



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

Thankful

With Thanksgiving coming up, we have so many items that we want to thank God for at Peoria Christian School. Here are just a few of the many items that we want to take time and be thankful for at Peoria Christian School:

- First, we want to thank God for our students that God has sent to us. We thank God and their parents that these students want to learn from a Biblical perspective. Overall, our students are so well behaved and want to take the time to learn more about how God is the center of every subject. It is such a blessing to teach these students.
- We also want to thank God for our teachers that put so much effort into teaching our students to think Biblically and who put in the extra effort to make learning personalized for our students. We know this is a time commitment but we want to thank our teachers who selflessly step up each year and focus on making an impact in God's kingdom.
- We thank God for our bus drivers, janitors, and secretary. These people work tirelessly and without appreciation. Please take time to thank God and these people for their work at our school.
- We also thank God that all our staff and teachers share our reformed beliefs. This is so important in today's society and we thank and praise God that we still have staff and teachers that stick to the Word of God. We also thank God for our staff who teach our students to defend their beliefs including a young earth viewpoint. In today's society, we think it is very important for our students to learn how to defend their beliefs.
- Next, we want to thank God for our parents that make sacrifices to send their students to a Christian School and specifically Peoria Christian School. We also thank our parents for trusting our school to work alongside them to help train their student(s) to follow Christ.
- We also want to thank God for all our facilitators and volunteers who help make our school run. There are so many volunteers at our school, please take time to thank them for their work.
- Finally, we also thank God for the support of our society. We want to thank all of our society who prays for us and helps support our school financially. Without God and the support of our society, we would not be able to have our school or be able to function at the current level that we do.

We have so much to be thankful for and this only covers the surface of how God continues to bless our school. Please take time to check us out on Facebook, Instagram, or visit us in person to see just a few of the many ways how God continues to bless our school.

Thank you for your continued support,
 Jeremy Copenhaver



Peoria Christian School Board News

School Board Meeting: November 8, 2022

The Board sang "Amazing Grace" from the Psalter Hymnal. President Spencer Fynaardt read from Psalm 1 and opened with prayer. All members were present.

Minutes of the October Board Meeting were read and approved.

- Glenn Meinders and Kody Roos visited school during the previous month and delivered favorable reports.
- From the Ed Committee, Mrs. Ansley was the guest teacher at the meeting. She reported the hand drums have arrived. Keep praying for a sub when she goes on maternity leave.
- From the Ed Committee, Glenn reported the committee reviewed the school's educational goals.
- From the Principal's Report, Mr. Copenhaver thanked the board for the opportunity to attend the Answers in Genesis Conference last week. He reported on some curriculum updates and had a great experience.
- From the Promotions Committee, we will need a new storage location for bikes at Tulip Time. The committee reported the flamingo fund raiser was successful.
- From the School Improvement Team, Mary Patterson called in to the Ed Committee meeting with a helpful overview of the re-accreditation process which culminates with a site visit in the spring of 2024.
- From the STO Representative, the Legacy of Grace STO Committee met Monday, November 7th.
- From the Building Committee, Andy presented some options for gym heating and the Board voted to move forward with a new system.
- New Business: Glenn Meinders reported on attending the Iowa Association of Christian Schools' annual meeting.

Next meeting: Monday, December 5th, at 6:30PM.

Andy Dunsbergen closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick De Haan, Secretary

IXL POSITION

We are looking to fill this part time shared teaching position starting after Christmas. This position will be 2 days a week. If you are interested, please contact Jeremy Copenhaver (principal@peoriachr.org). Thank you for your continued prayers as we search for someone to fill this position.



A Note from Music

Thanks to everyone's generosity at our 2021 Christmas program, we were able to purchase new hand drums for our elementary general music classes! There are enough for each student to have one in class and do different rhythmic exercises, try improvising rhythms, and even do play alongs with classical songs. The students were so excited to use them last week. We will use them throughout the year for different lessons. Thank you all again for your generous donations at our past Christmas concerts!

Soli Deo Gloria, Mrs. Ansley



Pre-K & Kinder

In PreK, we have been learning more letters and their sounds. We have now officially learned half of the alphabet! We also continued working on learning our numbers and have made it through number eight. A highlight of this past month was going on a field trip to Autumn Acres with the first and second grade class! There was so much to see and do there. We praise the Lord for the wonderful weather we have had this fall that we can enjoy being outside for PE.

