



Neerlandia Eagle Express Newsletter

October 2021

Principal's Message

Last week our school took part in Orange Shirt Day, or National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We have recognized Orange Shirt Day for the past several years as a school, but this year was a little different as we had much more intentionality in discussing the topic and learning about it in the classrooms, leading up to this day. The discovered unmarked graves of residential school children last spring was certainly a wake-up call for us as a country to have an honest look at the situation and I believe give some more urgency to our role in recognizing Truth and Reconciliation.

Considering that the Bible is a continuous story of reconciliation and as principal of a Christian school, I've asked the question many times, "As Christians, what is our role in the reconciliation of our country?". I believe our role is to be honest with ourselves and each other, and to work together to bring healing to this nation. It starts with true and accurate education to inform us of the truth, followed by action to make amends and reconcile.

I appreciate the work of the teachers and students in looking through the history, the truth, and what we can do to move forward and play our part in God's story as He looks to redeem and reconcile everyone to Him and His ways. Our work is far from complete, but we as a school will continue to work through these issues and educate our students accordingly. I pray that God will reveal opportunities for us as a school and as individuals to move His kingdom forward in this matter.

Brett Seatter, Principal

School Wide News:

School Messenger

We will continue this year to use the phone, email and text messaging service called **SchoolMessenger**. PHSD schools and the division uses this to contact parents and staff quickly and efficiently. SchoolMessenger will be especially important when we need to communicate regarding emergency situations or other important updates.

Extra service: How to sign up for text messaging

- First, ensure that your child's school has your cell number on file.
- Parents can sign up by texting "Y" or "Yes" to **978338**. *Standard Text Message & Data rates may apply.*

While we strongly encourage parents to participate, the text messaging service is entirely optional. Parents can OPT-OUT at any time by replying "STOP" to any message.

School Engage (New)

Our school division is using an online system called SchoolEngage to collect and process student enrolment information and annual demographic updates. All families **are required to fill out forms online** through your PowerSchool account.

In Sept. the SchoolEngage form was sent out to each student's parent/guardian. The Student Demographic Update shows all the information we have in our system. Please review, make corrections and changes if needed, and submit the form.

- This form also collects these annual consents and permissions
 - Student FOIP
 - Technology Acceptable Use
 - Field Trip Within Walking Distance
 - School Physical Activity

Login to your PowerSchool Parent Portal to complete this form. Note: this will not work on the PowerSchool app. You must log in from a browser.

- <https://powerschool.pembinahills.ca/public/home.html>
- Click on Registration and Demographic Updates in your main menu. *This is the link to School Engage*
- If you are having problems logging in, etc. please call our PowerSchool administrator Melody Nelson at 780-305-1359 or email studentsupport@pembinahills.ca.

Please take the time to complete this form a.s.a.p.

Thank you to the ones that have already done this but we still have close to 100 student forms not completed.

Welcome to NPCS!

We want to welcome Ms. Toni Liber to our school as the Mon./Wed. Kindergarten teacher. She previously taught Gr. 1 at Barrhead Elementary School and also was a pre-school teacher at St. Mary School in Westlock. We hope Ms. Liber will feel welcome in our school and community. She will be replacing Katlyn Wierenga who is on Maternity Leave. We also wish Mrs. Wierenga a good maternity leave and all the best in the future.

We also want to welcome a new family to our school. Grayson Sherwood will be joining our Gr. 1 class (Mrs. Henschel's) and Aubree Sherwood will be in our Gr. 3 classroom. We hope they will feel part of our school community.

PICTURE DAY



Smart Photography will be here on the morning of **Thursday, Oct. 14**, to take individual pictures. They will be following COVID rules (distancing, wearing mask, etc.)

All order forms will be done online this year – no paper forms. **Pictures will be taken in the Foyer.**

- After picture day you can view images & order pictures online at **SmartOrders.ca**

Ordering information form will be sent home with students on picture day.

- **Retake Day** - we will try and schedule retakes in November on a Wednesday so that our Kindergarten **Mon/Wed students** can have their picture taken on that day unless parents want to bring them in at 10:10-10:25 on Oct. 15. Date to be announced.

Donations to Food Bank

We are accepting **food donations** to be taken to the Barrhead Food Bank. We would like all the food items to be brought in no later than **Thurs., Oct. 7**

Staff members will deliver to FCSS.

Thanks for your support!

TERRY FOX RUN

All of the students participated in the Terry Fox Run on Wed., Sept. 29.



Thanks to the volunteers that helped with set-up and running this event.

Our total amount raised so far is **over \$700.** Thanks for your donations!

Some was raised by collecting Toonies for Terry and other money raised was from online donations. If you still want to donate you can do so online

<http://www.terryfox.ca/NeerlandiaPublicChristian>

Username: 2021AB6282

Password: CUREAB1152

Sports

Elementary Soccer: Grade 4-6 soccer is wrapping up for the year. The last practice will be Wed., Oct. 6. Thanks to all who participated and a big thank you to Mrs. Lisa Seatter & Mrs. Kerry Vanderwekken for running this program.

