



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

As we enter the latter half of February, the 3rd quarter is ending and the 4th and final quarter is scheduled to start after Spring Break. So, with Spring around the corner, the days will start to get longer, the temperature outside will gradually increase, and students will start playing spring sports. However, some students will start having a harder time staying focused in class with summer around the corner. Here are some ways to pray for our students as we are getting ready to start the final quarter of school:

- Listen to their teachers
- Listen to their bus drivers
- Staying focused in class
- Come to class prepared
- Pray for safety on the playground
- Traveling mercies to and from school
- Have on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-17)
- Memorize Scripture (II Timothy 2:15)
- Continue to grow in grace and the knowledge of Christ (II Peter 3:18)
- Encourage other students (I Thessalonians 5:11)
- Use uplifting words (Ephesians 4:29)
- Answer questions in class from a Biblical perspective
- Defend a young earth viewpoint



Also, here are some Bible verses to read together with your family as we get ready to start the final quarter of school:

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted” (Hebrews 12:1-3).

“So, we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 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” (II Corinthians 4:16-18).

Thank you for your continued support,

Jeremy Copenhaver

Isaiah 55:8-9 "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."

Peoria Christian School Board News

School Board Meeting: February 13, 2023

The Board sang "In Sweet Communion, Lord, with You" from the Psalter Hymnal. President Spencer Fynaardt read from Psalm 34:1-8 and opened with prayer. All members were present.

Minutes of the January Board Meeting were read and approved.

New Business:

- From the Ed Committee, the 2023-24 school year calendar was approved.
- From the Ed Committee, the board also approved the band trip to Orange City for the Tulip Festival on May 19 & 20 with chaperones.
- From the Ed Committee, a stop at the State Historical Museum was added to the February 23 field trip to Urban Air.
- From the Ed Committee, teacher contracts were approved.
- From the Promotions Committee, final arrangements for the Hostess Supper are being made. The committee met and discussed several ways to promote the school.
- From the Building Committee, the gym furnace installation is complete.

Next meeting: Monday, March 6th, at 6:30PM.

Dennis Veenstra closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick De Haan, Secretary



MUSIC

Lord willing, Mrs. Ansley will be returning from maternity leave on Monday, February 27th. We really want to thank Mrs. Lisa Groenendyk for filling in for Mrs. Ansley, while she was home with her family. Mrs. Groenendyk has taught music, band, and helped our 5th-8th grade students prepare for Fine Arts. When you see Mrs. Groenendyk, please thank her for a wonderful job helping our students.

Spanish

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

First Grade: The first graders are identifying the colors God created.

Second Grade: The second graders are using their God-given knowledge to identify action words.

Third Grade: The third graders are identifying parts of the body God has created.

Fourth Grade: The fourth graders are identifying the colors God created.

Fifth Grade: The fifth graders are identifying the animals God created.

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

Seventh Grade: The seventh graders are using their God-given knowledge to conjugate verbs in their singular forms.

Eighth Grade: The eighth graders are using their God-given knowledge to identify parts of their homes.

~ Mrs. McConnell

Resource Room

We are 5 months into the school year with 5.7 months of growth in math and 7.9 months of growth in language arts. With the bar being set so high, only the third and fourth graders met their mastery goal. They each mastered about 8 skills a week to earn their lively IXL module! The bar will continue to rise and most classes are ready to meet it at the end of February. No matter if we're online on IXL or participating in different activities for the IXL module, we are absorbing characteristics of God!

