



Neerlandia  
*Eagle Express*  
Newsletter  
MARCH 2020

Principal's Message

Romans 12:4-8

*4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

For many years now (even before working here), I've marveled at what a close-knit community Neerlandia is. My wife and I noticed how committed the School Council and NCES were to making this a vibrant school with a strong Christian program. I am also glad to see that our school has opened our doors to many more families in the surrounding areas and our school community has expanded to many different Christian backgrounds/churches. I've also noticed different roles parents fulfill in supporting our school - some intervene with prayer, others volunteer on a regular basis, some just come through and encourage the staff that we're doing a good job. These are just some examples. All of these roles are a boost to our school community and truly valued.

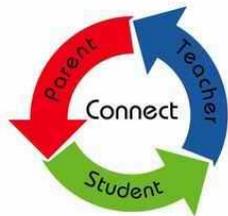
However, I've also noticed that it's getting harder to find volunteers for the school. Fortunately, we've had excellent volunteers for driving kids to sports and for coaching some of the teams. We really appreciate the help. Yet some of the traditional roles that used to be filled by volunteers are getting harder to fill and are almost being eliminated. It is a trend everywhere that everyone is busier and fewer people take the time to volunteer in their community. I really hope this isn't the case with our School Council and NCES.

As the School Council and NCES begin preparations for their AGM in May, one of the needs is to fill **four positions**. When I first heard how many positions there were to fill, I was concerned that it would be difficult to find enough volunteers. However, I encourage people to really think about this and what your God-given gifts and strengths are. If it is to serve the school through a position on School Council and NCES, please do so as the role is vital and important to our school community. Without a strong NCES, many of the opportunities provided for our alternate Christian programming will become harder to offer. We need quality people to help take care of the little jobs to make sure the school can continue to offer quality Christian Education opportunities to everyone who wants to access it. Please give this your prayerful consideration.

God bless

Brett Seatter  
Principal

Parent Conferences  
Mar. 5 (evening) or Mar. 6 (morning)



**Parent Meetings:** Notes have gone home with youngest child of each family – please check schedule for your meeting times, etc.

**Kindergarten** will have 45 min. small group meetings scheduled.

**Grade 1-3:** We will schedule each child for a 15 min. conference and these

are student-led conferences but will allow time for discussion as well.

**Grade 4/5:** These will be **student-led conferences** but there will not be a scheduled time for parents & students, just **drop-in and visit**.

**Grade 6:** These scheduled meetings will be 15 min. conferences but **for parents only.**

**Jr. High:** These meetings will take place in the Sci Lab. Parents have been put in 45 min. groupings but you can pop in at other times (last block of Fri. morning is open for extra visits if you missed your spot and also Mrs. De Waal will be available to discuss Jr. High Science (in gr. 6 room). \* Gym will be Off Limits.

**Progress reports** will be sent home with Gr. 1-6 students on **Wed., Mar. 18.** Updates will be made in PowerSchool for Jr. High students.

## OPEN HOUSE & REGISTRATION EVENING



**Thursday, April 2 2020**  
**OPEN HOUSE:**  
7:00 – 8:00 pm

**Kindergarten Registration for 2020-2021 – 7:30 pm** in Kindergarten room. If you have a child that will be turning five years old before Dec. 31, 2020 they are eligible for Kindergarten.

**Neerlandia Pre-school Registration – this will be announced at a later date** as NCES is still trying to find a preschool teacher and finalize plans for the 2020-2021 school year.

If you know of any new families that might be interested in NPCS, please invite them to our Open House & Registration Evening! There will also be an Ad placed in the Barrhead Leader at the end of March.

## Calendar for 2020 - 2021

The NPCS Alternate Year Calendar has been approved by the Board for the 2020-2021 school year. If you would like to check on some dates, please see the Calendar on our webpage <https://www.neerlandiaschool.ca/news-events/calendar/> and it is also posted on the Pembina Hills webpage.

## Learning to Serve Cookbooks

We have had a few requests for one of our Cookbooks that was printed several years ago – Learning to Serve II, seemed to be a favourite for many families. We did get a few reprints of this particular cookbook, however, it is fairly costly since it is a small quantity of books printed - cost is \$22.50. We also still have some of the Learning To Serve III cookbooks (also printed several years ago) – they are available for \$12.50 each. If you want a copy of either of these, please drop by the office.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Day Dress Up

We will be celebrating 100 days of school at NPCS on **Wed., Mar 4.** Students are encouraged to dress up like 100-year-old citizens.



## Notes from the Music Room...



### BARRHEAD ROTARY MUSIC FESTIVAL:

**Jr. High Band Students** will be performing at 9:30 a.m. on **Tues., March 10.** We will be taking the Band students by bus. We will leave at 8:30 a.m. and return by 10:30 a.m.

They will also be playing for the Neerlandia Seniors group at the Neerlandia CRC on Thurs., Mar. 12 in the morning.

