

# 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

### Peoria Christian Trivia

As your family is getting ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior and wrap up another calendar year, check your knowledge about Peoria Christian School and what we teach.

Questions:

1. Why do we celebrate Christmas at Peoria Christian School?
2. What is Peoria Christian School's current enrollment?
3. Which student(s) designed the cover for this year's Christmas program?
4. Which version of the Bible does the school currently use?
5. How many 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates do we anticipate having this May?
6. What is our theme verse for this school year?
7. What is the most popular hot lunch choice of our students?
8. Lord willing, what field trip are the students looking forward to attending on December 15<sup>th</sup>?
9. How would this objective be rewritten at our school? "I can add two digit by digit numbers."
10. How old do we teach our students the earth to be according to Scripture?

Check your answers on page 6 and grade yourself using the report card below!

Answered 0-2 correct: Go back to school at Peoria Christian School.

Answered 3-4 correct: Check out our website: [www.peoriachr.org](http://www.peoriachr.org).

Answered 5-6 correct: Make it a priority to come visit our school.

Answered 7-8 correct: Help serve on one of our amazing committees.

Answered 9-10 correct: Become a teacher at Peoria Christian School.

Thank you for your continued support,  
Jeremy Copenhaver



## THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone for your continued support through this past year. Your words of encouragement, prayers, and financial gifts were greatly appreciated. We are excited to see what God has in store for us in this coming year! Please make sure to check out the latest postings on Facebook and share with your family and friends the amazing ways that God is blessing us here at Peoria Christian School (James 1:17).



*"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

## December

**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

## January

**January 2**

Classes Resume

Grace Counseling

**January 5**

Report Cards Sent Home

**January 17**

2:40PM Early Dismissal

**January 26**

8:30AM Chapel

**January 30**

Hearing Tests

### RE-ACCREDITATION UPDATE

We want to thank those that were able to make one or both of the Society Input meetings on November 14th and 18th. We value your input for our school, while also helping us to complete our reaccreditation work for CSI. Various groups continue to work through our self study and are developing the School Improvement Plan for the upcoming visit March 25-27, 2024. Please continue to pray for this process.

# Peoria Christian School Board

## School Board Meeting: December 4, 2023

The Board sang Psalter Hymal #344, "Silent Night! Holy Night!" and president Adam Fynaardt read from Isaiah 44 and opened with prayer.

November Minutes were read and approved.

From the Ed Committee:

- Patch the Pirate was approved for the Grandparents Day Program.
- Formal teacher evaluations are in process.
- IXL growth was reported of +41 points in math and +41 in language arts.
- Committee members met to write their drafts for reaccreditation

From the School Improvement Team:

- 2nd draft of the school profile has been sent in for reaccreditation.
- Society meetings went well and grateful for all those that participated.
- Board is meeting again on December 11 to work on accreditation strands.
- March 25-27, 2024 will be site visit for reaccreditation.

From the Building Committee: Repairs to the teacherage basement and gym kitchen oven have been completed.

From the Bus Committee: Prayerfully looking for a bus driver.

From the Athletic Committee: Interest has been expressed on doing some more sporting activities with Sully Christian School Nick De Haan closed with prayer.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Jan. 8 @ 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Fynaardt

# Thank you

Peoria Christian School would like to thank all who helped make our Annual Fall Bazaar a HUGE success! We truly see God's faithfulness to us as He once again has used you to bless our school. It is truly a blessing to work together to serve our great God at Peoria Christian School. This year we raised \$59,189! Plus an additional \$24,500 was raised from the car that was donated and sold!

**For a grand total of \$83,689!**

**THE LORD IS GOOD, TO HIM ALONE BE THE GLORY!**

With humble and heartfelt thanks,

Heidi Van Wyk, Stacie Fynaardt, and Lisa Ver Meer

## The Lord is Mighty



## Upcoming Field Trips

**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

We want to welcome Joel Riema as our scheduled speaker for our upcoming chapel on Thursday, December 14th at 8:30 AM. It is our Christmas themed chapel and hope to see you there.



# Classroom News

## PreK & Kindergarten

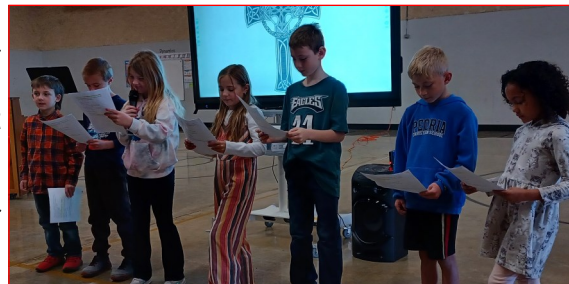
In the month of November, we spent a lot of time talking about being thankful and that we should express thankfulness every day, not just on Thanksgiving. God has given us so much to be thankful for. We also spent time talking about the Pilgrims. They had many things to thank God for on that first Thanksgiving. One thing we are all thankful for in our room is that PreK has learned all the letters and sounds and Kindergarten has learned all the letters, sounds, and how to correctly write all of the lowercase letters! We also enjoyed taking a trip to Sully Christian and learning about turkeys with our friends there.



