



**Neerlandia  
Eagle Express  
Newsletter  
December 1, 2016**

**And Love Came Down**

November was an excellent month as we took the opportunity to focus on peace as part of our reflection on the fruits of the Spirit. We had a wonderful Remembrance Day assembly where the students showed so much caring and compassion for our fallen and current heroes that we were all proud.

We also had the opportunity for our students to hear, first-hand, stories from Private Philip McRae about his experience in the Canadian Armed Forces. These types of experiences help our students connect with the history and sacrifice behind Remembrance Day.

This month, as we anticipate the arrival of the baby boy (Jesus) in Bethlehem, we are focused on faithfulness. Why faithfulness? It takes faith to truly recognize the King in the birth of the baby boy and to walk the road with Him from Christmas to Easter. In today's world, so much emphasis is placed on the "Gift" that it is tempting to concentrate on exchanging of beautifully wrapped presents and to forget that our Saviour came to us as a helpless infant and that, as Mary and Joseph did, we are called to help those who need help and to remember them as God remembers us in our times of need. Truly the stable is an example of God's love come down to Earth.

As we sing Christmas carols and celebrate with family and friends, let us take daily opportunities to give praise and honour to our Creator- the source of all things, including Love.

Praises to God and Merry Christmas

*Lisa Gehring*

**School Wide News:**

**CHRISTMAS MESSIAH  
FOR YOUNG VOICES**



Our **Christmas Concert** will take place at **7:00 pm on Wed., Dec. 21.**

The **Dress Rehearsal** will take place on **Tues., Dec. 20** at **2:30 pm** (for public to come if they can't come to evening performance on Wed.)

The practices and concert will take place in the Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church Sanctuary.

- Please join us for an evening of praise and worship!

**CHARITABLE DONATIONS**

This year we have chosen the local Barrhead Food Bank and Hope Missions.



You can donate cash for the food bank and/or toques/mitts for families will be gratefully accepted for Hope Missions (they are especially short of men's items).

Cash donations are also gratefully accepted and can be put in the collection box at church or you can go online to support Hope Missions <https://hopemission.com/donate/>

## PHPS survey

### The PHPS phone survey is coming!

On Jan. 4, Pembina Hills Public Schools' staff will begin calling parents to ask you 25 questions about how our school and the school division are doing. The goal is to reach every parent. Please take the time to do the phone survey. Your answers will help us plan for our school and our school division.



**When are we calling?** Jan. 4 through Jan. 25

**Who will be asking the questions?** Division staff

**How long will it take to do the phone survey?** Between 3 and 6 minutes

**Is this confidential?** We do not share respondents' names; your responses will be anonymous.

**What if I'm not home when you call?** We will leave a call-back number: [780.674.8531](tel:780.674.8531)

For more information contact Debbie Westman, PHPS, at [780.674.8531](tel:780.674.8531).

In the same vein, please include this article encouraging parents to subscribe to our new division newsletter @myphps.

### Pembina Hills Public Schools launches e-letter

Check out the first edition of our school division's new e-letter that features stories about our programs, our schools and the people who work with and for your children. @myphps will be published 5 times a year.

Read the e-letter and subscribe

to @myphps here: [www.phpschools.ca/PHPSNewsletter.php](http://www.phpschools.ca/PHPSNewsletter.php)

## Student Voice:

Keep listening to **97.9 The Range** for our school reporters!

### When is our school on-air?

**Tune in weekdays at 7:40 a.m. and 4:35 p.m. Tune in on Wednesdays to hear NPCS Kids News!**

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

**Thanks** to everyone who filled a shoebox or made a donation to Samaritan's Purse. We had over 40 boxes brought in and some online donations. Appreciated!

## St. Nick Day – Dec. 2

NPCS will be celebrating St. Nick Day on **Fri., Dec. 2** (extra Kindergarten day). St. Nicholas accompanied by his faithful companion, Zwarte Piet, will visit grades K-3 beginning with kindergarten.



Kindergarten: 12:30 – 1:10 pm

Grade 1: 1:10 – 1:40 pm

Grade 2: 1:40 – 2:10 pm

Grade 3: 2:10 – 2:40 pm

Each classroom will be arranging their own activities for the afternoon.

