



Neerlandia  
Eagle Express  
Newsletter  
January 2020

### Principal's Message

Well we made it one more trip around the sun.

Here are some of the things we did as a school community in 2019:

- We had weekly assemblies where we heard the stories from staff and community members of how God impacted their lives
- Started a running team
- Expanded the elementary sports program
- Continued Jr. High sports
- Won a grade 7/8 boys basketball banner! (first basketball banner in our gym)
- Won silver at girls Divisional and Zones basketball
- Went on field trips to Jasper, Edmonton, Barrhead, Frontier Lodge, Camp YoWaChAs & Camp Nakamun
- Won gold in a few different categories at music festival
- Saw some staff retire or leave to work elsewhere
- Hired 8 new staff members
- Increased student enrollment by over 11%
- Bought a bus
- Broke a bus
- Fixed a bus
- Beat the provincial average in all PAT subjects for grade 6 and 9
- Started a new woodworking program
- Built a lot of benches
- Revamped our Bible curriculum scope and sequence
- Added a second kindergarten class
- Rearranged several classrooms in the school

- Re-jigged our assemblies to include more time worshipping together as a community, with Bible readings and prayer integrated throughout

In 2020, we plan to continue many of these great initiatives while seeking God to find more ways to improve as a school and continue to bring His kingdom into this school community. In 2020, our prayer is that we'll do even better than 2019. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our school, our students and our staff members. May God bless each of you this year!

*Brett Seatter*

### PEMBINA HILLS SURVEYS

#### Annual Satisfaction Surveys

In January, parents will receive an email inviting their participation in the Annual Satisfaction Survey. The email replaces the phone calls we made in previous years. The link at the end of the email will take you directly to the survey.

#### **How long will it take?**

- We know it takes time to participate in surveys, and time is precious.
- The questions are brief and use rating scales to make them quicker to answer.
- We estimate that it will take 5 to 10 minutes.

#### **Will I be able to comment?**

- There are opportunities for you to provide written feedback at the end of the survey.

#### **How do I participate?**

- There is a link to click at the end of the email. It will take you directly to the survey.
- You can respond to the survey using a desktop computer, laptop or mobile device.

**Are my responses anonymous?**

- Your email address will be collected and connected to your responses.
- Collecting the address eliminates the chance of duplicate responses and enables us to trace issues that might arise in the completion of the survey.
- Comments are reviewed by administration and considered during the planning process.
- No comments are reported publicly.

**I have more than one child in this school. Will I get an email like this for each one?**

If you have several children in a single school:

- You *should* just get one email.
  - We have tried to minimize duplicates but given the complexity of families, and because we rely on the information that schools have on file, you **might** get more than one email for this school.
  - IF that happens, you only need to respond one time. We apologize in advance for the extra clutter in your mailbox.

**How do I respond if I have several children in a single school?**

- Please respond to the questions while thinking about the overall experiences of your children in that school.

**I have children in another school too. Will I get a survey for that school too?**

- If you have children in more than one school, you will get more than one email.
- Each email has a link to the survey connected to that specific school.
- Please respond to the questions while thinking about the children in that specific school.

**What if the survey doesn't have questions related to my concerns?**

- If you have comments or wish to discuss something that has not appeared in this survey, please contact your school principal directly.

**What if I haven't received an email to do the survey?**

- If you haven't received an email by January 17, you can contact Debbie Westman at [debbie.westman@pembinahills.ca](mailto:debbie.westman@pembinahills.ca)

**What does Pembina Hills do with the surveys?**

- Regional office administrative staff, school administrators, teachers and trustees review the survey data.
  - Comments are read by administration only. No comments will be shared publicly.
- School data is reported in the school's education plan.
- All school data is combined to create a division summary that will be reported at a public Board meeting. It is also recorded in the Division Education Plan.

## Upcoming Events

**SPORTS TEAM JERSEY DAY**

On Thursday, Jan. 16 students are encouraged to wear a jersey from their favorite sports team. This is just for fun!!!

## SKIING -JR HIGH



Jr. High students will be going skiing at Misty Ridge Ski Hill. We have booked the hill for **Friday, January 17**. We did not go on Dec. 18 as hill was closed.

We might not be able to go on January 17 if the forecast is correct with very cold temperatures – we

will keep you posted. If we don't go on this date, we will choose another one soon.

Field trip forms went home the middle of Dec. so we just need some students to return these forms and make sure they have made payment.

The fee is \$10.00 for ski rental and \$12.00 for lift tickets/bus. Payments can be made online.

## Sports

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

Practices have changed because of Elem. Basketball:

Girls practice on Mon. & Wed.: 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Boys practice on Tues. & Thurs.

