



NEERLANDIA EAGLE EXPRESS NEWSLETTER

September 3, 2024

Welcome back! Welcome to the family! Welcome home!

Welcome is a strong word of acceptance and inclusion. At the start of this year I would like all families to know that you are welcome in our school community, but I want to go even further. I want you to know that you are a part of the family of Neerlandia Public Christian School. A family under the headship of Jesus, and dedicated to discovering and following God's plan.

Some days I wish I knew all God's plan, but He reveals parts as He feels He needs to. Some parts He doesn't reveal, and we see it looking back, or maybe we will see it when we meet Him.

Take you and me for example. Why are we here at Neerlandia Public Christian School? I know the choices I made that brought me here, but I also know that I don't have a full picture of what God wants me to do at NPCS. You may say that you moved to the community for work, and that is why you are here, but I will tell you that I know God has more for you than just a job. You may say you chose NPCS because you wanted good morals for your child, but I will tell you that God has more for your child than simply knowing right from wrong; He sees the future actions your child will do for Him. You may say my family has lived here for generations, and to you I would say that God has an important role for you, and maybe something new for you to do, to support your community (and His community).

We all have a different story as to how we got here, but all of those stories converge here, as God has joined us together as a family at Neerlandia Public Christian School – just one part of the larger family of Christ. We, as a staff, desire to support our students, your children, to find out for themselves what God has planned for them in His story. We appreciate your desire to pray for us, encourage us and support us in that work.

Thank you to so many who welcomed me back into the family of Neerlandia Public Christian School. In some ways, I feel like I never really left. Now I extend that welcome to you. Welcome to our family. You are part of our family.

Prakash Raju
Principal

School Wide News

*This opening newsletter will be printed and sent home with the youngest child of each family. It will also be posted on our website. For the remainder of the year, we will not send print copies home unless specifically requested. Newsletters will be posted on our webpage: <https://www.neerlandiaschool.ca/news-events/newsletter/>

Staffing News

We would like to highlight changes in teaching assignments for next year.

We are happy to announce that we have a new teacher for the 2024/2025 school year. Carmen van Heyst will be our new Grade Two teacher (covering for Renee Rentz who is on maternity leave). We will have two Grade Two classes, and Lorna Styrthorst will be our other Grade Two teacher.

Cinnamon Thompson will teach one Grade Three class this year and Katlyn Wierenga will teach the other Grade Three class.

Natalie Kerckhof and Dallas Lee are teaching Grade 5.

Our Educational Assistants for the upcoming year are: Katie Blum, Annemiek Elzinga, Char Nanninga, Kym Peters, Shirley Rauscher & Lisa Seatter. Ramona De Vries & Carmen Ewasiw will also be helping out with Early Learning.

FORMS

Each year, parents are required to complete a **Student Enrollment Verification Form** for each child. This form also includes consent and acknowledgement regarding FOIP, Technology Acceptable Use and Field Trip (Walking Distance) for the school year.

Parents should have received an automatic email from Pembina Hills (School Engage) in **late August** indicating they need to **update their child's school enrollment information** and to complete this form.

Please complete this form **as soon as possible** through the PowerSchool Parent Portal (select the **New Registration & Enrollment Verification** link in the bottom of the left menu). Instructions on how to complete it will also be listed in the email notification.

Completing Consent, Other School Forms and Paying Fees Online: Complete consent/other school forms and pay for fees online throughout the year through your PowerSchool Parent Portal.

Select **Payments, Consent & Transp Forms** in the left menu. See more instructions on the PowerSchool for Parents division webpage.

*Note: Forms and fees **cannot be accessed** through the PowerSchool App – **access is only through the website**.*

Volunteer Forms F4-60 can be picked up from the office (or you can download from our webpage). These should be completed and handed into the homeroom teachers or the office before you can volunteer in the school. If you have already completed this form in a previous year, you do not need to fill it out again.

Driver's forms: If you help out by driving students to extra-curricular activities such as sporting events we need a Driver's form filled out each year. The amount of liability insurance required to drive students is \$2 million, so please check with your insurance company to make sure you have this coverage before filling out the driver's form.

We have copies of the 7-120A Driver Authorization form in the office, or you can download it from our webpage.

(Students & Parents Info Tab – permission forms)

Thanks to our Janitors!

We again say a BIG THANK YOU to Van Beeks and their crew for the great job they do in cleaning our school throughout the year and the extra cleaning that they do over the summer. Let's help keep our school looking great!

Visitors & Volunteers

VISITORS

We would like all visitors to check in at the office before proceeding to any classroom, etc. We ask that all visitors use the front entrance. The only exception to this rule is for the Early Learning students that will be coming at 12:40 pm. We ask that they use the NE entrance closest to the Kindergarten room. There will be a check in/out sheet when these students arrive.

VOLUNTEER FORMS (more details)

Volunteers provide assistance to the school in achieving educational objectives by providing non-educational services, e.g. playground supervision, supervision of field trips, driving, and chaperones. Volunteers are required to provide a Criminal Record Check and Intervention Record Check prior to their volunteer experience. These checks do not expire but you are responsible to let us know if anything changes.

You can get Criminal Record checks at the RCMP office on Thursdays only and the Intervention Record checks need to be done online. Individuals who require a completed Intervention Record Check through Children's Services are to email CS.IRCNorthCentral@gov.ab.ca to request this form. You will receive an email reply with the form to complete electronically, along with instructions.