~Mrs. Klaasen



1st & 2nd

The 1st and 2nd graders had a great field trip this month! We were able to travel to the Civic Center of Des Moines and watch the play "Winnie-the-Pooh." We learned about being a good friend and helping others. After the play, we traveled to Blank Park Zoo. The Zoo teamed up with the Civic Center to provide students with activities that centered around the animals from the Hundred Acre Woods. Since it was a rainy day, we didn't get to do the activities as planned, however, we got to learn about bears, owls, kangaroos, tigers, rabbits, pigs and donkeys—including feeling their fur! We also explored the Zoo's in-door learning center and saw birds, snakes, seahorses, frogs, fish, sea anemone, and many more animals. Even though it was a very rainy day, we enjoyed seeing how God uniquely made each creature, and the creativity He gives authors and actors to create wonderful works of literature for us to enjoy!

~ Mrs. Vos

3rd & 4th

It is an exciting time for the 3rd graders. They have learned almost all the lowercase letters in cursive. They will finish the last few by mid-November and then start on the uppercase letters. They are so excited to learn, they have already started using them in their daily work, even though it is not required yet. A few weeks ago, our school went to Living History Farms. Some of their favorite parts were seeing the animals and visiting the blacksmith. Hudson especially liked getting to help the blacksmith heat up his fire. It was a great day to see how God has worked over time and given us knowledge and inventions in His perfect timing to get where we are today.

~ Miss Taft



Resource Room

As a school, we have grown +21 (2.1 months) in math and +25 (2.5 months) in language arts. To make all this progress, the students have answered 77,253 questions! We have been focusing on growing in fractions and vocabulary for the last several weeks. We discuss how fractions and their algorithms are set in stone since God has a promise with them. Thankfully God does not break promises like we do! Ask a Peoria Christian School student why God allows us to have a wide vocabulary compared to dogs or any other living thing. They should respond by saying because we are specially made in His image!

~ Mrs. Fynaardt

5th & 6th

This month, we started our first novel called Carry on Mr. Bowditch. This novel is the story of a mathematician named Nathaniel Bowditch (Nat), and his life growing up around the Revolutionary War. Throughout this novel, we discussed God's law with characters and settings of stories. We learned that God's law with characters and setting is to add details to a book and make it easier to understand the story. After discussing many settings in the book, each student picked a scene to paint on a pumpkin and they turned out wonderfully. Praise God for our ability to understand and create the different settings we read about. ~ Mrs. Fynaardt

7th & 8th

This month in the 7th and 8th grade classroom, we are writing descriptive essays. In our writing class called Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW), we are writing about a person who has had an influence on our life and details about who they are. We are practicing using descriptive language and trying to create imagery for the reader as we write. Each person we are writing about has unique gifts and talents that God has given them. Psalm 139:13-14 tells us "For You created my innermost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well." We are having a challenging but rewarding time trying to describe a person in our lives that we know well, and seeing God's design with descriptive words. ~ submitted by Ashlyn Ver Meer



Spanish

Enjoy reading what each grade has been focusing on this month!
 The **1st graders** are identifying and giving thanks for family members.
 The **2nd graders** are identifying the different seasons God has created.
 The **3rd graders** are identifying parts of the home and giving thanks for our blessings.
 The **4th graders** are identifying different feelings God has created.
 The **5th graders** are practicing Christmas vocabulary.
 The **6th graders** are naming different professions and talents God has given us.
 The **7th graders** are identifying God's creation in the sky.
 The **8th graders** are using their God-given knowledge to practice plural nouns.
 ~ Mrs. McConnell



PCHS 8th GRADE VISIT DAY

During the morning of Tuesday, November 22, our 8th grade students will be visiting PCHS. They will attend chapel, visit classrooms, participate in a student Q&A panel and enjoy Thanksgiving lunch at the high school. Mr. Copenhaver and Mrs. Van Wyk will be accompanying our students.



STEPPING STONES BOOK FAIR

Thank you to everyone who purchased books from our recent book fairs with Stepping Stones Bookstore in Grinnell. Over \$90 was raised for the classrooms and library. We are blessed to be able to continue to provide quality literature in the library for our students to read. In the future, any orders placed online with Stepping Stones Bookstore can be delivered for free to the school.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

This year's Christmas Program will be held on Friday, December 9 at 7PM at Peoria CRC. The students will be practicing on Tuesday, December 6th and all students, including PK, will need to be present for this practice from 12:35-2:00PM. Please look for more details in the Weekly Pathfinder.

CHRISTMAS PROJECT

This year our Christmas Project will support the Pella Food Bank. Students and society members are encouraged to purchase non-perishable food items from a provided list and send them to school. Collection will begin on Monday, November 28 and end on Thursday, December 8. Students will also be making cards in school to go with the food. Let's join together during this Christmas season and support those in our community who struggle with food insecurity.

