



## **Upcoming Important Dates**

<b>December 20</b>	<b>Christmas Break starts</b>
<b>January 5</b>	School Resumes
<b>January 15</b>	All School Chapel – Order Discovering
<b>January 15</b>	Hot Lunch – Chicken burger meal
<b>January 16</b>	Extra Kindergarten Day
<b>January 28</b>	Gr 9 Nakiska ski trip
<b>January 29</b>	Gr 1 Bird House Building Night
<b>January 30</b>	No School – Teacher Work Day

## **From the Principal – Mr. Bob Morris**

On December 9, 1965, something historical and profound took place. That evening, more than 15 million homes in the United States watched a Christmas special that no one, including the producers could have imagined the long-lasting impact. The Coca Cola Company was desiring to create a Christmas special that they could use to advertise their brand. At the time, “Peanuts” was a famous cartoon strip that was very popular in newspapers. Charles M. Schultz (the Peanuts creator) agreed to the project and felt it was very important to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. At the time, fewer than 10% of Christmas themed shows contained any direct references to faith or religion.

The producers and Schultz hired children, many of whom were between 6-8 years old to be the voice actors. The soundtrack was created by the famous jazz pianist Vince Guaraldi, also a big risk for a TV special. The cartoon didn’t feature a “laugh track” which helps the audience know where the funny scenes are supposed to be. The executives at CBS didn’t like the special when they saw a screening three weeks earlier. They felt it was too slow and too serious for viewers. The plot of the story weaves in and out with the character Charlie Brown trying to figure out how to find the meaning of Christmas. Towards the end of the show, Charlie Brown’s friend Linus walks on stage and recites the shepherds encounter with angels announcing the birth of Jesus from Luke 2:8-14 KJV

**8** And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

**9** And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

**10** And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

**11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

**12** And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

**13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

**14** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

A Charlie Brown Christmas went on to win Grammy Awards and other notable awards. The producers thought it would have been shown only once and has been one of the all time most popular Christmas shows due to how the message of God's word was weaved into the story. It is my hope that our school families have a wonderful Christmas season surrounded by friends and family and focusing on the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

### **Independent School Funding Awareness**

The principals from PCS, LCS, RCS, and CACHS met last Thursday afternoon with Kayla deRegt, Executive Director, Students First Alberta. Her work and message is very important and relevant to the current landscape affecting independent education. Please carefully read her message and consider signing up at [studentsfirstalberta.ca](http://studentsfirstalberta.ca) and consider sharing with others.

#### **Important Message from Kayla deRegt:**

There is currently an active petition aimed at defunding independent schools in Alberta. Current legislation prohibits the filing of any petition that would conflict with an ongoing petition. That is where Students First steps in.

Students First is a community led initiative whose aim is to protect parental rights and keep educational choice alive in Alberta. As a mom of 4 kids in independent schools, I see and know firsthand the immense value of educational choice that aligns with my family's Christian beliefs. It's a privilege that I would like to see my future grandkids have access to. That is why it is so important to take action now!

Signing up at [StudentsFirstAlberta.ca](http://StudentsFirstAlberta.ca) will ensure that you stay connected and are ready to vote "no" to the petition if it reaches a referendum vote and protect funding for independent schools. Please share this website within your circles of influence so we can raise as much support as possible to keep independent schools affordable and accessible in Alberta.

There are a lot of misconceptions around independent schools. You can also follow and share "Albertans for Independent Education" on Facebook as we seek to bring clarity around many common misconceptions being pushed out in mainstream media.

Thank you for being such an important part of the educational landscape in Alberta. We truly appreciate your support.

## **From the Board - Mrs. Carien Dominicus**

Here we are at the end of 2025 already! We can look back on this past year and see the Lord's guiding hand and many blessings to our school and school community.

A huge thank-you goes out to Mrs. Teeling and all the students for all the work they put into this year's Christmas program we got to enjoy last week! From learning new songs, memorizing text and helping behind the scenes, everyone did a great job! It was a wonderful evening to enjoy a time together with our school family and to celebrate the birth of our Savior!

We would also like to thank the many parents who came in for the various craft days this year, as well as the Development Committee for putting on the annual All-School Christmas Lunch on Thursday. The last couple weeks of school before Christmas are always such a fun and busy time and we are so blessed by the many volunteers it takes to make these events happen.

We'd like to give a big thank you to Mrs. Yvonne Reed for her many years of service in our school as Librarian. We pray that she will enjoy her well-deserved retirement and a slower pace of life.

