



Neerlandia
Eagle Express
Newsletter
MARCH 2022

Principal's Message

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

Some of the decisions are for all of Pembina Hills School Division, while others are specific to our site here at Neerlandia. As we get clarity on budgets and resources for next year, plans are made for staffing and classroom configurations at our site.

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 busy season 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 bless!

Brett Seatter
Principal



New Student Registrations 2022-2023

Parents can now do online registrations for the 2022-2023 school year starting March 1, 2022. If you already have students attending a Pembina Hills school you can just ADD your child to your PowerSchool account as a NEW registration.

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE 2022/2023



Kindergarten Registration for 2022 - 2023 –
Tuesday, April 5

Session time: 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Bring your child! You will meet a Kindergarten teacher, explore your child's Kindergarten room and have a chance to ask questions. You do not have to book an appointment, however, if this date and time does not work for you, feel free to contact us 780-674-5581 or email: Brett.Seatter@pembinahills.ca to make other arrangements. Please bring your child's birth certificate. Registration forms will be available online and we will have a laptop available if you need help with registration.

If you have a child that will be turning five years old before Dec. 31, 2022 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).

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

Progress Reports

All Grade 1-9 students will be receiving a March progress report. These will go home with each child on Thursday, March 10. If you have any questions or concerns in regards to these reports you can speak to the teacher – a good time would be at Parent meetings.

Parent Meetings

Mar. 16 (evening) or Mar. 17 (evening)

Parent Meetings: We will be scheduling Parent Meetings on Wed., Mar. 16 or Thurs., Mar. 17 between 4:30 – 7:00 pm (larger classes might be up to 7:30 pm). These meetings will now be 'in person'.

We will be sending home a separate announcement via School Messenger, in regards of how to book appointments and more information, early next week.

100th Day Celebrations

We will be celebrating 100 days of school at NPCS on **Monday, Mar. 7.** Students are encouraged to dress up like 100-year-old citizens.



Our Grade 1 & 2 students are also collecting 100 cans for the Barrhead Foodbank. They will be going to the Foodbank by bus to deliver these donations on the afternoon of Mon., Mar. 7th.

Sports

BASKETBALL:

We are wrapping up our basketball season. Our Jr. High Boys will be attending Zone playoffs in Mayerthorpe and our Girls will be attending Zone playoffs in Whitecourt on Mar. 4/5. We wish both Boys & Girls teams well at their Zone tournaments. This brings us to the end of the season.

We want to thank our coaches; Miranda Strydhorst & Cody Cooper– Jr. High Boys team and Toni Liber – Jr. High 'B' Girls & Brett Seatter & Marlea Seatter – Jr. High 'A' Girls team.

These teams have already brought home some medals and our Jr. High Girls won 'gold' at the Pembina Hills Divisional tournament. Congratulations!

Elementary Basketball is also wrapping up with a tournament in Barrhead today (Mar. 3). Thanks to Trenton Wierenga & Cody Cooper for coaching this team.

BADMINTON:

Jr. High Badminton will be offered soon. We will keep you posted in regards to practice times, etc.



FIELD TRIPS

We are happy to report, as restrictions are being lifted we will be able to do more field trips. Our Gr. 9 students will be going to Jasper for a Ski trip on Mar. 8-10.

SWIM LESSONS:

We have just booked swim lessons for our Gr. 4, 5 & 6 students (since Gr. 5 & 6 missed out the last couple of years). We will be sending home forms & schedules with these students very soon. Lessons are booked for April 4-7 & April 11-14 during the afternoons (11:30 – 3:30 with grades going separately each hour).



FUNDRAISERS

Jr. High Band students are selling **Purdy's chocolates** as a Spring fundraiser and order forms will be sent home on Mar. 10 and need to be returned by Mar. 24th (before Spring break). Orders can be placed online directly via Purdy's. You will need to make arrangements to come to the school to pick up when the orders arrive or have your child(ren) take home orders. We will let you know a specific date but will be during the week prior to Easter.



Spring Plant Fundraiser:

Our Grade 4 class will be offering the annual spring plant fundraiser for this year. These are plants that are ordered from De Herdt Greenhouses. Order forms will be going home with the students next week and will need to be returned for pre-orders by Mar. 24 (before Spring Break). Order forms will be made available online via PowerSchool or you can return paper forms with cheqs/cash. The plants are usually delivered the 2nd week of May – just before Mother's Day weekend.

Gr. 7 Stawnichy Fundraiser:

- Anyone that ordered items from this fundraiser need to make arrangements to pick up their orders **on Tuesday, Mar. 22.**

Thanks for your continued support!

NCES March Hot Lunch

NCES will be offering a Chicken Nugget lunch on **Wed., Mar. 16th.** Order forms have gone home with the students and need to be returned **by Mon., Mar. 7.** See NCES news for more information.

