

The Ireton Christian Beacon

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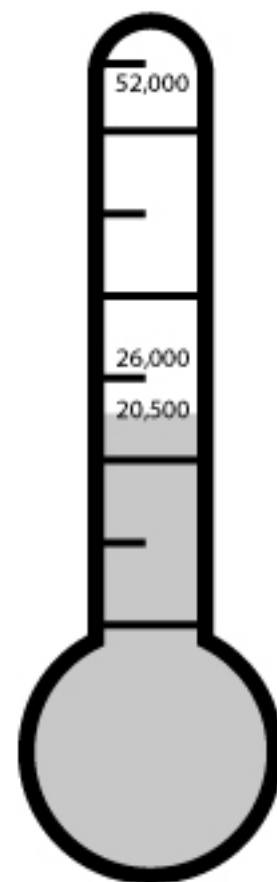
Principal's Corner

Ireton Christian School has begun its second wave of fundraising for the "Building Toward Our Future Campaign" in 2009-2010. After completion of two major parts, complete new furnace, boiler system, and purchase of '99 Bus, in our first campaign in year of 2008-2009, we now want to complete the list of improvements by remodeling and moving the office to the south entrance and removing the old broken and tattered cement and replacing it with new curb and sidewalk on the south side of school.

The board feels these are vital and necessary improvements for better access and safety of all students and guests when at Ireton Christian School. Times are uncertain financially and families are making sacrifices, but God has blessed the people in NW Iowa and continues to watch over each one of us. Again, sacrificing for our children's education is not a waste of money, but an investment that will give huge returns for society. As parents and grandparents we get to see God's faithfulness in our own lives and the lives of our children.

We want to thank everyone from our society who has already contributed and would like to remind anyone to prayerfully consider contributing to ICS's "Building Toward Our Future Campaign." We can make this happen and will make this happen with your prayers and support financially of the ongoing campaign. Let's see it through! If you have any questions, please contact the school principal or any board member on the building committee.

Building Toward Our Future Campaign



Mr. Schoonhoven

Kindergarten

The Kindergarteners are getting used to writing the year 2010 in their journals. Every day they continue to journal about various topics. There has been a lot of progress since the first journal entry. Some students are starting to write some of their own words.

In Math, they are studying a unit on measurement. They have been comparing objects that are longer, taller, shorter, tallest, shortest or about the same length. They have fun measuring the length of objects, and measuring the capacity of a container in nonstandard units.

The most exciting thing so far this year is to see how well they are reading. They have read many short books and are starting to read with some expression. Much learning has taken place. We also have started a new subject, Science. The children are using all five senses as they carefully observe and investigate their surroundings. It is fun to sort objects by size, shape, and color. Identifying characteristics involving touch, taste, and smell is a favorite activity. They also are classifying items using visual and verbal clues. Fun, busy, energetic children, eager learners, and lots of different activities taking place is the scene in the Kindergarten room.

Mrs. Vos

1st and 2nd Grade

Our month could be summed up in one word: snow. We had several days of vacation because of blowing snow. We loved playing in the snow, making angels, tracks, forts, tunnels, and lying around in it. It takes us much longer to get dressed up and then undressed again, but the snow is worth the fun.

Our Bible lessons have taken us to the prophet Jeremiah. He went to the potter's house to buy a beautiful pot. But then he threw it on the ground to show what God is going to do to the Israelites. When Mrs. Goslinga dropped the pot on the ground, the children were stunned to hear the sound and see the pieces. It was a good visual lesson. We also saw Jeremiah carry a yoke around his neck as he talked to the king. The poor prophet was dumped in the cistern to die until one of his friends came to rescue him. We made the chains of captivity remembering several of the kings and prophets before the captivity by Babylon.

In math, the first graders have studied fractions and how to divide something up so everyone has a fair share. The children drew around the bottom of cans and boxes to see the different shapes these items made. The second graders have been busy counting money and making change for dimes. If you had to pay 68 cents, how many dimes would you need to pay for it and how much change would you get back? They have become good money managers.

We have watched an amaryllis grow from just a small bulb planted in the pot to a beautiful plant with four wonderful, red flowers. It was so exciting we took a picture with the amaryllis. Every day, the children would see how much the plant had grown.

Our Social Studies went through a quick time line of history. Beginning with Christopher Columbus, we visited the Pilgrims, George Washington, Lewis and Clark, Abe Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, and Martin Luther King, Jr. We are thankful for these men and women who made this country great and pray that we may also work in God's kingdom to help our country, school, church, and home.

