



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 2022

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him'" (Matthew 2:1-2).



Over the Christmas break, I was studying Matthew chapter 2, where God mentions that the star the wise men were to follow was specifically His star. For it would have been impossible for the wise men to find the Messiah on their own, but God wanted to show the world that the Messiah was born and chose the wise men to come, bow down, and worship Him.

Even as a new year begins, here at Peoria Christian School our goal remains the same: we teach from a Reformed Biblical perspective to help train our students to follow Christ so that the next generation can continue to point the world to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Thank you for your continued prayers and support,

Jeremy Copenhaver

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:5-9).

"Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children – how on the day that you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, the Lord said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words, so that they may learn to fear Me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so'" (Deuteronomy 4:9-10).



I Timothy 4:12. "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."

Peoria Christian School Board News

School Board Meeting: January 3, 2022

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal 500, "How Firm A Foundation." President Spencer Fynaardt read from Philippians 4:4-9 and opened with prayer. All members were present.

- Minutes of the December Board Meeting were read and approved.
- Kody Roos, Jeff Vander Molen, and Dan Hol reported on their school visits and had positive reports.
- From the Ed Committee, a motion was brought to allow 3rd/4th grades to go to the cheese house on April 22nd on their way to Ag Day. Motion passed.
- From the Ed Committee, a motion was brought to approve the 2022-2023 calendar as submitted. Motion passed.
- Mr. Cope reported on the following date information:
 - January 21st – School Field Trip – Iowa City – Children’s Museum and Ice Skating
 - January 28th – Events with Sully (Volleyball 5th-8th grades, 3rd-4th grades Spelling Bee)
- From the Bus Committee, the normal service work done over Christmas break was completed.
- From the Building Committee, the new classroom doors have arrived.
- From the Tech Committee, extending the sound closet in the gym to the south wall to better protect the equipment located there was discussed. Decision was made to move forward with this.
- From the Tech Committee, adding the Touchboard and the Digital Piano as being not rentable into the gym rental agreement was discussed. This will be added.
- From the Tech Committee, a motion to upgrade some obsolete networking equipment at a total cost of \$800 was submitted. Motion passed.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 8th, 7:00PM.

Jeff Vander Molen closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Kevin Van Der Hart, Secretary

2021 BLESSINGS

Bus Drivers: A big thank you to our bus drivers that drive our kids to school everyday. We thank God for Mr. Larry and Mrs. Marcia.

Volunteers: We want to thank everyone that has volunteered at our school this past year and over the many years here at Peoria Christian School. Our school would not run at the high level that it does without the grace of God and the many valuable hours that our parents, society members, and facilitators put into our school. Thank you for investing in the lives of our children (Ruth 2:12).

Peoria School Community: We want to thank everyone for your continued support through this past year. Your words of encouragement, prayers, and financial gifts were greatly appreciated. We are excited to see what God has in store for us in this coming year! Finally, please make sure to check out the latest postings on Facebook and share with your family and friends the amazing ways that God is blessing us here at Peoria Christian School (James 1:17).

Praise God: We want to specifically praise God for another year of blessing (Psalm 138:1-2). As the year ended, we had many things to be thankful for at Peoria Christian School, but ultimately, we thank God for the greatest gift to all mankind (Philippians 2:5-11).



A Note from Music

What a wonderful Christmas concert we all shared together! I am so proud of the hard work the students did as they prepared and then shared a beautiful gift of music. This new semester we look forward to working on new things like preparing for Fine Arts in grades 5th-8th and the 3rd-4th graders will be doing recorders again!

