

# The Pathfinder

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

**Nurture - Develop - Educate**

## Blessings

"Count your blessings, name them one by one." This hymn has made me think of how much this school is blessed. Year after year, we are blessed by the people connected to our school, and the ability to be a blessing to those around us. Let us list some of the blessings God has given to Peoria Christian School.

This year, we have been blessed with 40 students coming from 22 different families. God provided new teachers, as well as brought back many of us to serve the students for a total of 11 teachers on staff. We are blessed with amazing support staff to help make the school run smoothly every day. We have 13 facilitators who donate their time to help in our classrooms weekly. There are so many committees, along with the School Board, who meet regularly to serve our school in the background.

You, our society, are extremely important to us as well. We greatly appreciate all the prayers and kind words sent to us throughout the year. We give thanks to those who support our area Christian schools by giving to the STO. We thank everyone who came to our Fall Bazaar this past month to support us.

We are also grateful to be a blessing to those around us. A few weeks ago, we were able to bless 28 guests at our Veterans Day lunch and program. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch, heard a message from Pastor David Swinney of Peoria CRC, and our 1st-8th graders shared some songs. After the program, our 3rd-8th graders were able to hear from one of the veterans about his recent Honor Flight experience. We are so thankful that we could bless, and be blessed by these veterans and their loved ones. In a few weeks, we will continue our annual tradition of singing Christmas carols with the residents at the Cottages. It is a wonderful time to connect with the community.

Although there are many others I haven't named, our biggest blessing is the reason this school exists. God sent His Son, Jesus, to die and rise again to save us from the ultimate penalty of our sins. Because of our faith in Christ, we are teaching our children about the world God made, and how to live for Him. We are thankful for the freedom to serve our community in this way. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

With Gratitude,  
Erica Taft, Lead Teacher



## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### December

#### December 10

2:40PM Dismissal, In-Service

#### December 12

2:40PM Dismissal

7PM Christmas Program

#### December 19

8:30AM Chapel

Christmas Program Make-up

#### December 22

Caroling at The Cottages

#### December 23

12:20PM Dismissal

#### December 24-December 31

No School

Christmas Break

### January 2026

#### January 1-2

No School

Christmas Break

#### January 5

Classes Resume

7PM School Board

#### January 9

All School Field Trip to Coralville (Ice Skating & Children's Museum)

Report Cards Available

#### January 13

4:30-7:30PM Culver's Night in Pella

#### January 14

12:20PM Dismissal, Curriculum Mapping

#### January 23

8:30AM Chapel



## Peoria Christian School Board

### School Board Meeting: December 1, 2025

The Board sang "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and President Eric Fynaardt read from Ephesians and opened with prayer.

Minutes of the November Board Meeting were read and approved.

- The monthly Treasurer's Report was distributed, reviewed, and approved.
- The board has decided to assess winter weather conditions and determine feasibility for holding school independent of other area organizations and institutions, with student/staff safety remaining our top priority.
- Several board members are planning to attend a board workshop in Des Moines early next year.
- Our grant writer and a member of the board graciously accepted a grant for our school at a luncheon earlier this month.
- The board wishes you a Merry Christmas, praying that the peace of Christ, the Light of the world, may fill you with hope and joy this Christmas season. Luke 2:14.
- Please continue to be in prayer for our staff, students, and families.



Next meeting: Monday, January 5, 2025

Sean Rozenboom closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jameson Roose, Secretary

### PEORIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S BAZAAR

Peoria Christian School would like to thank all who made our "Wild West" Bazaar a wonderful success!

We see God's faithfulness in how He continues to bless our school. This year we raised \$60,427.89! It is wonderful to work together to serve our great

God. To God be the glory!

