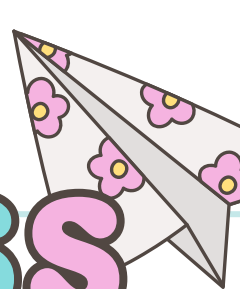


April



EAGLE EXPRESS



Hello April

- Thank you for supporting our Grade 7 plant fundraiser, we will update when the plants are ready to be picked up in May.
- Purdys Chocolate Fundraiser was a success, thank you to those who supported the Music Program.
- A note has been sent home to Grade 8 students with fundraising opportunities to help decrease the cost of their upcoming field trip to Frontier Lodge.

Staff Update

It is our pleasure to announce that Mrs. Natalie Kerckhof will teach our grade three students while Mrs. Wierenga is on leave. Mrs. Kerckhof has taught at a few Christian schools, including our school. Welcome, Mrs. Kerckhof.

New Student Registration

All registration forms must be completed online (no paper copies). You can go to our website: <https://www.neerlandiaschool.ca/> OR Pembina Hills website to register as a NEW family. If you already have students in the district you can add them to your PowerSchool portal – please DO NOT CREATE a new account if your child has already attended a program such as Early Learning.

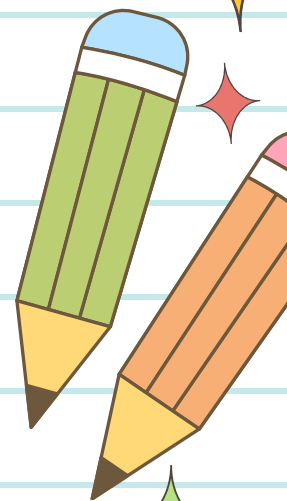


Table of Contents

Principal Message
Pembina Hills News
Kindergarten Open House
NCES Update
Sports News

- Badminton

Library News
Bus Safety Info
Pictures
Calendar
Measles Information



Christian Education Week

We will be having our Christian Education Week April 27 – May 1st. Our theme this year is

Notice, Wonder, Love

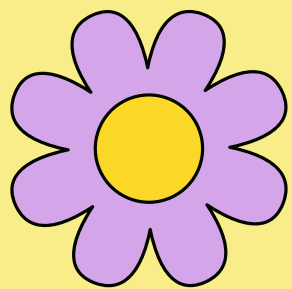
Deep hope: is for us to notice, wonder, and love God more as we discover his love in all different colours of His diverse creation

Bible verse: 1 John 4: 16 and Romans 12: 10

Bus Forms

Most 2026–2027 Transportation Forms will be available after May 1st. Please go to the “Register to Ride” webpage or the Transportation Department if there are any questions. If your child takes a bus and you live outside of the NPCCS attendance area, you need to fill out a 5-01B form each year. Bus assignments are created based on these forms and waiting lists are created based on when they are submitted. These forms will be available in the PowerSchool portal (on a web browser) May 1, 2026. **If your live outside of the NPCCS boundary**, please complete these forms as soon as you are able.





Principal Message



What do you think about the weather we're having? This is such a common conversation starter, but this year has been something else. In fact, the weather this year has reminded me of the book *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*, in which until the true king returned to Narnia, they had a never ending winter, as it was "always winter, but never Christmas." Well, for us that isn't quite right because even though it does seem like we'll never get out of winter, we did get to celebrate Christmas, and we even got to celebrate Easter. In fact, I would like to apply this idea to the first Easter.

C. S. Lewis really chose a helpful analogy with the Narnian winter. For myself this year, I have stopped looking forward to warm weather, because I didn't want to deal with more disappointment. It seems like just when we have hope of the snow being gone, we are plunged into another squall or storm. How much more would God's people have felt a loss of hope that the Savior would come after hundreds of years of oppression and godless and corrupt governing. But thanks be to God that He did send Jesus the Messiah to die on the cross and rise again, and now not only can Jewish people have forgiveness of sins and everlasting life with God, but so can those of us who are not Jewish. Thanks be to God that we can celebrate Easter!

