



PONOKA
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL



Bits & Bites

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Bits & Bites! We hope you enjoy the new look!

Principal's Message

BOB MORRIS

Thanksgiving is often a time when we stop and reflect on the blessings in our lives. In school we give thanks for the great start to the school year. Our students seem excited to learn and excited to play volleyball. We give thanks for family, friends, harvest, our homes, our Christian school, our church, and the opportunities God has given us. Biblical thanksgiving goes much deeper than being grateful for the things we have. In 1 Chronicles 16:7-36, David teaches us that true thanksgiving begins with remembering who God is, what He has done, and how faithfully He keeps His promises.

The setting of this passage is significant. The Ark of the Covenant had been brought to Jerusalem, representing God's presence and covenant relationship with Israel. David responded by appointing people to praise God and giving them a song of thanksgiving. He begins, "Give praise to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done." (verse 8)

David connects thanksgiving with remembering. He says, "Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgements he pronounced" (verse 12). Israel had many reasons to remember. God has rescued His people from slavery in Egypt, parted the Red Sea, led them through the wilderness, provided for their needs, and brought them into the Promised Land. Over and over, God demonstrated that He could be trusted.

The same principle applies to us. We can easily focus on what is wrong, what we do not have, or what we wish were different. Thanksgiving redirects our attention toward God. Remembering His faithfulness in the past helps us trust Him in the present and future.

David also reminds us that God is our creator. He declares, "For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens" (verse 26). continued on the next page.

SEPT 29, 2026

Inside this week's issue:

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and more!



PCS Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday Oct. 8, 2026

Doors open at 6:30

Program begins at 6:45

Deadline to RSVP is Oct 1
Visit the website and click
the link at the top of the
page to RSVP.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONT'D

David concludes with the words that capture the heart of Thanksgiving: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever” (1 Chronicles 16:34).

Thanksgiving, then, is more than a holiday. It is a way of living. We remember God’s faithfulness, recognize His blessings, trust His promises, and celebrate His salvation. We give thanks not simply because life is good, but because God is good.

From the Board

What a blessing it has been to start our new school year with such beautiful summer weather! We are so thankful for the enthusiasm of our staff and for how everyone is settling into the routines of another school year. The Facilities Committee has been busy throughout the summer installing new doors, painting, refinishing the gym floor, and making sure the building is ready for another school year.

A big thank-you to the Development Committee and everyone who helped prepare a wonderful pancake breakfast on the first day of school. It was so nice to see everyone again after

the summer break, meet new families, and fellowship together over breakfast and chapel.

We are blessed to welcome four new families to our school who share our desire for educating our children “together with home and church to know the Lordship of Christ.” If you see someone at school whom you do not recognize, please introduce yourself and help them feel welcome.

We have also been blessed with several new staff members. We are excited to welcome Mr. Bell, teaching Grades 5/6; Mrs. de Gier, teaching Grade 2; and Ms. Wikkerink, our new EA and Options Coordinator. We also thank all our returning staff for their continued dedication and for the outstanding work they do educating our students.

Lord willing, we will gather as a school community on Thursday, October 8, at 6:30 p.m. 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. As a Board, we look forward to seeing you all there! continued on the next page.

2026-27 Board Members

Chair - Ben Morskate

Secretary - Carien Dominicus

Treasurer - Simon Faber

Education - Emily Sterk

Facilities - Brian Wassink

Transportation - Gert Van Der Vegte

Development - Stephanie Thalen

The Kindergarten class is having a great start to the school year!



FROM THE BOARD CONT'D

Information for the **Annual Fall Drive fundraiser** is also coming out shortly.

At the Spring 2026 Society Meeting, we asked for approval to make changes to two society bylaws. After encountering some issues with the process and learning how outdated our bylaws are, we have formed a committee to revoke and repeal our existing bylaws. They will be thoroughly reviewed and updated and presented at the next Society Meeting in May 2027. For this year, the Statement of Faith has returned to the previous version. We are also thankful that the proposed change to hold one annual Society Meeting was successfully approved, with the meeting taking place in the spring.

