

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

Enrolling at Peoria Christian?

If you or someone you know have been considering Christian education and specifically whether you should send your student to Peoria Christian School, then here are some ways to help make your decision:

- **Pray** – We all know it is a major decision where you send your students to school and so keep praying and continuing to seek direction and guidance from our Heavenly Father.
- **Check out our website** – Please take time to check out our website (www.peoriachr.org). It also has a short video where you can get a sense of the atmosphere and why people love this school.
- **Facebook or Instagram** – Please make sure to visit us on Facebook and Instagram. You will be able to see different events and check out our students during class time, field trips, and other ways that make our school special.
- **Visit** – Set up a time by calling or emailing the office to come visit our school (641-625-4131 or office@peoriachr.org). We will sit down together and discuss our beliefs, curriculum, and tour the classrooms. It is such a great way for you as a family to get a taste of our school.
- **Open House** – Please come to our open house on Thursday, March 21st at 7:00 PM. You will get a tour of the school, find out about ESA's, STO, curriculum, meet teachers, and hear from people why they stay committed to this school.
- **Talk to a graduate** – There are multiple families that have 3rd or 4th generational students attending this school. When you are visiting our school, you can check out our wall of graduates and see how many people you find that you know. In fact, you might even find a relative that graduated from Peoria as well. Then reach out to them and ask them what they loved about our school.



Finally, I want to make sure and communicate with any potential new families a word from a recent alumnus. That word is connection. Students have connections with their teachers. This student indicated that one of the most important reasons why they loved this school was because their teachers took the time to know them and were able to connect with them on a personal level.

Thank you for your continued support,

Jeremy Copenhaver



"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 February

- February 14**
2:40PM Early Dismissal/Staff In-service
- 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

March

- March 2**
Dutch Letter Making Day
- March 6**
PK/K Round Up
- March 7**
5th-8th to State Capitol
- March 8**
1:20PM Early Dismissal
- March 11-15**
Spring Break
- March 18-22**
ISASP Testing
- March 18**
Grace Counseling
- March 20**
2:40PM Early Dismissal/Staff In-service
- March 21**
7PM Open House
- March 22**
Report Cards Go Home
- March 25-27**
Site Visit
- March 27**
PK/K to Sully Christian
- March 28**
8:30AM Chapel
- March 29**
No School Good Friday

Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: February 5, 2024

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal #287, Have Thine Own Way. Adam Fynaardt read from Psalm 121 and opened with prayer. Minutes of the January meeting were read and approved.

From the Education Committee:

- 2024 - 2025 school calendar approved
- Discussion on consequences for unexcused absence from school activities such as Christmas and Grandparents' Day programs
- Discussed possible caps on classroom sizes
- Open House March 21, 7-8PM

From the Promotion Committee:

- Final plans for the Hostess Supper are taking place. Volunteers needed to help park cars. Weather permitting will park cars on the North side of the school.

From the SIT Committee:

- Submitted self-study and evidence is being gathered

From the Bus committee:

- Still looking for bus and van drivers
- Sully Christian will be using our extra bus as needed

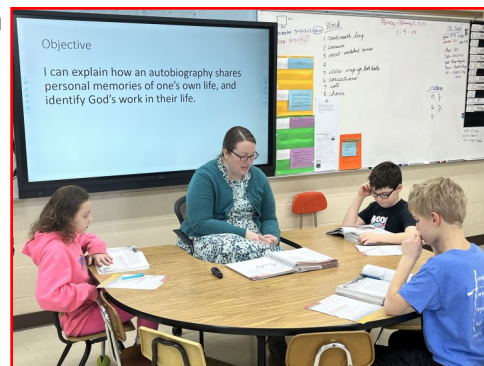
From the Building Committee:

- Electric latch on the breezeway door will be installed
- Expansion Committee has divided itself into two committees (Finance and Design)

Next Meeting: March 5, 2024

Sean Rozenboom closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Fynaardt



RE-ACCREDITATION UPDATE

The SIT Committee will be discussing goals during our meetings as we continue 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.

PRAYERS

The Peoria Christian School Board has extended a contract to Jeremy Copenhaver for principal for the 2024/2025 school year. Please join us in praying for Mr. Copenhaver, his wife, and their children as they discern God's will for them. "And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left" (Isaiah 30:21).

Upcoming Field Trips

5th-8th Grade: Thursday, March 7th: 5th-8th grade going for a tour of the state capitol building and school choice rally.

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

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.



Classroom News

PreK & Kindergarten

January was a challenging month in Kinder and PreK. With so many snow days, we were here less than half the days we had scheduled. In the days that we were here, the kindergarteners continued practicing and strengthening their reading skills. In PreK, we continued to work on learning how to form the letters of the alphabet correctly. We are looking forward to a more normal routine in the month of February! We all have missed school a lot.



