



Neerlandia Eagle Express Newsletter MAY 2023

Principal's Message

If your child (or children) have been in junior high at all, you know how amazing a teacher and human Mr. Gelderman is. His talents are vast and rich, making him an incredible teacher, coach, mentor, and friend. Most are aware by now that Mr. G has recently announced his retirement at the end of this school year, after 30 years of teaching. Wow!

I've probably known this (awful) secret longer than anyone, other than probably Mrs. Gelderman. I'll never forget the moment when he first broke the news to me around the end of February that this was likely the scenario that would happen. My heart sank at the thought of working at a school without Mr. G. One of the first things I said was, "hmm, I'm going to need to hire about 7 people to replace your skillset!" - that's actually not much of an exaggeration. How does one replace someone who can teach Social Studies, PE, Language Arts, Photography, Outdoor Ed, Winter Pursuits, Bible, Health, Art, Rec Studies, as well as play guitar for any occasion, sing, laugh, run cool camp drive bus, coach the highest level of volleyball, and stay on top of paperwork and deadlines with perfection? (Ok, he's not the strongest at paperwork and deadlines, ha! ha!)

You don't replace a guy like Mr. G with one single person - it'll be many people on staff stepping up to share their God-given talents and take on a piece that they are blessed with the ability to do. We have a very talented and committed staff who are already stepping forward to take on different roles that are needed in Mr. G's future absence.

The Junior High classes will continue to thrive, just like before. But instead of one amazing fella taking care of *all* these things, it's one amazing staff working together to make sure the Junior High experience at NPCS will continue to be amazing for years to come.

I cannot express enough how much I will miss having Mr. G at work every day, but I wish him well in his retirement and will make sure to enjoy the days he helps us out in the future through substitute teaching, bus driving, and helping where his time and talents allow. *What a career!*

Mr. G - you've shown us how to work with a joy and enthusiasm that blesses everyone you've come into contact with. Well done, good and faithful servant. Well done.

Brett Seatter,
Principal

REGISTRATIONS FOR 23/24 SCHOOL YEAR

We have several children pre-registered for our Kindergarten class for 2023/2024 school year. If you have a child that is turning 5 before Dec.31, 2023 or know of someone interested in sending their child, please contact the office (780-674-5581) or email:

Debbie.Fisher@pembinahills.ca

All registrations have to be done electronically. You can find the information on either the NPCS or Pembina Hills websites.

If you need more information, or if you are having problems with registering, please contact us a.s.a.p.

CLASS PICS & KINDER GRAD PICS

Smart Photography was here on April 27 to take class pics & Kindergarten Grad photos.

All orders are now available online.

Go to: SmartPhotography.ca

Enter code: NE2223CP to order class pictures (these will be delivered to your homes).

Kindergarten Grad Photos – forms were handed out to students with specific codes on the day the pictures were taken.

GRADE 9 GRAD!



Grade 9 Grad will be held on **Friday, June 16** – There will be a dinner (invited guests only) at 6:00 and the ceremony (open to all) will be at 7:30 pm.
- This will take place in the gym.

Christian Ed Week celebrations!

The week of April 24 – 27 was a very busy and exciting week as we did many things to celebrate Christian Education.

One of the highlights of the week was our Grandparents Tea as we had close to 150 visitors. We want to say a special thanks to The Flower Shoppe (Chris Driessen) for the beautiful floral arrangements for the tables. Special thanks to the Gr. 4 parents that provided the goodies and helped serve & clean-up and also the Gr. 4 students who were great hosts/hostesses.

SPRING PLANT FUNDRAISER



Country Roadhouse Fundraiser plants will be ready for pick up on **Thursday, May 25 between 2:00 – 4:00.**

We will have parent volunteers available to help you pick up your pre-ordered plants. These will be outside the school (please wait for volunteers to check you off the list when you pick up your order)
Thank you very much for your support of this fundraiser for our grade four class!

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

We have come to the end of another great Badminton season. We had several Jr. High students bring home medals in different categories (too many to list) from the Pembina Hills



Divisional tournament that was held at the Westlock Spirit Centre on April 20. We were also the recipient of the School Banner (most points overall).

Congratulations to all the players and a big thank you to all of our coaches; Howard Gelderman, Brent Wierenga & Trenton Wierenga.

