



The Pathfinder

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

Nurture - Develop - Educate

Starting New

Breath in; breath out; breathe in; breath out. I found myself saying this as I realized that it was time to just drop the long list of things that needed to be done and say it can wait for tomorrow. Just breathe and take a rest. Oh, what painful days it has been with a whirlwind of tasks and witnessing so many hearts and innocence shattered. Vividly hearing "Are we in trouble?" followed by cheerful playful laughter as parents and counselors walked into the classroom. Hearing this as we entered and knowing full well their world was about to be rocked in ways none of them could even imagine.

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4

Students, staff and faculty are definitely walking through that shadow of death as they mourn the loss of a student, friend, classmate, mentor. She will be dearly missed by all. It was clear in her three plus years at Peoria Christian that not only did we leave our mark on her, but she left a mark on so many of our hearts as well.

As we mourn this loss, I realize so many questions naturally come up. What happened, where, how, when and why. I ask them myself and wish I could answer them for you. Please understand as our young students struggle to understand and comprehend this sudden loss that due to the unique circumstances regarding this individual student we may never know the answers to these questions. We must be careful not to speculate or theorize as that only brings confusion to these young minds as they try to wrap their minds around this tragedy. Rather, let us accept that the information God has given us is sufficient and may He grant us peace with it.

Let us instead focus on the praise that while at Peoria Christian School, she grew to know the Lord and has been called home. Let us explore how she touched the lives of so many of our students and faculty. Let us rejoice in the great growth that we got to witness in her three years at our beloved school.

With heavy heart,

Eric Fynaardt

Board President



"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

SCHOOL CALENDAR

October

- October 14**
School Picture Re-Takes
Grace Counseling
- October 17**
1:20PM Dismissal
End of 1st Quarter
- October 20**
Kindergarten starts Mondays
- October 23**
4-8PM Parent Teacher
Conferences
- October 24**
No School
PCHS 8th Grade Visit Day
- October 29**
PCHS Sound of Music
2:40PM Dismissal
- October 31**
8:30AM Chapel

November

- November 3**
School Board
- November 10**
Grace Counseling
- November 12**
12:20PM Dismissal
Curriculum Mapping
- November 13**
Fall Festival at PCHS
- November 14**
Bazaar (See back page)
- November 18**
12PM Veterans Day Lunch &
Program
- November 21**
8:30AM Chapel
- November 26**
12:20PM Dismissal
- November 27 & 28**
No School
Thanksgiving Break

CHAPEL

Please join us for chapel on Friday, October 31 at 8:30AM for our Reformation Day Chapel. Mr. Alex Foley is our scheduled chapel speaker.

Peoria Christian School Board

School Board Meeting: October 6, 2025

The Board sang "Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" and President Eric Fynaardt read from Psalm 23 and opened with prayer. Minutes of the September Board Meeting were read and approved.

- The monthly Treasurer's Report was distributed, reviewed, and approved.
- The date for the Culvers fundraiser has been rescheduled for January 13, 2026, from 4:30-7:30p.
- The Board/Staff Supper went well and was a rich time of fellowship.
- We will have several PCHS students at our school for a week in January shadowing our staff to learn more about teaching as a profession.
- Please continue to be in prayer for our staff, students, and families. Psalm 46.

Next meeting: Monday, November 3, 2025

Russ Fynaardt closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jameson Roose, Secretary

Thank You

The students, staff and families of Peoria Christian School would like to extend a special thank you to those who have been praying for and supporting us over the last few weeks. The cards, hugs, treats and kind words have been a balm for our souls. We would especially like to thank the students at our sister schools who wrote notes and cards of encouragement—thank you for displaying Christ's compassion to us and our students! Thank you to everyone your kindness and continue to pray that our students can see God's kingdom work even in the difficult time. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." II Corinthians 1:3-4

Classroom News

PreK & Kindergarten

In PreK and Kinder we are still busy learning our letters. We also have continued learning about how God wants us to be healthy and how we can do that. A highlight of our month was going to Camp Creation with the 1st-4th graders. It was a beautiful day to spend outside in creation. We enjoyed going on a hike, learning about animals that you can see here in Iowa, and doing hands-on activities to learn about the days of creation. We are looking forward to the cooler weather and all the things we can experience in creation in the fall.

~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen

1st & 2nd Grade

In Social Studies, 1st & 2nd grade has been learning about the continents and oceans that God has created for us to steward and enjoy. We have started talking about how community with other Christians is important and ways that we can help in the community that God has given us. At the end of September we had our first field trip to Camp Creation. The students had a blast learning more about the beauty of God's creation. We went on a nature hike and used our 5 senses to explore God's amazing creation. We saw butterflies, smelled the damp ground, tasted a few bugs (by accident), heard birds singing, and felt the different types of bark on trees.

