



Important Notice – Early Dismissal Oct 21

On Monday Oct 21, 2024, students will be dismissed from classes at 12:45pm. This is to free up the afternoon for parent teacher conferences in order to accommodate the increased number of interviews that teachers with combined classes need to have.

Students will have morning snack and recess as usual, but they will not have lunch break or recess but will have an extra snack break at 12pm. Interviews will start at 1pm. Please complete the form that was sent home with your child and return to the office before October 7.

Upcoming Important Dates

September 27	No School – Teacher Work Day
September 30	No School – Truth and Reconciliation Day
October 2	Deadline to RSVP for the Thanksgiving Dinner
October 3	All School Chapel – Community Building
October 4	Extra Kindergarten Day
October 10	Thanksgiving Dinner
October 11	No School
October 14	No School - Thanksgiving Day
October 21	Parent Teacher Interviews
October 23	Extra Kindergarten Day
October 24-25	No School – Teacher’s Convention
October 31	Picture Day

From the Principal – Mr. Bob Morris

September is coming to a close and we will almost have a complete month of school completed. We are entering the month of October and focussing on the theme of Thanksgiving. Sometimes we need the reminder of taking the time to reflect on Thanksgiving when there are so many competing stories. We are bombarded with heavy news stories: the election in the U.S., potential federal election in Canada, assassination attempts on candidates, wars in other countries, inflation and the economy, and the list goes on and on. Sometimes the news seems to be so negative.

This summer I had a few opportunities to take a break from the chaos and enjoy what God has given me. I got the opportunity to travel with my daughter and go hiking in Peru which was so much fun and a blessing. The hike was a reflection of life. We all desire the mountain top experience and yearn for it when we are in the valley where life is hard. We had an expedition company that we used for our hike on the Inca Trail. We started off in the valley in the rainforest and started climbing. Most of our hike in the morning was hot and exposed to the sun. We could see the Inca terraces of Winaywayna far off in the distance. It seemed like we really weren’t getting closer because it was so far away. We made it to the terraces and realized

that we still had to climb what seemed to be many hundreds of stairs built by the Incas to get to the top and continue on the trail. As the day progressed, we kept climbing and knew Machu Picchu was so close but on the other side of the mountain. We were amazed when we finally passed through the “Sun Gate” and could see Machu Picchu off in the distance. Everyone in our group stopped to take lots of pictures, yet we still had not finished the hike. My feet were tired, and knees strained but it felt so good sitting on the trail overlooking this famous site.

It can be easy to thank God during the mountain top experiences in our lives. Sometimes we can forget to thank God when we are in the valley or in the trenches of life. We all go through seasons of loss, illnesses, and brokenness and they are hard.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Psalm 95 1:1-2 “Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.”

We have a lot to be thankful for. We have strong families, caring people, jobs, food, housing. Harvest season is underway, and we are back into routines in life. Despite any distractions we might have, we serve a Saviour who came to earth for His rebellious people. God is worthy of all our praise and thanksgiving for what He has done in our lives. It is my hope that as we get closer and closer to Thanksgiving that we can take time and reflect on God’s mercy and goodness whether we are in the valley or on top of the mountain.

From the Board - Mrs. Carien Dominicus

How has our first month of school flown by so fast already? We are thankful for a beautiful fall and that staff and students are settling into the routines of another school year.

We would like to extend a huge thank-you to Mr. Daryl Klopstra and all the dads that came out on the first day of school 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 great blessing!

4 new families have joined us in “educating our children together with home and church to know the Lordship of Christ” this year. We are thankful and blessed to have these families join our school community. If you see someone at school that you do not recognize, please introduce yourself and help them feel welcome.

We have also been blessed with a number of new staff members. We’re excited to have Mrs. Rebekah TenHove back in kindergarten. Mrs. McKayla Hulsman and Mrs. Janelle Winkelaar are helping out in various classrooms as Educational Assistants. We cannot miss welcoming Mrs. Roeline Wassink as the school’s new business administrator as she’s already been very busy behind the scenes. Most recently, Mrs. Andrea Thalen has been hired to teach grade 8 and 5 math which we are very thankful for.