Jr. High Volleyball – practices can continue for our volleyball teams. Games have been put on hold since we are in an Outbreak status; meaning we can't play games against other schools. We hope this restriction will be lifted soon (possibly Oct. 12) and the season can continue.

Cross Country Runners – our Elem. & Jr. High runners competed in a Divisional event at Westlock Golf Course on Sept. 23. They represented our school very well.

Neerlandia Christian Education Society (NCES) News

The NCES board met on September 20, 2021. Here are the highlights of our meetings:

- NCES family (\$300) and associate (\$150) **membership request letters** went home in early October. Membership fees are one of the main ways we raise funds to support the school and enhance student learning. Did you know that NCES pays \$77/student to PCCE to supply our teachers with Christian Education curriculum and training? A large part of your NCES membership fees go to covering this cost to ensure Christian content in our public school! Again this year, we will be sending home a letter for students to share with their grandparents. This is an optional invitation for grandparents to become NCES associate members.
- **Preschool!** Will start October 4, 2021 at the Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church. We have space for two more students. If you would like to register a little one, please contact Kym Peters for registration details at kympetersphotography@gmail.com.
- NCES volunteers (Laura Braucht and Charlene Fleming) handed out popsicles after the Terry Fox run on September 29th. Thanks to Annemiek Elzinga for ordering the popsicles. We would like to acknowledge the generous contribution of the

Neerlandia Co-op for donating the popsicles for the event. Thank you to the Neerlandia Co-op for your continued support of our school!

- NCES is pleased to be covering registration fees and lunch for our NPCSC teachers to attend the virtual Christian Educators Conference provided by PCCE on October 21st and 22nd.
- NCES is looking for volunteers to assist with planning and securing funding for the **new school playground**. We are considering 2 options. If you are interested in participating in this playground subcommittee, please text Charlene Fleming at 780-284-1534.
- In an effort to **continually improve our governance**, the NCES board established groups norms so board members have a common understanding of things like: confidentiality, board procedures, communication processes and committee recommendations.
- You are welcome to **join our next NPCSC and NCES board meeting** scheduled for October 18, 2021. We look forward to meeting our new superintendent, Michael Borgfjord and incoming School Trustee Victoria Kane.

On behalf of the 2021-22 NCES board: Sheri Strydhorst, Charlene Fleming, Annemiek Elzinga, Amanda Batty, Kym Peters, Laura Braucht, Nicole Wierenga and Geraldine Wierenga

PHSD BOARD NEWS

Communications Assurance Report

Pembina Hills uses a number of digital tools to engage and communicate with parents. PowerSchool is the centre of our Student Information System and so far 73% of our families have set up a parent account. We want to encourage parents to sign up for PowerSchool as it links to our online payment and forms system, Rycor, as well as our online student registration system, SchoolEngage.

School Messenger has also been a very valuable tool to get messaging to parents and guardians quickly. Safe Arrival will be piloted before rolling out as a tool for parents to communicate student absences.

New Trustee

It has been an honour to serve as your trustee over the last eight years and be involved in the education decisions of your children and NPCS. Thank you for your support!

I am pleased to announce that Victoria Kane has been acclaimed as the new trustee for Pembina Hills West Ward 1. She will represent the communities around the Town of Barrhead and both NPCS and Dunstable School. Victoria will begin her term after being sworn in at the October 27th board meeting.

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

LIBRARY NEWS

October Library Hours Curbside Only!

Monday-Thursday

9:00AM-4:30PM

All Day Friday- October 15

9:00AM-4:30PM

Closed-Monday, October 11 for Thanksgiving Day



We are open for curbside service only until further notice. We can pick out books for you, or put items you ordered on TRACpac out for you on the table outside the library. Call us at 780-674-5384 with your requests.

Rhyme Time and Wednesday evening openings are suspended until further notice. **Rhyme Time kits will be available soon!**

Chocolate Bar Fundraiser

Thank you to all the students who sold chocolate bars! We sold over 200 cases.

Our top winners are:

1st place- Levi DeVries

2nd place- Ava Batty

3rd place-Kalli Greilach and Isabella Rabino tied

4th place -Cole DeVries and Zoey Sotnikov tied

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct. 1 – PD Day for Teachers (no classes)
- Oct. 7– deadline for bringing food for Barrhead Food Bank
- Oct. 8 – No classes
- Oct. 11 – Thanksgiving Day, no school
- Oct. 12 & 13: Safely on Board for K, Gr. 2 & 4 classes
- Oct. 14 – Smart Photo **PICTURE DAY** (A.M.)
- Oct. 18 – NPCSC/NCES monthly meeting
- Oct. 21 & 22- Thursday & Friday, NO SCHOOL**
– teachers to participate in virtual PCCE convention
- Oct. 29 – No classes

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

