

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

Power, Love, and Self-Control (Part 3)

"...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control" (II Timothy 1:7). Two months ago, I focused on the word power, which we teach our students that Christians receive from the Holy Spirit. Last month I concentrated on the word love, which we teach our students that the love of Christ is the perfect example of love. So, both the power and love of Christ enables the believer to live without fear and be salt and light to a lost and dying world. This month we will look at the last part of our verse or self-control.

Here are some Bible verses regarding self-control: "A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls" (Proverbs 25:28). "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23). "For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love" (II Peter 1:5-7). "The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers" (I Peter 4:7). "For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined" (Titus 1:7-8). "Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control" (I Corinthians 7:5). "Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness" (Titus 2:2). "Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled" (Titus 2:6). "Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city" (Proverbs 16:32).

As we each get ready to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, please remember to pray for our staff and students as we continue to navigate through these uncharted territories. We have seen many people putting their trust in "experts" in the field of medicine and science because they don't have any other hope. The problem is these so called "experts" tell us one thing, then they say oh never mind, we found "new" information so you now need to do this instead. This constant and ever-changing information confuses and frustrates people only causing more panic. Well, thanks be to God we have God's Word which never changes (Hebrews 13:8) and who gives us self-control in this ever-changing world. Paul said it best in Ephesians 4:14-15, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ".

We do not have to live in fear, but we can only do this because of God's power, love, and self-control. Thank you for your support this past year and wishing you a blessed New Year.

~ Jeremy Copenhaver

Peoria Christian School Board News

School Board Meeting: December 7, 2020

The Board sang from PH502. President Adam Fynaardt read from Romans 13:4 and opened with prayer. All members were present except Spencer Fynaardt with notice.

Minutes of the November Board Meeting were read and approved.

- Kevin Van Der Hart visited the school and gave a favorable report.
- Songs for the Christmas Program were approved.
- Approved all songs in the gray Psalter and blue Celebration Hymnals as automatically approved for school programs. They will no longer need Board approval, just an FYI to Board.
- Discussed how our student IXL scores continue to rise.
- Discussion that we will be using Facebook Live to stream the Christmas Program for those who would prefer not to, or are unable to, attend in person.

- STO Committee reported that currently the Legacy of Grace STO is very underfunded for this year with a final donation date of 12/31/2020.
- The Bus Committee reported that they are working on scheduling bus maintenance over the holiday break.
- A Motion from the Athletic Committee was approved to allow an AAU girls basketball team that has 2 Peoria Christian kids on the team, to be able to schedule our gym for practice when their normal gyms are unavailable.
- The school Covid-19 policy was updated to match with the new reduced CDC recommendations and will be updated on the website and sent to parents soon.
- Next meeting: Monday, January 4th, 7:00PM.

Mark Franje closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Van Der Hart, Acting Secretary



A Note from Music

The students in PreK-8th grade have all been working hard on preparing for our Christmas concert coming up very soon! We hope to see you there as we share our gift of music. Soli Deo Gloria, Mrs. Ansley!



Pre-K & Kinder

In Pre-K and Kindergarten this past month, we spent time learning about the first Thanksgiving. We started with the Native Americans. We learned that there are many different tribes of Native Americans and each tribe has a different type of house. We also learned about the Pilgrims and the religious freedom they were looking for in America. We also spent some time comparing the first Thanksgiving to the traditions we have today. Just like the Pilgrims at the first Thanksgiving, we have many things we can be thankful to God for today.

~ Mrs. Klaasen



3rd & 4th

December is always such a busy month at school and at home. At school, we are getting into some more difficult concepts in math. 3rd grade is starting multiplication, and 4th grade is starting long division. Here are some things we are looking forward to, along with remembering our Savior's birth:

Jedi- going to Oklahoma to an amusement park

Judah- having a snowball fight with Ellie

Olivia- spending time with friends and family

Alicia- going on vacation to Michigan

Dylan- playing laser tag with the De Jong side of the family

Aleah- just being with my cousins in Northwest Iowa

Will- playing ball tag with my cousins

Ellie- having a new baby cousin

Miss Taft- driving around to see all the pretty Christmas lights

May the Lord bless you all this Christmas season!

