



Important Notice – Early Dismissal Oct 20 due to Parent Teacher Interviews

On Monday Oct 20, 2025, students will be dismissed from classes at 12:30pm. 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 not have lunch break or recess. Interviews will start at 1pm. Please complete the form that was sent home with your child and return to the office by October 7.

Upcoming Important Dates

September 29	No School – Teacher Work Day
September 30	No School – Truth and Reconciliation Day
October 2	Deadline to RSVP for the Thanksgiving Dinner
October 2	All School Chapel – Community Building
October 3	Extra Kindergarten Day
October 9	All School Chapel – Thanksgiving
October 9	Thanksgiving Dinner
October 10	No School
October 13	No School - Thanksgiving Day
October 16	Hot Lunch - Ham + Cheese sub (for those who ordered)
October 20	Parent Teacher Interviews
October 20	Extra Kindergarten Day
October 23-24	No School – Teacher’s Convention
October 31	Picture Day
October 31	Extra Kindergarten Day

From the Principal – Mr. Bob Morris

1 Timothy 4:12 *“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”*

Sometimes we come across a person whose life is taken what seems to be too early. We can go back in history and identify people whose death made us wonder why and what could have been. On September 10, 2025, we learned of the horrific assassination of Charlie Kirk, 31 years old while hosting a question debate at a university in Utah.

Last year, during a grade two activity, the students were asked what they would like to be when they grow up. This is a common pondering and I remember when I was young and students would say police officer, baseball player, doctor, nurse. There were a few students last year that indicated that they wanted to be a social media influencer when they grew up. At first, I was

taken back on the answer wondering how an 8-year-old would even know what a social media influencer is.

Since Charlie Kirk's assassination, I became aware of his ability to be an influencer. He attended one semester of university and dropped out to pursue political activism. He created Turning Point USA to challenge college aged students to get involved with politics and would openly debate anyone. He was very passionate for his country, and he was passionate about his faith in God. He often said that it was his goal to "Make Heaven crowded." He stood boldly for truth even though culture pushed back. Charlie Kirk reflected Paul's charge to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12.

We are all called to be an influencer. Matthew 5:16 states, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Thanksgiving is a time to pause, reflect, and give God glory for His blessings. Gratitude is not simply about abundance on the table, but about living a life that points back to Christ. Paul's charge to Timothy reminds us that thanksgiving is not only spoken, it is shown in how we live every day.

Charlie Kirk, in much of his work with young people, often emphasizes courage, conviction, and standing boldly for truth even when culture pushes back. That spirit echoes Paul's encouragement to Timothy: do not be dismissed because of your youth but instead live with integrity that honors God. Thanksgiving, then, becomes more than a holiday; it becomes a lifestyle of courageously thanking God through our words, conduct, and faith.

When believers set an example in gratitude, by refusing to complain, living generously, loving sacrificially, they shine in a world that too often takes blessings for granted. True thanksgiving is countercultural. It's not rooted in entitlement but in humility before God, who provides every good thing.

This Thanksgiving, may we, whether young like Timothy or seasoned with years, be examples of faith and gratitude. May our thankfulness go beyond words at the dinner table, becoming a witness that inspires others to look to Christ, the giver of all good gifts.

BTW: If anyone is interested in a podcast from an eyewitness account from that day of the assassination, I recommend September 16 "I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist" by Dr. Frank Turek.

From the Board - Mrs. Carien Dominicus

What a blessing it has been to start our new school year off with beautiful summer weather! We are so thankful for the enthusiasm of our staff this month and that everyone is settling into the routines of another school year.

The facilities committee has been busy this past summer completing maintenance at the school. The gym floors have been refinished, outside stucco repaired, main areas painted, air ducts and Air Conditioning units cleaned and some other tasks to keep our facilities up to date.

We would like to extend a big thank-you to Mr. Van Doesburg and the dads that helped to prepare a great pancake breakfast for us on the first day of school. It was nice to see everyone again after the summer break, meet new families and fellowship together over breakfast and chapel that followed.

We're blessed to welcome 3 new families to our school that share our desire for "Educating our children together with home and church to know the Lordship of Christ". 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 Mr. McFarlane teach grades 5/6, Miss. Butcher teach grade 2 and Mrs. Waitr teach grade 1. We also welcome Ms. Talsma as our new EA in the grad 3/4 classroom. As well, thank you to all our returning staff who continue to do an outstanding job educating our students.

Lord willing, we will be gathering as a school community on **Thursday October 9th 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. 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 27th through November 14th with a goal of raising \$77,000 to cover debt principal and interest payments with the excess going to debt reduction. 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 **Thursday November 20, 2025, at 8:00pm**. More details will come closer to the date. A reminder to all parents and previous society members that if you have not paid your annual 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 Irene Fraser: business@ponokachristianschool.com.

Our next Board Meeting will take place Wednesday October 1st. 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 4:11-12

Sports News – Mr. Josh Van Doesburg

A big thank you to all our Grade 6-9 students who participated in the recent cross-country run! It was a challenging course, but our runners showed determination, effort, and school spirit as they pushed through and gave their best. We are proud of each one of you!

Volleyball season is also well underway, and our teams are working hard in practices and games. We look forward to cheering them on as they continue to grow in skill, teamwork, and perseverance throughout the season.

Please keep an eye on the school calendar and the WhatsApp groups for any updates to the schedule.

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 9)
- Fall Drive (Oct 27 – Nov 14)
- Makkinga Market (Nov)
- Bobtail (spring)
- 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!

Volunteer Opportunity Available – The Finance committee is looking for someone to serve a 3-year term. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Greg Thalen: 403-783-9870



Ponoka Christian School Thanksgiving Dinner

Join us for an evening of community, fellowship, and gratitude to God
for His abundant blessings.

Thursday, October 9, 2025
Doors open at 6:30, Program 6:45.

There will be a freewill offering to cover the
cost of the meal and raise funds for PCS.

Please RSVP by October 2nd.

Visit ponokachristianschool.com to reserve your seats.