



August 30, 2023

Ponoka Christian School

First Day of School

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. We are so very excited that you have committed to Ponoka Christian School. We would also like to welcome our new families to our school.

We do have some changes for the school that I want to share with you:

Mrs. Kyiera Ericson will start the year as the kindergarten teacher and will transition to teaching the grade two class in November.

Mrs. Nanninga will start the year teaching the grade two class and stay until November as she and her husband are expecting their first child in December. We are so excited for her.

We were successful in finding a grade six teacher and we welcome Mrs. Maria Ellens as our new grade 6 teacher. She is an experienced teacher from Ontario.

Mrs. Slomp is our new office administrative assistant. She previously served at Central Alberta Christian High School and at Ponoka Christian School.

Mrs. Teeling will continue to enthusiastically teach our students music on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

I will be away the first week of school to attend the funeral of my mother. It is my hope that we have a great start up to school and I pray for the Lord's blessing on students, Staff, Board, and parents as we start this school year.

Pancake Breakfast

Mr. Van Doesburg has arranged for Daryl Klopstra to come and cook again for our school. If there are **ANY DADS** that would be available to help out on Tuesday, September 5, the shift starts at **7:30**. Please email Josh Van Doesburg at josh.vandoesburg@ponokachristianschool.com if you are able to help.

Job Posting

Ponoka Christian School is looking for a Kindergarten teacher for mid-November to June. Interested candidates can email a cover letter, resume, statement of faith and references to office@ponokachristianschool.ca - attn.: Bob Morris.

From the Principal---*Robert Morris*

Many of you know that I am a student of history. I love learning about events that have taken place. This past summer, I was able to see Billy Joel perform his song, “We Didn’t Start the Fire”. The song is very different, it has a choppy introduction and the percussion seems odd. What is “catchy” about the song is that he lists historical events in his lifetime from 1949 until when the song was created in 1989.

As we were leaving Madison Square Garden, I was lamenting about the song to my daughter. I was saying it would be fascinating if Billy Joel had extended the song to cover 1990 – 2023. My daughter referred me to another music artist who picked up the song and added lyrics to cover the pandemic and Russia’s war on Ukraine.

Most of our kindergarten students were born in 2018. As they grow up, they will hear stories about the pandemic, the Trucker Convoy, Justin Trudeau, etc. It makes me wonder what will happen in their future. What events might take place in 2033 when they graduate grade 9 and what will be transpiring in 2036 when they graduate grade twelve.

Technology and governments will keep on changing over time. It’s hard to believe there was a time when we didn’t carry a phone everywhere we went. Hebrews 13:8 states: “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*”

Our school is coming close to its 40th Anniversary date. The school has grown and improved over the years. Parental involvement, academics, athletic opportunities have helped shape our school. The core or mission of the school remains constant and strong: “*Educating our Children Together with Home and Church to know the Lordship of Christ.*” This is central to the reason why families choose to send their children for an education delivered from a Christian perspective. All decision should be filtered through the mission statement, whether at Board, Committee or Staff level.

What will the next 40 years hold for Ponoka Christian School? Technology will change, updates will be made to the property, and staffing will change. However, just as Hebrews 13:8 reminds us that Christ never changes, even though some people’s theology over certain issues change. We can be assured that if we continue to partner with both home and church that we can be successful. Partnerships can be hard at times but in this case, it is essential for the whole education for the child.

It is my hope that the mission statement will remain and PCS will be viable when our graduating grade 9 class of 2033 have children of their own.

From the Office---*Candace Slomp*

Tuition Form: Due on September 14, 2023 (Included with this newsletter.)

Yearly Permission Slip: Due September 12, 2023

Scholastic Permission Form: Due on September 14, 2023

Absent or Late students: Please **phone or email the school between 8:30-8:50.**

Pickup afterschool: If there *is a change* in the afterschool pickup and your child *does not know*, please text **Candace at 403-763-7173 before 3:00. Try to keep changes to a minimum to make it easier for staff.**

Parking Lot Safety: Please park in the parking lot and not in the traffic circle when picking up your child. If your child is taking too long to come to your vehicle, please get out and wave. Sometimes we cannot see who's here. ☺

Milk: Milk is \$1 per carton and it is preferred to purchase a milk card for \$20 so that I know how much milk to order.

From the Librarian---*Yvonne Reed*

Another year has begun and I hope that it will be fabulous for both you and your child.

Sports

We are excited to get going with volleyball. Here are the teams for this year:

A Boys – Mr. Van Doesburg

B Boys – Mr. Debree

A Girls – Mrs. Goedhart and Mrs. Van Heyst

B Girls – Mrs. Beaunoyer and Mrs. Hovius

Chapel News

We are really excited for Chapel this year! We have five new throughlines we will be inviting the school community to engage with. Throughlines are discipleship habits and practices that both form the learners and transform God's world around them. Throughlines help us imagine what it means to be a disciple within God's story. They articulate a vision for how we hope Ponoka Christian School community will live. First, we will deepen our understanding of what it means to be a Community Builder. Then, we will invite you to understand that worshiping God is about celebrating who God is, what God has done and is doing. We will engage in what it means to be a servant worker, we will also learn how to act as agents of change by identifying

and responding to injustices. We will find harmony and order in God's creation. Lastly, as a community we will invite you to respond to God's call to be stewards of all of creation.

By engaging in these throughlines our hope is that we can all discover our role in God' story.

Are you musically talented and willing to share your gifts? Ponoka Christian School is looking for a musician to play worship music for our Chapels throughout the year. Whether you have open availability or limited availability, we want your talents. Please see the attached Volunteer letter for more information and to volunteer please contact the chapel committee, Vicky Jang vicky.jang@ponokachristianschool.com
Leah Jackson grade1teacher@ponokachristianschool.com