



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

Prayer

We have gotten off to a great start this year at Peoria Christian School. All 48 students are working well together, excited to start a new school year, enjoying seeing all their friends, and most of all learning more about God's creation, design, laws, and power.

However, it is a long school year, and we know that every student, teacher, bus driver, janitor, secretary, and staff member will get tired. So, we are asking you to remember to pray for and pray with our staff and students throughout the school year.



In Exodus chapter 17, we read that God told Moses to stand at the top of the hill lifting his staff towards heaven, while Joshua oversaw the army fighting the Amalekites. In a devotion written by the Ligonier ministries, they mention that this was not only an encouragement to the Israelites, but also intercessory prayer to God. Just like Joshua and the Israelites needed people praying for them, we need prayer warriors to continue to pray for us as we continue this journey. In fact, Moses anticipated getting tired and needing help, so he brought Aaron and Hur up the hill with him. Just like Moses, we need help as well. Please continue to pray for our staff and students to help them in the long journey ahead.

Thank you for your continued support,

Jeremy Copenhaver



"Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever." Psalm 86:11-12

SCHOOL CALENDAR

September

September 18

2:40PM Early Dismissal

September 19

School Pictures

September 20

11:30AM Bike Field Trip

September 27

8:30AM Chapel

1:00PM 5th-8th Grade Soccer

Game with Sully Christian

October

October 1

1:00PM Grace Counseling

October 3-4

No School

October 10

PK-1st to Autumn Acres

October 11

Trip Orders Due

October 15

School Picture Retakes

October 18

End of 1st Quarter

1:20 Dismissal

October 22

All School Field Trip to Living

History Farms

October 24

4-8PM Parent Teacher Con-

ferences

October 25

No School

PCHS 8th Grade Visit Day

October 28

1:00PM Grace Counseling

October 30

2:40 Dismissal

October 31

8:30AM Chapel

CHAPEL

Please join us on Friday, September 27th for our next scheduled chapel. Reverend Greg Lubbers from Covenant Church is scheduled to be our speaker. Hope to see you there!

Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: September 9, 2024

The Board sang "A Mighty Fortress" from the Psalter Hymnal #469. President Adam Fynaardt read from 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 and opened with prayer. All members were present.

Minutes of the August board meeting were read and approved. Minutes of the 2024 annual society meeting were read and approved.

New Business:

- Board Members reviewed and approved the monthly treasurer's report.
- School has seven new families and an enrollment of 48 students.
- Principal Jeremy Copenhaver distributed committee lists for board members to confirm.
- School Improvement Team (accreditation) met to discuss tasks for the 2025 annual submission to CSI.
- From the Bus Committee, continuing education is scheduled for 10/2/24 and bus inspection is scheduled for 11/1/2024.
- From the Building Committee, a neighbor will be removing the north and east fence after harvest.
- The Board/Staff Supper is scheduled for September 21st at 6 p.m. at Sean Rozenboom's.

Next meeting: Monday, October 7th at 7:00PM.

Sean Rozenboom closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick De Haan, Secretary

Peoria Christian School Circle

Meeting: August 6, 2024



All Members were present except Ruth De Bruin with notice. Clarice Meinders opened with devotions. Meeting minutes were read and approved from April 1, 2024.

Outing going member: Melissa Copenhaver

Incoming member: Jana Laverman

New Officers

- President: Paige Roos
- Secretary: Clarice Meinders
- Treasurer: Carla Vander Molen

Fundraisers:

- June: School tractor ride - \$3,476.95 profit
- September: Will sell freezer meals
- November: Bazaar - November 8, 2024

New business:

- Two new ranges were purchased and installed in the school kitchen.
- Approved School Circle providing pizza to students and staff for school Christmas party.

Devotions for next meeting: Ruth De Bruin

Next meeting: October 1st at 7 pm in the library

Paige closed with prayer.

OPEN POSITIONS

Peoria Christian is looking to fill the following positions for the 2024-2025 school year:

Substitute Teachers
(as needed)

Bus Driver
(Part-Time)

School Janitor
(Part-Time)

Facilitators
(Volunteer)

Interested individuals should contact Jeremy Copenhaver at principal@peoriachr.org or Michelle De Haan at office@peoriachr.org.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Please save the date of Thursday, October 25th for parent teacher conferences. Additional information will come in the weekly email.

