

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

Did You Know?

See how many questions you can answer about Peoria Christian School (past, present, and future):

1. How many students are currently enrolled?
2. What grades does Peoria Christian School have?
3. Thanks to God's faithfulness, what year did Peoria Christian School open?
4. Who teaches Music/Band?
5. How many 8th graders are hoping to graduate this year?
6. What subject does Mr. Bandstra teach?
7. Who are the two bus drivers?
8. What day and time is 8th grade graduation scheduled?
9. What is the school's vision statement?
10. Who teaches 3rd/4th grade?
11. What is the school's theme verse for this year?
12. What was the school's theme verse for last year (2021-2022)?
13. What day and time is Pre-k/kindergarten roundup?
14. What year was the centennial celebration?
15. What days are the 7th/8th graders scheduled to visit the Ark/Creation Museum for their class trip?



You can find the answers on page 7 (but no cheating!).

Hopefully you were able to answer most, if not all the questions correctly, but be sure to check out our website, Facebook, and Instagram to learn more.

Thank you for your continued support,
 Jeremy Copenhaver



Peoria Christian School Board News

School Board Meeting: March 13, 2023

The Board sang "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" from Psalter Hymnal. President Spencer Fynaardt read from 2 Timothy 3:14-17 and opened with prayer.

All members were present except Dennis Veenstra and Nick De Haan, with notice.

- Adam Fynaardt, Dan Hol, and Spencer Fynaardt visited the school and gave good reports.
- From the Promotion committee, radio advertisements for our school have been created and will air on KCWN and KNIA/KRLS.
- From the Finance committee, the board reviewed a newly created bookkeeper responsibilities list.
- The STO committee reported on some changes to the STO distribution process.
- The Endowment committee met with our fund manager and reported on investment performance.
- From the School Improvement Team, a meeting was held with our CSI representative, Mary Patterson, to begin preparing for our site visit next spring.
- Next meeting: Monday, April 3rd, 7:00PM

Kody Roos closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Hol, Acting Secretary

A Thank-You From Mrs. G.

It was a **Marvelous, Unique, Special, Interesting Challenge** for me to be Peoria Christian School's interim music teacher in January and February. I thoroughly enjoyed making music with each student, Pre-K through 8th grade, and am also so appreciative of the helpfulness and kindness of the staff members. Thank you too, to Mrs. Ansley, for the strong musical foundation she has established at PCS. My prayer is that everyone will continue to praise, honor, and serve God as they grow in their musical abilities, and that God will richly bless PCS now and in the future.



I am glad to be back in the classroom! A huge thank you to Mrs. Lisa Groenendyk for taking such good care of the students and teaching them while I was home with my baby. The junior high just had their Fine Arts competition and represented our school very well. They worked hard and it showed! Bravo/Brava!
Soli Deo Gloria,
Mrs. Ansley

A Note from Music



Pre-K & Kinder

The PreK students have been enjoying how to write letters. We have learned how to write 7 lowercase letters already. We will continue to learn more letters through the end of the year and continue practicing them next year as Kindergarteners. A highlight of the past month was going on the field trip to Urban Air. It is always fun to be able to be active with the older students. ~ Mrs. Klaasen



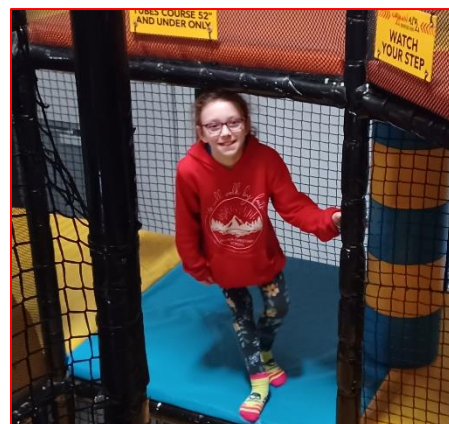
1st & 2nd

As we are gearing up for the last quarter of the school year, the 1st and 2nd graders have added a new video study to our morning routine every other day. These videos are called "Building Blocks" and come from *Answers in Genesis*. We have covered topics such as "God's Word, the foundation for our lives," and "The Bible tells us that the omnipotent God created the universe." These sound like really big topics and words, however, *Answers in Genesis* is teaching these to our kids at their levels with easy to understand object lessons. One of the biggest topics we have talked about is to "Discover the big picture view of Biblical history with the Seven C's." These Seven C's are a timeline that we can view all of history through. They are Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation. We are working on big word vocabulary with these! See if you can figure out where we are currently on the timeline and which Bible themes line up with each word. ~ Mrs. Vos