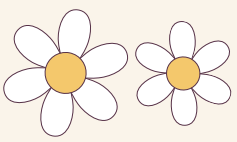
Maybe the way I feel about this year's winter weather is how you feel about your children. You may wonder if they will ever get a concept or change a behavior, considering how long they have already been working on this. We at the school sometimes get discouraged, but we have the luxury of looking back at an innumerable amount of times when we questioned if a student would get something, but after perseverance, they did! Let me encourage you to never give up hope. We at the school will not give up working with your child, to help them to become the man or woman of God which they were made to be.

Maybe we can also learn from how God deals with people, when we deal with children. As we read in 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but all come to repentance." God is patient and doesn't give up on us, so let's not lose hope when it comes to others, especially our children.

I trust that as we start to get spring weather, you will not only be able to appreciate the blessing of warm weather, but you will also have a greater appreciation for the gift of Jesus' death and resurrection, and you will have hope for the great things your children will do for the Lord.

Prakash Raju

[Click to go to Table of Contents](#)



Pembina Hills News

Happy April, everyone! Hope you had a restful spring break and are ready for an exciting final term. As we look toward the future of Pembina Hills, I'm pleased to share some key updates regarding our commitment to student success and modern facilities.

CASA Classrooms

The Board has approved a partnership with CASA Mental Health, Government of Alberta, and Pembina Hills School Division - to bring a specialized mental health classroom to our division. Starting in September 2026, this initiative will provide up to 12 students per semester with intensive, on-site support, while maintaining their educational progress. This program reflects the division's ongoing commitment to student well-being and ensuring every student has the support they need to succeed.

Strategic Priorities for our Three-Year Education Plan

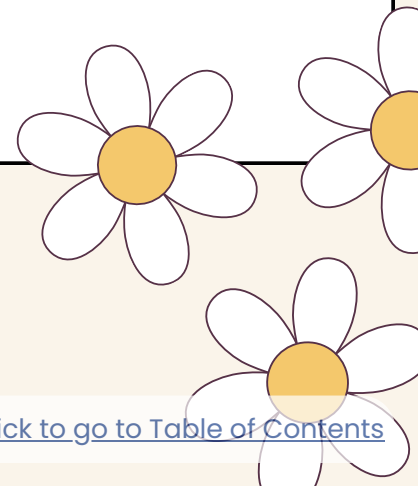
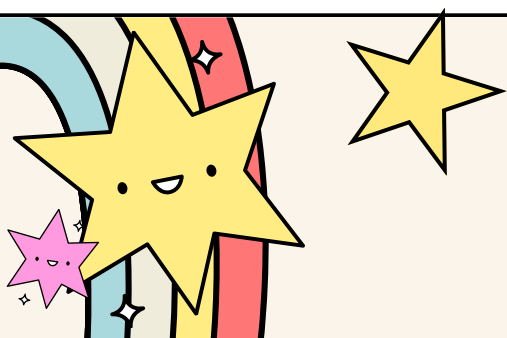
The Board of Trustees has reached a consensus on the three core priorities that will guide Pembina Hills through 2029. Strategically aligned with the Alberta Education Assurance Framework, these pillars ensure we meet provincial standards while addressing our unique local needs. We are grounding our efforts in Wellness, Thriving Communities, and Engaged Learners.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to build a bright future for every Pembina Hills student! More information will follow as the process unfolds!

2026-2029 Capital Plan

Providing modern, safe, and functional learning spaces is a top priority for the Board. We have officially submitted our Three-Year Capital Plan to Alberta Education, requesting a total of \$27.5 million for three critical projects: Priority 1: Partial modernization of École Barrhead Elementary School (\$12.3M). Priority 2: Partial modernization of École Westlock Elementary School (\$7.6M). Priority 3: Upgrades to Swan Hills School (\$7.5M)

Victoria Kane
Board Chair



[Click to go to Table of Contents](#)

EARLY LEARNING & KINDERGARTEN

Open House

When? May 4, 2026

Time? 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Come explore with us!

Meet the teacher, tour the classroom and ask questions!



