

The Pathfinder

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
Psalm 119:105

Nurture - Develop - Educate

New Year

Many people have New Year's resolutions. They have goals to eat healthier, go to the gym, give more money to charity, create better sleeping habits, find a better paying job, spend more time with family, and the list goes on and on. Of course, there is nothing wrong with these goals, but over half of the New Year's resolutions end within 3-6 months.

Thanks to God's faithfulness, Peoria Christian School has been in existence since 1907. That is over 115 years ago. Of course, the school doesn't do everything exactly the same as it did back in 1907, but sticking to teaching every subject from a Reformed Biblical perspective, training our teachers to help our students defend their faith including a young earth viewpoint, praying for, praying with, personally discipling our students, teachers receiving Biblical training on writing Christian objectives, and remembering to keep Christ as the main character of every Bible passage and lesson taught, is what this school has been trying to achieve for all these years and striving to achieve again in this upcoming year.

As we enter a new year, thank you for your continued prayers and support,
Jeremy Copenhaver

Here are some Bible verses to hopefully encourage you as we start a new year:

"And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail" (Isaiah 58:11).

"My son, do not forget my teacher, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So, you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones" (Proverbs 3:1-8).

"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7).



Peoria Christian School Board News

January 2, 2023

The Board sang "Hours and Days and Years and Ages" from the Psalter Hymnal. President Spencer Fynaardt read from Psalm 9:7-11 and opened with prayer. All members were present except Kody Roos and Nick De Haan with notice.

Minutes of the December Board Meeting were read and approved.

New Business:

- From the Ed Committee, Teresa Van Wyk has been offered the position of part-time IXL Teacher for the second semester of the 22/23 school year.
- From the Principal's Report, the annual Board Workshop will be held at Central Iowa Christian School in Grinnell on February 9th.
- From the Principal's Report, a praise that Lisa Groenendyk has agreed to fill in as a substitute for Music and Band during Mrs. Ansley's maternity leave.
- From the Promotions Committee, bikes must be removed from the Tulip Time shed by February 1, 2023.
- From the Finance Committee, recommendations for the 2023-24 tuition rates and staff pay raises were given.
- From the Bus Committee, the buses have been serviced.

Next meeting: Monday, February 13th, at 6:30PM.

Dan Hol closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick De Haan, Secretary

IXL SHARED POSITION

We want to thank Mrs. Teresa Van Wyk for stepping in and fulfilling this need for the remainder of this year. Again, we thank God for His continued blessings and fulfilling needs in our school.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Mrs. Carolyn Ansley and husband Reston on the birth of their daughter Josephine Margaret Ansley on December 30th. She was 9 lbs. 5 oz and 20 3/4 inches long.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas program in person or on Facebook. It was a beautiful night remembering the birth of our Savior and a blessing that our students were able to share their gifts and talents that God has given them to each of us. We want to thank Mrs. Ansley for all her hard work in helping to prepare our students for the program. A special thank you to everyone who contributed to the offering which raised \$158 for the Music Department. Thank you to everyone for praying for our program as the students were practicing and preparing, and most of all we thank God from whom all blessings flow (James 1:17).

Pre-K & Kinder

We were busy the last few weeks learning about the true meaning of Christmas. All the extra things are fun, but Jesus should be our focus. We can't wait until we come back to school in January because we will start learning how to write our letters! We have only two more sounds to learn and then we will work on writing. The students in PreK hope you all had a wonderful Christmas! ~ Mrs. Klaasen



1st & 2nd

It's hard to believe that we are into the second semester already! The 1st and 2nd graders have been working hard. Throughout our devotions this year, we have been focusing on Heroes of the Bible. If you see one of the first or second graders, ask them if they remember any of the heroes we have talked about! We have learned that these Heroes, in the Bible, are just normal people like us! They make mistakes just like us (even some pretty big ones!) However, God still used them to do His will among His people. We have just started talking about Samuel and have learned that "a true hero for God knows that only faith in Jesus can save him." Next, we will talk about how "a true hero for God answers God's call on his life." Our prayer is that we can add these hero tips to our own lives! ~ Mrs. Vos



Resource Room

All classes reached their mastery competition goal, even when one class had to master as many as 400 skills this past month! That is a lot of time and dedication on IXL, in addition to their other studies! As a result of their hard work, they played the game Hedbandz and went on a Christmas Story Scavenger Hunt instead of IXL for a module. For the next goal, each class must master at least 100 skills, with one class as high as 500! I hope it will help them stay motivated to fill in their learning gaps and challenge them for not only our school's growth (+4.1 months math and +5.5 months language arts) but to humbly further God's kingdom! ~ Mrs. Amber Fynaardt



3rd & 4th

We pray you all had a wonderful and blessed Christmas with your loved ones. Now that we are refreshed and ready to get back to school, we have a lot coming in January. In Bible, we have been learning about the earthly kings of Israel. We are now entering the time when the land of Israel will be split into the two kingdoms, while first learning about the kings of Israel. Third grade will start doing all their work in cursive during the month of January. We have started about half the subjects in cursive already, now it is time to add the rest. They have all greatly improved since starting this beautiful way to write God's language. Some other activities that are coming soon for us are winter MAP testing, going to the science center, Mrs. Adams coming for Ag in the Classroom, and finally, a career fair at the end of the month. It will be a full and busy January! ~ Miss Taft

5th & 6th

What do you think of first when someone mentions Christmas? Do you think of it as fun, exciting, or busy? In the last few days before break, the 5th and 6th graders wrote about Christmas. They all started with finishing the sentence *Christmas is...* and then adding on to it. They came up with some very creative ideas and they love to share them. Here is how they finished the sentence.

