

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 Christian Education Week

This year, April 8 – 12 is Christian Education Week. This is a week that we specifically take time to celebrate the blessing of Christian education for our children. We realize how important it is for them to be taught the same principles at home, church, and school. The Scriptures also mention how important it is to help our students constantly be taught the Word of God. We see this from Proverbs 22:6, which says, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it” and from Deuteronomy 6:4-9, which says, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” These are just a few of the Scriptures that emphasize the importance of our students always being taught through a Biblical lens.

We also want to take this week to celebrate and thank God for the Christian schools in our area and specifically Peoria Christian school, which has been in existence since 1907. We have just recently gone through a site visit and can thank God for the blessing of being recommended for re-accreditation. This is a huge testimony to our society for their prayers, hard work, and dedication to this school over the many years. Generation after generation has sent their kids to this school because of the focus on Biblical integration and helping the students learn how to defend their faith. The Lord willing, we continue to pray for God’s wisdom, guidance, and blessing on Peoria Christian school for generations to come.

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

April

April 8-12

Christian Education Week

April 8

8:30AM Chapel

April 12

Grandparents/Special Friends Day

8:30AM Chapel

1:30PM 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

May

May 2-3

No School

Tulip Time

Bikes in Afternoon Parade

May 6-10

Map Testing

May 9

PK-4th Grade Track & Field

May 10

PK/K to Zoo

May 15

2:45PM Kindergarten Graduation

May 16

11:30AM 8th Grade Dismissal

2:20PM PK-7th Dismissal

7PM 8th Grade Graduation

May 17

Picnic in the Park (Caldwell)

May 20

7th/8th Adventureland

May 21

8:30AM Chapel

May 22

Last Day of School

12:05 Dismissal

May 31

All Parent School Cleaning

Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: April 1, 2024

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal #452, He Leadeth Me. Adam Fynaardt read from Hebrews 12:1-2 and opened with prayer. Minutes of the March meeting were read and approved.

From the Education Committee:

- Contracts have been distributed and still waiting on a couple to be returned.
- Motion to raise the curriculum budget to \$9,000 was approved.
- Motion to allow part time students to participate in band was approved.

From the Promotions Committee:

- Preparations for Tulip Time have begun.

From the SIT Committee:

- The site visit went well with unanimous support to recommend re-accreditation. The team was impressed with the school and its passion for Christian education.
- Improvements that were suggested were in the areas of security and the emergency response plans, revisions of board policy handbook, and possible redesign of the website.

From the Finance Committee:

- Budgets from subcommittees need to be submitted.
- Gave updates on fundraising aspects of a possible new building project.

From the Bus Committee:

- Still looking for bus and van drivers.
- Looking at possible replacements for the current bus being used.

From the Building Committee:

- Have had meetings on the building needs and designs for a building project.

Next Meeting: May 6, 2024

Drew Van Wyk closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Fynaardt

RE-ACCREDITATION/SITE VISIT UPDATE

We are excited to announce that following our March 25-27 Site Visit, the Site Visit team is recommending, to Christian Schools International, that Peoria Christian School receive re-accreditation for the next 5 years. Thank you to the Site Visit Team and everyone who helped with this process by providing food during the visit, interviewed with the Site Visit Team, and those involved in the preparation for the visit as well. We thank God for His faithfulness to Peoria Christian School!



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.

- 1st/2nd Grade (Full-time)
- 5th/6th Grade (Full-Time)
- IXL (Part-Time)
- 7th/8th Grade Science (Part-Time)
- Spanish (Part-Time)
- Algebra 1 (Part-Time)

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

Upcoming Field Trips

3rd & 4th: Thursday, April 25, Ag Day at the Mahaska County Fairgrounds

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

During Calendar time in Kindergarten this month, we have been keeping track of lion days and lamb days. At the beginning of the month, the kindergarteners predicted that we would have more lamb days than lion days because the weather had been so nice. The weather has not been as nice since spring break and the lion days have won.



A highlight of the month was learning about plants and gardens with our friends in Sully. We learned about the parts of a plant and how amazingly God created plants. After learning about the parts of a plant and how God designed for flowers to turn into the fruits and vegetables we eat, we tried to match pictures of different fruits and vegetables to the flowers that they come from. The students also planted some seeds to try and grow some plants of our own!