~ Mrs. Mary Ann Williamson



3rd & 4th Grade

The 3rd and 4th graders have been working hard and having a lot of fun too. In History, we are learning all about the similarities and differences of the Northeast United States, including their capitals. In Science, we have been studying weather and just finished up Severe Weather Research Reports. Recently, our class had the opportunity to attend two field trips. One was to Camp Creation in Leighton where we got to enjoy God's Creation as well as learn more about Him as the Creator through hikes, experiments, stories, and their museum. The other field trip allowed us to join Sully Christian 3rd/4th grade to the mill in Lynnville, as well as, to Nelson Pioneer Farm in Os-kaloosa. God has blessed our classroom to have a piano where several times a week our class enjoys singing hymns, Patch the Pirate, and other Sunday School songs. Some of our favorite hymns to sing together are *This is my Father's World* and *There is Power in the Blood*. Our class is praying for harvest safety and God's blessings to all during the autumn season.

~ Mrs. Laura Merrin



5th & 6th Grade

In 5th and 6th grade we started our year learning about sentences. We continue to work all year on remembering to write complete sentences with correct end punctuation and capitalization in all of the work that we do. Understanding sentence structure glorifies and honors God. I Corinthians 14:40 says, "But all things should be done decently and in order." God created our world in a specific order to show his glory and control in creation. Despite our tendency toward disorder, God created the parts of a sentence to be in a specific order to give us joy and help us to write clear and coherent sentences. Ask your students how to write a complete sentence.

~ Mrs. Laura Fynaardt



EARLY OUT & NO SCHOOL

There is an early out scheduled for Friday, October 17 due to the end of the 1st quarter of the school year. Also, there will be no school on Friday, October 24 due to Parent Teacher Conferences the night before.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Please save the date of Thursday, October 23 for Parent Teacher Conferences. Parents, please look for a schedule in the Weekly Pathfinder.

CULVERS NIGHT

Culver's Night has been rescheduled to Tuesday, January 13 from 4:30-7:30PM.



7th & 8th Grade

The 7th and 8th graders are currently reading Treasure Island. The story is about a young boy named Jim Hawkins who comes across a treasure map. He then goes on a journey along with a crew to recover the treasure, which is ticklish work. What would you do when part of your crew is plotting against you? That is what we are figuring out as we read the book. My favorite part of this story was when Mrs. Van Wyk gave us Pirates Booty as a snack, which is really cheddar cheese puffs, but it was a treasure of a snack. Matthew 6:21 states: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will also be." We should set our hearts upon God.

~ submitted by Susie Muether, 8th Grade



Music

The junior high students are continuing to work on their Fall Festival band and choir music for their November concert. But the last couple of weeks we have added in an extra activity to practice looking at lyrics of praise songs. The purpose of the activity: Pay Attention to the Lyrics. Are these songs focused on God or man? Do the words draw us outside of ourselves and look to God? Are we singing God's truth? Substance or fluff?

~ Mrs. Carolyn Ansley



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
- Magic Erasers
- Styrofoam Cups

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

School directories have been printed and sent home to all school families. If you are in need of a directory, please contact Michell in the office.

PATHFINDERS

If you are currently on the mailing list, but no longer wish to receive the Pathfinder, please email Michelle at office@peoriachr.org. Likewise, if you know someone who would like to be added, please email Michelle as well.

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>



DELICIOUS DONATIONS NEEDED!

We need your delicious baked goods and confections for the bake sale at the annual Peoria Christian School bazaar on November 14. 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 14. 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 at 641-780-0126 or email glenmeinders@iowatelecom.net.

VETERANS DAY LUNCH & PROGRAM

Peoria Christian School is hosting a Veterans Day lunch and program on Tuesday, November 18 at noon. If you are a veteran or know someone who is, please plan to join us on this day. We would love to honor all veterans and their families on this special day with a meal and a short program. Please RSVP to Michelle in the office at office@peoriachr.org by Friday, November 7 with the number attending and eating lunch. Everyone is welcome to attend, but please RSVP.

FALL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Our 5th-8th grade students are preparing for the annual Fall Festival to be held on Thursday, November 13. Students from area sister schools come together at Pella Christian High School for an afternoon and evening of fellowship and music. A concert will be held that evening at 7PM in the high school gym. Parents, more information will be coming.

VALUE CARDS

The 2025/2026 Peoria Christian Value Cards are available for purchase! Cards can be purchased for 1 card for \$15 or 3 cards for \$35. Please contact a 7th or 8th grade student to purchase your cards or stop by the office. The Value Card fundraiser helps provide funds for the 7th & 8th grade class trip to Adventureland (Spring 2026) and the Ark Encounter/Creation Museum (Spring 2027) along with allowing our 8th grade students to leave a gift when they graduate. Please contact a 7th/8th grade student or the school office at office@peoriachr.org with any questions. Thank you for your support of our 7th & 8th grade students!



PEORIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

AUCTION & BAZAAR

NOVEMBER 14, 2025

BAKE SALE: 3:00-6:30 PM

BROWSE-N-BUY: 3:00-6:30 PM

COFFEE TIME: 3:00-4:30 PM

SUPPER: 5:00-6:30 PM

CHILDCARE IN THE SCHOOL: 6:45 PM

LIVE AUCTION IN GYM: 7:00 PM

★ FOLLOW PEORIA CHRISTIAN BAZAAR FACEBOOK ★
PAGE FOR AUCTION SNEAK PEEKS.

"BEHOLD, I AM DOING A NEW THING;
NOW IT SPRINGS FORTH, DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT?
I WILL MAKE A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS
AND RIVERS IN THE DESERT." ISAIAH 43:19

