

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 Education Week

It is such a huge blessing to offer Christian Education for our students. Next week (April 10th-14th) is Christian Education Week. In fact, we have a lot of activities planned to specifically celebrate Christian Education, but I also think it is important to remember that the reason we celebrate is because our students have the opportunity to learn more about Christ, try to have a closer walk with Christ, and form thinking to ultimately glorify God.

Here are some of the reasons that our students said why they love our school:

- "I Love learning about God in Math and Reading." (Wyatt Roos)
- "Christian teachers" (Ellington Dunsbergen)
- "We get to read the Bible." (Raelynn Rozenboom)
- "Our friends pick you up if you fall" (Conner Ford)
- "Friends encourage me" (Ezekiel Copenhaver)
- "The field trips we go on." (Gerrit Gesink)
- "Our facilitators" (Logan Roos)
- "If I get hurt, someone will help me." (Josiah Anum-Higher)
- "Our school feels like a community" (Bella Ford)
- "The Christian perspective in every subject." (Josiah Copenhaver)
- "Buddy reading" (Will Ver Meer)
- "Personalized learning" (Ellie Vos)
- "Christian objectives" (Dylan Klaasen)
- "Art and PE" (Alicia Fynaardt)
- "We learn from a Biblical perspective which helps equip us for the world." (Hannah Van Wyk)
- "The smaller class sizes and the strong foundation we have been taught." (Ashlyn Ver Meer)



Seeing these reasons why our students love our school, definitely reassures us why Christian education is so important for our children.

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: April 3, 2023

The Board sang "May the Mind of Christ My Savior" from the Psalter Hymnal. President Spencer Fynaardt read from Psalm 9:7-11 and opened with prayer. All members were present.

Minutes of the February and March Board Meetings were read and approved.

- Glenn Meinders visited school and gave a favorable report.
- From the Ed Committee, a motion to have no school on May 4th (Thursday of Tulip Time) was approved.
- From the Promotions Committee, new signs are up and the board was reminded of the April 4 Open House.
- From the School Improvement Team, the committee met and discussed the annual reporting and first steps for re-accreditation.
- From the Building Committee, Andy will be getting quotes for painting classrooms.
- New Business: The Board was reminded to plan to usher at graduation, and President Spencer Fynaardt asked members to be thinking of board nominees.

Next meeting: Monday, May 1st, at 7:00PM.
Glenn Meinders closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick De Haan, Secretary

JOB OPENINGS

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

- 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.

TEACHER UPDATES

We wish to express our appreciation to the teachers and staff who have signed their contracts to return for the 2023/2024 school year. We specifically wish to note that Melinda Vos is filling one of our open positions and is coming back to teach 1st/2nd grade full-time next year. We praise God for each of our teachers and staff and for their dedication to our students and families.



A Note from Music

In the month of March, our students listen to marches written by the American march king, John Philips Sousa. The Marine Corp band puts on a bracket competition each year and this year it celebrated its 10th anniversary with all marches by Sousa. Our younger students listened to different marches each week as we

marched around the room. The 5th-8th graders enjoyed listening to all 32 marches and filling out a bracket to see if they could guess the winning march. Then, each weekday in March, they voted online with others all over the country to select the winning songs. This year our winner was Macy Van Der Hart and she was named the "March King". ~ Soli Deo Gloria, Mrs Ansley



Pre-K & Kinder

In PreK, we have continued learning how to properly form letters. We have also learned about different animals that God has created. The students enjoyed going to the Neil Smith Wildlife Refuge with grades 1-4. It was exciting to see the buffalo up close
~Mrs. Klaasen



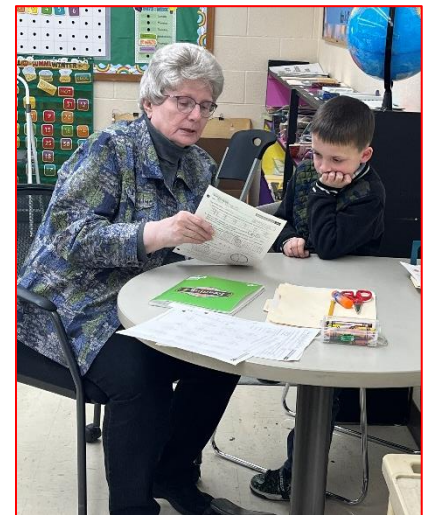
1st & 2nd

First and second grade is always a room of movement and activity. We have been learning about the passion week. The students have enjoyed doing multiple reader's theaters in this Bible unit. A highlight of our month was going to the Neil Smith Wildlife Refuge. It was fun to see some of God's creatures up close. We learned a lot about the prairie and the animals that live there. We even saw a herd of over 30 buffalo! We praise God for that opportunity.
~ Mrs. Klaasen