Stacie Fynaardt

Jana Laverman

Paige Roos

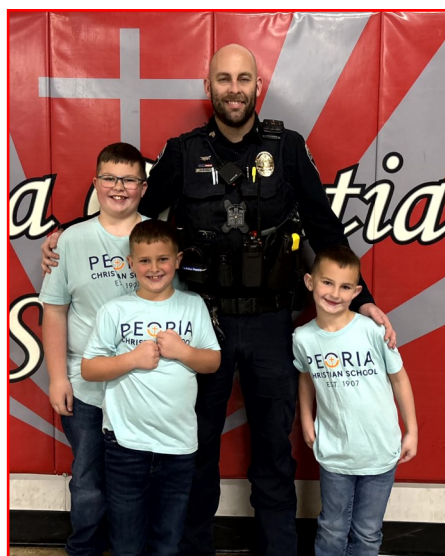
"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19



## EARLY OUT & NO SCHOOL

Please mark these early outs and no school days on your calendars:

- December 10 ~ 2:40PM Dismissal, Inservice
- December 12 ~ 2:40PM Dismissal, Christmas Program
- December 23 ~ 12:20PM Dismissal, End of 3rd Quarter, Start of Christmas Break
- December 24-January 2 ~ Christmas Break



## 3rd & 4th Grade

Greeting from 3rd & 4th grade! We are truly feeling blessed as a class this Thanksgiving season. The Bazaar was a great success with yummy food and fantastic auction items. The Veterans Program and Luncheon was made extra special by an extended family member of a 4th grader sharing with 3rd-8th grade about his veteran service and his recent Honor Flight experience. In Science, we were able to utilize our school's microscopes to marvel at the building blocks of God's creation. In History, we are continuing to learn about each of the 50 states. We have learned about the Northeast, Southeast, and are currently learning about the Midwest. In Bible, the students have been diving into Jesus' earthly ministry studying about parables, miracles, and teachings and how He was rejected and accepted by the Jews, Gentiles, and religious leaders (Pharisees). We were blessed to be able to contribute items, donate class tithe, and participate in Operation Christmas Child as a school with roughly 30 boxes donated to Samaritan's Purse. We are looking forward to the Christmas season, especially the dress up days, caroling, program, and remembering the reason for the season- J-E-S-U-S!

~ Mrs. Laura Merrin

## Classroom News

### PreK & Kindergarten

We have spent most of the past month talking about the first Thanksgiving. We started by talking about the Native Americans. We learned about how they lived. We saw the different houses that tribes lived in, and ways they lived depending on where their tribe was located. We learned that the Wampanoag tribe is the tribe that the Pilgrims met. The students decided that they would not have wanted to travel across the ocean like the Pilgrims did. It was very dark and stinky. We are thankful that we have a country where we can worship God freely. We don't have to worship as the King tells us like the Pilgrims did in England. We are also thankful we have so many options in our lives. God has blessed us greatly, and we need to remember to be thankful for all our blessings.

~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen

### 1st & 2nd Grade

In 1st & 2nd grade, we have been hard at work moving through our curriculum and growing in our skills each day. In math, we are practicing adding and subtracting larger numbers and building confidence with our facts. In reading, we are enjoying longer stories and learning to understand characters, settings, and new vocabulary. Our class song for this month is "Go Tell It on the Mountain." This joyful Christmas song reminds us that we are called to share the gospel with the people around us. Christmas gives us a special opportunity to talk about Jesus' birth and the good news He brings. We hope this message encourages our students to boldly share Christ's love with their families and friends.

~ Mrs. Mary Ann Williamson



## DONATIONS

### NEEDED THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the donations needed list this year. Your generosity is noticed and appreciated! Look for the list to return in January!

### PATHFINDERS

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



## 5th & 6th Grade

In IEW, the 5th and 6th graders started off the month writing poems using the Psalms. We wrote poems of lament, trust, penitence, and praise to God. Here are a few excerpts from the poems the students wrote.

...Praise the Lord for the Bible, the sun, moon, and stars above the heavenly Father...

...Lord help us in our trouble. Help us in sickness and death. Lord hear us when we cry...

...Jesus you are one true king. I praise you for dying on the cross...

...Praise God for food, water, and warmth...

...Forgive me when I sin. Help me when I need help...

...Jesus is king. He is forever, now and ever...

...O Lord, our Lord we pray we don't get hurt. We pray the crops have good dirt...