## SKATING - ELEM/SKIING -JR HIGH

On the last day of classes for the 2016 year we hope to take the elementary students to Barrhead Agrena for a



### skating party.

The K-Gr. 3 students will skate from 12:30 – 1:30 pm

The Gr. 4-6 students will skate from 1:30 – 2:30 pm

The students will be transported by bus and the first group (K-3) will leave the school at 12:00 and then return by 1:45 – 2:00, the second group will be picked up by the same bus/driver at 1:00 pm and return by 3:00 pm.

\*We are asking all parents to ensure that children have proper skates, helmets and if they need to bring on bus, please make sure they are packed in a proper bag OR parents can meet us at the Agrena with these items.

Jr. High students hope to go to Misty Ridge Ski Hill to ski or snowboard for the full day on Dec. 22 (weather permitting and dependent on snow conditions). Again parents might want to transport their children's equipment to the hill OR we are asking for a couple of parent volunteers to go along with vehicles to transport skis/boards.



Please let us know if you would like to come along & help out!

## CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG



All students should be back in the school for the annual Carol Sing in the Foyer.

We hope to begin this at approx. 3:15 pm (sing for ½ hour).

Everyone is welcome to join us – parents, grandparents, community members, let us Praise the Lord together in song.

## Sports

### VOLLEYBALL

Both our 'A' Boys & Girls Volleyball teams won gold in the Zones playoffs in Westlock on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> to finish off the season.

Way to go – both A & B teams played very well this year and we again want to thank the coaches that put in countless hours of volunteer time for practices, games & tournaments.

A BIG thank you to all of our coaches; Sherri Hiemstra (Girls B), Aaron Lee (Boys B), Renee Rentz (Girls A), Jennifer Schuurman (assistant Girls A), Howard Gelderman (Boys A).

To finish off the season Howard Gelderman will be taking a bus load of players into Edmonton to watch the King's University teams play some volleyball. They will be leaving right after school and return around 11:00 pm. Any players that want to go along must return field trip permission forms no later than Fri. morning, Dec. 2 and bring along some supper money. There will be no charge for the event or bussing. Great experience for the students, thanks again Mr. Gelderman!

**BASKETBALL:** Basketball practices have begun.

Girls practice on Mon. & Wed. & Boys on Tues. & Thurs. We want to thank Jennifer Tuininga & Arjan Koekkoek who have again volunteered to coach the girls' team and Mr. Wierenga who will be coaching the boys. Permission forms and schedules have been sent home – please return fees & forms a.s.a.p.

First tournament for the Gr. 8/9 players will be in Barrhead on Dec. 10. The first game against St. Mary's school will be here on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. A Gr. 7/8 tournament will take place at Westlock Spirit Centre on Dec. 16/17 and BCH 7/8 team will be in Neerlandia on Dec. 20.

### Student Council News

Jr. High Student Council asked all classes to **Decorate their Classroom Doors**. Judging will take place Thurs., Dec. 1 at noon and there will be prizes for the best decorated doors. There are 3 categories: K-gr. 2, Gr. 3-6 & Gr. 7-9.

Come and see the great doors and also check out the student-created Christmas tree ornaments on the tree in the Foyer.

### FUNDRAISERS

Our Gr. 7 Class will be hosting a Hotdog Lunch on **Tues., Dec. 6**. Pre-order forms have been sent home and must be returned no later than Friday, Dec. 2. Online orders must be placed by midnight on Thurs., Dec. 1.

Gr. 9 class hosted a Mom's Pantry Fundraiser. Anyone who ordered should expect their orders to arrive at school the week before Christmas. Arrangements need to be made to pick these orders up at the school.

### NPCSC/NCES NEWS

#### **SAVE THE DATE!!**

**NCES is planning a Fundraiser and Community Building Event on March 10, 2017!**

Our event will be an evening of great food, entertainment and auction. The funds raised will be used to help build an outdoor classroom as well as raised garden beds and planting of trees. We are looking for donations of funds to help cover costs and/or items to be sold during the auction. If you have anything to donate we would appreciate it very much! If you can help out in any way please contact one of the following board members  
Steve Devries: [780-674-9642](tel:780-674-9642) or [stevencagro@xplornet.com](mailto:stevencagro@xplornet.com)  
Amanda Batty: [780-674-6788](tel:780-674-6788) or [mangogail@hotmail.com](mailto:mangogail@hotmail.com)  
Char Nanninga: [charnanninga9@hotmail.com](mailto:charnanninga9@hotmail.com)  
Stay tuned for more details and information!!

