



NEERLANDIA EAGLE EXPRESS NEWSLETTER

May 2025

Principal's Message

We just finished celebrating Christian Education Week at Neerlandia Public Christian School. Christian Education Week is an opportunity to reflect on the blessed gift that we have in Christian Education. It is also an opportunity to thank God for the gift of the *people* who work for God to make Christian Education happen, and I would like to recognize two important groups who do this.

During our Grandparents and Special Seniors Tea, I was blessed to be able to thank our children's grandparents, great-grandparents and other senior supporters for what they do for Christian Education, and tell them that they are the "heart" of Christian Education.

It is so wonderful for our students (and our staff) to have grandparents attend our events, but many of you do so much more. You may provide transportation for your grandchildren to school events or even to or from school. You support Christian education financially, you support it with words of encouragement and words of affirmation, and you support it with prayer.

This is all such a blessing to your grandchildren and the family of Neerlandia Public Christian School.

Some of you are watching all that goes on at the school with wide eyes, seeing a different way of "doing education," because your grandchildren are the first ones in your family to attend a Christian school. Others of you are multigenerational, and you remember when your grandparents sat at Christian school events, supporting you and cheering you on.

No matter where you and your family are in your Christian education journey, you are a blessing to your grandchildren as you continue a legacy, or support your children in starting a legacy.

Thank you, grandparents, for being the strong beating "heart" of Christian education.

If our grandparents are the "heart" of Christian Education, parents are the "feet." Our students' parents allow the school to move forward by supplying key information about your children that allows us to meet your children's needs, so we can help you fulfill your God given responsibility to educate your children, as you raise them in the ways of the Lord.

At after school and at home, our parents support what goes on at school by reading with their children, ensuring that students get their schoolwork done, and giving children opportunities that compliment what we do at school, whether that is extracurricular activities and sports, getting outside and exploring God's amazing creation, or playing family games that are educational or physical. Parents keep things moving outside of school.

Our parents keep us going by supporting staff and students with words of encouragement. Your pats on the back, hearty smiles, and statements of support not only make us feel good about what we are doing, but they motivate us to do even better. We are blessed to have such encouraging parents.

Our parents help the school move forward by volunteering. It was wonderful to see parents doing so much to help at our Grandparents and Special Seniors Tea. Parents come out and support by helping at other special events. We are also thankful for volunteer parent supervisors for Kindergarten at lunch. We have parents who volunteer to drive personal vehicles and even school buses to transport our students to events. You are so appreciated for all of these things that you do.

This is only some of what we know that our parents do. What you do is noticed and appreciated! Our amazing parents are integral to Neerlandia Public Christian School.

Thank you, parents, for being the "feet" of NPCS, moving us forward and ensuring that we move forward smoothly.

There are other key groups of people who are important to Christian Education NPCCS. “Who are these people” you ask? Be sure to read next month’s Principal’s Message to find out about a couple more groups.

Prakash Raju
Principal

School Wide News

Prep Open house will be May 5th 1:15pm-2:15pm in the Kindergarten room.

Wednesday May 7, wear a hat for mental health.



Kindergarten Grad and Class Photos

Smart Photography will be here on Thursday, June 5th to take class pictures and Kindergarten Grad photos.

Fundraiser

Country Roadhouse Plant Fundraiser. We will send out a School Messenger note when the plants will be available for pick-up. It is usually around the May long weekend. If you placed an order please make arrangements to pick up.

Thank you very much for your support of this



fundraiser for our grade seven field trip!

PHSD Board News

Annual Satisfaction Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Annual Satisfaction Survey! The feedback from students, staff, and parents helps us monitor progress and guide future improvements. Survey results for each school will be shared at upcoming School Council meetings. Your input truly makes a difference.

Budget Planning for 2025-2026

The Board has approved the allocation formula for the 2025-2026 school year. Like many divisions across Alberta, Pembina Hills is navigating funding challenges due to enrollment changes and shifts in provincial funding. Despite a decrease of \$2.8 million compared to last year, we remain committed to protecting resources that directly support students in the classroom.

Transportation (In-Town)

I wanted to provide an update on **in-town** transportation funding, especially for families with students in ECS to Grade 6.

The provincial government is adjusting the eligibility criteria for funded bus service. Going forward, only ECS–Grade 6 students who live 1.6 km or more from their school will qualify for free, funded transportation.

To help ease the transition, Pembina Hills has opted to utilize bridge funding for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year for students who live between 1.0 and 1.6 km from school — at no cost to families. This gives families more time to adjust before the province’s new standard takes full effect.

I’m always grateful for the opportunity to serve as your trustee and bring your voices to the board table. Please feel free to reach out any time with questions or concerns.

Victoria Kane

Grade 9 Grad

Grade 9 Grad will be held on **Friday, June 20** -There will be a dinner (invited guests only) at 6:00pm and the ceremony (open to all) will be at 7:30 pm. As a fundraiser for Grad the Gr. 9 students hosted a

Free Movie Night 'Cars' on Thurs. May 1st

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported our Grade 9 class.

