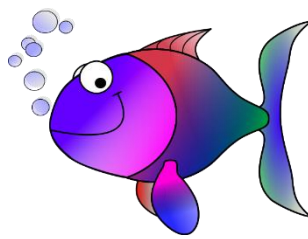


April's Fruit of the Spirit Christian Education Week (April 24-27)

Theme: **GO FISH**



"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." - Matthew 4:19

### Facing Temptation in Our World

We have all been there. "Do I get the latest and best TV? How many bells and whistles can I get if I trade my two-year old minivan in? There's a new, high tech fishing rod, and I really need it. I need, I mean REALLY need to eat the entire Easter Bunny." We are constantly bombarded with messages to stop putting off the next big purchase. Buy now- pay later- is one of the most common phrases we hear. And yet- obesity rates are climbing, teenage suicides are increasingly common, and many diseases, caused by poor lifestyle choices, are increasingly prevalent- to the point that our life expectancy ages are beginning to slow down and we are faced with the possibility that our children will not live as long as we do.

Self-control, and the ability to not act on impulse, is becoming a rare thing. This is alarming- especially for Christians, as we are expected to resist temptation. Indeed, as we walk the road to Easter, we are reminded of this in one of the most famous temptation stories of all. In Matthew 4, Jesus faces temptations from the devil and responds several times. When He was hungry, the temptation was to turn the stones into bread. When He was shown the immensity of the world and, Jesus is tempted to put God to the test. Then He is tempted with power- and "all" He has to do is to worship the devil.

Yet Jesus is able to resist all of the temptations through scripture and His personal relationship with God. Now we are seldom faced with such dramatic temptations, but we are constantly challenged to show self-control when we are faced with life's temptations. These can be as simple as controlling what game is played at recess to making the decision to walk away from drugs.

### IMPORTANT Events

**April 4, 6:45 – 8:00 pm**

**Open House & Registration**

**April 13, 3:00 pm**

**Easter Assembly**

**April 27**

**Jurassic Bark** - Evergreen Theatre, 2:30 pm in the gym

PRINCIPALS' MESSAGE continued: Self-control is one of the Fruits of the Spirit and we are told, clearly, in Galatians 5, that we receive these gifts by prayer and thoughtful attempts to study and follow God's Words.

Please help our students, this month, to cultivate the fruit of self-control. When our students learn that they, with God's help, can control their impulses and thoughts, they can more easily access the other Fruits, such as Joy. We are in the final stretch of the school year. The days are longer and warmer and it is easy to put off studying and homework. Please help our students remain focused, by reminding them to turn to the Lord in prayer. It is this personal relationship with Jesus which will sustain them through each of life's challenges.

May God continue to Bless you in all that you do,

*Lisa Gehring*

## School Board News

### School board sets direction for 2017-18

Literacy, numeracy, diversity of student needs and student-teacher relationships will be the division's focus for 2017-18. The school board approved the 2017-20 Education Plan priorities and key strategies which will focus on:

- Developing professional capital: The division will allocate resources to and sustain structures to support professional learning for teachers, support staff, administrators and school board and system administration.
- Supporting student diversity: In support of students with diverse educational, physical, mental, social, emotional and/or cultural challenges, the division will allocate resources to and sustain structures to provide a balance of prevention and recovery strategies

### Board allocates \$600,000 to key strategies

In support of the Education Plan, the school board will use \$600,000 from its Co-op Pool Operating Reserve to support initiatives, including:

- A literacy coordinator to advise and support school administrators in monitoring the fidelity of literacy programs and interventions; guide literacy interventions and develop staff knowledge
  - A part-time lead teacher to advise school administrators and coordinate new teacher supports
  - Two mentor program assistants to develop and sustain the capacity of support staff who work with classroom teachers and other student services staff
- Creating a pool of release time for staff who are learning about literacy, numeracy, diversity of student needs and student-teacher relationships and more...

For complete information on the priorities and strategies please see the March 22<sup>nd</sup> board agenda & minutes at:

<http://www.phrd.ab.ca/BoardMeetings.php>

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### NPCSC & Neerlandia Christian Education Society NEWS

A very **big thank you** to our school community for your support; the fundraiser we held on March 10 raised over \$40,000! Thank you to everyone that attended the fundraiser, donated items, food and time, decorated or helped any of a number of other ways. The funds raised will go a long way in helping us meet fiscal responsibilities for the next couple of years and plans are also underway to design and build an outdoor classroom which will hopefully be completed by this summer! Thanks again!

