

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

Looking for New Teachers

I think most of our society knows by now that we are looking for two new teachers. We are looking to fill 1st/2nd grade right now and 5th/6th grade for next school year. We know that God will send those candidates in His timing, but I wanted to relay what it is like to teach at Peoria Christian School. So, if you have been praying about applying or know someone that is looking for a teaching position, please pass this along to them.



1. Our small class sizes that we have. God has blessed us to allow our teachers to individualize lessons to help meet the needs of every student.
2. We are like a family.
3. Our 1:1 technology (I-pads for kindergarten-2nd grade and Chromebooks for 3rd-8th grade)
4. Our brand-new touch boards in every class
5. There are so many more reasons why you would want to apply to teach at Peoria Christian School, but the number one reason is that teachers are able and expected to teach from a reformed Biblical perspective every single day. However, what does that look like? Here are some actual examples of objectives that we use in Math:
 - I can describe God's covenants with a triangle.
 - I can use God's law for adding and subtracting integers to simplify expressions.
 - I can describe God's design of a circle.
 - I can see God's order when counting numbers on a number line.

I chose to include some examples in Math because people seem to think that teaching Math from a Biblical perspective is difficult, but I would disagree. Think about all of the ways God has designed shapes and all the covenants He has with them. Think about all His laws He has with the formulas. It is so exciting to be able to teach Math from a Biblical perspective.

Here are some objectives in Reading/Grammar that we teach:

- I can understand God's design of a sentence.
- I can identify characteristics that God has designed for a biography.

Here are some objectives in Science that we teach:

- I can understand God's covenant with gravity.
- I can defend a young earth stance from a Biblical perspective.

Here are some objectives in History that we teach:

- I can explain what God accomplished through the life of George Washington in the Revolutionary War.
- I can explain how God shaped Abraham Lincoln's life to prepare for leading a country through crises.

These are just a few of the examples, but I hope these are encouraging you to consider teaching at Peoria Christian School.

Thank you for your support and for praying about applying for our open positions.

~ Jeremy Copenhagen

Peoria Christian School Board News

School Board Meeting: February 7, 2022

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal 500, How Firm a Foundation. President Spencer Fynaardt read from Psalm 24:1-6 and opened with prayer. All members were present.

- Minutes of the January Board Meeting were read and approved.
- Kevin Van Der Hart reported on his school visit and had a positive report.
- From the Ed Committee, a motion was brought to purchase 12 music stands and 10 recorders using funds in the Music donation fund.
- From the Ed Committee, a motion was brought to purchase 1 flute air direction trainer and 1 mouthpiece puller.
- From the Ed Committee, a motion was brought to approve both the Answers in Genesis Christmas program and The Christmas Story as permitted Christmas programs. Mr Cope and Mrs Ansley to decide later which one to use in 2022-2023.
- From the Ed Committee, Pastor Bob Johnson has agreed to be the graduation speaker.
- From the Promotions Committee, the society meeting and registration will be on Wednesday, July 6th, this year.
- From the Building Committee, all but 2 of the new classroom doors have been installed.
- From the Building Committee, this Saturday, February 12th, they plan to expand the closet containing the sound equipment to enclose the Touchboard and digital piano as well.
- As New Business, a 7th/8th field trip to "Auschwitz: Not long ago. Not far away." at the Union Station in Kansas City was approved. The exhibit will go back to Europe in March.

Next meeting: Monday, March 7th, 6:30PM.

Drew Van Wyk closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Van Der Hart, Secretary

OPEN POSITIONS

We are continuing to look for a 1st/2nd grade teacher and a 5th/6th grade teacher. Anyone interested in either of these positions, should contact Jeremy Copenhaver (principal@peoriachr.org) for more details. Please pray as we look to fill these positions.



A Note from Music

The 5th – 8th grade students have been working hard to prepare for their Fine Arts events that they will perform in a few weeks! On the evening of February 22, we will have 5 vocal numbers, 6 piano solos, and 8 instrumental numbers along with several speeches performed by our students. Several of these numbers will advance to the District V Fine Arts night at Pella Christian Grade School on March 3. Come and join us for an evening of music!

