



THE PC LINK

A MONTHLY UPDATE FOR PARENTS OF
PCHS STUDENTS

February 2024

PCHS Spring Drama March 22 & 23

PCHS's Theatre Troupe concludes their successful theatre season with Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Timeless and lingering, this hard-hitting work explores prejudice, compassion and the courage to do what is right. Set in a sleepy Alabama town in the midst of the Great Depression, Scout and her brother, Jem, live with their widowed father, Atticus Finch. Reminiscent of a bygone era, the children play outside in the summer, act out stories and fantasize about their mysterious neighbor, Boo Radley. The seemingly peaceful town begins to crack when a young black man is accused of a terrible crime and local lawyer Atticus defends the man with an unshakeable moral conviction. Under the direction of Marlo Van Peurse, *To Kill a Mockingbird* will be presented March 22 and 23, with reserved tickets available for purchase on-line beginning March 4.

Financial Aid Applications – Due April 30 - watch for email!




An email will be sent out in the next few weeks explaining the two financial aid programs that will be available for the 2024- 2025 school year. The Legacy of Grace-School Tuition Organization (LOG-STO) will again provide tuition assistance for next school year and it will be important that every PCHS family that meets the eligibility criteria apply. There is no cost to apply. Tuition assistance applications will again be completed in FACTS. The deadline for both applications is April 30, 2024.

PELLA CHRISTIAN NEEDS YOUR VOTE!

Currently, Pella Christian High School and Pella Christian Grade School are two separate schools with two distinct boards and policies. Over the years we have more closely integrated operations, sharing staff and planning together to better meet the needs of students, families and local communities.

Both school boards whole-heartedly agree the time is right to fully merge into one district with two campuses. And to merge, we need to hold a society vote at each school.

MERGER BENEFITS:

-  Maximizes Stewardship
-  Increases Efficiencies
-  Strengthens a Unified Mission

WHO CAN VOTE?

Beginning Monday, February 5, society members of Pella Christian Grade School and Pella Christian High School. Who is a society member? In short, if you are 18 years old or older, agree with the schools' constitution and financially support the schools, you can vote. Many people are society members of both schools and can vote at each building.

HOW DO I VOTE?

Vote now at the school offices or call by February 12 for a mailed ballot.

Pella Christian High School - 300 Eagle Lane, Pella, IA 50219 or 641-628-4440
Pella Christian Grade School - 216 Liberty Street, Pella, IA 50219 or 641-628-2414

Or stop by Pella Christian High School commons on Tuesday, February 27 from 4:00 to 6:30pm for your final opportunity to cast a vote.

VOTE TODAY!

Learn more: www.pceagles.org/merger

A Grand Day

Grandparents and special friends, join us for ‘A Grand Day’ at Pella Christian High School on Thursday, April 18. The morning will include chapel, classroom visits, student performances and lunch. Please arrive between 8:40 and 8:50am and spend the morning discovering how God’s story is unfolding through the students at Pella Christian High School.

Parents of 8th Graders

The state of Iowa requires all 9th grade high school students to have a Dental Screening Certificate on file signed by a dentist. If your 8th grader has a dental appointment this spring or summer please take along the Dental Screening Certificate and ask them to fill it out. The form can be accessed on the school website under Eagle Nation, Parents, Forms. For students attending PCHS next fall you may drop off the form anytime at the PCHS office or email hsoffice@pceagles.org.

Upcoming Events

February

- 14 2:30 Dismissal-Teacher PL
- 15 16 No School-Teacher PL
- 16 17 All State Large Group-ISU
- 19 Presidents Day
- 21 2:30 Dismissal-Teacher PL
- 22 Winter Music Concert
- 24 District Individual Speech (Montezuma)
- 28 2:30 Dismissal-Teacher PL

March

- 5 2:30 Dismissal-Teacher PL
- 6 2:30 Dismissal-Teacher PL
- 8 No School-Teacher Work Day
- 9 State Individual Speech Contest
- 11-15 Spring Break-No Classes

Track Meet Helpers Needed



PCHS is hosting two track meets this spring. A boy’s meet is scheduled for March 26, and our annual Co-ed Invitational is scheduled for April 9. Please contact Mr. Branderhorst at branderhorstd@pceagles.org or call 628-4440 if you are willing to assist with field events, hurdles or other duties.