Early Learning Info.
pembinahills.ca/EL-apply

New Kindergarten Registration 
pembinahills.ca/StudentReg





NCES News

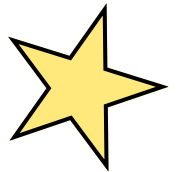
At our March 16 NPCSC/NCES meeting, NCES was pleased to approve funding for the Textiles class, Elementary Music classes, and new microscopes for Jr High Science. We thank our donors for their continued support, making it possible to fund these needed projects in our school.

NCES hosted a Hot Dog Hot Lunch on March 12. Thank you to Julaine Greilach, Lindsay Pohl, Arianne Mast, Julie Blum, Krisha Aarsen, and Ellie Holierhoek for volunteering their time.

On March 24, NCES hosted our first ever Crepe Snack Day! This was a huge success with over 415 crepes being ordered! Thank you to Victoria Kane, Kirstie Schatz, Julaine Greilach, Arianne Mast, and Kim Tuininga for their help making the day a huge success!

A reminder that all volunteers with NCES must have their PHSD volunteer forms completed, along with required record checks. Please speak to the office for more information.

Mark your calendars: NCES/NPCSC AGM May 26. More info to come.



NCES is pleased to host Bobsleigh Olympian Melissa Lotholz on April 7. She will spend time with all grades throughout the day!

Next NCES meeting is scheduled for April 20, 7pm 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), Cass Wierenga (Fundraiser Liaison)



Sports

Badminton

Badminton Practice Schedule

Monday : Grade 9 3:45pm-5:00pm

Tuesday : Grade 8 3:45pm- 5:00pm

Wednesday : Grade 7 3:45pm-
5:00pm

Thursday : 3:45Pm-5:00pm Open
Practice

Please have the forms and fee's
completed, these are available
through PowerSchool.

The school does have some
badminton rackets available to
purchase; please contact the office
if you would like to purchase one.

Upcoming Events

- April 10 - Badminton
Tournament at NPCS and
CCRS - 3:45pm - 6:00pm
- April 18 Badminton
Tournament at NPCS and
CCRS, more details to
come
- April 23 - Badminton
Divisionals

Library News

Library Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00-4:30

Wednesday Evenings 7:00pm-9:00pm

OPEN Friday April 10 9:00-4:30

Book Club:

Meeting April 20 at 7:30 to discuss 'First
Lie Wins' by Ashley Elston.

Everyone welcome

Stay Tuned for the upcoming Book Fair
and USED Book Sale!

Bus Safety

School bus fly-by update:

- Town of Barrhead: 10 recorded fly-bys
- County of Barrhead: 55 recorded fly-bys (numbers
from the end of February)
 - the flyby numbers from 2024/2025 recorded -
36

The Board maintains that even one fly-by is too many.
Each instance represents a significant risk to student
safety. We are committed to keeping the dialogue
open with local law enforcement and municipal
partners to find actionable ways to correct driver
behavior and increase public awareness.

Goal: To ensure that every student who steps off a bus
is safe from distracted or negligent driving.

REDS FLASHING...NO PASSING

It is **illegal and dangerous** to pass a school bus when the red lights are flashing.

KNOW THE RULES

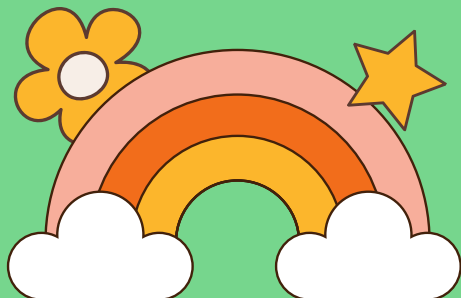
TWO-LANE, UNDIVIDED ROADWAY
BOTH lanes must come to a complete stop and REMAIN STOPPED until the red lights have been deactivated.

DIVIDED ROADWAY, NO MEDIAN
All 4 lanes must stop.

DIVIDED ROADWAY, WITH MEDIAN
Traffic to the rear of the school bus must stop.

The penalty for passing a school bus when the red lights are flashing is \$567 and six demerit points.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.