Soli Deo Gloria,
Mrs. Ansley



Pre-K & Kinder

In the month of December, we took time in Kindergarten and Pre-K to learn about Christmas traditions around the world. Did you know that it is summer in Australia and they have picnics for their Christmas meals? We learned in England, the Queen always broadcasts a Christmas message to the country. In the Netherlands, they celebrate St. Nicholas Day. Children hope Sinterklaas will leave them treats in their shoes. We learned about many other countries' traditions. We found, like in the United States, not all of the Christmas traditions have to do with the real meaning of Christmas. We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. ~ Mrs. Klaasen

Resource Room

New to IXL this year is a "trouble spots" day. For instance, IXL will alert that a student is missing a lot of questions from their objective: 5.DD.6 (area of squares and rectangles with fractions). That student will then be pulled back on Wednesday to work those problems with Mrs. Fynaardt in a different and deeper way to hopefully obtain independence. We know God makes us all unique to glorify Him, so altering methods to help students learn is part of a teacher's beautiful challenge! ~ Mrs. Fynaardt

1st & 2nd

In PE during the first semester, the PreK-2nd graders worked on Teamwork. Each class we talked about what teamwork means, what it looks like, and what it doesn't look like. Then we would do a game or activity that required them to work as a team to complete the goal. As the semester progressed, they really got the hang of what teamwork means. So then, much to my delight, the last week of school before Christmas Break, the 1st and 2nd graders were working on various activities throughout the classroom. I gave them a warning that time was almost up. The 1st graders working on a sorting activity were disappointed that they were not going to finish, until I heard a 2nd grader pipe up, "Hey, we can work as a team and finish it together!" I couldn't be more proud of the Christ-like hearts these students are growing, and I might have given them a little extra time to complete the activity! ~Mrs. Vos



3rd & 4th

Before Christmas, we learned about the solar system in science. The students made posters to show what they learned. They will be hanging in the hallway for a little while longer, so be sure to take a look! In January, we will be starting to look at the time of transition in the Bible when the Israelites have left Egypt and are on their way to the Promised Land. We will see that even though they are God's chosen people, they still grumble, complain, and quickly forget what God has already done for them. We will see how God still loves them and provides forgiveness, just as He does with us when we sin and seek reconciliation. ~ Miss Taft



Spanish

Before Christmas break, all the Spanish students learned or reviewed some Spanish vocabulary they could identify in the Christmas story. We talked about how Christmas is the cumpleaños of Jesús and that we give and get regalos to remember that Jesus was a gift to us. The students also listened to a Christmas story in Spanish. It was a blessing to be able to use another language God created to remember and celebrate the gift Jesus. We are excited to continue our celebration of Him in 2022! ~ Mrs. McConnell

5th & 6th

Oh what fun!! As we wrapped up the second quarter, the 5th and 6th grade classroom was filled with learning, laughs, and fun! We have been working on a class science project to determine what materials God created to best preserve an apple. Students have been observing and recording the changes of each apple over a period of time. As we finished our Bible unit on the Psalms, we memorized Psalms 98:4-6 which talks about making a joyous noise of praise to God, which we often do during this time of year as we remember our Savior's birth. The week before break we also made gingerbread houses! It was such a blessing to listen to my students laugh together as they worked on their houses. I also love this project because I see how God created them all so differently and uniquely as they express their creativity in their masterpieces! We praise God for all the opportunities of learning we have had this quarter and look forward to what the next year brings! ~ Mrs. De Zwarte

7th & 8th

We have just completed a mini unit about poetry. Everyone, in the 7th and 8th grade class, submitted a poem for you to read. We all worked very hard on each one. Some are about the field trip that we just took to the Neal Smith National Wildlife Center, the school, and Christmas. We really hope that you enjoy all the poems that we wrote for you to read. ~ submitted by Cayla Rozenboom

Poet in the sky
Pen dancing on clouds up high
With a butterfly
By Maria Meinders

Jesus came to save
To be born in a manger
And salvation He gave
He came to rescue a stranger
By Hannah Van Wyk

Christmas is a time of cheer
We play games at Christmas
We accidentally hit a deer
But they go up in flames
By Mack Veenstra

Classroom Updates

7th & 8th (con't)

I am at Peoria Christain School
This school is such a jewel
I love it here
I am sad this is my last year
By Madi Veenstra

There once was a Ranger named Nancy
She wasn't very fancy
But that's ok, because she was fun
But good thing she wasn't a nun
By Cayla Rozenboom

7th & 8th (con't)