~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen

## 1st & 2nd Grade

The 2nd graders have been working so hard in Writing this year! We just finished a unit about Woodchucks! We are so thankful for God's design of playful language so that we can enjoy fun poems like, "How Much Wood." We also used a non-fiction text to rewrite a paragraph about Woodchucks in our own words. The students are learning about using strong words and adding adverbs and adjectives to dress up their sentences. We are so privileged to be able to be creative writers using all the amazing words God created for us to use! In the process, we learned that Woodchucks also go by another name. Do you know another name for the Woodchuck?



~ Mrs. Melinda Vos

## 3rd & 4th Grade

We have been very busy this last month! The 3rd graders have now learned all their lowercase cursive letters and are working on the uppercase letters. They are slowly starting to do all their daily work in cursive as well. Fourth grade is learning multi-digit multiplication in math. We had our first visit from Mrs. Adams for Ag in the Classroom. We learned about how pizza is made, from the farm to the home, and everywhere in between. She will be coming a few more times later this year. Since the start of November, we have been listing things we are thankful for and putting them on our classroom door. We ended up with over 200 different things we were thankful for! God has truly blessed each and every one of us!

~ Miss Erica Taft



### 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

November was a very full month for the 5th and 6th graders. We went on two field trips. The first trip was to the Environmental Learning Center and Russell Wildlife. The students had a great time spending the day in God's creation hiking, digging for fossils, and fishing. Our second field trip was to Terrace Hill (the governor's house) and the military museum. It was fun to learn more about our governors, the house history, and how lowans were involved in fighting for our freedom. We also took part in the Fall Music Festival with all the other District V middle schoolers, the Veterans Day Program, and Thanksgiving activities. We praise God for giving us so many opportunities to learn and explore the wonderful world He has created.

~ Mrs. Laura Fynaardt

### Remembering Larry

At the Bazaar in November, we raised money in memory of our bus driver, Larry Rozenboom, who passed away last April. Larry loved to spoil our students on field trips by taking them out for ice cream or by bringing treats to school. At the Bazaar over \$800 was raised to continue this tradition in Larry's memory. We are thankful to those who contributed and are helping our students remember their beloved bus driver.



### 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

In the 7th and 8th grade classroom, we are reading *Up from Slavery*, an autobiography by Booker T. Washington. He started out on a slave plantation in Franklin

County, Virginia; but he desired to achieve an education at Hampton University. He graduated from Hampton and then established a school in Tuskegee, Alabama. This school was not like any other original school; this one taught the dignity of labor as well as book education. He became famous when he delivered a speech for the opening of the Atlanta Exposition, talking about racial differences between the blacks and the whites. God led Booker to do everything in his life. We just finished this book! A quote from Booker states that "The happiest people are those who do the most for others." (p.32) We decided to set out a compliment box for the whole school to put in compliments for others. Hebrews 13:16 says, "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." We hope to continue to use this compliment box to demonstrate this verse and to do things for others.

~ Submitted by Alicia Fynaardt & Trevor Veenstra

### IXL

God has allowed the school to grow +44 (4.4 months) in math and +35 (3.5 months) in language arts this academic year. This growth comes from answering a total of 63,383 questions and mastering 1,593 total skills. There are only 4 students that have 1-3 skills incomplete from the entire year!

~ Mrs. Amber Fynaardt

### Music

We look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming Christmas concert! We look forward to sharing our gifts of music with you and your family as we worship the promised Savior together! For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given!

~ Mrs. Carolyn Ansley



### Weather Alerts

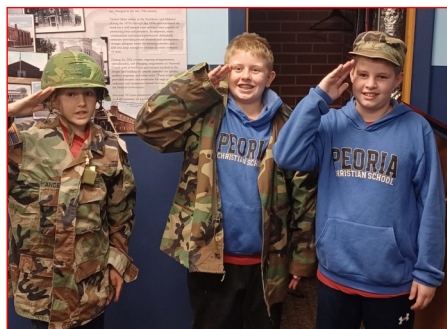
Please stay tuned to the following when there is a concern regarding the weather.

- 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)



### VALUE

Thank you to everyone who has purchased value cards from our 7th/8th grade students. Thus far a total of \$3,480 has been raised for the 8th grade class fund. Cards are valid through the end of August 2024 and can still be purchased by contacting the office.

### CARDS

### LIBRARY THANK-YOU

Thank you to everyone who purchased books and gifts from the Stepping Stone's fundraiser that was held at Parent Teacher Conferences. Due to your generosity, we received \$100 to use for books in the library.

