



Neerlandia
Eagle Express
Newsletter
MARCH 2021

Principal's Message

We are entering the time of year where plans and decisions are starting to be made for next school year. Budgets, priorities, and staffing decisions are a few of the many important things decided at this time of year.

As we go through this season of planning, I ask that you pray for school administrators, regional office senior administrators, and the school board as many critical plans are made during this time. We need wisdom and guidance, as well as collaboration and cooperation to make things work for all school sites in Pembina Hills so that we can continue to meet the educational needs of all our students.

Although it can be a stressful time with many factors and influences, it is often an exciting time as it lays the groundwork for the next school year and allows us to give our best to your children.

Thank you for upholding the leaders in prayer during this season so that we can make sound decisions and have the strength to work together. It is greatly appreciated. God is good, always. God is good!

God bless!

Brett Seatter
Principal

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalm 107:1

Staffing Changes

As most of you know, Mrs. Renee Rentz will be going on maternity leave. This will happen around the time when we go on Spring Break (week of Mar. 29 - April 5 includes Easter Monday) as she is due mid-April. We hope all goes well for Mrs. Rentz and her family as they begin this new exciting chapter of their lives.

We have assigned Ms. Rhonda Loewen to take over Mrs. Rentz' Grade One class for the remainder of this school year (starting April 6). Yes, Ms. Loewen is already a teacher here at NPCS as part-time Grade Four teacher. We will now be assigning Mrs. Kathi Hellinga to take over the Grade Four subjects that Ms. Loewen was teaching and still keep her on as our Music Teacher.

We are excited & blessed that we can have these positions covered by our present teaching staff.

Parent Meetings

Mar. 18 (evening) or Mar. 19 (morning)

Parent Meetings: We will be scheduling **Thurs. evening, Mar. 18** between 4:30 – 7:30 pm (last booking is at 7:15) and **Fri. morning, Mar. 19** between 8:30 am – 12:15 pm (last booking is at 12:00). These meetings can be either 'in person' OR 'phone call'. You can choose your option when you set up your appointments online.

The 'in person' meetings are **for parents only (no children) this time**. We will not be able to allow children to be in the school because of Covid restrictions so these will not be student-led conferences as they were in the past for some classes.

These schedules are for homeroom teachers, Gr. 1-6 & Jr. High teachers: Lise Wruk (Gr. 7), Howard Gelderman (Gr. 8), Trenton Wierenga (Gr. 9) and Mr. Seatter (Principal).

You will also have the option of booking an appointment with Mr. Enns (some Jr High courses) on Thursday evening only.

Kindergarten parents will also need to book an appointment between 4:30 – 6:30, Mar. 18 or 9:00 – 11:00, Mar. 19.

We will be sending home a separate note & also via School Messenger, in regards of how to book appointments and more information. Bookings can begin on Wed., Mar. 3/21.

REGISTRATION EVENING for 2021/2022



Thursday, March 18 : 7:00 – 7:30 pm

Kindergarten Registration for 2021-2022 –

If you have a child that will be turning five years old before Dec. 31, 2021 they are eligible for Kindergarten.

If you know of any new families that might be interested in NPCS, please ask them to call the office (780-674-5581) to book an appointment.

There will also be an Ad placed in the Barrhead Leader and shared on Facebook.

If you have children already attending NPCS and you just need a Kindergarten Registration package please download from www.neerlandiaschool.ca or you can fill out registration forms via PowerSchool if you have set up your account to download 'Forms & Fees'. *we are possibly updating forms so we would like you to **wait until March 8th to begin this process.** These forms will also be available in the school office.

100th Day Dress Up

We will be celebrating 100 days of school at NPCS on **Tuesday, Mar 9.** Students are encouraged to dress up like 100-year-old citizens.



Sports

BADMINTON:

Jr. High Badminton is offered after school with some Covid restrictions.

Gr. 7- Mon., Gr. 8 – Tues.,
Gr. 9 – Wed.

