

The Pathfinder

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
Psalm 119:105

Nurture - Develop - Educate

Principal's Message

Fear of the Lord



"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7). "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever" (Psalm 111:10). "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul" (Deuteronomy 10:12). "The fear of the Lord leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm" (Proverbs 19:23). "In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death" (Proverbs 14:26-27). "Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments" (Psalm 112:1). "The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether" (Psalm 19:9). "You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel" (Psalm 22:23).

Our theme verse for this year is from II Timothy 1:7 which says, "For God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power, love, and self-control". This is such an appropriate verse when we live in a lost and dying world; however, how do we not live in fear? This is not easy for any of us but teaching this to the students can definitely be difficult when they see everything going on in this world around them. In fact, in our earthly bodies, we will always have sin and fear of some sort; however, instead of living in fear of earthly things, we should live in the fear of the Lord. Living in the fear of the Lord, helps us to keep our focus on God instead of earthly things. Also, when we live in the fear of the Lord, our whole mindset changes. We shift from living in fear and living defensively to living boldly and confidently because of Christ. I was asked the other day, "What does the fear of the Lord mean?" Well, I believe an easy answer to that is living in awe, respect, and reverence of God. However, looking at it closer, the fear of the Lord also includes items such as God's holiness, justice, love, and provision, which can all be included in living in the fear of the Lord. If you would like to read more about this topic, this website is a great source for the fear of the Lord: <https://answersingenesis.org/christianity/christian-life/fear-good-or-bad/>.

This year we are so excited to be back in school and learning from our teachers. I included many verses at the beginning of the article on the Fear of the Lord, but that is just a few compared to all the verses in the entire Bible on the fear of the Lord. I challenge you to take some time with your family and do a study on the fear of the Lord.

Thank you for your continued support,
Jeremy Copenhaver

Peoria Christian School Board News

School Board Meeting: Sept. 8, 2020

The Board sang from PH489. President Adam Fynaardt read from Exodus 14:14 and opened with prayer. All members were present.

Minutes of the August Board Meeting were read and approved.

- ✚ School Visitors assigned for the month of September are Mark Franje and Adam Fynaardt.
- ✚ Principal Jeremy Copenhaver reported that the first round of MAP Testing is complete.
- ✚ Enrollment was reported at 42 students for this year.
- ✚ Bruce & Lisa Groenendyk and Doug & Lisa Van Gorp and Al Bandstra have agreed to provide the entertainment for the Hostess Supper.
- ✚ The Promotion Committee reported that a new school banner has been donated by Promotions By Design in Pella.
- ✚ The Finance Committee reported that the transition of the financial books to QuickBooks is complete.
- ✚ The Building Committee reported that three new Wi-Fi access points have been installed in the school.
- ✚ The Tech Committee reported that a new iPad and a few new iPad covers have been purchased with money from last year's Theisen's More For Your Community grant.
- ✚ Next meeting: Monday, October 5th, 7:00PM.

Jeff Vander Molen closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Spencer Fynaardt, Secretary

School Circle Meeting: Aug. 13, 2020

Those present were Patty Veenstra, Clarice Meinders, Stacie Fynaardt, Laura Fynaardt, Barb Vande Voort, and Pam Klyn. Those absent with notice were Nella Veenstra and Susie Veenstra.

- ✚ Meeting led by Patty Veenstra.
- ✚ Meeting opened with devotions and prayer by Clarice.
- ✚ Election of officers: Motions made and supported to elect the following: Barb Vande Voort to President, Susie Veenstra to Secretary, and Patty to remain Treasurer.
- ✚ Secretary's Report: Pam read minutes from the June 18, 2020, meeting. Minutes approved.
- ✚ New Business discussed:
 - The question was raised as to whether the Bazaar committee wants us to provide childcare once again. It was decided that we would try to do that once again. Bazaar is November 13, 2020.
 - Stacie checked with Susie about the Butter Braid fundraiser and if we could hold it at the beginning of the school year. It was discussed that this fundraiser complies better with the COVID restrictions.
 - Sub Sandwiches fundraiser on hold at this time due to COVID.
- ✚ Next Meeting set for Thursday, October 8, 2020, at 7pm in the school library.
- ✚ Meeting adjourned after a motion was made, and the annual kitchen cleaning commenced.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Klyn, Retiring Secretary



A Note from Music

During the month of September:

- ✚ A huge thank you to Melinda Vos and Myrna Fynaardt for filling in for me while I am on maternity leave! I plan to return to school on Monday, September 21st.
- ✚ I look forward to seeing all my students again after such a long break!
- ✚ Soli Deo Gloria, Mrs. Ansley

