

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

Thanks

As we turn the calendar and enter the month of November, it is usually a time that we specifically set aside to give thanks to God for a bountiful harvest and the blessings that He gave throughout this past year. At Peoria Christian, we have so many reasons to give God thanks. Here are just a few:

- We thank God for sending us teachers that teach from a reformed Christian perspective.
- We thank God for sending us new students this past year.
- We thank God for all our students returning from last year.
- We thank God for volunteers to drive the van.
- We thank God for our bus drivers.
- We thank God for our janitors.
- We thank God for our facilitators.
- We thank God for our secretary.
- We thank God for our school board that makes decisions for our school.
- We thank God for people that serve on the different committees at school.
- We thank God for His faithfulness to this school for over 100 years.
- We thank God for every society member that supports this school by your prayers and financial support.



There are many more that I could list but I think David said it best when he said, "O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever" (Psalm 30:12b).

Thank you for your continued support,
Jeremy Copenhaver

Here are some additional verses regarding giving thanks:

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him, bless His name! For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations" (Psalm 100).

"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High (Psalm 92:1).

"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise (Psalm 95:1-2).

"Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the most High, and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me (Psalm 50:14-15).

"I will give to the Lord the thanks due to His righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High" (Psalm 7:17).

"Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for mankind, for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things (Psalm 107:8-9).

"Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:19-20).

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

"Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 106:1).

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 107:1, Psalm 118:1 and 29, I Chronicles 16:34).

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods, for His steadfast love endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for His steadfast love endures forever" (Psalm 136:1-3).

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15.

School Calendar

November

- November 10**
Bazaar
- November 14**
7PM Society Input Meeting
- November 16**
5th-8th Military Museum & Terrace Hill
- November 17**
8:30AM Chapel
- November 18**
8:30AM AM Society Input Meeting
- November 21**
PCHS 8th Grade Visit Day
- November 22**
1:20PM Dismissal
- November 23 & 24**
Thanksgiving Break, No School

December

- December 8**
2:20PM Early Dismissal
7:00PM Christmas Program
- December 11**
1:30PM Christmas Caroling at Newton Village
- December 13**
2:40PM Early Dismissal
- December 14**
8:30AM Chapel
2:00PM Christmas Activities
- December 15**
Ice Skating/Children's Museum Field Trip
Christmas Program
Make-Up Date
- December 21**
1:20PM Early Dismissal
- December 22-January 1**
No School, Christmas Break



Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: November 6, 2023

Board sang from Psalter Hymnal #500, How Firm a Foundation, and Adam Fynaardt read from Colossians 4:1-6 and opened with prayer. All members were present.

October Minutes were read and approved.

School Visitor's report:

- Dennis Veenstra & Kody Roos visited school in October and gave favorable reports.
- Russ Fynaardt & Nick De Haan plan to visit in November.

From the Ed Committee:

- School Board approved tithe project for the 3rd/4th classroom economy.
- Laura Wielard and Mary Van Steenis were approved as substitute teachers.
- Changes were made to the Statement of Goals.

From the Promotions Committee:

- Flamingos have been in hibernation, but warm weather had them visiting again. The flamingo that had a run in with a dog is slowly recovering and is expected to make a full recovery.

From the School Improvement Team:

- Working on School Profile for reaccreditation.
- Two meetings planned for Society Input (see details below).

From the STO Committee:

- Peoria Christian received \$39,225 for the 2023/2024 school year. Thanks to all who donated, we are again blessed.

From the Building Committee:

- Kitchen stove is being repaired and may need to be replaced.

Kody Roos closed with prayer.

