

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

2024

I hope everyone's new year has gotten off to a great start. On January 2nd, the students returned marking the beginning of the 2nd half of the school year. The students already seem eager for some of the big events that our school participates in. Some of these events only involve our school but some involve other local Christian Schools in the area. Here is a list of some of these events:

- February 9: 5th–8th grade Volleyball Game with Sully
- February 20: Local Fine Arts
- February 29: District Fine Arts at PCHS
- April 12: Grandparent/Special Friend's Day
- April 15: District V Track Meet at Lacy Complex
- May 2 & 3: Tulip Time
- May 16: 8th Grade Graduation

These events are neat, and the students really look forward to them; however, what really makes our school a special place is what happens on an everyday basis. The school's commitment to God's Word, teaching from a Reformed Christian perspective, personalized learning, and helping teach our students how to defend a young earth viewpoint. So, as you pray for our school in 2024, please remember to pray that we would continue these principles this year and until the Lord's future return.



Thank you for your continued support,
Jeremy Copenhagen

Here are some Bible verses to hopefully encourage you at the start of a new calendar year:

"Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for him" (Psalm 98:1).

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18).

"But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me" (Micah 7:7).

"By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; He puts the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him! For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm" (Psalm 33:6-9).

"Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water'" (Revelation 14:6-7).

"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

January

January 17

2:40PM Early Dismissal/Staff Inservice

January 25

5th-8th Grade to Old Capitol and Herbert Hoover Museum
7pm PC Merger Meeting

January 26

8:30AM Chapel

January 30

Hearing Tests

February

February 1

PK/K to Sully Christian for Jasper County Conservation Program

February 2

No School

February 9

12:45PM 3rd & 4th Geography Bee & 5th-8th Volleyball at Sully Christian

February 14

2:40PM Early Dismissal/Staff Inservice

February 17

5pm Hostess Supper

February 20

6:30PM Local Fine Arts

February 23

8:30AM Chapel

February 26

Grace Counseling

February 29

2:40 Early Dismissal
District V Fine Arts at PCHS

Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: January 8, 2024

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal #349, Away in the Manger. Adam Fynaardt read from Isaiah 43:18-19 and opened with prayer. The minutes of the December meeting were read and approved.

From Education Committee:

- Favorable classroom visit reports were received.
- The Attendance Policy may need to be reviewed.
- Teacher reviews have been completed.
- 1,997 items were collected for Backpack Buddies for the Christmas Project.

From Promotions Committee:

- Plans are underway for this year's Hostess Supper to be held on February 17. Higher Power will be the entertainment.
- July 8, 2024, Society meeting in gym

SIT Committee:

- Submitted the self-study rough draft before Christmas.
- March 25-27 will be the site visit.

Bus committee:

- Still looking for bus and van drivers.

Building Committee:

- Electric latch on the breezeway door will be installed.
- January 9 building expansion committee will resume meeting looking into possible building project.

New Business

- January 25 Pella Christian Schools Integration meeting at Peoria Christian School Gym

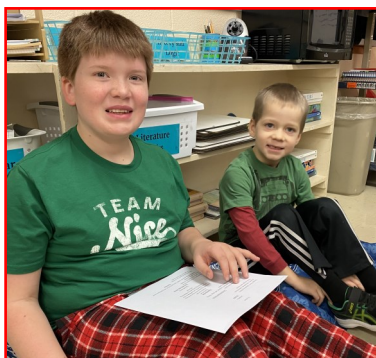
Next Meeting: February 5 @ 7:00 pm

Andy Dunsbergen closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Fynaardt

RE-ACCREDITATION UPDATE

Prior to Christmas break the rough draft of the Peoria Christian School Self-Study was sent to CSI for an initial review. We are continuing to work towards the on-site review which will take place March 25-27, 2024. During this on-site review, we will need to provide meals and snacks for the review team. If you would be interested in helping with providing food, please contact Michelle in the office at office@peoriachr.org. Please continue to pray for this process.



Upcoming Field Trips

7th & 8th Grade: Old Capitol & Herbert Hoover Museum, Thursday, January 25

PK/K: Sully Christian for Jasper County Conservation Program, Thursday, February 1

***Parents** please see the Weekly Pathfinder or your classroom newsletter for more details regarding field trips.

Chapel

Chapel is scheduled for Friday, January 26th, at 8:30AM in the school gym. Jim Warden is our scheduled speaker. Please join us for a morning of worship!