Pre-K & Kinder

We have had a great first couple weeks of school in Pre-K and Kindergarten. We have spent a lot of time learning the routines of being in school and the classroom. We have also been having fun making new friends. This year we have five kindergarteners and four Pre-K students. There is a lot of activity in my classroom because the size is almost double of the past couple years! I am so thankful that Mrs. Angela Veenstra comes in the afternoons when we are all here. We praise the Lord for this large group of 4 and 5 year olds! ~Mrs. Klaasen



1st & 2nd

We have had a great start in 1st/2nd grade! Kindergarten graduation was held during our Back to School Night and we are excited to have three students in 1st grade this year. Our new first graders are Josiah Copenhaver, Hannah Den Oudsten, and Bella Ford. Welcome to Peoria Christian School, Bella! That makes two girls in our room this year! Hudson Fynaardt, Luke Fynaardt, and Matthew Fynaardt are the 2nd graders. They will be excellent leaders and helpers as first graders learn our class routines and expectations! We are thankful that God has blessed us with an opportunity to come to school and look forward to a year of learning. Finally, remember that God gave us each a spirit of power, love, and self-control, NOT FEAR!. ~Mrs. Van Wyk



3rd & 4th

All of the third and fourth graders and I are excited to be back in school! The third graders have already learned their first few cursive letters and the fourth graders are remembering how to write exclusively in cursive. They are all very busy collecting insects for their insect collections that we will be classifying with the 7th and 8th graders in a few weeks. Once they are finished, they will be displayed in the hallway for about a week. Be sure to look for them if you visit the school. ~Miss Taft



5th & 6th

This year in 5th and 6th grade we are focusing on the verse Matthew 17:20, "If you have faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible." As we proceed throughout the year, we will focus on the "mountains" in our life. Learning to rely on God to give us the strength, courage, and guidance to overcome our challenges. We are very excited to grow in faith and move mountains this year. ~Mrs. De Zwarte

7th & 8th

We had our first day of school on August 25, 2020, and we had our first chapel in the church. Pastor George gave the message from this year's theme verse. This year's theme verse is 2 Timothy 1:7. Pastor George had challenged us to live boldly by the power of God with the Holy Spirit living in us. The first day of school was spent getting ourselves organized. Things are going quite well in the 7th and 8th grade classroom. We are choosing our favorite Bible verses and hanging them up in our classroom. We are also studying literary terms like hyperboles, which are extreme exaggerations. During Covid-19, we are checking temperatures at the beginning of the day and using hand sanitizer after every recess. We are so thankful to be able to have school in person. ~Submitted by Alyson De Bruin, 7th & 8th Grade



Spanish

We have had a great start to Spanish this year. It has been fun to get to know the students and be able to use our Spanish skills once again. We have been revisiting why it's important, and fun, to learn a new language, and all the ways God can use learning a new language for His glory. I'm very excited to keep growing our Spanish skills and building relationships with the students to make it a great year! ~Mrs. McConnell

Resource Room

Thank you for making me feel so welcome especially since I have joined the vast "Mrs. Fynaardt Club." The kids have gotten a kick out of it. As their guide, IXL (an online app based on mastery we use for literacy, language arts, and math) is assisting me in filling the gaps and stretching students where needed! It provides ample data for individual needs. Despite the challenges of the year, the students have answered 38,793 questions while mastering 949 skills! As far as a breakdown of each student, they will go home at each midterm and quarter. We cannot wait to see the individual growth God has allowed them to make! ~Mrs. Fynaardt

WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING



MRS. HEATHER MCCONNELL

We would like to welcome Mrs. Heather McConnell to our school family. She is our new part-time Spanish teacher. She will be teaching Spanish to our 1st thru 8th grade students. Please take a moment to welcome her to our school society and remember to pray for her as she starts a new job!

MRS. ANGELA VEENSTRA

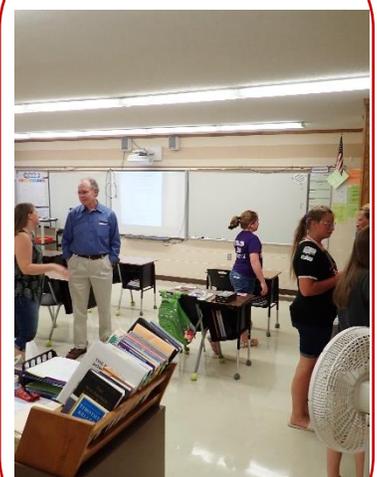
We would like to welcome Mrs. Angela Veenstra to our school family as well. She is our new part-time Pre-K/Kindergarten Assistant. She will be working in the Pre-K/Kindergarten Classroom on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons. Please take a moment to welcome her to our school society and remember to pray for her as she starts a new job!



