



## **Upcoming Important Dates**

<b>October 31</b>	<b>Picture Day</b>
<b>October 31</b>	Extra Kindergartner Day
<b>November 4-6</b>	<b>Gr 1-6</b> Swimming Lessons
<b>November 6</b>	Remembrance Day Chapel @ 2:15pm
<b>November 7</b>	Junior High Award Day – no school for Gr 7-9 students
<b>November 10</b>	No School – Teacher Work Day
<b>November 11</b>	No School - Remembrance Day
<b>November 12-14</b>	Swimming Lessons
<b>November 14</b>	Extra Kindergarten Day
<b>November 20</b>	Hot Lunch – Hot Dogs
<b>November 20</b>	All School Chapel – God Worshipping
<b>November 20</b>	Fall Society Meeting – 8pm
<b>November 21</b>	No School – Teacher Work Day
<b>November 28</b>	Report Cards

### **Please note the following changes to the school calendar:**

Thursday March 12	Celebration of Learning
Tuesday April 28	Grandparents Day

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

One thing that I have learned over the years is that birthdays and anniversaries are really important to those who come from specific nationalities. This year is the 250th anniversary of two organizations that helped shape me as a young man, specifically the United States Navy (founded October 13, 1775) and the United States Marine Corps (founded November 10, 1775). When I was in high school, I wasn't sure of what I wanted to do post high school. My family had a history of serving in the military. A great great uncle was a Scottish sailor who enlisted in the 43 New York State Volunteers and fought during the American Civil War. My great uncle died in World War 1 in Belleau Wood (France) and the local Veterans of Foreign War Post (similar to a Canadian Legion Post) is named after him in upstate New York. My dad also served in the Air Force as a pilot.

When I enlisted in the Navy, I really didn't have any idea of what my job would be. After the bombing of the Marine Barracks at the Beirut airport (Lebanon), we were all sent to become hospital corpsmen (or medics). When it was time for my sea duty experience, we were all sent to something called field medical school which was nothing more than 8 weeks of a Marine

Corps boot camp for sailors. My first unit I was assigned to was a rifle company in the 6th Marines Regiment. The 6th Marine Regiment's history includes fighting at Belleau Wood in France during World War 1. Everyone serving with that regiment wore an award called Fourragere given by France for their service. That same award was given to everyone in my great uncle's unit as well. When I see mine, I am reminded of his sacrifice that he made. I have been given my great uncle's casket flag, and I have my dad's casket flag displayed at home. In Canada, we celebrate Remembrance Day on November 11 (The United States celebrates Veterans Day) to celebrate those that served in the military. The day is an invitation to pause, reflect, and honour those who have sacrificed for the sake of freedom and peace. As Christians, we can approach this day with deep gratitude while also grounding our reflection in God's Word.

The Bible reminds us that there is great value in remembering. The Old Testament is filled with stories of God's people being called to remember His mighty acts of deliverance - such as the Passover, where Israel was commanded to never forget God's saving power (Exodus 12:14). Likewise, when we remember the sacrifices of veterans and fallen soldiers, we are practicing gratitude and acknowledging that our current freedoms were purchased at a cost. Jesus Himself said, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). This verse not only points us to Christ's ultimate sacrifice on the cross but also echoes in the lives of those who gave themselves to protect others. Their service is a reflection, however imperfect, of Christlike love.

At the same time, Scripture points us toward the hope of lasting peace. The prophet Isaiah envisioned a day when nations would "*beat their swords into plowshares*" and war would be no more (Isaiah 2:4). While we live in a world still marked by conflict, Remembrance Day and Veterans Day encourage us to long for God's kingdom, where Christ, the Prince of Peace, will reign forever.

Therefore, as we wear a poppy or stand in silence, we not only honor veterans but also turn our hearts to the God who remembers, redeems, and restores. We give thanks for those who served, we pray for peace in our world, and we look with hope to the day when Christ's perfect peace will come.

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

I believe that we can all be extra grateful for the opportunity to send our children to an independent Christian school this month. Many other students in the province have spent 3 weeks out of school already while their teachers are on strike with no clear idea of how much longer the negotiations will take. We encourage you to keep talking positively about our school and its benefits to our community as lots of misinformation about independent and private schools is spread. Above all, continue to pray for our provincial leaders, education minister, MLA's, MP's and other leaders making decisions that may impact the future of our school.

We are so thankful to the Lord for the opportunity to come together for our Thanksgiving Dinner earlier this month. It was a great time of fellowship, sharing a delicious meal and praising God for His provisions to us as a school community. We raised a total of \$74,575 this year, which went towards debt reduction and the long-term sustainability fund. Thank-you very much to all those who donated, as well as to the Thanksgiving Committee for planning the enjoyable evening!

Our annual **Fall Drive** has started on Monday **Oct 27** and goes until **Nov 14**. Our goal for this year's drive has been set at \$77,000 and will be going towards our school's principal and interest payments. Canvassers will be contacting you soon, but donations can be sent into the school office anytime.

Ponoka Christian School would like to say thank you to Mrs. Yvonne Reed for her many years of service as our school's librarian. She has done a wonderful job with our library and working with students and staff at Ponoka Christian School. She has organized our library, read to students, and led novel studies in some junior high classes as well as serving on the library committee. Mrs. Reed has always done a great job and will be missed.

