



Principal's Message God is Able



In the book of Numbers, there is a story about how Moses sent 12 spies to spy out the promised land (Numbers 13 and 14). He basically wanted them to report back on what the promised land was like. When the spies came back, 10 spies did not want to go back to the land because they focused on the challenges they saw and how they looked like grasshoppers compared to the giants of the land (Numbers 13:33). However, two spies (Caleb and Joshua) wanted to go back into the land at once because they focused on a God that could help them defeat the giants (Numbers 13:30). As you can see, all 12 went to the same land but came back with different perspectives. Ten of the spies came back with a negative outlook and focused on the challenges; however, two spies came back with a positive outlook because they focused on what the God of this universe could do and teach them during this time. Instead of taking the land from the Canaanites and Amalekites, the Israelites delayed because they listened to the ten negative spies and because of this only Joshua and Caleb were able to go back into the promised land.

The year of 2020 brought challenges that we have never seen in our lifetime, but here at Peoria Christian School we have tried to focus on helping our students understand that God is in control and none of these challenges are a surprise to Him. Just like 10 of the spies in the story from the book of Numbers, we can focus on all the challenges, or we can focus on a God that is in control of every step of our lives (Isaiah 14:24), a God that knows the exact number of hairs on our head (Luke 12:7), a God that has plans to help us not harm us (Jeremiah 29:11), and a God whose ways are perfect (Psalm 18:30). This school year has brought challenges, but our staff and students have been working so hard on continuing to focus on the positives and to praise God for how He continues to bless our school.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support,

Jeremy Copenhaver



Prayer Request

Peoria Christian School Board has extended contracts to our teachers and staff for the 2021/2022 school year. Please join us in praying for our teachers, staff and their families, as they make their decision.

Peoria Christian School Board News

School Board Meeting: February 1, 2021

The Board sang from PH584. President Adam Fynaardt read from 1 Peter 4:12-19 and opened with prayer. All members were present.

Minutes of the January Board Meeting were read and approved.

- Eric Fynaardt and Mike Vander Hart visited school and gave positive reports.
- From the Education Committee, the Board approved the 2021-22 academic calendar.
- From the Education Committee, the Board approved field trips to the Science Center in Des Moines and Urban Air in Ankeny.
- From the Education Committee, the Board approved moving 8th grade graduation from Tuesday, May 18th to Thursday, May 20th due to a conflict with a band concert at PCHS.
- From the Education Committee, the Board approved a motion to have school on President's Day due to the number of snow days we have already had this year.
- Jeff Vander Molen shared an update on the first meeting of the Long-Range Facilities Planning Subcommittee.
- President Adam Fynaardt announced that Principal Jeremy Copenhaver has signed his contract for the 2021-22 school year.
- The board voted on teacher contracts for the 2021-22 school year.
- Next meeting: Monday, March 1st, 7:00PM.

Mike Vander Hart closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Spencer Fynaardt, Secretary

Note from the School Board:

"The School Improvement Team (SIT) is responsible for working through the accreditation process of Peoria Christian School. During our current accreditation cycle, the SIT has recommended to the board that a Long-Range Facilities Planning Subcommittee be formed. With board approval, this committee has been tasked with considering plans and proposals for the long-term future of PCS. All committee proposals will be considered from the perspective of the school's stated mission: "The purpose of Peoria Christian School is to nurture each child's unique potential as an image bearer of God, develop the student's capacity for the enjoyment of the created world, and to educate the total person." Chaired by Jeff Vander Molen, the LRFPS has met for the first time to begin to identify top needs at the school. While the LRFPS reports to the School Improvement Team, all proposals must be approved by the board. The society will be updated on the work of the LRFPS at the annual meeting."

PRE-K/KINDER ROUNDUP

Kinder/Pre-k Roundup is coming up on Wednesday, March 10th. Students going into Pre-K or kindergarten will need to be at school by 8:30 AM and a parent meeting will follow at 12:30 PM. Please send any names to the front office of families that might be interested in coming to Kinder/Pre-K roundup.



