



Bits and Bites Newsletter

June 14, 2024

Ponoka Christian School

The PCS board and staff wishes you a restful and relaxing summer break. Plans are underway for the 2024-25 school year. Here are a few items that you should be aware of:

1. **August 29, 10am – 12pm:** Meet the Teacher
2. **September 3, 2024:** First Day of School - K- Gr. 9
 - a. 8:30 – 9:15am – Pancake Breakfast
 - b. 9:15am – Opening Assembly. Parents are welcome to attend.
 - c. 1-3pm – Preschool Open House: Come meet the teacher and check out the classroom. This is for preregistered students and anyone who maybe interested in finding out what preschool is all about!
3. **Supply List:** Please see the supply list attached to this newsletter.
4. **Milk Program:** Please note the following changes to the milk program:
 - a. **Milk Cards will be available to purchase in the following amounts:**
 - i. \$20 = 16 milk
 - ii. \$50 = 40 milk
 - iii. \$100 = 80 milk
 - iv. Individual purchase will be \$2 each.
5. **Nut Free School** – Due to an increased number of students in our school with nut allergies, PCS will now be a nut free school. Please be aware of this when making lunches and ensure that snacks do not contain nuts and refrain from sending peanut butter sandwiches.

From the Principal - Mr. Bob Morris

Happy Father's Day! Yes, this is an odd start for the final Bits and Bites of the 2023-2024 school year. Students get excited about various holidays and traditions during the school year. We are in session during Mother's Day and often students will make cards in class, but our school year is over by the time Father's Day is around.

I was thinking about the impact that fathers make in three different people I know. One was a high school classmate. She was a good friend in high school that was impacted by the loss of her dad when she was three years old. He died during the Vietnam War and her memories of her dad were based on pictures and stories. I attended a musical event recently. The event featured music that was performed by the son of one of the musicians. His dad was a famous musician and he spoke a lot during the performance about his dad, his dad's impact and how much he missed him. My most recent father impact was my personal experience by my father-in-law Kenneth Paddock who recently passed away. He always treated me well, accepting me into his family. He openly modeled his faith in God by praying for others and daily reading God's Word. I was blessed by him and will miss him.

We often look at Mother's Day as a day to bless moms. We give cards, gifts, try to find ways to do something for mom, maybe plan a special meal. I want to propose a different plan for Father's Day.

1 Kings 2:2-4: *"I am about to go the way of all the earth," he said. "So be strong, show yourself a man, and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you go, and that the Lord may keep his promise to me: 'If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'*

Matthew 3:16-17: *As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lightning on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, Whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

There should be a different perspective about Father's Day. Instead of looking at it like Mother's Day and hoping the kids mow the lawn on the weekend, wash the car, or cook steaks on the bbq for you, maybe shifting the perspective on you blessing your children. This can't be a one day a year event. David, while on his deathbed, blessed Solomon and gave him wise instruction. David didn't pass off his parental responsibilities to anyone else. He instructed Solomon to walk in the ways of the Lord. We could follow David's advice and encourage our children to walk in the ways of God. We can speak this to our children and also model that as well.

I often think about our Lord and Saviour. He gets baptized and his Father blesses Jesus with the affirming words: *"This is my Son, Whom I love; and with him I am well pleased."* There is something profound that our Saviour was publicly affirmed by God. We need to affirm and bless our children, modeled after the events in Matthew 3:16-17.

It's not really about what my daughters give me for Father's Day. It is about what I can give them, and I need to do this and model this to them more than one day a year. Have I been perfect? Far from it. Do I desire to want to bless them and see them grow in their faith - absolutely!

It is my prayer that you have a great summer holiday now that school is out. It is also my prayer that dad's shift their focus about Father's Day too.

From the Board - Mrs. Jessica Stolk

As we reflect on this past year, we, as a Board, would like to thank all our staff, students, parents, society members and supporters. 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.

