



a monthly update for parents of PCHS students

Vol. 18 No. 10

A Changed Landscape

COVID-19 has changed the landscape of Pella Christian High and how we do school. Gone are students in classrooms, gone are concerts in the Vermeer auditorium, gone are athletics on the track and in the gym, gone is drama on the stage, and gone are the normal activities that round out another school year. In particular, our seniors are missing typical events like the JSB, senior class trip, and Awards Night. And who knows what graduation will look like and when we'll be able to hold that event! At times like this, we are drawn to scriptures that offer comfort and assurance. A favorite passage of mine is Joshua 1:9. It was on my wall as a kid. Now I write that verse in each senior's Bible at their graduation parties. Listen to these words: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." While this passage is written to the nation of Israel, it is written for us as well. God is present with us. The Creator and sovereign of the universe cares about us - and He cares about the unusual circumstances in which we are currently living. One change that is coming is that Mr. Hessing is retiring after 27 years at Pella Christian High and 44 years in Christian education. Wow! His Teaching for Transformation storyline as he points students to God's masterful creation in mathematics is "For good. What good?" Now I ask you that question as you apply it to our current situation. What good has come from this crisis for you personally - or in your own family? A few humorous responses to this include these from Julie Mosley, a counselor at Rocky Bayou Christian School in Florida:

- *Your house can be a mess because no one is coming to visit you.
 - *Your teenagers *want* to run to the grocery store or pharmacy or fill the car with gas for you.
 - *Students are getting their work done in half the time without the constant class interruptions.
- However, for Andi and me, we are taking more time for daily walks together. We have seen spring arrive this year more keenly than ever before because we've been outside more. We've had more conversations with our neighbors on our walks than ever before. One evening we spent two hours walking eight blocks, all because many neighbors were ready to have a street corner conversation.

With children and siblings across the country, we are enjoying weekly Zoom reunions and are sharing life more often than we ever have before, including some fun and competitive (I like those!) new games. Many families are telling me that they have had more meals together in the last six weeks than they've had the whole year so far. I see our neighborhood kids playing outside far more hours now than ever before with lots of sidewalk chalk, pickup basketball games, and just sitting in lawn chairs talking as a family. And, some students have told me they are spending more time in God's Word - and also in prayer. While I did not wish for this crisis to disrupt my life as it has, I can also see the good that has come from it. May my heart be more attentive to the Spirit's voice and leading in my life. May I look to God in trust more than ever before. I pray that for each of you, as well.

Mr. Van Kooten

Town Hall & Society Meetings

The PCHS Board invites supporters to attend a Town Hall meeting either at noon or 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 18. We will share information about the 20-21 PCHS Budget and school calendar. Watch for a Zoom link for these meetings to appear in the Daily Eagle and on our website. The annual PCHS Society Meeting originally scheduled for April has been rescheduled for June 15 at 7:00 p.m. The format of the meeting will be dependent on COVID-19 regulations. We continue to look for people interested in serving on our board. If interested, please contact Dan Van Kooten at vankootend@pceagles.org or call the school office at 628-4440.

Hosting 2020/2021

Looking for a new experience for your family at the turn of the new decade? Consider opening your home to an international student for the 2020-21 school year. Please be intentional as you pray if this opportunity is something God is calling you to next school year. We are hoping to have 10-15 students next year and need families to serve as hosts for two boys and possibly two girls. All of our school families grow as we enfold these students into our school community. There is a stipend of \$600 per month for families that apply and are accepted as a host. Please discuss this opportunity with your family and prayerfully consider becoming a welcoming and engaging family. Contact Cindy Nikkel (ISP Coordinator) at nikkelc@pceagles.org to set up a time to visit.

