



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 Graduation

Now that we have entered the final month of school, we are looking forward to our 8th grade graduation. This year, God has blessed us with 6 graduates: Brody Borg, Josie Hol, Kendon Kruid, Gerrit Meinders, Rachel Vander Wilt, and Trevor Veenstra. It is amazing to see how they have grown in their faith this past year and have been leaders of our school. Here are some examples of how they have shown being leaders:

- Helping the 7th graders transition to the 7th/8th grade class.
- Helping the new students transition to our school and making them feel welcomed.
- Playing with the younger students at recess and making sure they are staying safe.
- Helping the younger students make good choices on the bus.
- Helping the new van drivers know the route and bus stops.
- Helping to lead their chapel group discussions.
- Learning to defend their faith including a young earth viewpoint.

We all know that it takes the home, church, and school to train up a child (Proverbs 22:6), and it is such a joy to see the fruits of those efforts when our students are thinking and speaking Biblically. Please continue to pray for and pray with (Colossians 1:9-11) these students as they transition into high school.

Finally, I want to personally invite you to our 8th grade graduation on Thursday, May 16th at 7:00 PM at Peoria CRC. Mr. Al Bandstra is our scheduled speaker, and I hope you will be able to join us as we celebrate together what God has done in the lives of each of our graduates.

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

May

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
PK/K to Zoo

May 22

8:30am Chapel at Peoria
CRC
Last Day of School
12:05 Dismissal

May 31

All Parent School Cleaning

June

June 15

8:00AM Tractor Ride



Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: May 6, 2024

The Board sang from Psalter Hymnal #530, I Love to Tell the Story. Adam Fynaardt read from I John 4: 7-11 and opened with prayer. Minutes of the April meeting were read and approved.

From the Education Committee:

- Motion was approved to hire Lisa Roose to teach Algebra I & pick up additional math or other classes if schedule allows.
- Motion was approved to continue with MAP testing.

From the Promotions Committee:

- Tulip Time went well.
- Several board members have received compliments on kids behavior. A big thanks goes to teachers, staff members, and parents.

- Have begun working on designing next years shirts.

From the SIT Committee:

- Annual submission has been submitted.
- Final negotiations for the School Improvement Plan are being finalized for the next 5 years.
- Emergency Operations plan will be taken care of after school is out.

From the Finance Committee:

- Pre-K is now eligible for tuition assistance from the endowment fund.
- \$183.70 has been spent of the \$1000 from Larry's fund. Funds are used to take students out for treats after field trips.

From the Bus committee:

- Purchased new bus. The old bus will be sold at the conclusion of the school year for \$4500.

From the Building Committee:

- Close to having plans to present to board for building expansion.
- Security cameras are in the process of being installed.

Next meeting: June 3, 2024 at 7PM

Dennis Veenstra closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Fynaardt

Classroom News

PreK & Kindergarten

It is hard to believe another school year is almost over! We have grown so much academically, emotionally, and spiritually. We began the year not being able to write well or read and now the kindergarteners are doing both very well. In PreK, we have learned all the letters and have begun learning how to write them all correctly as well. We've made new friends and learned how to behave at school. The students also see how God is the main focus in all we do. We marvel daily at His greatness. Thank you so much for the prayers and support of our class this year. We can't wait to see what the summer and next school year holds.

~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen

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)
- 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

All School: Friday, May 17, Picnic in the Park at Caldwell Park in Pella

PK & K: Monday, May 20, Blank Park Zoo

7th & 8th: Monday, May 20, Adventureland

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



1st & 2nd Grade

How can it be May already? We have had a great year and have wrapped up our devotions about Standing on God's Promises. The main lesson that we learned is that God Always Keeps His Promises. We have now started diving deeper into essential truths about God. For example, we talked about how "God is the sovereign Creator of all things," and looked up Psalm 19:1 and Psalm 24:1 to find Biblical proof of that truth. Every day the students are learning about their God, how much He loves them, and what He has done for them.



~Mrs. Melinda Vos

3rd & 4th Grade

In April, we went on one of our favorite field trips each year, Ag Day. All the events at the fairgrounds are hosted by the Mahaska County Farm Bureau. We started off by visiting the Frisian Farm Cheese House. We learned how cheese is made and stored. We even got to taste some of the yummy cheeses they make there. Afterwards, we made our way to the fairgrounds and had a wonderful lunch. There were many things we learned at different stations. Some of the stations were: water testing, a veterinarian, welding, farm safety, soil, corn, cows (dairy and beef), sheep, rabbits, chickens, pigs, and more. Here are some comments the students made about their favorite things from that day:



- It was interesting to learn about water and to see what different chemicals or stuff was in each type of water.
- I liked going to the welding station because it seems really fun to do.
- I liked the horse because it was pretty.
- I liked Bruno the pig because it felt weird, different than I thought pigs would feel. It also tried to eat my coat.
- It was all really fun, but my favorite station was the bunnies and chickens because I really liked learning about them.
- I liked the farm safety station. We saw a toy grain cart and how people could go down in the corn if they aren't safe.
- I liked the welding because I always wanted to learn how to weld.
- My favorite station was welding because we got to weld using graham crackers and frosting.