FIELD TRIPS

Friday, September 18th: We will be having a bike day field trip. This will take place for all our students in Pre-K thru 8th grade. We will be leaving around **11AM** on this day.

Thursday, October 1st: We will be visiting the Living History Farms. This is an all-day field trip for all the school, Pre-K thru 8th grade.



WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING



THANK YOU MRS. KLYN

A special thank you to Mrs. Lois Klyn for her many years of involvement in our school. You will be missed. Fun Fact! Lois Klyn has been a part of the Peoria Christian School family since 1946 when she started attending as a young girl. We are sad to let you go but pray for God's blessings in the next chapter of your life.

SPECIAL FACILITATOR REQUEST

We have a special request for a specific day and time for a facilitator. On **Wednesday afternoons from 12:30-1:30 PM**, we are looking for someone to help in the 1st/2nd grade classroom. If you would like to help or would like to know more information, please contact Jeremy Copenhaver at principal@peoriachr.org.



PATHFINDER SUBMISSIONS

Deadline to enter items in the monthly Pathfinder:

Email office@peoriachr.org by the 1st of every month to ensure making it in the Pathfinder for that month.

Deadline to make sure items are in the weekly email:

Email principal@peoriachr.org by Tuesday of every week.

WHAT'S
EVENTS
 HAPPENING

BAZAAR



Rooted in God's Word



*"The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever."*

Isaiah 40:8

Save the Date...

**Friday, November 13, 2020, for the
Peoria Christian School Bazaar!**

Classroom Baskets to be Auctioned Off:

- Pre-K/K: "Picnic" Basket (Paper product, table cloth, cooler, bug spray, fruit, gift card to Subway, etc.)
- 1st/2nd: Desserts & Sweets (Candy, chocolate, sprinkles, frosting, brownie mixes, cupcake liners, gift cards to DQ, etc.)
- 3rd/4th: Mexican (Chips, salsa, nacho cheese, gift cards to Taco Johns or El Charro, etc.)
- 5th/6th: Activities to Do! (Games, puzzles, books, craft activities, legos, etc.)
- 7th/8th: Freezer Meals (meats, casseroles, pies, or anything you can freeze!)

Schedule:

- Bake Sale and Browse-n-Buy – 3:00-6:30pm
- Coffee Time – 3:00-4:30pm
- Supper – 5:00-6:30pm
- Live Auction – 7:00pm in the gym
- Childcare – 7:00pm in the school

Please be thinking of ways you can help and also what you can donate to make this fundraiser successful. We greatly appreciate all your help as we strive to support Peoria Christian School. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Ver Meer or Heidi Van Wyk.



HOT LUNCH HELP

Hot Lunch is looking for volunteers to serve as substitute workers and individuals willing to make cookies for meals. We are also looking for donations of ground beef or frozen applesauce. If you are willing to help or have a donation, please contact Michelle De Haan at 641-660-7373 or nmdehaan@windstream.net.





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SEPTEMBER	
September 1-4	Fall MAP Testing
September 4	TRIP Orders Due
September 7	NO SCHOOL ~ Labor Day
September 9	2:35PM Dismissal ~ Staff In-Service
September 12	8AM 7 th /8 th Grade ~ Pumpkin Picking at Arvin Roose's
September 18	TRIP Orders Due
September 18	All School Picnic & Biking Field Trip
September 25	8:30AM Chapel ~ Pastor Ralph Pontier
OCTOBER	
October 1	All School Field Trip to Living History Farms
October 2	NO SCHOOL ~ Staff-In-Service
October 9	TRIP Orders Due
October 16	2:15PM Dismissal ~ End of 1 st Quarter
October 21	12:15PM Dismissal ~ Curriculum Mapping
October 23	TRIP Orders Due
October 23	Report Cards go home
October 29	4-8PM Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 30	NO SCHOOL

PCS WISH LIST

Are you looking for a different way to help support our school? The PCS Wish List is a list of school supplies that we need. You may purchase the items and then donate them to the school. All donations may be dropped off at the school office. This month we are requesting donations of these items:

- ~Hand Sanitizer
- ~Sanitizing Wipes or Spray
- ~Standard Postage Forever Stamps
- ~Armless Office Chair (for use in front office)

KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

I want to congratulate last year's two kindergarten graduates:

Josiah Copenhaver
Hannah Den Oudsten

We had our kindergarten graduation this year during our Back to School Night in August. It was a little different but it was still a time to celebrate what God has done in their lives. Please continue to pray for these students as they grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18).