Next Meeting is scheduled for December 4 at 6:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Fynaardt

RE-ACCREDITATION UPDATE: Society Input

The school is preparing for re-accreditation with Christian Schools International (CSI) in Spring 2024. This accreditation cycle is called "Measuring the Mission." To help Peoria Christian measure its mission, we are hosting two opportunities for parents, former students (including recent graduates), supporters, and society members to give input for a "Self-Study." These meetings will be Tuesday, November 14, at 7PM, and Saturday, November 18, at 8:30AM. The focus of these meetings is to use guided questions to determine how well our school is working toward its mission and purpose. It is important that we have good representation from both our parents and society members at these meetings. The meeting on Tuesday, November 14, will be held in the school gym with coffee/tea being provided and the meeting on Saturday, November 18, will be held in the basement at Peoria CRC with a light breakfast being provided. Please make plans to join us on one of these dates.

Peoria Christian's Mission is: Nurture – Develop – Educate

The purpose of Peoria Christian School is to nurture each child's unique potential as an image bearer of God, develop the student's capacity for the enjoyment of the created world, and to educate the total person.

Upcoming Field Trips

Thursday, November 10, 5th-8th Grades to Terrace Hill & Military Museum

Monday, December 11, All school to Christmas carol at Newton Village

Friday, December 15, All School to go Ice Skating & Children's Museum in Coralville

CHAPEL

Our next chapel is scheduled for Friday, November 17. Our scheduled speaker is Pastor Bob Johnson from 1st Church in Pella. Hope to see you there.



Classroom News

PreK & Kindergarten

In Bible, we have been learning about Jacob and Joseph. We have learned that God is always with us wherever we are. Even when things seem to be going bad, we know God is in control and has a plan. A highlight of the past month was going to Autumn Acres. It was fun to be outside in God's creation. We enjoyed learning about corn and the different uses for it. The jumping pillow, big slide, and corn box were some of our favorite activities from that day.

~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen



1st & 2nd Grade

The 2nd graders have been very busy this year! We are amazed that we have already completed our first of four reading books, and started the second of four units in Language! The students continue to learn and grow everyday to the best of their God-given abilities. We are enjoying writing creative declarative and interrogative sentences, and have just started writing our first paragraph based on an outline! God has gifted these students so uniquely, and it has been fun to use creative words and language to write for His glory!

~ Mrs. Melinda Vos

3rd & 4th Grade

The month of November is full of exciting things for our class! As a school, we enjoyed the Veterans Day lunch and are looking forward to Thanksgiving with our families. In our class, we will be having our first Ag in the Classroom visit. We will be learning about all the steps it takes to bring food from the farm to our dinner table. The third graders are excited to be learning the last of their lowercase cursive letters and start on their uppercase letters this month. We will also be naming our blessings, one by one, on our classroom door. Be sure to stop by and see what we are thankful for. Praise the Lord from whom all blessings flow!

~ Miss Erica Taft



School Circle Minutes:

October 16, 2023

All members were present. Stacie Fynaardt opened with devotions.

Meeting minutes read and approved from August 10, 2023.

Fundraisers:

- January/February: Freezer Meals - \$959.67 profit
- March: Dutch Letters - \$2,461.71 profit
- June: School Tractor Ride - \$2,622.36 profit
- July: Northern Iowa Tractor Ride - \$442.70 profit
- July/August: Freezer Meals - \$2385.69 profit.
- November: Bazaar - To be held on November 10

New business:

- Approved providing pizza to students and staff for lunch the last day before Christmas break.

Devotions for next meeting: Ruth De Bruin

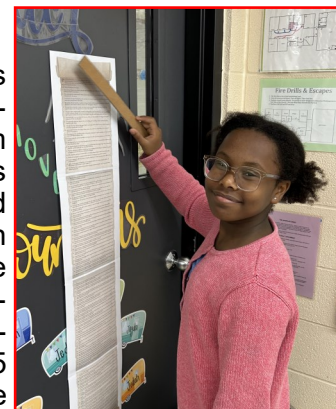
Next meeting: Monday, January 8, at 7 pm in the library.

Melissa Copenhaver closed with prayer.



