

# The Pathfinder

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

**Nurture - Develop - Educate**

## I Timothy 4:12

It is always exciting to see which verse God will use to challenge and encourage our students each year. At the end of last school year, last year's seventh graders helped choose the theme verse for this year. It was decided that this year's verse come from I Timothy 4:12 which says, "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity".



This is my fourth year of being the principal at Peoria Christian School and it is really neat to see how each theme verse has built upon each other from year to year. My first year the theme verse was from I Peter 2:9 and how we are chosen and peculiar. My second year the theme verse was from Proverbs 3:5-6 and how we are to trust God and not man. Last year the theme verse was from II Timothy 1:7 and how God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love, and self-control. So, the theme from the past 3 years has led us to this conclusion: God has chosen us which allows us to put our trust in Him so that we don't need to fear man or the world.

That leads us to this year and letting no one despise you for your youth. Mr. Al Bandstra lead our first chapel of the year and did a nice job explaining this verse to our staff and students and how it applies to our life. I am sure we will be challenged by other speakers on many people in the Bible that God used when they were young. This includes: David when he fought Goliath (I Samuel 17), the age that God called Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:6-7), the age when Josiah became king (II Kings 22:1), Daniel and his friends refusing to eat the king's meat (Daniel 1:8-16), and the lad who gave up his lunch for Jesus (John 6:10-13). These are just a few of the examples of God using people when they were young. So, make sure to remind each student when you see them that they are never too young to be used by God.

Thank you for your continued support and God bless,

Jeremy Copenhaver

# Peoria Christian School Board News

## School Board Meeting: September 7, 2021

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal 473. President Spencer Fynaardt read from Psalm 8 and opened with prayer. All members were present.

Minutes of the August Board Meeting were read and approved.

- From the Ed Committee, we currently have no applicants for our open 1st/2nd grades teacher position. Mr Cope is working with a few colleges to be able to visit and talk with current seniors, mid year and summer graduates, about our school and our opening.
- From Mr Cope, this week only we have access to a copy of this years' PCHS fall play 'Pippin' and both Board and Ed members are welcome to review it this week.
- From Mr Cope, a thank you note from Oskaloosa Christian School was read. The note was in response to a letter from the Peoria Christian Board to Oskaloosa Christian congratulating them on 75 years of Kingdom service.
- From the Finance Committee, the June drive total is \$25,690.28.
- From the Bus Committee, the fuel pump issue on Larry's bus has been resolved.
- From the Building Committee, the safety concerns with the new teeter totters have been addressed.
- From the Tech Committee, the new Touch Smartboards, paid for by Covid Stimulus funds, have arrived and 1 has been setup to allow for some initial staff training.

Next meeting: Monday, October 4th, 7:00PM.

Dennis Veenstra closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Van Der Hart, Secretary



## A Note from Music

I am so glad to be back in the classroom with my students this year! We are starting off the school year by asking the questions "Where did music come from?" and "Why does music exist?" and looking into the Bible to find our answers. We want to start off the year knowing why we sing and make music...to the glory of God alone!

~Soli Deo Gloria, Mrs. Ansley



### Pre-K & Kinder

We are starting our new school year with six Kindergarteners and one PreK student. Our classroom is full of excitement and energy this year. We have spent the first couple weeks getting to know each other, the rules, and expectations of being in school. In Kindergarten, we are learning how to correctly form letters and numbers. In PreK, we are learning letter names and sounds and positional words. In Bible, we are learning some of the attributes of God and how God's Word is our foundation.

~Mrs. Klaasen



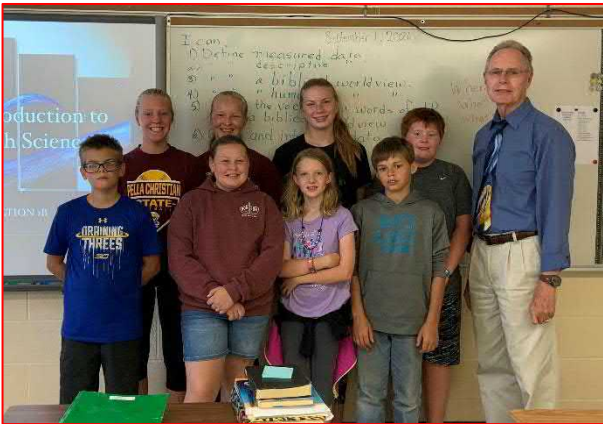
### 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>

