

Lest we forget...



NEERLANDIA

EAGLE EXPRESS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2022

Principal's Message

One of the most important groups of people who work with your children are the bus drivers. I often think they don't get enough credit for the amazing work they do. These people are the first to greet your children in the morning and the last to say goodbye before your child returns home. I know every driver is different and has their own style or personality, but all are valued and critical in the safe and timely transport of the children in our school. They are skilled drivers who manage many miles each day on all sorts of road surfaces and conditions. Over the years, there are several stories of the drivers being alert and making a quick decision that literally saves lives, such as stopping a child from crossing the highway when a vehicle passes (even though the lights are flashing - come on!!) or avoiding a reckless driver on the road with smooth maneuvers to keep the children out of harm's way.

If you follow the news, you may be aware that all across Alberta (and even Canada), there's a severe bus driver shortage. Many routes all across Alberta have been canceled if the driver is sick or away, as there often just isn't a spare driver available to cover the route. My mom was a bus driver when I grew up and as a family we found the job gave flexibility for her and allowed her to have a steady income that followed our school calendar and holidays. The job also includes health benefits, which many find to be extremely valuable. If you've ever considered becoming a bus driver, Pembina Hills provides all of the training (for free!) and ensures you're 100% ready for the road test. I recently went through the process with Mr. B. Wierenga (so we can drive for field trips and sporting events) and we found it very helpful and was a smooth process. Although it takes time to complete the required training, it also ensured we had the appropriate skills to handle a big bus with confidence and competency. I would love to have a few new drivers come out of this lovely community. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity and if interested, go to <https://www.pembinahills.ca/> and follow the links to the job postings under support staff positions. Through applying, they will contact potential candidates to set up the training process. If you require more information, feel free to email troffice@pembinahills.ca and they can help you out.

God bless - Mr. Seatter

PROGRESS report

We will be sending home a print copy of Progress Reports with Grade 1-9 students on **Thurs., Nov. 24.**

The format of these reports has changed for this year.

See last page of this newsletter for more information.

All Gr. 7-9 parents/guardians have access to their child's marks, etc. at any time of the year via Power School.

Staff Update

We want to welcome Mrs. Katie Blum to our school as an Educational Assistant. She will be working with students in lower elementary classes. Welcome, Mrs. Blum!

Mrs. Laura Mast will be going on maternity leave as of November 10. We are in the process of finding a replacement for Mrs. Mast as a Gr. 2/3 teacher. If you know of someone who would be interested in filling this position, please refer them to the Pembina Hills website. Please pray we find the right teacher for this class. We wish Mrs. Mast & her family all the best and God's blessing.

Retake Day



Smart Photography will be here during the early morning of **Wed., Nov. 9.**

If your child attends Mon./Wed. Kindergarten classes they can have their picture taken on this day (unless you brought them in October).

Early Learning (preschoolers) also have the opportunity to have their pictures taken on this date.

If someone missed picture day or wants **Retakes**, please notify the office (780-674-5581) OR send an email to: 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 **Wed., Nov. 9.** This will take place in the gym at 11:00 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Remembrance Day Contest –

Deadline for poster/poem/essay entries is **Nov. 22 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 **students to do some Remembrance Day posters** and will post them in the entrance of the store. These need to be handed in by Thurs., Nov. 3. One winning poster will receive a \$25. Co-op Gift Card.

Poppies are available to all students – donations will be collected in each classroom and there are also some available in the Library for the public.

FUNDRAISERS

Our NCES/Parent Council will be hosting a **pizza lunch** on **Wednesday, Nov. 16.** Order forms have gone home and need to be returned **by Mon., Nov. 7.**

Library will be selling **Gift Cards that need to be ordered by November 15, 2022** and cards will be here close to December 1.

Gr. 9 class will be selling **Mom's Pantry** items to raise funds for their Graduation (June 2023)

Information will be sent out to students via school messenger but community members can contact the school for ordering information if they would like to support this fundraiser. We are just waiting for the exact dates and times for this fundraiser (will be November)

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

We had our meeting on October 17th. We have some overdue thank-you's. Lindsey Cowen helped us hand out popsicles on Terry Fox Run. In addition to board members we had Eva Elgersma and Lindsey Pohl help us with October Hot Lunch.