3rd & 4th

Looking back, February has gone by fast, especially with all the fun things that have happened. Back at the start of the month, we were able to show the talents God has given us in a spelling bee against the third and fourth graders from Sully Christian. One of their students won in third grade, and Matthew won in fourth grade. Great job to everyone! We have been busy working on our history fair research. We learned how to find resources in the library, made a list of questions, and are almost finished taking notes to find the answers to those questions. These will be on display later at the Grandparent and Special Friends day in April. The students enjoyed a bit of snow this month, as well as, a few late starts and a snow day. Another event they all enjoyed was our whole school field trip. We went to Urban Air, an indoor trampoline park, and the state historical museum. It was great to see some of the items God has preserved that we have been learning about in history and reading, as well as, what we will be learning about later in the year. One last exciting thing to mention is that we have finished our reading books and are ready to start our novels. The students have worked hard to get to this point! ~ Miss Taft



5th & 6th

God has blessed us with lots of fun and excitement in 5th and 6th grade this winter. In January, we finished all of our writing pieces and did lots of art projects to send to Fine Arts. In February, we enjoyed going to Urban Air to jump around and get lots of exercise. We also spent an afternoon in Sully playing some friendly basketball games. March started with our District Fine Arts night in Pella and all the students received multiple ribbons for their hard work. We praise God for the many wonderful talents and abilities He has given us.

We are looking forward to the upcoming quarter and all the fun things we get to do. The students have received their part for the Grandparent's Day program and are excited to be able to have speaking parts this year. They are also preparing for track and field day and Tulip Time. We praise God for the wonderful year He has given us so far and safety on the roads as we have traveled to school this winter. ~ Mrs. Laura Fynaardt

7th & 8th

On February 21, 2023, the 5th-8th graders had an opportunity to glorify God in the local Fine Arts night at Peoria Christian School. Some of the students also made it to district Fine Arts at Pella Christian Grade School. Students played their instruments, piano, gave a speech, and sang. Students did all for the glory of God. "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31) We want to say thank you to all the people that helped prepare us, especially with our speeches. Thank you to Mrs. Ruth De Vries, Mrs. Carolyn Bandstra, Mrs. Judy De Vries, Mrs. Teresa Van Wyk, and Mrs. Darlene Van Hal. We are also thankful to Mr. Spencer Fynaardt, Mrs. Glenda Mathes, and Miss Autumn Bennett for serving as judges, and the accompanists, Mrs. Lisa Groenendyk and Mrs. Jan Warden. "Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!" (1 Chronicles 16:8) ~ Submitted by Ethan Klaasen and Quinten Veenstra



Resource Room

The school has made 7.4 months of growth in math and 1.06 years of growth already in language arts! The students continue to impress with their dedication, independence, and Biblical perspective. They push through even when it's grades above theirs. They use many resources in completing their skills responsibly. They can see God in each objective assigned without telling them. Our diligent students bring joy to many!~ Mrs. Fynaardt

Spanish

Enjoy what each grade will be learning about this month in Spanish.
1st Grade: The first graders are identifying animals God has created.
2nd Grade: The second graders are identifying the days of the week God has created.
3rd Grade: The third graders are counting to 100 using God's order for numbers.
4th Grade: The fourth graders are identifying God's creation in nature.
5th Grade: The fifth graders are identifying animals God has created.
6th grade: The sixth graders are using their God-given knowledge to identify possessive adjectives.
7th grade: The seventh graders are identifying body parts God has created.
8th grade: The eighth graders are using their God-given knowledge to use possessive adjectives in sentences. ~ Mrs. McConnell

WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING



JOB OPENINGS

We are looking for the following positions for the 2023-2024 school year:

- Full-time 1st/2nd grade teacher
- Full-time 5th/6th grade teacher
- Part-time 7th/8th grade science teacher
- Part-time Spanish teacher

Anyone interested in either of these positions, should contact Jeremy Copenhaver (principal@peoriachr.org) for more information. Please pray as we look to fill these positions.

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Heather McConnell and Mr. Al Bandstra for their service as Spanish Teacher and 7th/8th Science Teacher.



HOSTESS SUPPER

THANK-YOU

“I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify Him with thanksgiving” (Psalm 69:30).

The annual Hostess Supper was held on Saturday, February 18. It was a beautiful evening of fellowship and good food. Thank you to the many willing table hosts who invited supporters of Peoria Christian School and to our anonymous donor who provided all the meat for the meal. Above all, we thank our heavenly Father for His continued provision for Peoria Christian School. The total donations for the evening came to \$69,397. Thank you to everyone for your generosity and for blessing us with your presence.

