

# 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

### Christian Education

This year we are having Christian Education week April 5<sup>th</sup> through April 9<sup>th</sup>. It is a week where we specifically take time to celebrate having an ability to learn from a Christian perspective. We should always take time to celebrate Christian Education but especially with all of the unknowns we had at the beginning of this school year. Also, because we were not able to celebrate in person due to Covid-19 last year. By the time you read this, Christian Education week will be over, but here are the themes for the week so that you can look for them on our Facebook page:

- Monday's theme: Pajama Day (check out those students in their PJ's)
- Tuesday's theme: Twin Day (Can you guess my twin?)
- Wednesday's Theme: Wacky Wednesday (look at those hair styles)
- Thursday's Theme: Each student was to wear the same color as their chapel group
- Friday's Theme: Blue Peoria T-shirt and jeans (love those T-shirts)



From reading above, there is a lot of fun and exciting items planned for the week, but there is so much more. We also have chapel planned for Tuesday and Friday morning where Joel Brummel and Mr. Al Bandstra are the scheduled speakers and some high school students are supposed to come and share chapel songs. Be sure to ask the students what they learned during chapel and if they enjoyed the high school students leading the songs. Finally, our Grandparent day on Friday, April 9, has the students putting on a concert and our 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in a Cultural Fair. Our Cultural Fair has judges and awards and feedback but the best part is the fact that all the students learn about a country which they have to then share from a Biblical perspective. They have to do research on items like the country's religion, political system, art, literature, architecture, customs, traditions, careers, and transportation. Then they have to tie all these back to the Bible and explain if their country is using these items how God intended them.

This is a very busy week for us during Christian Education week, but we want our students, parents, grandparents, and society as a whole to see and understand why Peoria Christian School is a place where you want to send your student. Parents have asked me why would I pay to send my student to school when public education is free. Well my answer is easy, I want a place where each student is loved, prayed for, prayed with, personally disciplined, and where the Bible is taught through every subject, which is how God originally intended it. There is no such thing as neutrality (James 4:4 and Matthew 12:30) which is why taking time to celebrate Christian education is so important. We aim not just to be a school that offers a Bible class and prayer, but instead our goal is to disciple each student to help them prepare to enter a lost and dying world (Proverbs 22:6 and Romans 5:12).

Thank you for your continued support and be sure to check out our pictures from Christian Education week on our Facebook page. ~ Jeremy Copenhaver

# Peoria Christian School Board News

## April Board Minutes

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal 500. President Adam Fynaardt read from Romans 8:1-8 and opened with prayer. All members were present with Spencer Fynaardt via video conference.

Minutes of the March Board Meeting were read and approved. New Business:

- No members visited school during the past month.
- From the Ed Committee, the Grandparents Day program will be in the gym this year.
- From the Ed Committee, different possible options for this years 8th grade class gift were mentioned.
- From the Ed Committee, a motion for an additional field trip was approved.
- From the Ed Committee, a motion was made to approve some changes to the Covid policy that relaxes some of the restrictions.
- From the Principal, the annual reporting to CSI for accreditation is being worked on and will be ready for the April 15th deadline.
- From the Promotions Committee, some potential new fundraisers and school promotional opportunities were discussed.
- From the Promotions Committee, a reminder that Registration and Society Meeting are on July 26th this year.
- From the Finance Committee, all committees are asked to submit any budget change requests so they can work on finalizing the budget for the 2021-2022 school year.
- From the Endowment Committee, an update was given regarding the current standing of the Endowment account and how well it is doing.
- From the Athletic Committee, a motion was made to allow Mr Cope to schedule combined field days and other PE related activities with Sully with an FYI to Board instead of a Board request each time.
- From the Building Committee, they are working on the replacement of the classroom doors as they have split and warped and several will no longer fully close.

Next meeting: Monday, May 3rd, 7:00PM.

Jeff Vander Molen closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Van Der Hart, Acting Secretary

**Part Time PLS Teacher:** We are looking for a part time teacher for next school year. This teacher would ideally work all 5 days of the week, work mostly during the mornings, and his or her contract time will total 40%. This part time position is specifically to focus on personalized learning for our students. Anyone that is interested in this position, please contact Jeremy Copenhaver ([principal@peoriachr.org](mailto:principal@peoriachr.org)) for more details. Thank you for your prayers as we seek to fill this position.

**1st/2nd grade Teacher:** We are looking for a 1st/2nd grade teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Please be praying that we fill this position. Anyone interested in this position, should contact Jeremy Copenhaver ([principal@peoriachr.org](mailto:principal@peoriachr.org)) for more details.