## Upcoming Events/Field trips

### Tornado Hunters Assembly

We will have representatives here on Mon., Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> to do a one hour presentation about tornadoes. We do not know the exact time yet but it will be in the morning for all Gr. 1-9 students in the gym.

What is this about?

The Tornado Hunters have a combined **40+ years** of chasing mother nature's fury across North America. They have first hand knowledge of close to 400 tornadoes. Tornadoes range from EF0 to EF5 and the team was actually **inside the largest tornado ever recorded**, a 4.0 km wide tornado in Oklahoma. Beyond tornadoes, they have experienced some of the most powerful lightning events, devastating hail, hurricanes and more. The goal of their presentations is to bring this knowledge and these stories into the discussion to **educate and entertain** the students.

**Gr 9 Jasper Ski Trip** – Our Gr. 9 students will be heading to Jasper on **Mar. 10-12**. Hopefully they have a wonderful, safe trip. Reminder to Gr. 9 students – please hand in forms and fees by Mar. 5, 2020.

**Gr. 7/8 Misty Ridge Ski Trip** – We hope to take our Gr. 7 & 8 students to Misty Ridge Ski hill for a day of skiing on **Wed., March 11** (weather permitting & suitable hill conditions).

**Kindergarten Field Trip** – Our Kindergarten students will be going to Barrhead on the morning of **Thurs., March 5**. They will be touring the RCMP, Fire Station, etc. & visiting the seniors at Shepherd's Care.

## Geography Challenge

Our Jr. High students participated in the Canadian Geography Challenge. Congratulations to Eastin Storseth – 1<sup>st</sup> place, Kaden Tuininga & Easton Olthuis – tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Way to go!

## Sports

### BASKETBALL:

**Basketball season is wrapping up for the year.**

#### Gr. 8/9 Boys & Jr. High Girls:

There will be no more practices after this coming week. There is a Zone tournament on Sat., Mar. 7 in Slave Lake. They have already brought home some medals. Thanks again to our volunteer coaches; Mr. Seatter & Mr. Arjan Koekkoek coached the Gr. 8/9 Boys team.



Mrs. Lee Ann Schmidt along with Janelle De Vries & Cokee Schmidt coached the Jr. High Girls team.

Mr. Jesse Enns coached the **Gr. 7 boys team**. They finished off with a Consolation medal in their final tournament on Feb. 26.

**Elementary Basketball (Gr. 4-6)** finished the season with a fun tournament in Westlock last Thurs., Feb. 27. Thanks to Mr. Trenton Wierenga & Mrs. Miranda Strydhorst for helping with this program.

Also, special thanks to all the people that helped with reffing & driving to games, etc.

These after-school programs could not run without our volunteers! Thank you!

#### Running Team:

The Running team will continue to practice over the next couple of weeks at Agrena (4:15 – 5:30) on March 3 & 9.

The Jr. High team will be going to Edmonton on the afternoon of March 10 and then the teams will finish their season at the Butterdome Indoor Games on Sat., Mar. 14.

Thanks to all the participants and the parents that helped out with driving, etc. A big Thank You to Mr. Brent Wierenga for organizing all the practices & runs for both the Elementary & Jr. High teams.

### BADMINTON TO START SOON!

Jr. High Badminton Practices will begin over the next week or so.



We are just trying to work in practices between Basketball wind-up and the Gr. 9 ski trip. We will keep you posted!

All practices will be after school from 3:50 – 5:15 pm for Gr. 7-9 students.

## FUNDRAISERS

The Grade 6 & 7 students did a **Stawnichy Sausage fundraiser**. We ask that everyone that ordered please make arrangements to pick up your orders on **Wed., Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> (after 10:00 am)**.

The Grade 9 student sold **Little Caesar Pizza Kits** as a fundraiser for their **Gr. 9 Graduation**. The pizza kits will be delivered to NPC's on **Tues., Mar. 17** – you must pick up your order or arrange for someone else to pick up on this day (exact times to be announced).

**Jr. High Band students** will also be selling **Purdy's chocolates** as a Spring fundraiser and orders will go home on Mar. 12 and need to be placed no later than March 31 in order to receive orders before Easter.

**Chicken Catching** – Our Jr. High students will be doing some chicken catching on **Mar. 18 & Mar. 30**. The funds raised will go towards their field studies. Mr. Gelderman will announce times and details.

#### SPRING PLANT FUNDRAISER:



Our **Gr. 1 class** will be **selling plants** from **De Herdt's Gardens** starting mid-March and **ending April 2**.

There will be hanging baskets and patio planters. Watch for order forms. The orders will be ready in early/ mid-May and will be delivered to NPCSC. We will plan to have them arrive in time for Mother's Day.

## NPCSC/NCES REPORT

**AGM.** Our next NPCSC and NCES AGM will be held **Tuesday, May 19th.** Our guest speaker will be David Garbutt, Pembina Hills School Division's Superintendent. He will speak about the new budget realities and what it will mean for our school and classrooms. Mark your calendars to come and participate in our AGM!