PCHS Students Christian Service Hours Requirement

In response to Christ’s freely given gift of salvation, Christians are called to live a life of service. At PCHS, we desire all students to develop and experience the joy of serving others. An individual service hours requirement allows students to take ownership and explore service opportunities that meet their personal gifts and interests. The procedure, required form, and examples of service options are available on the school website under Eagle Nation, Students, Christian Service Hours. After students complete their service hours, they should complete the required form and turn it in to their homeroom teacher. Our deep hope is that all PCHS graduates will make Kingdom Service a lifetime habit.

A benefit for the Natelborg Family

SMOKED PULLED PORK FUNDRAISER MEAL

Items to be served:

- Smoked Pulled Pork Sandwiches
- Cheesy Potatoes
- Baked Beans
- Chips
- Bonnie’s Cookies
- Cranberry Stone Cupcakes

- Drinks:
- Water
 - Milk



FEBRUARY 28 • WEDNESDAY

5 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

PELLA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL- COMMONS

300 EAGLE LANE, PELLA

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

KLYN CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION, VANDER PLOEG BAKERY, ULRICH MEAT MARKET, CENTERPOINT ELECTRIC, DUCTS IN A ROW, CRANBERRY STONE, PREMIER STORAGE, HOME REALTY

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM RYAN’S SENIOR CLASSMATES

PLEASE MAKE MONETARY CHECK DONATIONS PAYABLE TO TIM NATELBORG

CONTACT: RUSS VAN WYK AT 641-780-2829 WITH ANY QUESTIONS

Spring Sports

Spring sports are right around the corner and it's not too late to join a team! Coaches will have preseason meetings with athletes in the coming weeks to provide details about the upcoming season. Email addresses for the head coaches are listed below. Feel free to contact the coach if you have any questions prior to or during the season.

Remember that an up-to-date physical (within 13 months) and concussion form are required prior to practice.

Boys' & Girls' Track

Keith Anderson: andersonk@pceagles.org

Girls' Tennis

Danielle Stubbs: stubbsdanielle1@gmail.com

Boys' Tennis

Aaron Fitzgerald: fitzgeralda@pceagles.org

Boys' Golf

Kent Breems: kdbreems@gmail.com

Boys' Soccer

Mike Vander

Molen: mikevandermolen@gmail.com

Girls' Soccer

Mike Buchheit: buchheim@pceagles.org

ACT Test Deadline

The next ACT test date is April 13. The deadline for registering for the April test is March 8.

Drivers Ed

The next Training Wheels driver education class will begin February 17. This will be a great opportunity to get it over before spring sports get underway. All classes are online and at your own pace. Call 641-820-0234 or visit the website to register:

<https://sites.google.com/view/trainingwheelsde/locations/pella>

FFA Banquet April 13th

- The Pella Christian FFA Banquet will be held on Saturday, April 13th at 6:00pm at Federated Fellowship Church, 309 Roosevelt Rd, Pella, IA 50219. Please get in touch with Mr. Baker if you have any questions.

Mr. Baker Email: bakerj@pceagles.org

- Pella Christian FFA Chapter is excited to announce that we are having a Strawberry fundraiser for our FFA Chapter and TRC Club (Tractor Restoration Club). The Strawberries are grown in Plant City Florida. Please get in touch with a FFA member if you are interested in buying any. Strawberries Sales dates are from: Wednesday, January 17th - Monday, February 12th. With a delivery date during the week of February 26th. Strawberries will be delivered to Pella Christian High School and FFA members will help distribute.

1 Full Flat (8 Lbs.) = \$35.00

Half Flat (4 Lbs.) = \$20.00

Quarter Flat (2 Lbs.) = \$15.00

Please get in touch with a Pella Christian FFA member if you are interested in buying any or please email Mr.. Baker with any questions.

Mr. Baker Email: bakerj@pceagles.org

Employment Opportunities

Teaching Positions

- [High School Math/Science Teacher](#)
- [Anticipated Middle School/High School Teacher Openings](#)
- [HS Part-time Art Teacher](#)
- [HS Language Arts Teacher](#)

Coaches Needed:

Pella Christian is searching for athletic coaches.

If interested, contact Dan Branderhorst at branderhorstd@pceagles.org

- **Head Softball Coach**



Education Savings Accounts

The Students First Act, introduced by Governor Reynolds and signed into law on January 24, 2023, makes state funding available to support the success of every K-12 student in Iowa. Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) provide funds for eligible families from the State of Iowa. Eligibility is spread over three years until becoming available to every child for the 2025/2026 school year.