3:45 – 5:00 pm Gr 7 Boys

5:00 – 6:30 pm Gr 8/9 Boys

There will be several games & tournaments for these teams up until mid-March. Schedules will be shared with players.

**Elementary Basketball**

This year we will again run an after-school basketball program for 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 with practices from 3:45 to 5:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. The first practice will be on Mon., Jan. 13. They will finish with a tournament on February 27.

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 will be skipped on that specific day.

We do require field trip forms and fees this year because we are having some away games & a tournament. The forms went home with the students and a fee of \$10 can be paid online or send cheque or cash. Thanks to Trenton Wierenga & Miranda Strydhorst who will be coaches for this team.

## RUNNING TEAMS

We will have an Elementary Running Team (Gr. 4-6) with 24 members and a Jr. High Running Team with 11 members. There will be several practices/relays and some tournaments for both teams.

They have begun practices and will have a practice at the Butterdome on Jan. 15 in the evening and will be running at the Edmonton Kinsmen Field House on Jan. 24. They will continue in Feb & March and will have final event, the Indoor Games at the Butterdome on March 14.

Thanks to Brent Wierenga for coaching both these teams. Forms have gone home and need to be returned a.s.a.p. Fees are \$50. for the elementary runners and \$25. for the Jr. High runners. We also want to thank parent volunteers for driving the students to these events.

## HOT LUNCHESES for January

Our Parent Council (NCES) will be hosting another **hotdog sale on Thurs., Jan. 16.** Order forms will go home with the students on Thurs., Jan. 9 and need to be returned no later than **Tues., Jan. 14.** Online payment will be made available.

*Our Gr. 4 class also plans to host a hot lunch on **Thurs., Jan. 30** (probably will be pizza). Order forms will go out a week prior to this sale.*

## PHSD BOARD NEWS

**Ward Review Presentation** Please attend the **January 20th NPC School Council Meeting at 7:30p.m.** at the school to hear a presentation on the board's review of the number of trustees that make up the school board.

Trustees are presenting information at School Council Meetings in January and February. Parents/guardians and members of the public are welcome to attend. Input will be gathered through a short online survey.

**Who decides if the school buses will or won't run when the weather is bad?** Our drivers are directed to not operate their bus when the temperature is minus 40 degrees Celsius (-40°C) or colder at the start of a route. This temperature does not take into account wind chill.

**Your bus route:** Your bus driver will decide whether or not the school bus will run and will notify you. Our drivers are the most familiar with the weather and road conditions on their routes. **Division-wide:** If necessary, cancellations will be made by 6:00a.m. For safety reasons, schools will remain open even if buses are cancelled.

If you are concerned about sending your child to the bus stop or school because of bad weather or roads – even if our buses are running – you can always keep your child home.

See the [bus route status report](#) on the website.

Jennifer.Tuininga@pembinahills.ca 780-674-6579 H, 780-284-0971 C

## LIBRARY NEWS

January Hours:

Monday – Thursday

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Wednesday Evenings

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Also Open:

Friday, January 17th

9:00 AM- 4:30 PM

Our **AGM** will be held in the library **January 13 at 7:00 PM.** Everyone is welcome to attend

Our next session of **Rhyme time starts January 22** from 10:15-11:00 AM



We are holding a **LEGO contest** again this year. Forms are in the library. Registration **ends January 8<sup>th</sup>**. Entries can be dropped off January 22<sup>nd</sup> and will be judged on January 23<sup>rd</sup> first thing in the morning.

Prizes will be handed out at noon.

Our next book club night is **January 28<sup>th</sup>**. We are reading "Sold on a Monday" and "My Sister the Serial Killer".



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 8	- deadline for Lego registrations
January 10	<b>Alternate Day, no classes</b>
January 13	Library AGM, 7:00 pm in Library
January 13	Elementary Basketball begins
January 15	Running Team at Butterdome (evening)
January 16	Wear your favourite Jersey Day Hotdog Lunch by Parent Council
<b>Fri., Jan. 17</b>	<b><u>This is a school day (not an Alternate)</u></b>
January 17	Jr High Ski at Misty Ridge Ski Hill (weather permitting)
January 20	Parent Council/NCES meeting, 7:30 pm
January 22	Rhyme time begins in Library (10:15 am) Gr. 7 Boys Basketball at BCH (after school)
January 23	Lego contest in Library
January 24	<b>Alternate Day, no classes</b> - Running team at Edmonton Kinsmen Field House
January 28, 7:30	Library Book Club Night
January 31	<b>PD DAY, no classes</b>

Looking ahead:

Feb. 3, Mon.	Extra Kindergarten Day
Feb. 5	Gr. 3-6 field trip to the Winspear Centre - leave at 8:20 am, return by 2:40 pm
Feb. 6/7	- Teachers' Convention (no classes)