



Neerlandia  
Eagle Express  
Newsletter  
January 2022

### Principal's Message

January is always a busy time in the school year as our elementary teachers are testing for student's reading levels to check in with each students' progress, running teams are starting up, and basketball is in full swing.

There are many substitute teacher days booked to cover for the teachers to be able to do the testing, so our building has plenty going on all the time. I always enjoy hearing about the progress and development of the students. Yesterday I was in a grade one class while they were working on reading. It's amazing to watch these children put their skills together and truly begin reading. There was one word that I saw coming up and thought, "hmm, can they read that yet?" and the whole class stopped at this tricky word - then I could hear all of them quietly sounding out the phonemes and they simultaneously started calling out the word with so much joy. It was truly a beautiful moment!

Having an empty building last week truly reminds all of us on staff how much we appreciate having the kids here and working with them to help them grow in their academics, their character, and their understanding of who God is. Thanks for entrusting us with your children. They truly are a gift from God.

*Happy New Year!*  
*Brett Seatter,*  
*Principal*

### All School News

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

We are so thankful that we have dedicated people to do this job!

### Upcoming Events



#### SPORTS TEAM JERSEY DAY

On Thurs., Jan. 27 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 attending on this Friday.

### Sports

We hope to continue Jr. High basketball practices. The games & tournament schedule will be shared with players as necessary.

Running Team – The elementary running team will hopefully have a practice or two in Barrhead before they go to a final event on Sat., Jan. 29 at Kinsmen Field House in Edmonton. Notes & forms will be going home shortly.

## Neerlandia Christian Education Society (NCES) News

The NCES board did not meet in December. However, we still have some updates for you:

- Our NCES January 20th **hot lunch has been cancelled** due to concerns about high numbers of student absence. We hope to resume hot lunches once COVID case counts have decreased in the province. Sorry for any disappointment!
- **Playground!** We are still awaiting a grant decision for our application to provide matching funding for a zipline and swings. Charlene is also exploring other funding opportunities and getting a drawing and quote to retrofit the existing grades 2-3 playground for wheelchair accessible play. If anyone is interested in assisting with this process, please text Charlene Fleming at 780-284-1534.
- **Preschool** had a provincial licensing inspection in December. In early January, we decided to postpone the start of preschool until January 10<sup>th</sup>. Missed classes in the first week of January will be made up at the end of the year.
- **Preschool** has applied for a provincial government grant that could reduce monthly preschool fees for parents. If NCES receives this funding, we will let parents know details asap.
- You are welcome to **join our next NPCSC and NCES board meeting** scheduled for January 17, 2021 (Zoom meeting)

*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*

## PHRD News

### Preliminary School Viability / Grade Reconfiguration Criteria Report

Board [Policy 15 Grade Configuration and School Closure](#) requires that the division annually apply a set of criteria to all of its schools to review whether or not they are viable. The criteria include a review of student enrolment, the physical condition of school buildings as well as considering whether any school puts an undue financial strain on the division. If any school exceeds one of the thresholds set out in the policy it doesn't automatically mean that the school will be closed, but it will trigger the board to start discussing options around changing grade offerings, transferring students from one building to another, or temporarily closing a school or building.

Following a comparison of the 2021-2022 school year information against the criteria set out in the policy, none of our schools triggered any of the thresholds that would start a discussion around their viability. Therefore, no schools will be considered for closure or grade reconfiguration in 2022-2023.



### School Year Calendar for 2022-2023

Each fall, Education Services creates a draft calendar for the next school year. To ensure that all schools meet the required hours of instruction per year, this calendar includes statutory holidays, professional development days, Christmas and spring breaks, teachers' convention, and alternate operational days for schools with alternate calendars. The process involves consultation with principals who in turn receive feedback from their teachers and union representatives.

The board adopted the proposed 2022-2023 school year calendar. See details in this news story: [2022-2023 school year calendar approved](#)

## Approval in Principle – BCHS National Tour

Schools are required to follow [Administrative Procedure 60-03](#) for guidance regarding Field Trips, Excursions, National and International Tours. While international tours have been suspended for the 2021-2022 school year, national tours are still permitted.

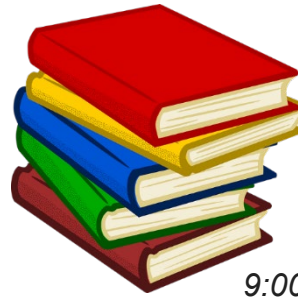
The Barrhead Composite High School photography class has requested approval in principle for a trip to Vancouver in May 2022. This trip is directly linked to classroom activities, and students who attend will complete two credits.

The board approved this trip in principle, however the final decision as to whether the trip will proceed will be dependent upon conditions and travel restrictions closer to the date.

### Victoria Kane

Vice Chair, Trustee  
Pembina Hills West Ward 1

[victoria.kane@pembinahills.ca](mailto:victoria.kane@pembinahills.ca)



### January Library Hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00AM-4:30PM

All day Friday, January 21

9:00AM-4:30PM

We will be closed Monday, January 31 for PD Day



**LEGO-Building Competition** will be held on **Thursday, January 20**.

We will be accepting registrations until next Monday, **January 17**.

**New Rhyme Time kits** will be available soon. We are in the process of making **Dinosaur Kits** for preschool aged children. Call the library to reserve your kit at 780-674-5384.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 10	<b>First day back for students</b>
January 14	<b>Alternate Day, no classes for students</b>
January 17	deadline for Lego registration
January 17	NPCSC/NCES meeting (Zoom)
January 20	Library Lego Contest
Jan. 21 (Fri)	Regular classes & Kindergarten Day for Tues./Thurs. class
January 27	Wear your favourite Jersey Day
January 28	<b>Alternate Day, no classes for students</b>
January 29, Sat.	- Running Team (Elem) at Kinsmen Field House
<b>January 31, Monday:</b>	<b>PD DAY, no classes</b>