The Korea Tortilla
There one was a girl named Mia
She had a friend in Korea
She traveled that way
For her birthday
And ate a yummy tortilla
By Macy Van Der Hart

There was a cow named Sue
She didn't know what to do
The cat ate the mouse
And ran in the house
And all she could do was moo
By Ashlyn Ver Meer

I stole myself a pick-up
As junky as it could run
I better keep it as a fun ride
Went for a ride for fun
I gave it a red paint job
And a lift for it to sit
Then last night it drove away
But first it danced then quit
By Ethan Klaasen

There once was boy from winter
He liked to get a splinter
Every month of the year
He liked root beer
But he wished he could be a sprinter
By Quinten Veenstra



HOSTESS SUPPER

Please save the date! We are excited for our annual Hostess Supper on February 19, 2022, at 5PM. We would like to welcome Van Harden as our guest speaker. We need individuals to serve as table host/hostesses. If you would like serve as a host/hostess or would like an invitation, please contact Stacie Fynaardt (bsfynaardt@gmail.com) or Clarice Meinders (glennmeinders@iowatelecom.net).

SAVE THE DATE

- Save the Date for these upcoming events:
- ~ An all-day field trip to the Children's Museum and Ice Skating at Coralville Mall. This is for all students in pre/k-8th grade. Parents, look for more details in the weekly email.
 - ~ Take Your Parents to Lunch Day (Tuesday, January 25th at noon).
 - ~ Combined 5th-8th grade Volleyball event at Sully (Friday, January 28th at 1PM).
 - ~ Combined 3rd-4th grade Spelling Bee at Sully (Friday, January 28th at 1PM).

BAZAAR THANK-YOU

We would like to thank all who helped make our Fall Bazaar a HUGE success! We truly see God's faithfulness to us as He once again has used you to bless our school. This year we raised over \$45,500! The Lord is good!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas program in person or on Facebook. It was a beautiful night remembering the birth of our Savior and a blessing that our students were able to share their gifts and talents that God has given them to each of us. We also want to thank Mrs. Ansley for all her hard work in helping to prepare our students for the program, a special thank you to everyone who contributed to the offering which raised \$344 for the Music Department, a thank you to everyone for praying for our program as the students were practicing and preparing, and most of all we thank God from whom all blessings flow (James 1:17). Finally, if you haven't had a chance to watch the performance in its entirety, here is the link on our school's YouTube page to view the program: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcvgrHv1imM>.

MAP TESTING

Our winter Map testing is scheduled to take place on Monday, January 10 – Friday, January 14. Parents, please try to avoid any appointments during this week especially in the morning as their attendance is really important on these days. Also, here are some tips to remember for next week: get plenty of sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and try your best. Overall, please pray for our students as they strive to do their best. Finally, here is the breakdown of testing for each day:

- Monday: Reading
- Tuesday: Science
- Wednesday: Math
- Thursday: Language
- Friday: Make-ups



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JANUARY	
January 7	Report Cards Go Home
January 10-14	Winter MAP Testing
January 19	2:40PM Dismissal
January 21	Field Trip to Children's Museum & Ice Skating
January 25	Take Your Parents to Lunch
January 28	8:30AM Chapel Mr. Nolan Wiersma
January 28	1:00PM Combined Event at Sully
FEBRUARY	
February 3	4-8PM Parent Teacher Conferences
February 4	No School
February 18	No School - Inservice
February 19	5:00PM Hostess Supper
February 22	7:00PM Local Fine Arts
February 23	12:20PM Dismissal
February 25	8:30AM Chapel
February 28	Warm Welcome Event

CHAPEL

Chapel will be held on Friday, January 28th, at 8:30AM in the school gym. Mr. Nolan Wiersma will be our speaker. Please join us for a morning of worship!

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

WARM WELCOME EVENT

The Promotions Committee is putting on another Warm Welcome's Event specifically for prospective families interested in our school. This event will be taking place on Monday, February 28, starting at 6:30 PM. If you know of any prospective families that might be interested in Peoria Christian School, please send the front office their name, email, phone number, and address so that we can contact them for this event.