Included are a few pictures from our day. One picture is in front of the aging room at the Cheese House. The other picture is at the welding station. A few of the boys show how they 'welded' the graham crackers together with frosting. Thank you to Andy Dunsbergen, Stacie Fynaardt, Scarlett Ford, and Paige Roos for coming along with us on our trip!

~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 at 8:30 AM on Wednesday, May 22nd, the last day of school, for chapel at Peoria CRC. Reverend Ralph Pontier is our scheduled speaker.



5th & 6th Grade

In 5/6th grade Science, we are studying Biomes. It has been interesting to see the way that God has created specific plants and creatures to live in specific biomes. What an amazing creator we have! Desert plants and animals demonstrate God's amazing design in living with extreme desert temperatures. The jackrabbit, for example, has large ears that help its body get rid of excess heat. God made the saguaro cactus able to store up to 200 gallons of water in its stem, which is enough for it to live an entire year! As we learn more about biomes and all of God's creation, we are in awe of His power and goodness to us. Join us in praising our God for His constant care and His amazing creation!

~Mrs. Lisa Ver Meer



IXL

Peoria Christian School has now grown 1 year 1 month in math and 1 year 3 months in language arts! Each class has used their God given gifts to master the amount of skills as follows:

- Kindergarten: 451 skills
- First and second: 1,132 skills
- Third and fourth: 1,190 skills
- Fifth and sixth: 572 skills
- Seventh and eighth: 855 skills

~Mrs. Amber Fynaardt

Music

The 6th-8th grade band has worked so hard to march well in the Tulip Time parades! I hope you were able to see them at least once. We are wrapping up the school year in music with preparations for 8th grade graduation and fun music games from our curriculum. Our last day of music will be on Tuesday, May 21st.

~Mrs. Carolyn Ansley





8th Grade Graduation

Peoria Christian School's 8th Grade Graduation is scheduled for 7PM on Thursday, May 16th. Community and society members are also invited to join us for this joyous evening as we celebrate our 6 graduates. PK-7th grade students will be participating in the ceremony and are expected to be present no later than 6:45PM.

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.



PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

We want to thank God that 7 students attended Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Round-Up on March 6th. Please pray for these families and others as they consider sending their children to Peoria Christian School. (Picture)

GRANDPARENT/SPECIAL FRIEND'S DAY

We want to thank all the grandparents and special friends that prayed for and attended our special day with the students on Friday, April 12th. Thank you for taking the time to share those special memories with our students as they were able to share items they were learning in class, worshiping together at chapel, eating lunch with them, and to support them during their program at the close of the day.



FACILITATOR THANK YOU

Please join us on Wednesday, May 22nd, after chapel at approximately 9:15AM, as we take a moment to express our appreciation to our facilitators, who have faithfully served our students this year. We will have a brief time of thanks and then share a special snack together.

EARLY DISMISSALS

Please note these early dismissals through the end of the year:

- Thursday, May 16: 11:30AM for 8th grade students
- Thursday, May 16: 2:20PM for PK-7th grade students
- Wednesday, May 22: 12:05PM Last Day of School



Peoria Christian School

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Facebook:

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

YouTube:

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

SOCIETY MEETING

Please save the date of Monday, July 8th at 7PM in the school gym for the Peoria Christian School Annual Society Meeting. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with a member of the finance committee for tuition payments and financial information for the 2024/2025 school year. The Society Meeting will be held to hear reports on the 2023/2024 school year, elect new board members, and approve the budget for the 2024/2025 school year.

ALL SCHOOL PICNIC

On Friday, May 17, we will be having lunch at Caldwell Park, spending some time playing some games at the park, and concluding the day with some ice cream from Culvers. If you are interested in eating lunch with us in the park, please contact Melissa Copenhaver at hotlunch@peoriachr.org and send \$3 to the office to cover the cost of your lunch.

TRACTOR RIDE

The Peoria Christian Tractor Ride is schedule for Saturday, June 15. Registration will begin at 8:00AM that morning in the school gym. Lunch will be provided back at the school gym after the ride. Contact Ruth De Bruin at 641-204-1855 with any questions.

PARENT ALL SCHOOL CLEANING

All school cleaning for all parents is scheduled for Friday, May 31st. There will be two shifts. The first shift during the morning and the second shift during the evening. Parents are expected to be here and help during one of the two shifts and community members are welcome to come help as well. More information will be sent out in the Weekly Pathfinder.