STO Tax Credits

School Tuition Organization Tax Credits are still available until December 31. Iowans interested in reducing their tax bill, while helping Iowa families afford Christian education, can donate to the Legacy of Grace (LOG) School Tuition Organization (STO) and receive a 75% tax credit. Peoria Christian School funds needs-based scholarships through this unique tax credit donor program. This year the State of Iowa has given LGO-STO the opportunity to raise \$551,193 for tuition assistance. Thanks to this unique school choice program, thousands of students have received funding to attend the Christian or Catholic school of their choice who otherwise could not afford it. Credits are still available for 2022. Interested in giving? Read the letter at the end of the Pathfinder, contact the school office, or visit www.logsto.org.

EARLY RELEASES

Please note these early releases or no school days on the school calendar:
 November 23: 1:20PM Dismissal
 November 24 & 25: No School
 December 9: 2:20PM Dismissal
 December 21: 1:20PM Dismissal
 December 22-January 2: No School



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NOVEMBER	
November 11	Bazaar
November 23	1:20PM Dismissal
November 24-25	No School – Thanksgiving Break
November 30	2:40 Dismissal
DECEMBER	
December 9	2:20PM Dismissal
December 9	7PM Christmas Program at Peoria CRC
December 16	Christmas Program Make-Up Date
December 21	1:20PM Dismissal – End of 2 nd Quarter
December 22- January 2	No School - Christmas Break

CHAPEL

Our next chapel is scheduled for Friday, November 18th. Jim Warden is our scheduled speaker. We hope that you are able to join us.

WEATHER ALERTS

As the seasons change we become more aware of the need for communication when the weather changes our plans. Peoria Christian School uses the following methods to alert our parents and society of weather-related changes. Please check these sources when the weather is questionable:

- Text Message: If you would like to be added to our text message list, please contact the office for the form.
- Email: All society members are emailed
- Facebook: Look for a post
- WHO-TV: Check the scroll at the bottom of your TV

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:

- ~ Forever Stamps
- ~ Colored Dry Erase Markers
- ~ Hand Soap
- ~ Plastic Spoon and/or Forks

Legacy of Grace

SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

726 North "E" Street • Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

November 1, 2022

Dear LOG STO Donor,

First and foremost, Thank You so much for your previous financial support of the LOG STO. Your generosity has provided a quality Christian Education experience to many children in families without the financial means, many at poverty level or below.

This year the State of Iowa has again given the Legacy of Grace Student Tuition Organization (LOG-STO) the opportunity to raise \$551,193 for tuition assistance.

LOG-STO is in its 16th year of existence. Our purpose is to raise funds in order to provide scholarships for eligible students to attend a Christian School. **For 2022, the State of Iowa gives a 75% tax credit on all donations** to this great cause. LOG-STO is proving to be extremely beneficial in its effort to help families be able to afford a Christian Education for their families.

In 2021, we were able to collect the full amount to fill our state allotment of credits. The families representing LOG-STO have one of the highest eligibility rates for receiving tuition grants for Christian education in the whole state of Iowa. This means the families that send their children to our schools are sacrificing much and are extremely dedicated to providing a Christ-centered education for their children. We praise God and thank everyone for your continued support!

On the back side of this letter, is a donation form. We encourage you to visit with your tax preparer and ask them about the **Student Tuition Organization Tax Credit** to consider the potential of this program to benefit you by reducing your tax liability. You can also increase the 75% benefit of your gift by donating stock, grain and any possible Required Mandatory Distributions (RMDs) if you are 72 years of age. Please call one of the individuals below to better understand one of these options. We also ask you to pray and seek God's guidance in this matter in order to help us meet this years' needed funds. Thank you for your consideration!

We want to emphasize that your gifts should not replace the present giving that you do for Christian education.

In Christ,

Michael D. Ver Meer
President of the Board
(641) 780-8089

Kody Roos
PCS LOG Representative
(712)441-2196

2022

Legacy of Grace

SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

2022

726 North "E" Street • Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577 • www.logsto.org

Individual Donation Form

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Social Security Number _____
(We are unable to distribute tax credits without name, address, and social security number)

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Check here if you would like your acknowledgement receipt emailed to you.
Be sure to include your email address above.

Grain Transfer	
Use Only	
I, _____	transfer _____ bushels of corn or beans to Legacy of Grace STO on ____/____/2022.
X _____	Date ____/____/2022
	Producer
X _____	
	Business Representative
Representative of _____.	

Please make checks payable to **LOG-STO**

Please send to: Legacy of Grace STO
726 North E Street
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Office Use Only	
Date of Donation	_____
Check No.	_____
Amount	_____
CACTAS Date	_____