

“But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.’” Matthew 19:14

Children’s activities are finishing soon,
but there are still some events remaining!
Keep

Watch the (Pinewood Derby) Car Races!

By Jon Yoder

The 2019-2020 Pella II CRC Pinewood Derby races will be held at 7:00pm (car submission at 6:30pm) on Wednesday, March 4th in the Legacy gym at Pella Christian Grade School.

The Pella II CRC Derby is split up into 3 divisions; Cadets, GEMS, and an Open class. Any parent, adult, child, or teen is welcome to enter a car and compete in the Open class (speak with Shane Tukker or any other Cadet Counsellor if you’d still like a car). The derby cars are built from a kit including the wood, wheels, and axles, and cars need to adhere to the rules to qualify for the competition. The Derby provides a simple and creative project to the kids to be completed with their parents, and with an even playing field where the kids can be rewarded for their efforts.

The competition is broken into 2 categories; Show and Speed. For Show, the cars are judged by a small group of un-biased church members based upon each car’s creativity, uniqueness, and attention to detail. For Speed, the cars will race down a long aluminum track in groups of 4 multiple times and have their finishing times averaged to determine the winners. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies are awarded in all 3 divisions for both Show and Speed.

In several weeks, the Cadets will also have the opportunity to show and race their car against all the other Hawkeye Cadet clubs at Cadet-O-Rama.

After the award ceremony, everyone is welcome to socialize and enjoy some ice cream sponsored by the GEMS club.

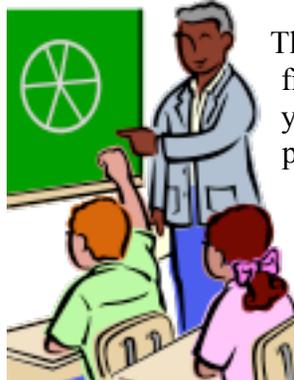
The Cadet Counsellors would like to thank Calvin Roose and Jon Golliet for drilling out and filling the 20+ cars with lead once again this year.

We hope you’ll be able to join us!

Sunday School Superintendent’s Report

By Melissa Tukker

We are most of the way through another successful year of Sunday school! We started on September 22 and we have just crossed the mark of 75% of the way through the year. The last day of classes will be on April 26.



The Sunday school hour, which runs from 10:50-11:45, begins with the younger kids singing children’s praise songs together on the third floor. Jon and Lindsay Golliet and I trade weeks leading music and it often involves lots of movement to help them get their wiggles out. After 10 minutes of singing and stomping, they move on to their grade-level classes. Preschool through fifth grade children learn about God’s stories through games, dramatic story-telling, and reflective wondering that is tailored for their unique ages and abilities. Sixth through

twelfth grade students get to skip the singing and go straight to their classes. The curriculum for the older children explores what it means to be a Christian and how to live out faith in the real world.

We all need to give a big thanks to all the teachers of the Sunday school classes for giving up their time to pour into the youth of our church. Matt Walker, Lisa Vos, and April Nieuwsma teach the preschoolers, Regina Vaverka and Crystal Schreur work with kindergarten and first grade, second and third grade is led by Kim Hoekstra and Will Van Wyngarden, Shane Tukker and Steven Talsma run the fourth and fifth grade class, Robert Rus and Joe Van Haafte teach sixth through eighth grade class, and the high school class is taught by Kurt Boender and Brent Pierson.

And thank you too, members of Pella II. Whenever you make promises at baptism, you help us in bringing up your children in the ways of the Lord. Without your support, our efforts would be in vain. Not so, in our congregation! God is good, all the time. He is leading us, and we are training up our children in the way they should go.

De Kinderen Kloset Sale Draws Near

By Jeanetta Nieuwsma

De Kinderen Kloset is a ministry of Pella II CRC. Our committee, currently comprised mostly of young Pella II moms (though anyone is welcome to be on the committee!), plans and organizes an annual children's consignment sale, hosted at Pella II. Sellers keep 70% of their profit and the other 30% is donated to a local nonprofit that benefits children and families in need. Through this ministry we have been able to gift monies to Kaden's Kloset, Crossroads, Pathways of Pella, Bethany Christian Services and many others. Our upcoming

sale will be held on Friday, April 3, 2020 and Saturday, April 4, 2020. We will be open Friday from 9:00am - 5:00pm and Saturday from 9:00am - noon.