NO SCHOOL

Please note that there is no school on Thursday, October 3rd and Friday, October 4th.



Classroom News

PreK & Kindergarten

PreKindergarten and Kindergarten is off to a great start. We have a larger class than the past couple years. We have 3 Kindergarten and 5 PreKindergarten students this year. It's amazing how a few more students bring so much more energy to the room. We have spent the first few weeks of school learning what being at school means and how to be a good friend. We have also started learning our letters in PreK and how to correctly write letters in Kindergarten. We praise God for our new friends and give thanks that we are adjusting to new routines.

~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen



1st & 2nd Grade

First grade is off to a fantastic start! Since we have no 2nd graders this year, we are blessed to focus only on 1st grade skills. We have been very busy, learning how to adjust to 1st grade from kindergarten, as well as, learning to adjust to one another. The class is very eager to learn and excited to grow in their new skills. This year our classroom theme is "Roar like a lion." Lions are oftentimes used to describe bravery, and we are learning how to be brave in a world that is sometimes very scary. By the strength given to us by God, we can let our lives "roar like a lion" and be unafraid and unashamed to live our lives for Christ.

~ Mr. Jonah Stanage

3rd & 4th Grade

Praise the Lord for the start of a new school year! The students have all been doing a great job getting back into the school routine. The third graders have already learned their first few cursive letters and the fourth graders are remembering how to write exclusively in cursive. They have applied for their classroom jobs, gotten their first paychecks, paid their first rent, and are excited for what comes next. They are all very busy collecting insects for their insect collections. We will be classifying them with the 7th and 8th graders in mid-September. Once they are finished, they will be displayed in the hallway for about a week. Be sure to look for them if you visit the school!

~ 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 (immediate need)
- Small Styrofoam Cups
- Ziploc Bags of all sizes (sandwich, quarter, gallon)

SOCCER GAME

Lord willing, we will have a combined P.E. with Sully Christian School. On Friday, September 27, the 5th - 8th grade students from both schools will be playing soccer at Peoria. The game is scheduled to start at 1:00PM. This is a great community building opportunity and parents are invited to attend. Hope to see you there.!



5th & 6th Grade

We are off to a great start this year in 5th and 6th grade. The students are doing great with having multiple teachers and being one of the "older kids" in school. This year the theme of our 5th and 6th grade room is "Glorify the Lord"! We will be talking about different ways to glorify God in our lives and where we can see God's glory in the world around us. Lord willing, we will be filling our bulletin board with all of the wonderful things we see and do throughout the year.

~ Mrs. Laura Fynaardt



7th & 8th Grade

Our first day of school chapel was based on our theme verse, Psalm 86:11-12 which says, "Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth, unite my heart to fear Your name. I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify Your name forever." Mr. B. spoke to us about how in order to be taught, we need to be teachable. In the 7th and 8th grade classroom, all fourteen students are trying to be teachable by learning how our classroom is run with our teachers: Mrs. Van Wyk, Mr. Cope, Mr. B, Mrs. Ver Meer, and Mrs. Roose. We are also trying to help each other and, "Spur one another on toward love and good deeds," as is stated in Hebrews 10:24. Some of the other things we are learning is how to stay flexible and be organized. Get ready to buckle up and join the 7th and 8th graders for a wild ride!

~ submitted by Alicia Fynaardt

IXL

Students are back to working hard on IXL. Each week, every student in K-8 will be assigned an objective that has been hand picked just for their educational needs. Some students will work on shoring up gaps in their learning and others will be challenging themselves with connecting new information to previous learned knowledge. Our school values Biblically Based, Personalized Learning; and IXL provides a framework for each student to learn what they personally need to grow into the boys and girls God created them to be.

~Mrs. Melinda Vos

Music

It is wonderful to be back at school and learning to use music to worship the Lord together! This week the 3rd/4th graders started working on a fun, challenging cup game to play along with the circus tune "Entry of the Gladiators"! The 1st graders started listening to the "Carnival of the Animals". They have listened to the first 3 animals so far. The 5th-8th grade music class is already working on our songs for our November Fall Festival concert and working on singing in 3 vocal parts. Soli Deo Gloria!