~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen

1st & 2nd Grade

The 2nd graders have been busy studying the Bible! In our CSI curriculum, we learned about the Israelites 40 year trek through the wilderness and the conquering of the land of Canaan. In a couple of weeks, we will move on to the stories of the Judges and the cycle the Israelites went through with each judge.

In the interim, we have been previewing the Bible curriculum written by Answers in Genesis called "Foundations." We are learning all kinds of important things about the Bible:

- 1) God's Word is perfect and pure
- 2) God never lies and we can trust God's Word to guide us
- 3) All of God's Word is true, complete, and unchanging

For the Bible Fair during Christian Education Week, we will be preparing to display "Why is the Bible important?" Come and see what we have learned by then!

~Mrs. Melinda Vos

3rd & 4th Grade

We have had an interesting start to 2024. With all the snow, ice, and cold days, we have missed quite a bit of school. The students have enjoyed those days off playing outside and enjoying God's creation of snow. The days we are in school, they have had a lot of fun on the sledding hill at recess. In class, the third graders have learned almost all their capital letters in cursive, and will soon be writing only in cursive in all their subjects. The fourth graders have been busy learning God's design of long division. In history, we have been looking at the different regions God has made in the US. This is in preparation for our first geography bee early in February at Sully Christian. They will be tested on the state abbreviations, capitals, and locations on a map. In science, we have been realizing how big and awesome our God is while looking at our solar system and other items in space. When we look at how large these things are, we are in awe of the majesty of God, and thankful we get to know Him and praise His name!

~Ms. Erica Taft

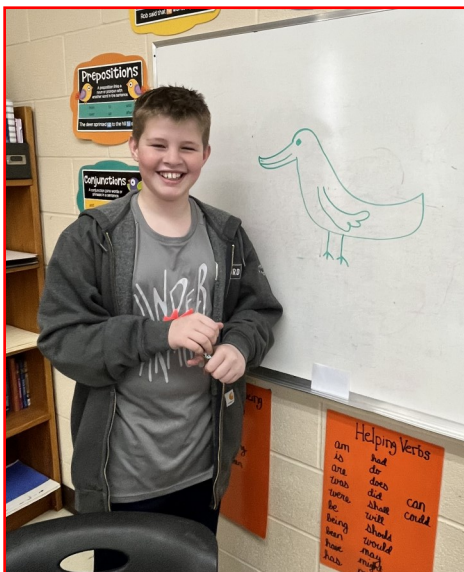
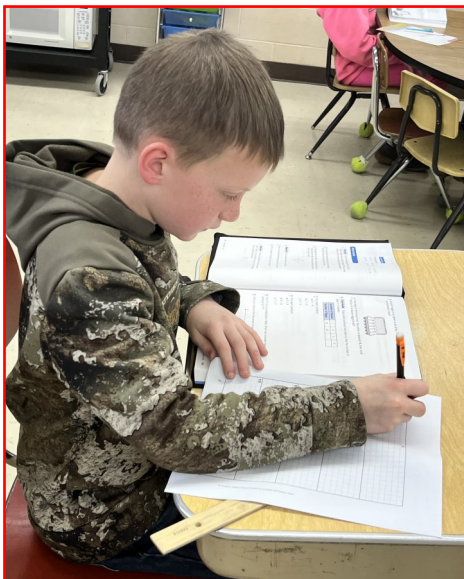
Wish List

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
- ~ Mr. Clean Magic Erasers
- ~ Small Styrofoam Cups

Chapel

Please join us for our next scheduled chapel on Friday, February 23rd at 8:30 AM. Mr. Benjamin Anum-Higher is our scheduled speaker. Hope to see you there.



5th & 6th Grade

In 5th and 6th grade, we started a new novel in January. We are reading Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor. Due to all the snow days, it has been a slow start to reading but we are enjoying it so far. We are learning about different types of characters (major, minor, protagonist, static, etc.) and about how God created different types of people, each for their own purpose in this world.



The book is set in Mississippi in the early 1930's, so we have been able to learn how historical events affect the characters in our book. There are so many lessons to learn from the wonderful literature that God has given us, and we hope to be able to learn more as we journey through the rest of the story.

~Mrs. Laura Fynaardt

7th & 8th Grade

For literature in the 7th and 8th grade, we are reading *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom. Something we like about the book is that the Ten Boom family has faith in God and trust that He will keep them safe. Trust is one of the important themes in the story. We like Father Ten Boom because he always has faith in God and loves others. "Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength. Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." This is one of the quotes by Corrie Ten Boom. Psalm 32:7 says, "You are my hiding place; you will protect me from troubles and surround me with songs of deliverance." God is our hiding place and it is in Him that we can find safety and refuge.

