



OCTOBER EAGLE EXPRESS



TERRY FOX RUN

HELLO OCTOBER

As we dive into October, we're embracing the season of learning, gratitude, and growth. Students are engaged in exciting activities.

THANKSGIVING ASSEMBLY

We will be having our Thanksgiving Assembly on Oct. 8 at 11:00am (as long as teachers are teaching that day). Families and community members are welcome to join. We are encouraging students to bring in food bank donations, these can be brought in anytime before the assembly.



Students from Neerlandia Public Christian School and Covenant Canadian Reformed School participated in the Terry Fox Run on Thurs, Sept. 25. Thank you to the NCES members & volunteers that helped with set-up and running this event. Our total amount raised was \$863.00!

PICTURE DAY

Smart Photography will be here on October 16 to take individual student pictures (as long as teachers are teaching that day). We would like to have two volunteers help keep things organized, so please email or call Nicole if you can help.



MUSIC FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone that supported our Music program and ordered apples! They are scheduled to arrive Oct. 30. We are still looking for a couple volunteers to help with sorting out the orders. Thank you to those who have already signed up. This fundraiser is to offset the costs for opportunities in the Elementary music program as well as the Band program. We are planning on attending the Winspear Education Concerts with Elementary students in Kindergarten - Grade 6 in Edmonton. The band is planning to once again attend music festivals in Barrhead, workshops, and Band Camp.

OCTOBER 2025

PEMBINA HILLS SCHOOL DIVISION MESSAGE



Pembina Hills Families,

As you know, the teacher strike is expected to begin on Monday, October 6. Therefore, starting Monday, all Pembina Hills schools will be closed and there will be no classes (including Early Learning) beginning October 6. This includes the cancellation of student transportation, extra-curricular activities and any prearranged trips or scheduled events.

The last day of classes for students will be Friday, October 3, and students will be asked to take home any perishable items and personal belongings they may need. Families will need to make alternate arrangements for their children to ensure their wellness and well-being. You will not need to report your child's absence(s) during the strike. Please note that while schools are closed, some support staff may still be working in schools on non-student tasks or professional learning.

Schools will not be providing any schoolwork to students for the duration of the strike. The Government of Alberta announced it will be offering financial support and educational resources for families. See the [Alberta.ca website](https://www.alberta.ca) for more information.

We will continue to provide updates to you through SchoolMessenger, posted on the division news and Labour Action Webpage, and shared on division social media channels as they become available.

We know this is an uncertain and stressful time, and recognize this creates challenges for families. We remain optimistic that a resolution between the Alberta Teachers' Association and the province will be reached soon and that student learning can return as quickly as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

If you have questions, please contact the Division Office at info@pembinahills.ca or 780.674.8500

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL INFORMATION



As you have been informed by Pembina Hills School Division, all Pembina Hills schools, including Neerlandia Public Christian School, will be closed starting October 6, until the teacher strike ends. Teachers will not be replying to school messages during the strike. Additionally, we will not have anyone to answer the school phones or check the school answering machine, so during the strike, we ask that you do not call or come to the school; however, you may contact Pembina Hills School Division at info@pembinahills.ca if you have any school related questions. You may also visit pembinahills.ca/labour-action for updates.

We, the staff members of Neerlandia Public Christian School, have been asked by parents about school work for their children to do during the strike. We do not expect parents to teach their children during the strike, and when the strike is done, we will work with our students to help them learn what they need to learn.

However, if you would like to do educational things with your children, we recommend things that will help your child maintain what they have learned at school. Regular reading, with your child or on their own, and asking them to tell you about what they read, will help maintain their reading and comprehension skills. Journaling about their experiences will help them maintain their writing. Playing games that get them to use their math skills will help them keep strong recall of their basic math facts.

We are very sad to be away from our students and we look forward to working with your children when the strike is done!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

When I started as the principal of Neerlandia Public Christian School last year, I was blessed to once again be a part of the PCCE - the Prairie Center for Christian Education. This organization supports many Christian schools in the prairies, especially in Alberta. Thanks to the generous support of the Neerlandia Christian Education Society (NCES) board, and thanks to your financial support for the Neerlandia Christian Education Society, we are members of the PCCE and we have access to the resources from the PCCE.

There were three things from the PCCE that I was most looking forward to when I returned to Neerlandia Public Christian School.

First was the Christian Educators' Convention. Thanks to your support of the NCES, all teachers have the opportunity to attend the convention in October this year.

The second was our Leadership Cohort and the learning I get at the meetings that are held in May. Last year, I had wonderful learning with a leadership support tool entitled "Called, Connected, Committed," which I believe will help me better lead our school in a Christian way.

