



The Reason for the Season...

As we find ourselves in another advent season I can't help but think about the Reason for it all. This year, like every year, when I really take the time to let that Reason sink in, I am left speechless. We know it's about Christ. We know it's about His birth. We know it's about Love. But the birth of Christ is a Miracle so profound that no words can fully capture the depth of it. I think that what strikes me most is the thought that the God who created both the heavens and the earth, the God who is bigger and more powerful than all, the God who is the beginning and the end, did the humblest and vulnerable thing - He chose to become part of His creation. He put us first. He wasn't selfish and He didn't try to impress.

In Philippians 2, we read this about Christ: *"Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being."*

This is mind-blowing. Our God willingly took on human form and deliberately put Himself in the position of being dependent on a poor young mother to care for and sustain Him. The Creator became a part of and dependent on His creation.

We serve an amazing God; one who doesn't show His strength through force, but through humility and sacrifice. This is the scandal of Christmas - all powerful God choosing to become vulnerable and dependent as an expression of His deep love for those He created. Not only that, He didn't enter this world with great fanfare and prestige surrounded by royalty, He entered barely noticed in a stable surrounded by shepherds and their sheep.

As we spend the next few weeks preparing to celebrate Christmas, may the birth of Christ remain at the forefront of our thoughts. As we reflect on his humble entrance into this world, may we be inspired to offer ourselves in service and love to those around us in the same way that Christ offered Himself to us.

Merry Christmas from the Seatter family
(written by Kendra)

Neerlandia Eagle Express Newsletter

December 4, 2018

School Wide News:

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We will be having our evening **Christmas Concert** on **Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 7:00 pm** in the *Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church Sanctuary*. All students from Kindergarten to Grade 9 will be participating.

We will have a **Dress Rehearsal** on the afternoon of **Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 2:15 pm** also in the sanctuary. So if you are unable to attend the evening concert feel free to come during the afternoon (note: not same day as evening one).

Everyone is invited to join us for either concert. Come help us celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior!

We will also have a **Carol Sing (K-gr.9)** at the end of the last day before Christmas Break, **Dec. 20 at 3:15 pm** in the Foyer.

LAMP – Serve Project Lutheran Assoc of Missionaries & Pilots

We have already received a good quantity and variety of the items mentioned below but we will still gratefully accept more donations **up until 9:00 AM on Thursday, December 6.**

- We are always in need of gently used **warm winter jackets, clothing and boots, all sizes including adult sizes this year.**
- Our prayers have been answered and an Adult Learning class has been added for the 2018/19 school year including a daycare for the student's toddlers. **Used infant carriers and baby car seats** are greatly

needed as well as **formula and disposable diapers. Bedding and warm blankets, towels and other linens** are also greatly appreciated.

Included on our **WISH list** for this year:

- Skates and hockey helmets
- Family DVD's
- Board Games
- Personal hygiene products
- Nonperishable dry goods i.e. Lipton soups, canned vegetables, pastas and sauces, oatmeal, breakfast cereals, Red Rose Tea is a favourite, sugar, just to name a few.

Thanks to everyone for your kind support!

Grade 2 Service Project

Students as Servant-Workers in Grade 2 have raised enough money to buy **28 Children's Bibles**.

Trenton & Emily Wierenga and their children will be taking these to Uganda this Christmas! WOW!

The Lulu tree organization and the children of the community will be blessed by God's written word.

Thank you for all the support we received with this project.

St. Nick Day – Dec. 7

NPCS will be celebrating St. Nick Day on Fri., Dec.7 (extra Kindergarten day).



St. Nicholas will visit grades K-3 beginning with kindergarten.

Kindergarten: 12:30 – 1:00 pm

Grade 1: 1:00 – 1:40 pm

Grade 2: 1:40 – 2:15 pm

Grade 3: 2:15 – 2:45 pm

If time permits he will drop by the upper grades to say "Hi".

Each K- 9 classroom will be arranging their own activities for the afternoon. All students picked names for gift giving in their classes and these should be brought in **no later than Dec. 6** (just to ensure that everyone receives a gift)!

Door Decorating & Tree Decorations



Our Jr. High Student Council is once again asking Homeroom classes to decorate their doors.

The judging will take place around noon on Thurs., Dec. 6. We also encourage students to make ornaments and hang on our Christmas tree in the Foyer.

SKATING - ELEMENTARY



On the last day of classes for the 2018 year we hope to take the elementary students to Linaria Arena for skating during the afternoon.

The students will be divided into groups (K-3 & 4-6) and will be transported by bus.