Lastly, please mark your calendars for the **PCS Fall Society Meeting** scheduled for **Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 8:00pm**. A package with the agenda and various reports will be coming home shortly. A reminder to all parents and previous society members that if you have not paid your membership dues yet (\$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](mailto:business@ponokachristianschool.com).

The Board meets again on Wednesday, November 5th. If you have any comments or concerns, please let us know.

On behalf of the PCS Board,  
Carien Dominicus

*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10*

**Elections Alberta Petition**: Some of you might be aware that during the ATA teacher strike a petition was started calling for the end of all provincial funding for independent schools. Those behind this initiative only want provincial funding going towards public and Catholic schools. This group has until February 11 to gather 177,000 signatures at which point will be ratified by Elections Alberta and a petition will go before the Speaker of the House. This motion would likely be addressed during the spring legislative session. With 50,000 members of the ATA, it is conceivable that they could easily acquire the required signatures by February.

AISCA's Executive Director, John Jagersma, has been working hard to promote the benefits of independent schools in Alberta. Please check out the following websites: [www.educatedchoices.ca](http://www.educatedchoices.ca) and [www.aisca.ab.ca](http://www.aisca.ab.ca). Please keep John in your prayers as he navigates through this challenging time.

### **Sports News – Mr. Josh Van Doesburg**

We are starting to wrap up an exciting volleyball season. We were blessed to have five different teams this year. Thank you to the coaches who stepped up to coach and the parents who have done lots of driving and cheering on our school.

B teams wrapped up their season this week with some fun parent games. More info about the end of year volleyball for the A teams will be coming out the beginning of next week.

### **Junior High Hockey Team – Looking for Players!**

We are gauging interest in starting a **Junior High Hockey Team** that will compete in a tournament in **Strathmore on December 29 - 30**. This will be a **competitive-level team**, and **tryouts** will be held (date TBD) where we will be selecting **16 players** to represent our school. All interested participants must have **full hockey gear**, be available to play at the tournament both days and be available for early morning practices before school. (Approx 4 practices to be scheduled in Nov-Dec). We're also looking for **one parent volunteer** to help on the bench during the tournament. If your child is interested, please contact the office (phone or email) by Wednesday Nov 5! If you have any questions please reach out to the office, Mr. Morris or Aaron Horne.

### **From Development**

**Makkinga Market Fundraiser** – The Makkinga Market Fundraiser is here! Order forms and payments are due back to the school by **November 14, 2025**. Order forms will be available on the website as well as at the school office. Order pickup date is scheduled for December 4, 2025, exact pickup time is TBD. **This year's funds will be raising money for a Baseball backstop for the school.**

**Gift Card Fundraiser** – Please contact the office if you have any questions about this fundraiser.

- 1. 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 **Nov. 4**. No need to order again for the year. Cards will be available for pickup or sent home on or around the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.
- 2. 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 by **Nov 4** 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Boston Pizza Operation Education Fundraiser** – Please keep your receipts coming! This past year we doubled our money back as more people submitted receipts than the previous year. 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!

### **Job Opportunity at PCS**

Position opening: Ponoka Christian School is accepting applications for the position of School Librarian. The current position is a 0.2 FTE (one day per week) and might include the possibility of increased hours in the future which will include educational assistant duties. The remuneration range is between \$20.26 to \$27.87 based on education and experience. We are in the process of reviewing our current job description. Ultimately, the position requires some independent work and has the ability to lead students in a classroom setting. We are hoping that the person hired will be able to train with Mrs. Reed before she leaves. If you know of someone that might be interested in this position, have them forward their cover letter, resume, and three references (one pastoral reference) to PCS Library Hiring Team at [office@ponokachristianschool.com](mailto:office@ponokachristianschool.com).

### **Kindergarten is looking for some Gently Used items!**

Our kindergarten program at PCS is hoping to give our classroom centers a little refresh! Many of our toys have been well-loved by lots of little hands over the years, and it's time for them to be replaced. If you or someone you know happens to be cleaning out any of the items listed below and is willing to donate them to our classroom, we would be happy to take them. We just ask that donations be in gently used condition so they can be enjoyed by our kinders for many more years.

1. Lego
2. Farm Sets (Smaller Tractors, fences, buildings etc.)
3. Costumes (Firefighter, police, chef, doctor, construction etc.)
4. Doctor/Vet Pretend Play Sets
5. Magnet Tiles (Solid flat ones)
6. Matchbox/Hot Wheels cars (No tracks)
7. Melissa and Doug Sets (ie. Cleaning set, food sets, community sets, magnetic dolls)
8. Play-doh tools such as rolling pins, and cutters (no play sets)
9. Kids Table and chair set (1 Table with 1 or 2 chairs)
10. Old House Phone
11. Old Computer Keyboard
12. Unused misc. envelopes, cards, postcards

**Potatoes Available:** Any amounts of potatoes are available. Please make a donation you think is fair. **To order, phone Hylko and Hillie Feitsma: 403-783-6000**The proceeds from the potato sales will be graciously donated to Ponoka Christian School.