

# 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 School

I was recently asked, "What makes a school a Christian school?" With God's help, hopefully, I was able to answer that person's question, but it got me thinking that others may have the same question. At Peoria Christian School, here is what we try to do to be a Christian school:

1. Do everything to glorify God (I Corinthians 10:31)
2. Pray (including praying for and praying with each student) (Colossians 1:9-11)
3. Personally, disciple each student (Colossians 1:9-11)
4. Teach each class from a Reformed Christian perspective
5. Have Christian objectives to start each class. Here are some examples:
  - a. I can defend a young earth viewpoint from a Biblical perspective.
  - b. I can use God's law for adding and subtracting fractions.

There are so many other ways as well; however, I think the best way to show what makes a school a Christian school is to share some examples of actual student responses. Here are some examples:

1. Question: What is the structure of a sentence? Student Answer: "God's law for a sentence is that it will always have a subject and a verb. God designed the sentence to always start with a capital letter and end with punctuation." (submitted by Rachel Vander Wilt and Macy Van Der Hart)
2. Question: What is a polygon? Student answer: "God created a polygon to be a closed, flat shape, with straight sides." (submitted by Josie Hol and Quinten Veenstra)
3. Question: Was there enough room on the ark for all of the animals? Student answer: "We know that there was plenty of room on the ark. The design of the ark was thought out by God and given to Noah. God gave Noah the wisdom to know how to build the ark so that there was plenty of room for all of the animals along with the eight people." (submitted by Ashlyn Ver Meer and Cayla Rozenboom)
4. Question: How would you define gravity? Student answer: God's covenant with gravity is that it is a force that pulls someone or something to the earth. If you drop a pen when you are standing, then God's law is that the pen will fall to the ground. Objects always fall at 9.8 m/s/s." (submitted by Hannah Van Wyk and Maria Meinders) Another student answer: God's covenant with gravity is that what goes up must come down. Another covenant God has with gravity is that once you let go of an object, it starts to fall. The object will always fall at 9.8 m/s/s." (submitted by Gerrit Meinders, Quinten Veenstra, and Ethan Klaasen)
5. Question: Who was George Washington? Student answer: God made George Washington to be the first president. God used his life in many ways. One of the many ways God used George Washington was to free the colonies in the Revolutionary War." (submitted by Ashlyn Ver Meer and Cayla Rozenboom)

As we can see by these responses from our students, the goal of Christian education is train up our children to think Biblically and answer questions that would keep God at the center for His glory and pleasure.

Thank you for your continued support,  
Jeremy Copenhaver

# Peoria Christian School Board News

## School Board Meeting

October 3, 2022

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal 528, Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak. President Spencer Fynaardt read from Philippians 4:4-9 and opened with prayer. All members were present except Dennis Veenstra and Drew Van Wyk with notice.

Minutes of the September Board Meeting were read and approved.

- Spencer Fynaardt and Dennis Veenstra visited school during September and delivered favorable reports.
- From the Ed Committee, Miss Taft was the guest teacher at their meeting and stated the year is off to a good start. She reported the new students are adjusting.
- From the Ed Committee, Glenn gave a brief report on the first MAP testing of the school year.
- From the Principal's Report, Josh Stevens with Mahaska County Emergency Management helped lead a vulnerability assessment of our school which will help with a grant available for school security. Mr. Stevens will continue to work with the school for some security training.
- From the Promotions Committee, the committee met September 29<sup>th</sup> and reported on funding raised from the flamingo fundraiser as well as Culver's night.
- From the School Improvement Team, commendations and encouragement from CSI's letter of accreditation was shared with the board.
- From the Finance Committee, Adam updated the board on value card fundraising and reported \$27,953.63 raised in the June Drive.
- From the Building Committee, Andy updated the board on the north side of the gym and gutters.

Next meeting: Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00PM.

Dan Hol closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick De Haan, Secretary

### VETERANS DAY PROGRAM & LUNCH

We are planning a Veterans Day lunch and assembly on Tuesday, November 8. If you are a veteran or know someone who is, please save this date on your calendar. 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](mailto:office@peoriachr.org)) by Friday, November 4 with the number attending and eating lunch. Lord willing, we hope to see you there. Everyone is welcome to attend, but please RSVP.



## A Note from Music

The PreK students have been learning lots of Bible songs and how to have better control over their voices. The 1st/2nd graders have been working on reading simple songs of 4 measures or less. First, they read the rhythm, then the solfege (nonsense words used to help read pitches), and then the lyrics. Most songs end with a fun activity or game. They are also continuing the Carnival of the Animals. The 3rd/4th graders are working on reading harder music by reading the rhythm, solfege, and lyrics. This last week they were working on recognizing dynamics. Soon all classes will start to work on Christmas music!

