

"Even young people are known by their actions, whether their conduct is pure and upright. Ears to hear and eyes to see – the Lord made them both."

PROVERBS 20:11-12



## Principal's Message

MATTHEW 19:14

*"Allow the children to come to me," Jesus said. "Don't forbid them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like these children."*

Something I've come to recognize and appreciate about our school is the amazing children and students that we have here. It is my hope that others know this and parents are aware of how great this student community really is. Your children are a joy to work with!

As we celebrate being back in school after the Christmas break and online learning, everyone on staff is excited to have the children back in school and this place feels alive again. This is a testament to your children. Looking back over these last couple of months, I am amazed at the dedication and resiliency of these children. Our Jr. High students were online for 4 weeks and they showed up for each class, got their assignments done, and continually worked hard through a difficult situation. I had several teachers comment how nice it is to work with students like this. As the elementary went online last week, again we were amazed at how the students (and of course the parents) worked through all of the assigned work and ensured the students kept up with their schooling.

Other examples are the beautiful messages some Jr. High students sent to Mr. Gelderman as his family went through the loss of his father. This is a truly touching gesture for the students to reach out - they're thinking of others and brightening one's day.

Neerlandia

Eagle Express

Newsletter

January 2021

At recess breaks, we have students playing together and interacting in (mostly) positive ways. We don't have kids sitting on their devices, ignoring the world around them. They play, they interact, they love.

Finally, when we go on field trips our students have been model citizens demonstrating good character throughout the experience. I've been on a few field trips and many sporting events and am always proud of the example our students are to other schools. I'll never forget being at a swimming pool on one trip where a few schools were there at the same time. As the lifeguards continually blew their whistle and warned students from other schools, our students were incredible and we didn't have a single issue. They are a true light to others when they go out.

It's truly a beautiful place to work and the students need to be commended for their contributions to our school. When you see your kids after school today, give them a hug and let them know they're doing a great job. It's good to be back!

*Brett Seatter,  
Principal*

## All School News

We want to once again thank our **Janitors** for the great job of keeping our school neat & tidy. Everything looked sparkling clean again when we came back from our Christmas Break.

They also have to do additional cleaning because of Covid rules and we are so thankful that we have dedicated people to do this job!

We also want to say a BIG Thank You to our Maintenance Dept. At the beginning of December we had an unexpected flood in our gym and we were very worried about our gym floor. Several of our staff members helped by starting the clean-up immediately, followed by several Pembina Hills maintenance men that showed up and we had to run several fans, etc. for several weeks to get the floor to dry properly.

We are very thankful that the floor has been restored and is once again available for our students. (Maintenance also commented that if our staff wouldn't have been so quick to take action that it could have cost us close to \$50,000. to replace the floor). It's great when we can all work together!

## Staff News

*We want to welcome Mrs. Katlyn Wierenga to our school. She will be teaching Gr. 3 (mornings only) and has replaced Ms. Cinnamon Forstey.*

*We hope Mrs. Wierenga will feel welcome in our school. We also want to wish Ms. Forstey all the best in her future endeavours.*

## Upcoming Events



### SPORTS TEAM JERSEY DAY

On **Friday, Jan. 22** students are encouraged to wear a jersey from their favorite sports team. This is just for fun!!!

**\*Note: Tues./Thurs. Kindergarten class will also be coming on this Friday.**

**Jr. High St. Nick Day** – Due to the fact that our Jr. High students were learning from home in December we had to postpone their St. Nick celebrations.

We will be hosting this **on Friday, Jan. 22**. Jr. High students will be treated to a pizza lunch (provided by NCES) and students will exchange gifts, play games, etc.

If you have not brought in your gift, please do so a.s.a.p.

## Sports

At this time, we are not allowed to run any after school sports activities. This includes Basketball & Running Team.