All practices are from 3:50 – 5:15 pm for Gr. 7-9 students.

Elementary Badminton (Gr. 5/6 students) takes place on Thurs., 3:50 – 5:15 pm



FUNDRAISERS

Jr. High Band students are selling **Purdy's chocolates** as a Spring fundraiser and orders need to be **placed by Mar. 15 online or by Mar. 10th if you are sending cash/cheque.** Orders will be sent back to the school on **March 25**, just before Spring break.

You will need to make arrangements to come to the school to **pick up on March 25** or have your child(ren) take home orders.

- Please note for all fundraisers: If you choose to write a cheque then it should be made out to Pembina Hills Reg. Division. If you send cash then we will need to send cheque from Pembina Hills and this process takes longer so the deadline is sooner for cash/cheques (we would prefer people do online ordering using credit cards if possible)

SPRING PLANT FUNDRAISER:



Our **Gr. 1 class** will again be **selling plants** from **De Herdt's Gardens** starting mid-March and **ending March 26.** Money raised will go towards Gr. 1 class projects (hopefully some

day it will again be for field studies)

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 NPCS. We will plan to have them arrive in time for Mother's Day.

NCES March Hot Lunch

NCES will be offering a Hot Dog lunch on **Wed., Mar. 24th**. Order forms will be going home the first part of March. See NCES news for more information.

Remembrance Day Contest Winners

The 2020 November 11 Remembrance Day Royal Canadian Legion Barrhead Branch poster/literary contest entries at the branch level have been judged. Winners received cheques & certificates.

These are the winners (other than honourable mention) that have been forwarded to the district level for judging at the next level. Congratulations to all of our winners!

JR HIGH

- Second, intermediate black & white poster, Kyler Tuininga (gr. 8)
- First, intermediate poem, Kennedy Coutts (8)
- Second, intermediate poem, Denae Tuininga (7)
- Third, intermediate poem, Mya Nanninga (7)
- First, Intermediate essay, Denae Tuininga (7)

ELEMENTARY

- First primary colour poster, Grainne O'Toole (3)
- Second, primary black and white poster, Emma Tuininga (3)
- Third, primary black and white poster, Piper Krikke (3)
- Second, junior black and white poster, Kalli Greilach (5)
- First, junior essay, Aiden Wierenga (5)
- First, junior poem, Samuel Pierik (5)
- Honourable Mention, Jr colour poster, Violet Simon (6)
- Second, junior essay, Alexa Van Beek (6)
- Third, junior essay, Natalie Nanninga (6)

Neerlandia Christian Education Society (NCES) News

The NCES board met on February 22nd, here are the highlights of our meeting:

- Thank you to everyone who supported our February chicken finger hot lunch!! A big thanks to our parent volunteers for making this possible: Charlene Fleming, Laura Braucht, Lindy Wiart, Nicole Wierenga, Lindsay Cowan and Ayan Ali Idris. Our next fundraiser will be a hot dog **hot lunch on Wednesday, March 24th**. Order forms will be sent out in early March. 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!** Our NCES – Facebook auction will run from Thursday, March 11 to Saturday, March 13, 2021. Thank you to everyone who has made donations for the auction!! It is not too late to submit additional donation items. Some popular ideas include: cakes, cookies, babysitting, sleigh rides, birthday parties, homemade baking, firewood, boat rides, etc. Please email a short description of your donation to kympetersphotography@gmail.com
- **Auction Item Dropoff** - To make things as easy as possible for everyone, we've got a drop off location for donations (obviously not including the larger items). Drop off is at Katherine Nanninga's home. Please contact her to organise a time to drop off, if you haven't already done so! Email: tknanninga@hotmail.ca. We'd like to have all **auction items dropped off by March 8**, if possible.
- For those NCES supporters who are not on Facebook, we will be circulating a letter that outlines different ways to financially support NCES through our spring fundraiser. In early March, this letter will be going home with students and will be put in Neerlandia Church mailboxes for associate members.
- **Preschool Sub-committee.** Our pre-school committee met on February 16th and is working on: securing a classroom location, hiring teachers, insurance and budget. We have potentially 18 families interested in sending their child to preschool in fall 2021.
- In order to attend, children must turn four before December 31, 2021 and be toilet trained. At this point, the NCES preschool subcommittee is still working through the program details and official registration information will follow in late March or early April once we have confirmed logistical details. *Sincerely, the NCES preschool subcommittee: Kym Peters, Nicole Wierenga, Daniella Wierenga, Rebekah Coleman, Sally Vanlaar, and Sheri Strydhorst*
- **Funding for Future Playground.** The NCES board is looking into quotes for a new NPCSC playground. We are applying for a grant that could help subsidize the cost. As we get more details, we will be sharing the progress with our family and associate members.
- **SAVE THE DATE - 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 March 22, 2021 @ 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*

