



# 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

### Christmas 2024

In Math class, we have been very busy learning about God's order, laws, covenants, and design in Mathematics. Here are some of the items that students have learned over the last few weeks. These topics will make great supper time discussion:

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Understanding God's covenants with rectangles  
Understanding God's design of a trapezium

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Using God's law with dividing whole numbers by decimal numbers  
Using God's law with finding the circumference of a circle

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Understanding God's relationship between fractions, decimals, and percents  
Using God's design of rounding decimal numbers

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Using God's law with multiplying and dividing numbers in scientific notation  
Using God's law with adding and subtracting integers



However, as much as I love teaching mathematics, the most important supper time discussion is talking to your loved ones about the true meaning of Christmas. This Christmas, amongst all the business, please remember to share with your family and friends why God sent His Son to be born of a virgin. During the month of December, we usually focus our attention on celebrating the birth of Christ, but even at Christmas we need to remember that He was born to die.

Thank you for your continued support,  
Jeremy Copenhaver

## THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone for your continued support throughout this past year. Your words of encouragement, prayers, and financial gifts were greatly appreciated. We are excited to see what God has in store for us in this coming year! Please make sure to check out the latest postings on Facebook and share with your family and friends the amazing ways that God is blessing us here at Peoria Christian School (James 1:17).

"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

#### December

**December 6**

2:20PM Dismissal  
7PM Christmas Program at Peoria CRC

**December 11**

12:20PM Dismissal

**December 13**

Urban Air, All School Field Trip  
Christmas Program  
Make-Up Date

**December 16**

2pm Caroling at Independence Village

**December 19**

Christmas Spirit Dress Up Day  
8:30AM Chapel  
2:00PM Christmas Activities

**December 20**

Christmas PJ Day  
End of 2nd Quarter  
12:20PM Dismissal

**December 23-January 1**

Christmas Break

#### January

**January 2**

Classes Resume

**January 3**

Blue Zoo, All School Field Trip

**January 6**

Grace Counseling

**January 10**

Report Cards Sent Home  
TRIP Orders Due

**January 15**

12:20PM Dismissal

**January 24**

8:30AM Chapel

**January 29**

2:40PM Dismissal

### CHAPEL

We want to welcome Reverend Chuck Muether from Immanuel Reformed Fellowship as our scheduled speaker for our upcoming chapel on Thursday, December 19th at 8:30 AM. It is our Christmas themed chapel and hope to see you there.

## Peoria Christian School Board

### School Board Meeting: December 2, 2024

The Board sang "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus." Vice President Eric Fynaardt read from Romans 15:8-13 and opened with prayer. All members were present except Adam Fynaardt with notice. Minutes of the November Board Meeting were read and approved. Treasurer's Report was distributed, reviewed, and approved.

- Ben Gesink and Russ Fynaardt reported on their school visits and gave favorable reports.
- From the Education Committee, the Board approved a field trip to De Jong Manufacturing in January.
- From the Education Committee, the Board met in a special session and approved a "Pure Freedom" presentation for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders by Lenae McFarland. The presentation will be in May with more information for parents to follow.
- From the Promotions Committee, the Board approved an open house to be scheduled for March 13, 2025, for families interested in Peoria Christian School.
- From the Bus Committee, the inspection revealed some issues which have been addressed.
- From the Tech Committee, we plan to keep Wi-Fi available in the gym on the same settings as school to better enable call and text communication from the gym.

Next meeting: Monday, January 6, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Ben Gesink closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick De Haan, Secretary

## Classroom News

### PreK & Kindergarten

The Kindergarteners are proud to announce that we have made it all the way through learning the letters of the alphabet and their sounds. We have also learned the correct way to write all of the lowercase letters. We are now looking forward to putting these sounds together and reading words! We have spent this month talking about the first Thanksgiving in PreK and Kindergarten. The Pilgrims had so many things to thank the Lord for that first Thanksgiving. Did you know that they celebrated for 3 days? We also have so many things to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. We thank God for our many blessings.

~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen



## OPEN POSITIONS

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

**Bus Driver**  
(Part-Time)

**School Janitor**  
(Part-Time)

**Facilitators**  
(Volunteer)

**Substitute Teachers**  
(as needed)

Interested individuals should reach out to one of the following individuals:

Jeremy Copenhaver at  
principal@peoriachr.org or  
Michelle De Haan at  
office@peoriachr.org.

Please pray for the Lord's guidance as we look to fill these open positions.

## PK/KINDER FACILITATOR NEED

Our PK/K classroom is looking for an individual or multiple individuals who are willing to serve as facilitator from December through the middle of March. We are looking for one or more individuals who are available on Tuesday, Thursday, and/or Friday afternoons from 12:30-3:00pm. Contact Michelle at [office@peoriachr.org](mailto:office@peoriachr.org) if you have questions or are interested in filling this volunteer position.