~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen

1st & 2nd Grade

The student's have spent the last couple of weeks since Spring Break diving into God's rules for identifying and forming contractions. For adults, these can seem quite simple because we use them so often. However, if we don't learn God's specific rules for forming and using contractions, we can easily mix them up! See if you can spot the error in the following sentence. *The students should of wiped their feet after recess.* Did you find it? Here is the correct sentence. *The students should've wiped their feet after recess.* This is just one of many rules we're learning! We are so thankful that God created rules around language to make all of it so much easier!

~Mrs. Melinda Vos

3rd & 4th Grade

In March, we finished our reading textbooks and have moved on to reading novels. The third graders started a biography about Gladys Alyward, a missionary to China. The fourth graders have started *The Medallion*, a story about a boy learning to overcome his pride and what it takes to become a good leader and king. The students are excited and have enjoyed their novels so far.

In April, we have several exciting things coming. Christian Education Week is soon after Easter, which includes having special visitors come to school, our spring program, and we get to go to Ag Day at the fairgrounds in Oskaloosa in late April. Next month, be on the lookout for an update on each of these events and pictures to go with them.

~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 chapels on Monday, April 8 and Friday, April 12. Chapel on Monday, April 8 will be held in the school gym at 8:30AM and Pastor Brian Ochsner is our scheduled speaker. Chapel on Friday, April 12 will be held at Peoria CRC at 8:30AM and is a part of our Grandparent and Special Friend's Day events. Everyone is welcome to join us and we hope to see you there.

Grace Counseling

The last scheduled guidance session, with Jora Van Maanen from Grace Counseling, is set for Tuesday, April 30th.



5th & 6th Grade

As we start the final quarter of the school year, we are reminded of the many ways God has been faithful to us through the year. He has helped us as we learned, studied, played, and grew together as a class. God continues to bless us as we work on our Bible Fair projects. Each student picked a question to answer about Genesis 1-11. In the last two months, they have spent lots of time researching and learning in order to answer their question from a Christian perspective. Please join us on April 12 at 11AM to see the students' projects and the abundance of knowledge God has given each student.

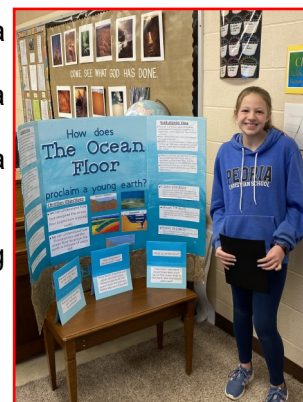
~Mrs. Laura Fynaardt

7th & 8th Grade

The fifth through eighth graders' Bible fair projects focus on topics found in Genesis 1-11. Several of them are about how to prove a young Earth. John 17:17b states, "Your Word is Truth." This verse is a good reminder for us to know that the standard of Truth is found in God's Word. People today are trying to use evolution and other beliefs to explain how old the Earth is, which is not true.

Here are the topics from each of the seventh and eighth graders:

- Josie-** How long was a day in Genesis 1?
- Gerrit-** How does ocean salt prove a young Earth?
- Rachel-** How does The Ice Age prove a young earth?
- Kendon-** How does Carbon 14 prove a young Earth?
- Trevor-** Genealogies in Genesis 5 and 11
- Brody-** How do trees prove a young Earth?
- Olivia-** The doctrine of work
- Aleah-** The Door
- Anna-** According to their Kind
- Will-** How do galaxies prove a young Earth?
- Dylan-** How does Earth's magnetic field prove a young Earth?
- Ellie-** How does the ocean floor proclaim a young Earth?
- Alicia-** How does Biological Tissue prove a young Earth?



Please join us on Friday, April 12, at 11AM to see each of our projects.

~ Submitted By Brody Borg and Kendon Kruid

IXL

As a school, we have now grown 9.2 months in math and 1 year, 1 month in language arts! In order to keep pressing on in our math growth, data, statistics, and probability are next in our IXL rotation. In IXL, this might look like all types of graphs, mean, median and mode, stem and leaf plots, simulations representing situations, histograms, compound events, absolute deviation, experimental probability and representative, random and biased samples etc. What they work on all depends on the needs God gives them at the time!

~Mrs. Amber Fynaardt



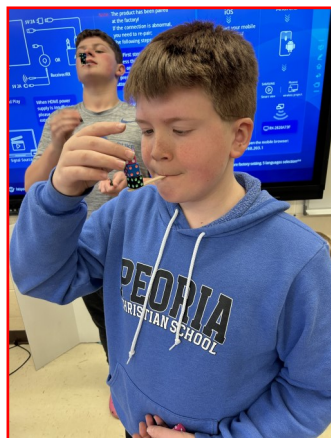
8th Grade Graduation

8th Grade Graduation is scheduled for 7PM on Thursday, May 16th. Parents, all students are expected to be in attendance on this night and participate in the ceremony. All community and society members are also invited to join us for this joyous evening. Additional details will be sent as the date approaches.

