



Upcoming Important Dates

November 29	Report Cards
December 5	Makkinga Market Order Pickup
December 6	Extra Kindergarten Day
December 16	Gr 3/4 Christmas Craft afternoon @ Seasons
December 17	All school Christmas Lunch
December 18	Gr 1/2 Christmas Craft Afternoon
December 19	Christmas Chapel
December 19	Christmas Concert @ Sonrise Christian Reformed Church
December 20	No School - Christmas Break starts
January 6	School Resumes

From the Principal – Mr. Bob Morris

The waiting is the hardest part...

I love lost kinds of live music. I've always appreciated seeing and hearing musical artists perform their work or the work of others. Third Day announced their farewell tour, and I knew that I had to see their final performance. Their final concert was at Red Rocks, not far from Denver. I ordered close seats, and we got to participate in a sound check and ask bands questions. One of the musicians was Matt Mayer and someone asked him who his favourite secular musician was, and he replied that he didn't listen to a lot of secular music but did like Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers. At that moment, I instantly liked Matt Mayer because of his response.

One of Tom Petty's hits had the line: "The waiting is the hardest part." We are entering the season of Advent, and it is a sacred season of waiting and anticipation which leads up to Christmas. I have devotions every morning with the grade five and six class. I have decided to read chapters from the Gospel instead of a devotional. We just started Luke, where we read about when the angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah in the temple and announced that Zechariah's prayers were heard, and his wife will bear a son. The story goes on to tell that Elizabeth goes into seclusion during her pregnancy for five months. The angel Gabriel appears later to Mary and announces that she will give birth to the Son of God. Mary visits Elizabeth and stays with her for three months before returning home. Elizabeth gives birth to a son and names him John. We read in chapter two how Mary and Joseph had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be counted in the census. At this time, Mary is in her ninth month of pregnancy and Jesus is born. Luke chapters 1 and 2 describe many months of time, a lot of waiting...

From a worldly perspective, we can get caught up into the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. We try to pack in so much, whether it is Christmas parties, family gatherings, Christmas performances, etc. Kids get caught up in the excitement and have a hard time focussing at school due to the excitement.

The word Advent comes from Latin *adventus*, meaning “coming,” and reflects on the preparation of our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ and awaiting His promised return. Advent allows us to slow down, pause (or unplug) amidst the busyness of modern holiday preparations. Through prayer, scripture readings, acts of service, we are called to redirect our attention from material distractions to spiritual renewal. This season encourages us to emulate and model His example of showing love to others.

Advent shouldn't be a countdown to Christmas day but a time of transformation. It teaches us to embrace waiting, a reminder that God's promises are fulfilled in His perfect time. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, Advent calls us to reflect on the hope He brings and the light He offers in the midst of life's challenges. By preparing our hearts during Advent, we can experience Christmas with deeper joy, meaning, and renewed sense of awe for the gift of God's Son.

From the Board - Mrs. Carien Dominicus

A big thank-you to everyone who came out for the Society Meeting on November 18th. You all play such an important role in our children's and grandchildren's education. At this meeting we were blessed to be able to welcome two new families to the PCS Society, Rubin & Jennifer Fritz and James & Esther Folkerts.

The Fall Drive officially wrapped up on November 22nd. This year, as of the printing of this newsletter, a total of \$61,150.00 has been raised of the \$86,500.00 that was budgeted and approved by society! The Board would like to thank everyone who donated. The Fall Drive goal was set to the amount that we owe towards mortgage and interest payments. The board asks that if there are any questions about the Fall Drive and the shortfall, that they be made to the finance committee.

Our next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4. If you have any comments or concerns, please let us know.

On Behalf of the PCS Board,
Carien Dominicus

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Colossians 3:23-24

PCS Policies Update – Cell Phone Use and Inclement Weather

Our Education Committee and Board updated two policies.

The first policy deals with student cell phones at school. The province created a new language and required schools to create new cell phone policies. We previously thought our policy was adequate but have learned that students were using cell phones in bathrooms and locker rooms. We know that many of our students already have cell phones. We know that some have been discouraged from bringing them to school with the new policy. If cell phones are brought to school, we are asking that the cell phones be turned off and given to the classroom teacher

for locked storage until the student is leaving school. Students will be allowed to contact parents via the school phone and parents are welcome to call the school and leave a message with Mrs. Slomp.

The other policy deals with inclement weather. Our previous policy stated that we will follow Wolf Creek School Division's policy. Wolf Creek has recently updated their inclement weather policy:

- Colder than -40 C: Buses cancelled; schools are open
- Colder than -45 C: Buses cancelled; schools closed
- Road conditions - Heavy snowfall, blowing snow, freezing rain, heavy fog: busses cancelled, schools may be closed.

The PCS board has decided to continue to follow Wolf Creek School Division Policy. Please see the Wolf Creek S.D. website or Facebook page, or the PCS parent Facebook page if temps get low and you are unsure if school is open or not.

PCS Athletics

Congratulations to all of our student athletes who participated in a busy volleyball season. The season wrapped up with successes from both A teams with second place finishes for the boys and girls at their respective CWAJHAA finals tournaments. All athletes on the 5 teams had a great year developing their skills and we couldn't have had this fantastic season without the support of parents and families who spent many hours driving and cheering on our teams! A special thank you also goes out to our coaches, assistant coaches and staff reps who spent many hours at practices and games, working with our students.

B2 Boys: Val Ingwersen and Kyiera Ericson

B1 Boys: Fenanda De Vries

B Girls: Sadie Beaunoyer

A Boys: Josh Van Doesburb and Nico Van Doesburg

A Girls: Josh Van Doesburg, Chelsea Vreugdenhil, and Kasey Bajema

Basketball season will begin soon and any students in grades 6-9 interested in playing can sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board by the grade 7 classroom. Basketball games will not begin until the new year, which will allow a break for all those involved after a busy volleyball season. Please discuss with your child(ren) whether they would like to play.

We are also in search of a basketball coach this year. If anyone is interested or know someone that is interested in coaching junior high boys basketball, please contact Mr. Van Doesburg.

From Development

The Development Committee looks forward to hosting the annual All School Christmas Lunch on December 17. Students and staff will enjoy a pizza lunch followed by cookie decorating with the cookies baked right here at school by the Foods options class!

Makkinga Market Fundraiser – We want to send a big thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Makkinga Market Fundraiser. The fundraiser was a huge success and raised a total of \$7,812.55 for the Sustainability Fund! A heartfelt thanks goes out to Makkinga Market for their support and partnership. A special congratulations goes to the Elgersman family for being the champion with the most product sold and this year's recipient of the "Salesmanship" trophy. It was a very close finish with recognition going out to the Wassink family, the runner ups.

**Orders will be available for pickup on December 5th, pickup time will be announced closer to the date.

Gift Card Fundraiser – Last chance to order gift cards before Christmas. Some of the retailers have increased the rebates earned for the Christmas season, which means more money back to the school when those cards are purchased. Also, some of the retailers have a bonus card or coupon for the buyer when a card is purchased (see order form for details). Order forms must be submitted back to the school by **Dec 4**. 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!