2024-25 School Year, funding per student equal to the state student rate, approximately \$7,635 per student

- All kindergarten students, regardless of income
- All public school or homeschool students who transfer to a private school, regardless of income
- All private school students with a household income at or below 400% of federal poverty level
- All students who have previously received an ESA, regardless of income

The ESA application will open June 1, 2024. Applications will be due on June 30, 2024, for the 2024-2025 school year. Applications are valid for one year; families must apply annually to remain eligible for the program.

Have questions? Please contact the office.

PC Juniors and Seniors & Parents

Planning is underway for the Junior Senior Banquet (JSB) and the After-Banquet Party to be held Friday, April 19. Dinner, dance, and entertainment will be at Pella Christian High School Gym. The After-Banquet Party will be at Pella Christian Grade School. Registration forms will be emailed to parents of juniors and seniors the first week of March.

Pella Christian High School Winterim-THANK YOU!

PCHS wishes to thank all those from Pella and surrounding communities who helped teach or present in our Winterim 2024 classes. Thank you to Third Church and Vanderbeek Truck Accessories for the use of your passenger vans for all our field trips. Thank you, also, to local businesses, corporations and organizations for mentoring student interns this year and facilitating a great learning experience for our students! We thank God for the rich opportunities that Winterim offers our students!

Winterim Internships 2024

Winterim internships once again provided a wonderful opportunity for Pella Christian students to kick off their spring semester by learning in real work situations. The winter weather cut the time short, but students were still able to spend four engaging days in work-based learning. This year 74 juniors and seniors had the opportunity to do internships at 42 different sites throughout central Iowa and beyond. The key to the success of our program continues to be the relationship with area employers. There are so many organizations in Pella and the surrounding communities that are willing to invest in our students and provide a great experience. We really appreciate everyone who played a part in our program this year! Some internship sites host multiple students every year and have developed outstanding programs that help students learn more about themselves and the world of work. While “on the job,” students are expected to participate as much as possible in the daily routine of their internship mentors. Each year we have students doing new and exciting things. For example, students involved in health care had the opportunity to observe surgeons performing a variety of procedures... including a C section birth! Prospective engineers were able to work with teams of engineers in manufacturing settings. Future teachers were working directly with students in classrooms. Students submitted payrolls, rode along on police patrols, repaired farm equipment, trucks and motorcycles, analyzed marketing data, cared for animals, took X-rays, cared for patients in OT, PT, and chiropractic, and so much more - the list of experiences goes on and on! At the end of the week some students were required to present an oral summary of their week’s activities in a formal setting while others had to complete reports or submit presentations related to their internship. As usual, a common theme as students reflected on their experiences was “I had no idea...” We love hearing something was revealed to them during their internship experience that they will now use as they make decisions about their future. On behalf of all of the students I would like to once again thank all of our mentors, managers and supervisors who were willing to work alongside our students. In some cases, students are able to build a strong bond with their mentors that may benefit them for years to come. Each year we get a few new cooperating sites, so if your organization would be willing to host an intern in the future, please contact Trixanna Wang at wangt@pceagles.org, and we’ll get you on our list for 2025.

Winterim Classes

Nearly 140 students took winterim classes this year. Students had both morning and afternoon classes and there were 24 different classes to choose from. Classes included Sports Psychology, DNA Ancestry, Volleyball, Marine Science, History in Board Games, Mexican Culture and Cuisine, Mechanics, Show Choir, Intro to E-Sports, and many more.

January Board Briefs

On January 22, 2024 the Pella Christian High School Board met in regular session. Doug Uitermarkt opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. The board approved the minutes of the December 18 meeting, including a joint meeting with the grade school board. The board approved the hire of Curt Kelderman as the Head of Maintenance/Custodian. The board discussed the upcoming District 5 School Board workshop and details surrounding the upcoming Society vote to merge with Pella Christian Grade School. The committees presented their reports. The board approved motions to adjust course changes for physical education and industrial arts. Administrator reports were reviewed. There being no further business, Jodi De Vries closed the meeting with prayer.

Music Department/Winter Concert

On **Thursday, February 23 @ 7 pm**, the Pella Christian High School Music Department will hold their annual Winter concert in the Vermeer Auditorium. The school's three curricular music ensembles will be featured: Cantabile, Concert Choir, and Concert Band, as well as the Chamber Choir.

