

# February EAGLE EXPRESS

## Hello February

**February:** A month of Resilience and Kindness

**Feb. 25 is Pink shirt day**, it is an annual anti-bullying event that encourages people to wear pink shirts to take a stand against bullying and promote kindness, inclusion, and respect in schools, workplaces, and communities.

### Parent Meetings:

Because of the teacher strike, PHSD has changed the Progress Report schedule. Progress Reports were sent home at the end of January. Parent Teacher Student Conferences will happen on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Report cards will go out at the end of the year, as originally scheduled. School Appointment bookings will open on March 2nd.

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## Upcoming Events

- No school: February 5 & 6  
Teachers Convention
- Friday Feb. 13 School day
- Feb. 16 No School, Family day
- Friday Feb. 20 Kindergarten day
- Feb. 25 Pink Shirt day

## Principal Message

At the end of January, we sent home progress reports for our students. It was my pleasure to be able to read all of the comments that were written to the students. As teachers, we continually collect progress data, but writing comments reflecting on a students' progress is a bit different.

Report comments come from an analysis of all of the information the teacher has, and they represent a summary of that information. That is the science of comment writing, but the real art has to do with crafting comments that are encouraging as far as what the student has done well, and showing practical ways that students can grow. I must say that I am very pleased with the way our teachers are able to write comments that balance stating areas of positive past performance, with words that encourage growth in a way that is informative and motivational. However, without a doubt, the One who knows how to do this best is our Lord, via practical experiences we have, by inspiring our brothers and sisters to interact with us, and often directly speaking to us through the Holy Spirit.

As recorded in John, when speaking of the Father, Jesus said that "every branch in me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit." (John 15:2) Although this most clearly speaks of how we must remain in Jesus to be fruitful, I believe that this pruning process also happens in multiple areas of our lives.

I am thankful for God's encouragement in my life when I am feeling down, reminding me that He is with me and will support me in the tough times. I appreciate how God sends brothers and sisters to encourage me to continue to do what He desires of me. I am also thankful that the Holy Spirit speaks to my spirit in ways that do not allow me to stagnate in my faith. And although this may be dangerous to write (as I am asking God to keep allowing this to happen) I am thankful for the difficult situations God puts me in, that challenge me and cause me to grow. Jesus tells us that all of these things will allow us to fulfil God's will in a more powerful way, in that "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." (John 15:8)

## Principal Message (continued)

One other thing for us to consider is that we need the right motivation as we are used by God to correct our brothers and sisters. Jesus tells us that His commandment is "that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12) That means loving others so much that we would be willing to die for them. (John 15:13). For myself, that means I am not "happy that I showed them" after I am done working to correct someone else, but rather, I feel their hurt over what has gone wrong and I genuinely desire to help and support them in their return to a right standing with God and with others.

I clearly saw genuine care and love for our students when I read our teachers' comments to them. I think that our teachers may have drawn on their own experience with others encouraging them to grow, including the prodding they have received from the Holy Spirit, as they wrote comments for our students. I thank God for the staff that we have, especially that they lovingly help our students discover and grow in their role as co-laborers who play their part in God's story.

Blessings,  
Prakash Raju

### Lock Down Drill

In keeping with our school's commitment to student and staff safety, on February 12, 2026, we will be running a lockdown drill to ensure staff and students understand what to do during a lockdown. Before that date, teachers will explain the lockdown procedure to students. Teachers will also talk to students about why we practice the lockdown drill – which is to help students learn what to do to be safe. By running drills in a safe, age-appropriate and calm manner, we will help students cope with the concerns and anxious feelings they may experience.

If you have questions about this, please contact your child's teacher or our principal, Mr. Raju at 780-674-5581.

# School Wide News

## Surveys this Month

As we announced in the January Eagle Express, parents and students will be asked to complete surveys about Neerlandia Public Christian School. All parents are encouraged to complete the survey from Pembina Hills School Division, and some parents will be asked to complete surveys for Alberta Education and Childcare. For full details, please see the article in last month's Eagle Express (on page 5).

## Library

### Library Hours:

Monday–Thursday 9:00am–4:30pm

Wednesday Evening 7:00pm–9:00pm

OPEN Thursday February 5  
(Teachers Convention) 9:00–4:30

Friday February 13 ( School day)  
9:00–4:30

Friday February 20( School Day)  
9:00–4:30

CLOSED Monday February 16  
(Family Day)

RhymeTime starts Feb 4 at 10:15–11:00 for 8 weeks.

