

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

The Gardener

"The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail" (Isaiah 58:11).



From this verse, it seems as though we are God's seeds and God is the gardener. For those that garden, you may definitely be able to relate. The seed or plant on its own would wither and die but you need to feed, water, and take time to take care for the plant. God seems to be trying to teach us that on our own, we would be lost, wouldn't grow, and we would choose sin and death; however, because of Christ who nurtures, feeds, waters, and cares for His plants, we can grow into a well-watered garden.

God allows us to help nurture and train His children (I Corinthians 3:6-8) and here at Peoria Christian School, it is so refreshing that we have the opportunity to teach our students from a Reformed Biblical perspective. We are able to pray for, pray with, teach the Word of God, and personally disciple the students on an everyday basis (Colossians 1:9-11). Even with the warmer temperatures and many reminders that the school year is not over yet, it is a praise and blessing to see the students still growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18).

With the end of the school year fast approaching, I want to invite everyone to our upcoming graduations. It is a great way to show support of our students and see God's growth in each one of their lives. Our kindergarten graduation is coming up on Wednesday, May 19th at 2:30 PM. We have 5 kindergarten students graduating to 1st grade. Our 8th grade graduation is coming up on Thursday, May 20th, at 7:00 PM. We have 7 eighth grade graduates this year. I want to personally invite you to come celebrate these milestones in our students' lives. I hope to see you at both events.

Thank you for your continued support,
 Jeremy Copenhaver



Peoria Christian School Board News

School Board Meeting: May 5, 2021

The Board sang from PH419. President Adam Fynaardt read from 1 Timothy 2:1-7 and opened with prayer.

All members were present.

Minutes of the April Board Meeting were read and approved.

- Kevin Van Der Hart and Adam Fynaardt visited school during the previous month and gave favorable reports.

- The Ed committee updated the board on the status of our open 1st/2nd grade teaching position and part-time PLS teaching position.

- From the Ed committee, the board approved field trips for the 1st /2nd ,3rd/4th , and 5th/6th grade classes.

- The SIT committee reported that our annual reporting through CSI has been completed.

- From the Athletic committee, the board approved signing a sharing agreement with Pella Christian to enable Peoria Christian School students to participate in Pella Christian athletics as we have done the past several years.

- The board discussed the maternity leave policy and changed some of the wording in the policy for clarity.

- The board created a list of names for new board member nominees.

- Next meeting: Monday, June 7th at 7:00PM.

Dan Hol closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Spencer Fynaardt, Secretary



A Note from Music



Some highlights from this month in music class: PreK/K has been learning about timbre and how God has made each of our voices unique. 1st/2nd grade class has listened to the story of Peter and the Wolf and played the wolf game. 3rd/4th graders will be looking at instruments in the band so the 4th graders can choose an instrument for 5th grade. 5th-8th graders are working on creating a jingle for a commercial. 6th-8th grade band is working hard on learning how to be a marching band! Look for the band Thursday afternoon, Friday around 4:30, and Saturday afternoon of Tulip Time. We have the red wooden shoes!

Soli Deo Gloria, Mrs. Ansley



Pre-K & Kinder

As the end of the year approaches, we have many exciting things happening. We had a fun field trip to the Science Center in Des Moines. The students all had fun experiencing their first track and field day. We had a beautiful day to use our physical abilities to praise the Lord. The kindergarteners are looking forward to kindergarten graduation at the end of the month. All the students are excited about what the next year holds for them in the next grade. In Science, we are studying living things. The students planted flower and bean seeds, some of our flowers have sprouted and we are waiting on our bean seeds. We are starting to learn about the many types of animals that the Lord created. We will end this unit by taking a field trip to the Blank Park Zoo. The students are really excited for this trip.

~ Mrs. Klaasen



1st & 2nd

We have been blessed to have in person learning at our school this year! Students in 1st/2nd grade have made amazing progress in all of their subjects. They have also grown in ways that we can't really show on a test. These children have learned to show caring and compassion for their classmates and other students in our school. They know that God has given them a spirit not of fear, but of power, love, and self-control. They will be ready for the challenge of the next grade and I couldn't be more proud of each one of them! They want you to know what they have enjoyed learning this year in 1st or 2nd grade.