Ms. Bennett and Mr. Fitzgerald are grateful for all who come out to support the students and the music program. The students were challenged throughout this rehearsal season and learned much from this repertoire. Our music students' God-given talents and dedication to musical excellence will be on display.



Serving Others on Community Builders Day

On the morning of January 26, 2024, PCHS students had the privilege to serve others in various ways at Pella Christian High School, in Pella, and in the surrounding communities. Examples of service locations for students included: Christian Opportunity Center, Pella Opera House, Pella Public Library, Pella Community Art Center, Pella Food Shelf, Pella Historical Society, Pathways of Pella, Legacy, and The Well. The PCHS Commons was transformed into a packaging facility where over 50 students packed meals for Meals from the Heartland.

Freshmen Hadassah Hopkins and Julianne Van Gorp stated, "When helping at Habitat for Humanity, we learned what they do for our community, and we were able to help paint their offices." Sophomores Kate Braafhart and Kenzie Kanis shared, "While helping at Crossroads of Pella, we were able to see all the ways they impact our community and helping them bless others

was a great experience." Juniors Nathan Brouwer and Johnson Morgan traveled to Sully Christian School and shared, "Through helping the elementary kids, we saw how Christian education can root young kids in the Christian faith." The girls and boys basketball players, managers, and coaches spent their morning at Pella Christian Grade school reading with students in several grades. Seniors Karis Fikkert and Lucas Fynaardt stated, "It was a great experience to read to kids and see how they look up to you. Getting to know them better while spending time with them was a great way to build our community."

Students were blessed by serving at a variety of sites. We are grateful to the many individuals who provided opportunities for our students to serve others and make a positive impact in God's world.

From the Athletic Department:

Brian Smith, Christian author and speaker, helps athletes and parents integrate faith and sport. The following is taken from his article, “Four Shifts Needed in Youth Sports.” Each month we will highlight one of the “shifts” he talks about in his article. His blog can be found at thechristianathlete.com/blog.

Here’s a 4th “mindset shift” that Brian Smith challenges us with in his blog, “The Christian Athlete.”

- 1 - From Stats to Sonship
- 2 - From Enraged to Enjoying
- 3 - From Gossiping to Generous

From Driving to Riding

It’s amazing how much time we spend driving our kids to practice, games, and even private coaching sessions. On many occasions, we’re flying our kids to national competitions all over the country.

How many of us are metaphorically driving our kids as well? That is to say, do our kids really want to play and improve, or are we the one’s wanting it for them? I’ve spent enough time in sports ministry working with college athletes who are burned out from playing their sport and can trace their frustrations back to well-intentioned parents who pushed (or drove) a little too hard.

The shift that needs to happen is this: our kids need to drive the bus of their youth sports experience and we need to be the passenger helping with directions. To clarify, we still get to be the parents. This is not giving full control to our kids. That’s not wise. This is giving them appropriate ownership. It’s asking questions like:

“Do you want to play sports this fall?”

“Is there a different sport you want to try this spring?”

“Would you like someone else to coach your team this year besides me?”

In his book, [Do Hard Things](#), sports psychologist Steve Magness talks about the power of choice in developing toughness: “Whether on the athletic fields or in the workplace, if your goal is to train toughness, you have to give people a degree of autonomy.”

He goes on to talk about the power of choice in sports: “By putting the athletes in a position to choose—whether to speed up, slow down, lift another rep, or call it a day—we can take advantage of the power of choice. When we put people in a position to choose, we can ‘switch on’ and train their prefrontal cortex, allow them to understand and regulate the sensations of pain, fatigue, and anxiety that often come with such difficult moments. We allow them to try, adjust, perhaps even fail, but above all, learn.”

In our attempt to coach our kids towards toughness and skill, we need to shift our approach. By giving them more autonomy, we allow them to drive their experience—and build in themselves an internal motivation to activate on *their* goals, instead of the ones *we set* for them.

Take Flight!

Kingdom Impact / Servant Leadership / Excellence / Joy!