The board is also working with legal counsel to appeal the land-use bylaw amendment approved by the Town of Ponoka for the development of two large low-income housing units adjacent to our school. The Board has concerns regarding student safety, vandalism, and privacy. We will keep you updated and encourage society members to reach out to the Town Mayor and Council to share their concerns.

A reminder to all parents and previous society members: if you have not yet paid your annual membership dues of \$50 per couple, please do so soon. If you are unsure whether you have paid, please contact Candace Slomp at business@ponokachristianschool.com.

Our next Board Meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 30. 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



Athletics News

JOSH VAN DOESBURG

We are incredibly blessed to have five volleyball teams representing our school this year! A huge thank you goes out to the many coaches who have stepped up and volunteered their time, energy, and expertise to support our student-athletes. We are grateful for their willingness to invest in our students and provide them with opportunities to grow both on and off the court.

On September 22, our Grade 6–9 students travelled to Alix to compete in the Cross-Country Race. This event was also a great opportunity to connect with Alberta’s new Physical Education curriculum, which places an increased emphasis on running, outdoor activity, and developing lifelong habits of physical activity. Getting all of our Grade 6–9 students outside and participating in the race was a great way to put those outcomes into action.

All of our students did a fantastic job representing PCS, showing determination, perseverance, and great sportsmanship throughout the day. Their hard work paid off, as PCS brought home the cross-country banner! Congratulations to all of our runners on this exciting accomplishment!

Upcoming Events



Parent-Teacher Conferences, October 19, 2026

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled from 1:00 PM to 8:30 PM. This is an opportunity for parents to discuss their child's progress and address any concerns. Please complete the form and send back to the school office by Oct 8.



Swimming Lessons, Oct/Nov 2026

Swimming lessons for grades 1-6 will run Oct 28, 29 & Nov 2-5. The pool requires a form to be completed for each student attending lessons. Please complete the form and return to the office by Oct 8. (The school does not have a record of last lesson completed.)

Important Dates

- Sept. 30** - No school
- Oct 2** - Extra Kindergarten Day
- Oct 8** - Thanksgiving Dinner
- Oct 9** - No School
- Oct 12** - No School
- Oct 19** - Extra Kindergarten Day
- Oct 20** - Hot Lunch (Ham & Cheese)
- Oct 22-23** - No School
- Oct 28-29** - Swimming Lessons
- Oct 30** - Extra Kindergarten Day
- Oct 30** - Picture Day



From Development

STEPHANIE THALEN

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



- Gift Card fundraiser (runs Oct-May)
- Boston Pizza receipt fundraiser (runs all year)
- Thanksgiving Dinner (Oct 8)
- Fall Drive (Nov 9 - Nov 27)
- Makinga Market (Nov)
- Bobtail (spring)
- PCS Annual Auction (Apr 3)

Gift card fundraiser - There are 2 parts to this fundraiser. See below for details. Please contact the office if you have any questions about this fundraiser.

Pre-ordered monthly grocery gift cards: Order grocery gift cards to use at local stores for your everyday purchases. Fill out the attached form to order your monthly cards and send it back to the school by Oct 7. There is no need to order again for the year, they will be automatically ordered for you every month. Cards will be available for pick up 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. Order forms will be on the website as well as sent home monthly with the Bits & Bites. Forms and payment can be sent to the office by the 3rd of each month. 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 location 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!

PCS is Hiring!

ELEMENTARY TEACHER

Ponoka Christian School is looking for a grade three/four teacher from mid January to mid June and the possibility of September to mid January 2028 to cover a maternity leave.

Interested candidates need to submit a cover letter, resume, statement of faith, pastoral reference as well as two other references to office@ponokachristianschool.com. Attn: Robert Morris.

This position will remain open until a successful candidate is found.

