

The Pathfinder

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

Nurture - Develop - Educate

Principal's Message

Thanksgiving

With Thanksgiving falling in the month of November, this is usually the time where people stop and thank God for His blessings. This past year, we definitely have had plenty to be thankful for at Peoria Christian School. Here are some of the ways where we want to thank God:

- We want to thank God for blessing us with another year of Christian education at Peoria Christian School (Ephesians 1:3-4). God has blessed this school since 1907.
- We thank God for blessing us with our 38 students this year and how they continue to grow in wisdom and stature, favor with God and with man (Luke 2:52).
- We thank God for continued health of our staff and students.
- We thank God for blessing us financially above and beyond what we would even ask or think (Ephesians 3:20).
- We want to thank God for all our teachers who continue to learn and strive to teach from a Biblical perspective:
 - Mrs. Klaasen (pre/k-kinder)
 - Mrs. Vos (1st/2nd grade)
 - Miss Taft (3rd/4th grade)
 - Mrs. De Zwarte (5th/6th grade)
 - Mrs. Heidi Van Wyk (7th/8th grade Reading/Bible)
 - Mr. Bandstra (7th/8th grade Science)
 - Mrs. Teresa Van Wyk (PLS)
 - Mrs. Amber Fynaardt (IXL/PLS)
 - Mrs. McConnell (Spanish)
 - Mrs. Ansley (Music/Band)
 - Mrs. Linda De Jong (Library)
- We want to thank God for our secretary and being able to juggle many responsibilities.
 - Michelle De Haan
- We want to thank God for our bus drivers who faithfully drive our students to and from school.
 - Marcia Van Gorp
 - Larry Rozenboom
- We want to thank God for our janitors who keep our school clean every day.
 - Stacie Fynaardt
 - Marcia Van Gorp
- We thank God for the new technology we received this past year:
 - 6 new touch boards (one in each classroom)
 - 6 new document cameras (one in each classroom)
 - 2 new digital microscopes
 - 20 new Chromebooks for our students in 3rd-8th grade
 - 6 new I-pads for our students in pre/k-2nd grade



We also want to thank all our prayer warriors and those who support our school financially. We could never thank you enough. Finally, we thank God from whom all blessings flow (James 1:17).

Jeremy Copenhagen

Peoria Christian School Board News

November 1, 2021

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal 169, I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord. President Spencer Fynaardt read from Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and opened with prayer. All members were present.

Minutes of the September Board Meeting were read and approved.

- Kody Roos reported on his school visit and had a positive report.
- From the Ed Committee, a motion was brought to allow a field trip for 5th/6th to the Russell Wildlife Area. Motion passed.
- From the Ed Committee, the annual review of the educational goals was completed at the last meeting and a small change is being recommended.
- Glenn Meinders reported on the visit by Mr. Cope and 2 Board members to the Trinity College job fair last week.
- Glenn Meinders reported on the annual IACS conference.
- Mr. Cope reported on the visit from Mary Patterson with CSI.
- Mr. Cope reported on the soccer event with Sully, Parent Teacher Conferences, and the Heartland Conference.
- Mr. Cope gave an update on a couple future field trips.
- From the Promotions Committee, updates were given on plans for the Hostess Supper and for next school years' Career Fair.
- From the Finance Committee, the annual Federal Tax forms have been completed.
- From the Bus Committee, an issue with getting the registration paper for one of the buses has been resolved.

Next meeting: Monday, December 6th, 6:30PM.

Kody Roos closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Van Der Hart, Secretary

STO Tax Credits

School Tuition Organization Tax Credits are still available until December 31. Iowans interested in reducing their tax bill while helping Iowa families afford Christian education can donate to the Legacy of Grace (LOG) School Tuition Organization (STO) and receive a 75% tax credit (up from 65% thanks to IACS 2021 coalition lobbying efforts). Peoria Christian funds needs-based scholarships through this unique tax credit donor program. Thanks to this unique school choice program, thousands of students have received funding to attend the Christian or Catholic school of their choice who otherwise could not afford it. Credits are still available for 2021. Interested in giving? Contact the school office or visit www.iowaSTO.org.



A Note from Music

It is already Christmas in music class! All grades are working on learning their songs for the Christmas Program. The 5th grade band is working hard to bring you your annual dose of Jingle Bells! Next Thursday our 5th-8th grade students and 6th-8th band will be joining together next week with the other District V Christian schools for our Fall Music Festival! I am proud of their hard work so far!

