

OCTOBER



EAGLE EXPRESS NEWSLETTER

THANKGIVING ASSEMBLY

We will be having our Thanksgiving Assembly on Oct. 9 at 11:00am. 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.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Principal Message
Goal Setting Meetings, Sports,
Library News
NCES Update
Pembina Hills Update
Pictures
Calendar



PICTURE DAY!

Smart Photography will be here on October 6 to take individual student pictures.

We would like to have two volunteers help keep things organized

If you are able to help, please email Nicole or call 780-674-5581 and let us know.



THANK YOU!

We want to say a great big thanks to Darcy and Laura and their crew for cleaning our school for over 11 years! We have been so blessed to have them part of our team. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

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.



TERRY FOX RUN

Students from Neerlandia Public Christian School and Covenant Canadian Reformed School participated in the Terry Fox Run on Thurs, Sept. 24.

Thank you to the NCES members & volunteers that helped with set-up and running this event.

Our total amount raised was \$1,001.60!



Principal Message



It is Thanksgiving once again, and so I wonder, "What are you thankful for?" I was looking for some obscure things that I should be thankful for. One example is the undo button on my computer, and Ctrl-Z in my browser. I can't tell you how many times undo has brought back a lot of work that I accidentally deleted with sloppy typing practices. (if you haven't used Ctrl-Z to undo things that don't have an undo button, give it a try, but be careful you don't undo something you don't want to undo, because the Ctrl-Y redo will not always fix it).

I remember once when my children were small and we were trying to get out of the house in time for church, and the garage door wouldn't open, the button on my suit popped off, I had to jump start my van with our other vehicle, and as we drove away, I realized that our keys might be locked in the house.

All of these things helped me be thankful that I had a garage, a suit, a van, and a house, because although I could have avoided all of these problems if I didn't have these things, I am so glad I had them.

Right now, I am thankful for our custodians. Custodians often don't hear anything from people, unless something needs to be cleaned up. I want our custodians to know how much we appreciate them! Although Darcy and Laura Van Beek would rather not have attention drawn to them, they and their incredible team have worked hard behind the scenes keeping Neerlandia Public Christian School looking amazing!

The Van Beeks were not only hard working, but they also communicated well with the school, and Darcy and Laura saw their work as a way to support students, staff and the greater community of Neerlandia. They have now finished their work at Neerlandia Public Christian School. I am sad to see them leave, because they are our friends and they have been such valuable members of our school community. On a personal note, I wonder how I will adjust to this because for as long as I have taught at NPCS, and even when my wife Bonita taught here before me, there has always been a Van Beek supporting us, as Shirley Van Beek (Darcy's mom) had the contract before Darcy and Laura.

That said, I am thankful that we have Tiberio and Ruby joining our school team as custodians. It is a blessing to know that we have new custodial contractors and that the school will be well cared for. Please join me in welcoming them to our school community.

As we approach Thanksgiving, let's remember to thank God for all of the people in our lives and the big things, the little things, and the often overlooked things.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."
– James 1:17 (NIV)

Prakash Raju



GOAL SETTING MEETINGS

On Wednesday, October 14 and Thursday, October 15, 2026, we will have 15 minute appointments, from 4:30-7:30pm each day, available for parents/guardians to meet with our teachers.

The focus of these meetings will be to share areas you would like to see your child grow in over the school year, and to share any information that you feel would be valuable for the teachers to know about your child. These meetings are for parents only (please do not bring children to these meetings).

This year, parents of grade 1-5 children will also receive the results of their child's beginning of year Alberta Education Literacy and Numeracy Screeners.

We encourage all parents to book appointments to meet with their children's teachers. To book, please visit: <https://npcs.parentteacherconferences.net> (full instructions are at the bottom of this email)

This system will open for bookings at 9am on Oct 2, and close at 9pm on Oct 12.

If you are having trouble booking appointments online, please feel free to contact the school office, during school hours, at 780-674-5581.

LIBRARY

Library Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9:00-5:00

Thursday 9:00-6:00

Open the following Fridays:

October 2 9:00-4:30

October 9 9:00-4:30

October 16 9:00-4:30

CLOSED:

Monday October 12-Thanksgiving

Rhyme Time begins Wednesday October 28 from 11:45-12:30.

This is a 7 week drop in program geared towards moms/caregivers and their little ones. Come for stories, songs and fun with others.

Library remains offline until October 5. You are still able to check out books in person.

Thank you for another successful chocolate bar fundraiser!! :)

SPORTS

Elementary Soccer: Grade 5/6 soccer had their first games in Westlock on Oct. 1, they will have their final tournament on Oct. 8th in Fort Assiniboine. Thanks to all who participated and a big thank you to Mrs. L Seatter and Mrs. C Fleming for helping run this program. Grade 6 Students will be playing soccer at the Sunny Bend Colony on Oct. 5.

Our Jr. High students went to Fawcett to participate in a soccer tournament on Thurs. Sept. 23.

Cross Country Runners- our Elem. & Jr. High runners competed in a divisional event at Westlock Golf course on Sept. 16, then on Sept. 22 to the Vega Natural Area, they enjoyed a beautiful day outside. The Jr. High team will attend zones in Tawatinaw on Oct. 8 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 updated on news & events.