5th & 6th Grade

At the end of October, the 5/6th graders had the opportunity to lead the Reformation Day chapel. Rev. Lubbers from Covenant Reformed Church spoke to us on the importance of the Word of God and how it is our compass for life. The 5/6th graders presented the 5 Solas of the Reformation and did a great job explaining while they are so important. On Reformation Day, we enjoyed "nailing" the 95 Theses to the door in "Wittenberg". We thank God for using men like Martin Luther and the many other reformers! What comfort and peace it brings us to know we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, as revealed by Scripture alone, to the glory of God alone. May we all delight in His Word and look to it as the source of all truth



~ Mrs. Lisa Ver Meer

7th & 8th Grade

We read Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson in literature. Some of the things we really enjoyed about the book was when they found the treasure was missing from the dig site. We enjoyed eating Pirate's Booty for a snack while we read the book. The book was very fast paced so making predictions was challenging at some points. One character by the name of Long John Silver was very hard to determine if he was good or evil. For art, we created treasure maps which this verse goes well with, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21) Our hearts should be devoted to God, not the "earthly treasure."



~ Submitted by Gerrit Meinders

IXL

The school's overall growth for this year is +29 (2.9 months) in math and +16 (1.6 months) in language arts. This past month, we zeroed in on calibrating the classroom teachers and IXL. Each teacher sent me individual student math and language skills to work on using IXL. So far, most students have kept up on completing their skills and met their class' goal to receive a "rewards day" instead of typical IXL work!

~ Mrs. Amber Fynaardt

MUSIC

We are looking forward to our Christmas concert already! Students in 3rd-8th are learning to play the hand chimes. All grades will be singing together and our 5th-8th graders will be reciting/reading verses. Our band students are also preparing their songs too! Great job to our 5th-8th graders on a wonderful performance at the Fall Festival that was held on November 9!

~ Mrs. Carolyn Ansley

Weather Alerts

Please stay tuned to the following when there is a concern regarding the weather.

- Text Message: If you would like to be added to our text messaging system, please text "START" to 833-526-1787.
- Email: All society will be emailed.
- Facebook: Watch our Facebook page for an announcement
- WHO-TV: Check the scroll at the bottom of your TV.

Wish List

Looking for a unique way to support PCS? The Wish list is a list of items that the school needs. Items can be purchased and dropped off at school. This month we are requesting donations of the following items:

- ~ Forever Stamps
- ~ Disinfecting Wipes (Clorox, etc)
- ~ Small Styrofoam Cups
- ~ Kleenex
- ~ Sharpies (Basic Colors)



BUS DRIVER

We want to praise God for sending us a bus driver to help drive the bus for the upcoming months. Dennis Rietema started driving on Wednesday, November 8th. Please be praying for him as he learns a new route. Finally, we are still looking for a permanent bus driver as Dennis is only filling a need temporarily.

JOB OPENINGS

We are continuing to look for the following position:

- Part time Spanish teacher

Individuals interested in any of these teaching positions, please contact Jeremy Copenhaver (principal@peoriachr.org) for more information.

- Bus Drivers

Individuals interested in this position, please contact Sean Rozenboom (boomerstruckstuff@gmail.com) for more information.

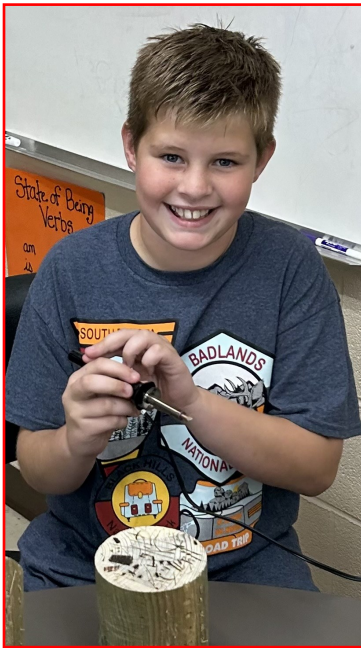
LOG-STO

Legacy of Grace School Tuition Organization (LOG_STO) is an organization that works to reduce the cost of Christian education for parents. Even with the formation of the Educational Savings Accounts this year, funds are still needed to help continue to fund Christian education in the State of Iowa. Tax Credits are available until December 31, 2023. Iowans interested in reducing their tax bill, while helping area families afford Christian education, can donate to the Legacy of Grace (LOG) School Tuition Organization (STO) and receive a 75% tax credit. This year the State of Iowa has given LOG-STO the opportunity to raise \$552,934 for tuition assistance. Thanks to this unique school choice program, thousands of students have received funding to attend the Christian or Catholic school of their choice who otherwise could not afford it. Interested in giving? Read the attached flyer and form, contact the school office, or visit www.logsto.org.



