



The PCS board and staff wish you a restful and relaxing summer break. Plans are underway for the 2026-27 school year. Here are a few items that you should be aware of:

1. **August 27, 10am – 12pm:** Meet the Teacher (Preschool/Kindergarten students included)
2. **August 31:** First Day of School - Gr. 1- 9
 - a. 8:15 – 9:15am – Pancake Breakfast for students & parents in the gym. (Students do not need to meet in their classrooms first).
 - b. 9:15am – Opening Assembly. Parents are welcome to attend.
3. **September 1:** First Day of School Kindergarten (All day) & Preschool (12:15-3:20)
4. **Supply Lists:** Students in all grades will be asked to provide their own school supplies based on the attached list(s). Parents have the option to purchase premade supply kits from schoolstart.ca or to purchase elsewhere. The school receives \$5 back in rebates for every kit ordered through the School Start program.
5. **Nut Free School** – Just a reminder PCS is a nut free school. Please be aware of this when making lunches and ensure that any food brought to school does not contain any type of nuts or nut butters.

Important Dates

Aug 24 – 26	Volleyball Camp
Aug 27	Meet the Teacher
Aug 31	First Day of School (1-9)
Sept 1	First Day of School (Kindergarten & Preschool)
Sept 7	No School – Labour Day

From the Principal - Mr. Bob Morris

The 2025-2026 school year is completed at Ponoka Christian School. I always tell staff that the time seems to fly by once we have our school fundraising auction in April. It has been a good year and we are pleased with the efforts made to keep finding ways to improve.

We have a few PCS families that have their youngest children graduating grade nine and moving on to high school next year. Richard and Brenda Hovius, Mark and Michelle Stolk, Lenni Goedhart and Gerry Taekema (Mrs. G is still sticking around to teach), and Christina and Jordan Vreugdenhil. These families have served and supported Christian education within our school and will be missed (and hopefully not be strangers). Thank you for all that you have done and we wish you God's blessing as your youngest attends high school.

Thanks again to our many volunteers who help out in so many ways. We have those that like organizing, some like to cook, some share talents, drive, read, help in classrooms, coach, serve

on committees and serve on our school board. It takes many to provide the education that our students receive.

As another school year comes to a close, we have the opportunity to pause and reflect on God's faithfulness. This year has included moments of success and celebration, as well as challenges and growth. Through every lesson learned, friendship formed, and obstacle overcome, God has been present.

David writes in Psalm 103, "Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits"

As we look back, we are reminded not to overlook the many ways God has blessed us. He has provided teachers who guide us, families and churches who support us, friends who encourage us and opportunities to learn and grow. Even in difficult moments, God has been shaping our character and teaching us to trust Him more deeply.

The end of the school year is also a beginning. Summer holidays bring new experiences, opportunities for rest and play, and time to enjoy God's beautiful creation. While we may not know what lies ahead, we can move forward with confidence because God does. As Psalm 121 reminds us, "My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

May we finish this year with thankful hearts, celebrate what God has done, and look forward to the future with faith. Let us continue to seek Him, trust Him, and share his love wherever we go.

Note on the Importance of Independent Education: As we leave for the summer break, some of you might have the opportunity to talk with others about independent education and Ponoka Christian School. There was a public-school teacher strike this year and choice in education was heavily attacked by the Alberta Teacher's Association. The Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta (AISCA) recently provided the following talking points to share with others. Please keep in mind that AISCA serves a wide range of independent schools and their talking points reflect that perspective.

1. Parents Have a Fundamental Right to Choose Education

Every family knows their child differently, and no single educational environment is the right fit for every student. Alberta has a long-standing tradition of supporting educational choice because families have diverse learning needs, values, cultural backgrounds, and educational priorities. Independent schools allow parents to choose an environment that aligns with their child's academic, social, emotional, or faith-based needs. This is not about replacing public education — it is about ensuring Alberta families have meaningful options within a diverse education system.

2. Independent Schools Relieve Pressure on the Public System

Independent schools play an important role in helping Alberta manage rapid enrolment growth and increasing pressure on public education infrastructure. Tens of thousands of Alberta students are educated in independent schools, which reduces demand on publicly operated schools, transportation systems, classrooms, and staffing resources. If these students were suddenly absorbed into the public system, Alberta would require significantly more schools, teachers, and operational funding. Independent schools therefore, help the broader education system remain sustainable and responsive during periods of growth.