## In the Community

### Neerlandia Minor Softball

Softball registration forms were sent home with the youngest child of each family. These need to be returned no later than **noon on Thurs., April 6**

Forms & payment may be returned to NPCSC office (Remember to add \$10/t-shirt)

\*Note: This year coaches will be picking the teams. Team picking night is set for Tues., April 18 at 7:00 pm at NPCSC. If there are not enough coaches some kids may not get on a team.

### Raising the Roof for the Rink

- Saturday, May 13

Walk, Run or Shuffle (3,5, or 10 k) **Family Run & Brunch**  
Race: 9:00 am  
Brunch: 11:30 – 1:00 pm  
Tickets available from  
Karen Wierenga 780-674-5361  
All proceeds go towards a **new Neerlandia skating rink!**

### FUNDRAISERS

Our Hot Lunch for April will be provided by our Parent Council and this will be their annual **Chicken Nugget Lunch** to be held on Thurs., April 27.

Order forms will go home on April 6 and need to be returned by April 18.

# SPORTS

## Badminton News

Practice schedule: (3:50 - 5:15 each day)

Mondays - Gr. 7

Tuesdays - Gr. 8

Wednesdays - Gr. 9

Thursday - open practice

### Tournaments:

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** - mini tournament with Neerlandia Covenant School, Gr. 7 & 8 at Covenant School and Gr. 9 at NPCS (4:00 - 5:30 pm) - no fees

**April 13<sup>th</sup>** 9:30 am - 4:00 pm at BCH (\$5. per student per event)

**April 25<sup>th</sup>** 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Westlock Spirit Centre (\$5. per event)

Barrhead/Neerlandia Challenge:

**May 1 - Gr. 7, May 2 - Gr. 8, May 3 - Gr. 9** (\$5. per student per event)

- Mr. Wierenga & Mr. Gelderman are coaches.

## LIBRARY NEWS

### NEERLANDIA LIBRARY

#### APRIL HOURS

#### **Monday-Thursday**

9:00AM-4:30PM

(open during noon hour)

#### **Wednesday Evenings**

7:00-9:00PM

#### **Open Friday, April 21**

9:00AM-4:30PM

#### **Library Closed**

**Friday, April 7 for PD Day**

**Friday, April 14 Good Friday**

**Monday, April 17 Easter Monday**

#### **Grandparents Tea-**

#### **Tuesday, April 25 at**

**10:00AM** Mrs. Hellinga and the

Grade 3's will be putting on a

presentation about Bridges at the

Library followed by a tea. Grade

3's will send out invitations to their

grandparents.

**Book Club** - new book is called

"Small Great Things" by Jodi

Picoult. Call the library at [780-](tel:780-674-5384)

[674-5384](tel:780-674-5384) to reserve your

copy. Next meeting will be held

late April or beginning of May.

## CLASS PICTURES & KINDERGARTEN GRAD PICS

Smart Photography will be here in the morning of **Tues.,**

**April 11** to take class pictures & Kindergarten Grad

pictures. Each student has been given **collection**

**envelopes** for class picture orders and these need to be

returned on or before the morning of April 11.

Memory books also arrived in March before Spring Break.

Students who ordered specific individual packages or

paid for just the memory book should have received their

copy. Please check this out!



## APRIL CALENDAR:

Apr. 4 - OPEN HOUSE 6:45 - 8:00

Apr. 5 - Badminton tournament

Apr. 7 - PD for Staff (no classes)

Apr. 11 - Class pics & K Grad  
pics (return order envelopes)

Apr. 11 - Bus Evacuation, 2:30

Apr. 11 - Gr. 9 visit to BCH, 2:00

Apr. 13 - Badminton at BCH

Apr. 13 - Easter assembly, 3:00

Apr. 14 - Good Friday

Apr. 17 - Easter Monday

Apr. 25 - Grandparents Tea Gr. 3

Apr. 26 - early dismissal, 2:47 pm

Apr. 27 - Evergreen Theatre, 2:30

Apr. 27 - Chicken Nugget Lunch

Apr. 28 - Alternate Day