

BACK TO SCHOOL

EAGLE EXPRESS NEWSLETTER 2026

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/>

COMMUNICATION

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.

SPECIAL THANKS

- We want to 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!

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FORMS

Attached to the Newsletter is a **Volunteer Registration form**, a volunteer information sheet with instructions. A Request letter will be needed from the office in order to receive a Criminal Record Check. Drivers forms: If you help out by driving students to extra curricular activities, we need a drivers form filled out each year. **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.



PRINCIPAL MESSAGE



This summer, I had a lot of fun times with children. Not only did I play with my grandchildren as much as I could, but I also was honored to speak at a day camp, and lead opening and closing sessions at a Vacation Bible School. During my speaking at Day Camp, I talked with about how God cares for us. Some of the key points I shared were:

"When we struggle, Jesus Rescues"

"When we are powerless, Jesus Rescues"

"When we are worry, Jesus Rescues"

I have found that what I shared with the children applies to my life. Ok, in a real sense, I have never "struggled": I have never been homeless, or been without food, and I have never been laid off, but I have felt times of difficulty, and there have been things that I have struggled with. Maybe it was bad feelings, or maybe it was temptation to do the wrong thing.

I have "felt powerless" in situations. There have been times in my life where I have not been in charge, or in control, and I had to trust that God would be true to His word, for it says in Romans 8:28 "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose."

I have most certainly "worried" about things. I'm sure that parents reading this will relate to the worries you have, or have had, for your children, or your spouse, or even your parents. Maybe you worried about what you have done, or what you didn't do.

So what are we to do about these things? Well, I'm going to oversimplify things and differentiate between "struggle" and "feeling powerless" as whether or not you have control over the situation. Additionally, I will say that both "struggle" and "feeling powerless" can lead to "worry."

Let's say that when we "struggle," we have the ability to change something in the situation. The solution to that is to respond, to act, or to do what you can to change things. I know there are times when I stop and worry about the size of a task that needs to be done rather than getting down to completing the task. I feel so much better when I get to work on a solution for what I am struggling with.

Let's say that when we "feel powerless," there is nothing we can do about the situation. At these times we need to stop worrying and continually thinking about the problem and instead focus on things we do have control over and how things have gone well in the past. We need to refocus. In Philippians 4:6 we are told "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Yes, present your request to God, but do it with thanksgiving, which means we thank God for all of the blessings we have received from Him. Focusing on how we are blessed, how God has helped us previously, allows us to leave the worry at Jesus' feet, as we know He has taken care of us in the past, so He will continue to take care of us in the future.

But most of us know, this is easier said than done. I often slip into worry about how I am leading the school. When I start to worry, I try to reach out to someone who can help with the situation, or I think back on how God has taken care of His school in the past. As much as I like to proudly say that it is, Neerlandia Public Christian School is not *my* school. And even if your parents, you, your children and now your grandchildren have attended here, this isn't *your* school. **This is God's school**, and He knows how to take care of His stuff really well. He's taken care of Neerlandia Public Christian School for decades, and He will continue to take care His school. No need for any of us to worry. He has the school in His hands. So do what you are called to do, and leave the rest to Him.



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BELL SCHEDULE

Morning Warning Bell: 8:20am
Classes Begin: 8:25am
Morning Recess: 10:10–10:25am
Lunch Break: 11:55–12:10 (Eat lunch)
Outside Break: 12:10–12:40pm
Afternoon Recess: 2:10–2:25pm
Dismissal Time: 3:40pm
Busses Leave at approx. 3:45pm

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, 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. Personal information is collected for the purpose of the administration of provincial assessments. This collection is authorized by section 4(c) of the Protection of Privacy Act. For questions about the collection of personal information, contact school.main@pembinahills.ca

FIRE DRILLS AND LOCKDOWNS

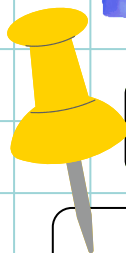
There will be 6 Fire drills through out the year, as well as two lockdown drills. Parents/Guardians will be notified before the first lockdown drill and after the second lock down occurs.