We would also like to thank all those who attended our Spring Society Meeting on May 23rd. Some highlights from this meeting:

- We welcomed a couple of new Society Members: John & Inger Lindemulder and Matthew & Ivonne Bellerive. We give thanks for these new members and their desire to walk alongside us in our mission of "Educating our children together with home and church to know the Lordship of Christ." We pray that they may be a blessing to our school community as well as us to them.
- Emily Sterk and Carien Dominicus were elected to each serve a 3-year term on the Board. We would like to welcome Emily and Carien 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 want to thank those who allowed their name to stand...it is such a blessing to have Society members willing to serve in this way!
- We would like to thank Society for considering the options given regarding Transportation. With the results of the vote, it has been decided to remain with the current 2 bus system.
- Budget 2024/2025 was approved.
- Congratulations were given to some staff members for their years of service at Ponoka Christian School. Congratulations again to Henriette deWolde (15 years), Yvonne Reed (15 years), Elaine Bajema (10 years) and Irene Fraser (5 years). We are grateful to God for each one 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. Irene Fraser, Carmen Van Heyst, Maria Ellens, and Hailey Hinton are all moving on after this school year. 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.
- Although she has already been working alongside Irene Fraser, we would like to officially welcome Roeline Wassink as our new Business Administrator. We pray that you may be blessed in this position and that all goes well as transitions are made.

- We would also like to officially welcome Rebecca TenHove back as our Kindergarten teacher. We pray that you also may be given all you need in your position.
- As for hiring for the 2024/2025 school year, this has been a struggle. We hope to give you an update during the summer as to what will be happening with the remainder of Mrs. Nanninga's Grade 2 maternity leave position (Sept – Dec) and an update will also be given for the 2024-25 teaching assignments. As for the Grade 8 position it had been our hope to be able to separate the Grade 8/9 class next year. However, due to lack of candidates we are now making plans to keep Grade 8 and 9 together for another year. Please pray for our staff as they make schedules for next year in order to accommodate this.

School Review:

The Board would like to express our appreciation and thanks to all those who participated in the School Review that took place at the beginning of May. Whether it was completing the survey and/or coming in for an in-person interview, your time, efforts and opinions were very much appreciated. The Board did meet with Gayle Monsma (Prairie Centre for Christian Education) to go over the final results and we would like to highlight the following for Society:

- We can give thanks to the Lord, that the review was overwhelmingly positive. The review showed strong satisfaction among staff, parents and students.
- PCCE commended Ponoka Christian School for receiving very positive results especially in the categories of Christian Education, Academic Program, and Staff Quality. Gayle mentioned that if she were to pick any three areas that a school should be striving for positive results in, those would be her Top 3.
 - Christian Education: Staff, parents, and students all express appreciation for the integration of Christian values and principles into the school environment and curriculum.
 - Academic Program: General consensus that our academic program is strong, we have high academic standards and supportive teachers
 - Staff Quality: Staff members are highly regarded for their dedication, enthusiasm, knowledge, and commitment to fostering a Christian worldview among students.
- Some minor recommendations were made, and the Education Committee will be going into those in more depth in the new school year to see if there are areas where we can yet improve

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.

Our final Board meeting of this school year was held on June 5th, where Board positions were chosen as follows: Chair – Jordan Vreugdenhil, Secretary – Carien Dominicus, Finance – Greg Thalen, Education – Emily Sterk, Facilities and Vice-All – Aaron Horne, Transportation -Irwin VEP, Development – Jenneke Feitsma. Our next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday September 4, 2024.

At our meeting on June 5th, it was also decided that beginning in the 2024/2025 school year, PCS will need to become completely nut-free. We pray that everyone would support this for the health and safety of a number of students with nut allergies. More information will come at the beginning of the school year.

On a personal note, Michelle Stolk and myself (Jessica Stolk) would like to say it was an honour to serve PCS as members of the Board these last 3 years. We are thankful to God for providing us with all that we needed in our positions here at PCS and we are thankful for the support we received from Society and the unity and Christian love we experienced from all those that we served together with.

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,
Jessica Stolk

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

Sports News - Mr. Josh Van Doesburg

I would like to extend a big thank you to all parents, teachers, and volunteers who helped make this year's athletic year possible. We were blessed to be able to run four volleyball teams, three basketball teams, badminton, cross country, and a track team. Many athletes were able to showcase their gifts and abilities and do it while honouring our Lord. I am continually thankful for the support of the PCS society and the effort put into all aspects of the school.

A note for volleyball camp in August:

Volleyball Camp @ Ponoka Christian School

Cost: **Free**

Time: **August 26 - 28 (Mon - Wed)**

Grades 5-7: **5 - 6:30pm**

Grade 8/9: **6:30 - 8pm**

I hope you all have an excellent summer.

Blessings,
Joshua Van Doesburg

Important Dates

August 26 -28	PCS Volleyball Camp
August 29	Meet the Teacher
September 3	First Day of School/Preschool Open House
September 5	First Day of Preschool

Now Accepting Applications - Ponoka Christian School is still accepting **Applications for Pre-School and Kindergarten Students** for the 2024-25 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.

