

Spanish Immersion at Pella Christian...

In the fall of 2012, students entering preschool, kindergarten, or first grade will have the option of enrolling in either the Spanish Immersion track or the traditional English track. As these students progress through grade levels, another immersion classroom will be added until the program is through fifth grade. A maintenance program will then be added for the immersion students through grades six through eight.

In the Spanish immersion classroom all core subject instruction and social interactions will occur in Spanish so that children learn the language through meaningful interactions. To learn more about Spanish Immersion, you are invited to attend a community informational meeting at Pella Christian Grade School on Thursday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Pre-registration for fall classes will be held on Friday, March 9, 2012.

Visit spanish.pellachristian.net for further information or call the call the school at 628-2414.

Spanish immersion at Pella Christian ...challenges students to develop their individual God-given gifts for a life of service in God's kingdom.

Korean Visitors

We are blessed to have visitors from Korea again this year. Visiting from Sammul Christian Elementary School are Bella, who is a registered nurse that became interested in Sammul Christian and is taking classes to be a first or second grade teacher and Young, who is a 6th grade teacher. Iwon, is the principal and his wife Shill, who is in charge of the dormitories are visiting from Dream Christian School. Ester is a translator from North Carolina.

Teachers are observing classes at Pella Christian Grade and High School through January 20. We have learned a lot from our guests and pray the teachers gain many ideas to promote Christian education in Korea. We also pray they may have a safe visit in the United States and journey back to Korea.

MidWest One Commitment

MidWestOne Bank recently donated two Apple iPad2s to Pella Christian Grade School. "The purpose of the iPad2s is to allow teachers to experience first-hand the education applications available and plan how best to use this technology in the classrooms," said Paul Jones, Vice President at MidWestOne in Pella. "The Apple iPad2 is expanding the borders of interactive learning in the classroom." MidWestOne has two Pella locations at 700 Main Street and 500 Oskaloosa Street.

Thank you to MidWestOne bank for this beneficial donation.

Position Openings

- * Full time Spanish immersion K / first grade teacher for 2012-2013
- * Full time combination of a Spanish immersion K aide, preschool and Foreign Language in an English Classroom (FLES) teacher
- * Part time Spanish immersion preschool assistant teacher (20% position on Wednesday and Friday afternoons)

Kindergarten Open House and Parent Night

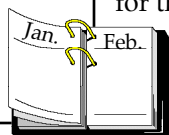
All preschool aged children turning 5 by September 15, 2012 are invited to Turtle Time at Pella Christian Grade School on Wednesday, February 29 and Thursday, March 1, 2012.

The children will be learning about these amazing creatures of God and doing many fun activities together. Parents are invited to observe if they so desire. This opportunity may be helpful in the decision making for your child's education for the upcoming school year.

Creation Station and One To Grow On students will be participating with their teachers during their regular session time. If you would like to observe, please sign up at your child's classroom. If your child attends another preschool or is receiving a preschool experience at home, please call the school at 628-2414 for details and to secure a spot for your child for a morning or afternoon session.

A meeting for parents only will be held on Thursday, March 8 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the Pella Christian Grade School music room. This meeting is intended for parents who have already chosen Pella Christian Grade School Kindergarten for their child or would like to learn more about our Christ-centered Kindergarten program and curriculum.

<u>February</u>	6-10	Iowa Tests of Basic Skills
	8	2:20 dismissal, inservice
	10	Middle School Concert, 6:00 p.m.
	16	Spanish Immersion Informational Meeting
	20	President's Day-no classes
	20	Board Meeting
<u>March</u>	1	PCGS Fine Arts



January Board Briefs: Steph Vander Molen shared opening devotions.

Consent Agenda: Approved to keep the same preschool schedule for 2012/2013 while including a Spanish Immersion (SI) class on Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 12:30 to 3:00. Approved to provide a Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES) teacher during the 2012/2013 school year which is shared with PCGS.

