



# EAGLE EYE

Sharing a bird's eye view of  
God's Story at Pella Christian

March 2026



Dear Friends of Pella Christian Schools,

*When eight inches of snow blanketed Pella in late November, I braced for a brutal winter. I envisioned making 5:00 AM weather calls, icy drives to Eagle Lane, and big-time bills for snow removal at our campuses. I even bought an extra shovel for my house so my boys could chip in with the proper tools. Yet, here in late February, that shovel hangs against the garage wall, mostly untouched.*



*Isn't that often the case in life? We see a "November chill" and respond with worry and preparation. We do the same with our kids. We fret over AI, global unrest, and an uncertain future. We spend anxious energy preparing for storms that the Lord has already planned to clear.*

*This is a truth we at Pella Christian want to impart on our students and our community, which has seen God's faithfulness through the generations. Our story remains as true today as it was 100 years ago. Whether the "weather" of our culture is calm or clouded, God is faithful.*

*This issue of the Eagle Eye will highlight just a few of the ways God has continued to provide for Pella Christian. He has carried the Eagles for over a century. Fear not, He will carry us into the bright tomorrow he has planned for our children, our school, and His greater kingdom.*

*In His Service,*

Dan Zylstra  
PC Head of Schools

## ON THE COVER

Homecoming at Pella Christian is a cherished tradition that brings the community together, and this year was no exception. Despite extreme temperatures shortening some festivities, students kept the energy high and brought the heat inside the gym. The day included games, lip-sync performances, and Four Corners designs centered around this year's Pixar movie theme. Students showcased creativity and school spirit throughout the events, with even teachers and high school staff joining in the fun by performing a lip-sync. The celebration continued as fans cheered on the Eagles in a victory over Oskaloosa, with all basketball teams earning wins.

The senior class also claimed the spirit jug for the second year in a row, marking their final victory after winning it last year as juniors. Even with unexpected challenges, Homecoming reflected the unity, joy, and strong faith that define the Pella Christian community.



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

The PC Board of Trustees relies heavily on the dedicated work of our committees.

Composed of both board members and volunteers, these groups intentionally engage with staff to support the school's mission through detail work and future planning. As we move through winter, here is a glimpse at their current work and how they contributed to PC's overall governance.

The Finance Committee worked for three months to develop and pass next year's budget, ensuring we remain good stewards of our resources. Meanwhile, the Development Committee is busy guiding various fund drives which fuel the mission beyond what tuition covers. On our campuses, the Building and Grounds teams are maintaining our facilities and planning for spring and summer improvements, while the Education Committee focuses on academic excellence, learning standards, and upcoming interviews to fill existing vacancies. Our Nominations Committee has kept busy all year prayerfully seeking new board candidates, and the Executive Committee continues to provide steady leadership for the board and assists with specific operational issues.

We are grateful for a structure that invites parental and community voices into the room. Pella Christian is truly blessed by the gifts and talents of our broader community.

Mark Van Wyngarden, Board President  
Pella Christian Schools

## HOMECOMING COURT 2026

(from left to right) Lexi Terpstra, Devan Runner, Sydney Bruxvoort, Toby Belzer, Queen Kate Braafhart, King Paxton Bouma, Ben Van Wyngarden, Addie Van Arendonk, Liam Zula, & Bailey Vos



# ROOTED IN FAITH, MOVING AS ONE

Our Journey to a Unified Mission

*Empowering God's children to join in His restorative work*

At Pella Christian, our mission is more than words on a page; it is the heartbeat of everything we do. Empowering God's children to join in His restorative work is lived out daily through our core values of Intentional Engagement, Whole Child, and Generational Community. Each of these values is firmly grounded in Scripture and brought to life through Christ-centered behaviors that shape our classrooms, relationships, and community.

Over the past several Eagle Eye newsletters, we have introduced and unpacked our new mission statement. We've shared the thoughtful journey that included staff, board members, administrators, and community stakeholders, and we've explored each of our three core values and how they are rooted in God's Word and made visible through faithful action. As we conclude this series, it is our joy to highlight the mission in action through stories and reflections from this school year, celebrating the many ways God is at work in and through our Pella Christian community.