At the December board meeting, we reviewed several policies, finances, transportation, fundraisers and the fall society meeting. Our first Board meeting of the new year is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, 2026. As always, please let us know if you have any comments or concerns.

On behalf of the Board, may you all have a joyous Christmas celebrating the birth of our Savior and a very blessed 2026!

Carien Dominicus  
PCS Board Secretary

*"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14*

## **PCS Athletics**

Basketball season has just gotten underway. This year at PCS we have 3 teams, a girls A team, a boys A team and a co-ed C team. Games will start right away the first week back, check the calendar as games have been added. Please check back often as dates are subject to change. Coaches will try their best to keep parents informed of changes through the team WhatsApp groups. Please also use the team chat to arrange rides for games. (Reminder: Parents driving students will need to fill out the Volunteer Driver Form and provide a copy of their driver's license and valid insurance). We are looking forward to a great season of basketball!

Any questions, please reach out to Mr. Van Doesburg.

## **From Development**

Students and staff enjoyed a pizza lunch followed by cookie decorating today! Students were organized into their GIFT groups which have students from all grades together. It was a blessing

to see the students all working together with the older helping and assisting the younger ones, either in the food line or with cookie decorating.

**Gift Card Fundraiser** – Order forms must be submitted back to the school by **Jan 7**. Cards will be available for pickup or sent home on or around the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Boston Pizza Operation Education Fundraiser** – Thank you so much for all those who have submitted receipts already this year! Please submit any receipts from Sept – Dec to the office by the end of January.

### **From Student Council**

Thank you for all your donations for the World Renew Fundraiser! With your generous donations we raised \$1469.30! With that money we were able to purchase 16 rabbits, 21 chickens, 6 goats, 10 ducks, 50 bars of soap, goats as well as the goats and quakers farm pack, which contains 5 ducks and 2 goats and the farm team pack, which contains a pig, piglet, goat and a rabbit!

December 18, 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Influenza season is here. Our goal is to protect the health of children, reduce the spread of illness and ensure you and your children are safe and healthy throughout the winter season.

In recent weeks, we have seen a significant increase in respiratory viruses and illness in our kindergartens and schools. As we spend more time indoors over the winter months, these viruses spread more easily, which may create challenges for everyone to enjoy time together. Illness can send people to hospital, disrupt learning, as well as winter activities like sports and holiday gatherings.

People of all ages can get sick with influenza, but school-aged children experience some of the highest rates of the illness. Children can get severely sick with influenza and spread it to others, even when their own symptoms are mild. This season, Alberta is already seeing an increase in respiratory virus activity and influenza-related hospitalizations, including among children and youth under 19.

In Alberta, children six months and older are encouraged to get the annual influenza vaccine. The influenza vaccine is available to you and your child free-of-charge and can protect elderly grandparents, babies under six months of age, or other family members against the serious consequences of influenza, and will help to keep children, healthy and in school.

We also want to emphasize the importance of keeping children up to date with routine immunizations. With measles circulating both internationally and here in Alberta, it is especially important that your child has received both recommended doses of the measles vaccine. If your child is missing a dose, measles vaccine is available through public health centres.

Influenza and routine childhood vaccines are widely available to all Albertans. If you have questions about how best to protect your family, please reach out to Health Link at 811 or speak with a trusted primary care provider. Appointments for children under five years of age and their families are available at Primary Care Alberta clinics. Influenza only appointments can be booked online (<https://myahsconnect.albertahealthservices.ca/MyChartPRD/openscheduling?specialty=257&amp;mp;hidespecialtysection=1>) or by calling 811. Albertans five years of age and older can receive their influenza vaccine at a participating pharmacy, many of which accept walk-in appointments. Some physician offices also offer influenza vaccines; please contact your physician's office for details.

In addition to getting the vaccine, we encourage you and your children to take the following everyday actions to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses: stay home when feeling sick; avoid

close contact with people who are sick when possible; wash hands frequently with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds; avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands; when someone in the home is sick, clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces and items in the home. Individuals who are ill should remain home until they are feeling better and able to participate in normal activities.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to reduce the impact of influenza in our communities. Your work helps keep families healthy and strengthens the well-being of communities across Alberta.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'V. Suttorp', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Dr. Vivien Suttorp  
Chief Medical Officer of Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Sookram', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Dr. Sunil Sookram  
Outgoing Interim Chief Medical Officer of Health