Mrs. Goslinga

3rd and 4th Grade

Another month and quarter have come and gone in our classroom. It feels like it was such a short month with the snow days, although the kids never seem to mind! We have had another exciting month, learning many new things.

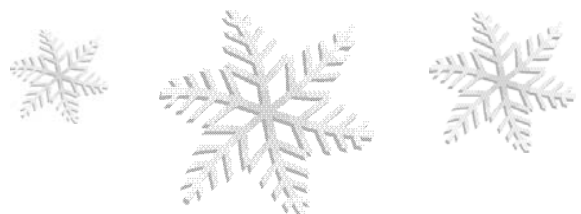
The kids have begun new chapter books. The 4th graders are reading Number the Stars. They have done an incredible job analyzing, interpreting, and reflecting on the German Nazi actions towards Jewish families. It is always amazing to see how even young students can identify moral issues and share their ideas and thoughts about what is right and wrong. It is times like these that I am reminded of how great it is to teach in a Christian school!

The third graders have begun a new unit in math, multiplication. At first the word scared a few of them but they have caught on quickly and are already memorizing many of the multiplication facts! They continue to work hard and are getting better and better every week at working with textbooks. At half way through the school year, they are well on their way to becoming fourth graders!

For both third and fourth graders, science has come to an end this month. We have begun our first unit in social studies studying the western hemisphere and the United States. During our first lesson, we imagined ourselves on a long journey, visiting all of the different landforms in the U.S. and other countries in the western hemisphere. It was a lot of fun!

We are looking forward to what the next month brings in all our subjects and we are all hoping for much warmer weather!

Mrs. Mills



5th and 6th Grade

The second semester has begun and it's been a long winter already. This fits perfectly with our school theme for January-Patience as we have been through some very cold days. The students in the classroom got to read about, listen to, and do various activities that dealt with the coming announcement of Christ's birth by John the Baptist and Christ's birth and ministry in Bible. The students have been working with fractions, reciprocals, mixed numbers, and benchmarks in math. They have been able to add, subtract, multiply, and divide many word problems dealing with fractions. The students are also researching and diving into the history of southwest Asia in Social Studies. They have been comparing the beliefs of many different groups, especially the monotheistic belief and polytheistic beliefs of certain groups. Thanks for your prayers and support and continue to pray for the 12 students in 5th & 6th grade and all the students during these winter months and the remainder of the year.

Mr. Schoonhoven

Band News

Hello from the band! We are back at it again after a restful Christmas Break. We welcomed the fifth graders to the full band recently and they are a great addition! We have lots of exciting events coming up this spring, including Solo/Ensemble, our Spring Concert, and the Unity Band Festival. It looks to be a busy spring full of wonderful music!

Mrs. Van Engen



Sara Dekkers using the foot pedals to tune our timpani

7th and 8th Grade

January has already come and gone. This year is already halfway done and there is still so much to do in the classroom. The students have been working hard in the 7th/8th grade classroom. Along with the hard work we have also finally welcomed a new member to our classroom. Waffles the guinea pig has arrived and is now getting accustomed to the classroom. Thus far the students are definitely having to work on patience as they find that Waffles is currently a little shy, and is taking some time to warm up to the students.

In our course work both they 7th and 8th graders have been working on percentages and proportions in Math class. They are learning the various different occupations that percentages and proportions are involved in. Students have found the use of percentages and proportions in model making, psychological studies, and even as simple as the local grocery store. It is a great day when I get to see the lights come on when students realize just how much they have already had to deal with percentages while shopping.

Our Bible lessons have moved into the time of Jeremiah. We have looked at how it would feel to be a teenager and be called by God to be such an unpopular person. It is amazing to think that Jeremiah was so close to the age of the students in this classroom, and yet was called to bring such a tough message to those listening. Through discussions students have realized just how difficult it would be to step out and bring a message to everyone knowing that it would cause all of those around you to despise and turn against you. What an amazing prophet and young man Jeremiah was!

The Science classroom is pushing forward into a very exciting realm of science. We are beginning a chapter on chemical reactions. Students always look forward to this chapter and know that this is where the real chemistry begins. Granted we will not be blowing anything up anytime soon, but many of our upcoming experiments will bring excitement and questions into the science lessons. I think at times I look forward to this chapter more than students, but it will definitely be fun!