JJ: the life cycle of a frog

Hannah: how to spell words

Bella: how plants grow

Hudson: subtract 9 facts using a strategy we learned (Ex: Add the digits together for the number in all-it will be same as the answer: 15-9=4)

Luke: syllable types in Foundations such as the d syllable (double vowel-ai, ay, ee, ea, ey, oi, oy)

Matthew: how to multiply

~ Mrs. Van Wyk

Classroom Updates



3rd & 4th

In April, we went to visit Aleah's farm. We learned about cattle there, went on a hayrack ride, and learned about dogs, chickens, and sheep at her grandparent's farm. We also got to climb into the hayloft at Aleah's farm and enjoyed some yummy ice cream as a snack. We will be visiting Will's farm in May as well.

As we wrap up the school year, the students are excited to get to the last chapter in history. We will be studying the American Civil War. They have been excited to get to this point because they are very interested in wars and we will be completing a simulation, which is always different and fun.

We thank God for the wonderful year we've had and also thank all those who have helped us and prayed for us along the way!

~Miss Taft

Spanish

As we look ahead to the last few weeks of Spanish, I can't help but be filled with gratitude for all the learning and opportunities that have taken place this year. The students have learned so many new vocabulary words, have started conjugating verbs, and the older students have started to explore the linguistics of the Spanish language. I'm grateful for the small role I get to play in opening the eyes of our children to a global God who celebrates diversity in the people and languages He has created.
Blessings, Mrs. McConnell

5th & 6th

This year has been a great year in 5th and 6th grade. We always have a great time in this classroom sharing many laughs and memories. In reading, we enjoyed Carry On, Mr. Bowditch. It was pretty funny when Nat and Elizabeth flirted. Redwall was another one of your favorites. Some of us checked out more books from this series at the library. We also enjoy the various activities we do for science and history. Writing the Iowa ABC's book in history, and looking at yeast rise in science. We were learning about fungi and yeast is a type of fungi. Math is almost everybody's least favorite subject because Math can be pretty hard. In 6th grade, we struggled learning the circumference and area of a circle. For 5th grade, elapsed time was pretty hard. Having everything taught from a Christian perspective helped us when we struggled in math. Mrs. DZ had to remind everybody a lot that math is great to learn, and God made math so it is very good (Genesis 1:31). The 6th graders will surely miss this wonderful classroom. Thank you to Mrs. DZ for teaching us this whole year, and dealing with our talkativeness.
- submitted by Macy Van Der Hart



Classroom Updates



Resource Room

As a school, we have grown well over one grade level in math (104) and language arts (139). Our charts are showing exponential growth! The students have asked many questions, completed many tasks, paid the price for incompleteness, but most importantly, struggled through to success! Teachers have told me that it was reflected in the classroom and on standardized tests as well. My hope is for the students to use all they have acquired this year to become successful citizens that glorify God! Thank you for a smooth year!
~ Mrs. Fynaardt

WHAT'S
EVENTS
HAPPENING



KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

Kindergarten Graduation will be held on Wednesday, May 19th at 2:30pm. All parents and guests are welcome to attend. Please join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of these young students.

8th GRADE GRADUATION

This year's 8th Grade Graduation is scheduled for Thursday, May 20th at 7:00PM. All students are expected to attend and should wear their Sunday best (no blue jeans). Band students should arrive at 6:30PM with the remaining students arriving at 6:45. All guests are welcome and encouraged to attend as we celebrate our 7 graduates.

PART TIME PLS TEACHER

We want to announce that Mrs. Teresa Van Wyk has accepted this position. We want to thank her for her 7 years of service in 1st and 2nd grade which will be difficult to replace; however, we are very excited to see how God will use her in this new position at our school. Please remember to pray for her as she transitions to this new role.

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) for more details.

