

A publication
for friends of
ACS.

Ames Christian School

Excellence in Education Through Christ

Issue XII

February 2013

Inside this issue:

Round-Up	Pg 1
Spirit Week	Pg 2
One Room Schools	Pg 2
Service Projects	Pg 3
Board Update	Pg 3
Live Healthy Kids	Pg 4
Upcoming Events	Pg 4

Kindergarten Round-Up

Ames Christian School's Academic Kindergarten/Early Kindergarten parent information meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 26, at 6:30 p.m. in the Kindergarten room at Ames Christian School. Kindergarten Round-Up will be held on March 11 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Ames Christian offers personalized Christian education with academic excellence provided by gifted, mentoring teachers in a safe, disciplined learning environment. The parent meeting will begin with Peggy Smith, ACS Administrator, welcoming the parents and providing information about the school's structure, mission,

enrollment procedure, and other programs. She will introduce Academic Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Carol Baedke, and Early Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Julie Long to the parents. Mrs. Baedke has taught at ACS for fifteen years. She taught first and second grade for nine years and is in her sixth year of teaching Kindergarten. Mrs. Long is in her sixth year of teaching and directing ACS Preschool and Early Kindergarten. They will explain the difference between the two Kindergarten programs.

Current Kindergarten parents will share about their child's experiences at ACS and answer questions. Curriculum will be available

for parents to view, the teachers will answer questions, and parents may tour the school. Childcare will be provided for families during the evening.

On March 11 from 9:00-10:30 a.m., future Kindergartners are invited to experience what Kindergarten is like for the morning. They will join our teachers in the Kindergarten room, where the western round-up theme will carry throughout the activities that the students participate in during a fun morning.

Please feel free to call the school office or email psmith@ameschristianschool.org if you have any questions.



Jenna Kim practicing her handwriting.

Guest Speaker for Book Week

In honor of Book Week, ACS students had the chance to listen to author and wildlife photographer Ty Smedes present, "The Return of the Bald Eagle to Iowa." Smedes is the author and photographer of two Iowa nature books and a freelance photographer for many local and national nature magazines.

Mr. Smedes showed the stu-

dents spectacular photos of Bald Eagles in flight, catching fish, and with young at nest. The nest photos included adults feeding tiny young, as well as nearly grown youngsters testing their wings and learning to fly.

This presentation was special to ACS because the school recently named their

new mascot "Ace the Eagle."

Later the 5th and 6th graders had a question and answer session with Mr. Smedes where he spoke to them about how to become a published author and photographer. He gave them tips on how to practice writing and photography now. His number one piece of

advice was to find a specific interest to focus on and practice, practice, practice!



Mr. Smedes speaking with the 5th and 6th grade class.

Showing School Spirit

It was a fun-filled week for ACS students as they dressed up for Spirit Week, went ice skating and even named a new school mascot.



On Mismatch Day students wore the craziest clashing patterns they could come up with. On Tuesday football players, ballerinas, Tae-Kwon Doe athletes and more were represented for Sports Day. Classes transformed into

rainbows on Prism Day as each student dressed in a different color to complete the class rainbow. On Thursday, students got to stay cozy for Pajama Day and Friday they showed their ACS spirit by wearing the school colors, red and black.

At the end of the week awards were given to the most creative outfits and the students had a pizza party and went ice skating.

The week also ended with the naming of a new school mascot. The new Eaglet mascot, was designed by ACS mom Kandi Burris. After the children submitted ideas and voted on names, they decided on ACE as the name of ACS's new Eaglet.

A mascot coloring contest was held and fifth grader Haley Yoder took home the prize.

The Eaglet mascot reflects the school's theme verse Isaiah 40:31, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."



One Room Schoolhouse

History was brought to life for Ames Christian School's Kindergarten through second grade classes when 99-year-old Esther Wick came to speak about her experiences teaching during the 1930s. The class was able to give back to Wick, who is still an active volunteer in Story County, by celebrating her 99th birthday. Wick told the children about what it was like to teach in a one-room school house and answered the students' many questions. She told them about starting the schoolhouse stove, living with area families and how students traveled to school.



She said that each morning she would read from the Bible, share a psalm and scripture and area pastors would speak once a week to the children. Common illnesses of the time were the grip (fever and cough), influenza, whooping cough, small pox

and measles. Wick taught for eight years in various area schools. She stopped teaching when she got married because at the time it was state law for female teachers to resign their position when they became married.