The third thing was Teaching for Transformation. This method of teaching Christian truths has shaped everything I teach. It helped me to see that there are effective ways to teach really important truths, and in a Christian School, the really important truths of God, through the teaching of the Alberta Curriculum.

A most interesting thing about my reintroduction to Teaching for Transformation is that I was taught NEW ways of preparing to teach Christianly, which I hadn't learned before.

One of the first things a teacher now starts with, when implementing this way of teaching, is to create a Deep Hope for their students. In order for me to apply this, I created my Deep Hope for our school's students and staff. My Deep Hope is that:

In loving community, we will continually discover and grow in our evolving uniqueness and gifting, looking for how God desires to collectively use these in His story.

Mentioning all of this is more than just telling you some of the things I see as important for our staff and students. It is actually to show that I have only one perspective on how to support people. In fact, simply the idea of team (found in my Deep Hope) shows that many people bring different abilities to make things work together much better than any one person can on their own.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Could you imagine a hockey team that only had forwards? Or a band that only had percussion? We need everyone playing their unique part, for things to work effectively.

You see, our staff members each have a deep hope for our students, and it may be something like what I have, but it is not identical. Yet it is just as important. As I work on Growth and Team and Service, other staff are focused on instilling things like:

- Children are image bearers of God
- Our identity should be in the awesome perspective God has of us
- Encouraging us to build one another up
- We are created by God, fearfully and wonderfully made, and that shapes our calling.

The cool thing is that no Deep Hope is better or worse than any other. Our Deep Hopes are not in conflict with one another. In fact, our unique Deep Hopes help students to see many important truths from the Bible, as our students move through the grades in our school. That's because our individual Deep Hopes are God given, or God-instilled in us.

We have an incredible team at Neerlandia Public Christian School, all led by the greatest leader (and that's definitely not me), working together to teach our children the really important things.

In addition to these amazing staff members, we are blessed to have the support of you, the members of the NCES, along with the NCES board, to help us guide the students in growing in their relationship with God. I would like to encourage you to make the necessary tax-deductible donation this year, to get an annual membership in the NCES.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for your care and support you gave to the school (the students, staff and specifically me) over the last school year and the first month of this school year.

In His service,
Prakash Raju



PEMBINA HILLS NEWS

Assurance Report 2024-2025

Every year, Pembina Hills completes an internal audit to ensure we are safeguarding assets, supporting schools, and protecting both staff and students. This year's review confirmed that our enrolment processes are fully compliant, school deposits continue to grow with more families choosing secure online payments, and health and safety training remains a strong focus. These audits give parents confidence that fees and records are handled properly, funding is accurate, and our schools remain safe, accountable places for children to learn.

AP 60-16: Updated Extracurricular & Athletics Guidelines

Pembina Hills has recently updated its Administrative Procedure for extracurricular activities, coaching, and athletic participation. These updates align with provincial regulations and reinforce our Division's commitment to student safety, fair play, and clear expectations for staff, coaches, and parents. Families can view the full procedure on our Division website if they'd like to learn more.

Trustee Elections 2025

I'm excited to share that I've been acclaimed as your trustee for the next four years. Serving our schools and communities is something I care deeply about, and I look forward to working alongside families, staff, and students in the years ahead! Elections are also taking place in other wards across Pembina Hills:

- Ward West 2: Swan Hills / Fort Assiniboine
- Ward East 2: Westlock County North

If you live in these areas, I encourage you to learn about the candidates, ask questions, and cast your vote on Election Day, October 20, 2025!

VOLUNTEER FORMS

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their child's Student Enrollment Verification forms.

If you are planning on volunteering in the school, please be sure to have your volunteer registration forms completed. Volunteers need to fill out the form once a year. If you have submitted a criminal record check and vulnerable sector check we will not need a new one.

Drivers Authorization forms also need to be filled out every year.

Both forms can be accessed on our webpage, or if you are reading this online, click on the links below:

[7-120 Driver authorization form](#)

[4-60 Volunteer Registration](#)

LIBRARY NEWS

OPEN WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Starting October 1

7-9pm

RHYME TIME

Starts October 22

10:15-11:00

Hours

Monday- Thursday

9:00 AM -4:30

Wednesday

7:00-9:00PM

Closed

Monday, October 13

Open

Friday, October 3 and 17

We are planning to be open for these hours during the strike.



-September was a busy month for NCES! A highlight was the Grand Opening of the Accessible Playground, Sept 18. Thank you to dignitaries from the AB Gov't, PHSD, Barrhead County, and Barrhead Elks for attending. We enjoyed sharing this day with school and community members!

