

THERE IS  
*always, always,*  
ALWAYS  
something  
*to be thankful for*



Nov. 2021

Neerlandia Eagle Express

Newsletter

## Principal's Message

We have much to be thankful for as the year continues to roll along! The modular classroom is here on site and being worked on and will add much needed space to our site. Our students are able to continue singing and playing instruments, including Band, despite all of the restrictions and changes that happened after our year started.

It has also been wonderful to watch students be able to play extracurricular sports, both in school and out of school. Whether it's watching the younger students get picked up and sent to dance class, talking about hockey practice with other students, or watching and coaching our school sports teams. I'm thankful to be able to watch kids be kids again and have full access to all of our extracurricular opportunities this year.

Academic learning and Christian teaching will always be the primary focus of our school, but if you've been able to watch online or attend in person, I think you'd agree we have much to be thankful for this year, even though there were some unexpected changes. Thanks to all of our coaches who have done the elementary soccer and volleyball, as well as all of our junior high coaches for volleyball - it is truly appreciated.

I also appreciate the work our outgoing school trustee, Jennifer Tuininga, did for our school division for the last 8 years. Her commitment and passion did not go unnoticed!

Finally, I'd like to thank the NCES for supporting our teachers in going to the Christian Educators Conference through the PCCE. Every year this conference is engaging, uplifting, and gives us new ideas to implement Christian content into our classrooms. It is by far my favourite professional development opportunity of the year and we are grateful as a teaching staff to be able to go.

*Brett Seatter, Principal*

## PROGRESS *report*

We will be sending home a print copy of Progress Reports with [Grade 1-9 students](#) on **Thurs., Nov. 25**.

**PowerSchool:** All Gr. 1-9 parents/guardians have access to their child's information in PowerSchool.

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>

## Retake Day



**Smart Photography** will be here during the early morning of **Wed., Nov. 10**.

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

**you brought them in on Oct. 14)**

If someone missed picture day or wants **Retakes**, please notify the office (780-674-5581) OR send an email to:

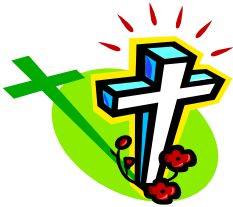
[Debbie.Fisher@pembinahills.ca](mailto:Debbie.Fisher@pembinahills.ca).

All orders are done online and students will be given access codes on picture day. (There are discounted shipping fees for the first few days after pictures become

available and will be shipped directly to home) Each student will be given a picture form with their own unique code to order online – please keep this form.

## Assemblies/Events

### Remembrance Day Assembly



**Remembrance Day** assembly will be held on **Nov. 10**. Unfortunately, no parents will be allowed to attend. This will take place in the gym at 11:00 am.

**Remembrance Day Contest** – Deadline for poster/poem/essay entries is **Nov. 24 at 9:00 am** (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. These need to be handed in by Tues., Nov. 9. One winning poster will receive a \$25. Co-op Gift Card.

## FUNDRAISERS

Our NCES/Parent Council will be hosting a **hotdog sale** on **Wednesday, Nov. 10**. Order forms and information will be going home a week prior to this sale.

Library will be selling **Gift Cards that need to be ordered by November 15, 2021** and cards will be here by **November 30<sup>th</sup>**.

## Neerlandia Christian Education Society (NCES) and Neerlandia Public Christian School Council (NPCSC) NEWS

The NPCSC and NCES boards met on October 18, 2021. Here are the highlights of our meetings:

- The NPCSC had the opportunity to host our new Superintendent Michael Borgfjord and Incoming Trustee, Victoria Kane at our October 18, 2021

meeting. It was a great opportunity to start building a positive working relationship with these two new individuals. We also **thanked Jennifer Tuininga** for her years of service as our Outgoing Trustee.

- A **HUGE THANK YOU** to the 21 associate and 28 families who have submitted a 2021-22 NCES membership fee. 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! If you would still like to contribute financially to NCES, we would greatly appreciate your support.
- NCES is planning a **hot dog, hot lunch for November 10**. If you are available to help with this hot lunch, please contact Nicole Wierenga by text at 780-674-0874. Associate members are more than welcome to help with cooking hot lunches!! Please note that volunteers must comply with ANY Pembina Hills Public Schools COVID guidelines.
- Playground Update!** NCES has divided our playground upgrade into 3 phases based on potential grant opportunities:
  - Phase 1:** Zipline & 2 Swings (CFEP grant decision will be announced in November 2021)
  - Phase 2:** Play structure on west side of school, geared towards grades 4-6 (Grant opportunities are being explored and a design has been drafted)
  - Phase 3:** Retrofit the existing grades 2-3 playground for wheelchair accessible play. This will require removal of all pea gravel. (This will involve different grant opportunities; a design for this is being drafted) We will apply for grants/funds for all phases as appropriate grant opportunities are available. There will be some grant programs for accessibility and other grant programs for playground structures in general. The order in which each step is achieved will depend on securing funding. If you are interested in assisting with this process, please text Charlene Fleming at 780-284-1534.
- You are welcome to **join our next NCES board meeting** scheduled for November 16, 2021.

*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

Hello Neerlandia!

My name is Victoria Kane and it's a privilege to introduce myself as your new Vice Chair Trustee for the 2021-2025 term!

I have some big shoes to fill, as I know former Trustee Tuininga has deep roots in your community. I'm focused on ensuring all our children have what they need to be responsible citizens of the future, as our biggest success is when a child succeeds.