A Note from Music

In 3rd/4th grade music, we are starting a unit on hand chimes! This is a great unit on working together in unity, staying on beat, and reading music. We are starting with the song "Jesus Loves Me" and hope to have another song ready for Grandparents Day.
Soli Deo Gloria,
Mrs. Ansley



Pre-K & Kinder

We have enjoyed being back at school again after Christmas break. In Bible, the PreK and Kinder students have been learning about entering the promised land. We saw many ways how God was taking care of his people and how He won many battles against their enemies. The kids also took on the challenge of learning Psalm 100 in just 3 weeks, so the Kindergarteners could recite it for chapel. We have also had many chances to celebrate our friends this month. Out of our nine students, we had 3 birthdays and 2 half birthdays! There was only one week this month that we didn't celebrate a birthday. ~Mrs. Klaasen



Resource Room

In class, we have been doing twenty minutes of IXL a day--ten minutes working on literacy and ten minutes working on math goals. Twice a week, everyone goes to Mrs. Fynaardt's room to discuss new topics. Personally in literacy, I have been working on defining words based on the sentences around them in context. In math, I've been working on fractions displayed as graphs. We continue to work and complete on our goals with Mrs. Fynaardt week after week! ~ submitted by 8th Grader, Rebecca De Haan

1st & 2nd

First & Second grade has been learning about living and non-living things in science for the last few weeks. We learned that living things have needs such as air, food, and water. We also found out that living things have other needs such as space and shelter. Each student had an opportunity to design a shelter for a living thing (a marshmallow) using only toothpicks and gum drops. When they were finished, there were 6 different shelters for their living thing! Please take a look at the pictures of their creative shelters! We are thankful that God has provided a safe shelter for all of us to live! ~Mrs. Van Wyk



3rd & 4th

This past month, we had another visit from Karen Adams for Ag in the Classroom. We explored nutrition and how different types of food help our bodies. If you look at the pictures carefully, you might see some of the students working on a triangle activity where they had to match the type of food, examples, the nutrients found in those foods, and how they help our bodies. In other things, 4th grade has continued to learn more about long division and 3rd grade has continued to work on learning their multiplication facts. Third grade is also increasing their cursive skills daily by adding more subjects they must complete in cursive. They have learned all their lowercase letters and about half of the uppercase ones. We are on track to being ready for our cursive contest on Grandparent's Day later this year!~Miss Taft



7th & 8th

In 7th and 8th grade, we have just concluded our Poetry unit. If you ever visit our school, make sure to check out our poet-tree in the hallway. We have begun to read *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary R. Schmidt. Our main character, Holling Hoodhood, has a little fiasco with cream puffs. Because of this event, our wonderful teacher, Mrs. VW, treated us to some delicious cream puffs. We are very anxious to see where the adventures of Holling Hoodhood takes us. ~ Submitted by Aaron Meinders



5th & 6th

The fifth and sixth graders have been very driven to be in their Bibles, grow in their relationships with Christ, and hide His words in their hearts. It has been such a joy seeing them discuss God's word together, think about what it means, and how they can apply it to their lives. They have been challenged to memorize a verse or verses from the section that we are reading in 1 John. To further our motivation, we created a Bible bingo sheet to help challenge us in various ways. We've also shared this with the other classes to encourage them in their Bible reading as well. ~Mrs. De Zwarte

Classroom Updates

Facilitator Request

We are seeking facilitators to serve in the 5th/6th grade classroom Monday-Friday 10:45AM-Noon. We are looking for multiple individuals who can commit to one or more days each week. If interested, please contact Jeremy Copenhaver (principal@peoriachr.org).



Spanish Spotlights

Enjoy reading what each grade has been focusing on this month in Spanish!
1st: Classroom Supplies! Ask your child the name of a pencil in Spanish.
2nd: Breakfast Foods! Ask your child to use a Spanish word during breakfast tomorrow.
3rd: Colors! Play Candy Land with your new Spanish words!
4th: Breakfast Foods! Ask your child to name a favorite breakfast food in Spanish.
5th: Occupations! Ask your child if they can say his or her future job in Spanish.
6th: Accessories! Tell your child to remember his or her paraguas if it's raining outside!
7th and 8th: AR verbs! If you ask your child what they are studying or watching, have them answer you in Spanish. They can!
 Blessings! ~ Mrs. McConnel





Hostess Supper

The Annual Hostess Supper will be held on Saturday, February 20, at 5PM in the school gym. Our speaker will be Mr. Al Bandstra and the music will be led by Bruce & Lisa Groenendyk and Doug & Lisa Van Gorp. If you are interested in joining, please contact Stacie Fynaardt at (641)780-1894 or Clarice Meinders (641)780-0126. New this year, we will have the event live-streamed via Facebook and donations from guests unable to attend can be mailed to or dropped off at the school, 110 Peoria West St, Pella, Iowa 50219 or given to hosts.

