



September 28, 2023

## **From the Principal - Mr. Bob Morris**

**Thanksgiving** - We are entering the fall season which has a theme of Thanksgiving. Many of us think about Thanksgiving, especially, when it is celebrated in October in Canada and November in the United States. I was thinking about the history of this holiday in North America. The earliest recording of a Thanksgiving celebration was on September 8, 1565, in St. Augustine, Florida. The earliest celebration in Canada was in 1578 by the English explorer Martin Frobisher in what became Newfoundland. Many get their ideas from the Thanksgiving celebration between the Pilgrims and Native American Wampanoag in Plymouth. The holiday was proclaimed as a national holiday in 1863 by Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War. The holiday became a national holiday in Canada in 1957 when Parliament declared: *A day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed – to be observed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in October.*

We have many things to be thankful for. We have been given material blessings; we have great places to worship, and friends and family. We really are blessed.

I have been pondering for a while various things that I am thankful for. We go through different seasons in our lives, and I will share with you one thing that I am deeply thankful for this year.

I was numb the day that my sister phoned to say that the doctor found a growth in my mom's lung, and it looked like an aggressive cancer. We take so many things for granted, and my mother always rebounded well after serious illnesses, and I knew that this time it would be different. The doctor informed us that she had 2-6 months. We made the trip this summer to spend time with her and to say we loved her and our goodbyes. Mom was pain free and we had a good visit. Mom started feeling pain shortly after we left, and she went to be with God in August.

Almost at the same time I came to know the Lord back in 1985, my parents and sister attended a Billy Graham Crusade and committed themselves to follow God. I was in Japan while they attended this event. Over the years, mom's heart hardened, and my sister and I prayed that she would come back to following God. God answered our prayers and there was a radical transformation that took place with her.

Privately and selfishly, I am sad that mom has passed away. I miss the phone conversations on the weekends already. It feels strange. I am also thankful. Firstly, I am thankful that I know that she went to be with our Lord. Mom is free from her illnesses, her broken earthly body, and she is present with the King of Kings! I am thankful for the work that God did in her life and the peace we have knowing where she went.

As much of our focus at this time of the year is focused on a physical harvest, I would like to challenge us to think about the spiritual harvest. Mathew 9:37-38: *Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

When I reflect on these verses, I think back in my own life and am grateful that the Lord brought a Navy chaplain into my life to share the Good News. I am grateful that at the same time, my parents and sister encountered people who invited them to hear the Good News at a Billy Graham Crusade. Many of us feel inadequate when it comes to sharing the Gospel. St. Francis of Assisi once said: *"Preach the gospel at all times and if necessary, use words."* This impacts how I present myself at school and church. I need to remind myself as well when I am at the golf course, football field, basketball court, and when I am on social media. I know many who don't have a walk with the Lord, and it is my hope that I can be used in some small way to be an influence. The harvest is plentiful. Let's take some time during Thanksgiving being grateful for the blessings that God has given us and also think about the harvest field and the part that we can play in it. John 4:35 says: *Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.*

### **From the Board - Mrs. Jessica Stolk**

And just like that, our first month of school is already behind us! Our staff and students are settling into the routines of another school year, and we are thankful that this first month of school has gone well. We would like to extend a huge thank-you to Mr. Daryl Klopstra and all the dads that came out on the first day to make and serve pancakes...this is such a great way to start the year, and the willingness of Mr. Klopstra to help out and provide all the ingredients and supplies for this breakfast is such a blessing!

Although for the most part we have gotten off to a great start this school year, there were some challenges, once again, with transportation. We just want to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their patience, and assure everyone that we are working hard to make sure the busses are running smoothly and on time each day.

This year we have also been blessed with a couple of new families to our school community! We are thankful and blessed to have these families join our community and to see their desire to join us in educating our children "together with home and church to know the Lordship of Christ." If you see someone at the school that you do not recognize, we encourage you to introduce yourself.