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Mrs. Ansley



Pre-K & Kinder

In PreK, we have been busy learning lots of things this first month of school. We have learned the names and sounds of letters A-I. We have also enjoyed talking each week about a different color and wearing that color at the end of the week. In Bible, we just finished learning about the 7 C's of history. If you see a Pre K student, see if they can tell them to you. There are some pretty big words that we learned! We are going to start talking more about the first C, creation, this month. ~ Mrs. Klaasen



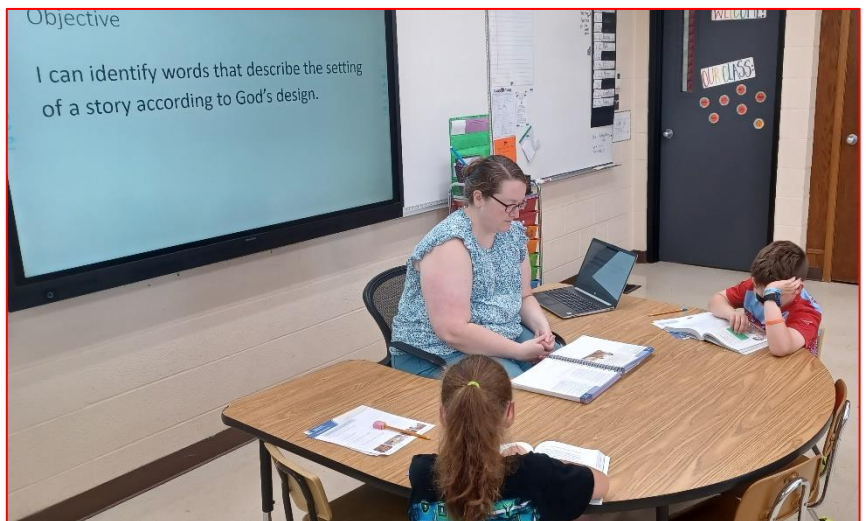
1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>

It has been a lot of fun being with the first and second grade students again this year. Our afternoons are filled with lots of variety. In history, we just finished a unit on Columbus. We saw how God used Columbus to discover a new land. We also have enjoyed going on two field trips already this year! It was a lot of fun enjoying God's creation while riding bikes by Lake Red Rock. We also went to the Historical Village. The students enjoyed being with the older students in our chapel groups as we explored the different buildings and listened to the artisans. ~ Mrs. Klaasen



3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

We have had a great first full month of school, enjoying God's creation in a variety of ways. As a school, we went to Red Rock for bike riding around the Howell Station area. We had a lot of fun riding our bikes and playing at the playgrounds. Along with the 7th and 8th graders, we learned about the different groups of insects in order to label our insect collections. We have also learned more about insects and spiders in science this past month. It is very interesting to see the variety in God's creation of just insects and spiders! We have enjoyed God's creativity in the stories we've read in reading and His order in language, while learning about nouns and verbs. We see God's hand in all that we do and study each day. ~ Miss Taft



Objective  
I can identify words that describe the setting of a story according to God's design.

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

In 5/6th grade, we have been very busy learning about earthquakes and volcanoes in science. We experimented with building structures that could withstand earthquakes by using fettuccine noodles and marshmallows. This proved to be more challenging than we expected but we learned ways to support the structure that really helped. We then started creating our volcanoes. What fun we had paper macheing and painting our cinder cone and composite cone volcanoes! Anticipation was building as we experimented with what materials would make the best eruption. Eruption day was full of excitement as all of the volcanoes successfully erupted! Throughout this unit we have been constantly reminded of God's sovereign control over all parts of His creation. We are thankful to know that our faithful heavenly Father holds all things in His powerful hands. ~ Mrs. Lisa Ver Meer

Resource Room

As the years have come and gone, God's faithfulness has continued in IXL. He has allowed us to grow +10 (1 month) in math and +3 (.3 months) in English language arts so far this 2022-2023 year. The students are constantly working hard on new objectives and trouble spots given. In their "free time," they work on additional suggestions from their teacher independently. Talk about learning problem solving!~ Mrs. Fynaardt

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

In 7th and 8th Grade, we have been reading *The Bronze Bow* by Elizabeth George Speare. This is a historical fiction that takes place in Jesus' time when he was ministering. The novel is about a young man who is in conflict with fighting the Romans who have taken over Jerusalem and staying with his sister in their home village. The title *The Bronzed Bow* came from Psalm 18:34, "He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze." This verse says that without God we cannot bend a bronze bow but when God gives us strength we can do things that to us seem impossible. Even though it is fiction, this book has opened our eyes to life in Biblical times. ~ Submitted by Maria Meinders, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade



Spanish

Enjoy reading what each grade has been focusing on this month!

- 1st Grade:** The first graders are identifying school supplies God has blessed each of us to have.
- 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 colors God has created.
- 4th Grade:** The fourth graders have also been identifying the different foods God has created.
- 5th Grade:** The fifth graders are identifying modes of transportation we use to explore God's creation.
- 6th Grade:** The sixth graders have been describing the different weather God has given us.
- 7th Grade:** The seventh graders are identifying parts of their homes God has blessed them to have.
- 8th Grade:** The eighth graders are identifying different ways God has created us.

~ Mrs. McConnell

# WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING

## VALUE CARDS

The 7th and 8th grade students are still selling Value Cards. Cards are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Please contact a 7th or 8th grade student if you have not already purchased a value card or stop by the front office. We currently have raised \$2,866 for the 8th grade fund. Thank you for your generous support and we ultimately praise God from whom all blessings flow.