WHAT'S
EVENTS
HAPPENING

FACILITATORS
THANK-YOU

We are having a special day to recognize our facilitators. On Friday, May 21st, immediately following chapel, we will have donuts, coffee and a time to THANK YOU!!! All parents are welcome to join us to help tell our facilitators "Thank You". Facilitators, please RSVP to office @peoriachr.org.

Pre-K - 4TH GRADE
TRACK & FIELD

Many thanks to everyone who came to our joint Track and Field Day with Sully Christian. We were blessed to have our friends from Sully Christian with us that day and we are grateful for the good weather! Thank you for praying, cheering and supporting our students! Finally we are thankful to our Father for blessing us with bodies that move in athletic ways!

GRANDPARENT DAY
THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who attended our Grandparent and Special Friends Day last month. We hope that you enjoyed visiting our classrooms, learning more about our world at the Cultural Fair, and listening to the program. We were blessed and encouraged by your presence. May God continue to bless you all.

Chapel

Our next chapel will take place on Friday, May 21 and Pastor George Den Ousten will be our speaker. Chapel starts at 8:30am at Peoria CRC. Please come and join us.

SUMMER
OFFICE
HOURS

During the month of June, Mr. Copenhaver or Michelle will be in the office Monday-Thursday, 9AM-Noon.



WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING

TRIP ORDERS

May 14 is the last day for TRIP order this school year. There will be a few summer orders. Stay tuned to the school Facebook page for further dates.



TRACTOR RIDE

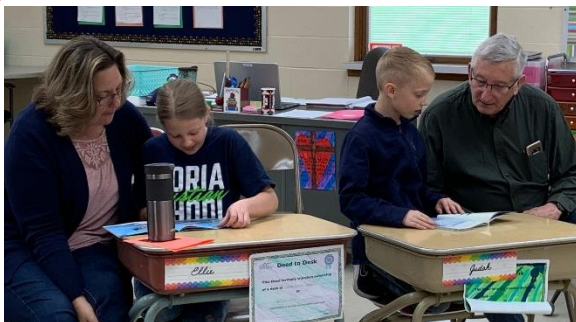
The Peoria Tractor Ride is scheduled for Saturday, June 19. More details will be coming. Contact Ruth De Bruin at 641-204-1855 or jimandruthdb@yahoo.com with any questions.

CALDWELL PARK PICNIC FIELD TRIP

Lord willing on Friday, May 14, we will pack up the kitchen, load the buses, and head to Caldwell Park in Pella for an all school picnic. Parents are welcome to join us for this field trip but must RSVP to the office. We look forward to an afternoon of fresh air and fellowship.

MAP TESTING

Our year end Map Testing is scheduled to take place on Monday, May 10 – Friday, May 14. These tests are important for our students and help our teachers to meet the student's individual needs. Please pray for our students as they strive to do their best.





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May	
May 7	No School
May 10-14	Map Testing
May 14	Caldwell Park Picnic
May 14	Last TRIP order
May 19	Kindergarten Graduation
May 20	2:15PM Dismissal
May 20	7:00PM 8 th 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
June 19	Tractor Ride

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:

- ~ Ziploc Bags of Any Size
- ~ Magic Eraser Sheets
- ~ Paper Towels



Abigail Nicole Hol

Hobbies: Reading
Dream Job: Veterinarian
Dream vacation: Italy, Holland, or France
Favorite book to read? *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt or *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* by J.K. Rowling
Funniest memory while at Peoria? "The Fitbit Incident"
Favorite field trip while at Peoria? Urban Air or Ice skating
Favorite hot lunch meal? Pizza or Chicken strips
Favorite quote: "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen - not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." -C.S. Lewis
Favorite Bible passage: Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
What advice do you have for younger students? Give it a try and do your best at everything for the glory of God.