Graduation 2020



Plans for the 80th Annual PCHS Commencement Exercises have been revised. As of this writing, graduation is still planned for Saturday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m. BUT the

location has changed to **the PC football stadium**. If the weather is threatening, graduation could be moved up to 11:00 a.m. that same date. That call will be made 24-36 hours in advance. The rain date is Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day) at 1:00 p.m. Graduation will take place on the football field with graduates seated in the stands and families (very limited seating) in designated spots on the football field. Guidance on seating will be shared at a later date. Pastor Brad Meinders will give the address and Isaiah Gritters is the 2020 class representative.

*Please note that our plan for a May 23 graduation is dependent on the relaxing of social distancing standards as well as permission from both local and state authorities. If social distancing standards are not relaxed enough for this event to occur in May then we will move graduation to Saturday, June 20, at 7:00 p.m.

2020/2021 Online Enrollment

Parents can complete enrollment for the 2020/2021 school year through the NEW PC Family Portal system.

Instructions for registering students for both PCHS and PCHS were shared via email May 8. Questions about enrollment can be directed to Teresa Ulferts, Admissions Director, at ulfertst@pellachristian.net.

JSB at Home Photos

If you have photos of your son or daughter doing a **Prom at Home** or **just dressed up in their JSB attire** (with or without their friends/family) please email them to eaglescry@pccagles.org. We would really like to gather some JSB photos for the yearbook just in case the June 19 date would end up being canceled. Thanks for your help with this!

Football Cheer 2020

We have started preparing for the season and are looking for members to make up the squad. Please email Coach Sterry at sterryin@pccagles.org for more information. She will be sending an email in the coming weeks with information about tryouts, so if she does not hear from you then you will not be on the cheerleading email list.

Shine Dance Team Tryouts

All girls who are interested in trying out for the Shine Dance Team should reach out to Coach Hough at kennedyhough13@gmail.com. Tryout information will be shared soon.

Office Hours

During this time of social distancing the school office is open from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Christian Service Hours Update

In light of social distancing practices, as well as activities and events being canceled, we understand that some students may no longer be able to complete their intended service hours. As a result, transcripts for this academic year will only indicate if a student has completed the 10 hours of service. The line will be removed for students who were unable to meet the goal for this year and there will be no indicator on the transcript that service was required. We also understand that COVID-19 may present new opportunities for students to serve within their community or neighborhood. Whether a student has completed their service hours or not, we would like to encourage all students to look for ways to reach out and serve during this time of self-isolation. Tasks as simple as washing windows or grocery shopping for an elderly neighbor are both wonderful examples of ways to serve. Please remember to submit your service hours to your homeroom teacher by May 22, 2020. Logging these hours can still be helpful for scholarships and letters of recommendation down the road.

Summer Camp Dates

All camp dates subject to change due to COVID-19

Please take note of the following dates for camps at PCHS this summer. All camp registration forms will be available on the school website at www.pccagles.org and in the office.

Girls Tulip City Soccer Camp:

- June 15-18 from 9:00-11:00 a.m., Friday June 19 makeup day if any of the first four days cancelled
- Grades 3-8. Open to the community
- Cost: \$30 for one child; \$50 for two

Boys Basketball Camp:

- June 15-18
- Boys entering grades 3-4 from 8:00-10:00 a.m.
- Boys entering grades 5-6, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Boys entering grades 7-8, 1:30-4:00 p.m.

Girls Basketball Camp:

- Monday afternoons June 8, 15, 22 & 29
- Information on specific times and cost coming later

Tennis Camp:

- June 22-25 for boys and girls
- Grades 3-8 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Grades 9-12 from 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Volleyball Camps:

- June 22-25 Elementary Camp. Girls entering grades 4-6 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Girls entering grades 7-8 from 3:00-4:30 p.m.
- August 3-6 High School Camp. Girls entering grades 9-12 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Football Camps:

- 9th-12th grade camp Aug 3-6 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- 4th-6th grade camp August 17-20 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- 7th & 8th grade camp August 17-20 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Each camp above costs \$50
- 1st-3rd grade camp is Saturday, Aug. 21 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Cost is \$10