*We are asking all parents to ensure that children have proper skates, helmets and if they need to bring on bus, please make sure they are packed in a proper bag.

OR parents can meet us at the Linaria Arena with these items and possibly help tie some skates, etc.

Jr. High students are hoping to go skiing at Misty Ridge on the last day (dependent on weather and hill conditions).

Gr. 1-6 students will be charged a **Toonie for Skating**.

Kindergarten students have already paid this fee at beginning of year (included in field study fees).

Jr. High students need to pay \$10/ski lift and \$10/rental (if applicable).

Field trip forms and notes with times and more details will go home closer to the middle of December.

All classes will return by 3:15 in time for the Carol Sing in the Foyer.

Sports

VOLLEYBALL

Both our 'A' Boys & Girls Volleyball teams won gold in ZONE playoffs to finish off the season. Way to go!

Both A & B teams played very well this year and we again want to thank the coaches that put in countless hours of volunteer time for practices, games & tournaments.

A **BIG thank you** to coaches; Renee Rentz (Girls B), Sherri Hiemstra (Girls A), Aaron Lee (Boys B) & Howard Gelderman (Boys A).

Also thank you to the parents who did the driving to games & tournaments.

Great experience for the students, thanks again everyone!

JR. HIGH BASKETBALL



We want to thank Trenton Wierenga & Arjan Koekkoek who will be coaching the boys team and the girls team will be coached by Sonja De Waal & Brett Seatter.

Permission forms and schedules have been sent home – please return fees & forms a.s.a.p. (*remember you can pay online)

Practice times for month of December:

Girls practice on Mon. & Wed. 3:45 – 5:30 pm

Boys practice on Tues. & Thurs. 3:45 – 5:30 pm

ELEMENTARY BASKETBALL

After Christmas Break the Gr. 4-6 students will have an opportunity to play some after-school basketball.

The play times will be **3:45 – 4:45 on Mon. & Thurs.** from Jan. 14 - mid-March, 2019.

Thanks to Miranda Strydhorst & Jason Ferster who will be coaching.

Please fill in the form at the end of this newsletter and return if your child (gr.4-6) is interested.

This will change the Jr. High Girls & Boys practices. Jr. High Girls will begin at 4:45 on Mon. & Boys will begin at 4:45 on Thurs. (Tues./Wed. will stay the same)

RUNNING TEAM

We are excited to announce:

New to our school this year is a Running Team that will be coached by Brent Wierenga.



Students should have signed up by now if they are interested in participating. The majority of practices will happen during recess and noon hours commencing next week (Dec. 10-14). Time trials will happen on Wed., Dec. 12 from 4:30 – 5:30 pm at Barrhead Agrena.

Students will practice Mondays and Thursdays during the day, and hopefully alternating Wednesdays at the Agrena after school (parents need to arrange rides).

There will be some exciting events coming up in the New Year for this team. Some of them will take place in Edmonton at the Butterdome and Kinsmen Field House.

Students that showed interest should have a letter with this information but if you have any other questions please call or email Brent Wierenga.

(brent.wierenga@phrd.ab.ca)

FUNDRAISERS



Library Gift Cards have arrived and are available for pick-up on Dec. 7.

Gr. 9 class hosted a **Mom's Pantry Fundraiser**. Anyone who ordered should expect their orders to arrive at school before Christmas break– we are waiting for the company to give us an exact date! Arrangements will need to be made to pick these orders up at the school. We will let you know.

Pizza Lunch

Our Gr. 6 class will be hosting a Pizza Lunch on **Thurs., Dec. 13**. The order forms have gone home with the students and need to be returned no later than Mon., Dec. 10 (or online by Dec. 9). Money raised will go towards Gr. 6 field studies.

Hoody/T-shirt orders

Orders for hoodies/t-shirts for our Gr. **6-9 students** have been placed with the Embroidery Den in Barrhead. Our hope is that these will arrive at our school **BEFORE** Christmas Break.

NPCSC/NCES NEWS

At the NPCSC/NCES AGM on November 5th, Katherine Nanninga and Sheri Strydhorst were elected as new board members.

We would like to thank Steve DeVries and Amanda Batty for their leadership and years of service on the NPCSC/NCES boards. Steve and Amanda have made wonderful contributions to our school community.

At the November 28 board meeting, the following board positions were assigned.