CHAPEL SNACKS

A special thank you to those individuals who contributed snacks on chapel days this past year. The students enjoy a snack while they meet in their chapel groups to discuss what they learned from the chapel speaker. Thank you for these special treats. Please contact Heidi Van Wyk if you would be willing to contribute a chapel snack next school year.



Class of 2024

Peoria Christian School

Full Name: Brody Joseph Borg

Hobbies: Baseball, Basketball

Dream Job: MLB Player

Favorite book to read? *Travel Team* by Mike Lupica

Funniest memory while at Peoria? Bus ride back to school from the old capital building and Herbert Hoover museum.

Favorite field trip while at Peoria? Ice Skating

Favorite hot lunch meal? Walking Taco

Favorite quote: "The days that break you are the days that make you"-Michael B. Jordan

Favorite Bible passage: Philippians 4:13

What advice do you have for younger students? Keep track of your work and have a positive attitude.

They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by...my Christian view of the world.

Full Name: Trevor Wesley Veenstra

Hobbies: Beekeeping

Dream Job: Engineer or Farmer

Favorite book to read? *Gentle Ben* by Walt Morey

Funniest memory while at Peoria? The crazy chicks in kindergarten

Favorite field trip while at Peoria? Class trip to the Ark

Favorite hot lunch meal? Farmers' Delight

Favorite quote: "Happiness is not by chance, but by choice." - Jim Rohn

Favorite Bible passage: Colossians 3:23

What advice do you have for younger students? To do your best for God and by the work that you do.

They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by... How my work brings glory to God.

Full Name: Kendon Joshua Kruid

Hobbies: Weightlifting, Basketball, Football, Playing Fortnite, and Hanging out with friends are definitely my favorite things to do.

Dream Job: NFL player or NFL chaplain

Favorite book to read? *Spy School Revolution* by Stuart Gibbs.

Funniest memory while at Peoria? Just any memory with Brody, he is just a really funny guy.

Favorite hot lunch meal? Lasagna

Favorite quote: "What's up brother?"-Sketch

Favorite Bible passage: 2 Timothy 2:2-4

What advice do you have for younger students? Just have fun and laugh a lot because if someone is laughing at you, they can't make fun of you if you're laughing at yourself.

They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by... How much I talk to my teachers and hang out with students that are older and younger than me.

Full Name: Gerrit Alan Meinders

Hobbies: Farming, Trap shooting, hunting

Dream Job: Engineer at Vermeer

Favorite book to read? *The Chocolate Bomber* by Gail Halvorsen

Funniest memory while at Peoria? Typing Classes in 5th and 6th grade

Favorite field trip while at Peoria? Bike day

Favorite hot lunch meal? Ham balls

Favorite quote: "Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." -Saint Francis of Assisi

Favorite Bible passage: Proverbs 3:5

What advice do you have for younger students? It may not seem like school is worth it now but it will be in the long run.

They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by... The way I act.

Full Name: Josephine Joy Hol

Hobbies: Running, Reading, Baking, Playing with my dog

Dream Job: Nursing

Favorite book to read? *Roadside Assistance* by Amy Clipston

Funniest memory while at Peoria? Gerrit & Trevor arguing with Rachel & I on who could play with the pink dollhouse in kindergarten.

Favorite field trip while at Peoria? Going to the Ark Encounter & Creation Museum.

Favorite hot lunch meal? Walking Tacos

Favorite quote: "Life is ten percent what happens to you and ninety percent how you react to it." - Charles Swindoll

Favorite Bible passage: Jeremiah 29:11

What advice do you have for younger students? Don't worry about what will happen tomorrow. God has everything in His hands.

They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by... the way I strive to serve God in everything I do.

Congratulations!

Full Name: Rachel Grace Vander Wilt

Hobbies: 4-H, being outside, playing with animals

Dream Job: Contractor and Designer

Favorite book to read? Most Historical Fiction books

Funniest memory while at Peoria? When Gerrit and Trevor were scared of the lamb that Josie's mom brought into our classroom.

Favorite field trip while at Peoria? Going to the Ark Encounter & Creation Museum

Favorite hot lunch meal? Chicken Bacon Casserole

Favorite quote: "If you don't fall, how are you going to know what getting up is like?" -Stephen Curry

Favorite Bible passage: Isaiah 40:31

What advice do you have for younger students? God is always with you no matter where you go or what you do. Trust in God and He will guide you and keep you on the path of the straight and narrow.

They will know I'm a Peoria Christian graduate by... the way that I am able to get along with kids of all ages. The patience and flexibility when situations don't always go the way I planned.

