

**May 2024**

### **Congratulations to the Class of 2024!**

Graduating from high school is a significant milestone in the lives of our students. I am thankful for the support each of our graduates has received from family, school, and church which has enabled each student to reach this milestone. The weeks leading up to graduation allow seniors to experience many "lasts" as they end their time at PCHS. On Saturday, May 18, we have the opportunity to celebrate with the 59 seniors who make up the 84th graduating class of PCHS. Most likely, this will be the last time these seniors will be together in their entirety as the Class of 2024. But we know that God is faithful and will watch over each of our seniors (Psalm 121:8) as they continue to serve in His world. Congratulations, Class of 2024!

In His Service - Mr. Herdegen

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **May**

18 Commencement Ceremony 7:00 pm  
28 & 29 Exam Days

#### **August**

5 Fall Sports Camp Week  
12 Fall Sports Practices Begin  
23 First Day Freshman/New Students Only  
(12:00 dismissal)  
26 First Day of School:  
All students (full day 8:20-3:20)

### **Class of 1949 – 75 years later**

Six women from the Pella Christian High School Class of 1949, all in their early 90's, meet once a month for lunch and fellowship. This year they are recognizing their 75th year of graduating from Pella Christian High. The twenty-two members of the Senior class, seven young men and fifteen young women, were the first class to graduate from the "new" school located on Jefferson Street in Pella.

The women who meet monthly are Reuvena (Dieleman) Bruxvoort, Jeanette (Beekhuizen) De Bruin, Martena (Vander Molen) De Groot, Dot (Kaldenberg) De Ronde, Lois (Hoksbergen) Klyn, and Dorothy (Dahm) Van Kooten. Other members still living include Arnold Dahm of Oak Park, IL, William (Bill) Dieleman of Bella Vista, AR, and Ruth (Vroon) Lanser of Holland, MI.

The Class of 1949 congratulates the graduates of the Class of 2024. Deuteronomy 31:6, "Be strong and courageous. . . for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."



## **Board Briefs**

On Monday, April 22 the Pella Christian High School Board met in regular session. Cassia Boender opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. The board approved the hiring of Taunya Van Maanen to oversee Food Services for the combined Pella Christian Schools, noting that Bonnie Van Wyngarden will remain involved in the high school to ensure continuity of the program. The board reviewed matters related to the merging of the schools, which will officially occur on July 1, 2024.

Committees and administrator reports were received. The board approved the installation of a sprinkler system for the baseball field and football practice fields.

The board also approved updated part-time guidelines for students to better comply with ESA rules and align with our 7-period modified block. There being no further business, Mike Fransman closed the meeting with prayer.

## **Help Us Soar Thank You & Recap**

Pella Christian Schools Giving Day was a huge success! Together we have raised over \$140000 to continue the mission of Christian education!! We are overwhelmed by God's goodness, grateful for your generous support and honored to partner with families in challenging students to develop their individual, God-given gifts for a life of service in God's Kingdom. This support will go to helping Pella Christian Schools be good stewards of the blessings bestowed to us and maintaining the student experience that we are able to provide thanks to your generous support.

## **Summer Office Hours**

The school office will be open Monday-Thursday from 8:00 am-1:00 pm during summer break.

## **Eagle Boosters - Thanks to you!**

Because you volunteered, the Lord has again blessed us with a terrific Tulip Time concessions event. We are thankful for you and for your willingness to serve in our concessions and represent Pella Christian so faithfully to our community.

A shout out to our Tulip Time Booster members who chaired this year's festival concessions with energy and enthusiasm, as well as our past and veteran booster friends who made our load lighter as well!

We look forward to your continued support as we move into our spring and summer sports season activities.

The proceeds raised throughout the year at the PC Booster food stands go to support the WHOLE school including academics, clubs, music, theatre and sports.

## **Parents of Seniors**

The school is required to keep immunization records on file for all students throughout their school years. Now that your senior is graduating, we no longer need these records. Seniors will be picking these up from the office as part of their checkout process. Please ask them for the form, in case your child's college needs them.

## **Parents of 8th Graders**

The Iowa Department of Public Health requires all students entering 9th grade to have a current Dental Health Screening Form on file at the school they are attending. When your student enters high school this form is required for admission. The form is available at [pceagles.org](http://pceagles.org). Go to Eagle Nation-Parents-Quick Links-Forms-High School. Simply take the form along to your child's next dental visit, fill in the information required and return the form to the school office.

