

A publication
for friends of
ACS.

Ames Christian School

Excellence in Education Through Christ

Issue VIII

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Kindergarten Round-Up

On Monday, March 5, ACS will be hosting a Kindergarten Round-Up for parents and students interested in our kindergarten programs. This informational meeting will introduce new families to the school and to Mrs. Baedke's kindergarten class. The informational session will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 5. Child-care will be provided. Peggy Smith will welcome families and provide information about the school's structure, mission, enrollment procedures, and other programs. There will be a panel of current

kindergarten parents to give future parents an idea of what ACS kindergarten is like. Carol Baedke and Early Kindergarten teacher, Julie Long, will explain the differences between the two kindergarten programs. Mrs. Baedke has been teaching at ACS for 13 years, this is her fourth year teaching kindergarten. Mrs. Long has been teaching four years at ACS. Mrs. Long is also lead Preschool teacher and the Early Childhood Director.

A new event to be offered this year is the "Experience Kindergarten Day" on March 7.

During this western round up themed day, the children will have the opportunity to join Mrs. Baedke and Mrs. Long in the kindergarten classroom for a real day of kindergarten. A morning session will be held from 8:30 to 11:15 a.m. and an afternoon session will be held from 12:00- 2:45 p.m.



Mrs. Baedke reading to class.



Kindergarten students learning alphabet sounds.

SMART Board Awarded to ACS Kindergarten

Students were especially rambunctious January 27. They were excited because they had earned enough Hy-Vee SMART POINTS to receive a SMART Board for the kindergarten room.

This interactive white board, which makes learning fun and teaching easier, was presented

by Hy-Vee representatives to kindergarten teacher, Carol Baedke, and her class at a small school assembly.

"I'm just thrilled to have a SMART Board in my classroom. There are so many things I can do on it and the kindergarteners will really be able to interact with it,"

said Baedke upon receiving the SMART Board.

Diana Kolodziej, school coordinator of the Hy-Vee SMART POINTS contest, also received a special prize. Hy-Vee awarded Kolodziej and her family with an iPad for their hard work during the process.



Mrs. Baedke and her kindergarten class with Hy-Vee representatives

Service Project Benefits Children Overseas

In January, Ames Christian students celebrated "School Spirit Week," with a fun theme for each day of the week. On Monday, January 16, the theme was "Mismatch Day," where the students came to school dressed in plaids, prints and clashing colors. Not long before "Mismatch Day," Ames Christian elementary students saw many photos of children their own age, wearing clashing and mismatched clothes on a daily basis. These were children from the Sweet Children's Centre in India.

The photos were shown to ACS students in a special December chapel service with former Ames Christian School PE teacher, Laurie Jensen. Some of the Indian children in the pictures were wearing clothes that Ames Christian students had donated to the Children's Centre last year.

In addition to donations of gently used summer clothing, the "K 2 K" project (Kids to Kids) has involved Ames Christian students donating many stuffed animals and PE equipment to the Sweet Children's Centre. Laurie Jensen told the Ames Christian students that the Indian children especially loved the plush stuffed animals that were given to them. Many had never seen or owned such toys before. Each child at the Centre can fit everything they own in a small metal trunk which has to be waterproof because of the seasonal monsoons. She also showed pictures of the children joyfully playing with soccer balls and other PE equipment donated by ACS.



Former ACS physical education teacher Laurie Jensen is pictured with children who receive clothing, toy and PE equipment donations from ACS students and families.

The lead Indian pastor that oversees the Sweet Children's Centre, Pastor Jai, spoke at Ames Christian School's chapel service last spring to tell more about the ministry and to thank the students in person. Pastor Jai said, "The children were delighted to have the donations. It was a blessing. With the help of U.S. Christian believers, much is provided for the Sweet Children's Centre."

Pastor Jai shared with the ACS students how some of the shy and frightened children at the Sweet Children's Centre transformed through the caring provision and outpouring of love they have received. The first graduate, a seventeen year old girl named Rachma, came to the Centre when she was nine years old. Her mother had recently died. The Claypot Brothers took her in and Rachma eventually became a great help to Laurie in translating English to Hindi in Laurie's work with the orphans.

Pastor Jai told the students how he

had grown up in a Hindu family, and as a teenager, was kicked out of his home for exploring Christianity. Once he was on his own, some Christian women gave him a Bible and he became a believer. Pastor Jai began "The Claypot Brothers" ministry and will be working closely with the Jensen's.

The Jensen's will be spending the next four months ministering in the countries of India and Nepal. Laurie Jensen will teach PE at the Sweet Children's Centre and interact with the children. The new PE equipment donated by ACS is used at the Centre for games and activities under Laurie's instruction.

Alan Jensen will partner with the Claypot Brothers mission in South Asia. The Claypot Brothers ministry teaches classes in theology and provides pastor training throughout Asia. They also translate Christian materials and care for abandoned children. Alan hopes to meet with leaders in the capitol city for planning and prayer sessions. He will be visiting with university contacts in hopes of gaining a university lecturer appointment. Travel with the Claypot Brothers will take him to Western Asia and Nepal to visit and train rural pastors.

Anyone who wishes to donate to the Jensen's and their work in Asia can make tax deductible donations to Laurie and/or Alan Jensen. These donations can be mailed or dropped off at Ames Christian School at 925 S. 16th St. One hundred percent of these donations will be sent directly to the Jensen's to continue supporting their work throughout Asia.

