



Nov. 2020

Neerlandia
Eagle Express
Newsletter

Principal's Message

A group that may not get enough recognition is our Neerlandia Public Christian School Council (NPCSC)/ Neerlandia Christian Education Society (NCES).

This group of individuals are intelligent, hard-working, and reliable, who give their hearts and minds to making this school a better place. During this unstable and unusual year, they have brought calm and wisdom to the meetings and found creative ways to do their work within the guidelines and protocols that we are required to follow. They've found a way to deliver food in a safe manner, both with the opening day cookies and the hot lunches. They are helping find ways to ensure St. Nick Day will remain fun and meaningful for the students, all in a safe manner. They are putting together a plan for a fundraising auction this winter that will be done online yet still provide some fun and purpose for people to donate.

Our school would not be what it is without this group providing endless support and opportunities for families to attend, have access to quality resources, and ensure barriers are removed that would otherwise inhibit families from accessing our Christian education program.

In a year with what seems like a long list of limitations and restrictions, this group could have simply shrugged their shoulders and blamed the situation for not trying - yet they have really stuck with our school and provided excellent leadership. They have come up with ideas to help make all of the events and typical contributions possible. They seem to find solutions for everything and really inspire me to keep going and make this a meaningful and enjoyable year for our students.

As a staff, we appreciate the funds for bussing, Bibles, food, equipment, and playground items. We especially appreciate the NCES making it possible for our teachers to attend the Christian Educators Conference each fall. This is a rejuvenating time that allows our teachers to connect with other Christian Educators across our province.

They learn more ways to authentically teach God's word to our students and make disciples for Christ.

If you see any of these members (names are listed below in their report), be sure to thank them for their work to make this an amazing school community to be a part of. Thank you to the NCES for all you've done and all you continue to do. We are grateful.

Brett Seatter, Principal

Staff News

Mrs. Megan Ferster (music teacher) is on a Maternity Leave. We have Mrs. Kathi Hellinga taking over this position until Mrs. Ferster returns. Hope all goes well for Mrs. Ferster and we welcome back, Mrs. Hellinga!

We also want to welcome a student teacher, Julian Hooimeyer, who will be helping out in some of our Jr. High classes. We hope he will also feel welcome in our school community!



We will be sending home a print copy of Progress Reports with **Grade 1-9 students** on **Thurs., Nov. 19**.

PowerSchool: All Gr. 1-9 parents have been given a letter with user names and passwords (beginning of the year) to access information and also make online payments. If you have misplaced this information, please contact the office.

If you already have a child or children on PowerSchool then you just need to add the student onto your existing account.

Gr. 1-3 teachers do not enter marks and comments in PowerSchool as they have their own progress reports & only Math & LA will have descriptors for this report.

Gr. 4-6 reports will show marks/comments for Math & LA and Jr. High teachers do regular updates of core courses and parents can access their children's information any time via the webpage

<http://powerschool.phrd.ab.ca/public>

Kindergarten will have student-led conferences.

The Tues./Thurs. groups will be meeting with Mrs. Henschel on Tues., Nov. 17 (4:00-7:00) and the

Mon/Wed. groups will be meeting with Mrs. Olthuis on Wed., Nov. 18 (4:00-7:00), the Tues./Thurs.

(schedule has gone home with K students).

Retake Day



Smart Photography will be here during the early morning of **Wed., Nov. 18.**

If your child attends Mon./Wed. Kindergarten classes then they can have their picture taken on this day

(unless you brought them in on Oct. 15)

If someone missed picture day or wants Retakes, please be prepared for this on Nov. 18. All orders are done online and students will be given access codes on picture day.

Jr High Awards (2019/2020 year)

Due to **COVID** our Jr. High students did not receive awards in June for the 2019/2020 school year.

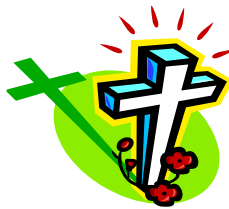
We will be presenting these academic & sports awards on **Wed., Nov. 4.** Mr. Seatter will be presenting to the Gr. 10 students (last year's Gr. 9 students) at BCHS during lunch break. Then he will return to NPCS and along with other Jr. High teachers & coaches, will present awards at 1:25 to the Gr. 8 & 9 students (last year's Gr. 7/8).

Unfortunately, we cannot allow parents or community members to be present for the Award Presentations.

We hope to take pictures to be shared afterwards.

Assemblies/Events

Remembrance Day Assembly



Remembrance Day virtual assembly will be held on **Nov. 10.** Mr. Seatter will begin with a live message from the gym and the rest will be pre-recorded songs/poems, etc. that students will get to listen to in their individual classes.