Approved Art, Music and PE arrangements for K/1 SI specials classes in 2012/2013. Approved PCGS calendar for 2012/2013. Approved to hire Mrs. Mary Van Zee full time to fill the void by Mrs. Cathy Vroom's retirement. Approved to use current office personnel to fill the void by Mrs. Karen Van Walbeek's resignation. Approved 7th/8th grade field trip to Jewish Synagogue. Pending board approval from PCHS, approved the sharing of personnel with PCHS. Approved request to have Mrs. Kris McKlveen be the 7th/8th grade band director during the fourth quarter and Mrs. Kris DeWild a part time employee during the fourth quarter. Approved that all approved SI candidates teach a thirty-minute, on-site, content-area lesson. Approved advertising campaign with KNIA/KRLS.

Business: Kevin Bolt shared highlights from the treasurer's report. David De Jong shared report highlights from the principal's, technology and curriculum director's report. The board heard a positive classroom report from Judy De Vries and Evan Van Gelder.

Education: Approved that students enrolled in SI preschool will have first priority in SI kindergarten.

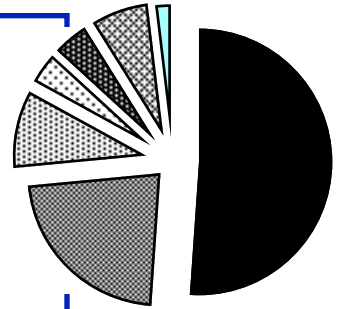
Finance: Adopted revised TRIP policies. Approved of the recommendations from Christian Schools International to increase the base pay by 1.75% from the 2011-2012 salary schedule. Approved to pay appropriate salary increments to staff that are moving up the salary schedule. Maintained pension/retirement contributions at the current levels. Added another chairperson for SAT by splitting up the elementary SAT chairperson into two positions: K-2 and 3-5. Increased all 3 SAT chair stipend, K-2, 3-5, and 6-8, to 2%. Approved 2012/2013 Contract Addendum. Increased the preschool director stipend. Increased total preschool tuition by 5.29%. Approved to add a \$25 fee to each student for participating in the middle school play.

New Business: Discussed teacher intentions.

Closing: Luke Huisman closed in prayer.

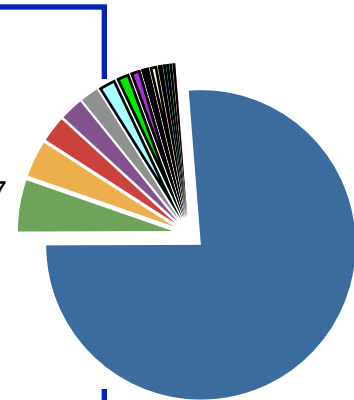
Student Representation by Churches / Denominations

CRC - 189
Reformed - 83
Cov. Ref. - 35
Other - 26
Fed. Flwsp. - 16
Lib. E. Free - 14
Other - 7



Student Representation by Communities

Pella - 282
Leighton - 20
Knoxville - 14
Otley - 10
Prairie City -
New Sharon -7
Reasnor - 7
Oskaloosa - 5
Tracy - 4
Harvey - 3
Monroe - 3
Coralville - 2
Colfax - 1
Newton -
Bussey - 1
Tainor - 1



Campbell's & General Mills Box Tops Program Updates

Campbell's: This school year it was the second grade teachers' turn to use accumulated Campbell's points to buy products from the Campbell's catalog. Classrooms are now enjoying books, videos, computer logic games, a pencil sharpener and several "Math Sharks" devices to help improve math abilities.

In December UPCs and plastic V8 lids were mailed to the Campbell's company resulting in a "bank account" up to around 16,000. Lord willing next fall our 3rd grade teachers will have their turn to order items!

Since we still often receive the wrong part of the label from Campbell's owned products, please remember the most important part to save is the UPC.

General Mills: In December PCGS received a check for \$1,212.70 from the General Mills Box Tops for Education program. Also, a package of Box Tops was mailed to the company which should result in a check for over \$1,300 to be received in April 2012. As you can see, those little Box Tops do add up!

One item to take note of regarding this program is to please pay attention to the expiration date on any bonus certificates you receive & turn them in to school as soon as possible. This past year we had to throw many of them away since they had expired before we received them.