Practices:

Mondays: Tier 2 Boys 3:45-5:15pm, Tier 1 CV and Tier 2 Girls 5:15-6:45pm

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

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

Thursday: Tier 1 SD Girls and Tier 2 Girls 3:45-5:15pm, Tier 1 Boys 5:15-6:45pm.

NCES NEWS

-NCES held a hot dog hot lunch on Sept 17. Thank you to Julaine Greilach, Lindsay Pohl, Stacey Liebel, and Arianne Mast for preparing and serving. There will be no NCES hot lunch in October.

-Sept 24, NPCSC and CCRS held their annual joint Terry Fox Run. Thank you to the Neerlandia Co-op for donating the popsicles that NCES handed out to participants. Thank you to Cass Wierenga, Arianne Mast, and Meagan Neill for volunteering for this event.

-On Oct 3, NCES has been asked to provide lunch supervision for the school while the staff attend a retirement luncheon. We are pleased to provide this service, and thank Cass Wierenga, Stacy McBeth, Jodie Miedema, Natasha Wierenga, and Arianne Mast for supervising.

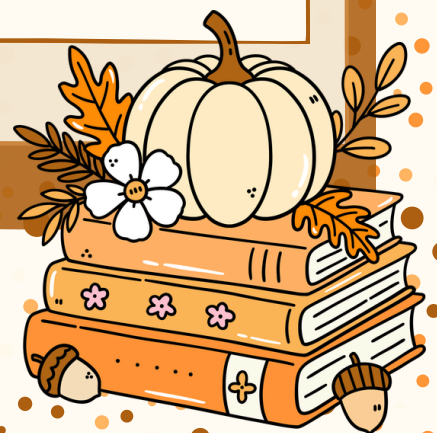
-NCES Membership letters are heading home with students this week. Membership is the best way to support NCES, and the endeavors we support within the school. This also gives you the opportunity to be involved in NCES as a board member, and vote during our meetings and AGM. Memberships are available at \$300 for families and \$150 for community members.

-Late October, NCES will be launching our annual Medicine Hat Meat Traders beef jerky fundraiser. Stay tuned for more information.

-Oct 19, NCES will welcome PCCE to provide board orientation. This happens every 2 years for our board members and is a valuable learning experience. We will conclude the night with our regular board meeting.

-Looking ahead: Nov 24- NPCSC/NCES Meeting. NPCSC will welcome our new Superintendent Raime Drake, hearing a report from her and our trustee Victoria Kane.

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)



PEMBINA HILLS UPDATE

Advocating for Rural Supports

We are taking an active role in shaping provincial child development and disability support programs. We are participating in an advisory group brought together by the Alberta Medical Association's Section of Pediatrics. This group brings together families, doctors, service providers, and education to improve crucial programs like Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) and Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD).

Pembina Hills brings an essential rural public education perspective to these discussions - highlighting the needs of our students, the challenges of accessing services in rural areas, and the power of early intervention. At our September 23 meeting, the Board officially appointed Trustees Victoria Kane and David Truckey to this advisory group, with Trustee Victoria Kane serving as the official representative.

Internal Audit Assurance Report

The Board is confident that our schools and departments are well-run, safe, and fully compliant with regulations

- New Privacy Legislation: Alberta's new Protection of Privacy Act (POPA) and Access to Information Act (ATIA) have replaced FOIP. The division is implementing formal privacy management, staff training, breach reporting protocols, and guidelines for using AI tools.

TERRY FOX RUN



CROSS COUNTRY



Jr. High Soccer Tournament



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WEEK



GRADE 8 CLEARWATER CREEK HIKE



OCTOBER

2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Elementary Soccer game at WES Tier 2 @ Pembina North	2 School day Tier 1 Volleyball Tournament in Westlock	3
5 Gr. 6 Soccer Tournament at Sunnybend	6 Picture Day!!	7	8 Tier 1 Boys and Girls SD @ BCHS 4:00pm, Tier 1 Girls CV @ NPCS Elementary Soccer Team Tournament in Fort Assiniboine	9 Tier 2 RF Staples Tournament Thanksgiving Assembly at 11:00am	10
12 No School, Thanksgiving.	13 Pizza Hot lunch Bus Safety Oct. 13/14 Tier 2 game @ NPCS Tier 1 SD @ EH	14 Goal Setting Meetings 4:30pm-7:30pm	15 Tier 1 @ CCRS Goal Setting Meetings 4:30pm-7:30pm	16 School day Tier 1 Girls CV & Boys in Onoway	17
19 Tier 2 games in Westlock	20	21	22 Tier 1 Volleyball in Westlock Christian Education Conference, no school	23 PICS Tier 1 Tournament	24 Boys and SD teams Tier 1 CV Girls Drayton Valley
26	27 Tier 2 Divisionals in Westlock	28	29 Tier 1 Divisionals in Westlock Wacky Hair Day	30 Alternate day, no school Tier 1 Boys tournament in Mayerthorpe	31

For the most up to date Calendars, please visit <https://www.neerlandiaschool.ca/news-events/calendar/>

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