Poppies have arrived. Donations for poppies are encouraged & gratefully accepted in classrooms/office.

Remembrance Day Contest – Deadline for poster/poem/essay entries is **Nov. 23** (so they can be forwarded to BES). Parent Consent forms need to be signed & glued to the back top left hand corner of all entries – teachers have these forms available.

Neerlandia Co-op also invited our Gr. 4-6 students to do some Remembrance Day posters and will post them in the entrance of the store. One winning poster will receive a \$25. Co-op Gift Card.

FCSS FOODBANK Service Project



We have decided to support our own local FCSS Foodbank this year as our **Christmas Service Project.**

Each class will be making & selling bundles of Christmas cards. The money that we receive for these sales will be donated to the Barrhead Foodbank. If you would like to just make a cash donation or send a cheque (payable to FCSS), they will also be gratefully accepted. Teachers will be sending out more information.

FUNDRAISERS

Our NCES/Parent Council will be hosting a **hotdog sale** on **Tuesday, Nov. 17.** Order forms and information will be going home a week prior to this sale.

Library will be selling **Gift Cards** – order forms have gone home with the students. Deadline for orders to be handed in is Nov. 16 and the cards should arrive by Dec. 1.

Neerlandia Christian Education Society (NCES) NEWS

The NCES board met on October 26 and here are some highlights of the meeting:

- NCES has reimbursed the full cost of "**Adventure Bibles**" for 30 NPCSC students!
- NCES **family (\$300) and associate (\$150) membership** request letters went home in late October. If you have not had a chance to pay your membership fees, please consider this way of supporting the school and enhance student learning. Please follow up with the optional invitation for grandparents to become NCES associate members.
- Thank you to everyone who supported our October 21st chicken nugget hot lunch. We would also like to thank our parent volunteers for making this possible: Kym Peters, Laura Braucht, Charlene Fleming and Amanda Batty. NCES is planning a **hot dog lunch for Tuesday, November 17**. Order forms will be sent out in early November. If you could help with cooking and serving this lunch (or future hot lunches), please contact Charlene Fleming by text at 780-284-1534 or call 780-584-2533. Associate members are more than welcome to help with cooking hot lunches!!
- **NCES is planning our spring fundraiser!** Due to COVID, we will be hosting an online auction that will run from February 15 to March 15, 2021. We are still in the early planning phase, but please consider donating in support of NCES. Some popular donation ideas include: babysitting, sleigh rides, birthday parties, homemade baking, firewood, boat rides, etc. We are **accepting donations** anytime from now until early March. Please email a photo or a video along with a short description of your donation to tknanninga@hotmail.ca.
- **Calling Volunteers for Preschool!!** NCES is forming a sub-committee to plan the 2021-22 preschool year. The sub-committee will have the

duties of: hiring staff, managing registrations, ensuring Government of Alberta Children's services licensing requirements are met, developing a fee structure and developing a plan to meet AHS COVID guidelines. We require at least 4 parent volunteers by the end of November 2020 to form this sub-committee. If you are passionate about our Christian Pre-school program or would like to learn more, please contact Kym Peters at kympetersphotography@gmail.com.

- NCES reimburses out-of-boundary families for a portion of their bussing fees. If you are an out-of-boundary family, NCES will reimburse \$150 per grade 1-9 student and \$75 per kindergarten student. If you have not yet submitted your reimbursement request, please send a copy of your PHPS bussing receipt by scanning and emailing it to tknanninga@hotmail.ca or texting a picture of it to Katherine Nanninga (780-305-8897).
- NPCSC is pleased to announce that our nominee, **Randy Strydhorst**, received the Pembina Hills School Division **Exemplary Achievement Award** for his vital contributions to the fundraising and financial activities of NCES for a combined total service of 12 years. Randy has volunteered countless hours and his talents for the betterment of our school. Thank you, Randy, - on behalf of Neerlandia Public Christian School Council!
- NCES covered registration and lunch for our NPCSC teachers to attend the virtual PCCE **Christian Educators Convention** on October 22-23. NCES would like to share a little feedback about the conference "On behalf of the NPCSC teachers I just want to say a HUGE thank you to the NCES for providing us lunch for the last two days of our teacher's convention. The conference keynote speakers and breakout sessions were meaningful and filled with encouragement for the challenging times that we are in. We appreciate your [NCES's] ongoing support and the work that you do to keep us encouraged in our school. Thank you!"
- You are welcome to join our next NPCSC and NCES board meeting scheduled for November 30, 2020 at 6:30pm.

