



**Neerlandia
Eagle Express
Newsletter
February, 2024**

Principal's Message

Teaching is the type of job where you don't get to see the progress and success of your work in the obvious manner that some other jobs do. For example, if you're building a house, you see the walls get built and raised, the roof goes on, etc. and most days you can leave the job site seeing exactly what you accomplished for the day and you know exactly what needs to be done next. If you're farming and taking off the crops, you see the field full of grain in the morning, then hopefully a bare field by the end of the day (if all goes well). We've all had that feeling where you see the start, do the job, then see the difference at the end and feel like you've accomplished something. It's my favourite part when we mow the lawn.

Yet in education, you don't build a wall and plop a roof on it in just one week. It's a constant daily grind of teaching, navigating curriculum, adjusting to the student's progress and tweaking the lessons or the plans to help move their learning forward. But that's the thing: their learning can take some time and although they learn every day, it sometimes takes a long time to notice the differences. I like to compare it to watching your own children growing, where you may not notice they've had a growth spurt until grandma comes over and mentions "wow, have you ever grown", as grandma doesn't see your child every single day, so the growth is noticeable to her more than yourself. It's the same thing with teaching. Of course the students are learning and growing in their academics, but the growth is hard to see from one day to the next. That's where January, into February, is an enjoyable time of the year as our elementary teachers do reading assessments with each student and we're able to see the reading levels all of the students are now at. It's a key point in the year where we finally get a chance to really see their progress and be able to enjoy the growth and development they've accomplished. Sometimes we learn they haven't

progressed as much as we had hoped or expected, so we make adjustments and new plans to meet their needs and help them achieve their full potential. Sometimes we're blown away with a certain students' progress and we bask in the delight of them accomplishing their success. It's a fun time of year as all of the teaching and efforts finally have a chance to show the fruits of our labour. It is my hope and prayer that you see the growth and achievement of your child(ren) in their academics and can appreciate the work they've put in to accomplishing this.

Blessings,
Mr. Seatter

School Wide News:

Alternate Day change in our calendar:

*Due to the fact that Provincial Achievement Tests need to be written on 'specific' dates province-wide, we had to make a change to our Alternate Year Calendar. We will have regular classes on Friday, June 14 due to the fact that Gr. 6 students will be writing PATs. We will now have June 27 as an alternate day so our **last STUDENT DAY will be Wed., June 26th**. Please mark this on your calendars!*

Upcoming Events

Winter Walk Day is scheduled for **Wed., Feb. 7**. All students (K-Gr 9) will be taking a walk throughout the hamlet. This will take place during the last 45 minutes of the day. The Parent Council (NCES) will be serving hot chocolate and cookies after the walk (Thank you!)

Tawatinaw Ski trip is scheduled for **Tuesday, Feb. 13** for all **Jr. High students** (7-9). We need all forms & fees handed in a week prior – due by **Tues., Feb. 6**. The field trip form and fee can be completed online. Concession items will be available or students can bring bag lunches. School messenger was sent and notes have been given to all Jr. High students.

Anti-bullying PINK SHIRT DAY

We encourage all students to wear pink on **Wed., Feb. 28** to support anti-bullying in our school and community.



LOOKING AHEAD



Progress reports will be sent home with Elementary students on **Thurs., March 7**.

Progress reports for Jr. High students will be available online via PowerSchool.

Parent Meetings will be held **mid-March** (date TBA)

A lot of these meetings will be student-led and some are drop-in visits. We will send more information towards the end of February as to how we will 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 our Tier 1 Girls' team brought home gold medals from BCHS tournament. Way to go!



Elementary basketball has also started for several of our Gr. 5/6 students. Mr. Brent Wierenga (coach) 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 happening at the Barrhead Agrena 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 9. Thanks to Mr. Brent Wierenga who is coaching both Running teams.

FUNDRAISERS

Gr. 7 Pizza lunch

The Gr. 7 class is hosting a Pizza lunch on Thurs., Feb. 15. All orders must be received no later than 9:00 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 12 as the pizzas must be pre-ordered. Order forms and fees are **available to be paid via PowerSchool (not NCES etransfers)** for this lunch). Any money raised will go towards the Gr. 7 Jasper trip to take place June 3-5.

Mom's Pantry fundraiser

A note will be going home with students on Monday, Feb. 5 in regards to ordering from Mom's Pantry. We will also send out this information via School Messenger.

Orders must be placed by Feb. 22. Delivery date will be announced later. Here is the info to order:

Go to: **momspantry.ca**

Group Name 384699 **Passcode 12920**

All proceeds will go towards Grade 9 Graduation that will take place on Friday, June 21.