We have also been blessed this year with a number of new staff members. Mrs. Candace Slomp has been doing an amazing job as our new Administrative Assistant; Mrs. Kyiera Ericson has

already been such a blessing in the kindergarten room; and Mrs. Maria Ellens is settling into the Grade 6 room where she is also a blessing to her students.

Lord willing, we will be gathering as a school community on **Thursday, October 5th at 6:30pm** for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. This is always a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and raising funds for our school. Further information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter, but as a Board, we look forward to seeing you all there.

Our annual Fall Drive has been set to run from October 23rd through November 17 with a goal of raising \$80,000. More details will be coming and canvassers will be contacting you between those dates. Please prayerfully consider to what extent you can support our goal.

We also ask that you mark your calendars for the PCS Fall Society Meeting scheduled for **Thursday, November 23, 2022 at 8:00pm**. More details on that closer to the date. A reminder to all parents and previous society members that if you have not paid your membership dues (\$50/couple), to please do so soon if you would like the opportunity to vote at this Society Meeting. If you are unsure whether you have paid, please contact Irene Fraser: [business@ponokachristianschool.com](mailto:business@ponokachristianschool.com).

Our next Board Meeting will take place Wednesday October 4. As always, please let us know if you have any comments or concerns.

On Behalf of the PCS Board,

Jessica Stolk

*“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.” 1 John 4:11-12*

### **Important Dates**

<b>October 5</b>	PCS Thanksgiving Dinner @ 6:30pm
<b>October 6</b>	NO School
<b>October 9</b>	NO School -Thanksgiving Day
<b>October 18</b>	Extra Kindergarten
<b>October 19-20</b>	No School – Teacher Convention
<b>October 23</b>	Parent/Teacher Conference
<b>October 31</b>	Picture Day

### **PCS Family Directory**

Please review your information in the attached Family Directory and notify the office if changes are needed.

## **Forms to be returned to the Office**

The following forms are attached to this newsletter, please return the completed forms to the office on or before the due dates:

Grocery Gift Card Fundraiser Form – ***due Oct 3***

Parent/Teacher Conference Request Form – ***due Oct 5***

Hot Lunch Order Form – ***due Oct 6***

## **Sports News - Mr. Josh Van Doesburg**

In athletics we are blessed to have 4 volleyball teams this year. We have an A boys, A girls, B boys, and B girls teams. We are thankful for all the coaches and for the parents who drive and support the kids.

We had a very successful Wolf Creek Championship Cross Country run this year. A big thank you to Martie Greyling as she coached the kids throughout the season. There will be a sign up for the CWAJHAA Cross Country run when I get more information.

As always please keep checking the calendar for sports updates and information

Blessings,  
Josh Van Doesburg

## **Kindergarten Teaching Position**

Please pray for the school as we continue to search for a Kindergarten teacher. Please pass along the following information to anyone you know that might be interested.

Applications are currently being accepted for the position of Kindergarten Teacher at Ponoka Christian School from December to Mid-June. Resumes, along with cover letter, statement of faith and three references (one needs to be a pastoral reference) can be forwarded to: [office@ponokachristianschool.com](mailto:office@ponokachristianschool.com).

## **Potato Fundraiser**

Any amounts of potatoes are available. Please make a donation you think is fair.

**To order, phone Hylco and Hillie Feitsma: 403-783-6000**

The proceeds from the potato sales have been graciously donated to Ponoka Christian School.

## **Thank You**

A big thank you to Tasha Cordel from Remax, who will once again be donating gift certificates. These will be used as prizes for outstanding students throughout the year.



# Thanksgiving Dinner for Ponoka Christian School

We look forward to having you join us for a time of  
community and fellowship in thankfulness to God  
for His abundance

Thursday, October 5, 2023  
at 6:30 pm

Admission is free.  
There will be a freewill offering to cover the  
meal cost as well as raising funds for PCS.