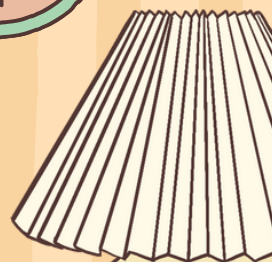
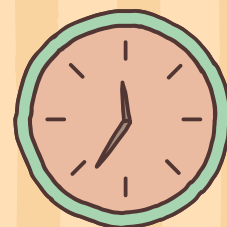
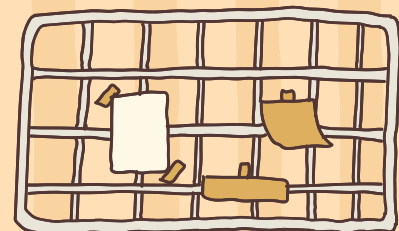


Neerlandia Public Christian School

Back to SCHOOL



Dear Parents,

Welcome back, we have had a wonderful first week with all the students!

Newsletters will be posted on our webpage:

<https://www.neerlandiaschool.ca/news-events/newsletter/>

Communicate

- We will continue to use the School Messenger system, as it is a great communication tool. School Messenger is linked directly to students parent/guardian contact information.

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.

Forms

- Enrollment Verification forms are available, these are found through the PowerSchool parent portal (Select the new registration & enrollment verification link at the bottom of the left menu). These forms include permission to participate in the Terry Fox Run. Parent/Guardians have received an email indicating that you have a form to complete.
- Volunteer forms can be picked up in the office.
- Drivers forms: If you help out by driving students to extra curricular activities, we need a drivers form filled out each year.
- Completing consent, other school forms and paying fees online through your PowerSchool Parent Portal

Important Dates

- Cross Country Divisionals Sept. 17
- Grand opening of the new playground Sept. 18 at 4:00pm
- Terry Fox Run - Sept. 25
- Orange Shirt Day - Sept. 29

Principals Message

As we look around and see all of the harvesting going on, we most likely think of many verses on harvesting, but lately, my mind has been going to the other end of the spectrum. I have been thinking about preparing the ground for seeds. Why, you may ask, would I ignore what is going on around me and instead focus on that? Probably because at the school, we are at the beginning of the year, and for us, we have been preparing things for our students.

The parable of the sower, where Jesus tells about seed that has been thrown on different types of ground, is one story that has changed meaning for me over the years. I used to see this story as an unchanging position of a person's heart, either ready to receive and grow, ready to receive but it ends, or unwilling to receive.

As a teacher, I wonder if we could work on preparing the ground to receive that seed. The second half of Jeremiah 4:3 says 'Break up your unplowed ground and do not sow among thorns.' I know I am taking this verse out of context, but the idea of removing weeds and preparing the soil of a child's heart has taken hold of me. Is there a way we can break up the ground so that our students can fully receive and grow in what we are teaching, as well as receive and grow in their relationship with God? I believe the answer is yes!

As a teacher, I don't get to choose my students, I need to help all of my students grow, and it is key for me to set things up so that they can grow. At Neerlandia Public Christian School, I have seen our staff do things to help our student be ready to receive, not only by preparing and implementing engaging lessons, but also helping students to be physically and mentally ready to receive what is shared. Whether that is a snack to keep a student going, or a listening ear, or a multitude of other things, our staff has a real heart for all of our students and a genuine desire to see them grow.

I believe that the Holy Spirit does most of the work of preparing hearts to receive from God, but I am thankful for the people who played their part in preparing my heart to receive, especially to receive spiritual things. Maybe we, as adults, should take some time to thank those who have done this for us. I know how much it has meant to me when someone has shown me appreciation for helping them, even when it was my job.

Prakash Raju

Bell Schedule

A.M.

Monday - Thursday

8:10-8:15am	Buses Arrive
8:20 am	Morning Warning Bell
8:25 am	Classes Begin
10:10-10:25 am	Morning Recess
11:55-12:10pm	Lunch Break

P.M.

12:10-12:40 pm	Elementary Students go outside
2:10-2:25 pm	Afternoon Recess
3:40 om	Dismissal Time
3:50 pm	Buses Leave

Technology Fee

Each student in Grade 1-9 have a Technology fee added to their PowerSchool account.

To continue providing students with reliable tools for learning, Pembina Hills is introducing a technology fee beginning this school year. This fee will support the replacement of aging devices—such as Chromebooks, classroom display boards and other devices as well as for network infrastructure and software —so that students and teachers have access to up-to-date, dependable technology. By sharing in this investment, families are helping ensure schools are equipped for engaging and effective learning experiences.