~ Mrs. Fynaardt

Pre-K & Kinder

The PreK students are excited to have begun learning how to write letters this month! They have been waiting the whole school year to start this. We enjoyed going to Sully Christian and learning about snowflakes with our friends there. God created each snowflake unique and different. We also enjoyed going to the Science Center in Des Moines. It was so much fun to have time to do hands-on science activities!
~ Mrs. Klaasen

1st & 2nd

In 1st and 2nd grade, we have begun science for the second semester. We began by learning about the different environments that God created in our world. Just as we were ending this unit, it was the whole school field trip to the Science Center. It was fun to see some of the different environments and animals that we talked about. It was also a great introduction to our next unit on fossils. The Science Center had a traveling exhibit there about dinosaurs. As we started our unit, many of the students were surprised that when we talk about fossils it doesn't just mean dinosaur bones, there are actually many different types of fossils. We also learned that most fossils were formed during the Flood! ~ Mrs. Klaasen

5th & 6th

The 5th and 6th graders have been very busy learning about motion and machines in Science. We recently completed the Great Marble Race! The goal of this marble run was to make the SLOWEST marble track possible! The students worked with a partner to create a marble track out of cardboard, wrapping paper rolls, felt, cotton balls, and lots of duct tape! We demonstrated all three Laws of Motion and quickly realized how important friction, gravity, and force are on a marble run! We thank God for His Laws of Motion and that He is faithful in keeping His covenant!
~ Mrs. Ver Meer



3rd & 4th

January has been such a busy month, that it is hard to believe we were just celebrating Christmas only a month ago. We have completed our mid-year MAP testing, we went to the science center in Des Moines to experience different parts of God's world, had a few visits from guests, sang hymns with residents at the Cottages and Fair Haven, and had a career fair to learn about different jobs in our community. Our first special guest speaker was Dr. Jones from Family Eyecare. He taught us about the parts of our eyes and how God created them to work. We even got to play a game with funny glasses to see if we could shoot the beanbag into the box. It was tricky, but after a few tries, most were able to make it. Our second visitor was Mrs. Adams with Ag in the Classroom. She taught us a little about nutrition and what foods are in the different categories of My Plate. A special thanks to both of our speakers! ~ Miss Taft



7th & 8th

The month of January we completed a poetry unit in the 7th and 8th grade classroom. We enjoyed learning about the many types of poetry God created. We also enjoyed being creative and having fun while writing a few of our own poems. A few of the poems we learned to write include: a meaningful poem, list poems, color poems, acrostic poems, and a growing poem. Psalm 104:24 states, "Oh Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures." This verse reminds us that God's works are wonderful, and He created them all wonderfully. Here are a few poems for you to enjoy.

~ submitted by Josie Hol & Cayla Rozenboom

Confusion Everywhere

Poems making it inside
Paper airplanes flying above friends
Poems sitting beside Uncle Jerry
Poems jumping into the fire
By: Quinten Veenstra

Cows

Cows mooing in the morning
They are waiting for their feed
Mud flies through the air
Feed rests in their mouths
By: Rachel Vander Wilt

War

Troops sitting among the trenches
Guns firing throughout the area
Planes ready to drop bombs
Tanks driving to destroy buildings
By: Ethan Klaasen

Friends

Sleepovers happening in the night
Friends laughing at school
Girls manicuring at the spa
Boys farming in the fall
By: Macy Van Der Hart

A Winter Wonderland

Snowflakes falling toward the earth
Trees shimmering in the sunlight
Icicles hanging above our heads
Sun glistening upon the fresh snow
By: Hannah Van Wyk

Trap

Terrific coaches
Range bag
Awesome
Precision accuracy
By: Gerrit Meinders

Love Through a Picture

I am admired by my owners.
I am skinny, and am set on display in a dining room for all to see.
I am worth nothing, but to my owners.
I am priceless and bring memories to mind with their dear Great Grandmother in heaven.
I symbolize a lasting, loving bond between a young girl and her special Great Grandmother.
By: Maria Meinders

Priceless

I really have no value but I am priceless in my owner's eyes.
But she is also really mean to me. She bends me and she puts this clear sticky stuff on me and it hurts. When it is not perfectly straight, she will tear it off and rip me. Then she places me on this hard, clear thing with black borders that boxes me in. Some call it a door. It is always swinging and slamming. People are running into me with a boom or an "ugh". But no matter how scraped, torn or bent, my owner still loves me.
By: Cayla Rozenboom

