



PC Link

a monthly update for parents of PCHS students

Vol. 18 No. 6

What I Learned

This year for Winterim I taught an afternoon class on Native Americans. Since Andi and I taught near the Navajo Reservation back in the 80's and 90's, I have always had a desire to know more about our indigenous brothers and sisters. My ten students and I were beyond blessed with the learning opportunities God provided. We learned about the Sac and Fox Indians that lived right here where we all live.



We saw their artifacts. We saw the monument that designates the Red Rock Line that separated Natives from whites - and ran from the Missouri border up through

Painted Rocks Subdivision by the mile-long bridge up to Steamboat Rock in Hardin County. We heard local historian Ron Rietveld tell stories of interactions between the early Dutch settlers here with the Sac and Fox (Meskwaki). We visited the tribal museum on the Meskwaki Tribal lands in Tama County. We heard 2020 presidential candidate Mark Charles, a Navajo man, speak - in person! - right here at school. And, we participated in a blanket exercise led by the CRC's Office of Race Relations and met Susie Silversmith who tearfully told us her story of boarding school abuse. It was moving for my students and me.

THIS is the kind of learning that Winterim offers our students each year. This learning is interesting, it's often unusual, and it's almost always deep learning since it is often hands-on. Praise God with me for the ways our students can learn deeply about themselves and about God's world through their Winterim trips, internships, and classes. Wonderful!

Dan Van Kooten



Homecoming Week 2020 at PCHS is set for January 27-31. Each day that week the students will be wearing attire appropriate for that day's theme. At 1:00 p.m. on Friday, January 31, the afternoon activities begin with a chapel followed by competitions in the gymnasium that will conclude with the presentation of the homecoming court. The boys and girls basketball teams will be hosting Indianola that evening. The JV girls game will start at 4:45 p.m. followed by the varsity girls at 6:15 p.m. and the varsity boys game to follow at 7:45 p.m. The public is invited to attend any or all of the Friday afternoon and evening events.

THANK YOU

As of December 31, 2019, the Legacy of Grace School Tuition Organization (LOG STO) collected \$311,894 of the \$426,604 goal. Your support is appreciated! Funds will be needed again for the 2020/2021 school year.

Spiritual Renewal Days

Aaron Baart will lead Spiritual Renewal Days, February 19-20. Aaron is the Dean of Chapel at Dordt University where he teaches, writes, preaches, and spends time regularly with students. He is the co-founder and president of *One Body One Hope*, a community-development and church-planting ministry in Liberia, West Africa, where he visits regularly. In 2014, he co-authored *Vivid: Deepening Your Colors* with Syd Hielema and today, he speaks regularly at conferences, camps, churches, schools, and special events.

8th Grade Parents Preview Night

Pella Christian High School invites all parents of 8th graders to the annual Parent Preview Night to be held Tuesday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Information about high school (academics, extra-curriculars, costs, financial aid, etc.) will be shared. Refreshments and a time of fellowship and tours of the building will follow the meeting. Anyone who knows of a family considering PCHS (for any HS aged student) is encouraged to personally invite them to this meeting.

Spring Sports

Practices for the spring sports seasons will begin on the following dates:

Boys and girls track & field – February 17

Girls tennis, boys soccer & golf – March 16

Girls soccer – March 23

Sign-ups will be posted in the office very soon.

Watch the Daily Eagle for further announcements regarding spring and summer sports.



Spring Gala

Save the date for our Spring Gala event to be held April 25. An entertaining evening is being planned with a tasty meal and a variety of talented 'guests'. You don't want to miss it!

Junior Parents

Planning for the 2020 Junior Senior Banquet After Party has begun and we are still in need of a few more helpers. If you are willing to help please plan to attend a planning meeting on Tuesday, January 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the Pella Christian High School library. If you have any questions or are unable to attend the meeting please contact Angela Alsum at angalsum@yahoo.com or text 641-780-7187.

Online Eagle's Cry!

Want to keep up with what's happening at PCHS? Think about subscribing to pceaglescry.org. Any time a new story is posted, a link will be sent to your inbox! This is an easy way to hear the latest about the people and events at PCHS--sign up today!