## HOT LUNCHES for January

Our Parent Council (NCES) will be hosting another **hotdog sale** on **Wed., Jan. 20**. Order forms will go home with the students on Monday, Jan. 11 and need to be returned no later than **Thurs., Jan. 14**. Etransfers to NCES accounts and or cash is accepted.

## Neerlandia Christian Education Society (NCES) News

Happy New Year Everyone! The NCES board did not meet in December, but we have some exciting news to share and progress on different projects:

- Our next fundraiser will be a **hot dog, hot lunch on Wednesday, January 20**. Order forms will be sent out in early January when students return to in-school classes.
- If you would like to be added to our **hot lunch volunteer list**, 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 spring fundraiser!** Many of you have joined our NCES – Fundraiser Facebook group for our online auction that will run from Thursday, March 11 to Saturday, March 14, 2021. **Please keep inviting family and friends to join this group.** We would greatly appreciate auction item donations. Some popular ideas include: cakes, cookies, babysitting, sleigh rides, birthday parties, homemade baking, firewood, boat rides, etc. We are **accepting donations** anytime from now until early March. Please email a short description of your donation to [kympetersphotography@gmail.com](mailto:kympetersphotography@gmail.com)
- **Preschool Sub-committee.** We now have our 4 volunteers for the NCES pre-school committee! Thank you so much to the ladies who stepped up to help make preschool happen for Fall 2021. Our first meeting will be January 12, 2020 at 7pm!
- You are welcome to join our next NPCSC and NCES board meeting scheduled for January 25, 2021 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

### Division finishes the year with a surplus

The cancellation of in-school classes last year from March-June, and the addition of a very successful summer program at Vista Virtual School left the division with a \$2M surplus at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. While the Accumulated Surplus from Operations is almost \$6.2M, the board has already sent a request to the Minister of Education to use \$1.7M to cover the additional costs at Vista Virtual School due to increased enrolment this year. The board is also seeking Ministerial approval to use \$150K to hire three additional support staff for this school year including one full-time Speech Language Pathologist, one full-time Behaviour Therapist and a half-time Occupational Therapist.

### 2021-2022 school year calendar approved!

The board approved the 2021-2022 division school year calendar. Similar to this year, students will begin next year with a staggered entry on August 31st and September 1st.

- Grade 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 students will attend on August 31st
- Grade 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 students will attend on September 1st

Neerlandia's alternate school year calendar will be reviewed and submitted for approval to the board in February. The approved division calendar is posted on the [Pembina Hills website](#).

### Election 2021

School board elections take place on October 18, 2021. If you're passionate about kids and public education, you may want to consider running for school trustee.

Candidates must complete the [candidate package](#), which is also available for pickup at Regional Office in Barrhead. Nominations for the election of candidates will be received from January 4th until September 20, 2021 at 12:00p.m. (noon).

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## LIBRARY NEWS

January Hours:

Monday - Thursday

9:00AM - 4:30 PM

Wednesday evenings

7:00PM - 9:00PM

Friday, Jan 22. 9AM - 4:30 PM

We are in the library regular hours again but only for **curbside delivery**. We are not yet open to the public. Sorry for any confusion.

Please call or email before 1:10 to  
arrange for your books to be placed outside for pick up

The library is hosting a **virtual Lego contest** on January 21.



The entry forms needed to be in by January 11 so hopefully if you were hoping to participate you have sent in the forms. We are still finalizing how to share all the amazing creations.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 8	<b>Alternate Day, no classes</b>
January 15	<b>Alternate Day, no classes for students</b>
<b>January 20</b>	<b>Hotdog Sale (pre-order by Jan. 14)</b>
January 21	Library Lego Contest
Jan. 22 (Fri)	Jr. High St. Nick Day celebrations (PM) -Wear your favourite Jersey Day
Jan. 22 (Fri)	Kindergarten Day for Tues./Thurs. class
Jan. 25 (6:30)	NPCSC/NCES meeting
January 29	<b>PD DAY, no classes</b>