~ Soli Deo Gloria, Mrs. Ansley

Pre-K & Kinder

This month in Pre-K and Kindergarten, we have been working hard on our letters. In science, we have been learning about the weather. A highlight from this unit was learning about the wind. We went outside and blew bubbles. We watched how different speeds of wind affected the size of our bubbles and which direction the wind was blowing by the way our bubbles floated.
~ Mrs. Klaasen

1st

My return to work after maternity leave went much smoother than I anticipated due to the love the students poured on me! I received many cards that had some comforting verses in them and even a customized welcome sign! The students seem to have been working hard in my time away and knew the exact routine on my first day. We started out working on language arts using some teaching but mostly questioning to come to our answers. The students are really learning how to think for themselves. ~ Mrs. Fynaardt

1st & 2nd

We cannot believe another month of school has already passed! We have learned so much! We just finished a science unit on tame animals and will be moving on to talk about wild animals. Last week, we had fun picking our favorite stuffed animals from the classroom and sorting them by pets, farm animals, and zoo animals. We learned that some animals can be in multiple groups! We have started our Science Fair Project for Grandparents Day. Yes, we know that it's not due until April, but we had a good idea so we got an early start! Feel free to ask the students what their experiment is all about! ~ Mrs. Vos



3rd & 4th

The month of November is full of exciting things for our class. As a school, we get to enjoy the Veteran's Day lunch and Thanksgiving with our families. In our class, we will be having our first Ag in the Classroom visit. We will be learning about all the steps it takes to bring food from the farm to our dinner table. The third graders will be learning the last of their lowercase cursive letters and start on their uppercase letters this month. This month will be a fun one! ~ Miss Taft

Spanish

First Grade: The first graders are identifying family members and giving thanks for each of them.

Second Grade: The second graders are identifying clothing items they are blessed with.

Third Grade: The third graders are identifying colors God has created.

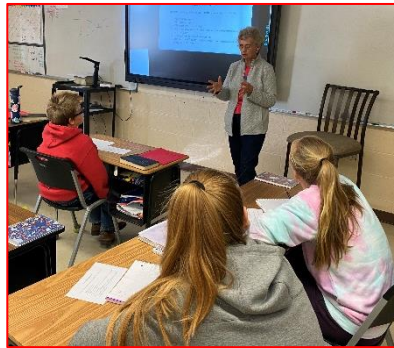
Fourth Grade: The fourth graders are identifying some of the animals God has created.

Fifth Grade: The fifth graders are using their God-given, healthy bodies to practice action words.

Sixth Grade: The sixth graders are learning the vocabulary words for different chores and discussing how doing chores can bless our families.

Seventh/Eighth Grade: The seventh and eighth graders are using their God-given knowledge to conjugate a new verb.

~ Mrs. McConnell



5th & 6th

In 5th and 6th grade, we began a new unit on fossils and dinosaurs. We began this unit by discussing the need to look at all aspects of this topic through a biblical lens, taking what we know in the Bible to be true to the information we find in fossils. To further our knowledge of this concept, students watched a video by Ken Ham discussing Biblical truths and how to combat evolutionist's views. To apply this knowledge even farther, students read various sources from both sides and determined if it was an evolutionist or creationist view and why. This is a skill students will need to apply to all aspects of their lives.

~ Mrs. De Zwarte



7th & 8th

In Bible, we learned about the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This was a fun lesson for most of us learning what they did besides writing the Gospels. Matthew came from the tribe of Levi. Mark's Latin name was John Mark. Luke was a doctor. John was the disciple whom Jesus loved. When learning about parables, we acted some out, like the parable of the two sons, the parable of the hidden treasure and the pearl, and the parable of the talents. We had to memorize the seven "I am" statements. We also came up with some trivia questions for you (Answers on page 8).

1. Who wrote the seven "I am" statements?
2. Which Gospel focused on prayer?
3. What is the shortest gospel?
4. Who wrote to Theophilus?
5. Who was known as Levi?
6. Who wrote Revelation?
7. Who wrote to the Greek speaking Jews?
8. Which Gospel was very quick and action packed?
9. What are the synoptic Gospels? (have mainly the same stories)
10. Which of the four Gospel writers were disciples?

