NOVEMBER

Eagle Express Newsletter

EVENTS

Nov. 2 – NCES Jerky Fundraiser forms due
Nov. 5 – Tier I Volleyball Zones
Nov. 6/7 – Tier I CV and Boys Tournament in Edmonton
Nov. 10 – Remembrance Day Assembly at 11:00am
Nov. 11 – Remebrance day, no school
Nov. 12 -13 – Fall Break
Nov. 17 – NCES Hot lunch
Nov. 19 – Wacky Sock Day
Nov. 20 – Alternate day, no students
Nov. 24 – Picture Retake Day
Nov. 26 – Progress Reports go home
Nov. 27 – Alternate Day, no students

ST. NICK DAY

We will have our St. Nick Day celebration on Friday, December 4 during the afternoon.

Once we finalize all the details we will send out information via School Messenger.
Classroom teachers will also be sending out information for their own classes.

Wondering what St. Nick Day is?
St. Nick Day is a Dutch tradition that sets aside a day to focus on children. As a result of this, the only focus of Christmas is Christ.



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CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our Christmas Concert will be on Wednesday, Dec. 16, starting with a prelude at 6:30pm followed by the concert starting at 7:00pm at the Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church.
There will be a dress rehearsal on Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 1:00pm, Commuinty members are welcome to attend.
We will be accepting Foodbank donations. There will be a table set up in the entrance.

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

As the temperatures drop, we want to make sure all students stay warm, dry, and comfortable during outdoor recess and play. Please help your child remember to bring:

- Warm winter coat
- Toque / winter hat
- Insulated, waterproof mittens or gloves
- Snow pants
- Insulated winter boots
- Extra pair of dry socks in their backpack

Principal Message

Remember how losing an hour in spring came so fast and gaining it back in fall took forever. And this year, we didn't get to fall back at all. I feel like I just lost an hour of my life. I know that sounds extreme, but maybe there is a lesson in all of this.

Our team at the Pembina Hills Division Office, including our superintendent, Raime Drake, have been known to say when a meeting was cancelled, that they received bonus time to get things done. I can't count the number of times when a plan has changed and given me more time, just when I felt the most swamped. What a gift this has been to me.

Time is precious, but we don't always treat it that way. I am embarrassed to say how often I have allowed my personal device to steal precious time from what is important, flitting time away with more than just frivolous scrolling, but in fact utterly useless scrolling.

I need to make sure that I am using my time to focus on God and His work. And I'm not speaking in "holier than thou" terms. Yes, we need to spend time in God's word, and speaking with Him in prayer, but it's more than just those things. We need to do everything we do as if we were working for God, as all of our work is unto the Lord.

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV) tell us:
Whatever you do, work at it with all of your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human managers, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving

At Neerlandia Public Christian School, we teach our students that after God created the world, and humanity fell into sin, Jesus came and did a redeeming work on the cross. We are now in a stage of working with Jesus, restoring this world to what God had intended it to be, and this work will only come to fruition at Jesus' return.

I guess instead of speaking in such extreme terms, complaining that I have lost an hour of my life on October 31, 2026, I should work at redeeming the rest of my time for God. This will more than make up for one lost hour!

One of my favorite song writers, Chris Rice, puts it this way in his song "Life Means So Much":
Teach us to count the days
Teach us to make the days count
Lead us in a better way
Somehow our soul's forgot
Life means so much, life means so much, life means so much
Every day is a gift you've been given, make the most of the time every minute you are given.

How will you make your time count?

Prakash Raju, Principal



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JR. HIGH VOLLEYBALL

Nov. 2 - Tier I CV practice 5:15-6:45pm
Nov. 3 - Tier I SD practice 3:45-5:15pm,
Tier I boy 5:15-6:45pm
Nov. 4 - Tier I CV 5:15-6:45pm
Nov. 5 - Tier I SD and Boys Zones in Westlock,
Tier I CV Zones in Whitecourt
Nov. 6/7 - Tier I Boys and Girls CV at Lions
Tournament in Edmonton.

Congratulations to all teams on a job well done at Divisionals, Boys placed first, Van Heyst girls placed 2nd, Dykstra girls represented our school very well!

We are wishing all Tier I teams good luck as they head to zones!

THANK YOU!

We want to say a great big thanks to all of our amazing volleyball coaches for making this season another great one. We appreaciate all the time and effort put into our teams!

Tier 1 Boys - Jessica Ryan
Tier 1 Girls - Shelley Dykstra and Reid Dykstra
Tier 1 Girls - Carmen Van Heyst and Ruby Stoik

Tier 2 Girls - Vanessa Duerr, Steve De Vries, Daniella Wierenga
Tier 2 Boys - Bonita Raju, Julaine Greilach, Nicole Wierenga, Grace Wierenga, Taylor Tuininga.

ELEMENTARY VOLLEYBALL

Thank you to Mr. B Wierenga who is going to coach the Elementary Volleyball teams. Watch for an important note that will be sent home with details reagrding this season.
Forms and Fees are available online.

