



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 Graduation

Now that we have entered into the month of May, I would like to take time and congratulate our seven 8th grade graduates. Our graduates this year are: Ethan Klaasen, Maria Meinders, Cayla Rozenboom, Macy Van Der Hart, Hannah Van Wyk, Quinten Veenstra, and Ashlyn Ver Meer. They have been working so hard this year and it has been very exciting to see how God has used and is using each one of these graduates. I also want to thank their parents, church, and school society because it takes everyone working together to train the next generation to follow Christ (Proverbs 22:6). It is such a joy to see how they have been learning to think and speak from a Reformed Christian perspective. Please continue to pray for and pray with these students (Colossians 1:9-11) as they make the transition into high school.



I also want to take the time to invite everyone to our 8th grade graduation at Peoria CRC on Monday, May 22nd starting at 7:00 PM. Mr. Al Bandstra is our scheduled graduation speaker and I hope everyone will be able to join us on that night to celebrate what God has done in their lives. It is amazing to see the fruits of Christian education in the lives of our children. Hope to see you there.

Thank you for your continued support,

Jeremy Copenhaver

“And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy” (Colossians 1:9-11).

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men” (Colossians 3:23).

“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God” (Philippians 1:9-11).



Peoria Christian School Board News

School Board Meeting: May 1, 2023

The Board sang “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus” from the Psalter Hymnal. President Spencer Fynaardt read from Psalm 42 and opened with prayer. All members were present.

Minutes of the April Board Meeting were read and approved.

- The Treasurer’s Report was given and approved.
- The Finance Committee reported that families have been contacted about applying for the STO.
- The 8th grade gift ideas were approved with Mr. Cope to have final approval.
- Mr. Cope and Glenn Meinders attended the “Students First Summit on April 21st. The board was briefed on the summit, which pertained to the rollout of the ESA program.
- Families will be able to apply for the ESA beginning May 30th and the deadline for applications is June 30th.
- The board discussed names for board nominees.

Next meeting: Monday, June 5th at 7:00PM.
Adam Fynaardt closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick De Haan, Secretary

THANK YOU

I am humbled by the out-pouring of love from Peoria Christian School – its students, staff and families. Thank you for the special cards and the generous monetary gift, which will go towards a grave marker. The floral arrangement was perfect, and the bus plaque inside, priceless. ~ Judy Rozenboom

In Memory

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15).

On Wednesday, April 5, Larry Rozenboom, one of our beloved bus drivers, enter the glory of heaven. Our hearts ache with his absence and we continue to adjust to not having him in our lives. Students remember Mr. Larry as being a grandpa to all students. It wasn’t usual for him to stop and get ice cream for the students after a field trip or bring a special treat for all students on the last day of school. There were also occasions that he would forget that someone had moved or that they needed to be picked up – he would quickly make the adjustment and go about his route. Probably the most mentioned memory is when Mr. Larry accidentally went the wrong way down a one-way road during a field trip. Most importantly, our students remember him as someone who loved them and served as a constant reminder of God’s love for them.

We are grateful to our community and society for their support over the last month. Your thoughts, prayers, offers of assistance and support have been noticed and appreciated. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ.



Pre-K & Kinder

It's hard to believe that this school year is almost over. We have so many exciting things happening in this last part of the year. The Prek students enjoyed making new friends at the Prek and Kindergarten round-up. It was great to see new faces and how much the PreK kids have grown since last round-up. We also enjoyed track and field day. The PreK students are also looking forward to going to the zoo later this month and enjoying God's different animals. We also hope to be able to celebrate our 100th day of school. We praise the Lord for such a great year of PreK! ~ Mrs. Klaasen

1st & 2nd

And just like that, we are at the end of the school year! It really feels like we were all just getting to know each other on the first day of school. But it also feels like we have done so much together! In the day-to-day, we don't always see that we're growing and learning all the things God wants us to learn. But as we reflect on the school year, we can see just how far we have come. At the beginning of the school year, the 1st graders were working on objectives such as, "I can show the difference between God's design for an uppercase T and a lowercase t." Now that seems so easy, and we have moved on to harder concepts like, "I can understand how God created each character/person to view a problem differently." Similarly, at the beginning of the school year, the 2nd graders were working on "I can identify God's design for a Contents Page and Glossary." And now we're working on, "I can identify God's meaning of imagery." So much growth over 158 days together. And we will use the last couple weeks to learn as much as God allows us! ~ Mrs. Vos