## **Generational Community**

We are a generational community, where learning extends beyond the classroom and into real relationships. That was especially evident when the Winterim crochet class visited The Cottages to give away the lap blankets they had made.

Each student introduced themselves, shared what they learned in the class, and reflected on whether they planned to continue crocheting. A simple number drawing added excitement as residents were surprised with a handmade blanket. What could have been just a class project became a meaningful exchange—students offering warmth and care through their work, and residents responding with smiles, gratitude, and genuine connection.

## **Whole Child**

As we strive to develop the whole child, fourth graders have been analyzing class readings to explore what it means to have a great heart—both in how we live and in what we value. Here is a portion of one student's essay:

"What does it mean to have a great heart? In our class readings we learned that a person can have a great heart both literally and figuratively. A literal great heart is one that is healthy, it can be healthy by eating healthy and exercising, while a figurative great heart is one that means to be kind, loving, caring, nice and greathearted."

## Intentional Engagement

This means more than academic excellence—it means walking closely with our students through every season of their lives. Recently, a PC kindergarten classroom was filled with cupcakes, confetti poppers, and joyful celebration as classmates gathered to honor Mia, who completed her chemotherapy treatments. Surrounded by her peers, Mia's milestone became a shared moment of gratitude and hope. Together, students and teachers praised God for His faithfulness and continue to lift Mia and her family in prayer.

Moments like these reflect what intentional engagement looks like in action. We celebrate our students' successes, carry their burdens, and walk alongside them in both joyful and challenging journeys. By engaging the whole child—academically, emotionally, and spiritually—we cultivate a community where students are known, loved, and supported every day.



# FALL BUSINESS DRIVE

*Thank you to the following businesses for their generous support of Pella Christian Schools through our Fall Business Drive:*

**Allen & Neumann Family Dentistry**  
Bank Iowa  
Brown's Shoe Fit Co  
Cabinet Design Of Pella  
Central Iowa Roofing  
Center Point Electric  
Co-Line Welding, Inc.  
Cranberry Stone Bakery  
Dahm Dental, P.C.  
De Ruiter Lawn Equipment  
De Vries Electric  
Earth Works Inc.  
Eastern Iowa Coffee LLC - Scooters Coffee  
Franklin Street Clothing  
Gritters Electric, Inc  
Home Realty  
Hurk Underground Technologies, Inc  
Integrity Comfort Solutions

**Intellcents**  
Knoxville Dental Center, P.C.  
LDJ Manufacturing  
Leighton State Bank  
Lely North America, Inc  
Madsen Van Tasell Wealth Management Group  
Marion County Bank  
N & C Rozendaal Farms, Inc.  
North Creek Antiques  
Pella Car Care  
Pence-Reese Funeral Home  
Randall Roofing  
Recker Dental Care  
Tony's Auto Parts, Inc.  
Ulrich Ford-Lincoln  
Van Maanen Seed and Chemical Inc  
Van Maanen, Sietstra, Meyer, P.C.  
Vermeer Corporation  
Village Cleaners

# WINTERIM 2026

AT PCHS

Pella Christian's 14th annual Winterim program was held January 5 - 9. Winterim offers three different options for high school students, including career explorations, educational/service trips, and courses. Through Winterim experiences, students gain insight into their own passions and abilities, further developing their potential as God's image-bearers.

"In Culinary Creations, I learned all sorts of tips and tricks to cooking that will be a helpful life skill. I brought home many yummy treats like an entire pie, a dutch letter, and sugar cookies, which was awesome and a highlight of my week. Cooking and baking are two things I am not very experienced in, so Dr. Vander Voort is a very talented teacher to make my food go from borderline edible to delicious. She did a great job at letting me explore things for myself while also providing guidance and patient answers to my many questions. Overall, these classes were really fun and I loved learning about healthy relationships and how to cook things."