Christmas is...

...a time to get together with family and remember the real reason. (Aleah)

...the time to have fun, eat food, and get together. (Will)

... the season of giving. (Ellie)

...a time to celebrate Jesus' birthday. (Alicia)

...a time to get together and celebrate Jesus' birth. (Dylan)

...a fun time of giving and getting gifts. (Olivia)

...to spend time with your family and open and give gifts. (Jedi)

...my favorite holiday because we get to share love. (Judah)

~ Mrs. Laura Fynaardt

7th & 8th

Bah Humbug! Can you guess what we just finished reading in literature? You guessed right, it's A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. It's about an old miser named Scrooge who hated Christmas, but throughout the book he changed drastically. God worked through his heart by showing him different experiences from his Christmas past, present, and future. At the beginning of this book, Scrooge was not very friendly; some called him "solitary as an oyster". By the end of the book, Scrooge was having a holly jolly time, something we did not anticipate coming from this old miser. We enjoyed the book and the movie. For the Bible says "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (1 Corinthians 5:17) We see from this book how Scrooge was changed and made a comparison to how we are a new creation in Christ. - submitted by Rachel Vander Wilt



Spanish

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

First Grade: The first graders are identifying numbers 1-15, using God's order for numbers.

Second Grade: The second graders are identifying classroom items and giving thanks for our school.

Third Grade: The third graders are identifying sports God has given to us to enjoy.

Fourth Grade: The fourth graders are counting by tens, using God's order for numbers.

Fifth Grade: The fifth graders are using their God-given knowledge to identify Spanish verbs.

Sixth Grade: The sixth graders are using their God-given knowledge to identify electronics.

Seventh Grade: The seventh graders are identifying different games God gave them to enjoy.

Eighth Grade: The eighth graders are using their God-given knowledge to conjugate and use "tener" in conversation.

~ Mrs. McConnell

WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING

HOSTESS SUPPER

Save the date! We are excited for our annual Hostess Supper on Saturday, February 18, 2023, at 5PM. We need individuals to serve as table host/hostesses. If you would like to serve as a host/hostess or would like an invitation to this event, please contact Stacie Fynaardt (bsfynaardt@gmail.com) or Clarice Meinders (glennmeinders@iowatelecom.net)

MAP TESTING

Our winter Map testing is scheduled to take place on Monday, January 9 – Friday, January 13. Here are some tips to remember for next week: get plenty of sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and try your best. Please pray for our students as they strive to do their best. Finally, here is the breakdown of testing for each day:
Monday: Science (3rd-8th) and Language (2nd)
Tuesday: Reading (1st-8th)
Wednesday: Math (1st-8th)
Thursday: Language (3rd-8th)
Friday: Make-ups

SAVE THE DATE

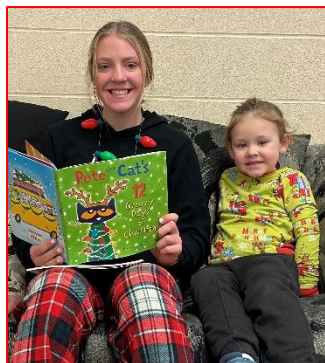
Mark your calendars for these upcoming field trips and events. Specific details will be available in the Weekly Pathfinder

- January 12th - Snowflake Presentation by Jasper County Conservation at Sully Christian for PK-2nd Grade
- January 17th - All School Science Center Field Trip
- January 26th - All School Hymn Sing at Fairhaven and Cottages
- January 27th - Career Fair at 1:00PM
- February 10th - 5th-8th Grade Basketball with Sully Christian at 1:00 PM at Sully.

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 De Haan at office@peoriachr.org.





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JANUARY	
January 9-13	Map Testing
January 12	9:30AM Snowflake Presentation at Sully, PK-2 nd
January 17	Science Center Field Trip – All School
January 18	2:40PM Dismissal
January 25	12:20PM Dismissal
January 26	2PM Hymn Sing at Fair Haven and The Cottages
January 27	8:30AM Chapel, Pastor Bob Johnson Speaking
January 27	1-3PM Career Day
FEBRUARY	
February 2	4-8PM Parent Teacher Conferences
February 7	9:00AM Camouflage Presentation at Sully, PK-2 nd
February 10	1PM Basketball with Sully Christian, 5 th -8 th Grade
February 17	No School
February 18	5PM Hostess Supper
February 21	7PM Local Fine Arts Night
February 23	Urban Air Field Trip – All School
February 24	8:30AM Chapel, Pastor Brian Ochsner speaking

CHAPEL

Chapel will be held on Friday, January 27th, at 8:30AM in the school gym. Pastor Bob Johnson is our scheduled speaker. Please join us for a morning of worship!

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 Large Dry Erase Markers
- ~ Plastic Spoon and/or Forks

WINTER WEATHER ALERTS

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