



Neerlandia Eagle Express Newsletter February, 2023

Principal's Message

January was quite a challenging month for our staff here at NPCS as we had many connections to challenging situations going on in the community. For privacy's sake, I won't name any of the individuals or circumstances, but I believe quite a few people are aware of some of the significant instances we were dealing with. I'll be honest, it was a hard month for our staff and we felt like we were dealing with so many heavy issues all at once. However, what an amazing staff and incredible community here! The prayers and support were greatly appreciated and I can say they truly made a difference. At one point when I was driving in my vehicle, I remember thinking to myself "This is all so heavy, yet I still feel like there's a peace and strength that cannot be explained." The next morning, a parent from our school messaged me to say he was aware of all of the issues we were going through as a staff and that he was praying daily for us. I could tell. There's no other explanation. Prayer is powerful. Community is powerful. We appreciate your support more than we can ever explain. Thanks for all the prayer and support - it means more than you could realize.

Philippians 4: 6-7

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Blessings,
Mr. Seatter

School Wide News:

Online Clothing Store orders:

Several orders have been placed online and we hope that the clothing items will arrive at school over the next couple of weeks. We will hand them out when they arrive.

Alternate Day change in our calendar:

In the fall of 2022, Alberta Education released details of the Provincial Achievement Testing Program which included defined dates for the tests.

This affected our calendar dates:

*We will have **Friday, April 14** as an **alternate day** (no classes) to replace **Friday, June 23** as our students will be writing PATs on this date so it will be a regular school day.*

Upcoming Events

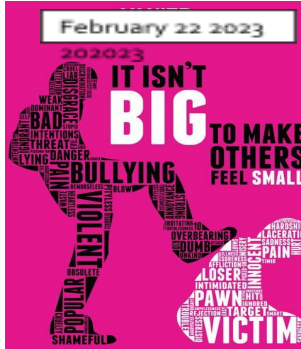
Winter Walk Day is scheduled for **Wed., Feb. 8**.

Elementary (K-6) students will be taking a walk throughout the hamlet. The Parent Council (NCES) will be serving hot chocolate and cookies after the walk.

Misty Ridge Ski trip is also scheduled for **Wed., Feb. 8** for all **Jr. High students** (7-9). We need all forms & fees handed in a week prior – due by Fri., Feb. 3. The ski hill waiver forms must be returned paper copies. The field trip form and fee can be completed online. Concession items will be available or students can bring bag lunches.

Anti-bullying PINK SHIRT DAY

We encourage all students to wear pink on **Wed., Feb. 22** to support anti-bullying in our school and community.



LOOKING AHEAD



Progress reports will be sent home with students on **Thurs., March 16.**

Parent Meetings to be held on **Mar. 21 & 22** (4:30-7:30 pm) We will send more information in March to schedule these meetings.

Sports

BASKETBALL: Our Jr. High teams will continue to play some games and tournaments. So far, they have done very well and have brought home medals from some tournaments. Way to go teams!



Elementary basketball has also started for several of our Gr. 5/6 students.

Coaches will keep in touch with players in regards to schedules and times.

RUNNING TEAMS: We are excited that we can start up our Running program once again. We have practices and some relays happening at the Butterdome in Edmonton over the next couple of months. The Finals for Elementary & Jr High teams will be at the Butterdome on Saturday, March 11. Thanks to Mr. Brent Wierenga who is coaching both Running teams.

FUNDRAISERS

Taco in a Bag Hot Lunch

Our next hot lunch will be hosted by Mrs. Sybesma and the Gr. 4 class. This will take place on Tues., Feb. 7 (pre-orders only).

Purdy's Chocolate fundraiser

This fundraiser is sponsored by the Jr. High Band class. Catalogs and notes will go home at the end of February and all orders can be placed directly online from Purdy's website. Order deadline is Mar. 12 and they will be delivered on April 4th – just in time for Easter.

PHSD Trustee News

2023-2026 Capital Plan:

The Board approved the proposal presented by Superintendent Michael Borgford for the Barrhead Composite High School Modernization and Right Sizing as its single project for the 2023-2026. The Town of Barrhead is currently discussing the need for new community centre partnerships and possible child care spaces, and has expressed an interest in discussing a joint use project with the division.

Student Services assurance report:

Dr. McGarva indicated that from the pandemic, we are still seeing high levels of absences this year and that the new respiratory illnesses in children is also impacting academics. The Mental Health grant allowed Pembina Hills to hire additional staff with training in social work or human services, focused on attendance and connecting families to community resources. Additional training is being provided for Educational Assistants as well as crisis response training all school staff.