**-Freshman Addison Shmalcs**

## CLASSES

Winterim Classes offer five days of learning experiences. Students choose a morning class and an afternoon class from a catalog of options taught by PCHS faculty, parents, and community members. This year's classes included crochet, furniture repurposing, walking with Jesus, mechanics, officiating, photography, robotics, watercolor, and so much more!

"My favorite part of my Winterim experience was learning everything about French culture, history, and their food. I got to try so many amazing foods and develop my French speaking skills. My friends and I had so much fun together and I really enjoyed learning something new I wouldn't get from regular classes."

**-Senior Caleb Fikkert**

# CAREER EXPLORATIONS

Winterim Career Explorations offer students insight into future careers and how they can serve in God's world after high school. We are thankful to the many businesses and mentors who share their expertise and give of their time to partner with us for these career explorations.

"For my Winterim week, I did an internship with Tri County Vet here in Pella... I chose this internship because I had called other businesses in the area and a lot of them said no... so my dad said to try something new. And so I went to the vet. My favorite part of the week was probably working on cattle or watching surgery... A lot of my week was check-ups and vaccines... since I didn't really know what I was doing, I couldn't do much. But when we did cattle, I got to help hold the animals and help preg check heifers. A lot of stuff surprised me in my week and I learned so much. I can understand why it takes so much schooling to become a vet because what I watched just barely scratched the surface of all the vet job entails. This job definitely helped me grow personally... I also grew spiritually because I learned that the vet work can be somewhat hard and that peoples opinions can't necessarily bother you. Winterim made me think hard about the rest of my life... I understand now that people with pets kind of have a soft spot for their pets."

**-Senior Paxton Bouma**



"I chose to participate in an internship at Pella Regional Hospital for Winterim. I have been interested in majoring in Nursing next year, and wanted to have hands-on experience at what that would be like. During my internship, I got to follow around Doctor Coleman, a Gynecologist, as well as several nurses in the OB/GYN department who graciously brought me through their everyday life. I was also able to watch a birth, which was extremely impactful as it showed me the beauty of how God created our bodies and the way that they function. This internship encouraged me to officially commit to majoring in Nursing, as well as made me realize how God calls nurses to serve. It has helped me see the beauty in how I can serve others and be a joyful light to those in their most difficult and most precious moments. I am extremely grateful I was able to participate in this internship and am looking forward to how God will use this experience further in my life."

**-Senior Maisy Meinders**



# WINTERIM TRIPS

This year's Winterim offered students four exciting opportunities to step beyond the classroom and into the wider world. Trips were offered to New York City, Abaco in the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, and Florida. Through these experiences, students served others, encountered new cultures, and gained a deeper appreciation for God's grand world.



"This Winterim, I went to the Dominican Republic. I chose this opportunity because I love traveling, and it was the perfect opportunity to use my Spanish! My favorite part of the week (besides spending every day in the 80-degree weather and eating delicious food) was spending a day at the beach! We enjoyed meals right on the water, fresh coconuts on the beach, shopping along the streets, and spending time in the sun! It was a perfect day. Something I learned while on the trip to the Dominican is that they are a very loud culture! There was constant horn honking and music blasting everywhere we went! It was so cool to learn about their culture and history, and experience their traditions and daily life. Besides providing amazing cultural experiences, this trip allowed for personal and spiritual growth. Not only did it make me more of a "world-traveler," but I was able to grow my love for God's creativity. It's so cool to experience God's creation in a new country. I noticed how His beauty and glory were reflected in the Dominican landscapes and communities. His love extends throughout the whole world, and it's a great opportunity whenever we get to travel to notice God's abundant creativity."

**-Senior Kate Braafhart**

"For Winterim, I went on the trip to New York City. One of my favorite parts was going to the 9/11 museum and getting a larger glimpse of the horrors of that day. This experience allowed me to see a culture very different from ours, how sin affects it, and how God is working to restore it. It made me more thankful for what I have but also challenged me to continue thinking about how I can be part of God's restoration plan in New York City and beyond."