-NCES served 480 popsicles to staff and students from NPCCS and CCRS on Sept 25. Thank you to Victoria Kane, Julaine Greilach, Laura Braucht, Arianne Mast and Kirstie Schatz for volunteering. Thank you to Neerlandia Coop for donating the popsicles.

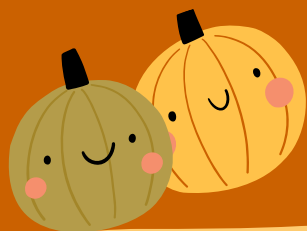
-Mark your calendars: First Hot Lunch has been postponed to Oct 28. If you would like to help, please contact Julaine Greilach at 780-284-3414

-NCES Membership and Associate Membership letters have gone out to families. School families can pay \$300/yr to be a member, as well as Associate and Community Members a \$150 fee a year. This helps cover the cost of PCCE fees for students, and gives you an active role in our school and NCES.

-Coming Up: Watch for info late October about this year's NCES fundraiser. We are excited to combine our annual Medicine Hat Meat Trader jerky fundraiser with Sherwood Park Soups! Get ready to pick out some great snacks and stocking stuffers, while supporting NCES and our students.

-Our next NCES meeting is October 20, 7 o'clock, at NPCCS. NCES Board of Directions 2025-26 Kirstie Schatz (Chair), Charlene Fleming (Vice Chair/ Playground Liaison), Alanna Breitzkreitz (Secretary), Laura Braucht (Treasurer), Julaine Greilach (Hot Lunch Coordinator), Sandra Olthuis (Community/PCCE Rep), Meagan Neill (Member at Large)





SPORTS

Elementary Soccer: Grade 5/6 soccer will be wrapping up soon- depends on the weather. They have a tournament in Fort Assiniboine Friday Oct. 3. Thanks to all who participated and a big thank you to Mrs. L Seatter for helping run this program.

Grade 6 Students enjoyed playing soccer at the Sunny Bend Colony on Oct. 1.

Our Jr. High students went to Fawcett to participate in a soccer tournament on Thurs. Oct. 2.

Cross Country Runners- our Elem. & Jr. High runners competed in a divisional event at Westlock Golf course on Sept.17, then our Elementary team had the opportunity to compete again in Whitecourt. They all did an excellent job! The Jr. High team attended zones in Slave Lake on Oct. 1. Congratulations on a job well done!!

Volleyball Practice and Games:

We will update the week at a glance as changes happen. Coaches will keep players & parents posted on updated news & events.

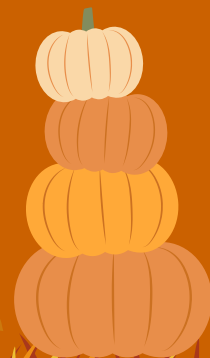
Practices:

Mondays: Tier 1 CV 3:40-5:15pm, Tier 1 SD and Tier 2 BR 5:15-6:45pm

Tuesday: Tier 1 Boys 3:45-5:15pm, Tier 2 Boys 5:15-6:45pm

Wednesday: Tier 1 CV and Tier 2 BR 3:45-5:15pm, Tier 1 SD 5:15-6:45pm

Thursday: Tier 1 Boys 3:45-5:15pm, Tier 2 Boys 5:15-6:45pm





CROSS COUNTRY FUN





TERRY FOX RUN



Truth and Reconciliation Week

hello
FALL



OCTOBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Gr. 6 Soccer at Sunnbend Colony Apple Order Due Jr. High Cross Country Zones at Slave Lake	2 Jr. High Soccer Tournament in Fawcett	3 Grade 5 & 6 Soccer Tournament in Fort Assiniboine Tier 1 Boys and Girls Volleyball Tournament at RF Staples	4
5	6	7	8 Thanksgiving Assembly	9 Wacky Hair Day Grade 5 & 6 Soccer Tournament in Busby	10 Alternate Day, No students	11
12	13 Thanksgiving Day No School	14 Safely on Board presentation Kindergarten and Grade 4 Tier 2 Boys and Girls Volleyball game at NPCS	15 Safely on Board Grade 1 and 2	16 Student Picture Day	17 Regular School day	18
19	20	21 Telus World of Science Presentations	22 Tier 2 Volleyball Divisionals at Spirit Center	23 Christian Ed Conference No School	24 Christian Ed Conference No School	25
26	27	28	29	30 Tier 1 Boys and Girls Volleyball Divisionals	31 Alternate day, no school	