



Neerlandia Eagle Express Newsletter December 2023

As we head into the shortest and darkest days of the year, we are now in the season of advent as we await the celebration of the birth of our King!

Last weekend I was riding down an unfamiliar stretch of highway that I hadn't been on many times before and it was pitch dark. There was a stretch of acreages within a few miles of each other where about 7 or 8 houses were lit up with quite a phenomenal display of Christmas lights in their yards. The uniqueness of it, as I hadn't seen these homes during this time of year before, brought me a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty of the lights and the design. Kudos to those homeowners for their efforts in making the incredible displays. It reminded me of how Christ came to earth as the light of the world - a light of beauty in a world often full of darkness.

As our staff and students prepare for the Christmas concert and head towards the holidays, may we all be reminded of the significance and wonder of this Christmas season and remember that with His light, we can see beauty in all the darkness. May it give all of us hope for this season.

My hope and prayer is that your homes are filled with the love of Christ as we remember His gift in coming to earth to show us The Way.

God bless,

Brett Seatter

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - Dec. 20, 7:00 PM

- Our **Christmas Concert** will be held on **Wednesday, Dec. 20th at 7:00 pm** in the **Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church** sanctuary. We will also have a dress rehearsal on **Tues., Dec. 19th at 1:00 pm**, also at the church. Everyone is welcome to attend (if you can't make it in the evening you are welcome to join us on Tues. afternoon)
- We will be collecting money donations to go towards FCSS Foodbank on the evening of the concert. Thank you in advance for your support!

Neerlandia Public Christian School Council (NPCSC)/ Neerlandia Christian Education Society (NCES) December Report

- November 20 Meeting: Both NPCSC and NCES had our monthly meeting.

Here are the highlights:

- NPCSC Meeting: A report on PAT Test results for the 22/23 school year.

- Playground is complete! The site is ready for students and the community to use. As part of our grant reporting, we would like to include one or two liners from your chit-chat around the dinner table and/or photos of students and community members enjoying the new Superstructure.

Please send to

Sheri Strydhorst at sheri.strydhorst@gmail.com by December 15th . Even a quick sentence or 2, about what your kiddos love about the new play structure, would be incredibly helpful.

- Hot Lunch: Students enjoyed a pizza hot lunch on Nov 23. Thank you to Shawna Sotnikow, Charlene Fleming, Amy Driessen and Sandra Olthuis for serving. The next hot lunch will be Jan 24 with Chicken Strips.

- Beef Jerky Fundraiser: Thank you to everyone who ordered! We raised a total of \$1835 for NCES! Orders will be available for pick up the week of Dec 18. Watch Social Media and school emails for further details.

- Upcoming Bottle Drive – Jan 8-10, 2024: NCES' final fundraiser of the school year will be a bottle drive. Save your holiday recycling in support of Christian education! January 8-10, 2024 you will be able to bring your bottles to the trailer set up at the Neerlandia Co-op parking lot.

- NCES and NPCSC will meet next on January 15, 2024, 7pm at NPCSC. All are welcome to attend.

- Our board members would like to thank everyone for their continued support and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

On behalf of the 2023-24 NCES board:

Sheri Strydhorst (Chair), Kirstie Schatz (Incoming Chair), Charlene Fleming (Playground Liaison), Laura Braucht (Treasurer), Shawna Sotnikow (Hot Lunch Coordinator), Char Nanninga (Secretary), Diane Thiessen (Member-at-Large) and Sandra Olthuis (Community Member and PCCE Rep)

PHSD BOARD NEWS

Board approved audited financial statements - Pembina Hills ended the fiscal year in a healthy financial position, and with a planned deficit, the deficit was intentionally generated in order to bring the division's reserves into line with legislated requirements.

The Board Approved Annual Education Results Report - The division continues to measure well in citizenship but has opportunities for growth in scoring on provincial testing.

Information Technology (IT) Assurance Report - On an annual basis, Director of Information Technology, Alex Mottus, presents to the Board an overview of their operations as well as some of their main projects. He also discussed some of the challenges that the division will face related to the use of artificial intelligence in education.

Resignation of Superintendent - The Board of Trustees has accepted the resignation of Superintendent Michael Borgfjord, effective May 31, 2024. We have begun the process of recruiting a new Superintendent.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

Victoria Kane

Trustee

Pembina Hills West Ward 1

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SPORTS

Jr. High Volleyball: The season has ended for both boys and girls teams. An exciting ending for the **Gr. 8/9 Girls team** was bringing home gold medals and the **Banner from the NCJHAA 1J Volleyball Zones** in Hinton on Nov. 3 & 4. Way to go girls!

Elementary Volleyball:

The elementary volleyball players finished their season with a tournament at the Westlock Spirit Centre on Thursday, Nov. 30.

Thanks to Mr. Brent Wierenga & Mrs. Char Nanninga for coaching these teams.

JR. HIGH BASKETBALL



Jr. High Basketball season is just beginning. There will be two girls teams. Mrs. Lorna Strydhorst will be coaching the Tier 2 team (Gr 7/ 8) and Mrs. Miranda Strydhorst & Mrs. Sonja De Waal will be coaching the Tier 1 team (Gr 8/9).

Mr. Trenton Wierenga & Mrs. Natalie Kerckhof will be coaching the Boys team (only enough boys for one team). Players will be given forms and information over the next week.

Practice times are:

Boys on Mon/Wed from 3:50 – 5:15 pm (after Christmas break the schedule will likely be adjusted to include Elementary basketball).

Girls teams will practice on Tues/Thurs.

Tier 2 Girls (Gr. 7/ 8) from 3:50 - 5:00 pm and Tier 1 Girls (Gr. 8/9) will practice from 5:00 – 6:30 pm

LIBRARY NEWS

December Library Hours

Monday-Thursday

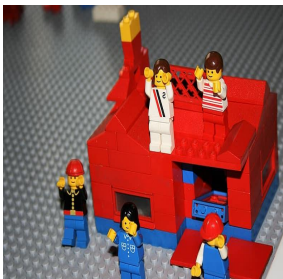
9:00AM - 4:30PM

All Day Friday, December 1

9:00AM-4:30PM

Christmas Break-Library will be closed December 22--January 7, 2024.

Library will be open 2 days during the break, Thursday, Dec. 28 and Thursday, January 4, 2024



Lego-Building Competition will be held **Thursday, January 18, 2024**. Theme: "Bridges and Buildings". Entry forms are available at the library and should be handed in by **Tuesday, January 9, 2024**.

Rhyme Time continues every Wednesday until Dec. 13.

AGM-The Neerlandia Library's AGM is January 15 at 7:00PM in the library.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 8 – *Alternate Day*

Dec. 15 - *Alternate Day*

Dec. 15/16 – *Tier 1 Girls & Boys basketball tournament at RF Staples in Westlock*

Dec. 18 -20: *Beef Jerky orders to be picked up (details TBA)*

Dec. 19 @ 1:00 pm – *Dress rehearsal of Concert (at CRC)*

Dec. 20 @ 7:00 pm – *Christmas Concert at CRC*

Dec. 21 – ***last day of classes*** for 2023

- *Pajama Day*

Dec. 22, 2023 – Jan. 7, 2024: *Christmas Break*

First day back in the New Year: Mon., Jan. 8 2024

Have a Blessed Christmas!

We had a FUN ST. NICK DAY on Dec. 1