## 1st & 2nd Grade

In first grade, we have been busy working through our curriculum. We are subtracting more, reading longer stories, and learning about the Corruption of God's perfect creation. In all of this learning, it is important for us to be followers of Christ and imitate Him in all things. The students are able to earn classroom money for the jobs they perform each week in the classroom as well as bonuses for positive behavior. They are then able to spend this money on fun items or activities. This past month, the students saved up a bunch of their money and pooled it together to purchase a popcorn, movie, and a pajama party. We watched the VeggieTales movie: Jonah (one of my personal favorites). The students love earning, saving, and especially spending their classroom money, and I love seeing their positive behavior and generosity, as they share money to purchase items and work with each other to always do what is right. "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31

~ Mr. Jonah Stange

## 3rd & 4th Grade

As we prepare for our Thanksgiving break, we are so thankful that God blesses us freely each and every day. Our class takes time every week to thank God for those blessings during our 'thankful prayer' time. Looking to December, we have a lot coming up. We have many units to finish, concerts to perform, parties to attend, and even a field trip to go on. The third graders are starting to complete their daily work in cursive. The fourth graders will soon be learning long division. And, of course, all the students are looking forward to celebrating the birth of Christ, and having some time off from school. Here are some things they are looking forward to the most: riding my razor, seeing my family, I get to see my new baby cousin, going to my grandma's house for Christmas supper, deer hunting, opening presents, going to Michigan to see family, bike riding in the snow, and sledding. May the Lord bless each of you this Christmas season!

~ Ms. Erica Taft

## 5th & 6th Grade

In 5/6th grade, we have been busy learning about Chemistry! We were introduced to atoms, molecules, and the Periodic Table of Elements for the first time! What excitement there was as we discovered there are 118 elements made up of very tiny atoms! A highlight for the students was attempting to learn a fun song to go along with them! What comfort and joy it brings to know that none of these elements are unknown to God because He created them! With each new discovery, God's glory is more fully revealed to man. As Colossians 1:16 says, "All Things were created by Him, and for Him." We are thankful to know the God who has infinite knowledge and who holds all things, including atoms, in His almighty hands.

~ Mrs. Lisa Ver Meer



## DONATIONS

### NEEDED

Throughout the year, Peoria Christian School has a need for the following items. This is a tangible way for society members to contribute to Peoria Christian School. These items can be purchased and dropped off at the school:

- Forever Stamps (immediate need)
- Small Styrofoam Cups
- Business sized envelopes
- Ziploc Bags of all sizes (sandwich, quarter, gallon)

## WEATHER ALERTS

Please stay tuned to the following when there is a concern regarding the weather:

- Text Message: This is our primary way of communicating weather delays and we strongly encourage all parents to sign up for text messaging. If you would like to be added to our text messaging system, please text "START" to 833-526-1787
- Email: All society will be emailed
- Facebook: Watch our Facebook page for an announcement
- WHO-TV: Check the scroll at the bottom of your TV



## 7th & 8th Grade

Throughout November, in the seventh and eighth grade classroom, we have been writing descriptive essays about someone special to us. Many of us are writing about a parent, sibling, cousin, or friend who each hold a special place in our hearts. As each student forms their own descriptive essay, Mrs. VW has encouraged us to ponder our grammar. One of our main focuses is to use strong verbs that show and not just tell. We have been trying hard to use verbs, adjectives, and adverbs that are remarkably descriptive. When we proofread each other's essays, we look closely for places where they can add a stronger word. Through proofreading, we are able to spur our peers on. Hebrews 10:24 states, "And let us consider how to spur on one another toward love and good deeds."

~ Submitted by Aleah Van Wyk

## Music

Our students are working hard to prepare a beautiful gift of music to present to you at our Christmas concert. We hope to see you there!

~ Mrs. Carolyn Ansley



## LOG-STO

One of the means for us to bless families to have access to a quality Christian education is through the Legacy of Grace School Tuition Organization (LOG-STO). This state program allows for individuals and businesses to donate money to help families with tuition at a private school, receiving a 75% state tax credit of the donation, which reduces your state tax liability.

Our LOG-STO has been allocated to collect \$559,683.00 this year to help families who are not currently eligible for a State of Iowa Education Savings Account. For example, our PreKindergarten students are not eligible because they attend fewer days. A donation of any size would help us to move closer to our goal. Would you please prayerfully consider a gift to the LOG-STO to help a family access Christian education for their children? Please visit the website, [www.logsto.org](http://www.logsto.org) or see the information at the end of this Pathfinder, for more information and a donation form. Thank you.



### BAZAAR TOTAL UPDATE

Donations have continued to pour in for this year's Bazaar and we are SO thankful! We are pleased to announce that our new total is now \$67,607! The Lord is SO good! Thank you for your continued support! Join us in praising our great God! To Him be all the glory!