Volunteer Spotlight

Lisa Severseike has been involved with Ames Christian School since 2008. She discovered the school through a family member whose daughter was enrolled in Ames Christian Preschool. Once she visited and discovered the great Preschool program she was convinced it was the right place to send her sons Cole and Nicholas. Since then she has become an active volunteer for the school.

Mrs. Severseike began her involvement by volunteering for field trips, parties, and other classroom activities in her son's classroom. She then went on to volunteer on the planning committees for the Golf Outing and One Starry Night Gala fundraisers.

"I love helping in the classroom and seeing the interaction of the kids," she said. "Being involved



with the Gala and Golf Outing was a great way to be with other parents and let others know about the school."

Lisa loves the amazing teachers and administration at ACS. "I love the presence of love and learning with God and Biblical Principles being the center of it all," she said.

Early Childhood Director, Julie Long, said that Lisa has been a very supportive parent volunteer during the last four years. Along with helping out at class events, Mrs. Long said that

Lisa encourages the teachers and recruits families for the preschool through her job and friendships.

Lisa and her husband Jeff live on a farm with their four sons: Trent (21), Justin (18), Cole (7), and Nick (4). The family's farm houses cattle and hogs and produces primarily corn and beans. They also own a trucking company that hauls cattle all over the United States and own Global State Mortgage in Ames where Lisa works. In their free time, the family enjoys water sports, snow skiing, and playing on their farm.



Board President Update—Jeff Sernett

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to those that gave so generously to our Matching Funds campaign. A total of \$16,830 was raised and the base donors gave to the match at \$15,000. Therefore, a grand total of **\$31,830** was deposited into the school's general fund where it may be used for general expenses and scholarship funding as directed by the school board. **Thank you!**

Scholarship Funding Requested

Each year ACS invites donors to contribute to our scholarship fund for the upcoming fall. We allow applications through our FAST process to qualify all families

seeking assistance. We currently have about \$2,800 in this fund for fall 2012. Our goal is to raise at least **\$65,000** by May, 2012. These dollars would be available to families for fall enrollment. All donations are tax deductible and directly impact students receiving a Christian education. Please consider this as part of your Christian tithing decisions for 2012.

Tiling to be dug in this spring

The school board has approved some tile that will be dug in on the east side of our property as well as the north side to the storm drain. Luverne Apartments (our neighbor

to the east) will be managing this task and there will be digging happening inside the fence to our east side. This will be a messy process due to the digging, but will potentially aid ACS in the future as we have asked for tile tees to be installed so that we may connect into it at some point in the future if we choose. We would like to get this completed early in the spring to allow for time to re-establish grass in the disturbed area.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as this process is completed this spring. Please contact us with any questions.



Upcoming Events

March

- 1 Open House/Classroom Showcase 5-8pm
- 5 Kindergarten Round-up 6:00pm
- 6 School Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 7 Kindergarten Experience Day
- 8 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 12-16 Spring Break—NO CLASSES
- 31 Early Registration Deadline

April

- 10 School Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 27 Bike-A-Thon

May

- 8 School Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 22 Field Day/Awards Picnic
- 25 4th Annual Golf Outing

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4th Annual Golf Outing

- Mark your calendar and contact your golf buddies for the 4th annual ACS Golf Outing. It is going to be held on Friday, May 25th at Coldwater Golf Links with lunch at 11 a.m. and a shotgun start at noon. The 4-person best shot tournament guarantees lots of fun and fellowship while benefitting the school.
- Watch our website for more details as the event approaches. If you would like to help plan this important fundraiser, please contact Coby Wells at the school. Hope to see you there!

Pasta Dinner & Classroom Showcase

Thursday night, March 1, from 5:00-8:00 p.m., ACS will have our third annual Pasta Dinner and Classroom Showcase night. The Pasta Dinner begins at 5:00 and will be served until 7:00 in the multipurpose room. There will be a "free will donation" at the dinner.

The Classroom Showcases take place from 5:30-8:00. The Preschool and K-6 families will have a chance to visit their children's classroom and to participate in all the Classroom Showcases. Each class will "showcase" what they've learned throughout the school year. The four year old Preschool families who are considering ACS for Early Kindergarten or Kindergarten are encouraged to attend the Kindergarten Showcase which will take place immediately following the four year old Showcase.

The school will be "Open" during the day for interested families to see ACS in action. Please invite anyone in the Ames and surrounding communities who you think might be interested in touring the school building, participating in the meal, and experiencing the classrooms.

Field Trips to Stephens Auditorium

by Suzy Sernett

ACS is so blessed to be located in close proximity to a wonderful cultural center such as Stephens Auditorium. I was reminded of this when I accompanied my son's preschool class to the children's production "Are You My Mother".



The children really enjoyed watching the one-act musical based on the book by P.D. Eastman. The performers were associated with ArtsPower National Touring Theatre out of Verona, New Jersey. It was a great experience.

Later that same week, my other son was able to enjoy the 80-member ISU Symphony Orchestra perform Peter and the Wolf as part of a light-hearted, narrated program exploring the instruments and sounds of the orchestra. Before the performance began, the conductor introduced the students to each character in the story. The violins represented Peter, the flutes represented his friend, the bird, the clarinets represented the cat, the oboes represented the duck, the bassoon

represented Peter's grandfather, and the french horns represented the wolf.

In the lobby, after the performance, the children were able to meet the 'characters' of Peter and the Wolf in ISU's own "instrument petting zoo". This gave the students an opportunity to see and hear the instruments up close.

