

A publication  
for friends of  
ACS.

# Ames Christian School

Excellence in Education Through Christ

Issue XIII

June 2013

Inside this issue:

Develop. Director	Pg 1
Book Week	Pg 2
Spring Program	Pg 2
Golf Outing	Pg 3
Speech Meet	Pg 3
Awards	Pg 4
Upcoming Events	Pg 4

## New Development Director

Barbara Burnham has been named Director of Development at Ames Christian School.

Barbara Burnham comes to Ames Christian with vast experience in fundraising and development. She moved to Ames from Tampa, Florida in 2009 where she served as the Associate Vice President of the University of South Florida Foundation and Executive Director of the USF Foundation Board for nine years. Barbara's experience also includes serving as the Executive Director for the Ronald McDonald House Charities in Tallahassee, Florida, and Columbia, South Carolina for five years.

Burnham obtained a B.S. in Education from, Sanford University and the University of West Alabama.

"I'm an educator at heart, having taught for ten years before putting on my fundraising hat," said Burnham. "I have experienced ACS first hand through my granddaughter, Lindsay's, experience at Ames Christian Preschool and have fallen in love with how the school dispenses education. When the opportunity to work for ACS came along I looked at it as a gift which I was so excited to accept."

Burnham will focus on connecting more families in Ames and the surrounding area with the personalized Christian education offered from Preschool/Childcare through 6<sup>th</sup> grade at ACS, and communicate the benefits of investing in a secure, nurturing, learning environment that promotes academic excellence and builds Christian character

through gifted, mentoring teachers.

"Barbara brings the gifts of personal connections in the Ames community along with a wealth of experience in fundraising and development," said ACS Board President Jeff Sernett. "We greatly value her willingness to share these gifts with us."

"Ames Christian is so blessed to have Barbara Burnham. Barbara's passion for Christian education increased as she observed the school in action. She realized the importance of teaching children to think critically, discern spiritually, and act biblically. She's the perfect fit for this position with her vast experience, gifts, talents, and heart for Christian education," said Peggy Smith, ACS Administrator.



## SMART Board won for 1st and 2nd grade classroom

ACS recently won its third SMART Board from HyVee. A SMART board is an interactive white board that makes learning fun and teaching easier by combining the simplicity of a whiteboard with the power of a computer. The SMART Board interactive whiteboard lets you deliver dynamic lessons, write notes in digital ink and save your work - all with the simple touch of a finger.

The school won the SMART Board as a part of HyVee's annual SMART POINTS program. ACS mom, Diana Ingraham, has coordinated the school's participation in the contest for the last three years. "My goal is to win a SMART Board for ACS every year," Diana stated at the beginning of the contest.

A SMART Board has been won for the 3rd and 4th

grade classroom, the Kindergarten classroom, and most recently the 1st and 2nd grade classroom. HyVee representatives presented Mrs. Skaar and her class with the SMART Board during a small school assembly.

Ames Christian School would like to say thank you to Diana Ingraham for her diligent work coordinating the HyVee SMART POINTS for the

SMART Board campaign. Mrs. Skaar's 1st and 2nd grade class will enjoy learning with the SMART Board for many years to come.



# Book Week

Students "Soared Into Reading" during their annual book week. Every day the students participated in DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) times and read a total of 11,443 pages during the week!

On Monday a coloring contest of the school mascot "Ace the Eagle" was held. The students started a traveling story called, "The Adventures of Ace the Eagle." Each day a different class wrote part of the story. On Tuesday the students came to school dressed as their favorite book character.

Older ACS students are encouraged to mentor and interact with younger students which was put into practice for Wednesday's activity. During "Come Read With Me Day" the third and fourth grade classes read



with Kindergarten students and first and second graders read with the fifth and sixth grade classes.

For Thursday's activity, 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. Later in the day, fifth and sixth 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.

At the end of "Soar into Reading" week, the finished traveling story written by the students was read at lunch and the winners of the coloring contest and "dress like a book character contest" were announced. The overall winner of the coloring contest was second grader Job Ante and first place went to second grader Austin Randall. First grader Amanda Hansen was the overall winner for the costume contest for her "Cat in Hat" costume. Kindergarten Kate Reisinger won first place for her "Cowboy Kate and Cocoa" outfit.

## Spring Program—"The Way of Wisdom"

"The path of wisdom leads upward for the wise." This verse from Proverbs 15:24 was the theme of the Spring Program. Students, families and friends filled Stonebrook Church on Tuesday, April 23, as students sang and recited verses about God's wisdom found in Scripture.

