

Love Is Patient, Love Is... **KIND**

Neerlandia

Eagle Express

Newsletter

February, 2021

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members of NPCS:

This month has a focus on letter writing here at NPCS and we have students writing to each other until February 16th. This is something we do every couple of years and is integrated as part of our Language Arts programming.

Students often ask questions, especially when they write to staff members, giving an opportunity to answer and learn more about one another. This year, before the campaign had officially started on February 1st, I was away for a couple of personal days. Guess what? The whole school played a bit of a prank on me and all students wrote me a letter while I was away. So, imagine the shock and stunned look I had when I arrived back to work on Friday to see an entire post-office box stuffed and overflowing with letters!!

I will admit I haven't read all of the letters entirely yet, but I've gone through quite a few to see what some of the common questions are. Here are some of the more frequently asked questions and my answers to them:

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: Yes, I do! I love animals and have had many over the years. Some are mine, some are my kids'. We have two dogs - a beagle and a St. Bernard (quite a size difference!) and the St. Bernard is only 9 months old. She's my favourite pet and has all of us in our home suckered into letting her live in the house with us. She's become quite a member of the family and is really the greatest dog we've ever known. We also have 2 potbelly pigs, 4 ponies, and a horse. I'd love to give the ponies away, but my daughter would probably stop talking to me - ha-ha!

Q: What do you do at work all day?

A: It really depends on the day! Some days I'm in a few classrooms watching lessons and seeing what kinds of activities are happening (part of my supervising role). Some days I observe lessons to evaluate new teachers. Others I am in the office more planning and working on paperwork with Mrs. Fisher to keep the day-to-day tasks going. The nice part of the job is when I'm tired of sitting, I can always

get up and go to a classroom to connect with students and make sure things are running smoothly. On occasion, I have to deal with discipline issues, but we don't have many of those here at NPCS - our students are great!

Q: What is your favourite sport?

A: It would either be skiing or basketball. I love the mountains and I love the thrill of skiing as fast and as hard as I can with my kids and trying to beat new ski records. For team sports, I really love basketball and enjoy coaching students in this. We have had some great teams here and I think we'll have many great teams in the future, based on the hard work and athleticism of our up and coming students. Volleyball is ok too.

Q: What are your fears?

A: Disappointing people. Not doing a good job.

Q: What will you do when COVID-19 is over?

A: HAVE FRIENDS OVER!! I am so lonely when we have cold weekends and not much to do - normally I'd get together with friends or family to do some fun activities, but we can't do that right now. I really miss people (outside of work).

Q: Why did you become a principal?

A: Honestly, it was never a goal of mine and I insisted I'd never do it. Then one day a principal position came up and I felt like God told me to apply for the job. I was wondering if it was indeed God speaking or not, but when I got home my wife heard the exact same thing so then I knew it had to be from God. I applied, but didn't get that job. However, it got me started on this part of the career and I was able to complete my master's degree before getting a principal job at the colonies. Some days the pressure is hard, but God is faithful and I am willing to serve in this role as long as it's part of His plan.

Q: What is your favourite colour?

A: Blue or orange... Go Oilers!!

That was fun sorting through some of these and Mrs. Fisher has organized the letters in my office to make sure I will go through each and every one of them! I look forward to trying to answer every single question for the kids before the end of the month :)

Sincerely,
Brett Seatter, Principal of NPCS

P.S. One thing I've noticed is not many know how to spell principal... maybe it needs to go on a spelling test someday! One tip from a teacher is that you need to remember that the principal is your friend – another word for friend is 'pal' so you can always remember to put 'pal' at the end of the word 'principal'

School Wide News:

Letter Writing

As Mr. Seatter has explained in his message; For the first two weeks of February our students will be participating in a Letter Writing project. (Feb. 1-16)

All students (K-Gr. 9) will be given a name of a student that they must write to and then reply to the letter they receive. After that it will be opened up for students to write to other students or staff in other grades. This is just to teach letter writing skills and also to promote students & staff getting to know each other better. Letters are checked over by teachers & initialed before they are placed in the mailbox. We have a large mailbox in the Foyer and our grade 5 students are the letter carriers and responsible for delivering letters on a daily basis.

LOOKING AHEAD



Progress reports will be sent home with students on **Thurs., March 11.**

Parent Meetings to be held on Mar. 18 (4:00-7:30 pm)

& Mar. 19(8:30 am – 12 noon). We will send more information closer to the beginning of March to schedule these meetings.

We will be having a **Kindergarten Registration evening** for 2021-2022 school year on **March 18** (same evening as Parent Meetings).

We will send out more information closer to the date for times, etc.

Upcoming Events

Winter Walk Day is scheduled for **Wed., Feb. 3**. Students will be taking a walk throughout the hamlet. There will be staggered starts and students must stay in their own class group. The Parent Council (NCES) will be serving hot chocolate and a wrapped cookie after the walk. If time and weather permit then we will do a few other outdoor activities.



Show your support for Pink Shirt Day

Anti-bullying PINK SHIRT DAY

We encourage all students to wear pink on **Wed., Feb. 24** to support anti-bullying in our school and community.