WHAT'S
EVENTS
 HAPPENING

PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Round-Up for students considering enrolling in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten will be held on Wednesday, April 26, from 8AM-1PM. Please contact Jeremy Copenhaver at principal@peoriachr.org if you are interested in your child attending or if you know of a family who has a child who could be interested.



OPEN HOUSE

On Tuesday, April 4, we will be holding an Open House for all prospective families who are interested in Peoria Christian School. The Open House will be held from 7-8PM. Please share this opportunity with anyone who may be interested in Peoria Christian School or contact the office with your name, phone number, email, and mailing address if you or someone you know are interested in attending.

PRAYER

Please continue to pray for our open teaching positions, as well as, the Open House on April 4 and Round-Up on April 26. Pray that these events will share the mission of Peoria Christian School and that new families will join us in this mission.

CHAPEL

Our next chapel is scheduled for Friday, March 24. Joel Vander Molen is our speaker for the morning. We hope that you will join us for a morning of worship.



WHAT'S
EVENTS
 HAPPENING

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WEEK
 April 11-14, 2023

“...declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all My purpose’” (Isaiah 46:10).

We will start the week with chapel in the gym at 8:30AM on Tuesday, April 11, hold history fair judging on Thursday, April 13, and end the week with Grandparents and Special Friends Day on Friday, April 14. Each day of the week will have a specific dress up theme that fits with the past, present and future. Parents, please watch the Weekly Pathfinder for more specific details as the week gets closer. Overall, please pray that we can use this week to honor the blessing of Christian Education and our Heavenly Father who continues to cover us with His blessing and protection.

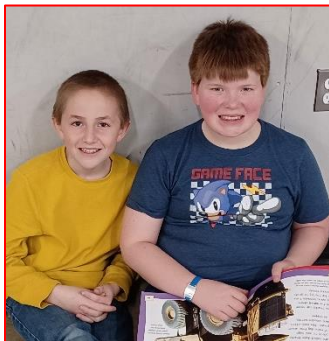


PRINCIPAL'S
 MESSAGE
 ANSWERS

- 1) 40 students
- 2) PreK-8th Grade
- 3) 1907
- 4) Mrs. Carolyn Ansley
- 5) 7 hopeful graduates
- 6) 7th/8th Science
- 7) Marcia Van Gorp & Larry Rozenboom
- 8) Monday, May 22 at 7PM
- 9) Personalized learning to develop a Christ-centered worldview for the glory of God alone.
- 10) Miss Erica Taft
- 11) Isaiah 55:8-9
- 12) I Timothy 4:12
- 13) Wednesday, April 26, 8AM
- 14) 2007
- 15) Monday-Wednesday, March 27-29

AMAZON SMILE

Many of you have been using Amazon Smile to support Peoria Christian School. As of February 20, 2023, Amazon discontinued their Amazon Smile program. In the last 10 years, Peoria Christian has received over \$600 from this program. Thank you to everyone who has used this simple way to support our students and staff at Peoria Christian School.



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MARCH	
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	PK-4 th Grade, Neal Smith Field Trip
APRIL	
April 4	9AM PK-4 th Jasper Co Conservation at Sully Chr.
April 4	7-8PM Open House
April 7	No School – Good Friday
April 10	No School – Easter Monday
April 11-14	Christian Education Week
April 11	8:30AM Chapel, Benjamin Anum-Higher speaking
April 14	Grandparent/Special Friends Day 8:30AM Chapel, Al Bandstra speaking 1:30PM PK-8 th Grade Program
April 19	9AM District V Track Meet at Lacey Complex
April 21	3 rd /4 th Ag Day at Mahaska Co Fair Grounds
April 26	2:40PM Dismissal
April 26	8AM-1PM PK/K Round Up
April 27	All School Field Trip, AirPlay at DSM Civic Center
April 28	PK-4 th Field Day with Sully Chr. at Peoria Chr.
MAY	
May 4	Pella Tulip Time, Early Dismissal, Students ride bikes in afternoon parade
May 5	Pella Tulip Time, No School, Students ride bikes in afternoon parade
May 8-12	Spring Map Testing
May 12	AgVenture Day at PCHS
May 22	2:20PM Dismissal, 7PM 8 th Grade Graduation
May 23	1:20PM Dismissal, Last Day of School

FIELD TRIPS

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

- 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.
- Tuesday, April 4: PK-4th Grade field trip to Sully Christian School at 9AM for a Jasper County Conservation Program about turtles.