



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

Christian Education: How God Intended It

This past week, we just finished celebrating Christian education. We had two chapels, one led by Mr. Jim Warden and one led by Mr. Al Bandstra, we had a Science Fair, we visited Independence Village, and concluded the week with Grandparent Day and a concert, where our students showcased their gifts and talents that God gave to them. It was a very tiring week but very rewarding at the same time, in which we hopefully did everything to glorify God (I Corinthians 10:31). I definitely am glad we specifically take time to celebrate Christian education.

I'm sure you have heard that Christian education is just simply public school that includes prayer and chapel. I'm sure you have heard that Christian education is just simply a way not to have your kids learn about evolution. I want to clarify that we do teach that God created the Heavens and the earth, we teach that God did it in 6 literal days, we also have prayer and chapel; however, God intended Christian education to be so much more. In Genesis 1:31, the Bible says, "God created everything and it was very good (Genesis 1:31)." This includes Math, Logic, Reading, Science, and all the different subjects. I think that it is important that we emphasize that there is no such thing as neutrality in the Christian language. So, when we say we teach from a Biblical perspective, it is not just trying to avoid teaching certain items, but teaching subjects how God intended them.

You might have heard about teaching from a Biblical perspective, but what does that look like. One of the many ways that Christian education looks differently is through how we teach objectives. Here are some samples of how our school concentrates on using Christian objectives compared to how it would look through a neutral perspective.

Institutional Objectives:

1. I can identify the shape of a triangle.
2. I can add and subtract integers to simplify expressions.
3. I can understand the design of a circle.
4. I can identify the subject and predicate of a sentence.
5. I can identify characteristics of a biography.
6. I can explain how George Washington led the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.
7. I can understand the rules of gravity.

Christian Objectives:

1. I can describe God's covenants with a triangle.
2. I can use God's law for adding and subtracting integers to simplify expressions.
3. I can describe God's design of a circle.
4. I can understand God's design of a sentence.
5. I can identify characteristics that God has designed for a biography.
6. I can explain what God accomplished through the life of George Washington in the Revolutionary War.
7. I can understand God's covenant with gravity.

So, when we talk about Christian education it is not just public school with chapel and prayer. It is so much more. Feel free to stop by anytime to see Christian education at its best.

Thanks for your continued support,
 Jeremy Copenhaver

Peoria Christian School Board News

School Board Meeting: April 4, 2022

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal 453, Let All Things Now Living. President Spencer Fynaardt read from Romans 8:31-39 and opened with prayer. All members were present except Kevin Van Der Hart with notice.

- Minutes of the March Board Meeting were read and approved.
- Glenn Meinders and Kody Roos reported on their school visits and had positive reports.
- From the Ed Committee, a motion was approved to allow Heidi Van Wyk to add any of the 3 proposed graphic novels as part of her curriculum.
- From the Ed Committee, a motion was approved to allow the PLS teacher to teach advanced 6th grade reading for any student who takes 6th grade reading while in 5th grade.
- From the Ed Committee, a motion was approved to add a 4th IXL half day for school year 2022-2023.
- A discussion was had regarding possible options the 8th graders have thought of for the 8th grade gift.

- From the STO committee, STO applications are now open for 2022-2023.
- From the Bus committee, they have 2 signed bus driver contracts.
- From the Building committee, they have 1 signed janitor contract so far.
- From the Long-Term Planning Building subcommittee of SIT, discussions were had between SVPA architects and both the Board and Staff. SVPA is assisting in determining which of the options presented at last years' Society Meeting are possible, and determining the rough costs of the options.

Next meeting: Monday, May 2nd, 7:00PM.

Dennis Veenstra closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Van Der Hart, Secretary

TEACHERS

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

STO

STO applications are open and available for families seeking tuition assistance for the 2022/2023 school year. Please visit the website, <https://www.logsto.org/application-info.cfm>, for more information or to apply. Contact the office with any questions.



A Note
from
Music

All grades are working hard on preparing for the Grandparent's/Special Friends Day! We look forward to seeing you there!

~ Mrs Ansley



Pre-K & Kinder

It was an exciting month in PreK and Kindergarten. We started the month with PreK and Kindergarten Round-Up. It is always neat to see the PreK students step up to the role of leader on that day. We had a great morning of meeting new friends and seeing what school will be like next year. We pray for those families as they make school decisions for next year.

After Spring Break, the Kindergarteners started coming to school on Wednesdays. We now are attending school all five days like the big kids! The last week of March we celebrated having our 101st day of school. We are thankful that the Lord blessed us with 101 days of school. We have also spent this month doing our experiments for the science fair. The class is excited to share what we have learned with others on Grandparents Day. ~ Mrs. Klaasen

1st & 2nd

The 1st and 2nd graders have been having fun using their artistic skills for science! Our Creator God has created beauty for us already, but He also created us to create! Now we get to use our creativity to create for our Science Fair Project. Being able to create gives us just a glimmer of an example of how amazing our Creator is to create our bodies so amazingly and perfectly!

~ Mrs. Vos



3rd & 4th

In March, we finished our reading textbooks and have moved on to reading novels. The third graders started a biography about Gladys Alyward, a missionary to China. The fourth graders have started *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. The students are excited and have enjoyed their novels so far. In History, we finished looking at WWI before spring break. We are now learning about the Roaring Twenties and how life changed in that time period.