Gifts Received

PCGS is very appreciative of the gifts of money and services given to PCGS. We are blessed to receive:

- * End of the year contributions to the general fund.
- * Thanksgiving offerings from supporting churches.
- * Anonymous donations to the tuition assistance program fund.
- * ING employee matching donation.
- * Quarterly offering donations.
- * Corn sold and donated to general fund.
- * Gifts to the Dick Olson Memorial.
- * Gifts to the Jeanetta De Jong Memorial.
- * Gifts to Edna Boender Memorial.
- * Dorothy Nellie Van Zee estate.
- * Junella Ver Meer estate.
- * Anonymous donation toward the PCGS pole banners.

Exciting change is coming to the TRIP program!

- As of **February 1st** all TRIP orders will be placed on-line at www.shopwithscrip.com (we will no longer accept paper orders after January 31) After going to this website, each family needs to create an account if you have not already signed up for one. Look for the green box "Family sign-up."
- The PCGS enrollment code is **9D2FB2CB272**. The green box is only used once, subsequent log-ins are done through member sign in.
- When your account is set-up, return to the HOME page and select "my account." On the left hand side of the screen you will see a menu option called "Presto Pay." At this point "Presto Pay" is optional but we think you will find it allows you many additional benefits.
- "Presto Pay" is a way to pay for your order. The total of your gift cards plus a processing fee of only 15 cents will be deducted as an ACH transaction from your checking account when you place your order. A check option is also listed, and we will still accept payment by check at this point. If you do not see a Presto Pay option, your account is not set up correctly and you should contact the TRIP coordinator at trip@pellachristian.net
- Presto Pay set-up takes 2-3 business days to fully complete (set up your account right away if you want to place an order next week). The company verifies your identity and your banking information BEFORE you are able to pay with this option on your order. You will need to watch for 2 small deposits into your bank account (around 10 cents each) and report these deposits on the www.shopwithscrip.com website to receive your activation code.
- The activation code will be emailed to you. Please forward this email to trip@pellachristian.net and the TRIP coordinator will activate your account.
- You are now ready to shop!

Need help getting setup? No access to a computer?
No email address?

Come to Pella Christian Grade School on **Thursday, January 26, 2012** between 8:00am and 3:30pm. Karla Hofman and Jodi Vander Hart will be on hand to assist you in getting set up, answering questions and show you some of the available features to make your ordering experience as quick and easy as can be! A computer is also available in the office for you to place orders anytime the office is open.

Already have your account set up? Good for you! Here are a few tips to help you with your ordering:

From the "Shop" tab at the top:

Click on the **Scrip Now!** With the ! in front for a listing of all businesses currently available without the waiting for the paper certificate – GREAT option for family and friends all over the country to help you out.

Favorites with the star in front: Do you find yourself typically ordering the same certificates week after week? When you are checking out be sure to click the add to favorites button. The next time you want to place an order start here. It will bring up a listing of all the certificates you added to your favorites and allow you to quickly add the quantity desired to your cart.

Express Add with the + in front: Click here to allow yourself the opportunity to start typing in the name of a business you are looking for and it will bring up all available options and denominations.

From the "My Account" tab at the top:

Vouchers - click here to see a listing of all the local businesses that offer to fill out a voucher for you at the time of purchase rather than having to purchase certificates ahead. Just remember to turn in the white copy of the vouchers within one year from the date of issue to receive your credit.

Change profile/password – This is where you go to set up how you would like your filled orders to be distributed. In the "pickup method" line enter either "office" or "student". If you choose "student" you must then fill in the student name and classroom for students in K-5 and student name and locker number for students in grades 6-8.

My announcements – click here to see any additional helpful information we have posted including hints and any changes in the TRIP schedule for the week.

User Guide – A great place to start if you have questions about how to best utilize the program!

How are my earnings going to be calculated under the new system?

Under the old system the program retained 1% off of the top of whatever the businesses offered the school. For example Fareway offers the school a 3% discount. The school keeps 1% and the families earn 2% of the face value ordered. Under the new system your earnings are figured on the full percentage offered by the business and the schools fees are based on a percentage of your total earnings. For example under the old system you earned \$2 on a \$100 Fareway card purchase, under the new system you will be earning \$2.40. The full 3% less the 20% of earnings the system calculates for administrative fees. Once we get the program up and running we hope to reevaluate the administrative fee, see if we can utilize more volunteers and bring that percentage down even more so that families can retain an even higher percentage!