~ Submitted by Macy Van Der Hart, 7th Grade



WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING



DISTRICT V FALL FESTIVAL

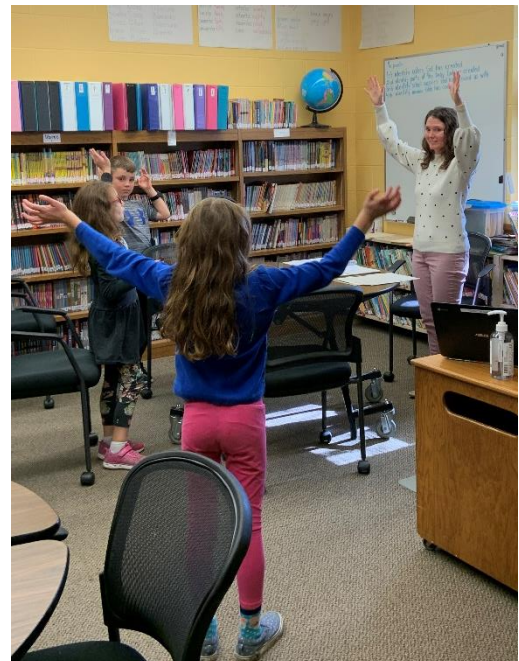
The District V Fall Festival is scheduled to take place on Thursday, November 11th at PCHS. The concert starts at 7:00PM but please plan to arrive early for preferential seating. Any questions, please contact the office.

CHAPEL

Our next chapel is planned for Friday, November 19th at 8:30AM. Pastor Bob Johnson from First Reformed Church in Pella is our scheduled speaker.

VETERANS DAY LUNCH & ASSEMBLY

We are planning a Veterans Day lunch and assembly on Tuesday, November 9th. If you are a veteran or know someone who is, we would love to honor you on this special day with a meal and short program. Please make sure to RSVP to the office (office@peoriachr.org) with the number attending and eating lunch. Lord willing, we hope to see you there.



WHAT'S
EVENTS
 HAPPENING

YEAR-ROUND
 FUNDRAISERS

Did you know that we have several ways you can support the school through out the year? Listed below are different ways you can support Peoria Christian School simply through your everyday living and purchases:

- Bredeaux Pizza: Collect the Proof of Purchase labels off the pizza box.
- Box Tops: Scan receipts for Proof of Purchase and /or collect Proof of Purchase labels.
- Amazon Smile: Make Peoria Christian School your charity of choice for Amazon purchases.
- Coke Points: Collect bottle tops and labels inside packaging.
- TRIP: Even if you don't have a student in school, you can order gift cards and donate proceeds to the school.
- Ink Cartridges: Save empty ink cartridges and bring them to school.
- Casey's Rewards: Sign up and designate Peoria Christian School to receive your points.

If you have questions, please contact the school at office@peoriachr.org or 641-625-4131.

CHRISTMAS
 PROGRAM

Our Christmas Program is scheduled to take place on Friday, December 10th at 7PM at Peoria CRC. Please make sure to save this date on your calendar. Parents, please look for more details in the coming weeks.

CLASSICAL
 STRETCH

We are looking for people that are interested in starting their day with a program called Classical Stretch and/or walking together in the gym. The goal is to stretch and walk every morning or as much as would work into your schedule from 6:00-6:30AM. The time is somewhat flexible, but would definitely be before school starts. We will begin on Monday, November 29th. Please contact Myrna Fynaardt with any questions or to sign up.



WHAT'S
FALL BAZAAR
 HAPPENING



A Thrill of Hope

The weary world rejoices

"In His name the nations will put their hope." Matthew 12:21



Classroom Christmas Trees to be Auctioned off:

Pre-K/K: Snowflakes/Snowmen

Snowflakes & Snowmen Ornaments, red & white colors

1st/2nd: Gingerbread

All things gingerbread men and houses.

3rd/4th: Candy

Bright colors, candy ornaments

5th/6th: Christmas at the Cabin

Red & black plaid, lodge-like, bears, moose, snow skis, rustic

7th/8th: Christmas on the Farm

Black & white plaid, galvanized ornaments, farm animals



Nov. 12, 2021



Coffee Time - 3:00-4:30pm

Bake Sale - 3:00-6:30pm

Browse-n-Buy - 3:00-6:30pm

Supper - 5:00-6:30pm

Live Auction - 7:00pm in the gym

Childcare - 7:00pm in the school

Fun for the Kids...

Join us for activities for kids of all ages in the school at 7PM. There is no charge for these activities.

