Christian School for another year and we hope you enjoyed the pancake breakfast as well!

We appreciate the opportunity to serve our community and seeing everyone start the year on a positive note.

The NCES provides advisory support to the principal. We are keepers of the vision of Christian education at NPCSC and we work to make Christian education accessible to those that want within our school division. To continue this important work, we need the assistance our school community so please consider helping:

### 1. Become a Member!

One of our main sources of funding is Family (have children attending NPCSC) and Associate (no children attending NPCSC) memberships.



Family -  
\$300/school year  
Associate-  
\$150/school year

### 2. Become a Board Member!

We are currently looking for a new board member. If you would like to more information about what this involves or to volunteer, call/text Steve DeVries (780-307-3200).

We pray that we have a great year building community within our school, learning about God's world and where we fit into His plan. God bless!

## School Board News

The Pembina Hills Public Schools Board of Trustees is made up of seven locally elected trustees and is accountable to the Minister of Education. We directly supervise Mr. David Garbutt, our School Superintendent, but within Pembina Hills we employ approximately 350 teachers and 400 support staff, and are the largest employer in the area. The school board oversees a combined \$83.5 million budget for Pembina Hills and Alberta Distance Learning Centre. This is managed through a combination of central and site-based decision making.

As a school board we set the vision and direction for the division which includes creating policy, deciding how education services are delivered in our schools, and advocating for our local concerns at the provincial level. Your trustees are elected, local people who are passionate about education and doing what is best for students. Each elected trustee represents a ward and is the liaison with the schools situated in their area.

The board's decisions are based on what is best for the school division as a whole. [Jennifer.Tuininga@phpschools.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Tuininga@phpschools.ca) 780-674-6579 H, 780-284-0971 C

Facebook: Jennifer Tuininga, School Trustee, Pembina Hills Public Schools Twitter: @JennifeTuining

## NEW SCHEDULE

We will be following a bit of a different schedule for the upcoming school year. We will no longer be doing a Day 1 – 5 rotational schedule but we will just follow the regular Mon. – Thurs. schedule.

\*(If Mon. is a holiday then Friday will be a Monday – only happens a couple of times per year)

Our start and end times remain the same but our recess and noon breaks will be a bit different:

Morning Warning Bell: 8:25 am

Classes begin: 8:30 am

Morning Recess: 10:15 – 10:30 am

Lunch Break: 12:00 – 12:15–

students have time to eat 12:15–

12:45 - elementary students to go outside

Afternoon Recess: 2:15 – 2:30 pm

Dismissal Time: 3:45 pm

Busses leave at approx. 3:53 pm



\*These times apply to all instructional days, except for 6 early dismissal days, students will be **dismissed 1 hour earlier** on the following dates:

Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Feb. 27, Mar. 20, & April 24 (all Wednesdays but not necessarily the last Wed. of the month and none in the months of Dec., Jan., May or June).

## FEES!



We **WILL NOT** be collecting instructional fees including CTF & agenda fees for the 2018/2019 school year.

However, we do have some **OPTIONAL items** that can be purchased online or by form of cheque (made out to Neerlandia Public Christian School or cash).

Resale Items available are:

Children's Adventure Bibles - \$30.00 (Gr. 2 – Gr. 9)

Recorders - \$8.00 each (Gr. 3-6 students)

Book Bags (Kanga Pouches) - \$10. (required for Grade 1 students and new students). All other elem. students should have their bags from previous years.

If you are new and have not used the online payment method before there is information available on our school's webpage <http://www.neerlandiaschool.ca> or

<http://www.npcs.ca> or Pembina Hill's webpage if you need to get started.

There will be field trip & sports team fees charged as they arise throughout the year same as before. Some classes do a fair bit of fundraising to try and keep the costs down.

### Volunteers:

We will need volunteers to help with the **Home-Ec Cooking classes**.

CTF classes such as Home-Ec will run every Monday at 1:30 – 3:45. It has been determined that we will be

offering Cooking classes for Trimesters #1 (Sept. 7-Nov. 26) & Trimester #2 (Dec. 3 – Mar. 11). Please call the school if you would like to volunteer.

If you would like to volunteer in other areas of the school such as sports coach, etc. please contact the office.

We are hoping that a couple of parents might be interested in helping with Gr. 4-6 Soccer this fall. If you can help out, please give us a call.



### TERRY FOX RUN:

We hope everyone marks **Thursday, Sept. 27** on their calendars, that being the date of this year's annual TERRY FOX RUN.

We will be hosting the event this year and inviting the Covenant Canadian Reformed School students again.

Everyone is welcome to join us and we will need a few volunteers to help – please let us know if interested.

Gr 9 Students will participate in the **Career Expo** on the afternoon of Sept. 27. (\*Note: this is the same day as our Terry Fox Run).

Jr. High Volleyball will begin soon.

**Driver's forms:** If you help out by driving students to extra-curricular activities such as sporting events we need a Driver's form filled out **each year**. The amount of liability insurance is at \$2 million so please check with your insurance company to make sure you have this coverage before filling out driver's form. We have copies of the 4-61 Driver's forms in the office or you can download from our webpage (Parents Tab – take home notes)

## CONCESSIONS/MILK

Our Jr. High Student Council will again run a Concession Stand and will be selling some lunch & snack items to Jr. High students only during lunch hours.

### MILK PROGRAM:



Unfortunately, due to rising costs and lack of sales, we will **no longer be offering the Milk Program**. If you bought milk cards last year and would like to be refunded, please gather the cards from your child(ren) and bring to the office for refund.

## CELL PHONES

We will be allowing Jr. High students to use their cell phones during break times in the Foyer only. Teachers will be reviewing this rule and others on the first day of classes.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### HOME GROUPS: Theme: Living the Story

We will be doing Home Group activities again this year. We combine K – Gr. 9 students to do some activities & projects etc. Our first Home Group activity will take place this Friday, Sept. 7 (2:30 – 3:45) and will have the Gr. 9 students as leaders.

## LIBRARY NEWS

### September Library Hours

#### Monday-Thursday

9AM-4:30PM

#### Wednesday Evenings

7-9PM

#### Alternate Friday-Sept. 7

9AM-4:30PM

### Note to Parents:

Please check your child's schedule and help them to remember to return their books on their library day. If your child still has an outstanding book from last year we ask that you return or pay for it as soon as possible. We do not charge fines but ask that damaged and lost books be paid for immediately so that your child can continue to check out books.

### Library Chocolate Bar Fundraiser

Yes, it is that time of year again!! Chocolate bar fundraiser notes go out today. This year we are only selling the **Variety Pack** (24 Milk-almond bars, 12 Crisp bars, 12 Milk Chocolate bars, 6 Caramel and 6 Dark Chocolate bars). Bars are still \$1.00/each. Students in grades 4-9 can start picking up orders Sept. 5 and 6.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 4 – Opening Breakfast & first day of classes (Gr. 1-9)

- Kindergarten Orientation (1/2 day sessions) on Sept. 4

Sept. 6- First full day for Kindergarten students

Sept. 14- **Alternate Day, no classes**

Sept. 20 Jr High Cross country regionals at Westlock Golf course

Sept. 21- **Alternate Day, no classes**

Sept. 26 Early dismissal day, students dismissed 1 hour early (2:45 pm)

Sept. 27 Terry Fox Run (AM) & regular classes (PM)

- Gr. 9 students to go to Career Fair 27<sup>th</sup> (PM)

Sept. 28 - **Alternate Day, no classes**



Oct. 3 & 4 – Parent Meetings, forms will be sent home

Oct. 5 (No School in lieu of Parent Meetings)