



The Pathfinder

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

Nurture - Develop - Educate

He Will Fulfill Our Needs

For the 2025-2026 school year, there had been a few new faces and some old faces in new positions. Amazingly, as we quickly approach the halfway point and turn our calendars to a new year, we, as a board, start to plan for the 2026-2027 school year. For this year, we hired Miss Taft in the lead teacher position. In order for her to get a feel for administration, we agreed to conduct a 6-month review to determine if she was the right person for this position.

Just prior to Christmas, the education committee sat down with Miss Taft. We discussed how the year was going, and if she felt compelled or called to pursue her administration license to better fill the role at Peoria. During this meeting, Miss Taft informed us that while she has enjoyed the year and things have been going smoothly, she has gained clarity from God on the direction she should be going. She does not feel that school administration is the place that God has called her long-term. Gratefully though she has stated that she is willing to stay on as lead teacher on an interim basis. We at Peoria Christian School are exceptionally thankful that Miss Taft is willing to stay on this year and for the foreseeable future as we begin our search for our next administrator.

The search team made up of Adam Fynaardt, Eric Fynaardt, Jameson Roose, and Miss Taft will begin meeting in January to draft plans and search for our new administrator. Miss Taft's willingness to continue to serve as lead teacher strengthens our position as a school while we look for the person God has called to serve as administrator at Peoria.

I encourage you as parents and society to keep the school and search team in your prayers

as we begin this journey. Though we may see this as a setback, remember as stated in 2 Corinthians 9:8 that God will fulfill all our needs. "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." God has already called someone to serve next in the role of administrator. God has blessed us and will continue to bless Peoria Christian School.

With Gratitude,

Eric Fynaardt, School Board President



SCHOOL CALENDAR***January 2026*****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

February 2026**February 5**

4PM Parent Teacher
Conferences

February 6

No School

February 13

1PM 3rd/4th Geography Bee
& 5th-8th Volleyball at
Sully Christian

February 16

President's Day, No School

February 21

5PM Hostess Supper

February 24

Local Fine Arts Night

February 27

8:30AM Chapel

A Note from Miss Taft

Throughout my teaching career, God has provided me with opportunities to step out in faith, unknowing of what was coming next for my job. In each experience, God has blessed me and I have grown in my faith in those times of unknown. Looking toward the future, I have another opportunity to follow God's leading. After much prayer and reflection, I believe He has made it clear to me that a change will be coming. As much as I have enjoyed my experience, God is not calling me to full time administration at this time. However, I will continue to support the school while we wait for the Lord to bring us our next principal. How long that will be, only God knows for sure. But we know His timing is perfect, we just have to be patient and follow Him. In this time of waiting, I am reminded of Psalm 27:14, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

I am so grateful to all of you who have prayed, given encouraging words, and offered help along the way. Our school community is so special, and I have enjoyed serving you and our students this school year.

Erica Taft
Lead Teacher

**Peoria Christian School Board****School Board Meeting: January 5, 2026**

The Board sang "Man of Sorrows, What a Name" and President Eric Fynaardt read from 2 Corinthians 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 Executive Team will be attending the spring job fair at Central College next month.
- Several board members are planning to attend a board workshop in Des Moines in early February.
- Several projects have been completed within the school building this winter. Soon, new ceiling fans will be installed in the kindergarten room.
- Please continue to be in prayer for our staff, students, and families.

Next meeting: Monday, February 2, 2026

Kody Roos closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jameson Roose, Secretary



Classroom News

PreK & Kindergarten

It's hard to believe we are halfway through our school year. The kindergarteners have been working hard learning how to read this month. We finished learning all the letter sounds and how to properly form the letters. We are now learning how to blend these sounds into words. It's an exciting time in our room. The PreK students continue to learn the letters of the alphabet and have learned almost all of them. We can also identify the numbers 1-10.

In Bible, we have been studying the first Christmas. We have learned that many things we see in our nativity scenes are not correct. We hope you all have a blessed Christmas and remember to put Jesus and his sacrifice at the center of your celebration.

~ Mrs. Krista Klaasen



1st & 2nd Grade

Happy New Year! Our 1st & 2nd grade classroom was a very busy and joyful place throughout the month of December. It is hard to believe we are already entering the second half of the school year! As we wrapped up the second quarter, we also completed our Social Studies curriculum for the year. The students and I are now excited to begin our Science curriculum—especially the students, who are eagerly looking forward to this next chapter of learning.

In Science, we will focus on two main topics: why science is important and how God created our bodies and the universe. We are looking forward to a fun and meaningful remainder of the year, and I am excited to see all that God has in store for us as we continue to learn and grow together.