3. Independent Schools Save Taxpayers Money

Funded independent schools receive substantially less operational funding per student than public schools, while families often continue contributing through tuition and fundraising. This means Alberta is able to educate students at a lower direct cost to government while still ensuring those students receive provincially recognized education delivered by certified teachers. Independent schools represent a cost-effective partnership model in which communities contribute additional private resources while helping government expand educational capacity efficiently.

4. Independent Schools Serve Specialized and Vulnerable Students

Many Alberta independent schools exist specifically to support students whose needs may not be fully met in traditional educational settings. This includes students with autism, learning disabilities, behavioural challenges, mental health needs, or other specialized learning profiles. Some schools offer highly individualized environments, therapeutic supports, specialized interventions, or culturally responsive programming that families actively seek after struggling elsewhere. The independent school sector is far more diverse than many people realize and includes schools dedicated to supporting vulnerable and high-needs learners.

5. Alberta's Independent Schools Are Highly Regulated and Accountable

Funded independent schools in Alberta operate under significant provincial oversight and accountability requirements. They must follow Alberta curriculum standards, employ provincially certificated teachers, undergo inspections, and meet financial and operational reporting obligations. Most funded independent schools are also non-profit organizations focused on educational outcomes rather than commercial interests. Alberta's independent schools are therefore not unregulated private institutions operating outside the education system; they are accountable educational partners within Alberta's broader publicly funded framework.

6. Funding Follows Students, Not Institutions

Education funding exists to support Alberta students in receiving an education that

meets provincial standards, regardless of the educational setting their family chooses. When parents select an independent school, the responsibility for educating that student shifts to that school, and partial funding reflects that educational service being provided. The conversation is not about taking money away from one system and giving it to another; it is about supporting students wherever they are being educated within Alberta's regulated education framework.

7. Independent Schools Encourage Innovation and Diversity

Independent schools contribute to Alberta's educational landscape by offering diverse educational models, specialized programming, and innovative approaches to teaching and learning. They provide environments that may focus on faith formation, language preservation, classical education, arts integration, experiential learning, or specialized instructional methods. This diversity strengthens Alberta's education system by recognizing that students learn differently and families value different educational experiences. A healthy education ecosystem benefits from having multiple approaches working alongside one another.

8. Independent School Families Are Not Exclusively Wealthy

A common misconception is that independent schools only serve affluent families, but the reality is far more diverse. Many families make significant financial sacrifices because they believe a particular educational environment is the best fit for their child's needs. Independent schools serve families from many socioeconomic, cultural, and newcomer communities across Alberta. For many parents, the decision is not about status or privilege — it is about finding a safe, supportive, and effective learning environment where their child can succeed.

From the Board - Mrs. Carien Dominicus

As we reflect on this past year, we, as a Board, would like to thank all of our staff, students, parents, society members and supporters for a smooth and successful year! Without your support, this past year could not have been the success that it was, and we are thankful to God that He has blessed our school with such a supportive and generous community. We also give thanks to God for His guiding and protective hand over this past school year.

Society Meeting: We would also like to thank all those who attended our Spring Society Meeting on May 28th. Some highlights from this meeting were:

- We welcomed Katie & Jerel Peters, Jessie & Allan Vandenbroek, Jaypee & Aizel Gamboa, Gina & Brendan Hilsabeck, Anne & Tyler Kenyon, Zac & Jessica Los, and Joe & Amanda Butcher as new society members.
- Ben Morskate and Simon Faber were elected to each serve a 3-year term on the Board. We would like to welcome Ben and Simon to the Board and pray that they may be

granted all that they need to fulfill their tasks to God's glory and be a blessing to our school. We also thank Ben Pieper and Darren Overeem for allowing their name to stand; it is such a blessing to have Society members willing to serve in this way!

- We would like to thank the Society for their approval of 2 bylaw changes; updating our Statement of Faith and changing the society meetings from twice a year to once a year.
- Budget 2026/2027 was approved.
- Congratulations were given to some staff members for 5 years of service at Ponoka Christian School. Congratulations again to Rebekah TenHove and Karri Folkerts! We are grateful to God for each of you and the gifts that He has blessed you with.