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

- 20 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Junior Parents JSB Planning Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 22 2:30 Dismissal: Staff Professional Learning
- 25 District Large Group Speech Contest at Montezuma HS
- 27-31 Homecoming Week
- 28 FFA Legislative Symposium
- 29 2:30 Dismissal: Staff Professional Learning
- 30 City Wide Speech Festival at Pella Community 7:00 p.m.
- 30 Bandfest Honor Band Concert at Central College 7:00 p.m.



February

- 5 2:30 Dismissal: Staff Professional Learning
- 5 FFA Sub-District Contest at SE Warren
- 8 State Large Group Speech Contest at Cedar Rapids Washington HS
- 8 ACT Test
- 10 LHC Honor Band 7:00 p.m. at Norwalk HS
- 10 FFA Meeting at PCHS at 6:30 p.m.
- 13 Singfest Honor Choir at Central College Douwstra Chapel 7:00 p.m.
- 14 No School: Teacher Tft Training
- 17 No School: President's Day
- 17 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 19-20 Spiritual Renewal Days
- 22 All-State Speech Large Group at ISU
- 26 2:30 Dismissal: Staff Professional Learning
- 27 Speech Peer Critique 5:00 p.m. at PCHS
- 27 Winter Music Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 28 ASVAB Testing for sophomores: Morning Class Time
- 28 Career Fair: Afternoon Class Time
- 29 District Speech Individual Contest at Pekin HS
- 29 Dance Team Camp/Showcase

Social Media

Follow PCHS on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to catch the latest school happenings.

PCHS Band Students Excel

Norwalk will host the **Little Hawkeye Conference Honor Band** festival on Monday, February 10. Band students from 7 schools will be participating in rehearsals starting at 10:00 a.m. and ending with a 7:00 p.m. concert. Come and support our high school musicians and enjoy an evening of fine instrumental music. Pella Christian is proud to have the following students selected for this honor:

9th-10th Band: Cara Veenstra-Flute, Elizabeth Vink-Flute, Emily Van Soelen-Clarinet, Nia Hoekstra-Contra Clarinet, Micah De Haan-Trumpet, Owen Menninga-Trombone, Emma Witzenburg-Tuba, Corbin Westerkamp-Percussion

11th-12th Band: Adrie Fransman-Flute, Erica Nikkel-Clarinet, Peter Larson-Alto Saxophone, Roger Gao-Trumpet, Travis Hol-Trumpet, Lexie Matherly-Tuba, Tessa Brouwer-Percussion

PCHS Band students will be participating in the **Central College Band Fest** on Thursday, January 30. Students will participate in Large Ensemble rehearsals as well as the full band rehearsal under the direction of Stan Dahl. The evening will conclude with a concert at 7:00 p.m. in Douwstra Auditorium on the Central College campus. Pella Christian is proud to have the following students selected for this honor: Aundrea Steen-Flute, Alicia Van Kooten-Flute, Katherine Wielard-Clarinet, Alayna Van Kooten-Bass Clarinet, Roger Gao-Trumpet, Kate Vos- Trombone, Austin Moorman-Baritone, Lexi Matherly-Tuba, Josiah Smith-Percussion



Area Drivers Ed Classes

Training Wheels will be holding drivers' ed classes locally in March. Contact Cindy Hauschildt at 641-820-0234 or email

trainingwheelsdrivereducation@gmail.com for class information.

Street Smarts Drivers Education also offers drivers education classes locally. Information concerning dates, times and locations is available at 515-279-1112 or on their website at: <https://streetSMARTSDIVERS.ED.COM>

Singfest Honor Choir



Ten PCHS students have been selected to participate in the 2019 Singfest Honor Choir at Central College on Thursday, February 13. High school students from throughout Iowa will join the Central College A Capella Choir for a day of music making that will culminate in a free concert at Central's Douwstra Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

Congrats to the following students who will be participating in the Honor Choir February 13:

Soprano: Morgan Meinders, Lauren Trotter
Alto: Sierra Pleima, Halie Vermillion
Tenor: Carson Breon, Braden Meinders
Bass: Joshua Beltman, Colby De Vries, Ethan Natelborg, Grant Roose

Track Meet Helpers Needed

PC is hosting two track meets this spring. A boys meet is scheduled for March 31, and our annual Co-ed Invitational is scheduled for April 14. Please contact Mr. Branderhorst at branderhorstd@pceagles.org or call 628-4440 if you are willing to assist with field events, hurdles or other duties.



