

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

Love

Because of Valentine's Day, we normally think of love during the month of February. Since February is the second month of the year, you might even see gifts at the stores for Valentine's Day as soon as Christmas is over. You might think of flowers, teddy bears, chocolates, and it is amazing to see the amount of people (especially men) at the store the night before Valentine's Day, with the goal of trying to get that special gift, which says I love you.

All those items are fine, but what does the Bible say about love and what do we try to teach our students about love here at Peoria Christian school? That is what we should be focusing on during the month of February and the rest of the year. The Bible is full of verses on love. In fact, the Bible says God is love (I John 4:8). Most people would probably turn to I Corinthians chapter 13 (the love chapter) to read about love. However, the late R.C. Sproul once said, "I Corinthians chapter 13 is probably the most read chapter of the Bible but also the most misunderstood chapter of the Bible." The point that I think he was trying to make is that this chapter talks about God's amazing love but also reveals our sinful nature.

Let's take a quick look at chapter 13 and what we strive to teach our children here at Peoria Christian School. We see from the first 3 verses that when we try using our gifts that God has given to us without love, we gain nothing. In verses 4-8a, we see characteristics of God's love: patient, kind, does not boast, not arrogant, not resentful, does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth, and love bears all, believes all, hopes all, and endures all things, and never ends. Even as I am writing this, I can see my own shortcomings and why we teach these items to our students. We emphasize to our children that when we reflect God's love to others that we need to put others ahead of ourselves. In our sinful nature, we don't naturally put others first, but we strive to teach a love that reflects His love to one another.

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

February

February 12

10AM 7th/8th to De Jong Manufacturing

February 14

Trip Orders Due

February 15

Hostess Supper

February 19

2:40PM Dismissal

February 20

9AM PK-1st to Sully Christian

February 21

1PM Spelling Bee & Volleyball at Sully Christian

February 25

6:30PM Local Fine Arts

February 28

8:30AM Chapel

March

March 6

2:40PM Dismissal

5PM District Fine Arts at Pella Christian High School

March 7

Trip Orders Due

March 10-14

ISASP Testing

March 13

7PM Open House

March 14

End of 3rd Quarter

1:20PM Dismissal

March 17-21

Spring Break

March 25

Grace Counseling

March 26-28

7th/8th Grade Class Trip

March 28

8:30AM Chapel

Reports Cards Available

CHAPEL

Please join us for our next scheduled chapel on Friday, February 28th at 8:30 AM. Jim Warden, from Peoria CRC, is our scheduled speaker. Hope to see you there.

Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: February 3, 2025

The Board sang "Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer." President Adam Fynaardt read from James 1:17 and opened with prayer. All members were present.

Minutes of the January Board Meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's Report was distributed, reviewed, and approved.

- Sean Rozenboom and Nick De Haan reported on their school visits and gave favorable reports.
- From the Education Committee, the Board approved class funds to cover the 7th and 8th grade class trip.
- Mr. Cope updated the board on upcoming events and 8th grade class gift ideas.
- From the School Improvement Team, Erin Fynaardt was approved as the new chairperson.
- From the Finance Committee, next year's tuition and teacher pay were discussed and approved.
- From the Building Committee, the board will meet to review proposals from the committee.

Next meeting: Monday, March 3, 2025, at 6:30PM.

Jameson Roose closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick De Haan, Secretary

Classroom News

PreK & Kindergarten

We have spent the month of January working hard on our phonics skills in Kinder and PreK. The kindergarteners are using the letter skills we learned during first semester to read and spell words. The PreK students finished learning all of the letters of the alphabet and their sounds this month. We are now going to start working on the correct way to write these letters. A highlight of our month was going on the whole school field trip to the Blue Zoo. It was fun to see and touch the different sea creatures that God has created.

~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen



OPEN POSITIONS

Peoria Christian is continuing to look 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/K FACILITATOR NEEDED

Our PK/K classroom is looking for an individual or multiple individuals who are willing to serve as facilitator 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 if you have questions or are interested in filling this volunteer position.

1st & 2nd Grade

The first grade classroom just celebrated the 100th day of school! We have been counting the days since the beginning of school. When we fill out our calendars in the morning, we fill out a hundred chart and the anticipation has been rising all month long. We spent the day counting to one hundred many times. We filled out one hundred math problems, colored one hundred pictures, and solved secret messages to reveal facts about the number one hundred. Counting to one hundred is over and now we are counting down to the end of the year!