Classroom News

PreK & Kindergarten

Our lessons, in Bible, for the month of December, were about the events surrounding Jesus' birth. We also talked a lot about what advent meant. We even had an advent wreath and learned what each candle stood for. The kindergarteners were excited that we finished learning all of the letters, their sounds, and how to write them. We then started learning how to put these sounds together to make words! I hope they were able to share their new found reading skills with some of you over break. We will continue to work on and improve our reading through the end of the school year.

~Mrs. Krista Klaasen

1st & 2nd Grade

The start of 2024 means new things are happening in 2nd grade! We have finished our studies of God's creation with Science for the school year and will now begin looking at God's story with History. We are picking up God's story with the Pilgrims and the New England colonies. We are specifically studying why God had the Pilgrims come to the New World and how He chose wise leaders to found the colonies on and around the truth of the Bible.

Some of the 2nd graders have also started reading their first novel. "Pulling Together" is about a family who must pull together in hard times to rely on God and each other. Each day the students relate a character in the story to a Bible verse and tell how that character is applying that Scripture in their life. We have just begun, but the students are eager to find out how the family must pull together.

~Mrs. Melinda Vos

3rd & 4th Grade

We are so thankful for all the special events we were able to do in December. We started the month by decorating our class Christmas tree. In November, we worked on making some homemade ornaments. They were made from felt, and we each embroidered a simple design on it. We added some colorful bulbs to our tree as well. We had fun visiting several places: Christmas caroling at Newton Village, exploring the Children's Museum, and ice skating at Coral Ridge Mall. The students did a wonderful job at the Christmas program with their singing and the song they played on the chimes. We thank the Lord for all the blessings we have received.

Looking ahead to January, we have many birthdays and half-birthdays we get to celebrate. We will be starting to prepare for our first geography bee. We are working on learning our states, capitals, abbreviations, and locations on a map. In Bible, we have finished studying Genesis and will start learning about the events of Exodus. We will start by looking at how God saved His people from slavery in Egypt. One final note, the 3rd graders will be almost only writing cursive by the end of the month. Praise the Lord!

~ Ms. Erica Taft

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
- ~ Small Styrofoam Cups
- ~ Black Sharpies
- ~ 3x5 Lined Index Cards



5th & 6th Grade

In 5/6th grade, we have been studying Ancient Rome. We discussed how we as Christians are engaged in spiritual warfare and how we are called to put on the full armor of God. Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians while he was in prison. As he penned this letter, he was surrounded by Roman soldiers. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul described the Christian life as a battle and used imagery that all those living in the Roman Empire would have been familiar with. He compared the Christian's need to be prepared to that of a soldier suiting up for battle. We are thankful that the battle belongs to the Lord, He provides us with all we need in order to stand firm!



~Mrs. Lisa Ver Meer

7th & 8th Grade

In December, the 7th and 8th graders completed a mini poetry unit. At the beginning of the unit, we talked about how words are powerful. We had an example with toothpaste that shows how once you speak words you cannot take them back, just like once you squeeze out the toothpaste, you cannot get it back into the tube. The 7th and 8th grade class learned and wrote the following poems: Growing Poems, Haiku, Diamante, Quatrains, Limericks, and Approximation. Through this poetry unit, we learned the importance of using our words to glorify God and building others up. See some of our poetry on the last page of the Pathfinder!

Submitted by Olivia De Haan & Aleah Van Wyk

IXL

Our school has grown 69 (6.9 months) in math and 77 (7.7 months) in language arts. We get 25 minutes a day to work on IXL. We can work on math or language. Sometimes in the 25 minutes, we get prizes on our computer for working hard on such things as mastering 10 skills and answering lots of questions. In your awards, you can get a hairless cat, robot nesting dolls etc.. This helps in IXL because it motivates you to work hard. We also get fun days once a month in IXL if we work extra hard. We work extra hard by getting more 100s (mastering a skill).

~Mrs. Amber Fynaardt

MUSIC

After a wonderful Christmas concert last month, we are looking forward to working on new things this semester. The 5th-8th graders will be working on Fine Arts vocal groups and 6th-8th band students will work on their solos. Third and fourth graders will start working on recorders and the skills needed to play an instrument.

~ Mrs. Carolyn Ansley

Open Positions

Peoria Christian is looking to fill the following teaching positions for the 2024-2025 school year. Interested individuals should contact Jeremy Copenhaver at principal@peoriachr.org.

