

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 Mathematics

I wonder if you have ever wondered what mathematics is, why there is mathematics, or what is the purpose of mathematics? Recently our staff had a professional development called "Towards a Biblical Understanding of Math." This was led by Mr. Al Bandstra. Some of the items that our staff learned was regarding these topics. Hopefully, you will have some amazing discussion with your family at supper centered around these topics.

What is mathematics:

- A creation of God through Jesus Christ to reveal His wisdom, glory, power, and pleasure.
- It is divine, eternal, universal truth being upheld by Jesus Christ.
- It's God standard measurement for Creation.
- Mathematics is God's language for the universe.

Why is there mathematics?

- Because God loves it, designed it, and created it to reveal His glory, power, righteousness, and pleasure.

What is the purpose of mathematics?

- To give God glory

Some people would say that math is neutral by nature; however, math is not neutral by nature it was created by God to show His power, glory, and order in the world. We read in Colossians 1:16 that all things were created by God (including math) by Him and for Him. We then read in the very next verse that He also holds all things together. So, the same God that created Mathematics holds all the laws He created to still apply today. It is amazing to help our students understand subjects through a Christian perspective.

Thank you for your continued support,
Jeremy Copenhaver

Here are some objectives we will be using in class starting after spring break:

5th Grade: I can use God's conversions with units of capacity.
I can use God's law with multiplying fractions.

6th Grade: I can use God's law with solving proportions.
I can use God's law with finding the area of a circle.

7th Grade: I can use God's law with solving problems involving order of operations.
I can see God's order with number families.

8th Grade: I can use God's law with finding the lateral surface area of cylinders and prisms.
I can use God's law with finding the volume of pyramids and cones.



"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

March

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

April

April 1

No School, Easter Monday

April 8-12

Christian Education Week

April 8

8:30AM Chapel

April 12

Grandparents/Special Friends Day
8:30AM Chapel
Afternoon Program

April 15

5th-8th District V Track Meet

April 24

2:40PM Early Dismissal/Staff In-service

April 25

3rd/4th Ag Day

April 26

5th-8th Old Capitol & Herbert Hoover Museum

Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: March 5, 2024

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal #260, Not What My Hands Have Done. Adam Fynaardt read from Hebrews 12:1-2 and opened with prayer. Minutes of the February meeting were read and approved.

From the Education Committee:

- Staff contracts were approved and sent out to be signed. Please pray for our staff as they discern their decisions for next year.
- Mr. Copenhagen signed and returned his contract.
- New Answers in Genesis Bible Curriculum for K-2nd grade was approved.
- Discussions on new attendance requirements.

From the Promotions Committee:

- \$54,469 was raised at the hostess supper. A huge thank you to all volunteers and donors.

From the SIT Committee:

- Site visit later this month.

From the Bus Committee:

- Still looking for bus and van drivers
- Discussion on possibly moving to more vans if bus drivers can't be found.

From the Building Committee:

- Gaga ball pit was installed on the playground.
- The compressor has gone out on the drinking fountain in the gym, but for the time being we are going to use it as is.

Next Meeting: April 1, 2024

Eric Fynaardt closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Fynaardt

RE-ACCREDITATION/SITE VISIT UPDATE

The SIT Committee has been wrapping up their work prior to the Site Visit on March 25-27. Members of our Site Visit Team include: Mary Patterson and Ron Lawlor from CSI, Lydia Quick from the Iowa Association of Christian Schools, Kevin Herdegen from Pella Christian High School, and Nicole Van Wyk from Newton Christian School. Please be in prayer for these individuals as they travel and spend time away from their families during this visit. Please also pray that we will have good meetings and discussion while they are here and that this team will be able to see the vision, purpose, and heart of Peoria Christian School. If you would be interested in helping with providing meals or snacks for the Site Visit Team, please contact Michelle in the office at office@peoriachr.org.

PRAYERS

The Peoria Christian School Board would like to give thanks that Jeremy Copenhagen has signed his contract as principal for the 2024/2025 school year. Contracts have been extended to our current teachers for the 2024/2025 school year. Please be in prayer for our teachers as they discern the Lord's plan for them and the coming school year.

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.

Upcoming

Field Trips

PK & K: Wednesday, March 27, Visiting Sully Christian for a Curious Garden presentation.