I am always looking to learn more about your school's successes, concerns and priorities. If you have something to share or wish to speak with me directly, please email me at [Victoria.kane@pembinahills.ca](mailto:Victoria.kane@pembinahills.ca) or call and leave a message at 403-478-4260.

## 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. 3.**

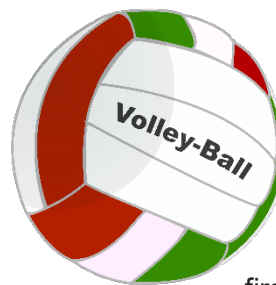
**Due to COVID rules we will be celebrating a bit differently again this year.**

- St. Nick will be in the Foyer and classes will come to him. He will be reading a story to the class at a safe distance. St. Nick will be handing out the gifts but students will open them back in their classrooms.
- Unfortunately, no parents will be allowed to attend the celebrations.
- We will **provide a pizza lunch** for K(Mon/Wed) & Gr 1-9 students. This expense will be covered by our Student Council funds. (We will provide the Tues./Thurs. Kindergarten class with pizza on Thurs., Dec. 2)

- 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).
- Each class 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).** This will be a **secret** and students need to **attach a poem/story on the outside of the gift** with the recipient's name but do not sign their own name – sign it **“from St. Nick”**. We will require these gifts to be brought in by **Tues., Nov. 30** so we can double-check to make sure every child will receive a gift.
- Please watch for your child's classroom note regarding their plans for this special day.



## Sports



### Volleyball

**Jr. High Volleyball** is wrapping up for the season. Our Gr. 8/9 Boys & Girls have played well and brought home some medals. The boys team placed first in the Pembina Hills' Divisional tournament and the girls finished second. They will be playing in a Zones tournament this coming Friday, Nov. 5 at the Westlock Spirit Centre.

Our Gr. 7/8 Boys & Girls team will be playing in their Divisional tournament this coming Thurs., Nov. 4. These games will also take place at the Westlock Spirit Centre. Hope they have a great day!

**A BIG THANK YOU** to the coaches:

Simone Tuininga, Char (Matt) Nanninga & Brett Seatter – Gr. 8/9 Girls team

Howard Gelderman & Simone Tuininga – Gr. 8/9 Boys team

Rhonda Spitzer & Steve De Vries – Gr. 7/8 Girls team

Howard Gelderman & Cody Cooper – Gr. 7/8 Boys team

**Elementary Volleyball (gr. 5/6)** is just beginning their short season. They will be heading to Ft. Assiniboine at 2:30 pm today (Nov. 2) to play some games.

Practices are mostly on Mon./Wed. from 3:45 – 5:00.

Practices are: Thurs., Nov. 4 and Mon./Wed. – Nov. 8 & 10, 15, 22 & 29. On Nov. 17 there will be games here at NPCS and they will travel to Pembina North on Nov. 24. Final tournament will be all day; Thurs., Dec. 2 at the Westlock Spirit Centre. Schedule is subject to change.

Coach: Brent Wierenga

## LIBRARY NEWS

### November Library Hours

Monday-Thursday  
9:00AM-4:30PM

**Library Closed-Thursday, November 11 for Remembrance Day Holiday**

**OPEN All-Day Friday, November 12 9:00AM-4:30PM**

**This is a SPECIAL DAY-1 DAY ONLY**

**Open to the public for in-person check outs and browsing**

### Gift Card Fundraiser

Place your gift card order by **November 15, 2021** and cards will be here by **November 30<sup>th</sup>**. The library receives the % listed behind each vendor. Phone the library

Gift cards make great Christmas gifts, stocking stuffers, birthday presents or just use when shopping. Please make cheques out to the **Neerlandia Library** and return with order form by November 15. **Thank you for your support!**

**Order forms will be available online or outside on the table in front of library. Please put payment in book return.**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov. 2 – Elem Volleyball at Ft. Assiniboine (2:30-5:00)
  - Nov. 3 – Hotdog pre- order forms need to be returned
  - Nov. 4 – Gr. 7/8 Volleyball tourn. at Westlock Spirit Centre
  - Nov. 5 – Gr. 8/9 Volleyball Zones at Westlock Spirit Centre
  - Nov. 5 - **Alternate Day, no classes**
  - Nov. 10, 11:00 am - **Remembrance Day assembly**
  - Nov. 10 – **Retake Pictures (8:30 – 9:30 am)**
  - Nov. 10 – **Hotdog Lunch (sponsored by NCES)**
  - Nov. 11 – **Remembrance Day, no classes**
  - Nov. 12 – **No School Day (Pembina Hills), no classes**
  - Nov. 12 – **Library will be open from 9:00 – 4:30 pm**
  - Nov. 15 – **deadline for Library gift card orders**
  - Nov. 16 – **NCES meeting**
  - Nov. 17 – **Elem. Volleyball here**
  - Nov. 18 – **Pajama Day**
  - Nov. 19 - **Alternate Day, no classes**
  - Nov. 23 - **deadline for Remembrance Day posters/poems**
  - Nov. 24 – **Elem Vball at PNCS**
  - Nov. 25 – **Progress reports to go home with all Gr. 1-9 students**
  - Nov. 26 - **Alternate Day, no classes**
  - Nov. 30 – **Gift cards to arrive**
  - Nov. 30 – **deadline to hand in St. Nick gifts**
  - Dec. 2 – **Elem. Volleyball tournament**
  - Dec. 3 – **St. Nick Day (PM) celebrations**
- Looking ahead: Christmas break begins on Friday, Dec. 17 and students return on Jan. 3, 2022