~ Mrs. Ansley

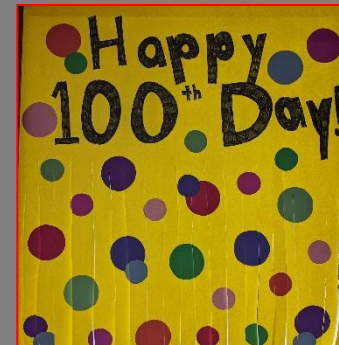
Pre-K & Kinder

Once again the month of January was a month of celebration in Kinder and PreK. We had one birthday and 2 half birthdays. It is so much fun to celebrate the lives God has given us. We also had lots of fun ice skating and visiting the Children's Museum in Iowa City. Thank you to the adults and big kids that helped us that day. In science, we began a unit on penguins. To start, we did a couple experiments to see how a penguin's blubber and oil on the outer feathers work. Each week we study a new penguin and see all of the similar and different features. We praise the Lord for these unique birds. ~ Mrs. Klaasen



1st & 2nd

We have been blessed to have completed 100+ days of school this year! The 1st and 2nd graders started counting the first day of school and on Thursday, January 27, they finally made it to 100! As we have counted through the year, we practiced different math concepts such as odds versus evens and counting by 5's, 10's, and 25's. On the 101st day of school, we celebrated with Silly Socks and Crazy Hat Day. We also spent the afternoon making a snack mix with 100 items, flipped a coin or rolled a dice 100 times, made a 100 link paper chain, and found 100 hidden Tootsie Rolls. We have been truly blessed to spend these 100 days learning and growing together! ~Mrs. Vos



3rd & 4th

Looking back at January, we have had a busy month. The third graders have now learned all their cursive letters, lowercase and uppercase, so they are completing their daily work in cursive. The fifth and sixth graders gave us a preview of our study of the tabernacle by showing us the models they made. At the end of January, we held our first spelling bee with Sully Christian. Great job to Matthew for winning the 4th grade spelling bee!

Looking ahead into February, we will be learning about the tabernacle in Bible, as well as, why the Israelites had to wander in the desert for forty years. In history, we are starting to learn about the first world war. And in science, we have been learning about weather and are now ready for an experiment. This experiment will be shown at the science fair in April. ~ Miss Taft

Resource Room

During this month, the students have been sharpening up their writing strategies, grammar and mechanics, and fraction brains. IXL provides me with many different skills the students need polishing on. With their teacher's help, I select a skill to work on for the week. Writing strategies may include identifying plagiarism for seventh and eighth graders. In grammar and mechanics, the first and second graders may be distinguishing between past, present, and future tense. The fifth and sixth graders may be tackling fractions of a whole (1/3*748)! Our school's overall growth is +55 (5.5 months) in math and +65 (6.5 months) in language arts ~ Mrs. Fynaardt

7th & 8th

In 7th and 8th grade literature, we have been reading, The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom. So far we see the constant theme of love throughout the book. We can see this love by the way Corrie, Betsie, and Father ten Boom help the Jews find safe places to live during this time. Another example of the love we are beginning to see is that the ten Boom family would never turn away a person who is hungry or needs help. We see God working through Father ten Boom, Corrie and Betsie by giving them all sorts of connections, in the town where they live, to help the Jews find safety. The ten Booms are risking their lives so others can keep their lives. In Psalm 119, we are reminded that God is our hiding place and our ever-present help. "You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word." (Psalm 119:114) ~ Submitted by Hannah Van Wyk

Spanish

Enjoy reading what each grade has been focusing on this month!
1st Grade: The first graders are working on identifying parts of their bodies God has created.
2nd Grade: The second graders have been busy identifying foods God has given us to nourish our bodies.
3rd Grade: Third graders have been identifying different sports God has given us to enjoy.
4th Grade: The fourth graders have been practicing ordering the months God has created.
5th Grade: The fifth graders have also been identifying sports God has given us to enjoy.
6th Grade: The sixth graders have been using their God-given knowledge to identify Spanish contractions.
7th/8th Grade: The older students have been using their God-given knowledge to conjugate ir/er verbs.
 ~ Mrs. McConnell



5th & 6th

The fifth and sixth graders have been learning about ancient Israel in history. Israel's history is unique because most of it is also recorded in the Bible. This past week we have focused on the tabernacle. Student's worked together to create a replica of one of the furnishings from the tabernacle. They constructed their own research to determine the dimensions, if known; what the furnishing may have looked like, and what materials it was made from. Then, they worked together to create a replica. We discussed how this was how God dwelled with His people during this time and are thankful for His spirit dwelling with us today.
 ~ Mrs. De Zwarte



WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING



PART-TIME SPANISH TEACHER

After much prayer and consideration, Mrs. McConnell will not be returning next school year as our Spanish Teacher. We want to thank her for her years of service at Peoria Christian School as a Godly example and all the hours she put in to help train our students to follow Christ. We wish her many blessings in the coming year. With that being said, we are looking for a part time Spanish teacher for the 2022-2023 school year. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Jeremy Copenhaver (principal@peoriachr.org) regarding this position. Please be praying as we look to fill this position.