Like Peoria Christian School on Facebook to get updates and to see items that will be on the Live Auction!



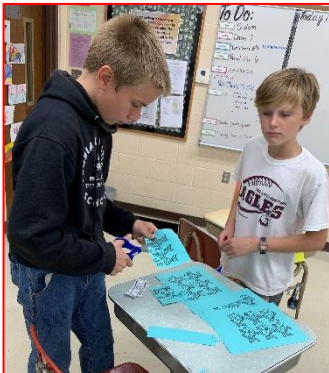
Supper Menu:

Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Rolls, & Dessert
~ Freewill Donation

To-Go Meals:

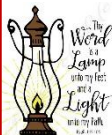
Available from 4:30-5:30PM. To request one, please contact Suzy Veenstra at 641-780-8856 by 12:30PM on Friday, November 12.





7th & 8th Answers
 1. John
 2. Luke
 3. Mark
 4. Luke
 5. Matthew
 6. John
 7. Matthew
 8. Mark
 9. Matthew, Mark, Luke

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NOVEMBER	
November 9	12PM Veterans Day Lunch & Assembly
November 10	12:20PM Dismissal
November 11	5 th -8 th Grade Fall Festival at PCHS
November 12	Fall Bazaar
November 19	8:30AM Chapel – Pastor Bob Johnson
November 23	8 th Grade Visit Day at Pella Christian High School
November 24	1:20PM Dismissal
November 25-26	Thanksgiving Break – No School
DECEMBER	
December 1	2:40PM Dismissal
December 10	2:20PM Dismissal
December 10	7PM Christmas Program
December 17	Christmas Program Make-Up Date
December 22	1:20PM Dismissal
December 23- December 31	Christmas Break – No School

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:

- ~ 8oz Styrofoam Cups
- ~ Forever Stamps
- ~ Kleenex
- ~ Paper Towels

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Here is a list of upcoming field trips for our students. Parents please be looking for more information in the Weekly Pathfinder and in the classroom newsletters sent home by your student's teacher.

- 5th & 6th Grade: Russell Wildlife to dig for fossils
- 5th-8th Grade: Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge, December 15

Heartland Conference

On October 7 & 8, seven of our teachers attended the Heartland Conference at Dordt College, in Sioux Center. Each of them gave us a brief glimpse into the value of the conference.

Miss Erica Taft

One of the sessions I attended was given by Jean Thomas from Siouxland Christian School about science. She is a kindergarten teacher and tries to make science as interactive as possible. In the session, she gave many ideas and examples on how we can make our own science class more interactive and engaging. I plan to slowly start integrating these ideas, and others, in my own science classes. My end goal will be every science unit having an experiment or interactive component that may not have been there previously.

Mrs. Melinda Vos

Shalom tends to be synonymous with peace, but that is not a complete understanding. Shalom is peace, wholeness, restoration, and everything-made-right. It is that feeling of longing in the Christian's heart for the return of Christ when all will be made right again. Jim McKenzie from Gainesville, Florida explained how their school has started taking the concept of Shalom and rethinking all their curriculum through the lens of Shalom. What does Shalom with God look like? What does Shalom with others look like? What does Shalom with creation look like? And what does Shalom with ourselves look like? To answer each of these questions they look at what knowledge, skills, and attitudes need to be cultivated to bring about a greater level of Shalom within the school and within each student. And it is when students move towards greater Shalom that greater flourishing can happen in all areas of their lives.



Mrs. Heidi Van Wyk

What a blessing it was to be able to attend the Heartland Convention at Dordt University. Brainstorming and learning from other Christian educators is a treat, and I was even able to visit with some of my past college classmates, past teachers, and new friends.

One session I went to was led by my cousin, Heidi Douma. The session focused on community and collaboration, and how we all need to work together for the students. She challenged us to listen, speak clearly, always follow through, step up to help, be kind, and to tell others "thank you". Another session that I really enjoyed was about the classroom climate led by Karen Christians. What is a climate builder in the classroom and what is a climate buster? She encouraged us to be honest with ourselves about our failures and to learn from them.

It was a wonderful time of growth and collaboration. We had the opportunity to sing together too, a real treat to raise our voices together in praise to our Creator. A big thank you to the board for allowing us to attend the conference.

