



From the Principal - Mr. Bob Morris

Romans 12:2 *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.*

There is a wealth of wisdom found in Romans 12. I have spent a lot of time reflecting on this chapter, on how I can become a better person and more Christ-like. I am often drawn into Romans 12:2 with the idea of being transformed by the renewing of your mind. The teaching staff once read the book Mindset by Carol s. Dweck. The book forces the reader to ask themselves if they have a "growth" mindset or a "fixed" mindset. I found the book challenging because I could see areas of my life where I had a growth mindset and yet in other areas I had a fixed mindset.

I wanted to push myself when it comes to the idea of renewing your mind. Am I growing as a person? Am I learning new things? Am I still curious? It is easy to let life get in the way and cause us to get into those patterns of staleness.

My daughter wanted to go to South America and hike the Inca Trail and go to Machu Picchu. She asked me if I would want to go with her and I immediately said yes. I have never really considered traveling to South America before but will always say yes to a trip with a daughter. I have been getting up in the morning to learn and practice Spanish (although I am sure we could probably do ok in English in Peru). I was given a great book about the hike, and it is my goal to learn more about the history of the Incan Empire before we travel there. I have already learned a lot but have more to learn.

School wise, I have committed to changing things up too and keep on learning. I am participating in a course through Baylor University called Experienced Leaders. We are reading a book called Flourishing Together: A Christian Vision for Students, Educators, and Schools by Lynn E. Swaner and Andy Wolfe. The course meets once a month via Zoom (not my favourite style but I am trying...). I recently attended a "Celebration of Learning at the three Surrey Christian School campuses. I was a last-minute addition to the central Alberta leaders that went, and I was glad to go, learn and gain perspective on how that school celebrates student learning. It was quite impactful. Schools in British Columbia have an emphasis on project-based learning and much of the projects displayed reflected that. The school has a different enrolment plan and that was reflected in some of the student work. I would like to explore more of this and see how it can effectively work with our vision/mission statement (more to come...).

Another learning piece this year is focussing on a book that I read a long time ago called The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander by Barbara Coloroso. She was the featured speaker at the AISCA Teacher Conference in Edmonton last February. She was an excellent speaker and now I

am reading her updated book called The Bully, the Bullied and the Not-So-Innocent Bystander. This is a tough topic as there are many different perspectives on this.

Another piece of my learning this year was deciding to step away from teaching mathematics and focus on teaching grade 6/7 PE. It has forced me to learn more about volleyball and to learn new basketball drills to fit with teaching a very large group.

My own personal reading is a book that has brought tears to my eyes. It is titled Sandy Hook and is the story of the tragedy that took place at the elementary school I attended as a child and the aftermath of conspiracy theories that took place after it. I remember one day when I was visiting my mom and we stopped at St. Rose Cemetery and a dad of one of the children that was killed was sitting in his truck crying at the gravesite. I learned later that the day we were there was his son's birthday. My heart was broken for that dad sitting in his truck. The book exposes more information that I wasn't aware about following the tragedy.

One question we all can ask ourselves is, "Are we renewing our minds when it comes to the Word of God?" Am I challenging myself with God's Word or am I just going through the regular devotional process and not really thinking or applying it. One of my go to podcasts that I listen to every morning is called "Bible in a Year" with Jack Graham. I appreciate the depth of explanation of the passage that was read and the prayer application that follows. I often ponder how I can use that in my life today.

As we are getting closer and closer to Holy Week, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, take some time in God's Holy Word and ask The Lord to make scriptures real and life changing. We all have crazy, busy lives but wouldn't it be great if we were all transformed by the renewing of our minds with God's Word - then we would have better discernment in our lives.

From the Board - Mrs. Jessica Stolk

Spring is coming! It is so exciting to see the seasons changing and to see all the beautiful ways that God displays His glory in creation.

We would like to thank everyone for their patience with the buses over the last couple of weeks. The West route has experienced a couple of breakdowns, and the East route is adjusting to a new driver, Sherri. Just a reminder as well that all bussing changes (ex. not on in the morning, kids getting off at a different stop etc.) must be communicated by text or phone call to Prairie Dispatch at 403-506-3398. Please do not contact the drivers directly.

The Board would also just like to remind you of a couple dates for your calendars:

- April 13th: We are very excited to spend the day with you all at our annual Spring Auction! Come for an awesome day of fellowship with the school community as well as many fun activities for the kids, while we raise funds for the school.
- May 23rd: Save this date for our Spring Society Meeting. We will be voting in 2 new Board members at this meeting. Please continue to keep the Board in prayer as we go through the nomination process to come up with a few names to be voted on to replace Michelle Stolk and Jessica Stolk who will each be completing their 3-year terms. As well, please be reminded that only those who are up to date on their Society fees will have

voting privileges; please check with Irene Fraser or Jessica Stolk if you are unsure if you have paid your fees for this year.