~ Mrs. Laura Fynaardt

## 7th & 8th Grade

In literature we are learning about Booker T. Washington. We are reading an autobiography, which means Booker T. Washington wrote it by himself. The book tells us what life was like being a colored person as Booker T. Washington was born as a slave child in Virginia. Though school isn't fun to me, Booker T. Washington compared school to paradise. Booker T. Washington also said, "I have found that the happiest people are those who do the most for others; the most miserable people are those who do the least." So we were challenged by Mrs. VW to look for ways to serve others. I Peter 4:10 says, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

~ submitted by Judah Vos, 8th grade

## Music

The students have all been working hard to prepare for their Christmas concert coming very soon! Please pray for them as they memorize and study their parts. We hope to see you at the concert on December 12th!

~ Mrs. Carolyn Ansley







## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our annual Christmas Program is scheduled for Friday, December 12 at 7:00 PM at Peoria CRC. Everyone is invited to join us as our students lead us in celebrating the birth of Christ. A coffee time will be served in the school gym following the program. The program will be recorded and will be available for viewing on the school's YouTube channel. Parents, please watch the Weekly Pathfinder for more information regarding the program.

## CHAPEL

Please join us on Friday, December 19, at 8:30 AM for our Christmas Chapel. Pastor Jerry Morningstar from Sully Community Church is our scheduled chapel speaker. Everyone is invited, and we hope to see you there!

## CULVER'S TIP NIGHT

Please join us at Culver's in Pella on Tuesday, January 13 for a Tip Night. Our 5th-8th grade students will be serving customers during this time. A percentage of all sales from this time frame and all tips collected will go to the promotions fund at Peoria Christian School. We look forward to fellowshiping with you that evening!

## CHRISTMAS DRESS UP DAYS & ACTIVITIES

We have several fun days planned to celebrate Christmas. Participation is optional. Please, remember no Santa, elves or reindeer for these dress up days, also, no masks.

- Friday, Dec. 5 ~ Write Christmas Cards
- Friday, Dec. 12 ~ Christmas Program
- Monday, Dec. 15 ~ Candy Cane Day (wear red & white)
- Tuesday, Dec. 16 ~ Ugly Christmas Sweater Day
- Wednesday, Dec. 17 ~ Winter Wonderland (wear white)
- Thursday, Dec. 18 ~ Flannel Day (wear plaid)
- Friday, Dec. 19 ~ Christmas Tree Day (wear green)
- Monday, Dec. 22 ~ Caroling at the Cottages & Christmas Games
- Tuesday, Dec. 23 ~ PJ & Fuzzy Sock Day





## LOG-STO

Legacy Of Grace Student Tuition Organization (LOG STO) is once again actively seeking donations to help reduce the cost of Christian education in Iowa. A 75% state tax credit will be given on the first \$930,943 donated. Please see the letter and donation form on pages 7 & 8 of this Pathfinder for more information.

## CHRISTMAS PROJECT

This year our students and families contributed items to fill shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child. On the Friday afternoon before Thanksgiving, our students gathered in the gym and filled over 30 shoe boxes to go to children of various ages around the world. Samaritan's Purse will distribute these boxes along with presenting the Gospel message. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project and join us in praying for the children who will receive these boxes and that their hearts will be opened to receiving their Savior.

## VALUE CARDS

Thank you to everyone who purchased Value Cards from our 7th & 8th grade students. A total of \$5,969 was raised for the 8th grade fund. Funds raised will help the 8th grader purchase a class gift for the school at graduation and class trips. Cards are still available for purchase, please contact the office if you are interested.

## 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



### Peoria Christian School

110 Peoria West St.

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>







IOWA ALLIANCE  
FOR CHOICE IN EDUCATION

# Iowa's Student Tuition Organization (STO) Tax Credit Program

The Iowa STO Tax Credit Program has long been a bipartisan supported resource providing opportunities for low-income, single-parent, or working-class families to have a choice in their child's education.

## PARENTS & CHILDREN BENEFIT! TAXPAYER DONORS BENEFIT!

### The STO Program is a WIN-WIN for Iowans!

Parents and their children win by gaining access to donated tuition dollars for the non-public schools they believe best fit their needs.