This year in 1st and 2nd grade, our theme is "Standing on God's Promises." For the first 6 weeks, we are talking about God's promises in the Bible. So far, we have talked about "Promises are like presents" and "God gives promises to believers". We will spend the remainder of the year looking at some of the special promises He gave to us in the Bible. The first day of school we talked about how the rainbow was a sign from God, about a promise He made with Noah, and that even though a rainbow isn't strong or secure enough to stand on, God's promises are! Come check out the bulletin board throughout the year because we will keep adding to it!~Mrs. Vos



### 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

We have had a wonderful start to the year in the third and fourth grade class. With only 5 students, there is plenty of space for the students to spread out when working. Third grade has already started learning some cursive letters. Fourth grade had a few tough days at the beginning of the year remembering how to make some of the letters, but they quickly got used to writing in cursive again. In Bible, we started in the book of Genesis. The students know these stories well, so they have been telling me the story and then we discuss details they may have missed. It is marvelous to see these children telling the stories of the wonders of God!~Miss Taft



5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

In 5th and 6th grade, we started off the year by learning God's great design and purpose for minerals and rocks. This week we did a "Salty Crystals" experiment. Students practiced their observing and recording skills as they worked together to make crystals from epsom salt and water. We will be observing these experiments for about a week and determine what conditions are best for crystals to form.

~Mrs. De Zwarte

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

On the first day of school, we had chapel in the church. We sang a few songs and recited the pledges. The seventh grade girls each had a different Bible verse to share. Mr. B. spoke at the chapel on our theme verse, and how EVERYONE can be an example. Even a third grader can be an example to a second grader when it comes to playing nicely and being helpful. In the 7th and 8th grade classroom, we talked about Hebrews 12:2, "Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." We can fix our eyes on God by praying to Him, encouraging one another, and just thinking about Him. This year's goal is to fix our eyes on Jesus. ~ Submitted by Madi Veenstra, 8th Grade

Classroom Updates



Spanish

Thank God for a great start to Spanish! Enjoy reading what each grade has been focusing on.

**First Grade:** Greetings: Ask your child to say hello or good-bye in Spanish.

**Second Grade:** Days of the week: Ask your child what day it is.

**Third Grade:** Feelings: Ask your child how they are feeling and have him answer in Spanish.

**Fourth Grade:** Tens: Ask your child to count by tens in Spanish.

**Fifth Grade:** Action Words: Have your child tell you which action he or she prefers.

**Sixth Grade:** Around the house: Ask your child to name a room in your home.

**Seventh/Eighth Grade:** Internet: Have your child name a part of the computer.

~ Mrs. McConnell

# WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING



## SUB SANDWICHES

Sub sandwiches are back! Orders are now being collected for two types of subs on hoagie buns: 1) Ham, Turkey with American & Swiss Cheese; and 2) Ham, Pella Bologna with American & Swiss Cheese. Subs are \$3 a piece or a baker's dozen (13) for \$36. Orders can be placed by contacting a Peoria Christian family, stop by the school office or by contacting Nicki Veenstra at 641-625-4244 or Marla Van Der Hart at 641-780-0883. Orders and payment are due by September 17 and subs can be picked up after 11AM on September 24.

## CULVER'S NIGHT

Thank you for your prayers and support of Culver's Night. It was a huge blessing seeing so many society members there in support. We do not have the official amount raised for the school but we received about \$561.08 from the tip jar and an estimate of another 600 dollars from Culvers. We will relay the final numbers raised for the school once we have those numbers. Finally, we thank God from whom all blessings flow (James 1:17).

## SOCCER WITH SULLY

Lord willing we will have combined P.E. with Sully Christian School on the afternoon of Friday, September 17th. The event is scheduled to begin at 1:00 and students in 5th-8th grade will be playing soccer against Sully Christian School. This is a great community building opportunity and parents are invited to attend. Hope to see you there.