"It's important for students to learn about other generations outside of their own," said Kindergarten teacher Carol Baedke.

The students ended the day with birthday cake and celebrated with cards and happy smiles.

Giving Back Through Service Projects

Ames Christian School believes it is more blessed to give than receive. We want our students to experience the joy of giving, serving, and loving others by participating in various service projects all year. Throughout His life on earth Jesus served others. We desire to honor Him by serving, sharing, and giving to those less fortunate. Matthew 25:40 says "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

Ames Christian School Preschool participated in Operation Christmas Child this year. This annual project, organized by Samaritan's Purse, collects shoeboxes of small gifts and distributes these boxes to children in need around the world. Since 1993, more than 77 million children in over 130 countries have received these simple treasures and been introduced to Jesus Christ through a booklet about the Gospel written in the child's own language.

The children enjoyed going to the store with their parents and picking out something that a boy or girl their age would like.

The children had a Shoe Box Packing Party; they assembled eleven

boxes as a classroom activity. The boxes were labeled and wrapped for a preschool aged boy or girl. The children also drew pictures to be included inside the boxes. The boxes along with money for the postage were taken to the Operation Christmas Child collection site in Ames.



ACS K-6th Graders desire to bring hope to others through an organization called World Concern. World Concern works in a variety of places, but excels at providing relief in areas not serviced by other agencies. In many of the countries where they work, the people who live there face significant political or religious restrictions. Their Christian commitment is "extending Christ's love to the poorest." In everything they do, they strive to help communities develop in a

lasting way."

This year instead of having a Christmas gift exchange in the classrooms, each student brought a \$5 to \$10 donation for World Concern. The students chose to use their donations to buy pigs and needed supplies since Iowa is the top hog producer in the U.S.A. Needy families in Myanmar will receive the pigs we purchase to provide an income for them and food for hungry girls and boys. Enough money was raised to buy five pigs and the needed supplies for these pigs.

Finally, Mrs. Baedke's kindergarten class collected and delivered baby items to Ames Birthright. The students helped sort the donations and place them on the appropriate shelves. Birthright provides loving support, resources, maternity and baby items to those in need in our community.



Board President Update—Jeff Sernett

Matching Funds Update

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to those that gave so generously to our Matching Funds campaign. A grand total of \$32,380 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. The total amount is slightly higher than last years donations.

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. Thanks to some faithful donors, we currently have about \$58,000 in this fund for fall 2013. Our goal is to raise at least **\$65,000** by May, 2013. These dollars would be available to qualified families for fall enrollment. All dona-

tions are tax deductible and directly impact students receiving a Christian education. Please consider this as part of your Christian tithing decisions for 2013.

Seeking School Board Member Nominations for Fall 2013

We have two school board members who have board terms ending this summer. Please contact me in the near future if you are interested in applying for a school board role.



Upcoming Events

March

7 Open House/Classroom Showcase 5-8pm

11 Kindergarten Round-up 9-10:30am

12 School Board Meeting 6:30pm

14 Parent/Teacher Conferences

15-22 Spring Break—NO CLASSES

29 Good Friday—NO CLASSES

31 Early Registration Deadline

April

9 School Board Meeting 6:30pm

23 Spring Musical 7pm at Stonebrook Church

May

10 Bike-A-Thon

14 School Board Meeting 6:30pm

21 Field Day/ ACS Awards

24 5th Annual Golf Outing

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Phone: 515-233-0772

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Website: www.ameschristianschool.org

5th Annual Golf Outing

Mark your calendar and contact your golf buddies for the 5th annual ACS Golf Outing. It is going to be held on Friday, May 24th 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 Andy Laughlin at 515-291-2014 or email laugh96@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

Pasta Dinner & Classroom Showcase

Thursday night, March 7, from 5:00-8:00 p.m., ACS will have our fourth 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.

Celebrating the 100th Day of School

On Tuesday, January 29th, the Kindergarten students celebrated the 100th Day of School with LOTS of fun activities. Each student brought a collection of 100 items. There were



many creative collections shared including: Q-tips, beans, marshmallows, stickers, music notes, legos, candy hearts, and many more! The items were placed on a poster so they

could be displayed on a table by the office for everyone to view. The children also created beautiful "100 day" crowns to wear, counted several items, and read stories about the number "100".