Community News and Events

Job Opportunity: Rimbey Christian School is now hiring for the position of Secretary for the 2024-2025 School year. Interested applicants please forward your resume, statement of faith and cover letter to: office@rimbeychristianschool.com. Potential start date: August 15th, 2024.

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!



Rewarding Volunteer Opportunities

Would you like the opportunity to be more involved at school? As we prep for the 2024/2025 school year, there are a number of rewarding volunteer opportunities available. Please contact Jenneke at (403)783-9941 or email development@ponokachristianschool.com for more info.

- **HOT LUNCH COMMITTEE (2)**
- **THANKSGIVING DINNER (1)**
- **SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE (1)**
- **FALL DRIVE (1)**

A special thank you to all our volunteers; past and present, for helping PCS and its committees run smoothly.



athletesinaction.ca

ACTION CAMPS



SOCCER

JULY 15 - 19 ■ 9AM - 3PM

at Bethel Christian Reformed Church
5704 51 ave. Lacombe

Ages 6 - 12

Contact 403-782-6400 or
bchurch2@shaw.ca

\$100

REGISTER AT: aia.sh/lacombe

in partnership with

*Bethel Christian
Reformed Church*



lacombebethelcrc.org



Gym Activities



Rock Climbing

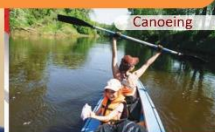


Swimming in the Pool

Summer Camps



Gymnastics



Canoeing

SESSION 1: July 8-12
SESSION 2: July 15-19
SESSION 3: July 22-26
SESSION 4: July 29 - Aug. 2
SESSION 5: Aug. 6-9
SESSION 6: Aug. 12-16

* Age range: 9-14-year-olds
* Morning session from 8:00am - 12:00pm
* Afternoon Session from 1:00pm - 5:00pm
* Cost per week for morning or afternoon: \$165.00
(except \$135.00 for Session 5)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CENTRE

6415 University Dr. Lacombe, AB
Phone: 403.782.2822
olgasadovoy@burmanu.ca
www.burmanu.ca/pecentre

REGISTRATION | INFORMATION

SUMMER CAMPS www.burmanu.ca/pecentre/summercamps

SWIMMING CLASSES www.burmanu.ca/pecentre/lessons

Swimming Lessons



SESSION 1: July 8-12
SESSION 2: July 22-26
SESSION 3: July 29 - Aug. 2
SESSION 4: Aug. 12-16

PRESCHOOL 1 & 2	10:05-10:50 am	\$47.00
PRESCHOOL 3 & 4	10:05-10:50 am	\$47.00
PRESCHOOL 5	10:05-10:50 am	\$47.00
SWIMMER 1	10:55-11:45 am	\$47.00
SWIMMER 2	10:55-11:45 am	\$47.00
SWIMMER 3	10:55-11:45 am	\$47.00
SWIMMER 4	1:05-1:55 pm	\$52.00
SWIMMER 5	1:05-1:55 pm	\$52.00
SWIMMER 6	1:05-1:55 pm	\$52.00
ROOKIE PATROL	2:00-3:00 pm	\$62.00
RANGER PATROL	2:00-3:00 pm	\$62.00
STAR PATROL	2:00-3:00 pm	\$62.00

School Supply List 2024-25

Kindergarten to Grade 9 students are REQUIRED to have the following items:

- Outside shoes/boots
- Inside/gym shoes with NON-SCUFF SOLES
- Lunch bag
- Backpack
- 2 boxes of tissues

Grades 6 – 9 students are required to purchase their own supplies:

- Pencil box/case
- Pencils – at least 10
- Pens, either blue or black ink – at least 5 (erasable preferred)
- White erasers – 2
- Pen, red ink – at least 1
- Pencil crayons
- Markers
- Graph paper – 1 package with $\frac{1}{2}$ cm squares
- Glue sticks – 2
- Ruler
- Scissors
- **REQUIRED: Texas Instrument TI-30Xa calculator**
- 200-sheet package plain loose-leaf paper – 1 package
- 200-sheet package lined loose-leaf paper – at least 5 packages
- Dividers – 6 dividers (1 divider/subject)
- Binders (4: 1.5in size or 6: 1in size)
- Math Geometry Set
- Highlighters – (2-3 colors)