Mr. Mills



Boxtop News

DON'T FORGET TO SAVE THOSE BOXTOPS!!!- Boxtop Collectors: This is the FINAL competition that we will have before I need to send the boxtops to the company. We have already received one check from them for \$435.00! Great job collecting so far. Let's make the final four weeks of collecting even better yet. The competition is "The Final Four". We have FOUR weeks to see who the top FOUR families will be. The top FOUR will be awarded a \$10 gift card to the Pizza Ranch. We will also have a Super Bonus Boxtop Competition to see who has collected the most for the whole year. This family will receive a \$25 gift card of their choice. Don't delay! You have FOUR weeks to see if you can be in the "Final Four"! Deadline for turning boxtops in is FEBRUARY 10. Happy Collecting!

Boys Basketball News

The boys basketball team is now most of the way through their season. It has definitely been an adjustment for both the guys on the team and myself as this season has progressed. They boys are learning to listen to a new coach, and I am learning to follow a little faster tempo of game compared to what I have coached the past two years. The boys team is currently 2-5, with losses to Hull Christian and Protestant, Inwood, Sanborn and NWIP. But, we have pulled out victories over Sioux Center and Orange City. We have four games left in our season and the Boys Tournament at Western on February 14. We are hoping for a great ending to a very hard fought season thus far.

Girls Basketball News

The basketball season is quickly coming to a close. The season has flown by and all thirteen girls have worked very hard! It has been a learning experience for me as well as the girls. : We have worked on many different skills in practice and put them to good use in all of our games. It is always rewarding to see how far each player comes from the first practice to the last game.



The girls have won two games and lost a few games by four points or less. Our hardest fought game was against Sioux Center Christian, which we lost in double overtime.

I am very proud of all the girls, their effort, and their amazing attitudes. No matter what happens in a game, they keep such high spirits and bright smiles. Next month we have a couple of games and a Saturday tournament at Unity. The girls are looking forward to the tournament, which will give them a chance to play a few of the teams we lost to by a couple of points!

Mrs. Mills

School Calendar of Events

February 1-10	ITBS testing dates
February 2	BB away vs. Rock Valley Christian School, 4pm
February 5	Pep Rally (February is Spirit Month)
February 6	Girls BB tournament at Unity, 8:00am Sanborn vs. Ireton 10:00am Ireton vs. Inwood/Doon 1:00pm Ireton vs. Hull Prot.
February 8	BB away vs. Sheldon Christian School, 4pm
February 8-12	Pixie Week
February 13	Boys BB tournament at Western
February 15	Presidents Day-We will be having school, make-up day
March 8	Society/PTA/Auxiliary meeting at 6:30
March 19	Grandparents Day (9am) End of 3rd quarter (44 days) Dismiss at 12:30

February Birthdays

Feb.1	Josie Wilbert
Feb.6	Mrs. Maria Byker
Feb.10	Hanah Van Beek
Feb. 14	Laney Bonnema Kalena Dekkers Mikaela Broek
Feb. 17	Bryce Riebeling
Feb. 19	Jacob Folkerts
Feb. 21	Joey Schoonhoven
Feb. 23	Cody Davelaar



Music News

All the Ireton Christian students have been working hard in music. During the month of December we enjoyed doing some activities, and learning and playing with Christmas songs. As we started January we are working on some of the basics in music. We are having fun with rhythm and rhythm patterns, playing instruments with the patterns and learning many short songs. The younger students are learning note values, as well as note names. The middle schoolers are learning more complex rhythms, and learning about different types of music from different time periods. We have enjoyed making our own rhythm complexes to put together with a melody. All the classes are also learning about a composer, ask your child or grandchild who their class is learning about. They should have quite a bit of information for you!

The junior high choir has started preparations for the junior high choir festival held in March. The festival is held every other year at Dordt College. We will be joining other choirs from area Christian schools for the day. We will sing one song by ourselves, and then four songs as part of a mass choir. All five songs need to be memorized, so we've got our work cut out for us. The songs are in a variety of styles, so it's fun for the choir to learn (even though they aren't so sure about the one song in a different language :-)). Singing as part of a mass choir of a few hundred students will be a great experience for them too.

Mrs. Maria Byker

Chapel News

Our theme for the month of January was Patience. We spent time looking at what it mean to be patient, not only with one another, but also with waiting for God to answer our prayers. Our verse of the month was Colossians 1:10-11. With this verse in mind we have been able to learn what it means to wait with a content spirit. It was great to see all students reflect on just how patient they are, and just how often we lack patience when we are dealing with classmates, siblings, and even parents. We find that in the world we live in, when we want something, it needs to happen now! However, looking into scripture we realize that patience is a very important part of the fruits of the spirit. With this in our minds we spent some time singing our two songs of the month "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" and "Lifesong."