Huge thanks to the school community for their support of the Bear Tracks Ice Melt Fundraiser! We raised over \$2,500 to go towards our next playground phase. Pickup will be in early November (first pick up is Wed., Nov. 2). Those who ordered will be emailed details about pickup times.

We had a great time celebrating with our school community at the playground celebration. Thank you to Cora Peters, Brenda Gelderman, Heather Fisher, Shirley Van Beek, Donna Strydorst, Annemiek Elzinga, Lise Wruk, Debbie Fisher, and Juanita Henschel, as well as board members for either donating desserts or helping us with serving.

We send out short 1-minute surveys every month and we would love your input. If you are not receiving them, and you would like to, please email ncesboard@gmail.com

Submitted by: Amanda Batty

PHSD Board News

Hello Neerlandia!

I trust you are all taking in the nice fall we are having! I want to shout out to NPCCS for the “opening of the new park” event! It’s so wonderful to have such committed parents and community to gift the Neerlandia public school with the great park! The zip line is fantastic!

For board news, Pembina Hills uses a number of digital tools to engage and communicate with parents and guardians. Registration and consent forms as well as payments are completed online through PowerSchool. School Messenger has also been a very valuable tool to get messaging to parents and guardians quickly, through email, phone or SMS (text) messages. We will be piloting Safe Arrival before rolling it out to parents. It is a tool to communicate student absences.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Remembrance Day Ceremony in November.

Victoria Kane

Trustee
Pembina Hills West Ward 1

victoria.kane@pembinahills.ca

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 NPCCS will be celebrating it on Friday, Dec. 2.**

- We will **provide pizza** for K(Tue/Thurs) & Gr 1-9 students. We are asking that each child brings a **‘toonie’** to help cover some of the costs and our NCES has agreed to pay the rest. (We will provide the Mon./Wed. Kindergarten class with pizza on Mon., Dec. 5)

- Classes may still have snacks (provided by parents) throughout the afternoon.
- Each class will be arranging their own activities for the afternoon.
- 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 **Wed., 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 still continuing for the next couple of weeks. Our Gr. 8/9 Boys & Girls will be going to Zone playoffs on Thurs., Nov. 3. They will then play in the Edmonton Christian Schools

tournament on Nov. 4 & 5. They will finish off with the Pembina Hills Divisional tournament to be held at Westlock Spirit Centre on Tues., Nov. 15.

Both teams have played well and brought home some medals already.

Our Gr. 7/8 Boys & Girls team will be at a tournament at Fort Assiniboine on Wed., Nov. 2 (today) and will be playing in their Divisional tournament on Thursday, Nov. 17. These games will also take place at the Westlock Spirit Centre.

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

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

Howard Gelderman – Gr. 8/9 Boys team

Jennifer Schuurman & Steve De Vries – Gr. 7/8 Girls team

Howard Gelderman & Vanessa Duerr – Gr. 7/8 Boys team

Elementary Volleyball (gr. 5/6)

Players need to complete online field trip forms and pay a fee of \$20. before they can play away games.

Practices are mostly on Mondays, however the very first practice will be on **Wed., Nov. 2** from 3:45 – 4:45.

Practices are: Mondays (Nov. 7 (noon), 14, 21 & 28 – after school)

Nov. 8 - Games at Westlock Elementary (1:15 – 3:30)

Nov. 15 – Games at home (1:15 – 3:30)

Nov. 23 – Games in Barrhead (3:00 – 5:00)

Any questions, please contact the coach: Mr. Brent Wierenga

LIBRARY NEWS

November Library Hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00AM-4:30PM

Wednesday Evenings

7:00-9:00 PM

Closed Thursday November 10

Gift card Fundraiser

We are having our annual gift card fundraiser again this year. The library receives the % listed behind each vendor (2% - 10%) Order sheets went home with students this week and are also available at the library. The orders need to be in **by November 15th** and will be available to pick up around December 1st.

Book club

We are reading *The Spoon Stealer* by Lesley Crewe and we will meet again on November 29. Everyone is welcome.



Rhyme Time

Our rhyme time sessions are Wednesday Mornings from 10:15 - 11:00 AM. It is designed for 3 year olds but all children are welcome. It will run until December 14.