5th-8th Grade: Friday, April 26, Touring the Old Capitol Building in Iowa City and the Herbert Hoover Museum.

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



Classroom News

PreK & Kindergarten

The kindergarteners are continuing to make great strides in their reading confidence. They are always looking for words they can tap out in the books on our bookshelf. At the beginning of the month, we went to Sully Christian and learned about groundhogs with our friends there. It is amazing the way God created these unique creatures. We also enjoyed having a Valentine's Day party. We spent lots of time this month talking about love and how to show it all year round. It is fun to have a special month and day that we can focus on sharing God's love and His blessings with others. We hope that you see God's blessings everyday!

~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen

1st & 2nd Grade

The 2nd graders have continued to work hard! The end of 3rd quarter is the hardest time of the school year to keep up the excitement for learning. We have continued our study of God's story of the early settlers from Europe to America. We have discussed the Middle Colonies and what the "melting pot" of culture looks like. We have also discussed how we use our Christian Worldview to discern the different ideas and beliefs that new cultures brought to the New World.

~Mrs. Melinda Vos

3rd & 4th Grade

February has been a very busy month for our class. We participated in our first Geography Bee with Sully Christian. The students were tested on state capitals, abbreviations, and locations on a map. None of our students placed, but they did a wonderful job. After, we cheered on the fifth through eighth graders on their volleyball games. The third graders have learned all the cursive letters and are now doing all work in cursive, with a few exceptions. Those of you who visit for Grandparent's and Special Visitor's day will be able to see their hard work at the cursive contest. Later in the month, we were able to go to First Church and listen to a speaker from Creation of Truth. He talked to our school about God's creation of dinosaurs and their evidence in scripture. We even got a few pictures with some of the skeletons God has preserved for us.

~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
- ~ Glue Sticks
- ~ Sharpie (of all colors!)

Chapel

Please join us for our next scheduled chapel on Friday, March 28 at 8:30 AM. This chapel is being planned and lead by our 8th grade class. Mr. Jerry Vermeer is our scheduled speaker. Hope to see you there.

Save The Date

Track & Field

Save the date for the following track & field events:

- 5th-8th Grades: April 15, District V Track Meet in Oskaloosa
- PK-4th Grades: May 9, Track & Field Day with Sully Christian at Peoria



5th & 6th Grade

In 5th-8th grade PE, we recently had the opportunity to compete against our friends at Sully Christian in a game of volleyball. We had fun learning the rules and how to play! We made great improvements as our Volleyball unit went on and were able to take home the 7/8th grade trophy for the first time in years! We are thankful for the opportunity to use our bodies to glorify God! Thank you also to Sully Christian for hosting this fun event! After spring break, we look forward to our Track & Field unit as we prepare for one of the best days of the year...the District V Track & Field Meet in Oskaloosa. Working hard, encouraging one another, and fellowship with other Christian schools, what a wonderful way to spend a day! Please plan to join us on Monday, April 15 for this fun day!

~Mrs. Lisa Ver Meer



7th & 8th Grade



On February 20, 2024, our 5-8th graders presented their talents at the local Fine Arts at Peoria Christian School. Some of us had the opportunity to move onto District Fine Arts at Pella Christian High School. We had the opportunity to glorify God through singing, playing instruments, giving speeches, and improvisation. We would like to thank Mrs. Carolyn Bandstra and Mrs. Ruth De Vries for helping us prepare our speeches. We also want to thank our accompanists Mrs. Sue Van Ee and Mrs. Jan Warden. Finally, thank you to Mr. Bradley Westervelt, Mrs. Melanie

Meinders, and Mrs. Glenda Mathes for being our judges. Psalm 100:2 says, "Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!"

~ Submitted By Ellie Vos and Anna Roose

IXL

As a school, we have now grown 7.8 months in math and 1 year in language arts! In order to keep pressing on in our language arts growth, vocabulary is next in our IXL rotation. Vocabulary in IXL might look like choosing words or phrases with negative or positive connotations, sorting words by meaning, homophones, using context clues to determine the meaning of domain-specific vocabulary, Greek and Latin roots, synonyms, analogies, idioms, words with new or contested usages, and rhetorical strategies in historical texts. The only thing we regularly add is seeing these topics from a Christian perspective, which the students are becoming better at weekly!