After singing a few 8th grade boys performed a fishing skit for the school. During this time the kids were able to meet Billy, a young impatient fisherman, who was looking to spend as little time as possible catching as many fish as possible. During his day he met Old Fisherman Sam and Old Fisherman Dan. These two wise old me were able to give Billy an important lesson in patience. We then broke into our friendship families and spent time making shapes without talking. This made students work on teamwork and patience as they were not able to "instruct" one another on where each individual should go. They needed to trust one another and have the patience to allow each team member to position themselves in the design the group was attempting to make.

ICS FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance on hand	\$46,181.54	Educational Disbursements:	
Receipts:		Administrative	120.00
Bridge of Hope	164.80	Copier	75.50
Bus (state)	25.00	Miscellaneous	705.00
Donation	600.00	Supplies	148.93
Hawarden CRC	805.00	Technology	40.35
House Rent	400.00	Textbooks	1,738.64
Interest	5.84	Sub Total	\$2,828.42
Rent	90.00	Building Disbursements:	
Tuition and TRIP	9,039.10	Bldg. Insurance	4,246.00
Total	\$11,129.74	Bldg. repairs	301.20
Receipts & Beginning Balance	\$57,311.28	Fuel	310.84
Salaries:		Janitor Supplies	56.72
Cooks Wages & SS	1,506.13	Utilities	637.09
Educational	14,975.68	Sub Total	\$4,949.45
Educational Pension	3,847.56	Bus Disbursements:	
Educational SS	1,273.79	Bus Wages	1,582.06
Janitor	475.72	Gas & Oil	1,093.51
Medical Employee	1,494.92	Insurance	1,294.00
Medical Employer	831.65	Miscellaneous	313.00
Workmans Comp & Liability	3,117.00	Repairs	1,709.44
Sub Total	\$27,522.45	Social Security	89.61
		Sub Total	\$6,061.62
		Total Disbursements	\$41,361.94
		Balance on Hand	\$15,949.34

Church	09-10 Goal	Received	Balance	%Paid
Haw CRC	8,050.00	2,415.00	5,635.00	30%
Ire CRC	31,050.00	17,200.00	13,850.00	55%
Lebanon CRC	3,450.00	0.00	3,450.00	0%
Bridge of Hope	3,450.00	675.34	2,774.66	20%
Ed. Partners	14,375.00	0.00	14,375.00	0%
Totals	56,925.00	19,615.00	37,310.00	34%

ISB Financial Network	\$646.26
ISB Financial Network	\$27,276.92
Endowment CD'S Savings	\$48,271.38
Tuition Savings	\$662.75
Concert Fund Checking	\$23,833.98
General Fund Money Market	\$15,674.35
Bus Fund CD	
GPPE Stock	\$440.00

Piano Players Needed!

Our band students are in need of players to accompany them on their Solo/Ensemble pieces. We will need at least three people, each only a couple hours once a week, starting the middle or end of February.

Please call, e-mail, or send a note if you are able to help us out. Your help is greatly appreciated! Mrs. Van Engen, (712-470-4864, or shirleybuist@hotmail.com)

TRIP News

Upcoming TRIP order dates are: Feb. 1, Feb. 22, March 15, Tuesday April 6, April 19, and May 10. Please take note of the April dates. April 6 is on a Tuesday because of Easter Break and we are also ordering 2 weeks later on April 19.

To check what I have on hand for purchase in between order dates call me at #278-2506 (home) or #278-2105 (work).