[Click to go to Table of Contents](#)

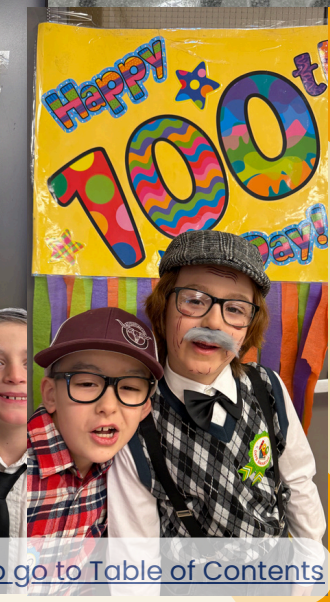
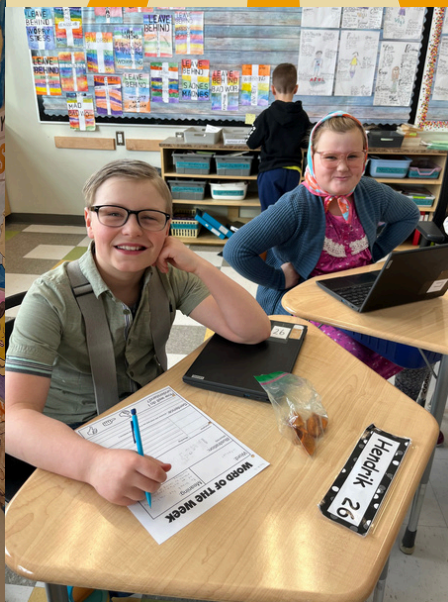
Tier 1 Basketball



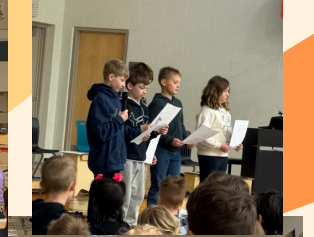
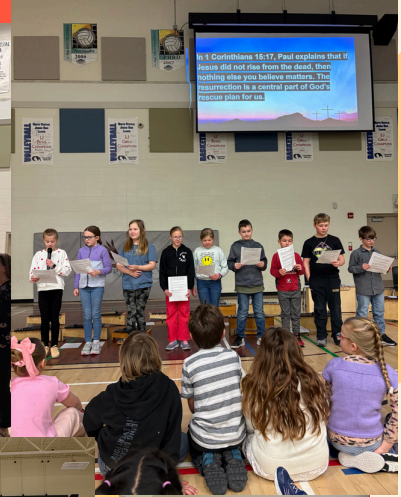
Unified Sports - Curling!



100th Day!



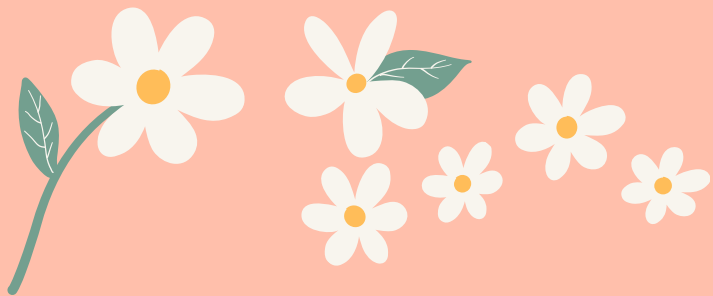
Easter Assembly



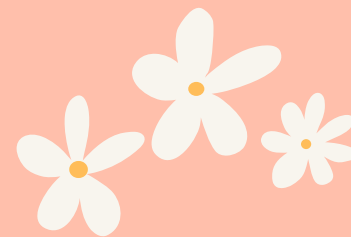
Grade 1 students went to the Foodbank and brought 374 items, weighing in at 351 lbs!!



