



From the Principal - Mr. Bob Morris

Matthew 20:20-28, "Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. "What is it you want?" He asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other on your left in your kingdom." "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my father." When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles rule it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many."

By human nature, the desire for service fights against the desire for upward advancement. I grew up in a time when scouting was seen as a positive endeavor. Many were motivated to move up through the ranks, moving from assistant patrol leader to patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader to the senior patrol leader (the coveted job in each scout troop). We were also encouraged to move forward in rank as well. Each advanced rank became harder and harder to acquire to the coveted rank of Eagle Scout.

There is a desire in the U.S. military to move up in rank. I had a company commander in the Marines that worked his way up to the rank of General. I remember being stationed with a Marine unit and if a member didn't receive the rank of Staff Sergeant by their 12th year they were discharged. During my deployment we spent two months working with the Royal Marines from the United Kingdom. They had members that served for many years at the same rank, and we found it hard to understand how someone could be a corporal for 20 years.

We put so much emphasis on upward mobility and status. If one wanted to get into music - wouldn't it be more exciting performing to sold out stadiums like Taylor Swift or performing to small crowds at a church like Steve Bell? Think about those who play sports, no one wants to be on the practice squad, they want to be on the team. That said, most would rather be a starter than second string and most would want to be recognized as all-pro.

This can be the same for officiating sports too. In basketball, who are the happiest officials when it comes to provincials? In reality, there is only one: the person selected as the finals

referee (the other two are happy to be part of the crew but may be disappointed that they weren't given the title of referee). In football, it is the same, many officials want to go to provincials, but the happiest person is the one chosen as referee for the high school "ranked" division. That said, many still want to move up the ranks to do university ball and ultimately the CFL.

I recently read Mark 10 to the students for devotions. It is the same story from Matthew as quoted above. It is a reminder that Jesus came to earth not to be served but to serve. Our history teaches us about leaders all over the world and how they live in opulence. We have had emperors, kings, presidents, and prime ministers who expect pomp and circumstance. Our own Prime Minister is one who recently spent his Christmas vacation at a resort that cost \$8000/night and had butler service and he spent a lot of money on expensive hotels during Queen Elizabeth's funeral as well.

During the cold snap, my daughter's cars were not working. They have AMA but the hood of one of my daughters' cars wouldn't open. I made a call to a friend in Lacombe that is mechanically inclined, he immediately said yes and showed up fifteen minutes later to assist when the temps were -45. He left the comfort of his warm house and family to come and help out someone in need. This is a bit of reflection of Jesus. Christ came to earth, was born in a stable, His parents had to flee to Egypt for a time, and then He came back to be instructed at a synagogue. He taught for three years before being betrayed, tortured, and crucified. Jesus left His Father's presence to come to earth, teach us and to die on the cross for each of us; Jesus is the ultimate servant. Ultimately, our desire should be to live a life that is reflective of our faith in God and to serve others as Christ served. The task is hard and sometimes we need to be reminded of this task (myself included).

From the Board - Mrs. Jessica Stolk

As this is the first newsletter of the New Year, the Board would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Blessed 2024! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break, and we pray that this coming year may be a year of blessings and serving our Lord and Saviour in every area of our lives.

January is generally a quiet month for the Board, so as of yet there is nothing new to report to Society; however, we would like to send out a couple of reminders.

- **Society Membership:** If there is anyone who is not currently a member, but would like to be, this would be a great time to fill out the Membership forms so interviews can be set up and new members can be approved at our Spring Society meeting. This is also a great way for Grandparents to show their support of PCS. If you're interested, just ask the office for the forms!

- Our school mission statement is “Educating our children together with home and church to know the Lordship of Christ”. As a friendly reminder, communication back and forth between parents and staff/administrators/Board is a crucial part of fulfilling this mission statement. If you ever have any concerns or comments or words of encouragement to share...please do so!

We will be having our first meeting of the year on Wednesday January 31.

On Behalf of the PCS Board,
Jessica Stolk

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

Sports News - Mr. Josh Van Doesburg

The basketball season is well underway. We are thankful this year to have 2 boys teams and a developmental girls team. Thank you to Scott Ingwersen, Kayla Vanderlinde, Bob Morris, Brady and Val Teeling for the extra time and effort you are putting into this basketball season.

Please remain diligent with watching the calendar for schedules updates and changes.

Invitation from CACHS: Gr 9 hockey players planning to attend CACHS in September are welcome to join our CACHS hockey team for 7-8am Monday practices on the front ice at the Lacombe arena. Our coaches arrive at the rink at 6:30am, and players are expected on the ice at 7am. There is potential for junior high players to join our team for some games as well, and more information will be given out to those who attend our morning practices on Jan. 29th and Feb. 5th. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eggink at CACHS (403-782-4535/teggink@cachs.ca), or talk with one of the CACHS coaches at practice.