## ART VOLUNTEER

We want to thank God for allowing Stacie Fynaardt to teach art to our students in 1st-4th grade. When you see her, please make sure to thank her for stepping up and fulfilling a need for our school.

## CHAPEL

Lord willing, our next chapel is scheduled for Thursday, October 27th. It is themed around the Reformation and Joel Ritema is our scheduled speaker. We hope to see you there.

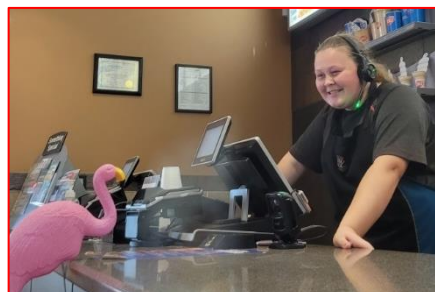
## IXL POSITION

We currently have Mrs. Myrna Fynaardt teaching IXL on Monday and Tuesday and Mrs. Amber Fynaardt teaching Wednesday and Thursday. Mrs. Myrna Fynaardt is only filling in until Christmas break. So, we are still looking for someone to teach this part time shared position at least 2 days a week. If you are interested, please contact Jeremy Copenhaver ([principal@peoriachr.org](mailto:principal@peoriachr.org)). Thank you for your prayers as we continue to look for someone to fill this position.



## FLAMINGOS

The flamingos have made their way back to school and they want to thank everyone who generously hosted them while they were visiting. Their warm reception raised \$1900 for the Promotion Committee to be used to continue to spread the word about Peoria Christian School. Thank you to everyone who supported this unique fundraiser!



WHAT'S  
**EVENTS**  
 HAPPENING

### SOCCER GAME

We want to thank God for allowing us to have this community building event with Sully Christian School. We also thank God for keeping each player injury free. The weather was perfect and so we could enjoy God's beautiful creation while playing soccer. Take a few minutes to catch some of the pictures on our Facebook page.



### SECURE DRILL

Our school has adopted the Standard Response Protocol to help prepare our staff and students just in case any emergency situations arise. This implementation has been in collaboration with Mahaska Emergency Management. We really appreciate the working relationship we have with them. With this in mind, we have a secure drill planned for October 21st at 12:25PM. Parents, please look for more details in the weekly email.

### SUB SANDWICHES

Peoria Christian School Circle is selling sub sandwiches. Subs are \$4 a piece or a baker's dozen for \$48. Two choices are available, both on a hoagie bun: 1) Double Ham with Colby-Jack cheese or 2) Ham & Pella Bologna with Colby-Jack cheese. Please submit your order by October 10. Orders can be placed using the order sheet in the Peoria CRC basement, east table, or by contacting Marla Van Der Hart at 641-780-0883 or Nicki Veenstra at 641-625-4244. Sub work day will be the afternoon of October 14 starting at 12:30PM, all are welcome to join us to help assemble and pick up will be 3-5PM.

### FALL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Please save Thursday, November 10 for the Fall Music Festival at Pella Christian High School. Our 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be participating in a band and choir concert with other area Christian schools. Parents, please look for more information in upcoming Weekly Pathfinders.

### SCHOOL DIRECTORY

School directories have been printed and sent home to all school families. If you are in need of a directory, please contact the office.

# Peoria Christian School Fall Bazaar



Bake Sale - 3:00-6:30PM

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

**Menu:**

Roast Beef  
Mashed potatoes & Gravy  
Green Beans  
Homemade Applesauce  
Dessert

**To-Go Meals:**

Available 4:30-5:30pm  
To request one, please  
contact Suzy Veenstra at  
641-780-8856 by 12:30pm  
on Friday, November 11.

We greatly appreciate all your help as we strive to support Peoria Christian School. Please be thinking of ways you can help and also what you can donate to make this fundraiser successful. If you have any questions, please contact Stacie Fynaardt, Lisa Ver Meer, or Heidi Van Wyk.

**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.

\*Be sure to follow our Peoria Christian Bazaar Facebook page for updates & pictures of donated items.



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OCTOBER	
October 6	School Pictures
October 7	Autumn Acres Field Trip (PK-2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade)
October 13	8:15AM Grace Counseling
October 14	12:30PM Sub Sandwich Work Day 1:20PM Dismissal – End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 3-5PM Sub Sandwich Pick-Up
October 19	Living History Farms Field Trip (All School)
October 27	8:30AM Chapel 4-8PM Parent Teacher Conferences
October 28	No School
NOVEMBER	
November 4	Winnie the Pooh Field Trip (PK-2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade)
November 8	12PM Veterans Day Lunch & Program
November 9	12:20PM Dismissal
November 10	Fall Music Festival
November 11	Bazaar
November 23	1:20PM Dismissal
November 24-25	No School – Thanksgiving Break
November 30	2:40 Dismissal

UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

More details will be in the Weekly Pathfinder as the dates get closer.

- Wednesday, October 19: Living History Farms, whole school
- Wednesday, October 26: Cinderella at PCHS, whole school
- Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>: Winnie the Pooh at the Des Moines Civic Center, PK-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

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