Music teacher, Mrs. Laura Gardner, directed preschoolers through 6th graders in the performance. The program opened with a prayer from School Board Vice President, Mark Reisinger, and a welcome from Ames Christian School's new Director of Development, Barbara Burnham. Next, sixth grader, Harrison Yoder, recited his speech that won a blue ribbon, superior rating, at the ACSI State Speech Meet.

The 3-year-olds began the program with a medley of songs, including "Little Love Notes." The children recited 1 John 4:19, "We love, because God first loved us," and explained that God's "little love notes" for us can be found in the verses of the Bible.

After the three-year-olds exited the

stage, the 4 and 5 year-old preschool classes joined the Kindergarten through sixth graders on stage. They sang songs about God's Plan of Salvation (GPS), and recited Bible passages about God's commands and trusting His wisdom. The song, "Ten!" drove the message home at God's commandments are not intended to take things from us, but to bring blessings for us. The variety of music styles ranged from '50's easy rock to swing jazz, and from Latin rhythms to the old hymn, "Give of Your Best to the Master."

The preschool and primary grades were featured on several musical numbers with a touch of humor, including "Don't Bow Down to Idols" and "Be Quick to Listen." On a more serious note, the Kindergarten through 6th grades classes recited the entire passage of Proverbs 2:1-15 from memory. The ACS Chapel theme has centered on wisdom this year. The choir concluded the program with the upbeat, "Ride of Our Lives." Sixth grader, Matthew Windus, ended the program with the recitation of his blue ribbon winning ACSI speech.



The children loved performing with their classmates for their family and friends, and enjoyed wonderful goodies and punch following the program at the reception provided by the ACS parents. A special thank you to reception chairperson, Leah Lindsay, and her committee members, all who helped plan and carry out the event, especially Stonebrook Church and their sound technician, Scott Hanson. ACS also appreciates Mrs. Julie Long, Early Childhood Director, and her staff for their hard work with the preschoolers. Most of all ACS thanks Mrs. Laura Gardner, ACS Music teacher, who designed this Christ-centered program, and taught the children about their Savior in the process.

## 5th Annual Golf Outing a HUGE Success

On May 24, Century 21 Signature Real Estate sponsored ACS's fifth annual Golf Outing at Coldwater Golf Links. The event marked the school's first ever sold out tournament and was a day filled with networking, fellowship and fun. The event began with a lunch from Comfort Food & BBQ Catering sponsored by Cornerstone Church of Ames and Paul Livingston—Hunziker and Associates. Pastor Tom Nesbitt from Cornerstone Church of Ames opened in prayer and Barbara Burnham, thanked the participants and spoke about the impact of their support on the students. Golfers then departed for their assigned holes and a noon start.

While on the course, players enjoyed drinks and food at specialty

holes, and a visit from the beverage cart, sponsored by Consumer TV Guide and Shopper. The golfers had the opportunity to win a 2013 Toyota Camry from Wilson Toyota and a motorcycle from Zylstra Harley Davidson with a hole-in-one at either the 5th or 16th hole. Though no one won the hole-in-one prizes, both male and female prizes were awarded for closest to the pin and longest drive.



L to R: Nate McCoy, Katie Gustafson, Troy Nesbitt and Jeff Bramble

The winning foursome included Jeff Bramble, Troy Nesbitt, Nate McCoy and Katie Gustafson. The second place foursome included Chris Greenfield, Matt Greenfield, Devin Leland and Brandon Patton. The third place foursome included Casey Johnson, Nick Johnson, Scott Bergman and Rick Pattison. All winners received trophies donated by Brian Packard representing the Vernon Company and gift certificates.

Many additional friends of ACS made this event possible and their generosity is greatly appreciated. A huge thanks goes out to the committee that made this event such a success!

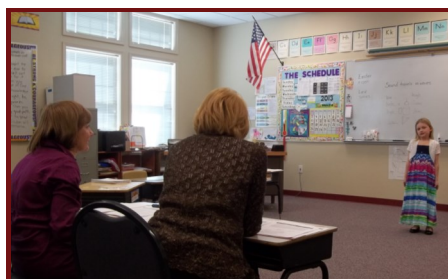
Next year's Golf Outing will be held on May 23, 2014 at Coldwater Golf Links. Hope to see you there!

## Speech Meet

Ames Christian School hosted its second annual speech meet earlier this spring. Every student in first through sixth grade participated in the competition. The students chose and prepared selections in poetry, Bible memory, Fables and Folklore, Dramatic Bible Prose, or Patriotic Oration for the competition.

"The Speech Meet is a great experience for students this age," said fifth and sixth grade teacher Darlene Lubinus. "You never know when you have to make a public speech and getting this opportunity so early in their academic career is very valuable."