In April, we have a lot of exciting things coming. Christian education week is the first week of April, Easter will be soon after, and we get to go to Ag day at the fairgrounds in Oskaloosa. Next month, be on the lookout for an update on each of these events and pictures to go with them.

~Miss Taft

Classroom Updates

Resource Room

All grades met their IXL mastery goal for the first time this month with the first and second graders being the highest! The students enjoyed some extra six square, dodgeball, and heads up seven (three) up. Next month, the students have been warned that the bar is being raised. Some grades need to master as many as eleven skills a week! Their hard work has gained them +69 in math and +83 in language arts.~ Mrs. Fynaardt



5th & 6th

This past month, we have been working hard on our God-given public speaking skills. We have been working on our Science Fair Projects at home and now we have been practicing our presentations at school. We have also been working on biome presentations in class during science. A biome is a large area of the earth that has a similar environment. Each student was assigned a city and they tracked the weather for that city for 2 weeks. They then used that information to present what the climate was like and what animals lived in there. While speaking in front of people can be intimidating, we are learning that practice and encouragement makes it easier!

7th & 8th

The week back from spring break we started reading The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien. The main character of the story is Bilbo Bagginses. Many of us haven't read books in the fantasy genre so we are keeping an open mind about the book. We are debating on whether or not the characters are good or evil. Also, we talked about how the Hobbit was an unlikely choice for adventure, and we discussed how God uses unlikely people like David. 1 Samuel 16:7b says, "Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

~ Submitted by Ethan Klaasen and Quinten Veenstra



School Choice Rally

Last month, students from Peoria Christian and Sully Christian visited the State Capitol Building in Des Moines. While we were there, we were able to tour the capitol building, attend the School Choice Rally, and visit with several representatives and lobbyists.



Spanish

Enjoy reading what each grade will be focusing on this month!

1st Grade: The first graders are identifying farm animals God has created.

2nd Grade: The second graders are identifying the seasons God has created.

3rd Grade: The third graders are identifying pets God has created.

4th Grade: The fourth graders are identifying different emotions/feelings God has created.

5th Grade: The fifth graders are identifying animals of the forest God has created.

6th Grade: The sixth graders are using their God-given knowledge to identify words they use when they are tourists.

7th/8th Grade: The seventh and eighth graders are learning music vocabulary and how they can use music for worship.

~ Mrs. McConnell



KINDERGARTEN

Do you have a student that will be of kindergarten age or know someone who will be? Look no further: Peoria Christian School offers a progressive kindergarten taught from a Reformed Christian perspective. Students go all day, 3 days a week until mid October, 4 days until spring break, and then all 5 days for the last 2 months to prepare for them 1st grade. Please contact Jeremy Copenhaver (principal@peoriachr.org) for more details.

TULIP TIME

Pella's Annual Tulip Time will be held on May 5-7. Look for Peoria Christian School on the bicycles on Thursday and Friday afternoons in the parade. Our band students will also be marching with the Central Iowa Christian Schools Band on Thursday afternoon, Friday night, and Saturday afternoon. Look for the red wooden shoes!

CHROMEBOOKS

The Technology Committee is selling used Chromebooks for \$40. They are available on a first come, first serve basis. Please contact Kevin Van Der Hart at tech@peoriachr.org.

GRADUATION

Graduation will be held on Thursday, May 19, at 7PM at Peoria CRC. Please join us we honor our 8th grade students.

DISTRICT V TRACK MEET

Lord willing, the District V Track Meet is coming up on Wednesday, April 20th. Parents of students in 5th-8th grade please look for more details in a separate email.

NEW BABY

Congratulations to Mrs. Karina De Zwarte and her husband, Lance, on the safe arrival of their daughter, Jade Elizabeth. Jade was born on Monday, March 14. Please continue to remember them in your prayers as they adjust to being a family of three. Congratulations to the De Zwarte family!



MAP TESTING

May 9-13 is the end of the year Map testing. The tests are each morning, so please try to avoid any appointments during this time. Please remember to remind your student to give their best and get plenty of sleep.



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APRIL	
April 8	Grandparent/Special Friend Day 8:30AM Chapel at Peoria CRC 1:30PM Program in Gym
April 13	School Circle Meeting 6:30PM
April 15	No School – Good Friday
April 18	No School – Easter Monday
April 20	District V Track Meet at Lacy Complex
April 22	3 rd /4 th Ag Day
April 27	2:40PM Dismissal – Staff In-Service
MAY	
May 5	12:05PM Dismissal – Tulip Time
May 6	No School – Tulip Time
May 9-13	Spring Map Testing
May 13-14	Band Trip
May 16	PK-4 th Track & Field Day with Sully Christian
May 19	2:20PM Dismissal – 7PM 8 th Grade Graduation
May 20	2:45PM Kindergarten Graduation
May 24	8:30AM Chapel, Pastor George Den Oudsten 1:20PM Dismissal – Last Day of School

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
- ~ Hula Hoops

PK-4TH TRACK & FIELD DAY

Lord willing, we are looking to have our PK-4th grade field day with Sully Christian School on Monday, May 16th starting at noon. Any questions, please contact the office.

KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

Kindergarten graduation is scheduled for Friday, May 20th starting at 2:45 PM. Any questions, contact the front office.