On behalf of the 2020-21 NCES board:

Sheri Strydhorst, Charlene Fleming, Annemiek Elzinga, Amanda Batty, Katherine Nanninga, Kym Peters, Laura Braucht and Geraldine Wierenga

PHSD Board News

Student Enrolment

Pembina Hills has experienced a decrease of 368 students (10.15%) in our community schools. Of those students, 202 have chosen distance learning through the division's online school, Vista Virtual School. Including Vista Virtual School's registrations (which increased by 112%), the division's total Kindergarten to Grade 12 enrolment is 5,775 students. The additional enrolments at Vista Virtual School resulted in an overall increase of 192 students. This is the first enrolment increase the division has seen in years.

Pembina Hills will be advocating to the Minister of Education that divisions be funded on actual enrolments for 2020-2021 where there has been an enrolment increase. Some school boards are asking for a change to the funding due to COVID-19 and their declining numbers.

Federal Funding Allocation

Pembina Hills School Division received \$2.016 million in Federal Education Funding to support a safe return to class in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Without the funding received from the federal government, staff reductions would have been required at community schools due to decreased student enrolment and the added costs for substitute staff, cleaning and protective equipment. The federal funding will be used to:

- Keep class sizes low in community schools by retaining existing staff for the 2020-21 school year
- Provide additional staff at Vista Virtual School for their increased enrolment
- Cover costs for substitute teachers and support staff due to COVID-19 isolation/illness
- Provide personal protective equipment
- Cover costs for additional cleaning and sanitation costs

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

St. Nick Day



The tradition of St. Nicholas came to North America with immigrants from Europe. Because our community has a Dutch heritage, the tradition of Sinterklaas lives on. At Neerlandia Public Christian School, St. Nicholas comes to visit for an afternoon.

Children exchange gifts in their classrooms. The gift giving celebration of St. Nicholas' feast day also gives separation from the celebration of Christmas and its true meaning.

Celebration of Sinterklaas is held on December 5 and we **at NPCS will be celebrating it on Friday, Dec. 4.**

Due to COVID rules we will be celebrating a bit differently this year.

- St. Nick will visit the **Gr. 1-3 classrooms (possibly stop by Gr. 4-6 classrooms)** but will not have students sitting on his lap. He will be reading a story to the class at a safe distance. Teachers will be given the job of handing out the gifts that St. Nick will deliver to the classroom.
- Unfortunately, no parents will be allowed to attend the classroom celebrations.
- Our Parent Council (NCES) has graciously volunteered to **provide a pizza lunch** for all Grade 1-9 students (Kindergarten will not be participating in St. Nick Day this year). To help cover some of the costs we are asking each student to **bring a Toonie** for lunch.
- Classes may still have snacks (provided by parents) throughout the afternoon. This could be pop, small bags of chips, wrapped bars, etc. Everything has to be store bought pre-wrapped items (no homemade goodies this year).
- Each Gr. 1-9 classroom will be arranging their own activities for the afternoon keeping in mind COVID restrictions.
- Students will receive** a name of a fellow student for which they **buy a small gift (\$5 - \$7 value)**. We will require these gifts to be brought in a week prior – **November 26 is the deadline.**
- Please watch for your child's classroom note regarding their plans for this special day.



Sports



Volleyball

Due to COVID restrictions, our Jr. High Girls & Boys teams are holding practices after school but are not playing any games against other schools. Coaches will update the teams directly with information and when the season will end.

LIBRARY NEWS

November Library Hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00AM-4:30PM

Wednesday Evenings

7:00-9:00PM

All Day Friday, November 13

9:00AM-4:30PM

Library Closed-November 11 for Remembrance Day

Gift Card Fundraiser The library is holding its Gift Card Fundraiser again. Place your order by November 16, 2020 and cards will be here by December 1. These make great Christmas gifts, birthday presents or just to use when shopping. Order forms have been handed out to the youngest child in each class and are available at the library.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 6 - **Alternate Day, no classes**

Nov. 10, 11:00 am - Remembrance Day Virtual assembly

Nov. 11 – **Remembrance Day, no classes**

Friday, Nov. 13 – Class color Days:

K-3 – wear **PRIMARY** colours/

Gr. 4-6 – wear **SECONDARY** colours

Nov. 16 – deadline for Library gift card orders

Nov. 17 – Hotdog Lunch (pre-orders only)

Nov. 17 – Kindergarten conferences (4:00-7:00) – Mrs.

Henschel' class

Nov. 18 – **Retake Pictures** (8:30 am)

Nov. 18 – Kindergarten conferences (4:00-7:00) – Mrs.

Olthuis' class

Nov. 19 - Progress Reports to go home with Gr. 1-9

Nov. 20 - **Alternate Day, no classes**

Nov. 23 - deadline for Remembrance Day posters/poems

Nov. 27 - **Alternate Day, no classes**

Nov. 30 – NPCSC/NCES meeting, 6:00 pm in school