Sheri Strydhorst-Chairperson
 Katherine Nanninga- Vice Chairperson
 Annemiek Elzinga - Secretary
 Randy Strydhorst-Treasurer
 Brenda Strydhorst- Community Rep
 Charlene Nanninga – PCCE Representative
 Lee Anne Schmidt – Board member
 Adam Crabbe – Board member
 Janice Wierenga – Community Rep

School Board News

No schools considered for closure next year

The school board accepted administration's recommendation that no schools be considered for closure next year. Each year administration reviews the division's schools against the criteria in [Policy 15](#) to determine if a school or program should be considered for closure. This year, none of our schools met the criteria, which include:

- Are there health and safety threats?
- Is the school hitting a critical minimum enrolment?
- How many students are we expecting to attend in the future?
- Are fewer than 60 per cent of the students in the attendance area attending the school?
- Does operating the school create excessive costs for the division?

School Board looks for input on Division citizenship awards Through the online tool 'Thoughtexchange' the school board re-examined Student Citizenship Awards.

A website of the thoughts that were shared can be found here: <http://phpschools.thoughtexchange.info/november-2018/> The exchange confirmed that we should continue to recognize Student Citizenship. We also heard you say that academics should not be

a criteria for nomination, and more emphasis should be placed on community service, volunteering, and other characteristics such as kindness and respect.

Alberta Education

The draft K-4 curriculum can be found at <https://new.learnalberta.ca>. Planning for the new curriculum includes a preparatory phase, early implementation phase, and then full provincial implementation is set for September 2020. On the Alberta Education website there is a 'Shifts' document that shows what has changed between the new and old curriculum: https://education.alberta.ca/media/3795497/shifts_curriculum_october2018.pdf

Follow me on Facebook or Twitter. Check out the 'Board News' in the Barrhead Leader!

Jennifer.Tuinga@phpschools.ca 780-674-6579 H, 780-284-0971 C

LIBRARY NEWS

DECEMBER LIBRARY HOURS

Monday-Thursday

9:00AM-4:30PM

Wednesday Evenings

7:00-9:00PM

All Day Friday, December 7

9:00AM-4:30PM

Closed for Christmas

Holidays

except open on Thursday,

Dec. 27

and Thursday, January 3

from 9:00AM-4:30PM



Lego-Building Contest will be held Thursday, January 24, 2019.

Theme: "Game On". Registration forms are available at the library and should be handed in by Tuesday, Jan. 8.

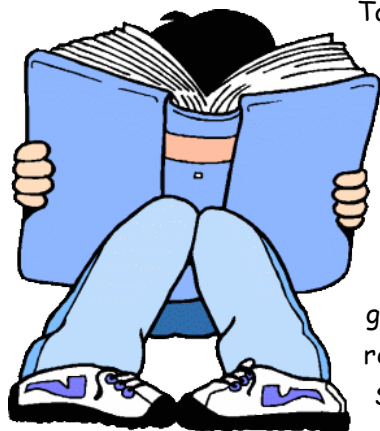
Gift Card Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who supported our gift card fundraiser. We made the most we have ever made- \$393.63.

The cards will be available for pick-up on Dec. 7 (St. Nick's Day).

Get Caught Reading

During the Christmas Holidays have your camera (or phone) ready.



Take and share pictures of people in your family or community reading in different places (be sure you ask permission first!).

"Read on a boat, with a goat, on a train with a fox, read anywhere" etc.--Dr. Seuss.

Text your photos to 780-305-8849 or 780-305-4384

Or email: Dagmar.Visser@phrd.ab.ca or Brenda.Gelderman@phrd.ab.ca

November Non-Fiction Reading Challenge

The students did a great job of reading non-fiction books for the month of Nov. The total number of books read was **1081**. Grade 6 won the challenge with 400 books read!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 6 – 9:00 a.m., deadline for LAMP donations

Dec. 7 – St. Nick's Day (extra Kindergarten Day)

Dec. 10 – pizza order deadline

Dec. 13 – Pizza lunch

Dec. 14 – *Alternate Day*

Dec. 18 – Dress Rehearsal at 2:15 pm at CRC

Dec. 19 – Christmas Concert at 7:00 pm at CRC

Dec. 20 – last day before break

- Elem. Skate
- Jr. High Ski
- Christmas Carol Sing-a-long, 3:15 pm
- Wear Christmas colors

Dec. 21/18– Jan. 6/19 **CHRISTMAS BREAK**

First day back will be January 7, 2019

Elementary (Gr. 4-6) Basketball Permission Form

Parent/Guardian Name

Child(ren)'s Name(s)

I/We give our child(ren) permission to stay after school on Mondays &/or Thursdays from 3:45 – 4:45 pm to play Fun Elementary Basketball.

*This will begin on Monday, Jan. 14 and continue until mid-March, 2019.