Students that have signed up will have practice during lunch recess. Below is the schedule for the season:
Nov. 9 at NPCS
Nov. 18 at BES
Nov. 26 at Westlock Spirit Center

BASKETBALL

Basketball Try outs will begin the Week of November 16m, please watch for updates on dates and time.

Practice will begin the Week of November 23.

Tier 1 will have their first tournament on Dec. 4/5

Tier 2 will have their first tournament Dec. 11.

CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to the Jr. High Cross Country team for winning the 1J Zone Banner!

All your hard work has paid off!

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LIBRARY NEWS

Library Hours
Monday - Wednesday
9:00AM - 4:30PM
Thursday
9:00AM - 6:00PM
The library is closed November 11 for Remembrance Day

Rhyme will happen
November 4, 18 and 25
11:45-12:30
NOTE THE NEW TIME

Book Club
November 23 at the library
7:30 - 9:30
The Unmaking of June Farrow

GIFT CARD ORDER FORMS ARE COMING SOON



THANKSGIVING ASSEMBLY

Thank you to all that brought in food bank donations for the FCSS, we were able to bring 205lbs of food plus $120 cash.



PEMBINA HILLS UPDATE

Alberta Child Development and Disability Supports Advisory Group
The Board supported the submission of the Technical Report by the Alberta Child Development and Disability Supports Advisory Group, with Pembina Hills School Division being included as a signatory to the report through its representatives and members to the Advisory Group.

The report reflects the Advisory Group's work and solutions for the government to improve access to supports, and strengthen transitions for children and families from birth to adulthood. Once the report is publicly released, the Board will present the Alberta Child Development and Disability Supports Advisory Group's recommendations at a regular board meeting. This will provide an opportunity to share the findings and discuss their importance for children, families and rural public education.

Board Policy Udates:
The Board has updated four policies. Policy 01, Policy 02, and Policy 30 were revised to align with provincial legislation, updating language to emphasize "a safe and caring environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviours." We also approved revisions to Policy 15 (Grade Configuration and School Closures). The updated policy establishes an annual viability review process, requires exploring alternatives before considering closures, and enhances public consultation and communication with affected families and communities.

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The NPCS Design Class is excited to put learning into action through a special community service project! To support and honor the busy moms in our community, we are hosting an hour of fun and fellowship.

Bring your young ones by, relax, and let our students take care of childcare for the hour!



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NCES UPDATE

-NCES Membership letters have been sent to families. Payments can be made anytime by cheque to Neerlandia Christian Education Society, or by e-transfer to ncesboard@gmail.com. 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.

-Medicine Hat Meat Traders Fundraiser! Forms have gone home with students and are due back with payment NOVEMBER 2. This is a tasty way to support NCES, with 40% of sales coming back to our organization. Any questions, please contact Kirstie Schatz 780-294-9309

-Oct 19, NCES welcomed Matthew Bekkering, Executive Director for PCCE, who provided an educational evening of board orientation for our NCES Board Members. We would like to extend a thank you to Matthew and to Steve DeVries (PCCE Board Member) for attending the evening.

-Nov 17- NCES Hot Lunch. Burgers and Chocolate Milk. Watch for forms to go home with students.

-Next Meeting: Nov 24- 7pm NPCSC will welcome our new Superintendent Raime Drake, hearing a report from her and our trustee Victoria Kane. NCES meeting will directly follow.

-Mark your Calendars: March 19- NCES Dinner and Auction, with music from Sauvage Plain.
More info to come in the new year.

NCES/NPCSC Board: Kirstie Schatz (Chair), Alanna Breitkreitz (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)



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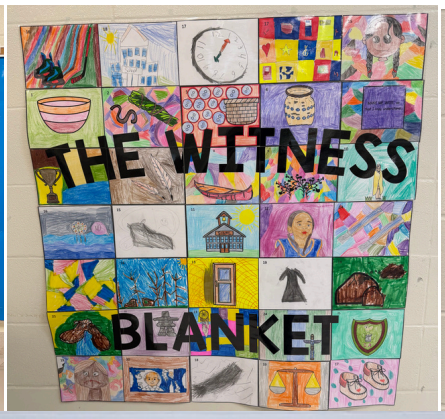
ART WORK























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CROSS COUNTRY ZONES








Jr. High Design Class











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NOVEMBER 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 NCES Jerky Oder Forms Due	3	4	5 Tier 1 CV Zones in Whitecourt Tier 1 Boys and Girls SD Zones in Westlock	6 Alternate day, no school Tier 1 Girls CV and Boys Lions Tournament	7
9	10 Remembrance Day Assembly at 11:00am	11 Remembrance Day, no school	12 Fall Break	13 Fall Break	14
16 NPCSC/NCES Meeting at 7:00pm	17 NCES Hot Lunch, Chicken Strips and Chocolate Milk	18 Jr. High Design class Tea Elem. Volleyball @ BES	19 Wacky Sock Day	20 Alternate day, no school	21
23	24 Picture Retake Day!	25	26 Elementary Volleyball Tournament in Westlock	27 Alternate day, no school	28
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