



# Neerlandia Eagle Express Newsletter January, 2017

## Theme for January

**gentleness**

### How Firm a Foundation

Welcome Back! I hope you had a blessed and refreshing time as you celebrated the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

It is always an exciting time of year, in a school, when we return from Christmas holidays. Staff and students are refreshed and ready to go. This is usually the most productive time of year. Last year, we were learning what our new space was like and where things are. This year, we can concentrate on the business of learning- learning the usual things like mathematics, reading, writing, social and science, of course.

In this school, though, we are privileged to also be able to be learning about God's love and expectations of and for us, as well as about His word and Story. What a sense of hope we have, and are able to share, when we realize that God does know each of us by name, and has a purpose for us. God loves us, even knowing we are human and will make mistakes. His love is without fail and in all circumstances.

This year we are also marking one hundred years of Christian education in the Neerlandia area. In a time when many rural schools are struggling with enrolment and, indeed, are often faced with closing, we are relatively stable and have a new building. It makes one wonder what makes the difference.

I believe that the difference is because of our firm commitment to Christian Education. While we come from an increasingly varied background, we all know the common foundation we share is our belief in God's Word and in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus.

These beliefs are at the core of everything we do and help our students discover that they do have the ability to make a positive impact on God's World. What a firm foundation they are building.

Thank you for your support which helps us all to grow in our knowledge and, especially, in our Christian Faith.

My prayer for this community is that God will continue to be welcomed and recognized here and that, 100 years from now, there will be a celebration of 200 years of Christian Education in Neerlandia.

Have a wonderful month, secure in the knowledge that God loves each of you and your children.

*Lisa Gehring*

## School Wide News:



### PEMBINA HILLS SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCEDURES

#### Emergency School Closing

**(Threats, Inclement Weather, Power Failures and Water Shortage)**



When school(s) are closed due to inclement weather (snow, blowing snow, winds causing difficulty and/or low visibility, other weather conditions, which would prevent the safe transit of students to or from school) parents should listen to major radio stations and an announcement shall be posted on the website regarding school closure and bus operations. [www.phrd.ab.ca](http://www.phrd.ab.ca). Parents are the first to make a decision on whether or not their child(ren) will be riding the bus in inclement weather.

School bus drivers have the option to make an individual decision not to run if the visibility and/or weather or temperature conditions are such that it is unsafe to do so and they will notify their students.

You can also check on the NPCS website (click on button that say All Buses On Time) if you want to check if a driver is late or not running.

If students need to be sent home during a school day the following procedure will take place: Every effort will be made to contact parents via their home/work/cell phone if provided and students will not leave the premises until contact has been made. Students can be delivered to a neighbouring home (subject to prior authorization) until the parents/guardians are contacted, or where the students may not be delivered to their normal resident, the next best (reasonable) alternative shall be exercised.

### PEMBINA HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOL SURVEYS

**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).

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT DONATIONS

**Thanks** to everyone who sent clothing (toques/socks, etc.) or donated money for our two charitable organizations. We split the money between Barrhead FCSS & Hope Missions. The total amount collected was approx. **\$520.**



## Upcoming Events

### BACKWARDS KINGDOM

On Thurs., Jan. 19 at 2:30 – 3:30 pm we will have Heartbeat Theatre productions here to give us a performance called ***Backwards Kingdom*** (faith-based). This will take place in the gym and everyone is welcome to attend.

*“Follow Mea on an unexpected journey in the Othrenee Castle, where her undiscovered, but true identity as redeemed royalty is put to the test in a series of challenges only the castle’s janitor seems to understand. Can Mea win the final gauntlet while demonstrating the virtuous character of royalty? Based on Matthew 5:14-16 and Colossians 3:12-14, this imaginative, fun and interactive story will challenge students to embrace who God has made them to be, to shine brightly and to inspire change for all the world to see.”*



Come join us!

### JR. HIGH DRAMA PLAY

Our Jr. High Drama Class has been working on a play that they will be performing on **Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 2:50 pm** in the Band/Drama Room. Classes will be invited as well as parents & community members are welcome to join us.

At the end of January the Art & Drama students will switch, so starting Feb. 1 all students that were in Art for Sem. #1 will then be in Drama for Sem. #2 and vice-versa.

## STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

We will be hosting student-led conferences in Gr. 1-9 classes in early February. A letter with more details will be sent home with students in the near future. The progress reports will be sent home in mid-March but gr. 4-9 parents can be checking their child’s progress using PowerSchool at all times throughout the school year.

## SKIING -JR HIGH



Jr. High students will go to Misty Ridge Ski Hill on a date to be confirmed soon (most likely it will be in early February).

**Most students** have sent in forms and fees already in December as we had originally planned the ski date for Dec. 22 (there are a few

that will be given reminders if this hasn’t been done)

\*Note: Gr. 9 Jasper Ski trip is scheduled for Feb. 14-16, 2017, notes and forms to go home soon.