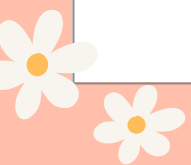
[Click to go to Table of Contents](#)



2026 April



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 Spring Break | 2 Spring Break | 3 Spring Break | 4 |
| 5 | 6 Easter Monday, No School | 7 Melissa Lotholz Visiting | 8 | 9 Last CTF Q3 Badminton Tournament at NPC5 | 10 Book Character Dress up day! | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 Lakeland College Rep Visit with Grade 9 | 15 First day Q4 CTF | 16 Farm Safety | 17 Alternate Day, no school | 18 Badminton Tournament at NPC5 and CCRS |
| 19 | 20 NCES Meeting 7:00pm | 21 Class and Kindergarten Photos | 22 | 23 Badminton Divisionals | 24 Alternate Day, no school | 25 |
| 26 | 27 Opening Asseby for Christian Education Week | 28 Science in Motion Christian | 29 Grandparents Tea from 10:00-11:00am Education | 30 Home Groups Activities Week | May 1 st , School day Hot lunch hosted by the Grade 4 Class | |



Upcoming Events in May

- May 1 - Taco in a Bag
- May 4 - Kindergarten and Pre School Open House from 1:30-2:30 in Kindergarten Classroom
- May 5 - Grade 9 Career Fair at the Westlock Spirit Center
- May 6 - Wear a Hat for Mental Health
- May 8 - Alternate day, no school

- May 12 - Winspear Field Trip Kindergarten - Gr. 3
- May 12 - 14 - Grade 8 Field Trip to Frontier Lodge
- May 15 - Alternate Day, no school
- May 18 - Victoria Day, no school
- May 19 - NPCSC/NCES Meeting at 7:00pm
- May 22 - Jr. High Track and Field Divisionals
- May 26 - NCES AGM
- May 26 - 28 Gr. 7 Jasper Field Trip
- May 29 - Alternate Day, no school



[Click to go to Table of Contents](#)

March 24, 2026

With spring fast approaching, many will gather and travel to visit loved ones. Measles is circulating in our communities and spreads easily, especially when people get together. Protect your family from measles.

What is Measles? Measles is a very contagious illness. It spreads through the air when someone with measles breathes, talks, coughs, or sneezes. Measles can make people very sick and, in some cases, it can be deadly.

What is the Concern With Measles? Measles can cause problems like: ear infections, deafness, lung infections (pneumonia), seizures, brain damage from swelling of the brain (encephalitis) and death.

It can be worse for young children, pregnant women, and people with weak immune systems. If you've had measles before, you're unlikely to get it again. However, measles can weaken your immune system, making it harder to fight other illnesses for a while.

Signs of Measles:

- A fever of 38.3° C or higher
- Cough, runny nose, red eyes, white spots inside your mouth
- A rash that appears 3 to 7 days after fever starts, usually beginning behind the ears and on the face and spreading down to the body and then to the arms and legs. The rash can be very red, brownish-red or purple depending on your skin colour.

Signs of measles can start 8 to 12 days after being around measles, but sometimes it can take up to 21 days.

What to do if you have measles: If you or your family have any signs of measles, stay home and away from other people so you don't make them sick. If you have a rash, stay home for four full days after the rash has started. Call **Health Link at 811** before going to a doctor, a clinic or a hospital and tell them you may have measles. They may tell you to go to a clinic or hospital, to get tested for measles, and how to help stop the spread of measles.

Why is testing for measles important if you have signs of measles? Testing is important to know if you have measles so you can get the best medical help and to help stop the spread of measles to others, especially babies, pregnant women, seniors, and those with weak immune systems.

How to stay safe from measles: The best way to keep yourself and your family safe is the measles vaccine. The measles vaccine works very well, is safe and free of charge.

- **Babies** who are six months, up to and including, 11 months old, may be recommended to get an early dose of vaccine. They should also still receive their routine two doses after they reach one year of age.
- **If you were born in 1970 or later**, you need **two needles** of the measles vaccine to be safe.
- **If you were born before 1970**, you likely had measles and are generally considered immune or safe from measles. You can get a single needle of measles vaccine if you have not received any measles vaccine previously.

If you or your children have not had the measles vaccine, or if you are not sure about what vaccines you have had, please call Health Link at **811** or your local health unit.

Wishing you and your families a bright start to spring.

Medical Officers of Health, North Zone