~ Miss Taft



1st & 2nd

First and second grade students helped to plan and participate in our chapel on November 20. They each chose how they would like to participate. Students could choose to announce a song or a class to share memory work, lead a pledge or Apostle's Creed, announce the speaker or close in prayer. We practiced the order for chapel and how to use a microphone so we were well prepared. All of the first and second graders did a wonderful job! On the following Monday, each student wrote about how they thought chapel went and what they liked best about their experience and drew a picture about their writing. They shared their writing and picture with everyone in our class. God has given each of them the ability to praise Him with their talents! ~ Mrs. Van Wyk

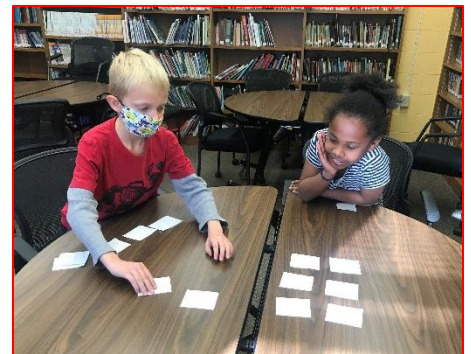
7th & 8th

So far in the 7th and 8th grade class, we have read two really great books and have started a third this year. The first book we read was *The Bronze Bow* written by Elizabeth George Spear, which caused a lot of emotion and even resulted in a few tears to be shed (Aly). The book was an exciting read and kept us on our toes at the end of every chapter. The next book we read was *Julius Caesar* written by William Shakespeare, the tragic story of multiple deaths. Prior to reading the book, we enjoyed doing a fun mad lib on William Shakespeare that ended in loud laughter. The book was harder to read so we listened to it on CD while reading along. We will remember to “beware of the ives of March!”. At the moment, we are reading *A Christmas Carol* written by Charles Dickens. Before we started reading, we learned more about Charles Dickens. When we finish this book, we plan to watch the movie as a class. ~ Submitted by Abby Hol

Spanish

Enjoy reading what each grade has been focusing on this month in Spanish!
1st Grade: School supplies! Use the word ‘libro’ instead of book when you read those bedtime stories!
2nd Grade: Fruit! Ask your child to name his or her favorite fruit in spanish.
3rd Grade: Counting through 20! Play a card game together using your Spanish.
4th Grade: Animals! Ask your child to name an animal they would like to have as a pet.
5th Grade: The calendar! Ask your child to name his or her favorite season.
6th Grade: Birthday parties! Ask your child to name a party supply.
7th and 8th Grade: The verb “tener”! Ask your child to use the different forms of ‘tener’ in sentences. ¡Feliz Navidad! ~ Mrs. McConnell

Classroom Updates



5th & 6th

In 5th and 6th grade, students have been working hard on presentations about the different regions of the United States to share with their classmates. They have been working in pairs to research and create a presentation that also involves their audience. I cannot wait to see what creative ideas they have for this! It is such a joy to see them be so passionate about teaching others and showing Christlike character as they work together. ~ Mrs. De Zwarte

Resource Room

Midterms went home on November twenty-four. The students as a whole should be proud as they have earned +32 (3.2 months) in math and +57 (5.7 months) in language arts since the beginning of the academic year!

Differentiation is huge in the success of a student. I meet with each K-8 student twice a week: once for math and once for reading. That makes twenty different groups for one subject. Believe it or not, there are usually different levels within those small groups of around three. IXL makes that process easy since they have different levels for each standard. For example, IXL has standards for K-12th grade that work solely on the main idea of a passage. That allows each student to work on main idea. They wrestle with just the right level that challenges them but doesn't frustrate them! ~ Mrs. Fynaardt

WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING

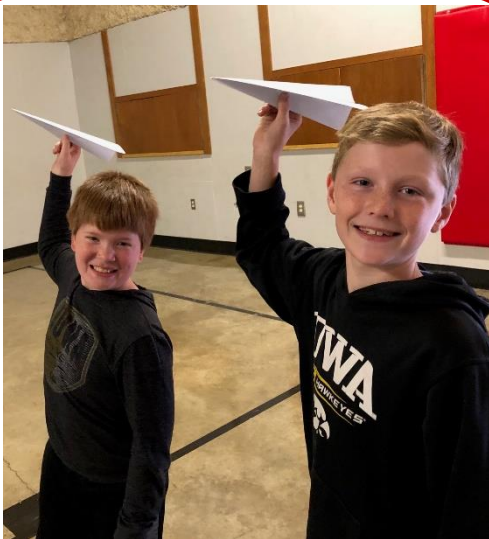


CHAPEL

Our next chapel will take place on Friday, December 18, and Pastor Dale Slings (Faith CRC, Pella) is scheduled to be our speaker. Chapel starts at 8:30 AM in the gym. Please come and join us.