## Sports

**BASKETBALL:** Basketball practices & games already started in December for our Jr. High teams.

Girls practice on Mon. & Wed. & Boys on Tues. & Thurs. Starting next week, Jan. 16/17 the practice schedule will change because of Elem. basketball starting.

Jr. High girls will practice:

Mondays: 4:47 – 6:00 pm  
Wed.: 3:47 – 5:30 pm



Jr. High Boys will practice:

Tuesdays: 4:47 – 6:00 pm  
Thursdays: 3:47 – 5:30 pm

Game & tournament schedules have been handed out to the players.

### Elementary Basketball

This year we will run an after-school basketball program for the Neerlandia Public Christian School elementary students. Teams will be made of boys and girls from grades 4, 5 and 6. The program will run during the months of January, February, and March from 4 to 5 o'clock on Mondays and Tuesdays. The emphasis will be on getting some exercise and having fun, while at the same time learning and practicing basketball skills. We will start on Monday, January 16.

The only exception to this schedule would be if Jr. High teams have games scheduled here in the gym, in that case the Elem. practices would be skipped on that specific day.

### Jr. High Student Council News

Jr. High Student Council along with some donated money, bought the school a Christmas gift. Just before the Christmas Break a new PING PONG TABLE arrived (Thanks to Ms. Gehring's son for delivering this from Edmonton).

We received a generous donation of \$250.00 from Barrhead Grizzly Trail Motors to use for enhancement of school programs so we decided to use the money for the ping-pong table. Many Jr. High students enjoy this activity at their recess & noon hour breaks, it will be well used.

We also had students give suggestions of names for our School's Eagle Mascot – the most popular suggested name was Eddie. So that will be the name of our Mascot.



**Eddie**  
**the**  
**Eagle**

## FUNDRAISERS

Our Gr. 4 Class will be hosting a Hot Lunch on **Thurs., Jan. 26**. They will be offering **Sub Sandwiches**. Pre-order forms will be sent home on Thurs., Jan. 12 and must be returned no later than Tues., Jan. 24. Online orders must be placed by midnight on Mon., Jan. 23.

## 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!!

\*Note: The day before this Fundraiser the school will be having activities planned to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the school. Check out Feb. newsletter for details.

## School Board News

The 2017-2018 school year calendar is available at [www.phrd.ab.ca](http://www.phrd.ab.ca). Alternate school year calendars will be approved in February.

Key dates for 2017-18:

- First day of school - Aug 30
- Christmas break - Dec 22-Jan 5
- Teachers convention - Feb 8-9
- Spring break - Mar 26-29
- Last day of school - June 28

The school board is joining a group of rural school boards that will focus on issues and concerns common to jurisdictions educating students in rural Alberta.

The school board met with MLA Glenn van Dijken on December 22nd to share information about our schools, Alberta Distance Learning Centre, transportation funding, and the challenges of declining enrolment.

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

Facebook: Jennifer Tuininga, School Trustee PHRD Barrhead North

Twitter: @JennifeTuining

## LIBRARY NEWS

### January Library Hours

Library Closed  
January 30 and 31 for PD Day

Mon-Thurs.	9AM-4:30PM
Wednesday evenings	7:00- 9:00PM



Our AGM will be held Monday January 16<sup>th</sup> in the library at 7:30pm. All members are invited to attend.



The library is holding their annual **LEGO contest** on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

This year's theme is "Canada".

All registration forms must be in by Monday January 16<sup>th</sup> and the creations must be dropped off Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup> during Library hours.

**Rhyme time** will start again on **February 1<sup>st</sup>** from 10:15 – 11:00 am. The program runs for **8 weeks**.

**Book club** is reading "A Hero's Walk". We still have a few copies available and would welcome new members. Hope to meet the last week of January. Contact librarians if interested.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 12	Mike Boldt, Author Visit (AM)
January 13	Alternate Day, no classes
January 16	- deadline for Lego registrations - Library AGM at 7:30 pm
January 19	Backwards Kingdom, 2:30 gym
January 20	Alternate Day, no classes
January 24	-deadline for hot lunch orders Jr. High Drama Play (2:50)
January 26	Gr 4 Sub Sandwich Lunch Lego contest in Library BEACH DAYS for all students (K-gr. 9)
January 27	Alternate Day, no classes
Jan. 30 (Mon)	Alternate Day, no classes
Jan. 31 (Tues)	P.D. for Staff only, no classes
Feb. 3 (Fri)	Extra Kindergarten Day
Feb. 6 (Mon)	Extra Kindergarten Day
Feb. 9/10	- Teachers' Convention (no classes)

Mark on your Calendar:

- Mar. 9 - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations at NPCB  
(more information coming in the Feb. newsletter)
- Mar. 10 – N.C.E.S. Fundraiser (evening)
- Mar. 16 – Progress reports to go home with Gr. 1-6