Room Changes

With changes in the number of classes for each grade, we have made minor changes in classroom locations for the 2024-2025 school year. Even with these changes, Kindergarten/Early learning will be in their same classroom as last year, and Grade 1, 2 and 3 classes are in the same wing of the school as they were last year. The Grade 1 and 3 classrooms on the west side, and the Grade 2 classrooms are on the east side.

SCHOOL MESSENGER

We will continue to use the **School Messenger** system, as it is a great communication tool. We will sometimes send messages just to certain classes/groups, but in most cases it will be messages for the whole school. School Messenger is linked directly to students' parent/guardian contact information via PowerSchool. This service allows schools and the division to contact a large number of people quickly. This is especially important when we need to communicate information to you such as emergencies or key updates.

SCHOOL PARKING LOT

We have several staff members so we will fill all the available parking spaces. We are asking **PARENTS & GUESTS** to please park in the **drive-around area** by the school or on the road and **not in the parking lot** during the school day for dropping off or picking up children. Thank You!

Safe Arrival

If your Child is absent, please use safe arrival to update the school. Details at pembinahills.ca/absence-reporting



SCHOOLMESSENGER®
SafeArrival

Use SafeArrival to report your child's absences!

Three convenient methods:

- SchoolMessenger app (Google Play or Apple Stores)
- SchoolMessenger website home.schoolmessenger.ca
- By phone 1-833-568-2538 (toll free)

Visit pembinahills.ca/absence-reporting for more information

SCHOOL START/END TIME

Bell Schedule

8:10 – 8:15 am	Buses arrive
8:20 am	Morning Warning Bell
8:25 am	Classes begin
10:10 – 10:25 am	Morning Recess
11:55 – 12:10 pm	Lunch Break: - students have time to eat
12:10– 12:40 pm	- elementary students go outside
2:10 – 2:25 pm	Afternoon Recess
3:40 pm	Dismissal Time
3:50 pm	Buses leave

TERRY FOX RUN

We will be having our Terry Fox Run at 10:00 am on Friday, September 20. Forms have been sent out Via PowerSchool (with the enrollment verification forms). Forms must be done in order for students to participate. Parents & community members are invited to join us on this annual walk. More information will be sent using School Messenger.



Provincial Assessments

Similar to previous years, students will be completing assessments that are directed by Alberta Education. These assessments include numeracy and literacy screening assessments in grade 1 through 5 and Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) in grade 6 and 9. During the administration of provincial assessments, Alberta Education collects personal information, including student legal name, Alberta Student Number (ASN) and student responses. The personal information is collected pursuant to Section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (RSA 2000, C. F-25).

NCES/NPCSC NEWS

-Welcome to the 2024-25! The Neerlandia Christian Education Society is excited to be part of your family's school experience this year.

-NCES hosted the Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast August 30, serving 420+ families and community members! Thank you to all who attended, and the many people and organizations that made it a success!

-Over the summer, NCES was gifted \$6,000 from the Barrhead Elks, to go towards Phase 3 of the NPCSC Playground. This is the Accessible portion of the build. We are applying for the government CFEP grant this month, and hope to break ground in the Spring. Stay Tuned!

Mark your calendars:

First Hot Lunch: October 22,
NCES Community Dinner and Auction March 7, 2025.

-More information will come out in September about how to become a member of NCES, along with opportunities to serve in your children's school.

-Our next meeting is September 23, 7 o'clock, at NPCSC.

NCES Board of Directors 2024-25

Kirstie Schatz (Chair),

Charlene Fleming (Vice Chair/Playground Liaison),

Alanna Breitzkreitz (Secretary),

Laura Braucht (Treasurer),

Shawna Sotnikow (Hot Lunch Coordinator),

Sandra Olthuis (Community/PCCE Rep),

Julaine Greilach

Library News

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00Am-4:30PM

All-Day Fridays,
September 6 and 20

9:00AM-4:30PM

Library Closed for
Labour Day on September 2 and for
PD Day September 16, and for
Truth and Reconciliation Day September 30



Chocolate Bar Fundraiser

Chocolate bar fundraiser is going well. All the cases have been picked up and the money is coming in.

Hopefully we can wrap this up by the last week of September and prizes can be awarded at this time.

Thanks to all the students for selling!

Special Days

Once again, this year we have a number of special days that we are encouraging students to participate in.

September

Thursday 26 - Orange Shirt Day

October

Wednesday 30 - Wacky Hair Day

November

Thursday 28 - Wacky Socks Day

December

Thursday 19 - Pajama Day

January

Wednesday 29 - Career Day

February

Wednesday 26 - Pink Shirt Day

March

Tuesday 11 - 100 Day

April

Friday 25 - Inside Out Day

May

Wednesday 7 - Wear a Hat for Mental Health

June

Thursday 26 - Tropical Day

Looking Ahead



Sept. 2 – Labour Day Holiday

Sept. 6 – School Day

Sept. 13 – Alternate Day- **No Classes**

Sept. 16 – Teacher Day- **No students**

Sept. 18- Cross Country

Sept. 20 – School Day & Terry Fox Run

Sept. 25 – Jr. High Soccer Tournament

Sept. 26- Orange Shirt Day

Sept. 27 – Alternate Day – **No Classes**

Sept. 30 - Truth and Reconciliation Day (Holiday)

Looking Ahead:

Oct. 4 – School Day

Oct. 11 – Alternate Day- **No Classes**

Please check the online newsletter page <https://www.neerlandiaschool.ca/news-events/newsletter/september-2024-eagle-express-newsletter/> for Sept 2024 for a list of important dates for 2024-2025.

For the most up to date calendar information, please visit <https://www.neerlandiaschool.ca/news-events/calendar>