Warm Welcome

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

Spare Change

The School Circle piggies are starting to fill out! This is a School Circle sponsored event and everyone can participate. Send your loose change (or checks) with a student or bring it to the school office by February 26. Prizes will be awarded to the class with the most money and the class with the highest weight. Total weight as of February 2 is 84.9lbs. Trying to get to 100lbs! Questions can be directed to Stacie Fynaardt at (641)780-1894.

Peoria Christian School Circle Meeting

January 14, 2021

All members were present.
Barb opened with prayer.

Secretary's Report: Meeting minutes reviewed from September 24, 2020.

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning balance \$11934.24
Ending balance \$ 50572.57

Fundraisers:

- Pig's – They are located in the school hallway in the "pig pen". There are going to be two winners, one based on weight, and the other based on amount. Each grade level has a pig, along with the teachers. This started the week of Jan 11th and will end Friday, Feb 26th. Prizes will be a choice of pie

in a teachers face or extra recess. For the teachers, the prize will be a free module. Stacie will get pictures on Facebook and in the weekly Pathfinder.

- Flamingo's – On hold
- Dutch Letters – Michelle and Nella to chair. The date to make the letter's will be Saturday, March 13th.
- Sub Sandwiches – Possibly Fall 2021
- Butter Braids – Suzy will chair. Will plan on doing this in the fall of 2021.
- Bazaar – Friday, November 12th. Christmas theme. Lisa and Heidi to chair, Suzy will do supper.

Box Tops: Sheri Veldhuzien is in charge of this.

Devotions for next meeting: Stacie. Next meeting: Thursday, April 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the school library.

AC Units

Due to central air being installed in the school this summer, we are no longer in need of window units. If we have been borrowing your A/C unit, please make sure to come pick it up from the school by February 12. Any unit not picked up will be donated to the Bibles for Missions Store in Pella.



S C H O O L



C A L E N D A R

February	
February 4	4-8PM Parent Teacher Conferences
February 5	No School
February 10	PCHS 8 th Grade Visit Day
February 11	TRIP Orders Due
February 12	No School ~ Staff Inservice
February 15	Make-Up School Day ~ Presidents' Day
February 20	5PM Hostess Supper
February 22	7PM PCHS Parent Preview Night
February 23	Local Fine Arts Night 7pm
February 24	2:35PM Dismissal ~ Staff Inservice
February 26	8:30AM Chapel ~ Brian Ochsner
March	
March 4	District Fine Arts Night 7PM, PCGS
March 5	TRIP Orders Due
March 8	Warm Welcome Supper 6:30PM
March 10	Kindergarten Round Up
March 12	2:15PM Dismissal, End of 3 rd Quarter
March 15-17	8 th Grade Class Trip
March 15-19	Spring Break
March 23	Knowledge Bowl, PCGS
March 26	8:30AM Chapel ~ Rick Admiral
March 26	Report Cards Go Home
March 26	TRIP Orders Due

Dutch Letters

After taking a year off, Dutch Letters are returning! The unbaked treats are perfect for your freezer and can be baked and enjoyed whenever a warm Dutch treat is needed. Orders can be placed by contacting a school family, filling out an order form at school or by contacting Michelle De Haan at (641)660-7373 or nmdehaan@windstream.net. Individual letters are \$4.25, 6 for \$25 or 12 for \$48. Orders are received on a first come, first serve basis and are due no later than March 5. We will make the letters on Saturday, March 13 and orders must be picked up that day. Many willing hands are needed on March 13 as we roll out and package up these delicious treats! Contact Michelle De Haan or Nella Veenstra (641)295-1586 with any questions.

CHAPEL

Chapel will be held on February 26 at 8:30am in the school gym. Pastor Brian Ochsner from Sully CRC will be our speaker. Please join us for a morning of worship!