**-Senior Ben Spronk**



"For my winterim week I had the opportunity to go to Abaco, Bahamas. Throughout our week there we got to paint a house, play with children at the school, and go on a cultural day. My favorite part of the week was getting to go to the school to teach and play with the kids!! When the group that I went with got there, the kids were in their assembly and it was so cool to see how they do that! I really loved getting to help the kids learn more and be a smiling face to them! We also got to play with them during their snack break and it was really fun to see them all running around and wanting piggy-back rides. Something that struck me was when we went back to the school to feed them breakfast and hangout with them before school started and we got to be the light before school started. There was a girl that kept coming back for more grits and tuna and it made me realize how hard some of their home lives are because I'm sure that might be the only meal she gets the whole day. It made me realize how incredibly blessed we are and how grateful I need to be."

**-Sophomore Breckyn De Vries**



## DATES OF INTEREST

**Spring Play** - March 27 & 28

**Help us Soar Day** - April 16

**A Grand Day** - Thursday, April 30 and Friday, May 1

**Tulip Time** - May 7 & 8

**HS Spring Choir & Pops Concert** - Tuesday, May 19

**5th to 8th Grade Spring Concert** - Wednesday, May 20

**High School Graduation** - Saturday, May 23

**8th Grade Celebration** - Wednesday, May 27

Find all PC events at [www.pceagles.org/calendar](http://www.pceagles.org/calendar)

# SOARING INTO THE FUTURE, *TOGETHER*

With deep gratitude and joy, we celebrate the completion of Pella Christian High School's Soaring Into the Future capital campaign. In just 2.5 years, our community came together to fully fund and **complete \$1.5 million** in critical improvements to our high school campus. What an incredible testament to faith, generosity, and shared vision.

Fifteen years after the campus first opened its doors, these upgrades were both timely and essential. Because of your support, the Vermeer Auditorium has been refreshed with new LED lighting, sound, and audio/visual equipment. These improvements enhance chapels, concerts, plays, and gatherings that shape our students' hearts and voices. At PC Stadium, new field turf, rebuilt retaining walls, and a resurfaced track now provide safe, welcoming spaces for athletics, fine arts, and community use for years to come. In addition, the campaign made possible several behind-the-scenes but vital improvements, including parking lot upgrades, the installation of sprinkler systems for select athletic fields, recaulking throughout the school, fieldhouse repairs, and roofing repairs that protect and preserve our facilities for the future.

As you look at the before-and-after photos, we hope you see more than facilities. You see opportunity for students to learn, compete, worship, and grow. You see opportunity for our community to gather. You see opportunity to continue empowering God's children to join in His restorative work.

We offer sincere thanks to the capital campaign committee whose leadership, vision, and faithful dedication guided the fundraising efforts from start to finish. We are also deeply grateful to the Building and Grounds Committee for their expertise and countless hours overseeing the planning and completion of the campus improvements. Their behind-the-scenes work ensured this project was carried out with excellence and care.

Thank you to every donor, prayer partner, advocate, and volunteer who helped make this vision a reality. Because of you, Pella Christian High School is truly soaring into the future, strong, equipped, and ready for what God has next.



# INVEST IN THE MISSION OF PELLA CHRISTIAN

At Pella Christian, we witness the daily blessing of God's generosity in the lives of our students. Gifts, talents, and faith are being strengthened in our classrooms, gymnasiums, and in chapel. We believe that where God sows generously, He expects to reap accordingly. He has blessed our community with vibrant talent and a clear mission, and we are committed to being faithful stewards of that "seed" by providing an environment where every child can flourish.

To fulfill this harvest of potential, we invite you to partner with us through your financial support. Your gift is more than a donation; it is an investment in the spiritual and academic fruit that these students will bear for a lifetime. By contributing today, you help us ensure that the abundant resources God has entrusted to us are cultivated into a legacy of faith and excellence.

## Support PC today:

By check with the enclosed envelope

Or online at  
[www.pceagles.org/support/give](http://www.pceagles.org/support/give)



# EAGLE EYE

Read inside to see how we are  
empowering God's children at  
Pella Christian Schools

March 2026



300 Eagle Lane  
Pella, IA 50219  
pceaagles.org



**Freshman Finley Snyder**  
Winterim Watercolor Projects