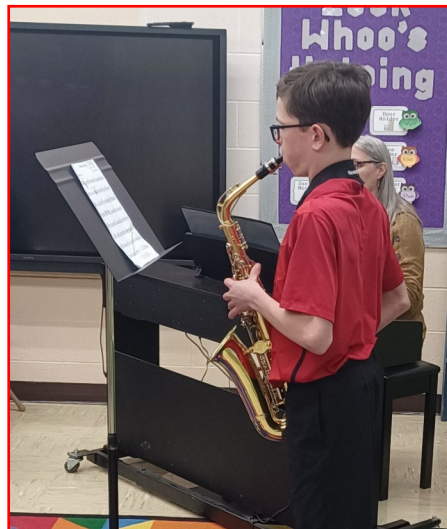
~Mrs. Amber Fynaardt



Music

Thank you to all of the students for their hard work at Fine Arts! There were wonderful performances that brought glory to God and represented our school well. All students are looking forward to preparing for our Grandparents Day in April.

~Mrs. Carolyn Ansley



WHAT'S HAPPENING

HOSTESS SUPPER THANK YOU

The Promotion Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in our annual Hostess Supper on February 17, 2024. We are grateful for your willingness to attend or to host a table, as well as, your financial support and your prayers. Also, thank you to our anonymous donors who provided all of the meat for the meal. This year we had about 240 guests, and we raised a total of \$54,469. To God alone be the glory!



OPEN HOUSE

On Thursday, March 21, we are planning an open house for all prospective families who are interested in Peoria Christian School. The open house will be held from 7-8PM. Please share this opportunity with anyone who may be interested in Peoria Christian School or contact the office with their name, phone number, email, and mailing address if you or someone you know are interested in attending. Finally, thank you for your prayers for this event.

KINDERGARTEN

Parents, please note that kindergarten starts all 5 days after spring break



DUTCH LETTERS

We wish to express our appreciation and thanks to everyone who helped make the Dutch Letter Fundraiser a success again this year. Thank you to everyone who came and helped make Dutch Letters with so much energy and excitement! In particular, we wish to thank those who donated eggs and dough. We give God the glory for the success of another fundraiser and stay tuned for the total amount raised!



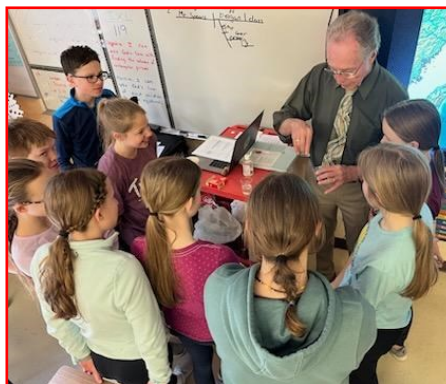
GAGA BALL PIT

We want to thank the graduating class from 2022-2023 for their 8th grade gift to the school. If you haven't seen the new gaga ball pit, please check it out by the playground. The current students love this new gift.



SECURE DRILL

We have a secure drill planned for Thursday, March 28th starting at 12:25 PM. Josh Stevens with Mahaska Emergency Management will lead this drill. It is scheduled to last no more than 10 minutes. From the student's perspective, everything basically runs as normal. Parents, please see the weekly email in the coming weeks for additional information and contact Mr. Copenhaver at principal@peoriachr.org with any questions.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WEEK APRIL 8-12, 2024

We will start the week with chapel in the gym at 8:30 AM on Monday, April 8th, hold a Bible Fair on Thursday, April 11, and end the week with Grandparents and Special Friends Day on Friday, April 12. Please pray that we can use this week to honor the blessing of Christian Education and our Heavenly Father who continues to cover us with His blessing and protection.

GRACE COUNSELING

Jora Van Maanen from Grace Counseling is planning to come to our school on Monday, March 8th for our next guidance session. Fifth - 8th grade is scheduled from 1:00 - 1:50 PM and Pre/k-4th grade is scheduled from 2:00 - 3:00 PM.

ISASP TESTING

Please note that testing is scheduled for the week after spring break (March 18-22). All students in 3rd-8th grade will take these tests. Please try to avoid any appointments during the mornings of these dates. Here is a breakdown of the testing:

- Monday: Math (3rd-8th)
- Tuesday: Reading (3rd-8th)
- Wednesday: Language/Writing (3rd-8th)
- Thursday: Science (5th and 8th only)

Peoria Christian School

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