



Christmas Ponderings from the Vice Principal - Mr. Josh Van Doesburg

As a kid I loved Christmas. I loved that there were two weeks of holidays, that there were gifts, and that there was distant family that I got to visit. We spent many hours outside skating, sledding, having snowball fights, and just generally rough housing in the snow. As a parent and a teacher now, I can easily resonate with the kids as to the greatness of a holiday and the break that it brings. I have overheard my students in class say, "Man, I can't wait to get 18 days off of school." When the students see that I hear these statements they are quick to be quiet, but I enjoy telling them that we as teachers are also looking forward to the break. I found myself thinking about this over the weekend. What part of the break am I looking forward to the most, am I truly looking forward to Christmas?

As the countdown gets closer to Christmas Day the lists seem to pile up. Did that gift get delivered? I think we are out of cough medicine! Should we take two checked bags or just one? Do we have enough brown sugar? As adults there are a lot of to-dos that stand in the way of the magical joy of Christmas. My wife and I have found ourselves a little extra exhausted by all the business of the holidays this year. We often find ourselves dreading the events and plans with family. We typically split our break between our two families, one being here in Lacombe and the other in Terrace BC. While this is a great time for us to see everyone, and our kids to catch up with a lot of extended family who love them dearly, it is also crazy busy. Sometimes all we focus on is navigating the flights with the kids, figuring out nap schedules or if they will even eat anything at Christmas dinner. But Christmas is not just for the kids; Jesus' story penetrates through all that Christmas has become in our society. Jesus is seeking us out in the busiest of times.

Our youngest son Owen is in love with the Little Tikes nativity scene that we have set up in the living room right now. My wife sets it up every night while they are in bed and it's the first thing he grabs in the morning. When he is done playing with it, all the characters are thrown around the room, but he always leaves Jesus sitting on top of the stable where the angel is supposed to go. There is nothing left but Jesus, front and center; He is the whole story. In the craziness of the Christmas break, He is the whole story. He needs to be kept front and center to everything we do. When things are busy, and our minds are getting pulled in a million directions we have to strip it all back and remember how simple it really is.

"And the Word became flesh and took up residence among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

The word joy is a word that gets used more around the Christmas season than perhaps any other time of the year. The Oxford definition of joy is, "Great happiness or pleasure." Joy is a feeling that cannot be replicated and needs to be embraced in the moment. Joy is the understanding that we were given a gift from God Himself and that He knew this gift was going to become a sacrifice for us. He didn't just give us Jesus as a gift, He gave us Jesus intending on Him being multiple gifts. First, the gift of hope and peace. The gift of knowing that His word was true, and a savior would be born of the Virgin Mary and that He would conquer death for us. Secondly, the gift of sacrifice. The gift of knowing that His son would feel the wrath of God and that this was all to save the people He created.

I am looking forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus and the promise that God himself kept to us. I am challenging myself this year to keep Jesus front and center throughout the Christmas season. Allowing the various celebrations to amplify Jesus' story.

May each of you have a blessed Christmas season reflecting on God's love for us and the gift of His one and only son.

From the Board - Mrs. Jessica Stolk

Here we are at the end of 2023 already! We can look back on this past year and see the Lord's guiding hand and many blessings to our school and school community in this past year.

A huge thank-you goes out to Mrs. Teeling and all the students for all the work they put into this year's Christmas program! What a joy it was to be able to gather as families, friends, and a school community to celebrate the birth of our Savior!

We would also like to thank the many parents who came in for the various craft days this year, as well as the Development Committee for putting on the annual All-School Christmas Lunch. The last couple weeks of school before Christmas are always such a fun and busy time and we are so blessed by the many volunteers it takes to make these events happen.

A thank-you also goes to Mrs. Rebecca TenHove for teaching Kindergarten these last few weeks before Christmas break! Mrs. TenHove has been a great blessing to the students and the school in providing such a seamless transition between teachers for this class. We are excited to welcome Mrs. Hailey Hinton to be our new Kindergarten teacher beginning in the New Year!