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

WANTED – a School Board Trustee

The Pembina Hills school board will be made up of six trustees following the **October 18, 2021 elections**. The trustee for Pembina Hills West Ward 1 will be elected from the County of Barrhead area including the schools of Neerlandia and Dunstable.

So what does a school trustee do? The main role of a school trustee is governance - providing overall direction and leadership in the division. This includes overseeing a \$59 million budget and fifteen schools. Concerns are diverse, discussions are interesting and decisions are made by the whole board based on the entire needs of the division.

Some of the tasks involved with your role as trustee include: reading and preparing for meetings, writing reports, sending and receiving email, attending and reporting at school council meetings, presentations at schools, and attending one to two meetings a week. Most meetings occur during the day, so although it is a part-time position it would be difficult to serve in the role if you had other full time employment.

If you would like to have a further conversation about running for school trustee please send me a text or give me a call. It is a rewarding way to be involved in your community and contribute to the education of our students.

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

LIBRARY NEWS

March Hours:

Monday - Thursday

9:00AM - 4:30 PM

Friday, March 26. 9AM - 4:30 PM

We are closed for Spring break and Easter from

March 29-April 6

Except we are Open Thursday April 1. 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

We are now open to the public again!

We are limited to 6 patrons at a time but there are rulers outside the library door indicating how many people are there. The public may come in from 9 AM - 1:10PM and again from 3:40-4:30. We have classes in the library during the other times. If you have any questions just call. We can still do curbside deliveries if you prefer.

There will be new Rhyme time kits available next week. They are made especially for children ages 2-4 years. They have a craft, stickers, a coloring page and a number of activities.

Please remember we are not open Wednesday evenings until further notice



- Mar. 3 – Parent meeting notes to be sent out (youngest child notes) and via School Messenger
- Mar. 9 – Dress-up like '100 year old'
- Mar. 10 – last day of Jr. High Options Tri 2 classes
- Mar. 10 – deadline for CASH orders for Purdy's chocolates
- Mar. 11 – last day of Jr. High CTF Tri 2 classes
- Mar. 11 – Progress reports to go home with Elem.
- Mar. 11 – Jr. High should check PowerSchool for updated marks/comments
- Mar. 12 – **PD DAY, no classes**
- Mar. 11 – 13: **NCES Spring Fundraiser online Auction**
- Mar. 15 – deadline for Purdy's Chocolates online orders
- Mar. 18 – Parent Meetings (4:30-7:30)
- Mar. 18 – **NEW Kindergarten Registration for 2021-2022**
- Mar. 19 – Parent meetings in morning, no classes
- Mar. 22 – NCES meeting, 6:30 pm
- Mar. 24 – NCES Hotdog lunch
- Mar. 25 – Purdy's chocolate orders to arrive
- Mar. 26 – Friday, last day of classes before Spring Break
- Mar 27-April 5: includes Good Fri & Easter Monday
- April 6: First day back after Spring Break