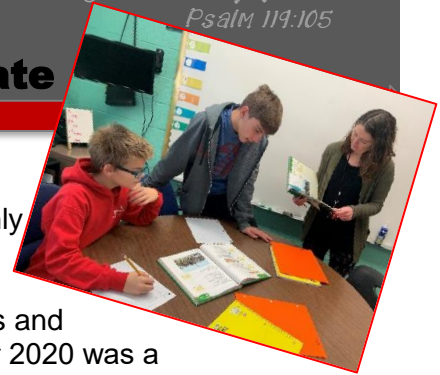


The Pathfinder

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

Nurture - Develop - Educate



Principal's Message

Happy New Year! I am thrilled that you are taking a few moments to read our monthly pathfinder. It is a huge blessing that each month people take time to read this and see how God is continuing to bless our school. I am also very appreciative of your support to our staff and students. Christian education is so important to our students and can only continue by God's grace, your prayers, and your loving kindness. The year 2020 was a year that many people want to forget, but I am very thankful because God still continued to bless our school and continued to do more than I could ever think or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). As we start out the year 2021, I am challenging every supporter to pray for our school. Here are some ways of how you can pray for our school:

- Pray for our teachers (pray for their continued love for God, continued love for the students, patience as they deal with the students on a daily basis, and that they continue to teach every subject from a Biblical perspective)
- Pray for our students (Pray that they continue to grow in their faith, pray that they continue to respect their teachers and bus drivers, and pray that they show love to their fellow classmates)
- Pray that we can continue to meet in person at school
- Pray for wisdom for both our school board and administration
- Pray for safety for our students (Pray for safety on the playground, sledding hill, bus, field trips, and all aspects of school)
- Pray for our bus drivers (Pray for their safety when driving on the roads)
- Pray for our parents (Pray that our parents would continue to see the need for Christian Education while trusting God that financially He will continue to supply, and pray for encouragement for all our parents as they help our students at home with their homework)
- Pray for unity among our staff and parents (Pray that our staff and parents are all working together to train our students (Proverbs 22:6))
- Pray that we can be a light to the saved and a light to the perishing (II Corinthians 2:15)
- Pray for our janitors (Pray for encouragement as they continue to keep our school clean)
- Pray for our chapel speakers (Pray that God would use each speaker to challenge our staff and students)
- Pray for our substitute teachers (Pray that God would continue to bless our school by supplying us with substitute teachers)
- Pray for our facilitators (Pray that God would continue to bless our school by supplying us facilitators)
- Pray for health (Pray for our staff and students that they can stay free from sickness and continue to come to school on a regular basis)
- Pray for new students for our school (Pray that God would continue to bring new families to our school)
- Finally, pray that we would say and do everything to glorify God (I Corinthians 10:31)

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to what God is going to do this year in 2021.

Jeremy Copenhaver

Peoria Christian School Board News

School Board Meeting: January 4, 2021

The Board sang from PH495. President Adam Fynaardt read from Matthew 4:1-4 and opened with prayer. All members were present.

Minutes of the December Board Meeting were read and approved.

- Spencer Fynaardt visited school and gave a positive report.
- A motion from the Education Committee to approve the music and script for the Grandparent's Day Program was passed.
- The Education Committee reported on work being done for the 2021-22 school calendar.
- The Finance Committee discussed budget items for the 2021-22 school year.
- The Board received an STO update stating that 100% of the 2020 funding goal was met.
- The Bus Committee reported that the buses were serviced over Christmas Break.
- Principal Jeremy Copenhaver reported that we have received a \$2,200 grant from the Pella Community Foundation.
- Next meeting: Monday, February 1st, 7:00PM. Glenn Meinders closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Spencer Fynaardt, Secretary

PRAYER REQUEST

Peoria Christian School Board has extended a contract for the position of principal to Jeremy Copenhaver for the 2021/2022 school year. Please join us in praying for Mr. Copenhaver and his wife, Melissa, as they make their decision.