Neerlandia Christian Education Society (NCES) NEWS

NCES met on Monday, April 17th. Some of the items we discussed included planning a hot lunch for May. Thank-you to Nancy Schuurman, Lindy Wiart, and Joanne DeVries, who helped out our school board members with the chicken nugget lunch last month.

If anyone wants to help out with the hotdog lunch in May please reach out to Shawna at 780-282-0061.

We also planned a staff thank-you for a recent PD day.

The main focus of our time at this meeting was our upcoming **NCES/NPCSC AGM on Tuesday, May 23rd at 6:30pm** in the **NPCS science room**. Snacks and coffee will be provided! Our school trustee, Victoria Kane, will be joining us and NCES will also have another exciting playground update! Hope to see you there!

Submitted by: *Amanda Batty, chairperson*

Pembina Hills School Trustee Report

Transportation Fees & Service Changes

The Board passed a motion to suspend the In-Town Busing Fees and Rural Transportation Fees for eligible funded students, as set out in Rates Annex RA4, for the 2023-2024 school year and that the School of Choice transportation service only be provided for students currently approved under Administrative Procedure 50-01 Requesting a School other than Designated School. **More information will be sent to parents and posted on the division and school websites soon.**

Barrhead Composite High School has been approved for planning funding as part of the new initiative within the provincial budget of 2023. Modernizing and right-sizing if BCHS has been the top priority in the school division's Capital plan since the construction of the new Neerlandia Public Christian School.

The Board discussed **Public Education advocacy** plans for the upcoming provincial election. Parents, the public and staff will soon begin to see content on the division and school websites, newsletters etc. promoting Public Education, including sample education-themed questions that the public can use to ask their local party candidate.

- *How will education funding continue to meet the ever changing needs of students?*
- *What is on your party's platform regarding student transportation?*
- *How will your party provide support to staff to implement the proposed curriculum?*
- *How does your party propose to offer ongoing support for the mental health of staff and students?*

CONEX "Addictions Don't Discriminate" Westlock Youth Centre, May 16-18 dates 10am – 7pm May 16-17, May 18 10am – 3pm. Target group - Grade 9 -12 and adult community members.

Victoria Kane
Trustee
Pembina Hills West Ward 1

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LIBRARY NEWS

May Library Hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00AM-4:30PM

All Day Friday, May 26, 2023

9:00AM-4:30PM

Library closed Monday, May 22, 2023 for Victoria Day Holiday

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Scholastic Book Fair "Bolder. Prouder. Stronger. Reader."

May 24-26 (9:00AM-4:30PM each day) Come and support the Neerlandia Library by attending our in-person book fair. Proceeds go towards purchasing new books for the library.



- May 4 Kindergarten field trip to Telus World of Science
- May 4 Gr 4 swimming (12:30-2:30 pm)
- May 4 order deadline for Hotdog orders for May 16
- May 5 **Alternate Day, no classes**
- May 8: Farm Safety virtual presentations (K-Gr 6)
- May 8-11: Gr. 4 swim continues each day, 12:30-2:30 pm
- May 12: **Alternate Day, no classes**
- May 15: PAT exam: Gr. 9 LA (Part A) 9:00 – 11:00 am
- May 15: NPCSC/NCES meeting, 6:30 pm
- May 15 – 18: Gr. 8 Frontier Lodge trip (near Nordegg)
- May 16 – NCES Hotdog lunch
- May 17 – Gr. 6 ELA (PAT exam) 9:00 – 11:00 am
- May 19 **Alternate Day, no classes**
- May 22 **Victoria Day holiday**
- (May 23-26: plant pickup, date & time TBA)**
- May 23 @ 6:30: NPCSC/NCES Annual General Mtg
- May 23 Girls in Sports presentations: Gr 1-5 (AM) & Gr. 6-9 (PM)
- May 23: Gr. 6 immunizations (Hep B #2) 10:30-11:30 am
- May 24 Jr. High Track & Field day
- May 24-26: Library Scholastic Book Fair
- May 25 – pick up plants that were pre-ordered (2:00-4:00)
- May 26 – Skip Rope for Heart Day
- May 30 – June 1: Gr. 7 Jasper trip



Upcoming in June:

Lots of field trips planned for several grades throughout the month

June 1 – Tropical Day (dress tropical just for fun)

June 16 – Gr. 9 Grad (7:30 program)

June 21 – Jr. High Award presentations (PM)

June 20,22,23,26 & 27 – Jr. High & Gr. 6 & 9 PAT exams

June 27 – last Student day for 22/23 school year