Playful Puppy Pal

I love to be petted. Everybody likes to see me and play with me. I love when they take me outside to run. I come running when they call my name. I basically sleep all day long, but when everyone gets home I become lively. I always need attention, and when they don't give me attention I look sad so they give me attention. My favorite place to sleep at night is under Abby's bed on her futon. I always bark when someone comes through the door. I am very playful, and love my toys.
By: Josie Hol

Red

Red is the color of bright red cherries ready to be harvested.
It is also the color of strawberries that taste delicious.
It is the color of freshly picked apples.
Red is the color of beautiful roses.
Red is the color of Christmas.
Love is expressed in red as the color of the heart.
By: Trevor Veenstra

Yellow

Yellow is the color of the sunshine
Yellow is the color that makes everyone happy
Yellow is the color of beautiful sand
Yellow is the color of the Iowa Hawkeyes
Yellow is the color of my highlighter
Yellow is the color of a Goldfinch
Yellow is the color of a beautiful flower
Yellow is the color of bananas
Yellow is the color of beautiful lights
Yellow is the color of the lamp
That Jesus represents in our life
By: Ashlyn Ver Meer

WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING

JOB OPENINGS

We are looking for a full-time 1st/2nd grade teacher and a full-time 5th/6th grade teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Anyone interested in either of these positions, should contact Jeremy Copenhaver (principal@peoriachr.org) for more details. Please pray as we look to fill these positions.

FINE ARTS

Our local Fine Arts night is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21st, at 7:00PM. Thursday, March 2nd, is the District Fine Arts night at Pella Christian Grade School. Look for additional details regarding both events in the weekly email.

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 in the school office at office@peoriachr.org.

DUTCH LETTERS

It is Dutch Letter season! These unbaked delights are perfect for your freezer for you to bake and enjoy them whenever you want. Orders can be placed by contacting a school family, filling out an order form at school or in the Peoria church basement, or by contacting Davona Fynaardt at ddfynaardt@gmail.com. Each letter is \$4.25, 6 for \$25, or 12 for \$50. Orders are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, and will be accepted until March 12. Letters will be made on Saturday, March 18, and need to be picked up that afternoon at school or at Chris & Lisa Ver Meer's house in Pella. Willing hands are needed ahead of time to make dough and on March 18 as we roll out and roll up these tasty desserts!

Davona Fynaardt (641-780-1764) & Nella Veenstra (641-295-1586)

CASEY'S POINTS

Turn your Casey's purchases into donations to Peoria Christian School. Sign up for Casey's Rewards in the Casey's app and turn points earned on everyday purchases into a donation. Get started today!





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FEBRUARY	
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
MARCH	
March 2	2:40PM Dismissal
March 2	5PM District V Fine Arts at Pella Christian Grade
March 10	1:20PM Dismissal
March 13-17	Spring Break, No School
March 23	Grace Counseling with Jora Van Maanen
March 24	8:30AM Chapel, Joel Vander Molen speaking
March 24	Report Cards go Home
March 27-29	7 th /8 th Grade Class Trip
March 29	12:20PM Dismissal
March 31	Neal Smith Field Trip, PK-4 th Grade

CHAPEL

Please join us for our next scheduled chapel on Friday, February 24th at 8:30 AM. Pastor Brian Ochsner, from Faith CRC, is our scheduled speaker. Hope to see you there.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please visit the school website to view the entire school calendar and to keep up on all Peoria Christian activities throughout the year. <https://www.peoriachr.org/calendar-2/> Below the calendar you will find instructions to add the school calendar to your personal calendar. Contact the office with any questions.

FIELD TRIPS

The following field trips are scheduled. More details for each will be provided to parents or in the Weekly Pathfinder.

- Thursday, February 23: All School field trip to Urban Air and the State Historical Museum.
- March 27-29: 7th/8th Grade Class Trip to the Ark & Creation Museum in Kentucky.
- Friday, March 31: PK-4th Grade field trip to Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge.