

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

Isaiah 55:8-9

This year's theme is based upon Isaiah 55:8-9, which says, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). During this school year, we hope to understand more about this verse.

During chapel on the first day of school, Mr. Al Bandstra spoke and did an excellent job trying to help us understand the meaning of this verse. As humans made in the image of God, we try to understand God's providential plans; however, because of sin and our human nature we sometimes think our ways our better. We start to get impatient and may even start to complain while trying to make it on our own. This can be difficult for adults to understand let alone students.

There are many examples in the Word of God where people thought their ways were better than God's ways, but I want to look at one specific example in John 11. This is where Jesus and the disciples received word from a messenger that Lazarus was sick and then proceeded to wait two more days before making the journey to Bethany. Many questions come from this passage of Scripture, but one question immediately comes to mind: why did Jesus wait two more days before going to Bethany when He found out that Lazarus was sick? We also see Mary and Martha thinking their ways were better than God's ways. In John 11:21, Martha says, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Then Mary says the same thing in John 11:32, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Both sisters were upset and in despair over their brother Lazarus dying, but we know that God's way is perfect (Psalm 18:30) and His ways our higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). He was able to raise Lazarus back from the dead and show His glory, His power, and His love to the world.

Thank you for your continued support for our school.

Jeremy Copenhaver



Peoria Christian School Board News

Meeting September 6, 2022

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal 425, Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid. President Spencer Fynaardt read from Psalm 135:1-6 and opened with prayer. All members were present. Minutes of the August Board Meeting were read and approved.

- Spencer Fynaardt and Dennis Veenstra plan to visit school this month.
- From the Ed Committee, the board approved Monday, May 22, 2023 at 7:00PM for 8th Grade Graduation this year. The board also approved an early release at 2:20PM for PK-7th grade and an early release of 11:30AM for 8th graders on May 22.
- From the Ed Committee, MAP testing took place August 29th-September 2nd.
- From the Principal's Report, Josh Stevens with Mahaska County Emergency Management will help lead a vulnerability assessment of our school which will help with a grant available for school security.
- From the Promotions Committee, Culver's night yielded \$1,600 for the promotions budget.
- From the School Improvement Team, commendations and encouragement from CSI's letter of accreditation was shared with the board.
- From the Finance Committee, the Finance Chair and Bookkeeper reviewed our insurance policies.
- From the Bus Committee, Marcia's bus had its radiator replaced.
- New Business, the Iowa Association of Christian Schools annual conference is scheduled for October 27th and 28th and board members were encouraged to attend.

Next meeting: Monday, October 3rd, at 7:00PM.
Kody Roos closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Nick De Haan, Secretary

FLAMINGOS!

There is a large flock of flamingos that has arrived in our area and they have already made several stops! They are in our area until September 24. They are making visits to local yards to spread the word about Peoria Christian School! Not interested in having the flock in your yard? Insurance is available for purchase by contacting Stacie Fynaardt 641-780-1894. The flamingos are spending a maximum of three days in these yards and then they move to their next location. Trained professionals are taking care of moving the birds as they are delicate and need to be handled properly. If you find them in your yard, please follow the instructions taped to your door and have fun with us while we spread the word about Peoria Christian! Check out the pictures on our Facebook page!



A Note from Music

So far we have had 2 music classes to start the year! We have played some musical games, sung praise songs to the Lord, and reviewed some musical concepts. The younger students always love moving around with scarves while we listen to an orchestral song. Besides just being fun to move around, this helps the students listen with a purpose. They use their movements and scarves to show me if the song is slow/fast, loud/soft, fast/slow, and staccato/legato. Then we take a few minutes after the song to use our musical description words to tell what the song was like. The 1st/2nd grade class has started listening through the "Carnival of the Animals" by Camille Saint-Saens. ~ Mrs Ansley

Pre-K & Kinder

Our room looks a little different in PreK and Kindergarten this year. It consists of only 3 PreK students. We do not have any Kindergarten students. Since we don't have any Kindergarten students, the timing of PreK is also different. If you want to visit us, you need to come on Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday mornings instead of the afternoons. We are enjoying getting to know each other and what it is like to be in school. We praise the Lord for the extra time we have for just PreK this year! ~ Mrs. Klaasen

1st & 2nd

First and second grade is off to a great start! We have 11 unique students that keep the room busy. Our classroom theme this year is "God Uses Ordinary People in Super Ways." Our devotions center around the Heroes of the Bible, and how those heroes were ordinary people until God used them in super ways for His glory! We have a bulletin board in the classroom with "Wow!" bursts that teach us what a true hero for God does and believes. As we learn more, we will add more "bursts" to the board. Come see these ordinary students learning to be super for God! ~ Mrs. Vos