De Kinderen Kloset is made up entirely of volunteers that serve in various roles. We are looking for volunteers, young and old, male and female to help! If you would like to get more information on how you can get involved please contact Melissa Tukker, April Nieuwsma or Jeanetta Nieuwsma.

Pastor's Pen

Welcoming Others

By Pastor Paul Bradford

Dear Pella II Congregation,
In my January Pastor's Pen we began discussing four important practices of an outward reaching congregation: Connecting with those who are outside of the church, Inviting people to come to services and events at Pella II, Welcoming newcomers when they visit a church service or event, and Enfolding newcomers into our circle of relationships. All four practices are essential and equally important. But they all rise and fall on *welcoming*. If we connect and invite, but people don't feel welcomed, when they show up, they won't come back. And if people don't come back, we'll never be able to enfold them.

The first step to being welcoming is *paying attention*. We must be on the lookout for newcomers, and when we see a newcomer, we must reach out in kindness, going out of our way to greet them and strike up a conversation with them.

But, what do I say to someone I don't know? Today I want to share a tool I have found helpful when starting conversations with someone I don't know. It's called the "Conversation Stack."

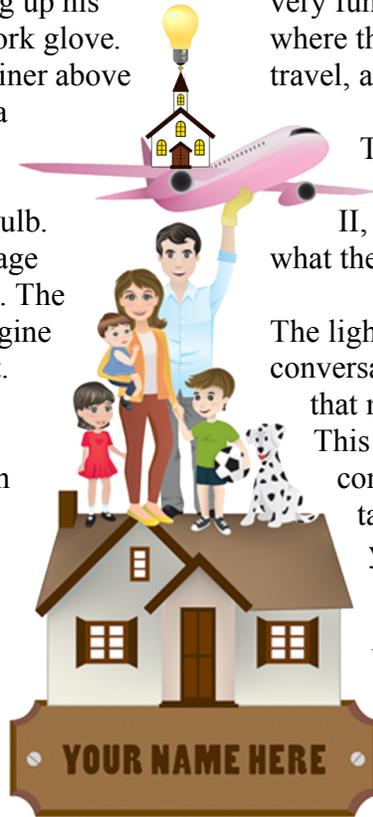
Imagine a stack of images. First is a mahogany name plate. On top of the name plate is a home. On top of the home is a family with their dog. A little boy is holding a soccer ball. The dad is holding up his arm and is wearing a leather work glove. He's holding a commercial airliner above his head (I never said this was a realistic image!). On top of the airliner is a church. And on top of the church is a light bulb. Close your eyes and let this image come alive in your imagination. The sillier and more active you imagine it, the better you'll remember it.

Every element of this image guides you in your conversation when you meet someone new.

The name plate symbolizes your initial introductions: getting their name as well as making sure that they have heard yours. Repeat their name as soon as you can and as often as you can to help you remember it.

The next image is the home: ask the person where they live and where they grew up. The family on the roof is there to prompt you to ask question about family: ask about kids, spouse, parents, or grandparents. And ask if they have any pets (thus the dog in the image), this can be a huge topic if the person is a pet lover, and it'll go nowhere if they aren't!

The soccer ball symbolizes sports or hobbies: ask the person what sports they enjoy, what hobbies they enjoy, and other things they enjoy doing. You might even picture a smiley face on the ball to remind you to focus on things that bring the person enjoyment.



The work glove prompts you to ask the person what they do for work. Ask meaningful questions about what they do; a person's work day is a big part of their life. The plane symbolizes travel. This can be very fun and exciting topic to discuss. Ask where they've travelled, where they'd like to travel, and so on.

The church prompts you to ask the person what brought them to Pella II, what they enjoyed about church, or what they are looking for in a church.

The light bulb is the final component to the conversation stack. The light symbolizes that moment when the person lights up! This is when you know you're connecting. They're ready to talk, and talk passionately about something you've brought up in your conversation.

You'll never get through this conversation stack over coffee in the Fellowship Hall! You could fill an entire evening asking these questions and listening. If you remember this simple image, you'll always have plenty to talk about.

Of course, you need to let the conversation flow naturally. You don't need to go in order, and you'll want to be sensitive to how the Lord may be leading. And you need to listen more than you talk. As you pay attention to people, and listen to them, they will know you care about them, and they'll want to come back.

All for Jesus,
Pastor Paul

Note: Portions of this article are from an online blog post located at <https://www.decauguelph.com/single-post/2017/06/18/The-Conversation-Stack>