SKIING -JR HIGH

Sports

BASKETBALL:



The latest update is that we can have basketball practices after school with our Jr. High girls & boys teams starting Feb. 8th. We will continue to follow the Covid rules and restrictions as the students will still be in their own cohorts and only Jr. High staff will coach.

Girls will practice on Mon./Wed. & Boys will practice on Tues./Thurs. Mr. Seatter will be sending out information to the players & parents via School Messenger with details.

FUNDRAISERS

Chicken Nugget Lunch – Tues., Feb. 23.

Our next hot lunch that will be sponsored by our Parent Council (NCES) will be **chicken nuggets**. Order forms will be coming out the week of Feb. 8-11. If you are interested in helping out please contact Charlene Fleming (780-284-1534)

PARENT COUNCIL/NCES NEWS

The NCES board met on January 25th, here are the highlights of our meeting:

- Thank you to everyone who supported our January hot dog lunch, we raised \$480 to support our school!! A big thanks to our parent and grandparent volunteers for making this possible: Eva Elgersma, Nicole Wierenga, Lisa DeVries, and Charlene Fleming.
- Our next fundraiser will be a **chicken nugget hot lunch on Tuesday, February 23rd**. Order forms will be sent out in early February. If you are available to help with this hot lunch, 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 13, 2021. Thank you to everyone who has made donations for the auction!! **We would greatly appreciate additional 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
- Please keep **inviting family and friends to join the NCES – Fundraiser Facebook group**. For every five people that join as a result of your invite you **earn ONE free school lunch** (1 meal item + drink) to a max of four free lunches, so get inviting! This will be retroactive as a sign of appreciation for all the invitations that have gone out so far and an encouragement to invite more family and friends!
- For those NCES supporters who are not on Facebook, we will be circulating a letter that outlines different ways to financially support NCES. This letter will be circulated in early March.
- **Preschool Sub-committee.** Our first pre-school planning meeting was held on January 12, 2021.

The committee's first major task is to secure a classroom location. The group is exploring all options.

- NCES will be handing out cookies and hot chocolate to students after their Winter Walk on Wednesday, February 3rd.
- **SAVE THE DATE.** The NPCSC and NCES AGMs will be held May 25th at 6:30pm. We will be looking for one board member. Prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve our school community.
- You are welcome to join our next NPCSC and NCES board meeting scheduled for February 22nd, 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

Partnering to Support Mental Health

Through funding from the Alberta Government, Pembina Hills has partnered with the Barrhead Association for Community Living and the Barrhead Anglican Church to create Together Talk — an initiative to support mental health concerns related to the pandemic. Together Talk will focus on providing on-site and virtual counselling, as well as group activities to promote mental well-being.

Their goal is to provide extra support to local communities and help bridge the gap between existing services such as local FCSS services, physicians, AHS addictions and mental health services. Read more at www.togethertalk.ca.

2021 Public School Trustee Election

The election for Public School Trustees will take place on October 18, 2021. Nominations are being accepted until 12:00 p.m. on September 20, 2021.

Visit the [Election 2021 page](#) on our website for more information including:

- [Candidate package](#)
- [Electoral ward map](#)
- Electoral ward descriptions
- Trustee handbook

Nomination packages can be picked up at Regional Office at 5310 – 49 Street in Barrhead.

LIBRARY NEWS



THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

Curbside pick-up is available.

Phone the library at 780-674-5384 between 9AM-1:10PM to arrange for a pick-up time.

Books can be picked up from the table outside the school front doors.

During teacher's convention the library will be available for curbside pickup all day Thursday, Feb. 5 from 9:00AM-4:30PM.

Library will be closed, Monday, February 15 for Family Day Holiday. Library will be open for curbside pickup Friday, February 19.

Neerlandia Public Library's **AGM** will be held **February 8 at 7PM** in the Neerlandia Public Christian School Gym. Our Bylaws will be reviewed and amended at this time as well. Please follow all COVID protocols when attending. If you wish to attend virtually, please contact the library for instructions.

Thank you to everyone who made our **Lego contest** a success. We had 34 participants and so many unique representations of what "HOME IS". These are the winners in the 4 categories.

Parker, age 10: Home is Alberta

Sarina, age 9: My home, my happiness

Donny, age 4: Home is where I live

Derbhla & Grainne, family: Home is cozy

Valentine **Rhyme Time kits** will be available soon. Check out our Facebook page of when they will be ready to be picked up. These kits are designed for children 2-4 years of age. Curbside delivery applies to this as well. Call the library to arrange a time for pick up.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 1 – 16: Letter Writing

Feb. 4 & 5: Teachers' Convention (no classes)

Feb. 8: 7:00 pm: Library AGM

Feb. 15: Family Day holiday

Feb. 22: NPCSC/NCES meeting, 6:30 pm

Feb. 23: NCES Chicken Nugget lunch

Feb. 24: Pink Shirt Day (Anti-Bullying)

Feb. 26: Teacher Day, **no classes for students**