Aaron Marvin Meinders

Hobbies: Playing video games and sports
Dream Job: Full time twitch streamer
Dream vacation: Going to Florida
Favorite book to read? *The Hobbit* by JRR Tolkien
Funniest memory while at Peoria? When Evan tried to kick a ball, missed, and fell backwards.
Favorite field trip while at Peoria? Ice Skating
Favorite hot lunch meal? Mac n' Cheese
Favorite quote: "There is one safe and happy place and that is in the will of God." - David Livingstone
Favorite Bible passage: Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."
What advice do you have for younger students? Don't focus on what other students think of you. Just be you.

Let's Meet the Graduates

Jocelyn Marie Veenstra

Hobbies: Playing piano, sewing, puzzles, baking
Dream Job: Physical Therapist Assistant
Dream vacation: Yellowstone
Favorite book to read? *Just Between You and Me* (Jenny B Jones)
Funniest memory while at Peoria? "The Fitbit incident"
Favorite field trip while at Peoria? Ice Skating & Children's museum
Favorite hot lunch meal? Walking Taco
Favorite quote: "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." -Betsie Ten Boom
Favorite Bible passage: Luke 1:37 "For nothing will be impossible with God."
What advice do you have for younger students? Trust God in all you do.



Alyson Ann De Bruin

Hobbies: Art(any type), Piano, Saxophone, Baking, Singing
Dream Job: Barista/Art teacher/ Baker or chef/Any type of artist
Dream vacation: Pluto/China
Favorite book to read? *Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling
Funniest memory while at Peoria? "The Fitbit Incident"
Favorite field trip while at Peoria? Ice skating/Science center
Favorite hot lunch meal? Farmer's delight/Spaghetti
Favorite quote: "Stop, drop, and pray." -Mrs. V. Dubs, 2019
Favorite Bible passage: Revelation 22:20-21 "He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen."

Rebecca Grace De Haan

Hobbies: Reading, writing stories, hanging out with friends.
Dream Job: Being a young-adult author
Dream vacation: Going to a Brazilian beach for 3 weeks
Favorite book to read? I love a LOT of books, but I really enjoyed The Selection series and the Michael Vey series. (Read them, they're good).
Funniest memory while at Peoria? "The Fitbit Incident"
Favorite field trip while at Peoria? The Children's Museum in Iowa City.
Favorite hot lunch meal? Spaghetti!
Favorite quote: "You don't get to choose if you get hurt in this world, but you do have some say in who hurts you." - John Green
Favorite Bible passage: Psalm 22:24 "For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him."
What advice do you have for younger students? Just be kind, and never think the worst of people. Don't assume someone is doing something bad if you don't know the whole story. Try to put yourself in their shoes if there is a disagreement, and no matter what, be flexible!

Let's Meet
 the
 Graduates
 (con't)

Jadyn Hope Klaasen

Hobbies: Reading, baking, playing outside, crafting.
Dream Job: Baker
Dream vacation: The Carribeans
Favorite book to read: Do not have one but, *When Calls the Heart* series by Janette Oke are great books.
Funniest memory while at Peoria: Rebecca flushing her fitbit down the toilet.
Favorite field trip while at Peoria: Ice Skating and Urban Air
Favorite hot lunch meal: Chicken patties, pizza, and chicken bacon casserole
Favorite quote: "Every day we live is a priceless gift of God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights." Dale Evans Rogers
Favorite Bible passage: Philippians 4: 8-9 &13 "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worth of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. I can do all things through him who strengthens me."
What advice do you have for younger students: Be joyful and try to think of the good in every situation. Love all and stay flexible.



Evan Jakob Tschetter

Hobbies: Gaming
Dream Job: robotic engineer
Dream vacation: Tokyo
Favorite book to read? Sythe by Neal Shusterman
Funniest memory while at Peoria? Chasing the bus to get my shoes
Favorite field trip while at Peoria? Urban Air
Favorite hot lunch meal? Little Smokies and Mac and Cheese
Favorite quote: "You can't trust anyone in this world, even your own shadow leaves you when you're in the darkness." -Ken Koneki
Favorite Bible passage: John 11:35 "Jesus wept"
What advice do you have for younger students? Show happiness whenever you can.