Feel free to scan and email to [hsoffice@pceagles.org](mailto:hsoffice@pceagles.org).

## **Mary Poppins Earns Nine Awards**

Pella Christian High School's Theatre Troupe recently earned nine awards from the Iowa High School Musical Theatre Awards Showcase and will be honored Thursday evening, May 30, 2024 at the Des Moines Performing Arts Civic Center. A panel of adjudicators, including performing arts professionals and educators, awarded PCHS's fall production of *Mary Poppins* with an Outstanding Musical Production award. This is the fifth time that PCHS was given this award, the highest award possible. Other honors from the production include four awards for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role: Abby Dart (as Mary Poppins), Evan Tschetter (as Bert), Mia Andringa (as Mrs. Banks), and Jenna Vande Zande (as Jane); and Special Recognition for a Performance in a Principal Role: Breece Gibson (as Miss Andrew). In addition, honors were given for Outstanding Ensemble and Outstanding Community Engagement. Lastly, Abby Dart, Evan Tschetter, Jenna Vande Zande and Mia Andringa were also nominated to audition as Iowa representatives for Nationals in New York City. The musical was directed by Marlo Van Peurse, Aaron Fitzgerald, Paulina Loiza and Daryl Van Zee.

## **Family Service Reminder**

For families still in need of hours to fulfill their 8 hours of service to the school for the \$300 reimbursement there are opportunities to do so: Softball/Baseball Concessions: Sign up on the Eagle Boosters Summer Sports Sign-Up Genius link shared in the Parent Announcements. ALL 8 HOURS OF WORK MUST BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 30, 2024 TO BE REIMBURSED FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR. Time worked after July 1 will be credited to the new school year.

## **Junior Senior Banquet Thanks**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to making the JSB a huge success this year. Thanks to the committees and juniors for all the hard work and time they put in. Bonnie and crew once again provided a scrumptious meal. Special thanks to Caitlin Klingenberg who led the juniors in decorating and planning the event at school and to Faye Brand and Lisa Morgan who chaired the After-Party Parent group. We are grateful for the junior parents that served on committees and gave many hours organizing and the parents who volunteered to work a shift at the after party. And additional appreciation for all the support given whether it was decorating, chaperoning, valet, cleaning up, or any other volunteering. We would also like to thank the students for making it a great night. Above all we thank our heavenly Father for making it a memorable and safe night for all of the students who attended.

## **Parents of Juniors**

As you think ahead to getting senior photos taken this summer, please **remember to get at least one pose that is a head/shoulders shot with attire that meets the dress code**, especially remembering for girls that sleeves are required and the neckline is to be no lower than one handbreadth below the neck with no cleavage shown at any time, as stated in the student handbook. For boys, this means shirts must have sleeves and no hats, please. In addition, photos that include animals, props or special effects will not be accepted. Senior photos need to be submitted to school for inclusion in the yearbook by December 15. These photos will also go on the class composite that will hang in the music hallway. Thanks for your cooperation!

## **PCHS World Languages**

¡Hola a todos! The PCHS World Language Department has been busy this year under the instruction of Mrs. Joni Van Der Pol (Spanish 1) and Ms. Rebekah Cashen (Spanish 2, 3 and 4). Mrs. Van Der Pol also teaches English As A Second Language (ESL) and supports our international students.

All four language domains are taught at each level of Spanish: reading, writing, listening and speaking. It is amazing to see how far the students progress in one year! Spanish 1 students have read a novel called *Pobre Ana* and will learn to give directions in Spanish. Recently Spanish 1 students designed posters that share the Gospel and God's love—you may see them posted around our community.

Spanish 2 students recently began a novel study of *Bianca Nieves y los 7 toritos*. They practice their Spanish skills while learning about bullfighting and other Spanish culture. Spanish 3 students are getting ready to create a cooking show to show off their speaking and cooking skills. Spanish 4 is wrapping up their semester-long study of the authentic novel *Cajas de Cartón* as well as learning how to follow recipes in Spanish, give directions in the kitchen, and cook hispanic food. Levels 2-4 have also enjoyed building community with each other through a March Madness style music bracket, getting exposed to 16 hispanic songs and choosing a champion - "Tiene Sabor" by Alex Cuba.

It is a blessing to share the Lord's heart for the nations through World Language instruction. We know that one day "all nations, tribes, peoples and languages" will be represented in heaven and we pray that the Lord will use our students to be a part of HIS story through their study of Spanish.