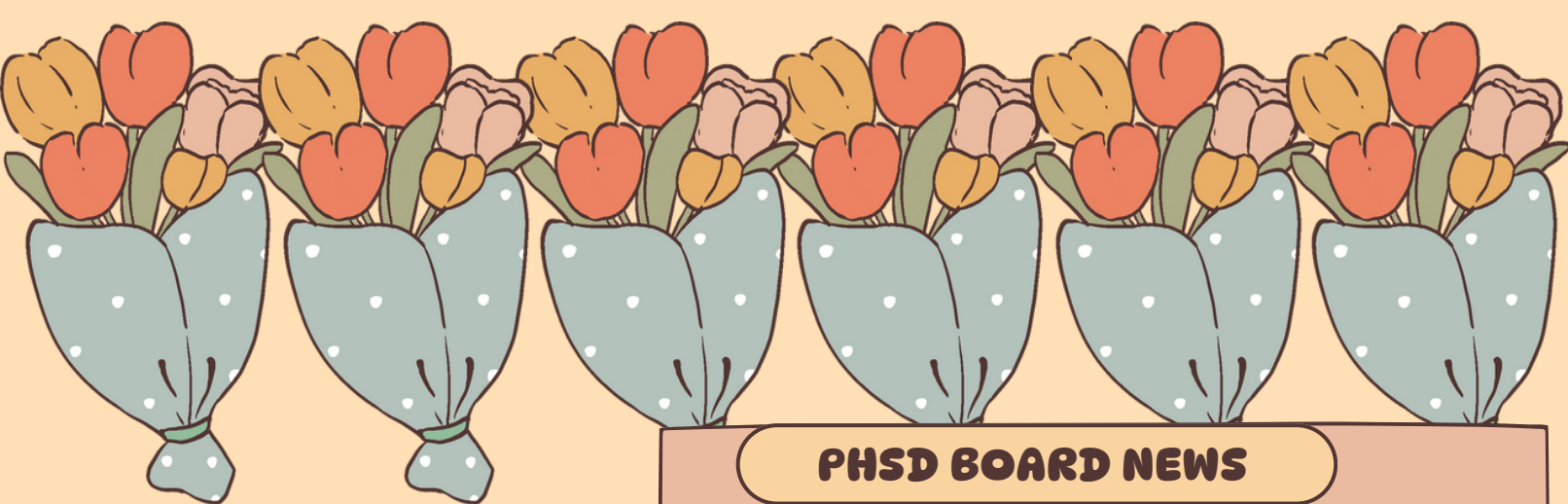
Provincial Assessments

During the administration of provincial assessment, 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).

FIRE DRILLS AND LOCK DOWNS

There will be 6 Fire drills throughout the year, as well as two lockdown drills. Parents/Guardians will be notified before the first lockdown drill and after the second lock down occurs.



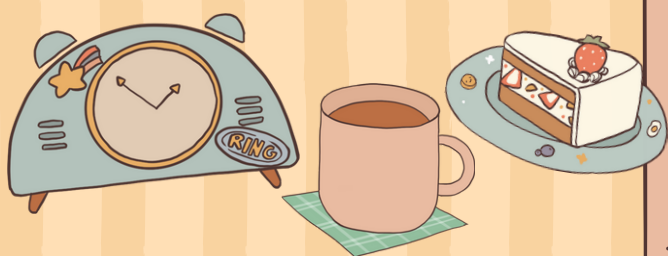


Special Thanks

- We again say a BIG THANK YOU to the Van Beeks and their crew for the great job they do in cleaning our school throughout the year and the extra cleaning they do over the summer.
- NCES hosted our back to school pancake breakfast, thank you for all the efforts put in to make it a success!

online clothing

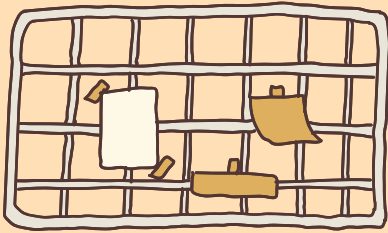
Orders can be placed anytime through out the year.
<https://neerlandiapublicchristianschool.entripyshops.com/>



