

A publication  
for friends of  
ACS.

Ames  
Christian School  
Excellence in Education Through Christ

Issue II

February 2010

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## It's Time to Round 'Em Up!

ACS will be holding Kindergarten round-up on Monday, March 8th (9:00-10:30am and 6:00-7:30pm). If you have a child that will be 5 years of age before September 15th, 2010, you are invited to come see what we have to offer. You won't be disappointed.

Mrs. Carol Baedke is in her second year of teaching kindergarten during her 11 years at ACS. Her teaching experience ranges from Head Start to ISU Child Care Center at the Vet Med School to teaching in several surrounding area public schools. She received her

elementary education degree from UNI and an early childhood endorsement from Buena Vista University.

Carol says, "I knew this (ACS) was where God wanted me to be." She appreciates the freedom to talk about God in science, such as studying the season of winter, seeing the many unique designs of snowflakes and knowing that God created each one, just as He created each student to be unique.

Reading is Carol's favorite subject to teach. She says, "I hope to establish a love

for books in the children. By mid-year, the students are beginning to read, and that is opening up a



Peeling apples for apple butter

whole new world." Carol's goals for the children are: learning to play together, working with others, sharing, taking turns and listening to what others have to say. "They learn how to be a good friend, do their best and try new things."



## Community Open House and Classroom Showcase

The public has two different opportunities to visit Ames Christian School on March 4, 2010. Community Open House is an invitation on Thursday, March 4 from 9:00am-2:00pm to come and observe ACS in action during a typical school day.

Join us that evening from 5:30-8:00pm for a spaghetti dinner and Classroom Showcase Night. All the classrooms will showcase their students interacting with the school community in a creative, academic way. Administrator Peggy Smith,

teachers, and board members will be available to answer questions about curriculum, academic objectives, scholarships and more. Anyone in the community who has an interest in ACS, as well as prospective students and their fami-

lies, may tour the school building, participate in the meal and observe the classrooms. "I'm excited for the community to come in and observe our dedicated Christian teachers educate, model and mentor their students," said Mrs. Smith.

# Christmas Blessings—Near and Far

Physical Education teacher Laurie Jensen and her husband, Alan are involved in a ministry that provides pastoral training as well as physical and financial support to a small mission in northeast India called The Claypot Brothers. The Brothers care for or-



Children at orphanage after receiving their stuffed animals from ACS.

phaned children who are brought to their churches. The children are brought into their Christian boarding schools and into their very homes. ACS has been an extension of this ministry for the past couple of years. We have hosted one of the leaders as a chapel speaker and have sent used clothing to the children. This year, ACS children collected over 200 new and gently used

stuffed animals during the months of November and December. These were sent as Christmas gifts for the 35 Indian children and also to 50 children who live in an orphanage in Kathmandu, Nepal.

In December, all classes (preschool–5th grade) at ACS assembled about 35 Operation Christmas Child (OCC) boxes. OCC is an initiative of Samaritan’s Purse, a Christian relief and development agency working among communities in need in 18 countries across Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Over 1 million shoeboxes packed full of gifts and goodies were



Mrs. Sikkema’s 1st and 2nd grade class with their Operation Christmas Child boxes.

wrapped, packed and sent to children in disadvantaged situations.



Cast members of the Christmas Program “Christmas Hang-Ups”

Parents, grandparents and friends of ACS were blessed with an entertaining and inspirational Christmas program directed by Mrs. Laura Gardner. The musical was a humorous reminder that Christmas is truly a time to celebrate, no matter what type of “ornament” we may be. A wonderful reception followed, thanks to the organization of Michelle Gute, Laura Carlson and several volunteers.

## Administrator’s Corner – Peggy Smith

Ames Christian School is considering adding a Christian child care program for 3-5 year olds to our Preschool Program starting the fall of 2010-2011. Choosing a child care program is never easy for a family, but finding a program with a Christian emphasis can make the task even more challenging. Locating a quality Child care program involves more than just finding a safe environment for your 3-5 year old. It

involves finding a place for them to grow physically, mentally and spiritually. Most child care programs offer good nutrition and learning programs, but not many focus on giving children an introduction to their Savior. A Christian atmosphere applies the love and attitude of Christ to its learning environment and activities, as well as incorporating Bible stories and songs. The child care pro-

gram would be an extended Christian learning environment designed to help children understand concepts and master skills necessary for complete growth and development. ACS desires to give parents of 3-5 year olds a new Christian option for child care. Feel free to contact the school with any questions you may have. I’ll be happy to visit with you.

# Volunteer Spotlight

Our school is blessed with many people that are willing to share their time and talents. Without these dedicated and generous people, it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to have the wonderful school we have now. In the next few newsletters, some of these special people are going to be in the "spotlight".



The first person to recognize is Carol Helland. You may have

seen her in the school's library, quietly re-shelving books or helping children check books out. Carol's passion for the library is evident the moment you walk in. She has worked hard to organize books so the children can easily find their favorite chapter books or a reference book needed for a class report. The library is now an inviting place for the children to come and find new books to read and expand their imaginations. The library's book collection is mainly made up of donations and the purchase of new books through the Scholastic Book Fair and Box Tops for Education. Carol spends her personal time acquiring new books, processing books and displaying them in an inviting manner.