8TH GRADE VISIT DAY

On the morning of Tuesday, November 21, our 8th grade students will be visiting PCHS. They will attend chapel, visit classrooms, participate in a student Q&A panel and enjoy Thanksgiving lunch at the high school. Mr. Copenhaver and Mrs. Van Wyk will be accompanying our students. Please pray for these students and their parents as they make plans for high school next fall.



CHRISTMAS PROJECT

This year we are collecting items for Backpack Buddies through Faith CRC. This ministry helps fulfill a need for food insecure families in the Pella School District by providing snack and meal items for children to take home over the weekend. Our students will be collecting the following items that will be used to fill these backpacks. Items to contribute:

- Oatmeal Packets
- Pudding Cups
- Pre-packaged Sandwich Crackers and Cheese
- Granola Bars
- Fruit Cups

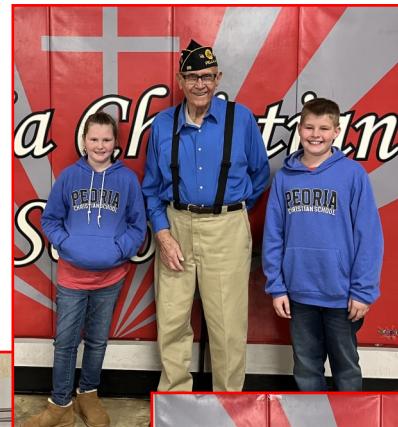


Items can be dropped off at school during school hours or sent with any student. We will be collecting items from November 13-22. Thank you for partnering with us and Backpack Buddies during this Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Lord willing, this year's Christmas Program will be held on Friday, December 8, at 7PM at Peoria CRC. All students will be practicing on Tuesday, December 5th. PK will need to be present for this practice from 12:35-2:00PM. Please look for more details in the Weekly Pathfinder.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Veterans Day Lunch & Program!



Peoria Christian School

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<http://www.peoriachr.org>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/PeoriaChristianSchool>

Instagram:

<https://instagram.com/peoriachristian?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@peoriachristianschool-pell248>

LEGACY OF GRACE

What is the need?

For most school budgets, the salary and the benefits of staff comprise 80% of the total budget. However, staff at the Christian school earn 16-17% less on average than their local public school counterparts.

Where are we at?

It would take a significant tuition increase in addition to ESA funds to close the current salary & benefits gap. Maintaining fiscal responsibility, slow and steady tuition increases, and fair compensation to teachers is the current goal.

Where are we going?

We are entering into a new age of Christian Education in Iowa that is very exciting! Thanks to the ESA bill that was passed, schools are able to charge closer to what the cost of education is and at the same time compensate teachers and staff fairly in both salary & benefits. The goal is to move staff compensation closer to 90% of their comparable public school colleagues.



We still need your help!

Thank you so much for your continued financial support of the Legacy of Grace School Tuition Organization (LOG STO). Your generous contributions provide scholarships for eligible families to attend Christian school.

The question that has been asked in the past year is whether or not tuition assistance is necessary since Iowa has passed the ESA (Education Savings Account) bill. The answer to this question is a resounding YES and here's why:

On average, the tuition charged by Christian schools only covers 70% of their operating budget. Even with ESA funds being offered to families, there would need to be a significant tuition increase to bring that percentage closer to the preferable 90% coverage of the cost of tuition.





What does your donation accomplish?

Your donation to the LOG STO fund is essential in relieving financial strain in a few crucial areas:

- Keeps tuition costs reasonable
- Helps support low income families that desire Christian education
- Closes the gap between tuition charged and actual cost of Christian education
- Supplements staff income to fairer compensation

All in all, your generous donation supports the excellent Christ-centered education that is happening locally.