## HEARTLAND

Lord willing, Heartland Convention is scheduled to take place on October 7 & 8 at Dordt University. This year we have 7 teachers planning to attend. The two keynote speakers are Todd Whitaker and Dr. James Schaap. Please remember to pray for our teachers to be challenged, inspired, and continue to enhance their teaching from a Biblical perspective.

WHAT'S  
**EVENTS**  
HAPPENING

A Thrill of Hope  
A weary world rejoices  
*"In His name the nations will put their hope."*  
Matthew 12:21

**Save the Date...**

**Friday, November 12, 2021, for the Peoria  
Christian School Bazaar!**

This year instead of classroom baskets, each classroom will be contributing decorations towards a specific themed Christmas tree. These will be smaller, pencil trees.

If you would rather contribute money towards the decorations or lights, we would be happy to shop for you. Else we have included some suggestions below.

**Classroom Christmas Trees to be Auctioned off:**

- Pre-K/K: Winter (Snowflakes, snowmen, etc.)
- 1st/2nd: Gingerbread (gingerbread men or houses, etc.)
- 3rd/4th: Candy (Bright colors, candy ornaments, etc.)
- 5th/6th: Cabin (red & black, lodge-like, bears, moose, etc.)
- 7th/8th: Farm (black & white check, galvanized ornaments, farm animals, etc.)

**Schedule:**

- Bake Sale and Browse-n-Buy - 3:00-6:30pm
- Coffee Time - 3:00-4:30pm
- Supper - 5:00-6:30pm
- Live Auction - 7:00pm in the gym
- Childcare - 7:00pm in the school

**Please be thinking of ways you can help and also what you can donate to make this fundraiser successful. We greatly appreciate all your help as we strive to support Peoria Christian School. If you have any questions, please contact Stacie Fynaardt, Lisa Ver Meer, or Heidi Van Wyk.**



**SEE YOU AT  
THE POLE**

This year we are planning to join thousands of people around the United States by praying at the flagpole. We are blessed that we are able to pray and worship God everyday at our school, but this is a special day and time to unite with fellow Christian students and teachers that may not have that special privilege on a daily basis. We are planning for this to take place on Wednesday, September 22, at 8:10 AM. Please mark this on your calendar and feel free to join us on that morning.

# WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING

## PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Parents, please look for the schedules coming home the week of September 13.

## IXL/PLS SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

Mrs. Myrna Fynaardt and Mrs. Laura Fynaardt has agreed to fill in for this position until Mrs. Amber Fynaardt returns from maternity leave. We want to thank you for your prayers while we were trying to fill a temporary position and we thank both Laura and Myrna for being willing to fill in.

## VALUE CARDS

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are once again selling value cards. These cards contain discounts and coupons at numerous businesses in the Pella area. Cards are \$10 a piece or 3 for \$25. Contact a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader to purchase cards or visit the school office.

## CHAPEL

Chapel will be held on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30AM. Benjamin Anum-Higher is our scheduled speaker. Hope to see you there

## HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch is looking for the following donations:

- Frozen Applesauce
- Ground Beef
- Frozen Corn or Green Beans
- Cookies (to be made when needed)
- Cash donations to help offset the increased cost of meat and groceries

We are also looking for individuals to serve as substitute workers. If you are willing to help or have a donation, please contact Michelle De Haan at 641-660-7373.





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SEPTEMBER	
September 15	2:40PM Dismissal
September 16	8:30AM School Pictures
September 17	1PM 5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Soccer Game with Sully
September 22	8:10AM See You At The Pole
September 23	8:30AM Chapel ~ Benjamin Anum-Higher
September 23	4PM-8PM Parent Teacher Conferences
September 24	No School
OCTOBER	
October 6	12:20 Dismissal
October 7-8	No School, Heartland
October 15	1:20 Dismissal
October 20	2:40PM Dismissal
October 29	8:30AM Chapel – Mr. Al Bandstra
October 29	Report Cards Go Home

PICTURE DAY

Lord willing, picture day will be Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. This will be for all students, Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Pictures will begin at 8:30AM. Treasured Portraits will be our photographer again this year.

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

Please make sure to visit our website and Facebook page to keep connected and up-to-date on what is happening at Peoria Christian. We are excited to share what Christ is doing in the lives of our children and staff!

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:

- ~ Hot Glue Gun
- ~ Step Stool (2-3 steps)