3rd & 4th

We are now in the 4th quarter of school and there is a lot to do! We are almost finished learning about all the kings of Israel and Judah. We will be looking at how God brings His people back to the land of Israel and rebuilds everything. Fourth grade has finished their first novel and will soon be starting *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. Third grade has been working on multiplication and just started learning division facts. April brings a lot of extra activities as well: Easter, Christian Education Week, Grandparent and Special Visitor's Day, Ag day, field day, and more. Next month, be sure to look for pictures from each of these events.
~Miss Taft



IXL

First and Second Grades: They have worked hard to reach their mastery goal. They reached a "perfect" score on 300+ skills. So, they will have a module full of games instead of IXL next week.
Third and Fourth Grades: They have worked hard to reach their mastery goal. They reached a "perfect" score on 120+ skills. They will learn through games next week as well.
Fifth and Sixth Grades: As a class, they have grown 4 months in math and 9.6 months in language arts!
Seventh and Eighth Grades: The middle schoolers have grown 7.6 months in math and 6 months in language arts!
~ Mrs. Fynaardt

5th & 6th

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.” Psalm 19:1 The 5/6th graders have been busy learning about the stars and how they proclaim the greatness of God. The vastness of the universe boldly declares the glory of God! As we learned about the constellations, we were able to make Pinhole Constellations by using pop cans and nails. We had fun using a hammer and nails to create our constellations. This unit helped us to see what a great God we serve, who upholds all things in His almighty hands. May we worship our great God, the creator of heaven and earth! ~ Mrs. Lisa Ver Meer



Classroom Updates

7th & 8th

On March 27-29, 2023, the 7th and 8th graders went to Kentucky for our class trip. We went to the Ark Encounter and to the Creation Museum. We had a fun time while on the class trip. No one threw up, but there were a few very close calls. No one went hungry anywhere we stopped. In fact, we ate way too much food everywhere we went. Some of our highlights were: meeting Ken Ham, seeing the Ark in person, and experiencing the Virtual Reality. Ken Ham challenged us to use Genesis 1-11 as the foundation for everything. Thank you to those who supported us to go on our class trip.~ Submitted by Trevor Veenstra & Gerrit Meinders

Spanish

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

First Grade: The first graders are identifying the animals that God has created.

Second Grade: The second graders are identifying shapes God has created.

Third Grade: The third graders are identifying foods God has blessed us with.

Fourth Grade: The fourth graders are identifying God’s creation in nature.

Fifth Grade: The fifth graders are identifying their favorite foods God has created.

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

Seventh Grade: The seventh graders are identifying animals God has created.

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

~ Mrs. McConnell





STO APPLICATIONS

STO applications are open and are due by April 29th. Families whose income is 4x the poverty level or less are strongly encouraged to apply. The requirements have been adjusted this year so you may be eligible this year even if you have not been eligible in previous years. The application form this year looks different than in previous years. Please visit Application - Legacy of Grace School Tuition Organization (logsto.org) and carefully read through the provided instructions before starting. You will need to create a username and password. If you have students at Peoria Christian and Pella Christian High School, the application will be longer. Please contact the office with any questions regarding the process.

EASTER BREAK

There will be no school on Friday, April 7th for Good Friday and on Monday, April 10th.

2023-2024 RE-ENROLLMENT

Re-enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is open. Please have re-enrollment completed by Saturday, April 29th. Parents will need to visit the following website, <https://www.peoriachr.org/enrollment/parent/login.php>, and enter their username and password. Please contact Michelle De Haan if you have any questions.

DUTCH LETTER THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for your support of the recent Dutch Letter fundraiser. We were blessed by many individuals each doing their own part to make this a success. School Circle raised approximately \$4,000 to be used in continued support of our school. What a blessing it is to be a part of such a generous community.