### Book Club:

Meets Monday February 23 at 7:30 to discuss 'All the colors of the dark' by Chris Whitaker

# NCES NEWS



Neerlandia Christian Education Society (NCES) & Neerlandia Public Christian School Council (NPCSC) met January 19 with board members, Principal Raju, School Trustee Kane and Teacher Rep. Mrs. Lee. Our discussion highlights included the school calendar approved by Pembina Hills School Division (PHSD) for the 2026/27 school year, as well as the results of the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) 2024/25 put out by PHSD. Principal Raju asked for input on the NPCSC calendar, as well as addressing the AERR in regards to NPCSC and the 2024/25 Provincial Achievement Test's (PAT). We also talked about the possibility of NPCSC hosting an event for parents and what topics might be helpful or of interest. NCES also committed to supporting and serving again at the school's "Winter Walk" when a date is set. NCES will meet again February 17 at 7pm, and the next joint meeting for NPCSC & NCES is March 16 at 7pm. NCES Board of Directions 2025-26 Kirstie Schatz (Chair), Charlene Fleming (Vice Chair/Playground Liaison), Alanna Breitreitz (Secretary), Laura Braucht (Treasurer), Julaine Greilach (Hot Lunch Coordinator), Sandra Olthuis (Community/PCCE Rep), Meagan Neill (Member at Large), Cass Wierenga (Fundraiser Liaison)

## Pembina Hills School Division News

### Superintendent Announces Intention to Retire

Superintendent of Schools Brett Cooper has announced his intention to retire, effective August 31, 2026. Our priority moving forward is to ensure a transition that maintains continuity and stability for our students, staff, and families. We will share further details regarding the selection process for the next Superintendent of Schools as they become available.

### Winter Walk

Our Winter walk is scheduled for Feb. 13 at 2:25pm. All students (K-Gr 9) will be taking a walk throughout the hamlet. The Parent Council (NCES) will be serving hot chocolate and cookies after the walk (Thank you!)

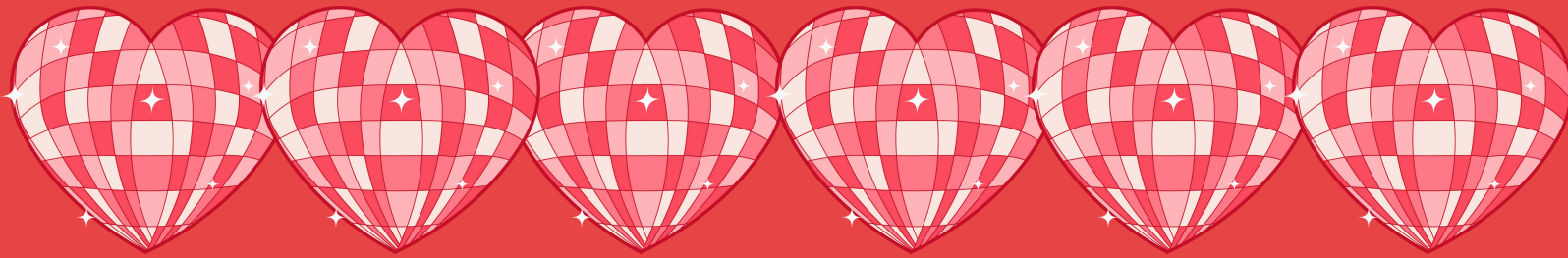


**Come explore with us!**

**NOW ACCEPTING**  
**2026-2027**  
**Early Learning**  
**Pre-Kindergarten**  
**applications!**

[pembinahills.ca/EL-apply](https://pembinahills.ca/EL-apply)

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## Jr. High Basketball

### Game Schedule

Feb. 2 Tier 1 Boys and Girls game at PNCS at 4:00pm

Feb. 4 Tier 2 Boys and Girls at RF staples

Feb. 9 No Boys Practice, Tier 1 Girls practice at 4:00pm

Feb. 10 Tier 2 Boys and Girls at NPCCS at 4:00pm

Feb. 11 Tier 1 Boys and Girls game at NPCCS at 4:00pm

Feb. 12 Tier 2 Boys and Girls at NPCCS at 4:00pm

Feb. 13 & 14 Tier 1 Boys and Girls, Tier 2 Girls Tournament in Onoway

Feb. 19 Tier 1 Basketball Divisionals at Spirit Center

Feb. 23 Tier 2 Basketball Divisionals at Spirit Center

\*Coaches will update teams about practice times, if there are changes due to games,

## Elementary Running Team

Elementary running teams completed in the Harriers tournament and took home first, second, fourth and sixth place. Well done!