The Board will next meet on **Wednesday April 10**. Please feel free to contact one of us if you have any comments.

We pray you all have a blessed and refreshing Spring Break as well as a Blessed Easter remembering and celebrating the sacrifice made for us by our risen Saviour.

On Behalf of the PCS Board,
Jessica Stolk

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1:3

PCS is now hiring for the position of Business Administrator - Interested applicants can send in a cover letter, resume with references, and a statement of faith to: office@ponokachristianschool.com. For more information, please contact the school via the email above or by calling 403-783-6563.

Sports News - Mr. Josh Van Doesburg

Badminton try-outs will have happened by the time you read this, and teams selected. The consent forms for all players will need to be returned, along with the fee payment of \$20, the first day back from Spring Break, April 2. Practice days are yet to be determined but will be posted on the school calendar. Players will need to have a PCS athletics shirt to be worn at the tournament, they can be purchased at the office for \$20. If you have any questions about the badminton season, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are looking forward to a fun couple week of badminton!

Important Dates

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| March 25 | Spring Break starts – No School |
| April 2 | School resumes |
| April 2 | No Preschool |
| April 4 | All School Chapel – Order Discoverer |
| April 13 | PCS Auction |
| April 18 | Hot Lunch – Taco in a bag (for those who ordered) |
| April 19 | Extra Kindergarten Day |
| April 25 | Grandparents Day |
| April 26 | No School – Teacher Work Day |
| April 29 | Extra Kindergarten Day |

Grandparents Day at PCS

Grandparents, special visitors, and pastors are invited to spend an afternoon at Ponoka Christian School on April 25. There will be a special program at 1pm after which visitors are welcome to stay and visit the classrooms. Doors open at 12:30 and there is no need to RSVP. Invitations for students to hand out to visitors are attached to this newsletter.

From the Development Committee

- **Boston Pizza Operation Education:**
Do you or people you know eat at Boston Pizza? If so, you could be making money for the school! We are asking all families and supporters to turn in their original receipts from any Edmonton and surrounding area Boston Pizza locations including, Ponoka, Lacombe and Red Deer to the school office, dating from Jan until June 2024. The school can then receive 5% of the total (before tax) of all receipts submitted!
- **Bobtail Nursery Fundraiser:** Thank you to all those who supported this fundraiser! A total of approx \$900 was raised for the school. Orders will be available for pickup at Bobtail Nursery between May 1 -7. All orders not picked up at that time must be picked up at the school on May 9 (time TBD).

Now Accepting Applications - Ponoka Christian School is now accepting **Applications for Pre-School and Kindergarten Students** for the 2024-25 school year. Information and registration packages can be found on the school website at www.ponokachristianschool.com or may be picked up from the school office.

Community News and Events

Camp Rehoboth - Rehoboth Camp Ministry is a Christian summer camp for people with special needs from young children to seniors. We want to share the love of Jesus, provide a summer camp experience, build relationships, and give parents or guardians a week of respite. We need volunteers to make this happen and are looking forward to having **you** be a part of this. A willingness to be a friend and help someone have a positive Camp experience is all that is needed. If you are 14 years old and up, have a heart for serving others, have a week to spare this summer, then we are the place for you! Check us out at: www.rcmflourish.ca/camp to get more information!

Christian School Foundation: Will Planning 101 free webinar - Preparing or updating a Will can be complicated. The Christian School Foundation and Christian Stewardship Services is hosting a free one-hour online information session on “How to Avoid Common Mistakes when Creating Your Will.” for Christian School communities across Canada. We all know we should have our affairs in order – yet many of us have not yet

put together a proper Will or kept it up to date. This one-hour session is jam-packed with helpful advice that will provide a starting place for families with young children, for grandparents and for empty nesters. There will also be an opportunity for each family to work with an expert in Will preparation that is based on their Christian values.

Join on Zoom on Wednesday, April 24th, /8pm MT
Register at www.christianschoolfoundation.ca/events/

Rimbey Christian School Auction:

Online Auction: Opens for bidding on Friday April 19th. Auction soft closing begins at 7 pm on Thursday April 25th. <https://www.montgomeryauctions.com>

Silent Auction & Complimentary Supper: Friday April 26 at the RCS gym (north doors). 4522-54th Ave. Rimbey, AB. Doors will open at 5:30pm. Everyone welcome.

For more information, please call Laura Grinde: 403.704.5662

Lacombe Christian School Auction:

Save the date: April 19, 2024. More details to come.