NCES/NPCSC News

-Our board met on April 14, and our highlights include dispersing the funds donated to NCES at our Dinner and Auction March 7. These include: \$20,000 for PCCE Fees \$7000 for Gaga Pit Matting \$13,000 donation to NPCSC, with \$500 each K-9, and \$1000 each specialty department. \$4500 for new elementary jerseys. We are so thankful to be able to help the school in so many ways!

- NCES also approved an additional \$15,000 if needed, to cover the cost increases for the playground build. Planning is moving along, and we expect to build this summer!

-NCES held the final Hot Lunch of the year April 23, serving Grilled cheese Sandwiches. Thank you to Shawna Sotnikow, Charlene Fleming, Lindsay Pohl, and Eva Visser for volunteering.

-Mark your Calendars: NCES/NPCSC AGM is May 27, 7-8pm. Come and hear what NCES has been up to this year, and what future plans are in the works! Door prizes and child care are available this year!

-Our next NPCSC/NCES meeting is May 12, 7pm at NPCSC.

NCES Board of Directions 2024-25 Kirstie Schatz (Chair), Charlene Fleming (Vice Chair/Playground Liaison), Alanna Breitreitz (Secretary), Laura Braucht (Treasurer), Shawna Sotnikow (Hot Lunch Coordinator), Sandra Olthuis (Community/PCCE Rep), Cassie Wierenga (Fundraiser Liaison), Julaine Greilach (Member at Large)

Field Trips

There are many field trips planned this month, please make sure you have completed your child's forms online.

May 6- Jr. High Powerband at St. Mary's

May 12-15 & May 20- Gr. 4 Swimming lessons at the Barrhead Aquatics center.

May 15 – Gr. 7 Camp Warwa

May 20 – Kindergarten class is visiting the Police Station.

May 21-23 Grade 8 class is gone to Frontier Lodge.

Sports

Badminton

Special Thanks to Mr. T Wierenga, Mr. Gelderman, and Mrs. Kerckhof for coaching the Jr. High badminton students. We appreciate the time and effort you put towards this successful season.

Jr. High Track and Field

The Jr. High track and field students will have a track meet on May 27 at BCHS for the day.

Library News

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM



We are closed:
Monday May 19, Victoria Day

We are open:
May 23rd

The Scholastic Book Fair will be here May 21-23.

Author Visit May 26 at 7:00!

We are excited to host Genevieve Graham and discuss her book 'The Forgotten Homechild'.

All are welcome!

Calendar of Events

May 1 – Movie Night, Grade 9 Fundraiser
May 2 – Teacher day, no classes
May 5 – Prep Open House 1:15pm-2:15pm in the Kindergarten Classroom
May 6 – Powerband at St. Mary’s
May 7 – Wear a Hat for Mental Health
May 9 – Alternate day, no classes
May 12 – NPCSC/NCES Meeting at 7:00pm
May 13 - Winspear Field trip Gr. 1-3
May 15 - Gr.7 Field Trip to Camp Warwa
May 16 – Alternate Day, no classes
May 19 – Victoria Day
May 20-23 – Scholastic Book Fair
May 20 – Kindergarten visiting the Police Station
May 21-23 – Gr. 8 Frontier Lodge field trip
May 27 – NPCSC/ NCES AGM 6:30pm
Jr. High track and field day at BCHS
May 28 – **PAT Grade 6 LA Part A**
May 29 – **PAT Grade 9 Part A**
May 30 – Alternate day, no students

Looking Ahead

***several field trips coming up in June – teachers will be sending out information for classes.**

June 2 – Teacher day, no classes
June 4 – Grade 3 & 9 Telus World of Science
June 5 – Kindergarten Grad Photos and Class Pictures
June 5 & 6 – Jr. High Band Camp
June 6 – PHSSAM, more info to come
June 9 – Kindergarten Telus World of Science
June 10 – Gr. 4 Wetlands

June 12 – Grade 2 Fort Edmonton
PAT – Gr. 6 LA Part B. Grade 9 PAT LA Part B
June 13 – **PAT Grade 6 Math Part A. Grade 9 Math PAT Part A.**
Grade 3 Swimming at Barrhead Aquatics Center. Grade 4 FIELD TRIP. Gr. 1 Zoo Field Trip. Grade 5 & 7 Fort Edmonton.
June 16 – NCES Meeting
June 17 – **Grade 6 Math Part B PAT. Grade 9 Math Part B PAT**
June 18 – **Grade 6 Social PAT, Grade 9 Social PAT**
June 19 – **Grade 9 Science PAT.** Grade 6 Field Trip
June 19-25 – Gr. 7 & 8 Exams
June 20 – Grade 9 Grad
June 24 – Grade 2, 4, and 6 Swimming at Barrhead Aquatics Center
June 26 – Tropical Day! Grade 1 Swimming in Westlock. **Exam make up day. Last student day!**