Nov. 4- **Alternate Day, no classes**

Nov. 7 – NCES Pizza lunch order forms to be returned

Nov. 8 – Elem (gr 5/6) volleyball at WES (1:15-3:30)

Nov. 9 – Retake Pictures (starts 8:30 until done)

Kindergarten & Preschool students should come early.

Nov. 9, 11:00 am - Remembrance Day assembly

Nov. 10 – PD Day for staff, no classes

Nov. 11 – Remembrance Day, no classes

Nov. 14 – N.C.E.S. meeting

Nov. 15 – Gr. 8/9 Volleyball Divisional tournament at Westlock Spirit Centre

Nov. 15 – deadline for Library gift card orders

Nov. 15 – Elem Volleyball games in Neerlandia (1:15-3:30)

Nov. 16 – Pizza lunch (must be pre-ordered by Nov 7)

Nov. 17 – Gr. 7/8 Volleyball Divisional tournament at Westlock Spirit Centre

Nov. 17 – *Backwards Day* (dress backwards)

Nov. 18 – **Teacher PD Day, no classes**

Nov. 22 - deadline for Remembrance Day posters/poems

Nov. 23 – *Elem. Volleyball in Barrhead* (3:00 – 5:00)

Nov. 24 – Progress reports to go home with Gr. 1-9

Nov. 25 - **Alternate Day, no classes**

Nov. 30 – deadline to hand in St. Nick gifts

Dec. 1 – Gift cards to arrive

Dec. 1 – Elem. Volleyball tournament at Westlock

Dec. 2 – St. Nick Day (PM) celebrations

Looking ahead: Christmas break between Dec. 17 -Jan. 3, 2023 and students return on Wed., Jan. 4, 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 2 – Gr 7/8 Volleyball tournament at Ft. Assiniboine

Nov. 2 – first Elem. Volleyball practice (3:45-4:45)

Nov. 3 – Gr. 8/9 Volleyball Zones. Boys will be in Whitecourt and Girls will be in Mayerthorpe.

K-6 Progress Reports



Pembina Hills School Division is streamlining K-6 progress reports. New curriculum in K-3 English Language Arts & Literature and Mathematics and K-6 Physical Education & Wellness require teachers to report on Learning Outcomes.

The **bold** outcomes reflect year end goals for each subject area. The November progress report contains knowledge, understanding and skills & procedures that have been presented to date.

Mathematics

Outcomes:	Nov	Mar
By year end: Students interpret place value within 100 000. <i>November: Review of numbers to 100;</i>		
By year end: Students apply strategies for addition and subtraction within 1000. <i>November:</i>		
By year end: Students analyze and apply strategies for multiplication and division within 100. <i>November:</i>		
By year end: Students interpret fractions in relation to one whole. <i>November:</i>		

Some outcomes may not have been introduced by this reporting period. They may appear greyed out or a comment included in the November section (i.e. Introduced, but not yet assessed).

Each outcome will be assigned an achievement indicator.

Achievement Indicator Legend	Growth as a learner	Nov	Mar
Emerging (Em): The student has not yet demonstrated achievement of the identified Learning Outcomes (LOs). Evidence reveals the student's level of knowledge, understanding and skills are at an introductory level. The student's path to achievement of identified LOs is at risk. Intervention is necessary.	Demonstrates a positive attitude		
Beginning (B): The student has begun to demonstrate achievement of the identified LOs. Evidence reveals the student's partial competency with knowledge, understanding and skills. The student's path to achievement of identified LOs may be at risk. Intervention is recommended.	Contributes to class discussions		
Developing (D): The student has acquired competency with the identified LOs. Evidence reveals the student's basic competency with knowledge, understanding and skills. The student's path to achievement of identified LOs is satisfactory.	Demonstrates respect for others		
Mastering (M): The student has applied mastery of the identified LOs. Evidence reveals the student's proficiency with knowledge, understanding and skills. The student's path to achievement of identified LOs is well developed.	Works well with peers		
Extending (E): The student has integrated and made complex connections with the knowledge and skills related to identified LOs). Evidence reveals the student's ability to transfer the knowledge, understanding and skills in multiple and/or novel contexts. The student's path to achievement of identified LOs is advanced.	Makes appropriate use of class time		
	Completes homework and assignments		

Our school's progress reports will be sent home on November 24th. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher if you have any questions.