PHSD BOARD NEWS

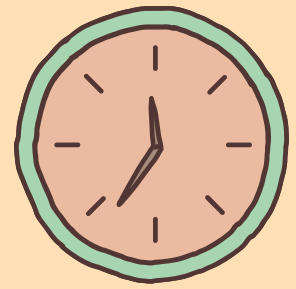
- Welcome back to a brand-new school year! It's always inspiring to see the excitement fill the halls in our schools as students, families, and staff return!
-
- New Form 6-18 Request for Reconsideration of resources: Our division has introduced a new process for parents, guardians and community members who have concerns about materials in school libraries or learning resources. This form will allow individuals to:
 - - Identify the resource in question.
 - - Provide details about their concerns after reviewing the resource in full.
 - - Note specific portions they find problematic.
 - - Also indicate portions of the resource they believe have merit.
- Once the form is submitted, the division will formally review the resource. This ensures transparency and fairness in evaluating materials while recognizing the importance of diverse perspectives within our school communities.
-
- New Admin Procedures: Over the summer a number of new AP's were developed to align with new ministerial orders. If you have any questions about how these changes may affect your school, please reach out to your principal.
- School Trustee Elections: A reminder that this fall is an election year for school trustees. If you are interested in putting your name forward to serve your community and help guide the future of education, nomination forms are due by September 22, 2025. Serving as a trustee is an important way to have a voice in decisions that impact students, families, and schools across our division.

Victoria Kane
Trustee, West Ward 1



STAFF PARKING LOT

- We have several staff members so we will fill all the parking spaces. We ask that Parents and Guests 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 or picking up children. Thank you!



NPCS/NPCSC News

- -Welcome to the 2025-26 School Year! The Neerlandia Christian Education Society is excited to be part of your family's school experience.
- -NCES hosted the Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast August 29, serving 400 families and community members! Thank you to all who attended, and the many people and organizations that made it a success!
- -Over the summer, the final phase of our playground build was completed! This one is specialized for accessible play. A huge thank you to Charlene Fleming who has spearheaded the planning and completion of all 3 phases.
- Please join us for a special Grand Opening Celebration September 18 at 4pm, at the new playground.
- -Mark your calendars: First Hot Lunch: October 7. If you would like to help, please contact Julaine Greilach at 780-284-3414
- -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 15, 7 o'clock, at NPCS.
- NCES Board of Directions 2025-26 Kirstie Schatz (Chair), Charlene Fleming (Vice Chair/ Playground Liaison), Alanna Breikreitz (Secretary), Laura Braucht (Treasurer), Julaine Greilach (Hot Lunch Coordinator), Sandra Olthuis (Community/PCCE Rep), Meagan Neill (Member at Large)

Terry Fox Run

- We will be having our Terry Fox run at 10:00 am on Thursday Sept. 25. Forms will be available Thursday Sept. 4. Forms must be done in order for students to participate. Parents and community members are invited to join us on this annual walk. Below is the link to our school's fundraising page.
<https://schools.terryfox.ca/NeerlandiaPublicChristian>



Library News

- Library Hours:
- Monday-Thursday 9:00-4:30
- CLOSED: Monday September 1 (Labour Day)
- Tuesday September 30 (Truth and Reconciliation)
- OPEN: Friday September 5
- Chocolate Bar Fundraiser begins Thursday August 28
- Letters sent home with students in Grades 4-9

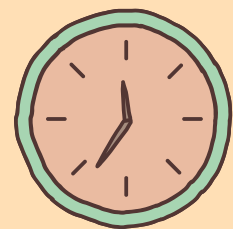


Special Days

- September:
- Monday, Sept 29: Orange Shirt Day
- October:
- Thur, Oct 9: Wacky Hair Day
- November:
- Thur Nov 20: Career Day
- December:
- Thur, Dec 18: Wacky Socks
- January:
- Thur, Jan 22: Anything But a Lunch Kit
- February:
- Wednesday, Feb 25: Pink Shirt Day for Anti-Bullying
- March:
- Monday, Mar 9: 100 Day
- April:
- Fri, Apr 10: Book Character
- May:
- Wednesday, May 6: Wear a Hat for Mental Health
- June:
- Fri, June 19: Sunglasses Day

looking Ahead

- Sept. 3 - First Day of Preschool
- Sept. 5 - School
- Sept. 12 - Alternate day, no students
- Sept. 17 - Cross Country in Westlock
- Sept. 18 - NCES Grand opening of the new playground
- Sept. 19 - Teacher Day, no students
- Sept. 25 - Terry Fox Run
- Sept. 26 - Alternate day, no students
- Sept. 29 - Orange Shirt Day
- Sept. 30 - No School- Truth and Reconciliation day
- Oct. 1 - Jr. High Soccer Tournament
- Oct. 3 - School
- Oct. 7 - Hot lunch (hot Dogs)
- Oct. 8 - Thanksgiving Assembly
- Oct. 9 - Wacky Hair day, Elem. Soccer tournament Gr. 5 + 6
- Oct. 10 - Alt. Day
- Oct. 13 - No school, Thanksgiving
- Oct. 16 - Student Picture Day
- Oct. 17 - School