MAP TESTING

Our winter Map testing is scheduled to take place on Monday, January 11 – Friday, January 15. These tests are very important for our students and to help our teachers meet their student's individual needs. Please try to avoid any appointments during this week especially in the morning as their attendance is really important on these days. Overall please pray for our students as they strive to do their best.



CHRISTMAS BREAK

Christmas Break will take place from December 23, 2020, through January 3, 2021. Classes will resume on Monday morning, January 4. Enjoy the extra time celebrating the birth of our Savior with your family!

WHAT'S
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 HAPPENING



BAZAAR SUPPER THANK YOU

I would personally like to thank all those who took time this past Friday and helped serve the meal at the Bazaar! A big thank you to Nella Veenstra and Mary Lowrey for helping prepare all the wonderful food you enjoyed and Ulrich Meat Market for the meat! We served approximately 250 people and that includes the 65 to-go meals that were picked up! Thank you for bringing your appetite and for supporting the School Circle. It is a blessing to know that the food was enjoyed. -Suzy Veenstra



Thank You

Peoria Christian School would like to thank all who helped make our Annual Fall Bazaar a HUGE success! We truly see God's faithfulness to us as He once again has used you to bless our school. A special thanks goes to Suzy Veenstra, Lyn Veenstra, Clarice Meinders, Patty Veenstra, and Doug Veenstra! As well as the many other volunteers who made donations and to those who joined us for the bazaar. It is truly a blessing to work together to serve our great God at Peoria Christian School. This year we raised \$33,600! That is over \$2,500 more than last year and a new record!

The Lord is good, to Him alone be the Glory!

"I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU, LORD, WITH ALL MY HEART; I WILL TELL OF ALL YOUR WONDERFUL DEEDS." PSALM 1:1

With humble and heartfelt thanks,
 Heidi Van Wyk, Stacie Fynaardt and Lisa Ver Meer

WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING

THANK YOU

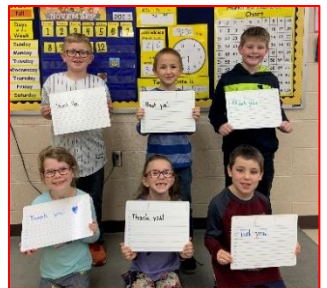
Thank you: We want to thank everyone for your continued support through this past year. Your words of encouragement, prayers, and financial gifts were greatly appreciated. We are excited to see what God has in store for us in this coming year! Finally, please make sure to check out the latest postings on Facebook and share with your family and friends the amazing ways that God is blessing us here at Peoria Christian School (James 1:17).



Fundraising Opportunities

Did you know that everyday you can do little things to help raise funds for Peoria Christian School? Many companies have opportunities available to all of us that may seem small, but when we all do them it makes a big difference. Some of these are Amazon Smile (great to use during Christmas shopping!), Casey's Rewards (we all fill our cars up with gas), Box Tops (check those cereal boxes), Bredeaux Pizza (clip the proof of purchase next Saturday night), Coke Rewards (save those codes), Shop With Script (gift cards for everything) and empty ink cartridges from your computer's printer. Contact the school office for more details on any of these opportunities.





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December	
December 11	2:15 Dismissal ~ Christmas Program
December 11	7PM Christmas Program at Peoria CRC
December 18	8:30AM Chapel ~ Pastor Dale Slings
December 22	1:15 Dismissal ~ End of 2 nd Quarter
December 23 - January 1	NO SCHOOL ~ Christmas Break
January	
January 4	School Resumes
January 8	Report Cards Go Home
January 11-15	Map Testing
January 22	8:30AM Chapel ~ Jerry Vermeer

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:

- ~Standard Postage Forever Stamps
- ~8oz Styrofoam Cups