The students preformed their speeches bravely in front of judges and then received advice and words of encouragement. The judges were Tim Lubinus, Kristi Despard, Amy



Laura Gardner (left) and MaryAnn Shimkus (right) listen to second grader Kirra Heaberlin recite her speech.

Duvick, Colette Mickelson, Laura Gardner, and MaryAnn Shimkus. After all the students competed in the meet, the winners were chosen and posted. Fifteen ACS students advanced to the Association of Christian Schools International State Speech Meet.

The ACSI State Meet was held at Mt.

Pleasant Christian School in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa on April 13. Other participating schools included Ankeny Christian Academy, Mt. Pleasant Christian School, and Waterloo Christian School. Mrs. Lubinus and several ACS parents accompanied the students.

The students who earned first place with "Superior" ratings were Aubrey Schaffbuch, Brayden Kolodziej, Caleb Wise, Haley Yoder, Harrison Yoder, Isaac Song, Job Ante, Matt Windus, Sofie Hyde, Theo Espelien-Smith, and Vijay Williams. The students who received "Excellent" ratings were Alanna Tasler, Ben May, Caidan Kolodziej, Christopher Douet, and Claire Moore.





## Upcoming Events

### July

2 School Board Mtg 6:30 pm

### August

13 School Board Mtg 6:30 pm

19 Preschool-6th parent assoc. mtg/orientation

21 Preschool-6th classes start

21 Butter Braid fundraiser begins

### September

6 Butter Braid fundraiser ends

10 School Board Mtg 6:30 pm

11 Preschool-6th school pictures

23-27 Scholastic Book Fair

27 Preschool-6th Grandparents Day

27 All school tailgate in evening

925 S. 16th Street, Ames, IA 50010

Phone: 515-233-0772

E-mail: administrator@ameschristianschool.org

Website: www.ameschristianschool.org

## Students Win State Awards

Ames Christian School students have participated in various academic competitions. The students recently competed in the ASCI Math Olympics. Each student competed in one of two categories: reasoning (story problems) or computation (math facts). The tests were then sent to the state host school to be tabulated. Third grader Isaac Song placed fourth in the third grade reasoning category, sixth grader Harrison Yoder placed third in the sixth grade computation category, and fifth grader Theodore Espelien placed second in the fifth grade reasoning category.

ACS 2nd grader Job Ante has been named a Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting State Grade-Level Winner for his outstanding handwriting and is now eligible to compete for a National Grade-Level Champion title! Job received an Engraved Zaner-Bloser State Medallion and also won ACS a \$200 Zaner-Bloser Coupon for curriculum.

Zaner-Bloser estimates that over 325,000 students participated in this years contest. Handwriting fluency and automaticity positively impacts students and influences brain activity. ACS continues to have ACS students participate in this contest as a way of promoting legible handwriting and to help the students develop their early literacy skills.

ACS is proud to provide students with many opportunities for learning, including encouragement of participation in contests like these.



1st & 2nd grade teacher, Julie Skaar, presents 2nd grader Job Ante with his medal for winning the Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting competition for the state of Iowa.

## Classroom Showcase



Ames Christian School families invited the Ames community to participate in the school's annual Open House, Pasta dinner, and Classroom Showcase. After enjoying a pasta dinner prepared by volunteers, parents filled the classrooms to watch students present their "Showcase."

The four and five year old preschoolers and early kindergartners participated in a Reading Pals lesson and sounded out words. The children showed their

parents how to do letter finds, a math lesson, and letter sorts. The three year olds performed several finger plays and sang songs with actions.

The Kindergartners displayed their knowledge of the presidents. They dressed in handmade Abraham Lincoln masks and amazed everyone by reciting the Gettysburg Address! The class also recited the alphabet with a Bible

verse for every letter! The first and second graders donned their best cowboy hats, boots, and bandanas to tell about the life of the cowboy in the late 1800s. As part of their social studies curriculum the students have been studying about westward migration, the expansion of the railroad, the Gold Rush, ranchers, and cattle drives. Throughout the performance the children explained about the responsibilities of the trail boss, wrangler, cook, and

cowhand. They ended by square dancing to "Clementine," "Home on the Range" and "Happy Trails."

Parents were put on the spot in Mrs. Earnest's showcase game, "Are You Smarter than a Third or Fourth Grader?" They played the interactive game on the Smart Board. The kids were delighted to stump their parents and grandparents on many of the questions they wrote about math, science, social studies, language, and reading they'd learned this year in school!

The 5th and 6th graders showcased "Current Events Challenge." Every school day the entire class listens to the news at 1:00 and takes notes. On Wednesdays, Mrs. Lubinus turns those notes into a "Jeopardy" type game which is played in teams. At the end of the month, one team is declared the winner based on the number of questions they answered correctly all month.