TIRE ROTATION SERVICE PROJECT

Our 7th/8th grade boys will be offering tire rotation services free of charge to the community on Thursday, April 20 from 1-3pm in the school parking lot. The students are anxious to serve our society that afternoon so please bring your vehicle! The 7th/8th grade girls will also be doing a service project that afternoon. Details to come in the Weekly Pathfinder.

WHAT'S
EVENTS
 HAPPENING

7TH/8TH GRADE
 CLASS TRIP
 PRESENTATION
 /CHAPEL

We give thanks for the wonderful class trip that our 7th/8th grade students were able to go on at the end of March. They plan to share about their trip at chapel on Tuesday, April 11, at 8:30 AM. Mr Benjamin Anum-Higher is our scheduled speaker. We hope that you can join us.

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.

FIELD TRIPS

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

- Wednesday, April 12: All School to Fair Haven & The Cottages for a time of playing games and singing. Parents, please check the Weekly Pathfinder for additional information.
- Tuesday, April 18: 3rd/4th to Environmental Learning Center in Oskaloosa
- Friday, April 21: 3rd/4th to Ag Day at the Mahaska Co Fair Grounds
- Thursday, April 21: All School to Airplay at the Civic Center in Des Moines. Parents, please check the Weekly Pathfinder for additional information.
- Friday, May 12: 3rd-6th grade to PCHS for AgVenture Day

OPEN HOUSE

It was a blessing to have 5 families at our open house on Tuesday, April 4th. Thank you to the promotions sub-committee and to all that prayed for and helped to make that evening take place. Finally, please pray for the families that came to our open house as they consider sending their child(ren) to our school.



WHAT'S
EVENTS
HAPPENING

DISTRICT V TRACK MEET

Please save the date for the District V Track Meet at the Lacey Complex in Oskaloosa on Wednesday, April 19th. Parents of 5th-8th grade students, we plan to send a specific email with more details regarding this event. In case of weather concerns, the make-up date for this event is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25th.

PRE/K-4TH GRADE TRACK AND FIELD DAY

Track & Field Day for our PK-4th grade students will be held in the afternoon of Friday, April 28th. Sully Christian is planning on joining us for the afternoon as well. Please mark your calendar and plan on joining us for this event.

SPRING MAP TESTING

End of the year map testing is scheduled for May 8th- May 12th. Parents, please try to avoid any appointments during this week especially in the morning. Please remember to pray for our students as they take these end of the year tests.

TULIP TIME

Tulip Time will be held May 4-6. Our students have two opportunities to participate in the weekend's activities and share our school with those who come to visit.

Bikes:

All students are expected to walk or ride the provided bikes in the afternoon parades on Thursday & Friday afternoon. Dutch Costumes will be going home as Tulip Time gets closer.

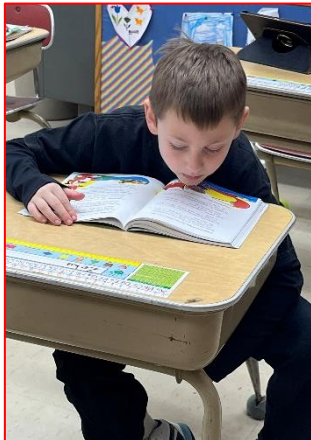
Band:

The 6th-8th grade band students will be marching with the Central Iowa Christian School Band on Thursday afternoon, Friday night, and Saturday afternoon. Parents, please check the Weekly Pathfinder for practice details.



MAY 4 - SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGE

At the April School Board Meeting, it was decided to not have school on Thursday, May 4, of Tulip Time. At this time, this change is only for the 2022/2023 school year.



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APRIL	
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 & 5	Pella Tulip Time, No School, Students ride bikes in afternoon parade
May 4, 5 & 6	Pella Tulip Time, Junior High Marching Band
May 8-12	Spring Map Testing
May 12	AgVenture Day at PCHS
May 22	11:30 Dismissal for 8 th Graders 2:20PM Dismissal 7PM 8 th Grade Graduation
May 23	1:20PM Dismissal, Last Day of School

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
- ~ Kleenex
- ~ Lined 3x5 notecards