IXL

In addition to IXL, I also work with three students individually to guide them in their work. God has created us all differently, so being a part of their individual needs allows me to see their uniqueness in Him. This school year, we learned Foundations (mainly orthographics, phonics and phonemic awareness), homework completion, executive functioning skills, and reading comprehension skills! ~ Mrs. Amber Fynaardt



3rd & 4th

It is hard to believe we are close to the end of the school year. We have done a lot in April, and have a lot left to do in May. In April, we had a lot of fun during Christian Education Week. Most of the students dressed up for the theme each day. On Friday, we enjoyed having our special guests and grandparents join us for the day. Each year we have a cursive contest on that day, and this year, Hudson won! All the students showed glory to God in their beautiful cursive work. We also had a lot of fun the next week. We went to the Environmental Learning Center in Osky on the following Tuesday. We learned about animals and their environments that God created for them. We also went down to the frog pond and dug in the mud to see what we could find. We found a lot of snails, some crawdads, and even a small tadpole. We spent that Friday at Ag Day, which is one of our favorite field trips. This is a yearly event put on by the Mahaska County Farm Bureau for all 3rd graders in Mahaska County. We started our time by enjoying a wonderful hamburger lunch made by the Cattleman's Association. We then went to stations and learned about soil, corn, honey and bees, welding and machinery, horses, cows, pigs, chickens, rabbits, sheep, and more. Here were some of the favorite things we saw and did: learning about the chickens, learning about milk and doing the spinner quiz about milk, seeing the pigs because I like pigs, seeing and petting the bunnies, and going into the Iowa Corn trailer. These pictures are from Ag Day. We are learning from the Iowa Honey Bee Queen and from FFA students about welding with graham crackers and frosting. Praise the Lord for these great opportunities to learn more about His wonderful creation! ~ Miss Taft

5th & 6th

This year the theme of our room was Glorify the Lord! Throughout the year, we added sunflowers to our bulletin board with different ways we glorified God or saw God's glory in the world around us. We found throughout the year that we have a great and wonderful God who has blessed us in so many abilities for us to use to glorify Him. Here are some of the ways we glorified God this year:

- Learning about God's earth
 - Helping people
 - Doing our hot lunch jobs
 - Learning about God's Bible
 - Helping the little kids in track and field
 - Playing my instrument for Him
 - Staying patient
 - Helping others
- ~ Mrs. Laura Fynaardt

Spanish

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

- 1st Grade:** The first graders are identifying foods God has created.
 - 2nd Grade:** The second graders are counting by tens, using God's order for numbers.
 - 3rd Grade:** The third graders are identifying foods God has blessed us with.
 - 4th Grade:** The fourth graders are identifying instruments we can use for worship.
 - 5th Grade:** The fifth graders are identifying the seasons God has created.
 - 6th Grade:** The sixth graders are using their God-given knowledge to tell time.
 - 7th Grade:** The seventh graders are using their God-given knowledge to conjugate 'tener'.
 - 8th Grade:** The eighth graders are using their God-given knowledge to conjugate irregular verbs.
- ~ Mrs. McConnell



A Note from Music

The students have been enjoying learning new musical games and folk dances after our spring program at Grandparent's and Special Friends Day. The 6th-8th grade band students have started marching band practice for Tulip Time. Come see us march with the Central Iowa Christian School marching band in our red wooden shoes on Thursday night, and Friday and Saturday afternoon parades. Soli Deo Gloria, Mrs. Ansley

PREK/KINDERGARTEN
ROUND-UP

We want to thank God that 5 students attended Pre/k/kinder round up on April 26th. Please pray for these families and others as they consider sending their children to Peoria Christian School.





CLASS OF 2023



Ethan Ryan Kladsen

Hobbies: Baseball
Dream Job: Diesel Mechanic
Dream Vacation: Canada
Favorite book to read? Prisoner B-3087 by Alan Gratz
Best Memory while at Peoria? Going to the Ark and Creation Museum
Favorite field trip while at Peoria? Urban Air
Favorite hot lunch meal? Chicken bacon casserole
Favorite Quote: "When life's flight is over, and we unload our cargo at the other end, the fellow who got rid of unnecessary weight will have the most valuable cargo to present the Lord."- Nate Saint
Favorite Bible Passage: Psalm 23:4
What advice do you have for younger students? To always be nice to others and be helpful to them in a Christian way
They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by... how I help and treat others - how Christ would.