Staffing Updates: As we close this school year, we must say farewell to a few of our staff members. Brianna Hulsman will be going on maternity leave and expects to welcome her first baby very soon! Zachary McFarlane will be teaching in Lacombe next school year and Kasey Talsma will be attending YWAM in New Zealand in the winter! We are incredibly grateful for all they have done at PCS, and although they will all be missed, we pray that they are each blessed in their future endeavors either with family or with work.

We would also like to officially welcome 2 new teachers to our school! Jon Bell (Grades 5/6), Sydnie de Gier (Grade 2), and welcome to Jennifer Wikkerink as an EA. We welcome back Julie de Gier who will start the year in the grade 2 classroom until Sydnie is done her practicum in December. Please give them a warm welcome and we pray that they also may be given all they need in their positions. It's such a blessing to have found our staffing for the coming school year!

Grad: We would also like to say farewell to each of our Grade 9 students. A huge congratulations to each one of you on graduating from PCS and we pray that as you move on to High School, the Lord would be with each of you and that you all may continue to grow in your faith and knowledge of our Saviour and be witnesses of Him in this world and bring Him glory in all that you do.

Board: Our final Board meeting of this school year was held on June 3rd, where Board positions were chosen as follows:

Chair: Ben Morskate

Secretary: Carien Dominicus,

Finance: Simon Faber

Education: Emily Sterk

Facilities: Brian Wassink

Transportation: Gert Van Der Vegte

Development – Stephanie Thalen

We want to send a big Thank You to our outgoing board members, Greg Thalen and Aaron Horne for your commitment to our school and community. Your work was valuable, and we appreciate your dedication of time and energy. Our next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday September 2, 2026.

We pray that you all have a blessed summer break, enjoying time with family and friends; and as always if you have any questions or concerns, please contact a member of the Board!

On Behalf of the PCS Board,
Carien Dominicus

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.” Proverbs 16:3

2026-27 School Year Staff Assignments

While the staffing assignments listed below reflect our current planning for the 2026-27 school year, please be aware they may be adjusted based on staffing or scheduling needs.

Preschool – Ms. Karri Folkerts

Kindergarten – Mrs. Rebekah TenHove

Grade 1 – Miss Lydia Butcher

Grade 2 – Mrs. Julie de Gier (Sept-Dec)/Miss Sydney de Gier (Jan-June)

Grade 3/4 – Mrs. Sadie Beaunoyer

Grade 5/6 – Mr. Jonathan Bell

Grade 7 – Mrs. Vicky Jang

Grade 8 – Mr. Joshua Van Doesburg

Grade 9 – Mrs. Lenni Goedhart

Gr 6/8 Math – Mrs. Andrea Thalen

Music – Mrs. Val Teeling

Educational Assistants: Mrs. Henriette de Wolde, Mrs. Grace Hovius, Miss Jennifer Wikkerink

Options Coordinator: Miss Jennifer Wikkerink

Library – Mrs. Dalia Slaa

Office Support – Mrs. Elaine Bajema

Office Administrator/Business Administrator – Mrs. Candace Slomp

Housing Request: PCS has hired Jenn Wikkerink as our new Educational Assistant and Options Coordinator for next year. She is moving to Alberta from BC and is hoping to find a one-bedroom apartment. If anyone has any leads on housing, please let Miss Wikkerink know at (250)-253-8874 or jenn.wikkerink@hotmail.ca

Sports News - Mr. Josh Van Doesburg

The school year wrapped up with the Gr 4-9 soccer tournament with College Heights in Lacombe on June 5. It was a fun day for players, coaches and spectators; such a great way to end the PCS athletic year!

A big thank you goes out to all the parents, teachers and volunteers who helped make this years PCS' athletics program a success once again! We were blessed to be able to run 5 volleyball, 3 basketball teams, a hockey team and 5 soccer teams as well as a badminton, cross country and track team. Each athlete was given the opportunity to grow and develop their physical talents and abilities while also honoring God.