~ Mr. Jonah Stanage



3rd & 4th Grade

January has been such a busy month, that it is hard to believe we were just celebrating Christmas only a month ago. We went to the Blue Zoo in West Des Moines to experience animals we usually don't get to see in God's world, Madi Veenstra came back and helped in our class for the first full week of January, we celebrated six birthdays and half-birthdays, we have been preparing for our spelling bee with Sully Christian in February, and we had a special speaker. Our special speaker was Mrs. Adams with Ag in the Classroom. She taught us a little about nutrition and what foods are in the different categories of My Plate. We have also started working on our cultural fair project. In social studies, we have been learning about the different regions of God's world, and we picked one of the countries to focus on for our project. We are learning how to work collaboratively on a shared document online to compile our facts about the country. Having twelve people work on the same document at the same time requires communication and patience!

~ Ms. Erica Taft

5th & 6th Grade

In 5th/6th grade, we have been busy learning about the Civil War. Recently, we learned that the Battle Hymn of the Republic was written by a lady named Julia Ward Howe. She wrote the words after touring Union army camps in 1861 and it was published in 1862. What words of comfort for those living amidst trials and suffering then and for us now 163 years later! "Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on." We are thankful to know this great God who holds all things in His almighty hands. We join our voices with those who have gone before us in praise to our God.

~ 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
- Small Styrofoam Cups



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

In 7th and 8th grade, we completed a poetry unit. We talked about and wrote poetry. Some of the examples of poetry we wrote were: blackout poems, color poems, list poems, acrostic poems, and growing poems. It was really fun and we decided to make a List Poem about Peoria and an acrostic poem.

What I love about Peoria

- Biblical
- Small classes
- Christ centered
- Personalized learning
- Friendly faces
- Organized
- Teachers
- Helpful faces
- You know everyone
- Super sledding slope
- Family
- Hearty hot lunches
- Recess
- Smiley students

PEORIA

Personalized learning
that builds our
Education and gives us
Opportunities that helps
us to be
Ready to
Initiate our faith
As we grow

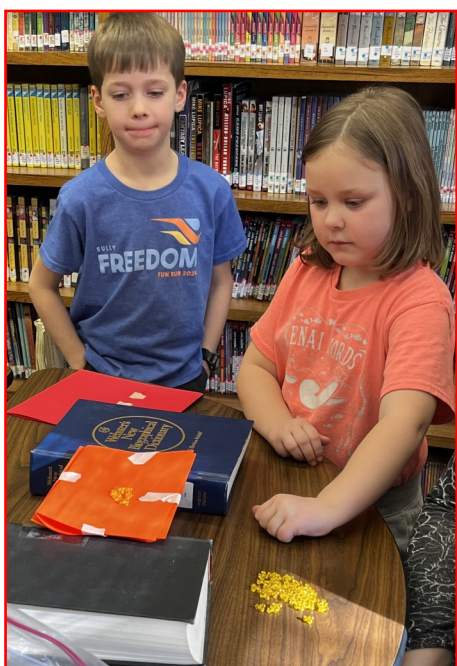
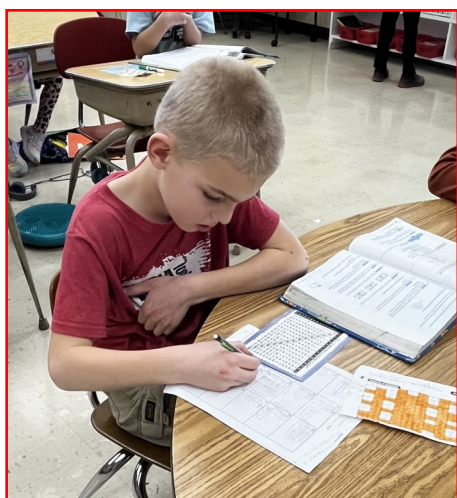
~ Submitted by Josiah and Elijah Molde

Music

The 3rd/4th grade class has been working hard on learning to read the music staff and playing the recorder this month. It requires lots of focus! Meanwhile, the 5th-8th grade students have been working on their vocal and instrumental pieces for Fine Arts.