Carol also helps organize the Scholastic Book Fair which oc-



curs every fall. She and her many volunteers sold over \$1000 in books this past November. A percentage of these sales is given back to ACS, which allows for the purchase of new books for the school. Carol was able to order 40 new books for the library last spring. She also purchased books that are on the teacher's "wish lists" with the money earned through the book fair.

Thank you Carol for all that you do for the library and students at ACS!

## Board President—Jeff Sernett

### Matching Funds Drive—Thank You!

ACS has been blessed by generous donations to the 2009-10 matching funds drive. I want to personally thank those base donors who began this challenge and made their investment in personalized Christian education in Ames. The total donations contributed by base and matching donors equaled **\$38,797**. As was communicated in the previous newsletter, these funds were designated to help balance the 2009-10 budget as well as begin some funding of the 2010-11 scholarship fund. Thank you to all donors for sharing your financial gifts.

### School Board Leaders Needed

I am thankful for having a group of school board members guiding ACS. The board currently has unfilled seats, and there will also be members transitioning off of the board this year. If you believe in Christian education and are willing to commit your time and talents in leading ACS into the future, please contact me to discuss role expectations. God now has opportunities for you to serve ACS in this way, and we do need your help at this time. Please send me an Email at [j\\_s\\_sernett@prairieinet.net](mailto:j_s_sernett@prairieinet.net) or call 515-249-4440.

### Scholarship Donations Requested

The ACS scholarship fund still needs additional financial support for the upcoming 2010-11 school year. We ask that you contact your employer regarding matching charitable donations that you make to non-profit organizations like ACS. Several donors have given to ACS, and their employer has matched these gifts after confirmation from our staff of the original donation. All scholarship dollars directly allow children in need to grow with God through personalized Christian education from our outstanding teaching staff.



## Upcoming Events

### March

- 1 ASCI Math Olympics
- 4 Open House/Classroom Showcase
- 8 Kindergarten Round-up
- 9 School Board Meeting 6:30pm

### 11 Early Registration Deadline

### April

- 6 All School Pioneer Picnic Day
- 9 ASCI Speech Meet
- 13 School Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 23 Pastor's Day

### May

- 11 School Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 25 Awards & Potluck Picnic – Brookside Park
- 28 Golf Outing Fundraiser – Coldwater Golf Links
- 28 Last Day of School

925 S. 16th Street, Ames, IA 50010  
 Phone: 515-233-0772  
 E-mail: administrator@ameschristianschool.org  
 Website: www.ameschristianschool.org

## School Spirit Week Fun

- The children had lots of fun dressing up during School Spirit Week in January. The dress-up days were ER day, pajama day, Bible character day, book character day and trash bag day. Each day a boy and girl were voted by their classmates as winners and received a rotating trophy. The teachers even joined in on the fun. In this story, a picture is worth a thousand



**Donors can now make monetary donations through our website using PayPal.** It's as easy as clicking on the button "Invest in ACS" on the homepage. This will direct you to a page that gives a brief description of three different funds you can donate to: General Donation, Scholarship Donation or Matching Funds.

If you know of anyone who is a supporter of Ames Christian School that would like to receive this newsletter, please contact us by e-mailing secretary@ameschristianschool.org or by calling the school.

We are currently updating our Friends of ACS database. Please send us your current e-mail address so we will be able to send future newsletters to you electronically. This will eliminate the need for paper copies and mailing. Your help is much appreciated.

## Putting the "FUN" in Fundraiser

It's hard to believe that in 3 short months all the snow will be melted away, and the golf courses will look very inviting to all the golfers out there. In the next few months, Chuck Carlson and several volunteers will be busy organizing and planning ACS's 2010 Golf Outing. The date for this year's outing is Friday, May 28th at Coldwater Golf Links.

Last year's Event Sponsor was Cornerstone Church. Lunch was provided by Hickory Park and was sponsored by Your Local Consumer TV Guide/ Shopper and Paul Livingston – Hunziker & Associates Realty. Wilson Toyota of Ames sponsored a hole-in-one prize of a 2009 Camry. Several companies, churches and organizations

sponsored individual holes. The 4-person best-shot event had 84 golfers or 21 teams participate. Lots of friendly competition was enjoyed by all.



Golf carts loaded and ready to go.

Chuck says, "We look to add sponsorships, prizes and participants to this year's event. We welcome previous and new businesses and organizations to help sponsor the event." Since the event is fully sponsored, 100% of the

participants admission fee is a contribution to ACS and is tax deductible.

There will be a need for several volunteers that are willing to contact businesses and organizations in February and March. The Event Sponsor, Lunch Sponsor, Hole-in-One Sponsor and Hole Sponsors are needed for this year's event. If you are interested in volunteering to help with this important fundraiser OR if you would like to be a sponsor, please contact Chuck Carlson at ccarlson@oaklandcorp.com.

If you are interested in participating in this year's Golf Outing, you can print a foursome registration form from the school's website. Invite your golfing buddies and make this a "FUN" fundraiser for ACS.