Christmas Offering Thank-You

To all the wonderful students in Peoria Christian School,

You children are so awesome, seeing how you love and care about our orphans so much! You bring me and the children much joy into our hearts. We are so grateful for your love and support of \$2438.23 and an additional gift of \$305.00 from an individual student. This has been a very stressful year for us, but we know your loving us and standing with us and your generous Christmas gifts are helping us so much!

We love you and appreciate you and thank God for you and are praying for you. You mean so much to us. We are looking forward to receiving your letters and we hope to write back to you.

May God bless you!
David Visal and the orphans.



A Note from Music

Our 5th-8th graders are looking forward to a new quarter where they are going to be working on Fine Arts! They will be working on developing skills and talents in creative writing, art, vocal music, band, and speech. Pray that God will help them to grow and learn how to perform for His glory, not their own.

~ Soli Deo Gloria, Mrs. Ansley



1st & 2nd

We wish everyone a Happy New Year from all of us in First/Second grade! Looking back to 2020, there were many ways that the Lord blessed us even in the midst of a pandemic. After missing the 4th quarter of last school year, we came back to learning in person for our 2020-21 school year. We did our fall field trips of biking at Red Rock, and visiting Living History Farms and Autumn Acres. We celebrated Jesus' birth at our Christmas program and classroom party. We helped our school raise money for the orphanage in Cambodia. We know that God will continue to be with us as we begin the new year and a new semester at Peoria Christian School. We look forward to the new year with anticipation for everything that God has in store for us in 2021.
~Mrs. Van Wyk

Resource Room

Even though December was only the 4th month of the school year, the school grew by +55 (5.5 months) in math and +77 (7.7 months) in language arts over the semester. They spent the last two weeks working on algebra and writing strategies. You may think, "How would kindergarteners even begin to work on such things?" The first step is conceptual, challenging students to find the unknown shape in a pattern. Language arts is a bit more difficult as they do not have specific kindergarten standards, but there are lots of second grade standards they are capable of mastering. An example may read as follows: Revise the sentence to use a stronger verb. They know that joyful is a stronger adjective than happy, and it is a closer synonym than silly, so they pick joyful! ~ Mrs. Fynaardt

Classroom
Updates

Pre-K & Kinder

Exciting things have been happening in PreK and Kindergarten this month. The PreK students have just a couple more letters to learn and then we will start working on writing them. The Kindergarten students have started to read! We have also been learning in Bible about the Christmas story and Advent. If you see a PreK or Kindergarten student, ask them if they remember what all five of the Advent candles stand for. ~Mrs. Klaasen

3rd & 4th

Before Christmas, our class had fun planning an activity for the whole school to enjoy. During our Christmas activities, we played Charades, with each class acting out different things together. Here are some of the things they acted out: 1st and 2nd grade acted out being astronauts, 7th and 8th acted out riding on the bus, Kindergarten acted out building a snowman, 5th and 6th acted out making paper snowflakes, and 3rd and 4th acted out going up an escalator. We all had a good time! In the month of January, we will be learning about when Israel was split into 2 kingdoms in Bible class. In science, we will be learning about the natural resources that God provides for us. 3rd grade will slowly start completing each subject in cursive, starting with spelling. We will also be having a visit from Mrs. Adams for Ag in the classroom.



Spanish

Enjoy reading what each grade has been focusing on this month in Spanish!

1st: Family! Ask your child to name a family member in Spanish.

2nd: Food! Ask your child to name his or her favorite food in Spanish.

3rd: Numbers! Play a card game together using your Spanish.

4th: What we like! Ask your child to name something they like using a Spanish phrase.

5th: The weather! Ask your child to describe the weather in Spanish.

6th: Verbs! The students had fun playing Simon Says to practice commands.

7th and 8th: Possessive adjectives! The students have done such a great job learning some of the details and rules of the Spanish language.

¡Feliz Año Nuevo! ~ Mrs. McConnell

7th & 8th

In the month of January, the 7th and 8th graders are going to be heading into a poetry unit. We will be reading Psalm 119, which is an example of a Hebrew acrostic poem. Before Christmas break, we wrote growing poems. In the future, look in the hallway for 7th and 8th grade poems. Here are some examples of growing poems.

- submitted by Evan Tschetter

Silent Night

I look around the Silent Night.

The star rises while it shines so bright.