**In need of 4 NPCSC and NCES board members.** We are looking for four new board members to begin a 3 year term starting at the May AGM. Please consider this opportunity to actively participate in our school community. Board members attend monthly meetings, assist with fundraisers (hot lunches and large community fundraising events), support and provide feedback to the principal, and other volunteer opportunities that match your skills and talents. If you have a child in the NPCSC or are an interested community member, you are qualified! To learn more about the NPCSC and NCES boards, please consider attending our **March 9th meeting at 7:30pm.**

**Hot Lunches.** Thank you to everyone who supported our hot dog lunch on February 13th. The fundraiser supports NCES costs such as bussing, instruments for the band, playground equipment and student awards. A huge thanks to Kym Peters, Cass Krikke, Jennifer Fisher and Annemiek Elzinga.

## NCES Chicken Nugget Lunch

The **NCES** (Parent Council) will be offering their annual **chicken nugget lunch** on **Thurs., Mar. 19** (last day before Spring Break). Order forms will go home with students on Mar. 3 and must be returned by Thurs., Mar. 12. All students will also receive a **free ice cream cup** from the Council.

## SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

### PHSD Ward Review

The goal of the electoral ward review is to analyze the current ward structure and ensure that it effectively represents both the general and school populations and communities in alignment with [Policy 7-0 Board Operations: Wards.](#)

From January 15th to February 3rd, trustees attended school council meetings to present information about the ward review. An online survey was conducted to gather feedback on three options. Based on the input received and published in the ['What We Heard' report](#), the board has created a fourth option, with six (6) wards and six (6) trustees. For more information on this new option please see the Pembina Hills website, or attend the **NPCS School Council meeting Monday, March 9 at 7:30p.m.**

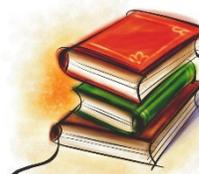
**New Education Funding Model After fifteen years, the government has released a new funding model for education.**

**Funding will no longer follow the student, but will instead fund the system through a weighted moving average based on enrolment. They have reduced the number of grants from 36 to 15. Pembina Hills will be receiving our specific funding rates this week and will be working through the numbers as we prepare our budget for 2020-2021.**

Jennifer.Tuininga@pembinahills.ca

780-674-6579 H,  
780-284-0971 C

## LIBRARY NEWS



**Monday-Thursday**

9:00am-4:30pm

**Wednesday Evenings**

7:00-9:00PM

**Closed March 20-27 for Spring Break**

Open one day during the break

Thurs., March 26, 9:00 – 4:30 pm

**February was Library Lover's Month.** Our "Blind Date with a Book" was a huge success! We had 124 participants (adults and students) and at least 80 review forms returned. The winners of the contest are:

Adult-Debbie Fisher

Student-Kiana Wierenga

They will each receive a \$25.00 Gift Card from Chapters. Congratulations to both of you!



Mar. 3 – Running team practice (4:15-5:30)

Mar. 4 – Dress-up like '100 year old'

Mar. 4 – Stawnichy sausage orders to arrive (after 10 am)

Mar. 5– Parent Meetings (4:30-7:30)

Mar. 6 – Parent meetings in morning, no classes

Mar. 7 – Gr. 8/9 & Jr. Girls Zone Basketball tournament

Mar. 9 – Running team practice (4:15 – 5:30)

Mar. 10 – Music Festival; Jr. High Band (9:30 am)

Mar. 10 – Jr. High Running team at Butterdome

Mar. 10 – Tri #2 CTF classes end

Mar. 10 – 12: annual Gr. 9 Jasper trip

Mar. 11 – Gr. 7/8 Misty Ridge ski trip

Mar. 11 – Tri #2 Option classes end

Mar. 12 – Jr. High band at CRC Seniors group (am)

Mar. 13 – **PD DAY, no classes**

Mar. 14 – Running Team at Butterdome Indoor Games



- Mar. 17 – Tri #3 Option classes begin
- Mar. 18 – Tri #3 CTF classes begin
- Mar. 18 – Chicken catching at R Elgersma's
- Mar. 18 – Progress Reports to go home with Gr. 1-6  
& updates for Jr. High students in PowerSchool
- Mar. 19 - Parent Council Chicken Nugget lunch
- Mar. 19 – last day before Spring Break
- Mar. 20 – Alternate day, no classes
- Mar. 20-29: SPRING BREAK**
- Mar. 30 – First day back after Break
- Mar. 30 – Chicken catching at R Elgersma's
- Mar. 31 – Return Purdy chocolate orders

**Looking ahead – April**



- April 2 – OPEN HOUSE (starts at 7:00 pm) & Kindergarten Registration for 20/21 year in K room at 7:30 pm**
- April 2 – Class Photos & Kindergarten Grad pictures, AM
- April 8 – Easter Tea (plans TBA) – afternoon
- April 8 – Spring Program, 7:00 pm at Neerlandia CRC**