Board Meeting - January 11, 2010

1. Call to Order-present were: Randy Van Wyhe, Rick Schouten, Tim Bonnema, Jim Viet, Brad Fedders, Eric Van Wyk, and Marlin Schoonhoven. Absent were: Glen Bonnema, Scott Dorhout, Chad Abbas
2. Opening Prayer & Devotions by President Rick Schouten-read John 21:1-13 and discussed that a cheerful heart is good medicine, we try hard on our own, but not with our coach-God.
3. MINUTES of December meeting were approved
4. Items to be added to agenda-added Camp Foster to old business
5. Old Business
 - a. Christmas Gifts were purchased for Staff/Faculty, Tim and Glen will hand out on Dec. 23 along with bags of candy
 - b. Building Toward Our Future Campaign was discussed, not quite \$16,000 raised
 - c. Administrator Evaluations to be completed & given to Rick Schouten
 - d. Education Committee met with all staff & faculty in December about needs & concerns
 - e. ICC requirements (board & SIAC) Iowa Core Curriculum, will be presented to PTA in February
 - f. Received donation from People's Bank Pres. Mike Wiggins for \$1,000.00 (LCD projector & table)
 - g. Camp Foster-board recommended to do it at beginning of school year (Fall of 2010)
6. Principal's Report was read and received for information
7. Committee Reports
 - a. Building-Randy Van Wyhe updated that mats were repaired by Scott D, Ruth D, and Stacia D; Scott also checked vent leak on roof
 - b. Education-Rick Schouten discussed Principal's evaluations, teacher conferences, and recommendations
 - c. Finance-Tim Bonnema presented a preliminary budget as a sample for board to discuss, finalize next month, tuition updates were given
 - d. Bus-Randy VW ordered new tires for school van
 - e. Endowment-Tim B no change
 - f. Preschool-Marlin Schoonhoven gave a report about the KOK receiving partial funds form grant
 - g. Technology-Marlin S presented an LCD projector that was purchased with gift from Peoples Bank
 - h. Promotion/Concert-Marlin S 2 groups have been selected for April 10, 2010 (2:30 & 7:30 shows) groups are Ophoven Family, and Highway Home Bluegrass.
8. Finance Committee Reports (balances)

General-	15,949.34	Tuition Asst-	662.75
Building-	11,129.97	KOK Preschool-	6,411.15

*Reports were approved
9. New Business (Items for Action)
 - a. Enrollment projection for 2010-2011
 - b. School calendar 2010-2011
 - c. Budget for 2010-2011
 - d. ICS Society/PTA/Auxiliary meeting (includes budget & ICC presentation) Date & Time will be March 8 at 6:30pm in all-purpose room
 - d. Thank yous to board from staff/faculty for Christmas gifts
 - e. CSI survey results on health insurance for Christian Schools
 - f. ICC meeting #2 January 28-Mary G. & Marlin S
 - g. Heartland teacher workshop for grade 3 & 5 (Jennifer Mills & Marlin S)
10. Bills submitted and approved
11. Reviewed Board Policies 445-446 tabled for next month
12. Board Visit -Jim Viet (no report b/c of cancellation) Next: Eric Van Wyk
13. Next meeting February 8, 2010, at 7:30pm
14. Concept Minutes were read and adjourned
15. Closing Prayer by Jim Viet

2009-2010 Ireton Christian School Covenant Foundation Members:

Jason Meyer *
Nicholaas and Arletta Dorhout*
Brent and Cindy Davelaar*
Tena Kramer *
Curtis J. DeVries*
Sadie De Vries*
Leroy and Joan Punt*
Evonne Wielenga*
John and Alice Jongma*
Allen and Clara Eisma *
Jim and Mandy Viet*
Rick and Jill Schouten*
Michael J. Jongma*
Randy and Glenda Van Wyhe *

Gerrit and Tracy Byker*
Kelly and Carmen Noteboom*
Darrell and Kate Noteboom*
Warren and Ruth Dekkers*
Lawrence and Dinah Ter Horst*
Duane and Lee Ann Bonnema*
Earl and Toots Kooi*
Dan and Sharon Byker*
Gerald and Rhonda Postma*
Stan and Barb Hoekstra*
Greg and Chris Van Beek
Ryan and Angela Zomermaand
Brad and Sheila Dekkers
Brian and Sharla Gradert

Eric and Cheryl Van Wyk
Chris Mueller
Dave and Tami Noteboom
Bryan and Deanne Dekkers
Chad and Jerianne Abbas
Scott and Gail Dorhout
Bruce and Susan (Bosma) Odsonl
Marlin and Leah Schoonhoven
Margaret Kooistra
Stan and Beth Vanden Berg
Stan and Mary Goslinga

*** Lifetime members (\$500.00)**
Yearly Members (\$25.00)

Would you like to support Christian Education by becoming a Foundation member? The board would like to invite anyone to help promote Ireton Christian School. For a yearly fee of \$25 or a Lifetime membership of \$500, you can become an Ireton Christian School Foundation member. Please visit the school office or mail \$25 or \$500 to Ireton Christian and you will be added to the membership list! (List will be updated monthly). ALL proceeds will be placed in our Endowment Fund. The money raised will help defray the cost of major repairs and educational expenses encountered throughout the year, as well as helping keep the cost of education at a minimum. THANKS for your support!