#### **RETIRING AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

NCES would like to say a BIG thank you to the 3 members who retired this year, Julius Wierenga, Bruce Van Dijk and Simone Tuininga. Thank you for your time, hard work and dedication to our school and community! We would like to welcome the 3 new board members, Annemiek Elzinga, Adam Crabbe as well as Randy Strydhorst.

Our board members and executive positions are as follows:

Steve De Vries-Chair  
Annemiek Elzinga- Vice Chair  
Randy Strydhorst-Treasurer  
Amanda Batty- Secretary  
Brenda Strydhorst- Community Rep  
Char Nanninga  
Heidi Magus  
Adam Crabbe

**INTERNET SAFETY**

We are working with Constable Hynes (our school resource officer) to set up an information meeting for parents/grandparents/guardians regarding children and teens and internet safety. We will have more details and info to come!

**NCES MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Thanks you to all those who have paid their fees! Reminder that membership fees are 300.00 per family and 150.00 for associate members. We value your support!!

## School Board News

- PHPS serves 3872 K-12 students in 11 community schools, 2 Hutterite colony schools and 2 outreach centres (not including Vista Virtual School)
- There will be no school closures or grade re-configurations for the 2016-2017 school year
- The PHPS Education Plan/Annual Education Results Report and individual school's Education Plans are posted on the division website –discover more about teaching and learning in PHPS
- The PHPS 2017-2018 Division Calendar will be ratified December 14, 2016
- Alternate school calendars will be submitted to the board on Feb. 22, 2017
- Subscribe online to the new e-letter @myphps to learn about the great things happening across our school division
- On Oct. 28th, the 29 school boards in Zone 2/3 of the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) elected me to represent them on the ASBA's provincial board of directors. The ASBA serves and represents the province's 61 locally-elected school boards. I will continue in my role as board chair with Pembina Hills Public Schools.

[Jennifer.Tuininga@phpschools.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Tuininga@phpschools.ca) 780-674-6579

Facebook: Jennifer Tuininga, School Trustee PHRD Barrhead North

Twitter: @JennifeTuining

## LIBRARY NEWS

**NEERLANDIA LIBRARY DECEMBER HOURS****Monday-Thursday**

9:00AM-4:30PM

(open during noon hour)

**Wednesday Evenings**

7:00-9:00PM

**Open Friday, Dec. 2**

9:00AM-4:30PM

**Library Closed**

For Christmas Break Dec.23-Jan. 9

We are **open** 1 day during the holidays-

**Thursday, Jan. 5 9am-6pm****GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER**

**Thank you to all of you who supported our gift card fundraiser.**

**LEGO YOUR IMAGINATION!**

**The library will be holding its annual Lego Contest again!**

**When: Thursday, January 26, 2017**

**Theme: "Canada"**

**Pick up entry forms at the library.**

**Author Visit-January 12, 2017**

Author/illustrator- Mike Boldt is coming for a school visit  
50 minute presentation to K-grade 6 –Public welcome to attend  
50 minute-art or basic drawing presentation to junior high  
More details to follow.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 2 – St. Nick's Day (extra Kindergarten Day)

- Jr. High Volleyball teams to watch King's Volleyball  
in the evening, return around 11:00 pm

Dec. 6 – Gr. 7 Hotdog Sale (pre-orders done by Dec 2)

Dec. 9 – *Alternate Day*

Dec. 14 – ***Jr. High Band Concert, 3:10 pm in gym***  
**- Everyone welcome to attend!**

Dec. 16 - *Alternate Day*

Dec. 20, 2:30 pm – Dress Rehearsal of the  
Christmas Concert

**Dec. 21, 7:00 pm – CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Dec. 22 – last day, Elem. Skate/ Jr. High Ski

Dec. 23/16 – Jan. 8/17: CHRISTMAS BREAK