Now in its 17th year, Legacy of Grace School Tuition Organization continues to support the worthwhile work of Christian education in Iowa. This year, our goal is to raise \$552,934. We are so thankful for the ongoing partnership that exists between our larger community of Christian schools and generous supporters like you.

Your Generous Gift receives a 75% Credit

All tax deductible donations to this great cause will receive a 75% tax credit from the state of Iowa. We encourage you to also talk with your tax preparer about the **Student Tuition Organization Tax Credit** to maximize your gift while limiting your tax liability.

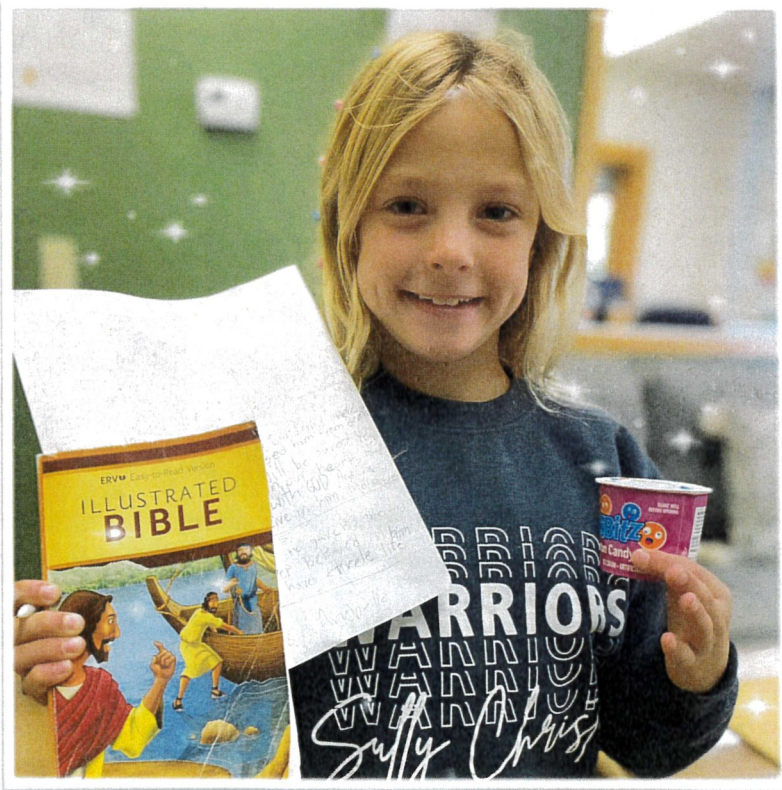
Additionally, we would love for you to consider donating stock, grain, or any RMD's (Required Mandatory Distributions) if you are 72 years or age or older. Feel free to reach out to the individual below to better understand your options.

We ask that you humbly pray about God's leading in your support of Christian education in Iowa for the coming year. Please do not replace your current giving to Christian education for the sake of LOG STO. Once again, we earnestly thank you for your consideration in helping us meet our financial goals this year.

In Christ,

Joel Groenenboom, President of the Board

joelg2911@gmail.com, 641-295-2003



2023

Legacy of Grace

SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

2023

726 North "E" Street • Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577 • www.logsto.org

Individual Donation Form

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Social Security Number _____
(We are unable to distribute tax credits without name, address, and social security number)

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Check here if you would like your acknowledgement receipt emailed to you.
Be sure to include your email address above.

Grain Transfer	
<small>Use Only</small>	
I, _____ transfer _____ bushels of corn or beans to Legacy of Grace STO on ____/____/2023.	
X _____ Producer	Date ____/____/2023
X _____ Business Representative	
Representative of _____.	

Please make checks payable to **LOG-STO**

Please send to: Legacy of Grace STO
726 North E Street
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

<small>Office Use Only</small>	
Date of Donation	_____
Check No.	_____
Amount	_____
Process Date	_____