Dear Parents:

Re: Fair Notice of Threat Assessment Process

The safety of our students is a top priority for us all. Children and youth increasingly face many difficult situations and challenges in their lives. When they lack the ability to resolve these problems, high risk behavior can sometimes occur. We believe there is a shared community responsibility to respond and support all children and youth. As a school division, and in cooperation with Evergreen Catholic School Division, government, RCMP and community partners, we have completed intensive safety training through the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response. Together, we have also developed a prevention and intervention protocol for responding to situations in which students may be posing a threat to themselves or others.

This protocol is reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

This letter is to inform you that as a school division, we have an administrative procedure that requires school administrators to complete a "risk assessment" in cases of students making significant threats to harm themselves or others. The purpose of the assessment is to determine the level of risk and identify supports which may be required. This letter is intended to serve our community with fair notice that we, as a school community, will address and respond to incidents of high risk behaviours in a proactive manner that provides for a healthy and caring learning environment. Our goal is to promote safe schools and communities, and respond to threats in a preventative approach.

We are proud to be able to provide this level of support to our school communities and are most fortunate to have our community partners at our side. Additional information on this topic can be found in our Administrative Procedure 50-09 Student Code of Conduct, available on the school division website.

Providing students and staff with a safe and caring learning environment is our top priority. We are very grateful to our community partners for joining us in this effort.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,
Prakash Raju



Home Group Fun!





Pembina River Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment and Intervention Protocol

Fair Notice and Practice



Community safety is everyone's responsibility.

The goal of VTTRA is that every incident of youth violence in our communities be addressed.

**VTTRA is early intervention –
which is quite possibly prevention.**

The Partners

Education partners are committed to creating and maintain school environments in which students, staff, parents and others feel safe. Evergreen Catholic Separate Regional Division and Pembina Hills Public School, have taken a lead role as there is a direct application to the health and safety of the school environment.

Government agency partners play an active role in a comprehensive intervention plan to support the young person. Alberta Human Services-Children & Family Services, Alberta Health Services, and RCMP personnel are key to determining the level of risk a young person may pose.

Community Agency partners provide services that are regularly included as part of the intervention plan. Town of Westlock, County of Barrhead, Alberta Health Services, Alberta Government, FCSS Barrhead, Evergreen Catholic School Division and Pembina Hills Public Schools advise on many facets for the VTRA protocol to ensure it is tailored to the Pembina River community.

The Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response has completed extensive research in youth and school violence. Kevin Cameron, CEO of CCTATR, has trained partner local personnel in use of the protocol.

Duty to Report

There is zero tolerance for not responding. Prevention of youth violence is a community responsibility and it is everybody's duty to report. Under-reaction is epidemic and a chief factor of escalation from thought to action.

What is a Threat?



A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, and posted on the internet, or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, and investigated with a clear and appropriate response. In a culture of responsible reporting, students need to believe that they will be believed when they confide; their identity will be kept confidential; their information will be acted upon promptly; and their concern will be investigated thoroughly.

Who is on a Threat Assessment Team?

Each threat assessment team is multi agency. The team may include school staff, psychologist, police, child intervention workers, community mental health workers, hospitals, probation/parole and other professionals.

What is the Main Purpose of a Threat Assessment?

The purposes of a Student Threat Assessment is to:

- ensure the safety of students, staff, parents ,and others;
- ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat;
- begin to understand the factors that contribute to the threat maker's behaviour;
- view the student as in need of intervention rather than to be disciplined;
- be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker. It may include disciplinary action but will include appropriate supports to aid the student in developing and using positive strategies;
- promote the emotional and physical safety of all;
- ensure all school and agency partners are working together with a common understanding and protocol.

What happens in a Student Threat Assessment?

All threat making behaviour by a student(s) shall be reported to the Principal/Supervisor who will activate the protocol for the initial response.

Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with students, the threat maker(s), parents and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident.

Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff, and students as required and as appropriate.

Can I Refuse?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. If for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process, by the threat maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning community environment for all.