~Submitted by Dylan Klassen & Will Ver Meer

IXL

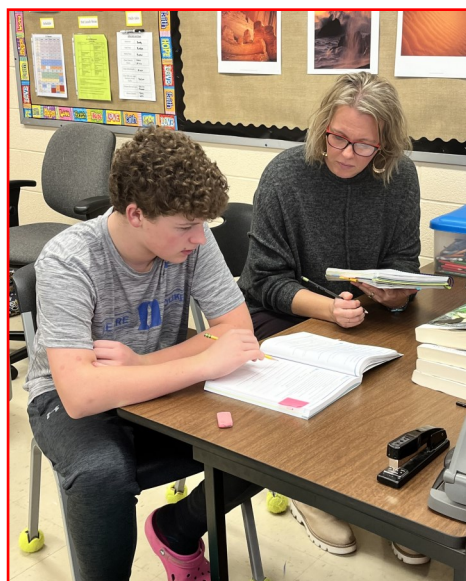
Amongst the many snow days, the students have still found time to complete most of their assigned IXL skills we squeezed in. Additionally, the school has squeezed in growth of +64 (6.4 months) in math and +85 (8.5 months) in language arts! Half of the seventh and eighth graders have been working on manually finding the volume of cylinders. IXL is so challenging because it's not a simple 10 questions and finished no matter how they do. It is based on mastery, so they have to work diligently to get them correct to be finished. The more they get wrong, the more questions they answer. It forces them to do their best for God on each and every problem!

~Mrs. Amber Fynaardt

Music

After missing 3 weeks of Tuesdays and our music classes, it was wonderful to finally sing together! The 3rd/4th grade class started a unit on recorders. The 5th-8th graders are preparing vocal songs for Fine Arts. Our local Fine Arts night is coming up soon!

~Mrs. Carolyn Ansley



WHAT'S HAPPENING

FINE ART NIGHTS

Our local Fine Arts night is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20th, at 6:30 PM. Thursday, February 29th, is the District Fine Arts night at Pella Christian High School. Look for additional details regarding both events in the Weekly Pathfinder.

GRACE COUNSELING

Jora Van Maanen from Grace Counseling is planning to return for another guidance session on Monday, February 26th. PK-4th grade is scheduled from 9-10AM and 5th-8th grade from 10:30 - 11:30AM.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Lord willing, PK and Kindergarten Round-Up will take place on Wednesday, March 6th from 8:15AM - 1:00PM. If you have a student that would be starting in Pre-K or Kindergarten next school year, we would love for them to attend school on this day. Please make sure to RSVP to Michelle De Haan (office@peoriachr.org) to sign up to attend. If you know someone who might be interested, please let the office know so that we can invite these students as well. We would need to know the student's name, parents' names, address, phone number, and/or email. Please contact the office with any questions.

OPEN HOUSE

An open house for potential new families is scheduled for the evening of March 21st from 7-8 PM. If you would like to attend please RSVP by emailing office@peoriachr.org. If you know a family that might be interested in coming, please let the office know their name, phone number, email, and address so that we can invite them. Finally, please be in prayer for this event and any potential new families to attend our school.

HOSTESS SUPPER

Our annual Hostess Supper is coming in just one week! We are excited for this fundraiser on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 5PM. Fifteen table hosts are currently in the process of preparing their tables and inviting guests. Guests will be asked to 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.

VAN UPDATE

Have you seen this van traveling around Pella?



We want to thank Sean Rozenboom for allowing us to use this van to transport our students to and from school this semester. We are thankful for Pam Vander Linden and Leonard De Vries who are currently driving the van. There are many individuals who have assisted with driving the van this year and we are grateful for everyone who has stepped forward and assisted with this need.

DUTCH LETTERS

It is Dutch Letter season again! Orders are being taken right now! We will also need many hands to make these treats on Saturday, March 2. We will start at 8AM and work until we are finished. Snacks and lunch are provided and there are jobs for everyone at every skill level! Conversation, fun, and fellowship all happen as we work! Contact Davona Fynaardt if you have any questions about helping or can donate eggs or make dough!



Peoria Christian School

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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>

\$30 PER BOX

6 ready-to-bake letters

**PLACE YOUR ORDER
BY FEBRUARY 19**

**PICKUP ON
SAT., MARCH 2**

Contact Davona Fynaardt

641-780-1764

Or

davonafyn@gmail.com

1) Peoria Christian Gym

3p-5p

2) Lisa Ver Meer's Home

2p-4p

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F45ACA923A1FF2-47519540-peoria#/>