~ Mrs. Mary Ann Williamson



DONATIONS NEEDED

Looking for a unique way to contribute to Peoria Christian School? Here are some tangible items that are needed. Please send or bring to school at your convenience.

- Dry Erase Markers
- Mr. Clean Magic Erasers
- Styrofoam Cups

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.



3rd & 4th Grade

We have finished up Quarter 2 and are looking forward to Christmas Break! We are also anticipating a great day in January for our school field trip to the Children's Museum and Ice Skating. This past month, we enjoyed studying Jesus' earthly ministry and learning about parables and miracles! In Math, we are working hard on multiplication (3rd with introduction and 4th with 2-3 digit by 1 digit multiplication). We are writing full-time in cursive and starting to diagram sentences. Students wrote a fun, twisted fairy tale of the Little Red Hen and published them by typing and illustrating their picture book. We enjoyed learning about Cold-Blooded Animals in Science and completed a fun report; we look forward to January and continuing this idea with Warm-Blooded Animals. We continue to learn and study our US state capitals as we prepare for our friendly challenge against Sully Christian in February. We continue to study the Fruit of the Spirit in our devotions, one fruit a month. This fall, we have focused on love, joy, peace, and patience. Blessings to all!

~ Mrs. Laura Merrin

5th & 6th Grade

In 5th & 6th grade, we have been studying Ancient Rome. We discussed how we as Christians are engaged in spiritual warfare and how we are called to put on the full armor of God. Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians while he was in prison. As he penned this letter, he was surrounded by Roman soldiers. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul described the Christian life as a battle and used imagery that all those living in the Roman Empire would have been familiar with. He compared the Christian's need to be prepared to that of a soldier suiting up for battle. We are thankful that the battle belongs to the Lord, He provides us with all we need in order to stand firm!

~ Mrs. Lisa Ver Meer

7th & 8th Grade

In literature this month, we are learning about different types of poetry. We have been busy writing growing, haikus, diamantes, quatrains, approximations, and limerick poems. Our objectives from this are:

- I can acknowledge that God is the Creator and that we were created in His image; therefore, we can create.
- I can recognize and identify how words can be powerful.
- I can demonstrate how words can proclaim the Gospel truths.

We concluded this poetry unit by sharing and reading poetry with the 1st - 4th graders. We would also like to share some of our poems (see page 6) with you to enjoy.

Submitted by Kollins Kruid, 7th Grade



Music

Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas program! It was such a blessing to get to worship our Savior together. I am very proud of how well the students did on all their songs and speaking parts!

~ Mrs. Carolyn Ansley



IXL

We have had a great first semester of IXL! The students have been working hard on all of their studies, and the work is paying off. In the 4 months since school started on August 26, the students have shown an average growth of 5 ½ months in Math, 7 ½ months in Language Arts, and 5 ½ months in Reading. Great job using your God-given minds, students!

~ Mrs. Melinda Vos

Math

The junior high students have worked diligently in math class this year and have done a great job keeping on top of daily assignments. We thank the Lord for the opportunity we have to learn each day and for His grace and mercy shown us in Christ. A few things we do to make math class fun include 'Where's Waldo', Problems of the Week, Around the World, and building time for students who have all their work done. Students have completed a project each quarter that applied their math knowledge to things outside the classroom. 1st quarter, each student completed a project based on a personal interest. 2nd quarter, they each used their math skills to multiply a recipe, measure ingredients and make the recipe, and then blessed someone special to them with their cooking /baking. Please join me in praying that the students continue to find joy in studying math, grow in their knowledge and appreciation of our Creator and Savior, and use their God-given knowledge and gifts to glorify Him and love others.

~ Mrs. Lisa Roose



CHAPEL

Please join us on Friday, January 23, at 8:30 AM for our monthly chapel. Pastor Darren Kornelis from Sully Christian Reformed 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, from 4:30-7:30PM for 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 on January 13!

SAVE THE DATES

With the calendar flipping to a new year, please remember to mark down these important dates on your personal calendar:

- Thursday, February 5:
Parent Teacher Conferences
- Friday, February 13: 3rd/4th Geography Bee & 5th-8th Volleyball at Sully Christian
- Monday, February 16:
President's Day, No School
- Saturday, February 21:
Hostess Supper, 5PM
- Tuesday, February 24:
Local Fine Arts Night
- Wednesday, March 4:
PK/K Round Up
- Thursday, March 5,
District Fine Arts Night
- March 9-13: ISASP Testing



PK/K ROUND UP

Pre-Kindergarten (PK) and Kindergarten (K) Round Up will be held during the morning on Wednesday, March 4. Any parents who are interested in sending their child to Round-Up that morning should contact the school at office@peoriachr.org. Also, if you know of a family who has a PK/K student who is looking at their options for the 2026-2027 school year, we would be honored to have them at PK/K Round Up.