Maria Faith Meinders

Hobbies: Art, trap shooting, reading, basketball
Dream Job: OB doctor or interior designer
Dream Vacation: Going to Paris or Bahamas
Favorite book to read? Betting on Hope by Debra Clopton
Funniest memory while at Peoria? Class trip to Kentucky
Favorite field trip while at Peoria? Ice skating, children's museum, and Chick-fil-a
Favorite hot lunch meal? Mac and Cheese and little smokies
Favorite Quote: "Faith does not eliminate questions, but faith knows where to take them." - Elizabeth Elliot
Favorite Bible Passage: Jeremiah 29:11
What advice do you have for younger students? God is with you always and will carry you through even the toughest of times.
They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by... the way I treat others, my view of the world as a Christian, and my servant heart.

Cayla Marie Rozenboom

Hobbies: Track, painting, driving
Dream Job: CNA
Dream Vacation: Tahiti with friends
Favorite book to read? The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom
Funniest memory while at Peoria? Convincing other students that blinker fluid was a real thing.
Favorite field trip while at Peoria? Urban Air
Favorite hot lunch meal? Ham balls and cheesy potatoes
Favorite Quote: "I love you forever and always" - Larry Rozenboom
Favorite Bible passage: 1 Peter 3:15
What advice do you have for younger students? Don't let people define who you are. Be yourself, and God is your best friend.
They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by... how I have grown in my faith in the past two years.

Macy Grace Van Der Hart

Hobbies: Baking, reading, and playing with cats
Dream Job: Teacher/ Baker
Dream Vacation: Hawaii
Favorite book to read? Any book by Karen Kingsbury
Funniest memory while at Peoria? Everything that had happened during typing time in 5th/6th grade.
Favorite field trip while at Peoria? The time we got Chick-Fil-A and went ice skating
Favorite hot lunch meal? Pizza
Favorite Quote: "Study what interests you. Do all you can and don't be afraid to expand into new fields." -Judith Resnik
Favorite Bible Passage: Jeremiah 29:11
What advice do you have for younger students? Always do your best for God.
They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by... being kind to others.

Ashlyn Peace Ver Meer

Hobbies: Hanging out with my friends and cousins and playing sports

Dream Job: Basketball player or Occupational therapist

Dream Vacation: Bahamas or Hawaii

Favorite book to read? Christy Miller Series

Best memory while at Peoria? The class trip to Kentucky

Favorite field trip while in Peoria? Ice skating in Iowa City

Favorite hot lunch meal? Walking Tacos

Favorite Quote: "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God" -Corrie Ten Boom

Favorite Bible Passage: Romans 8:38-39

What advice do you have for younger students? Stay flexible and keep a smile on your face. We serve a God who is good and does good. God has a plan for everything that happens, and we are called to trust Him through it all.

They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by... the way I treat others and by the way I am always striving to show God's love to everyone I come in contact with.

Quinten David Veenstra

Hobbies: Riding bikes, camping, and driving four wheelers

Dream Job: Pilot

Dream vacation: South Dakota

Favorite book to read? Bible and Christian Heroes Then and Now: David Livingstone by Janet & Geoff Benge

Funniest memory while at Peoria? Breaking a table

Favorite field trip while at Peoria? The Kinze Museum

Favorite hot lunch meal? Farmers Delight

Favorite quote: "If it is due tomorrow, do it tomorrow." -Andrew Veenstra

Favorite Bible passage: Psalm 118:24

What advice do you have for younger students? Don't wait until the day before to do your projects.

They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by.... the fact that I know everyone in the whole school.

Hannah Marie Van Wyk

Hobbies: Reading, playing sports, going out to eat with my mom

Dream Job: teacher

Dream Vacation: Islands of Hawaii

Favorite book to read? The Christy Miller Series

Best memory while at Peoria? The Class Trip to the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter

Favorite field trip while at Peoria? Urban Air

Favorite hot lunch meal? Meatballs and mashed potatoes

Favorite Quote: "God has promised to supply all our needs. What we don't have now, we don't need now." -Elisabeth Elliot

Favorite Bible Passage: Isaiah 43:1-2

What advice do you have for younger students? God has redeemed us and called us by name. Live that out! Be imitators of Christ. Show the evidence of His work in your life.

They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by... the way I strive to continually be a servant and live for Christ.



CONGRATULATIONS!

WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING

TULIP TIME

Our students have two opportunities to participate in Tulip Time activities, May 4-6, and share our school with those who come to visit. All students are expected to walk or ride the provided bikes in the afternoon parades on Thursday & Friday afternoon. The 6th-8th grade band students will be marching with the Central Iowa Christian School Band on Thursday night, Friday afternoon, and Saturday afternoon. Watch for the red wooden shoes!

OPEN POSITIONS

We want to praise God that Mr. Al Bandstra has agreed to come back to teach 7th/8th grade Science for the 2023-2024 school year. Here are the positions that we are still looking to fill:

- Full Time 5th/6th Grade
- Part time shared position IXL for 2 days a week
- Part time Spanish Teacher

Please continue to pray for these open positions.

8th GRADE GRADUATION

Peoria Christian School will be holding its 8th Grade Graduation on Monday, May 22, at 7PM at Peoria CRC. We invite anyone who would like to join us in this time of recognizing our 7 graduates. PK-7th grade students will be participating in the service and are expected to be present.

BUS DRIVER

Peoria Christian School is looking for a bus driver for the 2023/2024 school year. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Dan Hol (gr8farmboy@hotmail.com). Please pray that we are able to fill this need for the upcoming school year.



WHAT'S EVENTS HAPPENING

EARLY DISMISSALS

Please note these early dismissals through the end of the year.

- Monday, May 22nd: 11:30AM for 8th grade students; 2:20PM for remaining students
- Tuesday, May 23rd: 1:20PM Last Day of School

FACILITATOR THANK YOU

Please join us on Tuesday, May 23rd, after chapel at approximately 9:15AM as we take a moment to express our appreciation to our facilitators, who have faithfully served our students this year. We will have a brief time of thanks and then share a special snack together.



SOCIETY MEETING

Please save the date of July 10 at 7PM in the school gym for the Peoria Christian School Annual Society Meeting. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with a member of the finance committee for tuition payments and financial information for the 2023/2024 school year. The Society Meeting will be held to hear reports on the 2022/2023 school year, elect new board members, and approve the budget for the 2023/2024 school year.

MAP TESTING

Please remember to pray for our students as they take these tests Monday, May 8 – Thursday, May 11. Please pray that they focus, give their best, and portray what they learned throughout the year.

WHAT'S
EVENTS
 HAPPENING

FIELD TRIPS

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

- Friday, May 12: 3rd-6th grade to PCHS from 1:00PM-2:45PM for AgVenture Day
- Thursday, May 18: All School Picnic & Games at Caldwell Park (Parents are welcome to join us for lunch at a cost of \$3)
- Friday, May 19: Blank Park Zoo Field Trip for PK-2nd, 7th & 8th Grade
- Friday, May 19 – Saturday, May 20: Orange City Band Trip with Pella Christian Grade School



TRACTOR RIDE

Peoria Christian will be hosting a tractor ride on Saturday, June 10. Registration will begin at 8AM that morning in the school gym. Lunch will be provided back at the gym. Contact Ruth De Bruin at 641-204-1855 or Pam Klyn at 641-780-2028 with any questions.

CHAPEL SNACKS

A special thank you to those who were willing to contribute snacks for the students on chapel days this past year. The students enjoy a snack as they meet in their chapel groups to discuss what they learned from the chapel speaker. Thank you for these special treats. Please contact Heidi Van Wyk if you would be willing to contribute next school year.

ALL SCHOOL PICNIC

On Thursday, May 18, we will be having lunch at a park in Pella and then spend the afternoon playing games in the park. If you are interested in eating lunch with us in the park, please contact Melissa Copenhaver at hotlunch@peoriachr.org and send \$3 to the office to cover the cost of your lunch.





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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 Thursday night, Friday afternoon, Saturday afternoon
May 8-12	Spring Map Testing
May 12	AgVenture Day at PCHS
May 18	All School Picnic
May 19	Zoo Field Trip
May 19 & 20	Orange City Band Trip
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
June	
June 2	Parent All School Cleaning
June 10	Peoria Christian Tractor Ride

CHAPEL

Please join us on at 8:30AM on Tuesday, May 23rd, the last day of school, for chapel at Peoria CRC. Nolan Wiersma is our scheduled speaker.

PARENT ALL SCHOOL CLEANING

All school cleaning for all parents is scheduled for Friday, June 2nd. There will be two shifts. The first shift during the morning and the second shift during the evening. More information will be sent out in the weekly email.

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
- ~ Paper Towels for All School Cleaning
- ~ Mr. Clean Magic Easers for All School Cleaning