~ Mrs. Carolyn Ansley

PUMPKIN PICKING

On September 6th, the 7th and 8th graders helped pick pumpkins for Mr. Arvin Roose. God supplied beautiful weather and the students were able to help show Christian community to a fellow society member. If you haven't seen the pictures, please check them out on Facebook.



GRACE COUNSELING

We are excited to be using Grace Counseling again this year. We feel that this is another great way to encourage our students when they are dealing with life's difficulties. We again are blessed to have Jora Van Maanen lead these sessions for our students. The first session is scheduled for the afternoon of Tuesday, October 1st. Finally, if you are looking for your child to receive individual sessions, please contact Jeremy Copenhaver for available options.

CULVERS NIGHT

We want to thank everyone who came and supported our school at Culvers on September 3rd. We were able to raise about \$600 from Culvers and \$1,255.18 from tips for a grand total of \$1855.18 for our school, which goes towards promotions and our school T-shirts. Finally, we want to praise God from whom all blessings flow.



FREEZER MEALS

Please join us on Saturday, September 28, at 8:00AM in the school gym to prepare and assemble freezer meals. Freezer meals will be ready to pick up that afternoon between 3-5pm at the school gym. Please remember to bring payment when picking up your meals. Please call or text Paige Roos at 641-780-3563 with any questions.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Jostens Pix is scheduled to take our school pictures on Thursday, September 19, starting at 8:30AM. All students and staff will have their picture taken that morning. Due to the green screen technology that Jostens uses, please do not wear green for your pictures that day. Online ordering instructions will follow after picture day. Retakes are scheduled for Tuesday, October 15.

VALUE CARDS

The Peoria Christian Value Cards are now for sale! Cards can be purchased for 1 for \$15 or 3 for \$30. Please contact a 7th or 8th grade student to purchase your cards or stop by the school office. Please contact Michelle De Haan at 641-660-7373 or stop in the office with any questions. In the first week of sales, just over \$1200 was turned into the office! Thank you for your support of our 7th & 8th grade students!

SWEATSHIRT & JACKETS

With cooler weather around the corner, here is a reminder of the school policy on sweatshirts and jackets:

- If the feels like temperature is between 50 and 59 degrees, it is sweatshirt weather.
- If the feels like temperature is below 50 degrees, it is jacket weather. A distinguishing feature for a jacket is that it must have a zipper.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please be looking for more information regarding these upcoming field trips:

- All School: Bike Field Trip on Friday, September 20th, 11:30AM (information in the Weekly Pathfinder)
- PK-1st Grade: Autumn Acres on Thursday, October 10th
- All School: Living History Farms on Tuesday, October 22th
- 8th Grade: 8th Grade Visit Day to PCHS on Friday, October 25th

DELICIOUS DONATIONS NEEDED!

We need your delicious baked goods and confections for the bake sale at the annual Peoria Christian School bazaar on **November 8**. Cookies, bars, pies, bread, rolls, cupcakes, fudge, **Christmas** cookies & candy, jelly, jam, home canned fruit, vegetables, salsa, gluten free and/or dairy free items, etc. Your items must be in the gym by noon on **November 8**. Please label your items. Styrofoam trays, bags, and labels will be available at school and in the Peoria Christian Reformed Church basement a few weeks before the bazaar. Questions? Please contact Clarice Meinders ([641-780-0126](tel:641-780-0126); email glennmeinders@iowatelecom.net.)



Save the Date!

Friday, November 8, 2024

Peoria Christian School's Bazaar!

Dig out your poodle skirt as we go back in time to the 1950s

Schedule of Events:

3:00-6:30PM Bake Sale & Browse-n-Buy

3:00-4:30PM Coffeetime

5:00-6:30PM Supper

6:45PM Childcare in the School

7:00PM Live Auction in the Gym

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Facebook:

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YouTube:

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

If you would like to help or donate something to make this fundraiser successful, please contact Lisa Ver Meer, Heidi Van Wyk, or Stacie Fynaardt. We greatly appreciate all your help as we strive to support Peoria Christian School.

"Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