Purdy's Chocolate fundraiser

This fundraiser is sponsored by the Music classes. 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 March 7th** and they will be delivered the week before Spring Break – just in time for Easter.

*We are excited that all elementary students will be going to a musical called **Polkadots: the Cool Kids** at the Arden Theatre in St. Albert on **May 30th**. All the proceeds from the Purdy's Chocolate fundraiser will help cover the cost of this musical and other music festivals coming up for our Music/Band students.



Early Learning pre-kindergarten programs are available in many of our community schools and we are now taking applications for the **2024-2025** 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 us: Email: el.main@pembinahills.ca

Visit the website to apply: earlylearning.pembinahills.ca

PHSD Trustee News

The Pembina Hills School Division Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of **Brett Cooper** as the new Superintendent of Schools, effective March 1, 2024.

Victoria Kane

Trustee
Pembina Hills West Ward 1

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

February 2024 Report:

- **January 22 Meeting:** Both NPCSC and NCES had our monthly meeting. Here are the highlights:

- **NPCSC Meeting:**

- **The 2024-25 NPCSC Calendar was approved by the board.**
- There will be a 5-day week the 1st week of Dec, Dec 6th will be St Nick's

- October 24 and 25 will be non-student days to accommodate NPCSC staff attendance at the PCCE conference in Taber
- There will be a 5-day week June 9-13 to accommodate PATs

- **Bottle Drive:** Thank you for everyone who braved the cold and donated their holiday recycling in support of Christian education! The fundraiser generated \$650!

- **Hot Lunch:** Students enjoyed a chicken strip hot lunch on January 24. Thank you to Shawna Sotnikow, Charlene Fleming, Angela Pierik, Lindsay Pohl, Lindy Wiart, and Daniella Wierenga for serving.

- **Winter Walk:** If the weather cooperates, NCES will be serving cookies and hot chocolate on February 7th in connection with the Winter Walk. Thank you to Charlene Fleming, Sandra Olthuis and Laura Braucht for serving.

- **Planning for Phase 3 of the Playground is underway!** Phase 3, the final phase for our playground, is to build an accessible play area. We are currently gathering quotes and planning to submit a funding application in September 2024. If we are successful with grant, the hope would be to have the accessible play area completed by May 2026.

- **Gaga Ball Pit Surface:** We are applying for a grant from Kal Tire to cover the cost of rubber matting for the two Gaga Ball pits. This should reduce the mud issues kiddos experience in this highly popular outdoor activity! We will have a decision on the grant by April 30th.

- **PCCE Leadership Conference:** NCES is providing travel support for Kim Sybesma to attend the PCCE Leadership Conference in Surrey, BC in March 2024. Juanita Henschel is also planning to attend but has funds from other sources to cover her travel.

- **NCES will meet** next on February 20, 2024, 7pm at NPCSC. All are welcome to attend.

- Our board members would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

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)

LIBRARY NEWS



February Library Hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00AM-4:30PM

All Day Friday, February 23

9:00AM-4:30PM

Library CLOSED Monday, February 19 for Family Day Holiday

Library OPEN Thursday, February 8 during Teacher's Convention

9:00AM-4:30PM

Lego Contest- Thanks to everyone who participated in the Lego Contest. We had 13 Entries.

Lego Contest Winners were: The Lussier Family for Family category

Devon Kippers for 7-9 yr. old category

Dalton Brendzan for 10-13 yr. old category

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

10:15 AM-11:00AM.

The Library is also hosting two challenges this month.

Draw dates 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. 4 Entries possible. There will be a \$25.00 gift certificate drawn for each class.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Feb. 5 – Mom's Pantry orders available (Gr. 9 Grad)

Feb. 6 - deadline for Tawatinaw Ski trip forms to be completed (forms & fees online)

Feb. 7 - Winter Walk Day (end of day)

Feb. 8 & 9: **Teachers' Convention (no classes)**

Feb. 13 - Tawatinaw Ski Trip (Gr. 7, 8 & 9)

Feb. 15 - Gr. 7 Pizza lunch (pre-orders are due by Feb. 12 at 9:00 am)

Feb. 16 – **Alternate Day**, no classes for students

Feb. 19 - **Family Day holiday**

Feb. 20: NCES meeting, 7:00 pm

Feb. 26 - Purdy chocolate fundraiser begins (Music)

Feb. 28: Pink Shirt Day (Anti-Bullying)

Looking ahead:

MARCH

Mar. 4,5,6,7 & 11 - Gr. 4 swim lessons (1:00 - 3:00 pm)

Mar. 5-7: Gr. 9 Jasper Ski Trip

Mar. 7: Progress reports to go home with Elem. students

Mid-March: Parent Meetings