As a Board, we would also just like to thank once again all those who donated to the Fall Drive. However, we were about \$10000 short of our \$80000 goal. Please prayerfully consider whether this is something you would like to yet donate to this year and remember that all donations must be in by the end of the year to receive a tax receipt for 2023.

Our first Board meeting of the new year is scheduled for Wednesday January 31, 2024. As always, please let us know if you have any comments or concerns.

On behalf of the Board, may you all have a joyous Christmas celebrating the birth of our Saviour and a very blessed New Year.

Jessica Stolk
PCS Board Secretary

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

Sports News - Mr. Josh Van Doesburg

As we head into the new year, we are looking forward to our basketball season. Thank you to the coaches who have signed up to help teach and develop the athletes' skills. Please remember to get your child to send in their signed form, money, and jersey deposit. At this point we do not have any schedules sent to us. When they arrive, I will create a master game and practice schedule and it will be posted online. Thank you for your patience and I hope you all have a blessed Christmas break.

Blessings, Josh Van Doesburg

Important Dates

December 22	NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break starts
January 8	First day back after Christmas break
January 11	All School Chapel - God Worshipping
January 18	Hot Lunch – Build your own Sub
January 19	Extra Kindergarten Day
January 26	No School – Teacher Work Day
February 1	All School Chapel – Servant Working
February 2	Extra Kindergarten Day
February 5	Parent Teacher Interviews – By request only
February 7	Gr 4-9 Canyon Ski Day
February 16	No School

Please note the following date change on your calendars: **Friday, Feb 9** will now be a regular school day and there will be no school on **Friday, Feb 16** due to the AISCA Teacher Workshop.

From the Principal - The Education Committee has had a motion pass through the Board to ban all energy drinks from being consumed at school and are in the process of drafting the wording of the policy. We have had some students "selling" Coke products from their lockers as well and this needs to stop.

Student Recognition - Congratulations to Ariana Saddleback-Lundrigan on receiving a certificate for being a Community Builder and Servant Worker in recognition of her volunteer work in the grade one classroom. Congratulations as well to Karlee Sterk on also being awarded a Community Builder Certificate for her kindness and compassion.

Thank you to Tasha Cordell from Remax, for sponsoring the gift certificates.

Baby Announcement - We are excited to announce that Mrs. Nanninga and her husband Sam welcomed little Carson Michael Nanninga into the world on Sunday, Dec 17th. We give thanks to God for his safe arrival and pray the Lord's blessings as they raise Carson to follow Him.

From the Development Committee - Work has begun on the new PCS website, and we are very excited for the big reveal aimed for the new year! One of the features that make a website great is to have pictures of students, in groups or doing activities, featured on our site. **Please contact the school if you do not give consent to have photos that include your child on the website for promotional use.**

Invitation from
Rimbey Christian School



The poster features a man in a cowboy hat and a blue suit jacket holding a guitar, standing next to a brown horse in a field. The text on the poster includes the school name, event title, date, and ticket information.

Rimbey Christian School
Fundraiser Banquet

A SPECIAL ACOUSTIC EVENING WITH
GEORGE CANYON
Friday February 16th, 2024

RIMBEY PETER LOUGHEED COMMUNITY CENTRE **GEORGE CANYON**
DOORS OPEN @ 5:45 P.M.
SUPPER @ 6:30 P.M.
CATERED BY
STARKIST CATERING
TICKETS \$100 EACH OR
TABLE OF 8 FOR \$700

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
RIMBEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL AND
STATIONERY, STORIES & SOUNDS
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
LAURA GRINDE 403-704-5662

A Big Thank You

Ponoka Christian School would like to send a big thank you to **Earned Fitness** for their donation to the school in support of student needs and activities.

Potato Fundraiser

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

To order please phone:
Hylko and Hillie Feitsma
403-783-6000

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