Our Elementary running team is preparing for their final run on Feb. 14, Good luck to all runners.

## Elementary Basketball

Feb. 4 Basketball games in Swan Hills

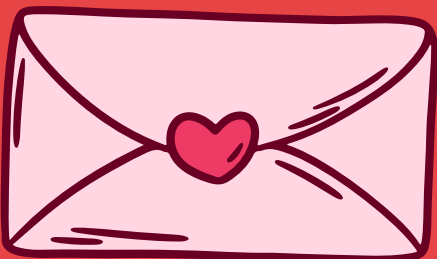
Feb. 18 Basketball games at Westlock

Elementary

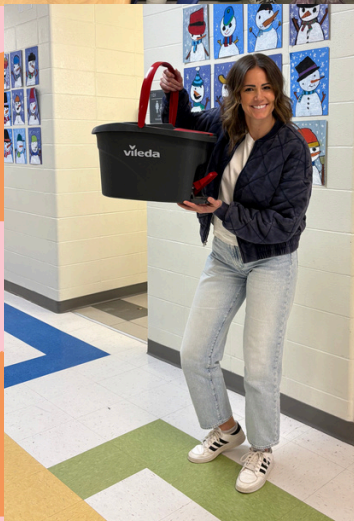
Feb. 26 Final Basketball tournament at

Barrhead Elementary School

Teams will be practicing during lunch recess. Thank you to Mr. Brent Wierenga for coaching.



# Anything but a lunch kit Day



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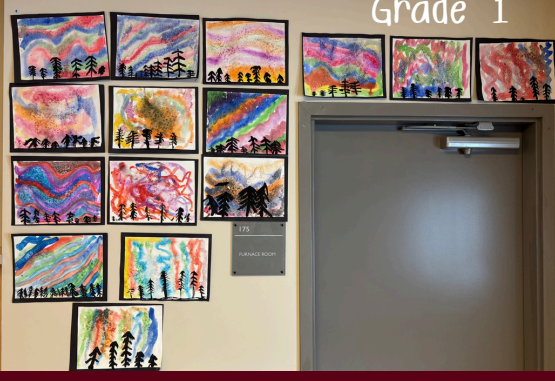


# ART

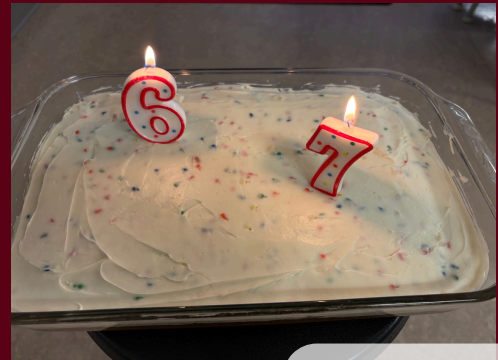
Grade 5



Grade 1



Gr. 1 Celebrated 67 Days of School



# February 2026

mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	Sun
						1
2 Tier 1 Boys and Girls Basketball at PNCS, starting at 4:00pm	3	4 Tier 2 Boys and Girls at RF Staples Q3 CTF Begins	5 Teachers Convention, no school	6 Teachers Convention, no school	7	8
9 No Boys Practice, Tier 1 Girls practice at 4:00pm	10 Tier 2 Boys and Girls at NPCS at 4:00pm	11 Gr. 6-9 Skiing at Misty Ridge Tier 1 Boys and Girls Basketball at NPCS at 4:00pm	12 Tier 2 Boys and Girls Basketball at NPCS at 4:00pm	13 <b>School day</b> Tier 1 Girls and Boys, Tier 2 Girls Basketball tournament in Onoway	14 Tier 1 Boys and Girls, Tier 2 Girls Basketball tournament in Onoway	15
16 Family Day, No school	17	18 Elem. Basketball at WES 1:30pm	19 Tier 1 Basketball Divisionals in Westlock	20 School Day, Extra Kindergrten day	21	22
23 Tier 2 Basketball Divisionals at Spirit Center	24	25 Pink Shirt Day	26 Final Elem. Basketball tournament at BES	27 Alternate day, no school	28	