Taxpayer donors to the program win by receiving a tax credit for a portion of the money they donate.

the state an average of more than \$12 million every year – unlocking more opportunities for state and local initiatives all citizens enjoy and preventing an increased tax burden on Iowans.\*

Iowa's STO Program supports more than 11,000 students each year and is designed to help the parents whose choice in education is restricted by their income or zip code.

In Iowa, the state limits the amount of tax credits available to donors. The lower the limit – the less is available to help students.

**You can help raise this limit by talking to Iowa legislators.**

### AND THAT'S NOT ALL – IOWA'S STO PROGRAM HAS A BONUS WINNER:

## \$12 MILLION+ANNUAL SAVINGS FOR ALL IOWA CITIZENS

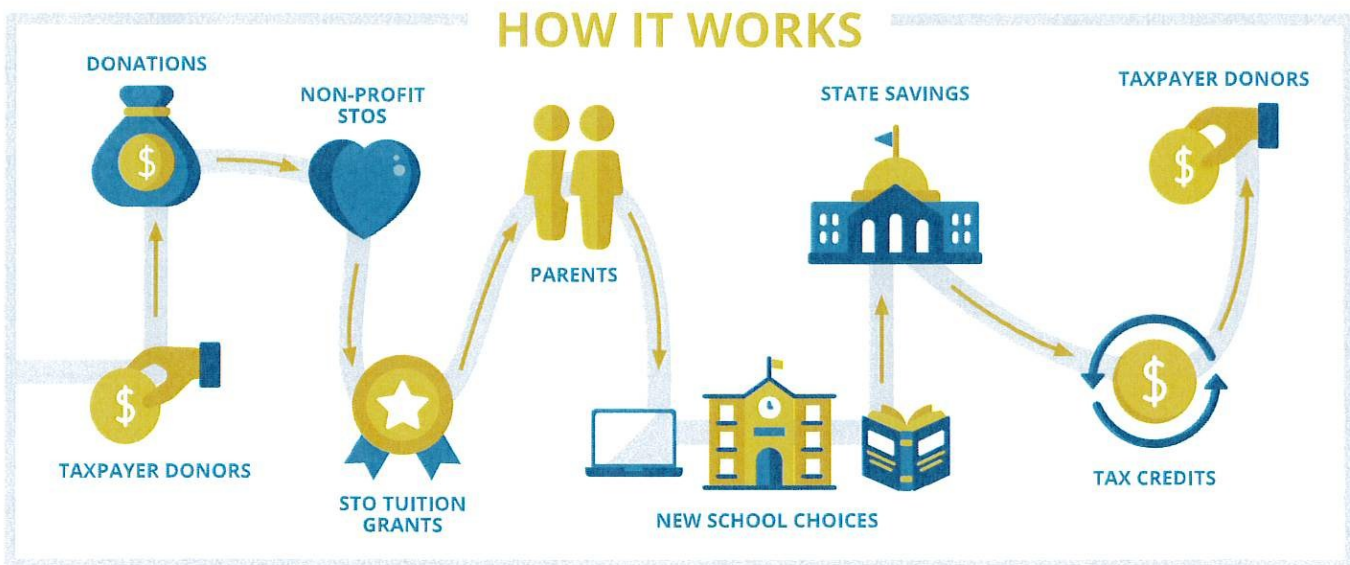
When parents take advantage of these privately donated tuition funds and attend a non-public school, the costs to educate their children is no longer a cost to state. For more than a decade, the program has saved

**CLICK HERE**

**TO FIND YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS  
AND ADVOCATE TODAY!**

\*Source: [Iowa Department of Revenue analysis of School Tuition data \(2007-2017\)](#)

## HOW IT WORKS



2025

# Legacy of Grace

SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION

2025

110 Peoria West Street • Pella, Iowa 50219 • [www.logsto.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2025.

X \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2025  
Producer

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Representative

Representative of \_\_\_\_\_.

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

Please send to: Legacy of Grace STO  
110 Peoria West Street  
Pella, IA 50219

Office Use Only

Date of Donation \_\_\_\_\_  
Check No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
CACTAS Date \_\_\_\_\_