WINTERIM 2020

The eighth annual PCHS Winterim is now history. Over 40 students had the opportunity to take trips to Brazil and Haiti. Over 90 juniors and seniors were involved in internships in the Pella area and the central Iowa region. The remaining students participated in morning and afternoon classes on a wide variety of topics. For photos check PCHS Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Save the Date- Shine Team Camp & Show



The annual Shine Dance team camp & show is scheduled for Saturday, February 29. Registration forms will be made available in early February at the area grade schools and PCHS.

City-Wide Speech Night



This year, the annual All-City Speech night for the Pella community will be held at Pella High School. The event, featuring the speech teams of both Pella Christian HS and Pella Community HS, will be held Thursday evening, January 30, at 7:00 p.m. Performance events include readers theatre, choral reading, one-act play, ensembles, musical theatre, and film. Both schools will be performing all of their events at IHSSA competitions on Saturdays, but this evening is simply a night for both schools to showcase their pieces to each other. The public is invited and there will be a free-will donation for both schools' speech programs. Among the events Pella Christian students will perform include Readers Theatre in *And Others*, Choral Readers in *And*, Musical Theatre in *Six*, Ensemble Acting in *Offerings*, and a student-written and produced film. In addition, PC's One-Act will be performing *Rags*, a sweeping saga which touches on family, tenement life, the labor movement, and the sweatshops of 1910. The PCHS forensic students are coached by Marlo Van Peursem, Lisa Van Gilst and Cory Van Gilst.

Winter Weather Reminder

When winter weather impacts our school schedule, we typically follow the Pella Christian Grade School & Pella Community Schools with closures and delays. Parents who live outside of the Pella city limits should always use your best judgment in determining whether or not it is safe for your son/daughter to drive to school. Students living in outlying school districts may always follow their local district's schedule. This includes early dismissals due to bad weather. We encourage students to ride the bus as much as possible since this is the safest form of transportation to and from school. Be sure students give themselves extra time to get to school on these mornings. School delays and cancellations will be announced on all local radio and TV stations. You can also be contacted directly via text and/or email by joining our PC Text/Email Alerts by signing up on the school website at www.pceagles.org under Quick Links on the home page. Fill out the online form with your preference of text message, email notification or both and repeat the process for both PCHS and PCGS if you wish to receive notifications from both of the Pella Christian schools.

ASVAB Testing and Career Fair for Sophomores

A reminder that on Friday, February 28, the sophomores will spend the day with activities designed to help them think about their future careers. In the morning, they will take the ASVAB battery of tests to measure vocational skills and aptitudes. In the afternoon they will attend career seminars presented by members of the community. **Please do NOT schedule appointments on this date** as students will use this information for career papers they will be writing during the 3rd quarter.

Host Families Needed 20/21

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. Some people are created with the gift of hospitality, walking beside others, and reflecting Jesus to others around them. Please be intentional as you pray if this opportunity is something God is calling you to next school year. We are hoping to have 10-20 students next year and need families to serve as hosts. There are many benefits that make this program something we wish to expand. The cultural and spiritual experience for your family, our school, and these students is educational. All of our school families grow as we enfold these students into our school community. We learn how to interact with students from a variety of different backgrounds and become more aware of God's plan for all nations to be in heaven. We learn that places on the globe are more real when we get to know a real person from another country. PCHS will benefit as well as we add more full-tuition paying students to our student body. This helps to hold the cost of education down for everyone. There is a stipend of \$600 per month for families that apply and are accepted as a host. The commitment is usually for a year or there are some rare occasions that we have semester students. Please discuss this opportunity with your family and prayerfully consider becoming a welcoming and engaging family. If you are considering hosting, or just want to explore what hosting an international student entails, please visit with Cindy Nikkel at PCHS on Wednesdays in the main office or contact Cindy (ISP Coordinator) at nikkelc@pceagles.org to set up a time to visit.