2022-2023 Alternate school calendars amended:

In the fall of 2022, Alberta Education released details of the Provincial Achievement Testing Program which included defined dates for the tests. This has created a conflict for four of Pembina Hills Schools (Eleanor Hall, Dunstable, Neerlandia Public Christian and Fort Assiniboine). As a result, the Board approved administration's recommendation that the school calendar for these schools be amended to accommodate the Grade 6 and 9 Mathematics test dates.

Victoria Kane

Trustee Pembina Hills West Ward 1
victoria.kane@pembinahills.ca

NPCSC / NCES NEWS

NCES had their meeting on January 16th. We are looking forward to serving hot chocolate and cookies for the February winter walk at the school.

We are also looking forward to our **online fundraiser** in March, which helps fund all the ways we support our school. If you have an item you'd like to donate you can drop off at the school with Annemiek Elzinga, or email ncesauction@gmail.com. We couldn't do it without your support!

*Please see attached Auction note!

Lastly, a reminder to those who haven't yet paid your NCES membership, \$300 can be

transferred to ncesboard@gmail.com

Submitted by Amanda Batty, chairperson

NCES ONLINE AUCTION

MARCH 16-18, 2023

The Neerlandia Christian Education Society invites you to our biennial fundraising auction, in support of the Neerlandia Public Christian School!

This year we have set up the auction online through Galabid. To view donations, and to start bidding when the auction opens, you will need to register via the link (or QR code) below.

We are still looking for donations for the auction!

Baking, services (eg. babysitting), handmade creations, tools, gift cards, experiences..these are just SOME of the donations we've had in the past!

If you'd like to donate, please email a short description of items donated to ncesauction@gmail.com

Items can be dropped off at the school with Annemiek Elzinga 780-284-1656
For larger item drop off please contact Sheri Strydhorst 780-284-1849

THANK YOU!
NCES



SCAN THE
QR CODE

galabid.com/ncesauction2023

Come
explore
with us!

Now accepting **Early Learning**
Pre-Kindergarten applications
for 2023-24

pembinahills.ca/EL-apply



Do you have preschool-aged children at home?

Early Learning pre-kindergarten programs are available in many of our community schools and we are now taking applications for the 2023-2024 school year. Our inclusive programs are focused on 3- and 4-year-old children and provide opportunities for early intervention.

Please check out the Pembina Hills or NPCSC webpage for more registration information or if you have questions, please contact:

Kelly Ferguson

Principal

Early Learning Services

kelly.ferguson@pembinahills.ca

D 780.674.8565

LIBRARY NEWS



February Library Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

No Wednesday Evenings

Closed Monday, February 20 for Family Day

We will be open Thursday, February 9 during the

Teacher's Convention

Open Friday, February 3 and 24th

Book club meets on February 14, (Yes Valentine's Day) at 7:30 PM.
We will be discussing "The Violin Conspiracy" by Brendan Slocumb.

Rhyme Time has started and will run until March 15 every Wednesday from 10:15 - 11:00 AM



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 3 – deadline for Misty Ridge Ski forms & fees (Jr. High only)
Tues., Feb. 7 – Tacos in a Bag lunch (pre-orders only)
Wed., Feb. 8 – Winter Walk Day – Elementary (K-6)
Feb. 8 – Misty Ridge Ski Day
Feb. 9 & 10: Teachers' Convention (no classes)
Feb. 13: NCES meeting, 6:30 pm
Feb. 17 – Alternate Day, no classes for students
Feb. 20 - Family Day holiday
Feb. 22: Pink Shirt Day (Anti-Bullying)
Feb. 27/28: Purdy chocolate note & catalogs to go home



Looking ahead to March: some important dates to mark on your calendars:

Mar. 2 – 100- year old day
Mar. 12: deadline for Purdy chocolate orders (delivery date April 4)
Mar. 14-16: Gr. 9 Jasper Ski Trip
Mar. 15: David Bouchard (author) visit
Mar. 16 – Progress reports to go home with students
Mar. 16-18: **NCES Online Auction**
Mar. 21 & 22: Parent Meetings (4:30 – 7:30 pm)
SPRING BREAK: Fri., **Mar. 24** (alternate day) followed by the week of **Mar. 27 – 31**.
Students return on April 3.