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!



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LIBRARY NEWS

UPDATED LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday-Wednesday 9:00-5:00

Thursday 9:00-6:00

Friday (School Days) 9:00-4:30

For the month of September
CLOSED:

Friday September 4 (No School)

Friday September 18 (PD day)

Friday September 25 (No School)

Wednesday September 30 (Truth
and Reconciliation Day)

Chocolate Bar Fundraiser

For the month of September students in grade 4-9 will be selling chocolate bars in support of our library. Profits from this fundraiser go to purchasing new books. Information/ permission forms will go home with students Monday August 31 and cases of chocolate bars will be sent home with students who return signed forms on Tuesday September 1. We look forward to another successful fundraiser and appreciate all the support!

TERRY FOX RUN

We will be having our Terry Fox run at 10:00am on Thursday Sept. 24. Forms are available in the Returning Student Enrolment Verification forms found in PowerSchool, these need to 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/136880>

ONLINE CLOTHING

Orders can be placed anytime through out the year. Website is
[https://neerlandiapublicchristianschool.en
tripshops.com/](https://neerlandiapublicchristianschool.entripshops.com/)

SPORTS

Volleyball

Girls Tier 1 Try outs Tuesday and Wednesday
4:00-5:30pm

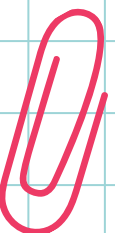
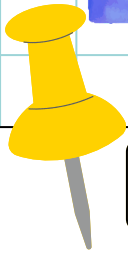
Boys Tier 1 warm up/Try outs Tuesday and
Wednesday 5:30-6:45pm

Tier 1 and 2 practice schedule will be sent out soon.

Cross Country Divisionals will be Wednesday Sept. 16 at the Westlock Golf Course, forms and Fees will be available online.



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NCES

- The Neerlandia Christian Education Society would like to welcome all NPCSC Staff, Students, and families to a new school year. Each year, NCES supports the school in various ways, providing funding for PCCE fees (our Christian education programming), running hot lunches, providing snacks and treats for certain school events, running fundraisers for our society, and keeping a working relationship with PHSD.
- Throughout the year we have many opportunities for volunteers. If you have your volunteering paperwork completed through PHSD (Contact the NPCSC office for more details) we would love to have you be part of Hot Lunch prep, event days, and more. Contact any board member or the school office if you would like to volunteer!
- Sept 3 NCES held their annual Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast. We would like to say special thanks to the Neerlandia Co-op for ordering groceries and pre cooking the meat, Neerlandia Sports Committee for the use of their grills, and Steve Devries who took care of grill set up and organizing a crew from NCRC to cook for us! We are truly grateful for all the volunteers and couldn't make this event a success without you!
- Sept 17 Hot Lunch: Hot Dogs and Iced Tea. Watch your child's backpack for order forms.
- We will have many more exciting announcements to come throughout the year. Wishing you all a great start to the school year!

NCES/NPCSC Board: Kirstie Schatz (Chair), Alanna Breitzkreitz (Secretary), Cass Wierenga (Fundraiser Liaison), Julaine Greilach (Hot Lunch Coordinator), Meagan Neill (Treasurer/Vice Chair), Eva Visser, Arianne Mast, and Lori Tiemstra (PCCE/Community Rep)





Welcome back to the 2026/2027 school year!

We are thrilled to welcome our returning and new NPCS students and families to another exciting school year! A huge thank you goes out to NCES for holding such a fantastic Pancake Breakfast – it was wonderful bringing all of our families together to start the year off right! I also appreciate seeing our MLA Glenn van Dyken and Deputy Reeve Walter Preugschas at the breakfast as they continue to support our amazing school.