It's silent after Jesus is born,

It's quiet on Christmas Morn.

- Aly De Bruin

The Week of Christmas!

Cookies decorated in the kitchen

Family worshipping in the church

Snow falling on the chimney

Children laying under the Christmas tree

- Madi Veenstra

Christmas

Chestnuts roasting on the fire.

Children laughing outside in the snow.

Piano playing to the newborn King.

Carols ring through the house.

- Jocelyn Veenstra

Winter in 1850

Snowflakes dancing through the sky

Horses prancing down the streets

Skaters twirling on the ice

Jesus coming into the world

- Rebecca De Haan

5th & 6th

The 5th and 6th graders have been reading like crazy to finish our first novel, Redwall by Brian Jaques. We just finished before break and had enough time to enjoy a feast similar to one the characters may have had. Each student picked a dish to bring in to share with the class. We all were brave and tried each one. A few of our favorites were October Ale (Ginger Ale and grape juice), Apple Snow (apple sauce and whipped egg whites), and Summer Strawberry Fizz (strawberries, strawberry ice cream mixed with water seltzer). There were so many delicious foods it was hard to pick a favorite! It is safe to say the inhabitants of Redwall had great taste in food! ~ Mrs. De Zwart



Classroom Updates



WHAT'S
EVENTS
 HAPPENING

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas program in person or on Facebook. It was a beautiful night remembering the birth of our Savior and a blessing that our students were able to share their gifts and talents that God has given them to each of us. We also want to thank Mrs. Ansley for all her hard work in helping to prepare our students for the program, a special thank you to everyone who contributed to the offering which raised \$372 for the Music Department, a thank you to everyone for praying for our program as the students were practicing and preparing, and most of all we thank God from whom all blessings flow (James 1:17). Finally, if you haven't had a chance to watch the performance in its entirety, here is the link to view the program:

<https://fb.watch/2oRICMFU5Y/>



CHAPEL

Chapel will be held on January 22 at 8:30am in the school gym. Jerry Vermeer will be our speaker. Please join us for a morning of worship!

2020 BLESSING

Bus Drivers: A big thank you to our bus drivers that drive our kids to school everyday. We thank God for Mr. Larry and Mrs. Marcia.

Volunteers: We want to thank everyone that has volunteered at our school this past year and over the many years here at Peoria Christian School.

Our school would not run at the high level that it does without the grace of God and the many valuable hours that our parents, society members, and facilitators put into our school. Thank you for investing in the lives of our children (Ruth 2:12).

Peoria School Community: 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).

Praise God: We want to specifically praise God for another year of blessing (Psalm 138:1-2). As the year ended, we have many things to be thankful for at Peoria Christian School, but ultimately, we thank God for the greatest gift to all mankind (Philippians 2:5-11).





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January	
January 4	School Resumes
January 8	Report Cards Go Home
January 11-15	Map Testing
January 22	8:30AM Chapel ~ Jerry Vermeer
February	
February 4	4-8PM Parent Teacher Conferences
February 5	No School
February 10	PCHS 8 th Grade Visit Day
February 12	No School ~ Staff Inservice
February 15	No School ~ Presidents' Day
February 20	5PM Hostess Supper
February 22	7PM PCHS Parent Preview Night
February 24	2:35PM Dismissal ~ Staff Inservice
February 26	8:30AM Chapel ~ Brian Ochsner

WARM WELCOME EVENT

The Promotions Committee is putting on another Warm Welcome's Event specifically for prospective families interested in our school. This event will be taking place on Monday, March 8th, starting at 6:30 PM. If you know of any prospective families that might be interested in Peoria Christian School, please send the front office their name, email, phone number, and address so that we can contact them for this event.

HOSTESS SUPPER

Please save the date! We are excited for our annual Hostess Supper on February 20, 2021, at 5PM. We would like to welcome Al Bandstra, who will be speaking, and Bruce & Lisa Groenendyk and Doug & Lisa Van Gorp who will be sharing their musical talents with us. If you are interested in hosting a table, please contact Stacie Fynaardt 641-780-1894.

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
- ~Paper Towels
- ~Magic Eraser Sheets