### CHRISTMAS PROJECT

This year our Christmas project will be to support Rock Valley Christian School in their continued flood recovery efforts. This summer the entire Rock Valley community was tested by a flood as nearly a quarter of the people living in Rock Valley had to evacuate their homes. Many of these residents came back to collapsed or severely damaged homes. Rock Valley Christian had 3 feet of water throughout their entire building and even more in their bus barn. God has been so faithful and they were able to start school only a week later than originally planned, but they still have outstanding needs that need to be met. Peoria Christian will be working to help bridge the gap by raising funds to help replace student desks. Students, parents, and society members are encouraged to bring their loose change to school between November 25 and December 13. Prizes will be awarded to the classrooms that bring in the highest total and the most weight!



### BUS DRIVER

We wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to Dennis Rietema who has graciously been filling in as our second bus driver this school year. Dennis will be gone from January 14-March 14 and so we are looking for someone to step into this role during his absence. If you are able to help out, please contact Mr. Copenhagen at [principal@peoriachr.org](mailto:principal@peoriachr.org).

### UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

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

- All School: Urban Air, Friday, December 13.
  - All School: Christmas Caroling at Independence Village, Monday, December 16 at 2PM
  - All School: Blue Zoo, Friday, January 3
- Parents, please see the Weekly Pathfinder, classroom newsletters, and a separate field trip email for details on these field trips.

### VALUE CARDS

Thank you to everyone who has purchased value cards from our 7th/8th grade students. Thus far a total of \$6,085 has been raised for the 8th grade class fund. Cards are valid through the end of August 2025 and can still be purchased by contacting the office.

### GRASS MOWERS

We want to thank Hudson Fynaardt & Luke Fynaardt who faithfully mowed our grass every week during the spring, summer, and fall. Please take a moment to thank these students and all our volunteers that make this school run so smoothly.





**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>

**GRACE COUNSELING**

Our next scheduled session with Jora Van Maanen is Monday, January 6th. Students in K-4 are scheduled from 11:00 AM-Noon and students in 5th-8th grade are scheduled from 12:30-1:30 PM. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

**CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES**

The joy of Christmas is starting to fill the hallways at school! We have several activities planned to celebrate this joyous season. Please look to the Weekly Pathfinder for more details on each of these events.

December 16: 2PM Caroling at Independence Villate

December 19: Christmas Spirit Dress Up Day

8:30AM Chapel

2PM All School Christmas Games & Activities

December 20: Christmas PJ Day

**VETERANS DAY LUNCH & PROGRAM**

Thank you to all our veterans and guests who attended the lunch and program on Tuesday, November 12. We continue to pray for the Lord's richest blessing for each of you and we thank you for your service to our country.



# Legacy of Grace

SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

726 North E Street • Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577 • [www.logsto.org](http://www.logsto.org)

## Your Donation Makes It Happen!

We rely on generous donations like yours to provide excellent Christ-centered education to local families who need assistance above ESA funding. Now in its 18th year, Legacy of Grace School Tuition Organization continues to support the worthwhile work of Christian education in Iowa.



## Please Prayerfully Consider Supporting Your Local STO

We humbly ask you to pray for God's leading in your support of Christian education in Iowa this year. Please do not replace your current giving to Christian education for the sake of LOG STO. Once again, we earnestly thank you for your consideration in helping us meet our financial goals.

This year our goal is to raise \$559,683.

We are so thankful for the ongoing partnership between our larger community of Christian schools and generous supporters like you.

In Christ,

Joel Groenenboom  
President of the Board  
[joelg2911@gmail.com](mailto:joelg2911@gmail.com)  
641-295-2003

## We Still Need Your Help

We are entering into a new age of Christian education in Iowa that is incredibly exciting and such a blessing to Christian schools.

Thanks to the ESA bill that was passed, schools are able to charge closer to what the cost of education is and at the same time compensate teachers and staff fairly in both salary and benefits. However, new legislation has widened that gap again and there is more ground to make up.



## Donation Options

All tax deductible donations to this great cause will receive a 75% tax credit from the state of Iowa. We encourage you to talk with your tax preparer about the Student Tuition Organization Tax Credit to maximize your gift while limiting your tax liability.

Additionally, we would love for you to consider donating stock, grain, or RMD's (Required Mandatory Distributions, if you are 72 years or age or older). Feel free to reach out to Joel and his team to help you better understand your options.



2024

# Legacy of Grace

SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

2024

726 North "E" Street • Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577 • www.logsto.org

## Individual Donation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_  
(We are unable to distribute tax credits without name, address, and social security number)

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you would like your acknowledgement receipt emailed to you.  
**Be sure to include your email address above.**

Grain Transfer	
Use Only	
I, _____	transfer _____ bushels of corn or beans to Legacy of Grace STO on ____/____/2024.
X _____	Date ____/____/2024
	<b>Producer</b>
X _____	
	<b>Business Representative</b>
Representative of _____	

Please make checks payable to **LOG-STO**

Please send to: Legacy of Grace STO  
726 North E Street  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Office Use Only	
Date of Donation	_____
Check No.	_____
Amount	_____
CACTAS Date	_____