New Superintendent!

I am delighted to announce that Superintendent Raimé Drake officially assumed her new position on September 1st, 2026! Having devoted her career to transforming possibilities for students, Mrs. Drake has my complete confidence, and I am excited for the bright future ahead at Pembina Hills School Division.

Board Completes Policy Review to Meet New Provincial Legislation

The Board completed a broad review of its governance policies. *An Act to Remove Politics and Ideology from Classrooms and Amend the Education Act* (often referenced as “Bill 25”) has introduced several requirements that must be in place as of September 1, 2026.

One change is about language. The familiar phrase “welcoming, caring, respectful and safe” has been replaced throughout the Education Act with “a safe and caring environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviours.” That wording now appears in Policies 02, 03, 12 and 19, and Policy 19 has been renamed to match.

Students also have a new responsibility. They must refrain from violence at school and at school activities and, where they can safely do so, help prevent it. The Division’s Student Code of Conduct will be updated to reflect this responsibility clearly.

The new rules set expectations for instruction and programming. Any programming outside of the approved curriculum must be delivered impartially, fairly and free of personal bias. The approved curriculum must encourage a range of perspectives, and the Division is now required to monitor how it is delivered, with attention to academic rigour.

There are also new limits on what the Board says publicly. The Board must not issue statements or take positions that are not relevant to its obligations under the Education Act. Going forward, each of the Board’s advocacy priorities will be tied to a specific duty it holds under the Act.

Staff gain protection. No employee can be required, directly or indirectly, to take part in an exercise or affirm a statement that conflicts with their conscientious, political, social or ideological beliefs.

Most of these changes take effect September 1, 2026, with the compliance date and the effective date the same. The environment language and the student code of conduct changes are due December 1, 2026. Requirements for flags, the national anthem, school naming and surplus property depend on regulations the province has not yet released; therefore, several policy updates are still to come.

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SPECIAL DAYS

September

Thursday, Sept. 17: Western Day
Tuesday, Sept. 29: Orange Shirt Day

October

Thursday, Oct. 29: Wacky Hair Day

November

Thursday, Nov. 19: Wacky Sock Day

December

Thursday, Dec. 17: Pajama Day

January

Thursday, Jan. 21: Anything but a lunch
Kit

February

Wednesday, Feb. 24: Pink Shirt Day for
Anti-Bullying

March

Thursday, March 4(99th day):100 Day

April

Thursday, April 15: Career Day

May

Wednesday, May 5 : Wear a Hat for
Mental Health

June

Friday, June 18: Tropical Day

LOOKING AHEAD

Sept. 16 - Cross Country Divisionals
Gr. 4 - 9

Sept. 17 -NCES Hot Lunch, Hot Dogs
and Iced Tea, Cowboys Visit(WRA
Fianls) Western Dress up day.

Sept. 24 - Terry Fox Run

Sept. 29 - Gr. 8 Field Trip to
Clearwater Creek

Sept. 30 - Truth and Reconciliation
Day, no school.

October 5 - Gr. 6 Soccer Tournament
at Sunny Bend

October 6 - Smart Photography
Picture Day

October 12 - Thanksgiving, No School

October 22 & 23 - Christian
Education Conference, No students

October 29 - Wacky Hair Day

October 30 - Teacher Day, no
students

Welcome back, NCES Pancake Breakfast



2026

SEPTEMBER

CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 Alternate day, no school	5
6	7 Labor Day, no school	8	9	10	11 School day!	12
13	14	15	16 Gr. 4 - 6 and Jr. High Cross Country in westlock	17 Cowboy Visit Western Dress Up Day NCES Hot Lunch	18 PD Day, no students	19
20	21	22	23	24 Terry Fox run	25 Alternate day, no school	26
27	28	29 Gr. 8 Field Trip to Clearwater Creek Truth and Reconciliation Week	30 Truth and Reconciliation Day, no school			

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