Mrs. Krista Kladsen

This was my first year experiencing the Heartland conference as a teacher. In the past, I have enjoyed the break from school as a student and then as a parent with my kids home for the break. I enjoyed listening to the keynote speakers. I also attended some fun break out sessions. I would have to say that the thing that stands out the most for me from that weekend was the time I had with other teachers of small people. It was great to talk to and brainstorm with other Pre-K and Kinder teachers. In many of my break out sessions, we discussed, it doesn't matter the size or location of the school, PreK and Kinder live and learn in our own world. We live in a world of wonder and awe of the big and exciting things of life and creation, but also in wonder and awe of the things most people think are little and mundane.

Mrs. Teresa Van Wyk

I appreciate the opportunity to attend the Heartland Christian Educator's Convention this year. I have attended many conferences held at Dordt in early October since I started my teaching career. There are a few things that I always look forward to when I attend. One of my favorite parts of the conference is the praise and worship time to begin and end the conference. The singing is amazing when so many teachers are together in the BJ Haan Auditorium singing and praising God together. Keynote speaker, Todd Whitaker, was full of energy and insight into what makes a great teacher and strategies that can help your classroom management. Session topics about Dyslexia and Brain Breaks were informative and interesting.

Heartland
Conference
con't

Mrs. Karina De Zwarte

It was such a blessing to be able to attend the Heartland Christian conference. While there were many great things I learned, one of my biggest takeaways was the gamify session. Here we received various ideas of how to incorporate games into the classroom while furthering learning and student engagement. I plan to use this in the future as class review for tests.

Mr. Jeremy
Copenhaver

I attended a session which was entitled Fraction Action. This session was led by Dordt professors Ryan and Valorie Zonnefeld. This was a good lesson on remembering that we always need to teach that fractions are in a relationship of part to whole. We also should help to show the concept of multiplying and dividing fractions by showing this on a number line or through other visuals to help our students understand.

Legacy of Grace

SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

726 North "E" Street • Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

October 26, 2021

Dear Donor,

First and foremost, **thank you** so much for your previous financial support of the LOG-STO program. Your generosity has provided a quality Christian education experience to many children in families without the financial means, many at the poverty level or below.

This year the State of Iowa has again given the Legacy of Grace School Tuition Organization (LOG-STO) an opportunity to raise \$413,264 for tuition assistance.

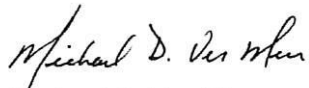
LOG-STO is in its 15th year of existence. Our purpose is to raise funds to provide scholarships for eligible students to attend a Christian school. **For 2021 the State of Iowa gives a 75% tax credit on all donations** to this great cause. LOG-STO is proving to be extremely beneficial in its effort to help families be able to afford a Christian education for their families.

Fortunately, in 2020 we were able to collect the full amount to fill our state allotment of credits. The families representing LOG-STO have one of the highest eligibility rates for receiving tuition grants for Christian education in the whole state of Iowa. This means the families that send their children to our schools are sacrificing much and are extremely dedicated to providing a Christ-centered education for their children. We praise God and thank you for your continued support.

On the backside of this letter there is a donation form. We encourage you to visit with your tax preparer and ask them about the **School Tuition Organization Tax Credit** to consider the potential of how this program may benefit you by reducing your tax liability. You can also increase the 75% benefit of your gift by donating stock, grain, and any possible Required Mandatory Distributions (RMDs) if you are at least 72 years of age. Please call me or your school's STO representative to better understand one of these options. I also ask you to pray and seek God's guidance in this matter to help us meet this year's needed funds. Thank you for your consideration!

I want to emphasize that your gifts should not replace the present giving that you do for Christian education.

In Christ,



Michael D. Ver Meer
President of the Board
(641) 780-8089

**Please keep this letter for your tax records.
This gift is tax-deductible under IRS rules for 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organizations.**

2021

Legacy of Grace

SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

2021

726 North "E" Street • Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577 • www.logsto.org

Individual Donation Form

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Social Security Number _____
(We are unable to distribute tax credits without name, address, and social security number)

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Check here if you would like your acknowledgement receipt emailed to you.
Be sure to include your email address above.

Grain Transfer	
Use Only	
I, _____	transfer _____ bushels
of corn or beans to Legacy of Grace STO on ____/____/2021.	
X _____	Date ____/____/2021
Producer	
X _____	
Business Representative	
Representative of _____.	

Please make checks payable to **LOG-STO**

Please send to: Legacy of Grace STO
726 North E Street
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Office Use Only	
Date of Donation	_____
Check No.	_____
Amount	_____