Lord willing, we be gathering as a school community on Thursday October 10 at 6:30pm for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. This is always a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, a delicious

meal and raising funds for our school. The proceeds will be going to the long-term sustainability fund this year. 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 21 - November 15 with a goal of raising \$86,000. 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 Monday, November 18, 2024, 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 Roeline Wassink: business@ponokachristianschool.com.

Our next Board Meeting will take place Wednesday October 2. Please let us know if you have any comments or concerns.

On behalf of the PCS Board,
Carien Dominicus

“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 4:11-1

From the Board – PCCE School Review Results

This spring, the board requested the PCCE (Prairie Center for Christian Education) to conduct a School Review. We would like to thank all students, staff and parents for your willing participation in this review by completing the survey and in-person interview for some. The School Review Team listed a number of commendations that highlight the positive aspects of PCS that deserve honoring and celebration while also outlining recommendations for growth and/or improvement.

Parents, staff and students all expressed a deep appreciation of the Christian education offered at PCS as well as the high academic achievements that students attain in a supportive learning environment. This is due to the high-quality staff who are understanding, caring, knowledgeable, dedicated and enthusiastic. Another commendation is the strong sense of community within the school; with students, parents and staff valuing the supportive relationships and collaboration among members of the school community in various ways such as committee work, fundraising, driving and volunteering at school. Furthermore, sports programs and facilities are rated high and are well regarded and appreciated.

The School Review Team also noted recommendations that our school can use for growth and improvement. Student behaviour in Junior High in regard to discipline and respect is cause for concern. Many parents and staff express a desire for the school population to grow but barriers such as the school's profile and reputation in the community as well as financial accessibility

may hinder this. Lastly, parents and students desire more extracurricular activities and the School Review Team encourages the board to create a 3-5 year strategic plan.

The Board is thankful for this thorough review and will work on the recommendations going forward.

Sports News – Mr. Josh Van Doesburg

Ponoka Christian Athletics are up and running. We are in the middle of cross-country season and at the beginning of volleyball season.

We have a cross-country race that was held today where 35 students participated. As well, we have 5 volleyball teams this year. Thank you to Martie Greyling, Val Ingwersen, and Fenanda De Vries for volunteering to coach athletics this fall. As well, thank you to the parents who come to the events to cheer on the athletes.

Please keep an eye on the school calendar for the schedule of games and practices.

From Development

The Development Committee is planning to run the following Fundraisers this year:

- Gift Card Fundraiser (All year long fundraiser)
- Boston Pizza Receipt Fundraiser (All year long fundraiser)
- Thanksgiving Dinner (Oct 10)
- Fall Drive (Oct – Nov)
- Makkinga Market (Nov)
- Auction (Apr)

Gift Card Fundraiser – Please contact the office if you have any questions about this fundraiser.


Preordered Monthly Grocery Gift Cards: Order grocery gift cards to use at local stores for your everyday purchases. Fill out the attached form and send back to the school by Oct 3. No need to order again for the year. Cards will be available for pickup or sent home on or around the 15th of the month.

Gift Cards - You may also submit an order each month for other gift cards to be used at a variety of stores and restaurants. These must be submitted back to the school before the end of the month along with payment. That order form is also attached and available on the website as well. Cards will be available for pickup or sent home on or around the 15th of the month.

Boston Pizza Operation Education Fundraiser - 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. The school can then receive 5% of the total (before tax) of all receipts submitted!

Community News and Events

The Ponoka Curling Centre invites kids to join their Junior Curling program! Curling is a fun and exciting way for kids to stay active and learn new skills! The program is for ages 8-15 and will run on Thursdays starting at 4:30 pm, starting Nov. 7. For more information or to register contact Ron MacMillan by email to macmilla@telusplanet.net

The poster features a rustic wooden background with various autumn-themed items like pumpkins, corn, and pinecones. The text is centered and framed by a thin white border.

Ponoka Christian School

Thanksgiving Dinner

**THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 10
AT 6:30 PM**

Please join us for a time of community and fellowship in thankfulness to God for his bountiful blessings!

**RSVP
DEADLINE IS
OCTOBER 2**

Visit www.ponokachristianschool.com to reserve your seats.

Admission is free.
There will be a freewill offering to cover the meal cost as well as to raise funds for the PCS long-term sustainability fund.