Kindergarten

Graduation

This year's Kindergarten Graduation is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15 at 2:45PM. We invite everyone to join us as we celebrate what God is doing in the lives of these students.



Music

The 6th-8th grade band participated in Sousa's March Mania and listened to 32 different marches performed by the Marine Corps Band and filled out a bracket. Then each class day in March, they voted online for their favorite songs. Alicia earned the most points on her bracket and was found the March King! Aleah and Josie tied for 2nd place. All students in class received a prize for participating in this fun activity.



We are working hard to get ready for our Grandparents and Special Friends Day concert. It is coming up soon! We all hope you can come and watch the kids share their gifts of music, singing, and acting. Please pray for them that they will remember all their words and perform for the glory of God, not themselves.

~Mrs. Carolyn Ansley



RE-ENROLLMENT

Re-enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year is open for current families. We are asking parents to have the online process completed by Friday, April 26th. Please make sure to re-enroll your students during this time frame. This really helps as we plan for the following school year. New families should contact the office to discuss the process for securing a spot for your child for the 2024/2025 school year. Questions should be directed to Michelle in the office.

1ST/2ND GRADE TEACHER

We want to thank Mrs. Melinda Vos for teaching our 1st/2nd graders these past few years. She is planning to continue teaching at Peoria but only in a part time role. With that being said, we are looking to fill the 1st/2nd grade teaching position.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

The following changes have been made to our May schedule. These changes are due to the hours that we need to make up from the weather days in January. Please mark the changes on your calendars.

Thursday, May 2—No School

Tuesday, May 21—Whole Day of School

Wednesday, May 22—Last Day of School, 12:05 Dismissal

District V Track Meet

Please save the date for the District V Track Meet at the Lacey Complex in Oskaloosa on Monday, April 15th. This track meet is for our 5th-8th grade students along with other students from 8 other area Christian schools. Parents of 5th-8th grade students, we plan to send a specific email with more details regarding this event. In case of weather concerns, the make-up date for this event is scheduled for Monday, April 22nd.

PK-4th Grade

Track & Field Day

Track & Field Day for our PK-4th grade students will be held on the afternoon of Thursday, May 9th. Sully Christian is planning on joining us for the afternoon as well. Please mark your calendar and plan on joining us for this event.



Peoria Christian School

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

YouTube:

STO APPLICATIONS

STO applications are open and are due by April 30th. Families whose income is 4x the poverty level or less are strongly encouraged to apply. The requirements have been adjusted this year so you may be eligible this year even if you have not been eligible in previous years. The application form this year looks different than in previous years. Please visit the FACTS website (<https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>) and carefully read through the provided instructions before starting. You will need to create a username and password if you have not done so in the past. If you have students at Peoria Christian and Pella Christian School, the application will be longer. Please contact the office with any questions regarding the process.

BUS ROUTES

We want to thank everyone that has helped drive the van especially Pam Vander Linden and Leonard De Vries. Dennis Rietema has returned to driving the bus again. Please make sure to thank Dennis when you see him. Finally, please make sure to thank Marcia Van Gorp who took on extra driving responsibilities and longer routes while we were missing a 2nd bus driver. We continue to look for a 2nd bus driver, please contact Sean Rozenboom at boomerstruckstuff@gmail.com if you can help us meet this need.

TULIP TIME

Tulip Time will be held May 2-4. Our students have two opportunities to participate in the weekend and share our school with those who come to visit Pella. Please be looking for our students and give them a wave if you see them!

Bikes: All students are expected to walk or ride the provided bikes in the parades on Thursday & Friday afternoon. Dutch Costumes will be going home as Tulip Time gets closer.

Band: The 6th -8th grade band students will be marching with the Central Iowa Christian School Band on Thursday afternoon, Friday night, and Saturday afternoon. Parents, please check the Weekly Pathfinder for practice details.

OPEN HOUSE

It was a blessing to have 3 families at our Open House on Tuesday, March 21st. Thank you to the promotions sub-committee and to all that prayed for and helped to make that evening a success. Please continue to pray for the families that came to our open house and other families that couldn't make it as they consider sending their child(ren) to Peoria Christian School.

SPRING MAP TESTING

End of the year Map Testing is scheduled for May 6 - May 10. Parents, please try to avoid any appointments during this week especially in the morning. Please remember to pray for our students as they take these end of the year tests.