ENROLLMENT FOR 2026-2027

Even though the 2025-2026 school year is only half over, prayerful preparations are already beginning for the next school year, 2026-2027. If you know of a family who has expressed interest in Peoria Christian School, please ask them to reach out to us or ask them if we can reach out to them. We would be happy to send them information or answer any questions that they might have. Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is scheduled to begin in March.

HOSTESS SUPPER

Save the date for our annual Hostess Supper! We are excited for this fundraiser on Saturday, February 21, at 5PM. Table hosts are in the process of reaching out and inviting families and supporters of Peoria Christian School. If you would like an invitation to this event, contact Michelle in the office at office@peoriachr.org.

WINTERIM INTERNSHIP

We want to thank Macy Van Der Hart and Claire Groenenboom for spending their winterim week by visiting and serving at Peoria. Both Macy and Claire were able to visit all the classrooms and spend time interacting and assisting our students in a variety of subject matters. Thank you to PCHS for their winterim program and to Macy and Claire for their service!



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>

GEOGRAPHY BEE & VOLLEYBALL

On Friday, February 13 our 3th-8th grade students will be going to Sully Christian. At 1PM our 3rd & 4th students will participate in a Geography Bee. After the Geography Bee, at approximately 1:45PM, the 5th-8th grade students will play a volleyball game. Everyone is welcome to join us at Sully Christian as we spend the afternoon together!



FINE ARTS NIGHTS

Once again our 5th-8th grade students are in the very beginning stages of preparing for the Fine Arts season. Students will be (or already are) working on written, artistic, vocal, band, piano and speech pieces. Our Local Fine Arts Night will be held on Tuesday, February, 24 followed by the District Fine Arts Night on Thursday, March 5.

Peoria Christian School Circle

Meeting: January 6, 2026

Stacie Fynaardt opened with devotions.

- Kaitlyn Hanco gave an update on how hot lunch is going, and School Circle reviewed the hot lunch coordinator duties.
- The minutes from the September 30 meeting were approved.
- The Treasurer's Report was reviewed, and School Board requests were approved.
- Approval was also granted for the purchase of the new fridge for the kitchen and a new freezer in the youth shed, as the previous fridge and freezer had stopped working.
- Fundraisers Updates
 1. Bazaar amount raised was \$60,000
 2. Pella Nursery Pies for delivery before Easter
 3. Tractor Ride in June

Next meeting date: 6:00 pm, February 9, 2026

Carla Vander Molen closed in prayer.
Respectfully submitted,
Ruth De Bruin, Secretary



7th & 8th Grade Poetry

"Jumpy Puppy"

Jumpy Puppy sat on a ball
 Jumpy Puppy had a great brawl
 All the Man's bandaids, and the Man's care
 Cannot help Jumpy Puppy feel better again
 ~ Hudson

"The Walmart Man"

There was a man living in Walmart
 His car was a tiny blue shopping cart
 He had a pet trout
 Near the checkout
 But when he left, that trout broke his heart
 ~ Matthew

There once was a boy
 The boy was filled with joy
 When he got a new blanket
 He took it to a banquet
 But he lost it in a bucket of soy
 ~ Judah

There once was a child
 And his name was called Todd
 They tried to make him believe about God
 They got him to believe
 And they showed him God created the leaves
 This boy is now God's
 ~ Jayse

"Mushroom Man"

There once was a man who lived in a mushroom
 He only owned one broom
 When he went to sweep
 He always fell asleep
 And he couldn't get to his bedroom!
 ~ Kollins

"Space"

Bright and shining star
 The outer frontier is far
 How intricate is this?
 How wonderful our God is!
 ~ Susie

"Bickerty Bockety Bock"

Bockety Bockety Bock
 The rooster let out a bock
 The neighbors woke up
 Looked out the window
 Then at the clock
 Bockety Bockety Bock
 ~ Luke

"Sunday Morning"

People singing, in the church
 Children learning in sunday school
 People gathered around the gospel
 People leaving to go home
 Enchant words stay in hearts
 ~ Philip

"Jealously"

There once was boy with very long hair
 He made sure it got the absolute best care
 His friend was quite mad
 Because her hair didn't look as rad
 So in his shampoo she put Nair.
 ~ Jedi