### 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](mailto:principal@peoriachr.org)) for more information.

### BUS & VAN DRIVER

We want to thank Dennis Rietema for blessing our school and driving the bus for us this past month. We also want to thank all those that graciously stepped up and drove the van mornings and or evenings to help get our students to and from school. With that being said, Dennis Rietema will be gone for a few months starting January 8. We need a bus driver or people that are willing to step up to fulfill this huge need for our school. Please contact Sean Rozenboom ([boomerstruckstuff@gmail.com](mailto:boomerstruckstuff@gmail.com)) if you are willing to drive the bus. If you are willing to drive the van for mornings, afternoons, certain days of the week, or any combination thereof, please contact Jeremy Copenhaver ([principal@peoriachr.org](mailto:principal@peoriachr.org)).

### 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](http://www.logsto.org).

### STUDENT DROP OFF & PICK UP



**Peoria Christian School**

110 Peoria West St.  
Pella, IA 50219  
641-625-4131

office@peoriachr.org

<http://www.peoriachr.org>

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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

YouTube:

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

School hours are 8:15AM-3:20PM. If you drop off or pick up a student between these hours, please be sure to sign them in or out. Also, please contact your student's teacher if they will be arriving late or leaving early.

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Please note that we are planning to share the Christmas Program on our Facebook page and YouTube channel until December 15th. If you missed the program, please plan to visit one of these sites to see our program in its entirety.

**GRACE COUNSELING**

Our next scheduled grace counseling is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2nd. We look forward to having Jora Van Maanen come to visit our students. K-4th grade is scheduled from 11:00 AM - Noon and 5th-8th grade from 12:30-1:30 PM.

**CHRISTMAS PROJECT**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Christmas Project, Backpack Buddies. Due to your generosity, 1,997 items were contributed to help families in the Pella School District. The 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade class was the winning classroom by bringing in the most items per student.

*"We would like to sincerely thank Peoria Christian for their generosity and kindness in donating food for the Pella Backpack Program. We are absolutely overwhelmed and astonished by your generosity! We will use these donations to provide backpack buddies to children in need in the Pella School District. Backpack buddies are sacks of kid friendly, nutritious food which we send home with students each weekend when school breakfast and lunch are not available. We currently provide backpack buddies to 62 students in Grades K-5. Your kind donations really help. Thank you for showing Christ's love in this way."*

~ The Pella Backpack Program

Answers:

- 1) To remember the birth our Savior (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, John 1:1-3, 1:14, and Matthew 1:18-23) and to remember that the entire purpose that He came was to die (I Timothy 1:15 and Philipians 2:5-11) .
- 2) 42 students
- 3) Josie Hol & Aleah Van Wyk
- 4) ESV
- 5) 6 students
- 6) II Timothy 2:15 "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."
- 7) Pizza
- 8) Children's Museum, Chick-fil-a, and Ice Skating in Iowa City
- 9) I can use God's law with adding two digit by two digit numbers.
- 10) about 6,000 years old (Genesis 1:3-8 1:13, 1:19, 1:23, 1:31, Exodus 20:11, Isaiah 45:18, Mark 10:6)



# 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.

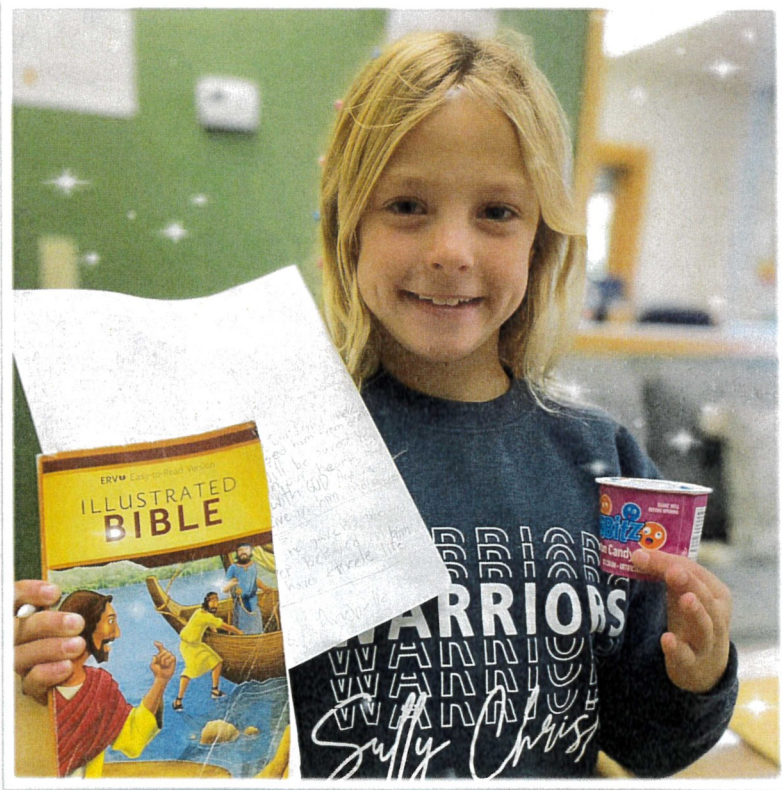
Additionally, we would love for you to consider donating stock, grain, or any RMD's (Required Mandatory Distributions) if you are 72 years or age or older. Feel free to reach out to the individual below to better understand your options.

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.**

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