Important Dates

January 26	No School – Teacher Work Day
January 31	Nakiska Ski Trip – Gr 8/9
February 1-29	I Love to Read Month
February 1	All School Chapel – Servant Working
February 2	Extra Kindergarten Day
February 5	Parent Teacher Interviews. By request. Please fill out the attached form.
February 7	Gr 4-9 Canyon Ski Day
February 16	No School – AISCA Teacher Workshop
February 19	No School – Family Day
February 20	No School

February 23	Extra Kindergarten Day
February 28	All School Skating Afternoon
February 29	Hot Lunch – Pulled Pork

Ski Day at Canyon for Grades 4-9: Important Reminders

- **Please remember to hand in your ski trip forms if you haven't done so already!** If you have lost yours, forms are available at the office.
- **Parents who are planning to ski with their child must fill out a Participant Form, forms and payment for parents must be received prior to Jan 29.** The cost for parents is \$35 for lift pass only and \$61 for pass and rentals.
- Younger siblings (not in gr 4-9) who may be skiing will have to purchase lift tickets at Canyon and are not considered part of the school rate.
- **The school must be notified prior to ski day of all transportation arrangements.** There will be no changes made on the day of the trip. (ie. If your child is riding the bus to the hill but will not be taking the bus back, the school must be notified before the ski day)
- Lift tickets cannot be handed out to students until the whole group arrives with the bus and not until the Canyon staff have gone over the safety talk.

From the Development Committee – We finished off 2023 with the whole school enjoying a delicious pizza lunch, which ended with decorating cookies the Foods class made for this event. Thank you to all who were involved in the organizing and preparing of this lunch. The Makkinga Market fundraiser was also a success with \$6090 raised for classroom wish lists. The Elgersman family was the winner of the Salesmanship Award again this year, great job to them and to all those who participated!

The development committee has some exciting events and fundraisers in store for the rest of the year. Please note the following dates and details:

- **Little Caesars Fundraiser:**
The selling period will be from **Feb 1-15**. Items to sell will be pizza kits, crazy bread kits and cookie dough. Online and paper orders will be accepted, the details and forms will be sent home next week. **All forms and payment must be received by the end of day Feb 15.** Late forms will not be accepted. Order pickup day is scheduled for the week of Mar 4. (More details to come on pickup times)
- **Grade 1 Bird House Building:**
On **Thursday March 14 at 7:00pm**, we would like to invite all **Grade 1 students** and their dads or Grandpas or other special guy in their life for an evening of building birdhouses at the school. This annual event will be a FUN evening with your child building more than just memories! More details and invitation to follow.
- **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!

- **Website and PCS Apparel online store:**

Work on the new website is complete! Maybe you have had a chance to view it already, we encourage you to please have a look around and tell us what you think!

Here are some highlights and navigational points to take note of:

PCS Merch: One of the new features will be an online apparel store for you to purchase online some newly designed PCS wear! Click the link at the top of the page, PCS Eagles Merch, you will be directed to a new page where you can click the, Order Your PCS Merch, button to be brought to the online store. Some items available to purchase will be t-shirts, hoodies, vests, and more! The store will be open for the month of February with items available for pick up at the school office. The store will reopen again at the beginning of next year.

Calendar: It is located near the bottom of the home page; it features all school events and details. You can also access the school calendar by clicking on the resources tab and then Calendars. (If you navigate to this page and add it to your home screen on your phone you have quick access to the calendar with one click)

Forms: Registration, tuition and membership forms are all available under the Families tab and then Forms.

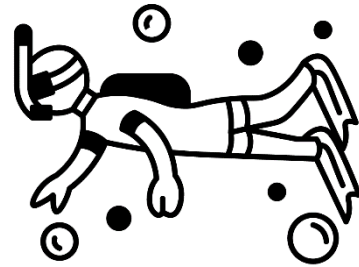
Resources: This area is a great place to check out what books we have available in our library, past Bits and Bites and even school bell times.

Due to the change over to the new site, the process used to send out the weekly reminders and other email notifications is changing. Please notify the office if you stop receiving the weekly PCS This Week emails.

Now Accepting Applications - Ponoka Christian School is now accepting **Applications for Pre-School and Kindergarten** 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.

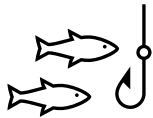
Meet Haily Hinton - Kindergarten teacher at PCS - Hailey was born and raised right here in Ponoka. She has been married to Joe for three and a half years and they have a one-year-old son named Jameson who they like to call Jay. Her favorite Bible verse is 1 Cor 16: 13-14. Hailey enjoys being a mom and when she has time, she also enjoys crafting and skiing and snowboarding. Please welcome Hailey to PCS when you see her around at the school.

February is **I Love to Read Month** at Ponoka Christian School and this year our theme is **Underwater - Dive into reading!**



We are hoping to inspire students to read more and to discover more about God's world and the people in it. As part of this challenge, students are asked to read each day for the month of

February and keep track of the minutes they read. More details will be sent home with students on Jan 31st!



Get ready to **dive** into a good book and ***get hooked on*** reading!