



Neerlandia Eagle Express Newsletter January 2024

Principal's Message

Happy New Year to everyone! We hope you had a blessed Christmas holiday and were able to celebrate Christ's birth with family and friends.

You may or may not be aware that our superintendent has resigned from Pembina Hills and will be working for Black Gold School Division, starting in the Spring. Our board of trustees is currently working through the process to find and hire a replacement. At times this type of a hiring decision can feel a little unnerving to some as there is inevitable change and plenty of unknowns to come with the new person who will be hired.

I ask that you keep our board of trustees in your prayers as they go through this process and pray for wisdom and guidance in hiring the right replacement to ensure we have the right leadership in place to keep our school division strong and effective. As a school with an alternative Christian program, it is my hope and prayer that the new leadership will recognize the uniqueness of our school and support us as we strive to provide a quality Christian education for all of our students here at NPC.S.. Your prayers and support are always appreciated!

B. Seatter, Principal

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

All School News

We want to once again thank **our Janitors** for the great job of keeping our school clean & safe, inside & out. Everything looked sparkling clean again when we came back from our Christmas Break.

We are so thankful that we have dedicated people to do this job!

We also want to thank everyone for their donations that were made at the Christmas concert. The **Barrhead FCSS Foodbank** received \$635.55 cash & a few food items.. THANK YOU for your support!

PHSD Annual Satisfaction Surveys and Alberta Education Assurance Surveys

Annual Satisfaction Surveys

In January, parents will be invited to participate in the AB Ed Annual Assurance Survey & the Pembina Hills School Division Satisfactory Survey. The link will be provided to take you directly to the survey.

Survey Opens: January 22, 2024 (access to online student, teacher and parent surveys)

Survey Closes: March 1, 2024 (all student, teacher and parent surveys close)

Need Help? EDC.SystemAssurance@gov.ab.ca

(780) 643-9193 (in Edmonton) or 310-0000 (Toll-free within Alberta)

See <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-education-assurance-survey> for details.

How do I participate?

- Click or tap the link in the message you receive. It will take you directly to the survey.
- You can respond to the survey using a desktop computer, laptop or mobile device.

Are my responses anonymous?

- Your email address will be collected and connected to your responses.
- Collecting the address eliminates the chance of duplicate responses and enables us to trace issues that might arise in the completion of the survey.
- Comments are reviewed by administration and considered during the planning process.
- No comments are reported publicly.

I have more than one child in this school. Will I get an email like this for each one?

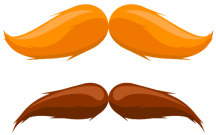
If you have several children in a single school:

- You *should* just get one message.

We have tried to minimize duplicates but given the complexity of families, and because we rely on the information that schools have on file, you **might** get more than one message for this school.

IF that happens, you only need to respond one time.

Fun Day!



On Thurs., Jan. 25 students are encouraged to participate in **Facial Hair Day** (if you can't grow a beard/mustache, etc. then perhaps you would like to draw or tape one on :). This is just for fun!!!

SPORTS

Jr. High Basketball

We will continue with our Jr. High basketball program. The games & tournament schedule will be shared with players as necessary. We have two Girls teams and only one Boys team this year.



Elementary Basketball will also begin soon - stay tuned for information. They will have a game already in Westlock on Jan. 31. Mr. Brent Wierenga is the coach and most practices will take place during the school day.

Running Teams (Jr. High/Elem) This program will begin before the end of January. More information and permission forms will be coming out in the near future. Mr. Brent Wierenga is coach.

Neerlandia Public Christian School Council (NPCSC) & Neerlandia Christian Education Society (NCES) January 2024 Report

- The NPCSC and NCES boards did not meet in December. We took a break to enjoy the Christmas season with family and friends!

- Hot Lunch: The next hot lunch will be Wednesday, January 24 with Chicken Strips.

If you can assist with cooking and serving, please text Shawna at: 780-282-0061

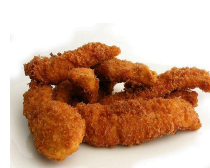
- NCES Bottle Drive – Jan 8-10, 2024: Thank you for donating your holiday recycling in support of Christian education! Drop off is at the trailer in the Neerlandia Co-op parking lot. Last minute drop-offs can be made until 7:30pm on Wednesday, January 10th. Thank you for all the support!

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

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)

NCES Hot Lunch - January 24, 2024



Hot lunch order forms went home with the youngest child of each family (only 1 form per family) - these need to be returned no later than Mon., Jan. 15th for the Chicken Strips lunch that will take place on **Wednesday, Jan. 24th**.

PHSD News

Board approves \$1.5 million from reserves towards the gym expansion for Barrhead Composite High School Modernization and Right-Sizing Project. While Alberta Infrastructure is funding the project overall, an increase in the size of the East gym would fall outside of the scope of the approved (and funded) project.

Trustees approved the 2024-2025 school year calendar. Stakeholders overwhelmingly supported continuing a fall break in November, which resulted in a slightly earlier start date for students, of August 28th, 2024.

The Board accepted the resignation of Superintendent Borgfjord, effective May 31, 2024 (or earlier upon mutual agreement) and has begun the recruitment process for a new Superintendent.

Happy New Year!

Our next Board Meeting is January 17, 2024.

Victoria Kane

Trustee

Pembina Hills West Ward 1

victoria.kane@pembinahills.ca

LIBRARY NEWS

January Library hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00AM-4:30PM
(closed on all Fridays)



Annual General Meeting-Monday, January 15 at 7:00PM

Lego Contest-Thursday, January 18 9:00AM-12:00PM

Please bring entries on Wednesday, January 17 or morning (Jan 18) of competition before 9 AM



Rhyme Time will begin **Wednesday, January 31** and will run every **Wednesday** until March 20.



The Library is also hosting two challenges this month. Draw dates are February 14!

1. **Adult Winter Reading Challenge**- for our adult public patrons. Read a winter-themed book from our display at the library or order your own and enter your name in for a draw.

Fill out one Draw Slip for each completed book and enter for a chance to win a cozy prize.

2. **Student Winter Bingo-for students grades 5-9**. Pick up a bingo sheet from the library.

Fill in a minimum of 2 rows for 1 entry in our draw. For each extra row completed you can have another entry.

One book per square. Four Entries are possible.

There will be a \$25.00 gift certificate drawn for each class.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 12 **Alternate Day, no classes for students**
January 12 - Jr. High Girls Volleyball team at U of A to watch Golden Bears game (car pooling)

January 15 hand in Chicken Strip order forms

January 15, 7:00 pm NPCSC/NCES meeting

January 15, 7:00 pm Library AGM

January 18 Library Lego Contest

January 19 **Alternate Day, no classes for students**

January 24 **NCES Chicken Strip Lunch**

January 25 Fun Day - Facial Hair day

January 26 **Alternate Day, no classes for students**