Neerlandia Christian Education Society (NCES) News

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

- Thank you to our volunteers: Nicole Wierenga, Amanda Batty, Laura Braucht and Lindsay Pohl for volunteering to cook and serve our hot dog lunch on Tuesday, February 15th. Our next hot lunch will be **chicken nuggets and iced tea on Wednesday, March 16th.** 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!!
- NCES received a Government of Alberta School Council Engagement Grant to increase engagement with parents. NCES decided to purchase an annual Survey Monkey subscription to gather parent input throughout the year. Our **March survey will be a fun survey about the April hot lunch.** Please provide your input here before March 18th: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R3ZD7GC>
- Thank you to Amanda Batty, Nicole Wierenga, Teagin Elgersma and Cathy Vanderleest for handing out **cookies and hot chocolate to students after their Winter Walk** on Wednesday, February 9th. Thank you to Deana Tuininga for providing a gluten free cookie option for those students with dietary restrictions.
- **Playground survey results are in!** We had 42 people/classes respond to our playground survey. It was a close tie, but playground option 2 (the super structure with the following options: Curved Balance Beam, Dino Climb, Squiggle Climb, Foothill Climb, Snake Balance Beam, Spider Webz, Ogopogo, Glide Ride, Ring Ladder, 12' Wave Slide, 12' Triple Rail Slide, 15' Dip Slide. Free standing Corkscrew Spinner and Lunar Scooter) was the preferred choice with 59% of the vote. We are in the process of applying for a federal and provincial grant to secure funding for this grade 4-6 playground 'super structure'. Depending on which grant we are successful with, we will need to raise up to \$21,000 to complete the project.
- Did you know, that you can **donate to NCES online** via **e-transfer** at ncesboard@gmail.com **or through Canada Helps** at: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/neerlandia-christian-education-society/> (please note that service fees are deducted from donations sent through Canada Helps)

- The NCES board will be looking for **two new board members** to begin terms after the AGM on May 24, 2022. Please pray about this opportunity to serve our school community.
- You are welcome to **join our next NCES board meeting** scheduled for March 21, 2022.

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

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

2022-2023 School Year Calendars

Alberta Education mandates a minimum number of instructional hours for all students – 950 for elementary and junior high school students, and 1,000 hours for high school students.

This requirement, along with bus scheduling, means that some schools have longer days than others. These schools have longer days or more instructional hours than are required, and therefore have the option of developing alternate school year calendars. These calendars designate specific days as “alternate days” in which students and staff do not attend. Alternate days vary by school depending on start and end times, and community-specific events.

Because each school’s calendar is different, they must be individually approved by the board. At their February 23rd meeting, trustees reviewed and approved the 2022-2023 alternate school calendars. The approved calendars will be posted on the Pembina Hills [division](#) and school websites.

Locally Developed Courses

Schools or school divisions have the option to create their own courses to respond to student interests or local needs. These courses must be approved by Alberta Education, but once approved other schools or school divisions can apply to access these courses for their own students.

Pembina Hills has historically accessed a series of courses developed by the Calgary School Division in subject areas as Film and Media Art, System Scaffolding, Musical Theatre, and Social Literacy. The permission to use these courses must be renewed on a three-year basis, and the request to use these courses must be approved by the board.

The board considered and authorized the renewal of the [courses](#) acquired from the Calgary School Division.

COVID-19 Update

Throughout the 2021/2022 school year, the board has received an update on the current COVID-19 situation at each meeting. Data is collected on a weekly basis, and current trends show a significant decrease in absences for both staff and students. For Tuesday, February 22, student absences across the division were 14 (down from a high of 210 on January 25) while staff absences reported were 5 for instructional staff and 3 for support staff (down from highs of 9 and 17 respectively on February 1).

LIBRARY NEWS

March Library Hours

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

Library Closed for Spring Break

March 25- April 3
Library will be open 1 day during the break,
Thursday, March 31
9:00AM-4:30PM

Rhyme Time will begin again on Monday, April 4.
Rhyme Time dates are Mondays, April 4, 11, 18 and May 2
10:30-11:15 AM

SAVE THE DATE Wednesday, April 6 from 7-9 PM for our Grand Reopening of our [Wednesday evening library hours](#). Heard rumors we will be serving ice cream and a draw for a local author to put you in as a character in her next book.

Look for more info coming soon on our webpage and on Facebook.

Congratulations to Diane Wierenga. She won a \$25 Chapters Gift card for entering our February Book review contest. Thank you to everyone who participated.



Mar. 4/5 – Jr. High Zone Basketball tournaments

Mar. 7 – Dress-up like ‘100 year old’

- Gr. 1 & 2 classes to visit Barrhead Foodbank
- Deadline for Chicken nugget orders

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Mar. 8-10: Gr. 9 Jasper Ski trip

Mar. 10 – Purdy order forms to go home

Mar. 10 – Progress reports to go home with all Gr. 1-9s

Mar. 11 – **Alternate Day, no classes**

Mar. 16 – NCES Chicken Nugget Lunch

Mar. 16 & 17 – Parent Meetings (4:30-7:00)

Mar. 21 – NCES meeting, 6:30 pm

Mar. 24 – last day of Jr. High Options Tri 2 classes

Mar. 24 – deadline for Purdy's Chocolate orders

Mar. 25 – **Alternate Day, no classes**

Mar 26-April 3: **SPRING BREAK**

April 4: First day back after Spring Break

Looking ahead:

April 4-7 & 11-14: Gr. 4, 5 & 6 Swim Lessons (PM) each day

April 5: Kindergarten Registration, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

April 6: Grand Re-opening of Library on Wed. evenings