BAND INSTRUMENTS NEEDED

Do you have a used band instrument sitting around your house collecting dust? Don't know what to do with it? Consider donating it to our band program at Peoria Christian School! Beginning band students will be able to borrow these instruments before investing in an instrument of their own. Donated instruments should be in good playing condition or playable with a little repair.

CAPITAL BUILDING AND MILITARY MUSEUM

Lord willing, we have two field trips planned for students in 5th-8th grade the week of March 7th. We are planning a trip to the capitol building on Tuesday, March 8th and the Military Museum on Friday, March 11th. Please save these dates in your calendar. Parents, look for additional details in the weekly email.



WHAT'S
EVENTS
 HAPPENING



FINE ARTS

Please save these dates: Tuesday, February 22nd, at 7:00 PM is our local fine arts and Thursday, March 3rd, is the District Fine Arts event at PCGS. Parents, look for additional details regarding both events in the weekly email.



DUTCH LETTERS

It is Dutch Letter season! These unbaked delights are perfect for your freezer for you to bake and enjoy them whenever you want. Orders can be placed by contacting a school family, filling out an order form at school, or by contacting Michelle De Haan at nick.michelle.dh@gmail.com. Each letter is \$4.25, 6 for \$25, or 12 for \$48. Orders are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, and will be accepted until March 11. Letters will be made on Saturday, March 19, and need to be picked up at that time as well. Willing hands are needed ahead of time to make dough and on March 19 as we roll out and roll up these tasty desserts!

Michelle De Haan (641-660-7373) & Nella Veenstra (641-295-1586)

NEW FAMILIES TO PEORIA

Pray for new families to consider Peoria Christian School. Lord willing, we have some events coming up that could hopefully encourage new families to come to our school. Remember to pray for the Hostess Supper (Saturday, February 19), the Warm Welcomes Supper (Monday, February 28), and Pre/k-Kinder Roundup (Wednesday, March 9). Pray that God would bring new families to our school that have our beliefs and fit right into our society.

WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING

HOSTESS SUPPER

The Annual Hostess Supper will be held on Saturday, February 19, 2022, at 5PM in the school gym. Our speaker will be Van Harden, radio personality from WHO. He will be speaking about "The Most Important Thing in the World." If you are interested in joining, please contact Dennis Veenstra at (641)780-2256. Childcare will be provided for children ages infant to 5th grade. Please RSVP to Stacie Fynaardt (641)780-1894 for childcare. For guests who are unable to attend, checks can be mailed to or dropped off at the school.

SPRING BREAK

Spring break is almost here. The dates are March 14th-18th.

PRE-K/ KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Pre-K/Kindergarten roundup is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9th. Anyone that has a student that would be interested in attending Pre/K or kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year, please let the front office know, so that we can plan accordingly. Also, if you know of someone that might be interested, please email the office their name, parents' names, email, and address so that we invite them to roundup.



WARM WELCOME EVENT

Invites have just been sent to families for this event. Please be praying for these families as they consider whether or not to attend. If you know of another family that might be interested, please let the office know right away, so we can still invite them to this event. Also, if you know a family that might attend, let them know that you would attend the event with them to hopefully encourage them to come.



S
C
H
O
O
L



C
A
L
E
N
D
A
R

FEBRUARY	
February 18	No School – In-Service
February 19	5:00PM Hostess Supper
February 22	7:00PM Local Fine Arts
February 23	12:20PM Dismissal
February 25	8:30AM Chapel, Rick Admiraal
February 28	Warm Welcome Event
MARCH	
March 3	2:40PM Dismissal
March 3	District V Fine Arts at PCGS
March 9	Pre-K/Kindergarten Round-Up
March 11	1:20 Dismissal
March 14-18	Spring Break – No School
March 25	Report Cards Sent Home
March 30	12:20PM Dismissal

CHAPEL

Our next chapel is scheduled for Friday, February 25th, at 8:30 AM. We have a change in the speaker. Pastor Nate Van Wyk is not able to make it and so Pastor Rick Admiraal is now scheduled to be our speaker. We hope to see you there.

GRANDPARENT AND SPECIAL VISITOR DAY

Please save the date. Grandparent and Special Visitor Day is Friday, April 8th. More details to come.

PCS WISH LIST

We are blessed by the many of you who look over this list every month and contribute the items that are listed. We are thankful for you and for your donations! This month we are requesting donations of these items:

- ~ 8oz Styrofoam Cups
- ~ Forever Stamps
- ~ Post-It Sticky Notes
- ~ Binders (1in-2in size)