## A Note from Music

We are looking forward to sharing our gifts of music with you all at Grandparent's Day! You will get to hear all of the classes singing, 3rd and 4th grade chimes, and 5th-8th grade band students. May God be glorified through our gifts of music!

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Mrs. Ansley

### Pre-K & Kinder

This past month was filled with exciting activities in PreK and Kindergarten. The Wednesday before Spring Break was PreK and Kindergarten round up. Our current PreK students enjoyed being Kindergarteners for a morning. We also got to meet potential new friends for next year. We pray that all the students who attended round up will join our room next year. After Spring Break, the Kindergarten students started coming to school all five days of the week! We also started learning about the country of Ghana for our cultural fair project. We also enjoyed going to the sheep farm with grades 1-4. The baby lambs were so fun to hold!

~Mrs. Klaasen

### Spanish

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

**1st Grade:** Parts of a room: Ask your child to head out the puerta in the morning.

**2nd Grade:** Meal items! Ask your child to use good manners at the mesa.

**3rd Grade:** Shapes! Ask your child to name a shape in Spanish!

**4th Grade:** Meal items! Ask your child to name the dishes in Spanish as he/she helps set the table.

**5th Grade:** Conjugating verbs! Have your child tell you they speak Spanish, in Spanish.

**6th Grade:** Restaurant Vocabulary! Have your child use our vocabulary words the next time you're out to eat!

**7th and 8th Grade:** Clothing items! Ask your child to name an item he/she is wearing.

Blessings!

Mrs. McConnell

### 1st & 2nd

In First/Second grade History, we have been learning about our community helpers, leaders and places. We also learned that Benjamin Franklin did many things to serve his community such as starting the first library and post office. He also set up a fire department and hospital for his community. He enjoyed serving the people. God has asked us to serve others. We can serve others in our community by offering to help people. Galatians 5:13 says, "By love serve one another." ~ Mrs. T. Van Wyk

## Classroom Updates



### 3rd & 4th

Most years, our class attends Ag Day in the spring and we learn about a variety of agricultural topics. Unfortunately, this year Ag Day is not happening, so we decided to have our own set of days. This past month, we had Suzy Veenstra come and talk to us about beekeeping. She brought different equipment that is used and let us hold and try on the items. We also got to taste some of the yummy honey their bees made last year! After spring break, we invited the younger grades to go with us to visit a sheep farm. We spent all of our time in the lambing barn. While there, we were able to pet some sheep, hold lambs, watch a ewe be sheared, and see an ultrasound. We all had a fun time and look forward to a few more special days before the end of the school year! ~ Miss Taft

**Resource Room**  
IXL benefits us in the classroom as well as life. It helps us understand lessons in the classroom before and after we get our objective. Most people like IXL as it helps us understand things we didn't even know about before, such as check registers. When we master 1 week or that week's objectives (math and language arts), we get 1 point. If we get a certain amount of points, we can "buy" different prizes. Such as lunch with a teacher or a shoeless coupon. IXL can benefit us in our daily life. How you may ask? When the students come in to learn the objective, sometimes they are like "Oh I just heard about that!" or "My mom talked about that!" IXL is great for your mind." ~ submitted by Madi Veenstra

**Classroom Updates**

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>**  
The fifth and sixth graders have been learning about cells. The smallest living organism. We have discussed what classifies living things and learned about how all living things are made of cells. Each cell has a purpose and function. This has opened our eyes to how our creator has put such fine detail into His creation. ~Mrs. De Zwarte



**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**  
On March 15, 2021, the 7th, 8th, and 9th graders left for Kentucky. It took us 8 hours to get to our hotel. The first day we had a car delay. We left in the cold, rainy weather and it was very gloomy. After it rained, it turned to ice. The drivers did not like that weather. We are so glad none of us got hurt and for safe travel. We enjoyed swimming. On the second day, we departed for The Ark Encounter. It was a great experience for all of us. It took us the whole day to visit The Ark. We had a great time while we ate pizza and played games that evening. On the third day, we visited the Creation Museum and we were there until 2pm. We then drove home and arrived back at the school at about 11:00pm. We are so thankful we were able to go on the trip. Even though we had to wear masks, we had a good time. We were so glad and happy we could still go even though Covid-19 was still affecting us. "And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground." Nehemiah 8:6  
Some of the highlights from the trip:  

- The planetarium at the Creation Museum
- The Virtual Reality at The Ark Encounter
- The 7c's at The Creation Museum
- The Playground at The Ark Encounter
- The K-9 demonstration at The Ark Encounter
- Swimming and games at the hotel
- The " Fearfully and Wonderfully made" exhibit at The Creation Museum
- There were cool visuals, for example the pillars about Genesis at The Ark Encounter.
- The Zorses (Zebra and Horse) and the Zonkeys (Zebra and Donkey crossbreed) at The Ark Encounter
- The whole experience

 Submitted by Mack Veenstra and Madi Veenstra

# WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING



## LOG-STO

The Legacy of Grace STO is now accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year. The application deadline is April 30, 2021. Please apply online at [www.logsto.org/application-info.cfm](http://www.logsto.org/application-info.cfm). If you would like to know more about this organization or how it helps those in need with tuition assistance, email Mike Van Der Hart at [mvanderhart@vermeer.com](mailto:mvanderhart@vermeer.com).