Biology

During the first semester biology students explored the intersection of faith and science. We deepened our understanding of the interconnectedness of all living things and the responsibility we bear as earthkeepers of this intricate and awe-inspiring creation. Throughout the semester we also reflected on Psalm 104, a poetic song of praise, that vividly describes the wonders of creation and the majesty power, splendor, and love of the Creator for all he has made. At the end of the semester, students were asked to reflect on a portion of Psalm 104 through the lens of scientific concepts related to photosynthesis, the flow of energy through trophic levels, and the recycling of nutrients and invited to write a new song/prayer of praise infusing the language of biology into this sacred text deepening our understanding of the intricate ecological processes created by our Creator that sustain life on Earth. Below is Maisey Meinders's poem, *With Purpose*

Maisy Meinders - With Purpose

I wake up
I live a day
I close my eyes, let out a sigh, and fall asleep
I do it over again
Day in and day out life is a constant cycle
Breathe in breathe out
Going through the motions
Until it all crashes down and we're stripped away
Looking for a purpose.
A Creator longs to show us our purpose
Longs to provide for us
Longs to show you that there is more than just our
Skin and bones.
More to this world than just us.
More to US than just the outside view.
Look around you
Take a moment and view this world from a different perspective
This life we live has been intricately and wonderfully made
With purpose.
A Creator longs to show us our purpose.
A Creator that created flowers and grass.
Trees and the seas.
A Creator who specifically wove life together.
Who worked behind the scenes to give.
Us.
Life.
Breathe in breathe out.
Fresh oxygen.
Made with purpose.
Made in the workings of an intricate plan.
In the small leaf of a tree, you pluck off in passing.
Leaf of a plant.
Made with purpose.
Made with functions and pieces ebbing and flowing

Reactions bursting forth
Light Dependent Reactions create energy.
ATP. NADPH.
Oxygen.
Taking in the light of the sun
To produce a life-giving by-product.
Made with Purpose.
Can we do the same?
Can we take in the light of the Son
and produce love, joy, and peace?
Remain patient amidst struggles and kind in battles,
Goodness like our Good Creator
Faithfulness and trust that we were made with Purpose.
Breathe out.
See your warm breath piercing through the cold winter air this season
See the carbon dioxide as it moves in a rush
How can this air
My body no longer needed
Have a purpose?
The Light Independent Reaction
Intertwining and flowing with the Dependent
Feeding it ADP and NADPH
Giving and providing
Taking in the carbon dioxide exiting our lungs and transforming it into glucose
A nutrient so highly valuable
A nutrient that can restore and replenish others
The cattle roaming in the fields.
And even:
Us.
The organic molecules and protein
That builds our muscles and grows us into who God wants us to be.
With purpose.
Giving us energy to fulfill a calling.
The energy we need.
Created by producers
Autotrophs.
Passing down 10% of their energy to the next trophic level
The next consumer
Giving generously the energy they made
With purpose.
To give. To serve.
Reflecting a picture of a Creator.
Who gives and serves selflessly
Mustn't we do the same?
Use the work we've done to pass on to others
The faith in Him that we can generously give to those around us
But not 10%.
No.
100%, 1,000%
Fill the earth with generosity and love
And Jesus

to glorify our Creator.
With purpose.
We give our love to others
To renew them through Christ
To show the light of Christ
To stop them
Tell them to breathe in breathe out.
Pause this constant cycle and appreciate
Our Creator.
How He created order and cycles in our life
With purpose.
Don't you see?
You are living for Him
Going through a cycle for Him.
Not only you
The world.
The seasons cycling through each year
The moon phases cycle by and by
The ebb and flow of nutrients and molecules
Moving with Purpose.
Like in the Nitrogen Cycle
Each small detail our Creator made
To carry out a function
To create a beautiful and fulfilling cycle
One that changes Ammonia to Nitrite to Nitrate
One that uses death to decompose and revive to continue the cycle
Each piece of the cycle is so important and made with purpose.
The cyanobacteria converting N₂ gas into Ammonia
Nitrate bacteria transforming Nitrite into Nitrate
Bacteria and fungi decompose death into life again into Ammonia
With purpose.
Reminds us of Jesus
Bringing us back to life
To live a life full of Him
And FOR Him
A life with purpose.
Wake up.
Live a day
Thank the Lord.
Rejoice in His works!
He has made the grass grow
He has given food to animals to replenish their energy
He is good.
He is God.
He is the Creator.
Rest your eyes in knowing
You have a purpose.
A purpose greater than even the intricate details of the earth's functions.
You have a purpose in the Creator.