3rd & 4th

We have had a great first few weeks of school. The third graders have already learned their first few cursive letters and the fourth graders are remembering how to write exclusively in cursive. Everyone in the class has gotten their first classroom job, their first paycheck, and paid rent the first month. They are all excited for when they will have enough classroom money to spend on fun things. They are all very busy collecting insects for their insect collections that we will be classifying with the 7th and 8th graders in mid-September. Once they are finished, they will be displayed in the hallway for about a week. Be sure to look for them if you visit the school! ~ Miss Taft

Resource Room

In case you are not familiar with IXL, it is an online program based on mastery we use for literacy, language arts, and math. This is the fourth year it has aided the Peoria Christian School students in filling the gaps and stretching them where needed! It provides ample data for individual needs since they work in the diagnostic arena unassisted each Friday. Each class has a twenty-five-minute module that is set aside for me to meet with each student for sure once if not twice a week. The students have already been hard at work answering 11,350 questions, while mastering 315 skills this academic year! A breakdown for each student will go home at each midterm and quarter. We cannot wait to see the individual growth God has allowed them to make! ~ Mrs. Amber Fynaardt

5th & 6th

We are off to a great start this year in 5th and 6th grade. The kids are doing great with having multiple teachers and we are all getting used to the new schedule. This year the theme of our room is Glorify the Lord! We will be talking about different ways to glorify God in our lives and where we can see God's glory in the world around us. Lord willing, we will be filling our bulletin board with things throughout the year.

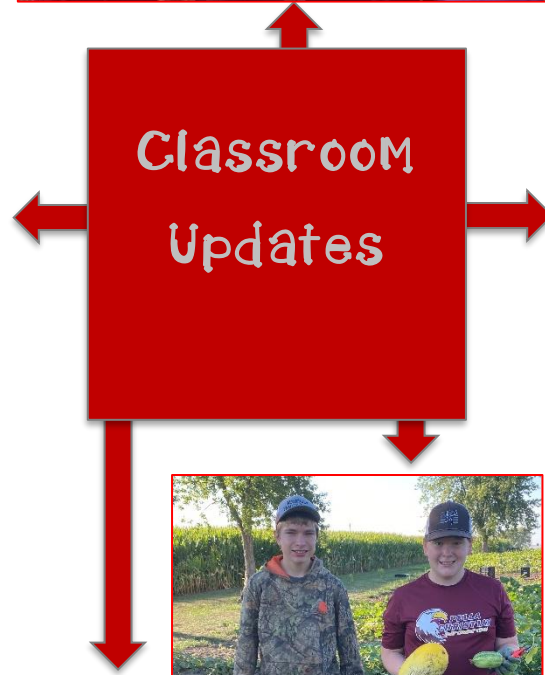
In Bible class, we are continuing to learn about God's plan, which the kids started learning about all the way back in Kindergarten. This year focuses on us, as God's children, being a part of His plan. We hope to work on how to share our faith and testimony with others as we learn about the amazing people in the Bible.

~Mrs. Laura Fynaardt



7th & 8th

We started the first day of school with an inspirational passage from Mr.B. It was about how we are different from our friends and our parents, and if our parents didn't meet, there would be no us. There are eleven students in the 7th and 8th grade class this year, four seventh graders and seven eighth graders. The theme verse for our classroom is Ephesians 2:10, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." This year we are focusing on how we are God's masterpiece. On September 2, we went pumpkin picking at Arvin Roose's. We made a very good alliteration while we were there. Peter Parker Piper and his petite sister Penelope Patricia Piper picked a plump pile of purple pumpkins in a particularly prime place. There are 15 "P's" in that! ~ Submitted by Macy Van Der Hart, 8th Grade



Spanish

Welcome back to Spanish! Enjoy reading what each grade will be working on this month!

1st Grade: First graders will be using greetings to fellowship with one another.

2nd Grade: Second graders are identifying animals God has created.

3rd Grade: Third graders are identifying numbers 1-20.

4th Grade: Fourth graders are identifying different foods and meal times.

5th Grade: Fifth graders are reviewing tens in order to count all the way to 100.

6th Grade: Sixth graders are identifying foods and learning phrases to use at meal times.

7th Grade: Seventh graders are conjugating verbs.

8th Grade: Eighth graders are reviewing salutations and practicing their conversational skills.

We are excited and thankful for a new year! ~ Mrs. McConnell



ART VOLUNTEER

We are looking for a volunteer to teach Art on Wednesday afternoons for 1st-4th grade from approximately 1:25 until 3:15. If you are interested in helping fulfill this need, please email: Jeremy Copenhaver (principal@peoriachr.org).