## Re-Enrollment Paperwork

Parents, please remember to review, sign all highlighted fields, and return paperwork for next school year by May 6th. We hope to start ordering textbooks and materials for next school year by May and this is very helpful for that process.



## Pre-k/Kindergarten Round-Up

Pre-k/Kinder Roundup: We praise God for the 7 students that came for pre-k/kinder Roundup. Please be praying for these students and parents as they make their decisions regarding which school to attend next year. Lord willing they will all decide to come to our school. Finally, remember to pray for additional students and families to consider coming to Peoria Christian School.

WHAT'S  
**EVENTS**  
 HAPPENING

### SAVE THE DATE

On Thursday, May 6, at Noon Dr. Jason Lisle from Answers in Genesis will be speaking. All community and society members are invited to this presentation. Dr. Lisle is a Christian astrophysicist who researches issues pertaining to science and the Christian Faith. Look for more information in your church bulletins and the Weekly Pathfinders.



### Kindergarten Graduation

Kindergarten Graduation will be Wednesday, May 19th. This will take place at the end of the school day. Kinder parents please make sure to save this date and more details will be sent closer to the event.

### Robotics

Due to the high level of participation in track this spring, there will be no more Robotics for this school year. We want to say thank you to Mr. Ron Meinders for putting this club together again this year. Please make sure to say thank you to him the next time you see him.

### Grace Counseling

Jora Van Maanen from Grace Counseling came to our school to speak with our students on March 31st. She is also scheduled to come back to our school on April 14th. She spoke to our students about how Christians should resolve conflict and what does it look like to be a good Christian friend? As a school, we have made available the option to have additional counseling services for our families. If you would like to know more about that possible service, please contact Jeremy Copenhaver to discuss this further.



### Graduation

Please save the date for Graduation. Eighth grade graduation is scheduled for Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM at Peoria CRC. Please make sure to note the change in date.

# WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING

## Science Center

April 22nd we are tentatively planning to go to the Science Center in Des Moines. Please be praying for our staff and students on this trip.



## District V Track Meet

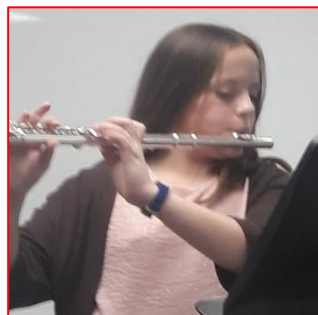
The District V Track Meet is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21st at Lacy Complex in Oskaloosa. This is for 5th-8th grade students. More details will be sent to parents but please make sure to save the date.



## Pre-K/K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day

Lord willing field day will take place on Friday, April 30th. Sully Christian School is planning to join us for field day. We are excited for the students to showcase their athletic skills that God has gifted them and to have community building with Sully Christian at the same time. More details will be sent to parents.





S  
C  
H  
O  
O  
L



C  
A  
L  
E  
N  
D  
A  
R

April	
April 14	Grace Counseling
April 21	District V Track Meet in Oskaloosa
April 22	All School Field Trip Science Center
April 23	Trip Orders Due
April 28	2:35PM Dismissal
April 30	PK-4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Track & Field Day with Sully Chr.
April 30	5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Dodgeball/Kickball with Sully Chr.
May	
May 6	12 PM Dr. Jason Lisle from Answers in Genesis
May 6	1:15PM Dismissal
May 7	No School
May 10-14	Map Testing
May 19	Kindergarten Graduation
May 20	2:15PM Dismissal
May 20	7:00PM 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation
May 21	8:30AM Chapel ~ Pastor George Den Oudsten
May 21	Last Day of School 1:15PM Dismissal
June	
June 4	All Parent School Cleaning

### Dutch Letter Thank You

Thank you to everyone who supported us in this fundraiser! We are especially thankful for the large number of you who showed up on Saturday, March 13, and helped us make the Dutch Letters. We do not recall ever having so many people on Saturday and we were done in record time! Even though we made fewer Dutch Letters, our donors have been generous and we raised right around \$5,000 again this year. We serve a great God and we are grateful to be a part of this wonderful community. Thank you! ~ Nella Veenstra & Michelle De Haan