~ Mrs. Carolyn Ansley





WHAT'S HAPPENING

HOSTESS SUPPER

Our annual Hostess Supper is coming in just one week! We are excited for this fundraiser on Saturday, February 15, 2025, at 5PM. Fifteen table hosts are currently in the process of preparing their tables and inviting guests. Guests will be asked to bring a dish to share with their table. After supper, the evening entertainment will include Reston and Carolyn Ansley and some 8th grade students. Childcare and supper for children 5th grade and under is provided, but an RSVP by February 13 is needed. If you would like an invitation to this event or to RSVP for childcare, please contact Michelle in the office at office@peoriachr.org.

SPRING BREAK

Please note that spring break is the week of March 17th - 21st. The office will be closed during that week.

SAVE THE DATES

Please remember to save these dates for these important upcoming events:

February 21st: Spelling Bee (3rd/4th) and Volleyball with Sully (5th-8th)

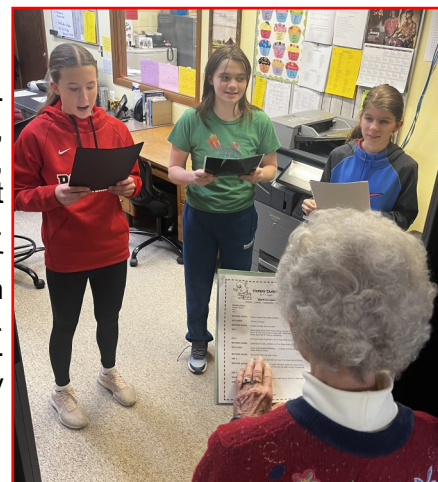
February 25th: Local Fine Arts (all 5th-8th grade students)

March 6th: District Fine Arts (5th-8th grade students)

March 13th: Open House for Interested Families

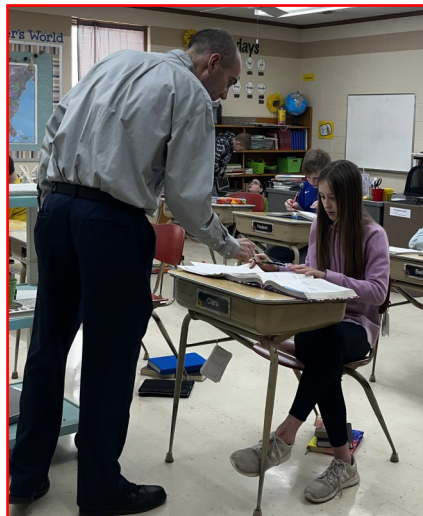
FINE ART NIGHTS

Our local Fine Arts night is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25th, at 6:30 PM. Thursday, March 6th, is the District Fine Arts night at Pella Christian High School. Please save both nights on your calendars as students in 5th-8th grade participate in these events. Look for additional details regarding both events in the Weekly Pathfinder.



VAN/BUS UPDATE

We want to thank Mr. Ernie Roose for helping to drive our students in the van while Mr. Dennis Rietema is away. Please look for the van driving around Pella and make sure to thank Mr. Roose for helping fill this huge need. The van will be in use until the start of spring break.



OPEN HOUSE

On Thursday, March 13, 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.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

- 7th/8th Grade: Scheduled to go to DeJong Manufacturing on Wednesday, February 12
- Kinder and 1st Grade: Scheduled to go to Sully Christian School for a program called "Turtle Crossing" put on by Jasper County Conservation on Thursday, February, 20 at 9AM
- 7th/8th Grade: Class Trip to the Ark & Creation Museum in Kentucky from March 26-28

SPELLING BEE AND VOLLEYBALL WITH SULLY CHRISTIAN

The 3rd/4th grade is planning to have a Spelling Bee and 5th-8th grade is planning a volleyball games with our friends from Sully Christian on February 21st. The spelling bee is planned to start at 1:00 PM at Sully Christian with the volleyball game to follow. Hopefully, you will be able to come join us for an afternoon of community building and supporting our students.

ISASP TESTING

Please note that testing is scheduled for the week prior to spring break (March 10th-14th). All students in 3rd-8th grade will take these tests. Please try to avoid any appointments during the mornings of these dates. Here is the breakdown of the testing days:

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

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<http://www.peoriachr.org>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/PeoriaChristianSchool>

Instagram:

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

YouTube:

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