## **Keeping the future of PC Eagle Boosters Alive!**

The PC Eagle Booster team is looking for a few good men and women! We ask that you prayerfully consider a spot on our team for Fall 2024.

Volunteers are essential to successfully serving the school and providing supplemental funds to the academic and athletic programs. The Eagle Boosters always work in teams and sub-committees with a distribution of labor so that all members are supported throughout each season of events.

We welcome couples, singles (whom we gladly pair up with another committee member), and friend teams.

The Booster team is a fantastic networking opportunity for parents 'new' or 'old' to our PC community.

We are looking forward to hearing from you. Feel free to find any of these members to get more information or sign up:

Mike Wielard: 641-230-0347

Laura Wielard: 641-780-8472

Lindsay Fikkert: 630-379-7498

Amy Juffer: 515-971-2172

Greg & Jeni Lubbers

Christie Meyer

Lisa Morgan

Matt & Molly Patterson

Mike & Kami Roozeboom

Justin & Megan Spencer

Angela Veenstra

Jen Vos

Nolan & Karla Vos

Zach & Carissa Vander Linden

## Worship Sports or Sports as Worship?

We often view sports as an avenue to teach our kids God-honoring traits such as hard work, perseverance, humility, and selflessness. Nearly every high school in the country teaches these character traits through sports. But are we at Pella Christian going a step further in teaching our kids that athletics can be an act of worship? We believe our school has a beautiful responsibility to teach kids how to worship God in all spheres of life and learning--including athletics. This is a noble pursuit...yet so difficult to put into practice! Just as authentic worship doesn't automatically happen when we sit in church on a Sunday morning, stepping onto the court or wearing a Pella Christian jersey doesn't guarantee God-honoring worship, either.

Our deep hope is that Pella Christian athletics would be a training ground for worshipful hearts - - that every competitive moment would be an opportunity to magnify Christ. At the end of the day, worship is not bound to a church building, a special song, or even a basketball court. True worship is a state of the heart. Athletics provide unique opportunities to mold hearts and practice worship. And we *all* have a great responsibility to take advantage of these moments.

Sooner than we think, our athletes' playing time at Pella Christian will end. The ball will stop bouncing, the countless hours of practice will cease, and the crowds will no longer gather to cheer them on. What won't end, however, is the pursuit of a worshipful heart. When former athletes go on to build houses, care for patients, crunch financial numbers, or fold piles of laundry, may their athletic experiences at Pella Christian have shaped their understanding of what it means to do *everything* to the glory of God.

**Perhaps God gave us the gift of sports so that we could experience Him in a way that no other avenue provides. When our kids play the sport they love with a worshipful heart, they are not only training to offer up their lives as an act of worship but are also allowing God to draw them closer to Himself.**

***Take Flight!***

Pella Christian Athletic Department



*When we think about being a God-Worshipper, does a basketball court come to mind?*

## ESAs & Donations to the Christian School

I'm often asked if Christian schools still need donations now that we have Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). I can answer without reservation, "Yes, yes we do!" Ultimately, ESAs do not directly affect the school's two main revenue sources, tuition and donations. Here's why.

Tuition covers between 85%-90% of the budget. ESAs provide tuition support directly to parents, bypassing the school and lowering net tuition paid by parents. ESAs help families, but they do *not add additional* revenue to the school, they merely replace tuition revenue the school would have received anyway.

Donations cover 10%-15% of the school's budget. Donations reduce the overall cost of tuition for families, allow greater investment in special programs, and fund larger capital projects. ESAs have no direct effect on donations. As ESAs become universal, recipient families should, in theory, have more room in their budgets to donate more generously to the school. But ultimately, we can't compel those families to give without raising tuition for all families.

This plays into how the broader Society directs their giving, too. With ESAs, there's less need for blanket tuition support to all families who already receive \$7,800+ per student from the state. There's more need for direct support to the ministry of Christian Education, its programs, and its buildings. The 10%-15% of the budget not covered through tuition still needs to be raised, more so now that schools need more infrastructure capacity for more students.

By comparison, it's worth remembering local public schools receive between \$14,500-\$16,500 per student plus other capital improvement dollars. Our tuition comes nowhere close to those numbers, yet we desire comparable facilities, professional staff, student supports, and high-level programming for our kids. That funding needs to come from somewhere.

Outstanding and faithful society support has allowed Pella Christian to offer these programs to generations of children. If we believe Christian Education is an essential part of our Kingdom building, donations directly to the Christian school will need to continue as they have in the past.

Dan Zylstra, Head of Schools  
Pella Christian Schools