- IXL (Part-Time)
- 7th/8th Grade Science (Part-Time)
- 5th/6th Grade (Full-Time)
- Spanish (Part-Time)

We are also looking for a Bus Driver. Interested individuals should contact Sean Rozenboom at boomerstruckstuff@gmail.com.



Peoria Christian School

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<http://www.peoriachr.org>

Facebook:

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Instagram:

[https://instagram.com/peoriachristian?](https://instagram.com/peoriachristian?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=)
[igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=](https://instagram.com/peoriachristian?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=)

YouTube:

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



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thank you to everyone who watched our Christmas program in person or on Facebook. It was a beautiful night remembering the birth of our Savior and a blessing that our students were able to share their gifts and talents that God has given them to each of us. We want to thank Mrs. Ansley for all her hard work in helping to prepare our students for the program. A special thank you to everyone who contributed to the offering which raised \$154 for the Music Department. Thank you to everyone for praying for our program as the students were practicing and preparing, and most of all we thank God from whom all blessings flow (James 1:17).

HOSTESS SUPPER

Save the date for our annual Hostess Supper! We are excited for this fundraiser on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 5PM. Fifteen table hosts are currently in the process of reaching out to our parents and society members inviting them to sit at their table. Guests will bring a dish to share with their table. After supper, the evening entertainment will be the Higher Power Quartet. Childcare and supper for children 5th grade and under is provided, but an RSVP by February 12 is needed. If you would like an invitation to this event or to RSVP for childcare, please contact Michelle in the office at office@peoriachr.org.

WINTER WEATHER ALERTS

Peoria Christian School uses the following methods to alert our parents and society of weather-related changes. Please check these sources when the weather is questionable:

- Text Message: To sign up to receive text messages from Peoria Christian School, please text START to 833-526-1787.
- Email: All society members are emailed
- Facebook: Look for a post
- WHO-TV: Check the scroll at the bottom of your TV

PC MERGER MEETING

On January 25, at 7:00pm, the Pella Christian Grade School Board and Pella Christian High School Board will hold a Society Presentation at Peoria Christian School concerning the proposed merger of the two schools. Members of the boards will be present on the proposed structure of the unified school. The meeting is for information only. Voting for the proposed merger will take place on February 27, 2024. More details can be found at <https://www.pceagles.org/merger/> or by contacting the school at 641-628-4440.

7TH & 8TH GRADE POETRY

Homework

Teachers give us lots of homework
And give it to us with a smirk
Having homework is no fun
I just want to be done
- Josie

God's Green Pastures

Cows wandering through the grass
Steers bucking throughout the hills
Calves bellowing for their mamas
Herd refreshes on the hot summer day
Cattle grazing in God's green pastures
- Rachel

Animals

Deer in the forest
Birds chirping in the meadow
God's creatures are here
-Alicia

New Student

The new student with curly hair
He loves all the girls in the school
His class didn't know if he was quite fair
But they say he is very cool
-Brody

Old Great Uncle Ed

Old Great Uncle Ed
Laid sick in his bed
Swallowing his meds and pills
Along came a nurse
Who only made him worse
And frightened Uncle Red with her skills
-Aleah

The Boy from Texas

There once was a boy from Texas
He was really reckless
He took a walk on a trail
Then he went to jail
Because he was a menace
-Dylan

Sweet Slumber

Soundly sleeping in my bed,
On my pillow rests my head,
Gaining all my needed rest,
So I can ace my history test!
-Anna

A boy from Pella

There once was a boy from Pella,
He really was a fun fella,
He went to Culver's everyday,
And danced the night away,
His girlfriend was Bella.
-Will

A Unique Boy

There once was a boy from Pella
who was just stella
He was able to lift a shoe
And go moo
He was quite a fella
-Gerrit Meinders

Great Aunt Jane

There once was a girl from Candy Cane Lane
Whose name was Jane
She really likes candy cane stew
She wanted to make some but needed a clue
But her head was filled with rain
-Ellie

Snowflakes

Snowflakes fall from every direction
Each one different by God's design
Creation shows God's faithfulness through each season
Snowflakes color the sky pure white
Snowflakes fall through the silent night
-Olivia

Steve

There once was a Dog named Steve
He was a dog who had always loved cheese
Until one hot day when it melted
It was a hot sticky when he felt it
Then he thought it gave him a disease
-Kendon

A True Gift

Children opening their gifts
Jesus came for us
As signs to show us that
He past away for our sins
As the biggest gift for all of us
-Trevor