IXL POSITION

We have a part time share position for IXL for the 2022-2023 school year. This person will be at school for a portion of two days. If you are interested in this position, please contact Jeremy Copenhaver (principal@peoriachr.org).

GRACE COUNSELING

We are excited to announce that we are using Grace Counseling again this year. We feel that this is another great way to encourage our students when they are dealing with life's difficulties. We again are blessed to have Jora Van Maanen lead these sessions for our students. The first session is scheduled for the afternoon of Monday, September 19th. Also, if you are looking for your child to receive individual sessions, please contact Mr. Cope for options for your family.

FACILITATORS

We are looking for a few individuals who would be willing to join our team of facilitators. If you would be willing to volunteer for a few hours every week (or every other week), please contact Michelle at office@peoriachr.org.

CHAPEL

Please join us on Friday, September 23rd for our next scheduled chapel. Reverend Greg Lubbers from Covenant Church is scheduled to be our speaker. Hope to see you there!

WEBSITE/FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

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

Website: <http://www.peoriachr.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PeoriaChristianSchool>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/peoriachristian?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

WHAT'S
EVENTS
HAPPENING

VALUE CARDS

The 7th & 8th Grade students are once again selling Value Cards. These cards contain a variety of discounts to local businesses including: Fareway, Hy-Vee, Culvers, Subway, Ulrich's Meat Market, Scooters, and many more! Cards are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Contact a 7th or 8th grade student or the school office to purchase your cards.

MARION COUNTY BANK

Many thanks to Marion County Bank for their Report Card program. Due to this program, our school received a donation of \$437.91 from Marion County Bank. If you are a current customer of Marion County Bank, you can go to marioncountybank.com and choose Peoria Christian School. Every time you use your debit card Peoria Christian School benefits! Thank you to Marion County Bank and to those who have selected Peoria Christian School!

CULVERS UPDATE

Thank you to everyone that prayed for and/or came and supported our fundraiser at Culvers in Pella. It was a great evening of serving, fun, and fellowship. We raised approximately \$1,600 for our school. We want to thank everyone for your generous support and we want to thank God most of all from whom all blessings flow (James 1:17).

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:

- Breadeaux 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, contact the school at office@peoriachr.org or 641-625-4131.

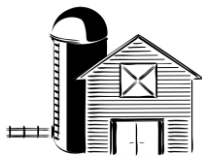


WHAT'S
EVENTS
 HAPPENING

His Mercies are New
 Every Morning



*"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."
 Lamentations 3:22-23*



Save the Date...
Friday, November 11, 2022, for the
Peoria Christian School Bazaar!

Please note: We are taking a break from the usual classroom baskets this year, but each classroom will still work together to create a special project to put on the auction.
 If you'd like to help with this, please let us know!

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.

SCHOOL
 PICTURES

Save the date for school pictures by Life Touch on Thursday, October 6.



SOCCKER GAME

Lord willing, we will have a combined P.E. with Sully Christian School. On Friday, September 30, the 5th-8th students from both schools will be playing soccer at Peoria. The game is scheduled to start at 1:00PM. This is a great community building opportunity and parents are invited to attend. Hope to see you there.



S
C
H
O
O
L



C
A
L
E
N
D
A
R

SEPTEMBER	
September 14	2:40PM Dismissal
September 19	1PM Grace Counseling
September 23	8:30AM Chapel, Pella Historical Field Trip
September 28	8AM See You At The Pole
September 30	1PM 5 th -8 th Grade Soccer with Sully Christian
OCTOBER	
October 5	2:40PM Dismissal
October 6	School Pictures
October 7	Autumn Acres Field Trip (PK-2 nd Grade)
October 13	8:15AM Grace Counseling
October 14	1:40PM Dismissal – End of 1 st Quarter
October 19	Living History Farms Field Trip (All School)
October 27	8:30AM Chapel, 4-8PM Parent Teacher Conferences
October 28	No School

PCS WISH LIST

Looking for a unique way to support PCS? The Wish List is a list of items that we need. Items can be purchased and dropped off at school. This month we are requesting donations of these items:

- ~ 8oz Styrofoam Cups
- ~ Forever Stamps
- ~ Colored Dry Erase Markers
- ~ Hand Soap

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

- Friday, September 23: Pella Historical field Trip (all students)
 - Friday, October 7: Autumn Acres (PK-2nd Grade)
 - Wednesday, October 19: Living History Farms (all students)
 - Friday, November 4: Winnie the Pooh (PK-2nd Grade)
- *****Parents: see weekly email for additional details