Volleyball Camp @ Ponoka Christian School

Cost: **Free**

Time: **August 24-26 (Mon - Wed)**

Grades 5-7: **4 - 5:30pm**

Grade 8/9: **5:30 - 7pm**

Junior High Golf Tournament

There is a golf tournament usually scheduled in the fall. Any interested students who will be in grade 7-9 for the 2026-27 school year need to hit the driving range and play a little this summer. Please submit three scorecards that are signed by the golf course when we return to school in the fall and Mr. Morris will be happy to arrange a team if there is enough interest from students who want to take a day off and have fun at the Wolf Creek Championship.

Now Accepting Registrations - Ponoka Christian School is still accepting **Registrations** for the 2026-27 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.

School Supplies – Ponoka Christian School is excited to let you know that it has teamed up with School Start to provide parents an easy way to order and purchase their school supplies for next school year.

Here are some things you should know:

- Supplies can be ordered in preset kits per grade
- Kits can be delivered to the school or to your home
- Order online
- Brand name products that are guaranteed throughout the whole school year
- The school will receive \$5 back for every kit ordered

Teaching for Transformation – FLEP (Formational Learning Experience) from Mrs. B and the grade 3/4 classroom

Deep Hope:

My deep hope is that we would discover that we are made to worship and be his imitators to the world.

Long Term Learning:

I can build a relationship with God by worshiping him through singing and reflecting on the Bible.

FLEP Story: Throughout the year our class started Worship Wednesdays, where we gathered as a class to sing worship songs and reflect on a devotional. Towards the end of the year we invited the Grade 1 and 2 class to join us. This allowed an opportunity for Grade 3/4 students to worship God wholeheartedly by gathering together and leading by example.

Student Reflection:

“ I like it when Miss. Talsma takes her guitar to play songs.”

Teacher Reflection:

My prayer is that they carry this into their personal lives as they continue to grow in faith.



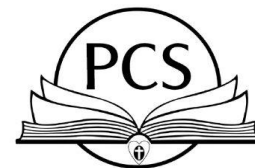
Grade 3/4 Class

Storyline:

Made to Worship

Throughlines:

God Worshipping
Community Building



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!

Red Deer Regional Airshow - We are excited to invite your students, staff, and families to attend the upcoming **Red Deer Regional Airshow** with an exclusive **15% off General Admission Tickets** for your school community.

As a valued partner in our region, Students along with their families and staff members can access this special offer by using the Promo code: **RDRAGroup** when purchasing tickets.

Discount: 15% off all General Admission Tickets

Promo Code: RDRAGroup

Location: Red Deer Regional Airport

Tickets: reddeerregionalairshow.com/

This year's event will feature an exciting lineup including the **Canadian Forces Snowbirds**, the **CF-18 Tactical Demonstration**, the **Canadian Armed Forces Parachute Team – SkyHawks**, **Historical Harvard**, **Morgan66 Racing**, and more. Beyond the aerial performances, the event will include **food trucks**, **aviation static displays**, a **community market**, **interactive STEM activities**, a **pilot autograph tent**, and the **Red Deer Auto Showcase presented by Adrenalin Auto Group**, bringing together the excitement of both aviation and automotive displays.



The graphic features a photograph of a large crowd at an airshow with two jets flying in the sky. The text on the graphic includes: "RED DEER REGIONAL AIRSHOW" with a logo, "RED DEER REGIONAL AIRSHOW! JULY 24 - 26, 2026", "SCHOOL GROUP TICKETS! SAVE 15% PROMOCODE: RDRAGroup", a "FEATURING" list: "Airshow | Canadian Forces Snowbirds | CF18 Tactical Demonstration | Car Show | Beer Gardens | Food Trucks | Static Displays | Aviation STEM Activities | Family Fun Zone | Historic Harvard Aircraft | & more!", a QR code, and "TICKETS ON SALE NOW! OR VISIT REDDEERREGIONALAIRSHOW.COM".


Girls IN AVIATION DAY ALBERTA



SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 19
2026

Scottsville Hangar
RED DEER REGIONAL AIRPORT
11:00AM - 4:00PM

**SCAN BELOW FOR EVENT DETAILS, SPONSORSHIP
& VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

-  [GirlsInAviation_yqf](#)
-  [GirlsInAviationAlberta](#)
-  [Girls In Aviation Day Alberta](#)



FREE EVENT

