

# The Ireton Christian Beacon

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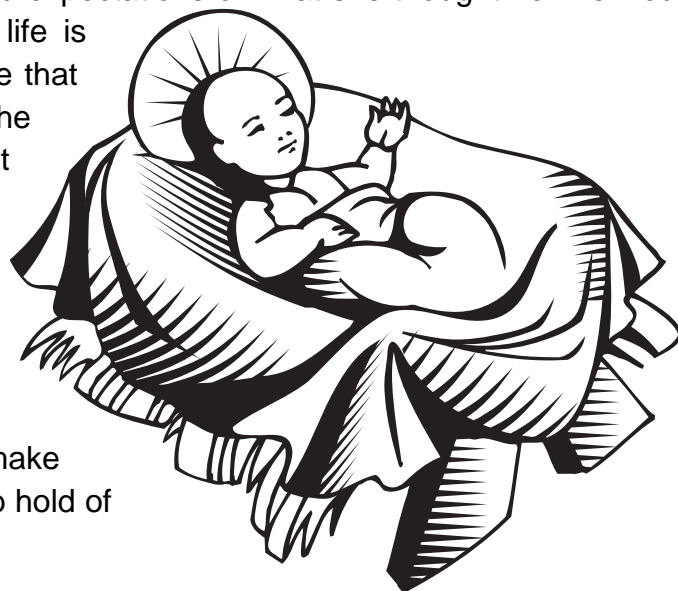
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## Principal's Corner

During this time of the year it's very easy to get caught up the hustle and bustle of the world, to get sucked in to the commercialism, and to want many things. But as I write this I am reflecting on the theme for our students this month and how difficult it is for young people (and old alike) to truly see how special this time of the year is by peeling off the layers the world has created and seeing what's at the center. More importantly how tremendous this is to people who know the purpose of God sending His son into this sin-stricken world. For out of sheer love, mercy, and grace God does this for His chosen people. This really helps us make our theme for the month, "Contentment with Joy" meaningful in our head, in our heart, and through the work of our hands.

Do you need to switch seats? Do you see God as your co-pilot? It's hard to relinquish the wheel. We all want to surrender our lives, to let go and let God be in control, to turn over the wheel, but do we? We get to see an ultimate example of this through Mary at Christmas time. Mary puts God in the driver seat even though Mary, like many of us, may have had ideas and expectations of what she thought her life would be like. To say the angel, Gabriel, complicates her life is putting it lightly. Here's where we see the act of grace that transforms lives. We need to see the cross as well as the manger. It is answering Christ's question in John 11 that we find confidence to do this. Jesus says in John 11, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"



Believe it, Switch seats, Follow Mary's example, and make God the pilot of your life. Let go of the wheel, and grab hold of Christmas with all your strength!

Mr. Schoonhoven

## ***Kids of the Kingdom Preschool***

This past Thanksgiving and Christmas season, the preschool experienced the gift of giving to others. We were very excited to spread the gift of hope to those in our community and to our friends around the world.

November's chapel ended with distributing goods to community members. The preschool loved walking to the houses and giving away our boxes full of food. Their faces were full of smiles and hope.

We completed our shoe boxes with Operation Christmas Child. Our preschool friends filled twelve shoe boxes full of everyday necessities, toys, school supplies, and candy. The art of gift giving is such a blessed experience.

January is full of adventure. During the month of January, Kids of the Kingdom will learn how pizza is made, in visiting our local Pizza Ranch in Hawarden. We will also get to invite our dads to preschool for Doughnuts with Dad day! God is working in many ways through our little hands, and we are so blessed to have the opportunities to share His works with others.

*Mrs. Obbink*

## ***Kindergarten***

The Kindergarteners have enjoyed the new fallen snow. Every recess they get all bundled up and go outside to play in the snow.

They love singing the many Christmas songs they have been learning. They will be singing them at the Hawarden nursing home on December 22. It is fun to bring some Christmas joy to the residents who live there.

The Bible lessons have been about the events surrounding Jesus' birth. We began with the angel's message to Zechariah announcing the birth of John, the forerunner of Jesus. Then came the angel messages to Mary and to Joseph. At last came the message to the shepherds announcing the birth of the Messiah, Jesus, had been born! With joyful hearts the children listened to these beautiful Bible stories. Hopefully these children are learning to never take Christ out of Christmas, as much of our world is trying to do.

The Kindergarteners have learned a lot already this school year. Hopefully they will all practice reading and reviewing their letters over Christmas vacation. I hope all of you have a wonderful "Christ" filled Christmas. Next time I write it will be 2010. Have a happy New Year!

*Mrs. Vos*

## ***1st and 2nd Grade***

The exciting days of preparation for Christmas are here. Every day we took another object out of a bag that makes the stable scene on our board. We have made chains to hang up on the ceiling. A card and a gift were made for our parents. The halls needed to be decorated with candles and stockings. Christmas songs were learned and sung every day. The Christmas story was told. Christmas letters were written to our pen pals in South Dakota. Are we ready for Christmas? Have we had time to think about what the birth of Jesus means to us? All of the busyness does not mean anything unless we have Jesus in our hearts and wait just as expectantly for His return again.

The kindergarten through fourth graders learned a rhyme about the birth of Jesus that had many Christmas carols in between the readings. We also played Crystal bells with two Christmas carols and some jingle bells with the song "Jingle Bells". It was fun to do this program for the Ireton Senior Citizens and also the Hillcrest Nursing Home. We pray those who listened learned to love Jesus more through our stories.

The first graders have been working on learning about symmetry-does the shape have the same size and shape? The children needed to connect dots to try to match what they saw already drawn for them-same size and shape. Sometimes that is hard to match and make it look the same. The second graders are working on counting money. They have been counting quarters, half dollars, and making different ways for \$1.00. The hardest thing is trying to make the correct amount of money with the smallest number of coins. But the children are doing very well with their math.

In Social Studies we talked about the services and goods we can trade for money. We talked about not being lazy but working with all of our talents and time for God. We also appreciate those people who volunteer and help us in school.

*Mrs. Goslinga*

## ***TRIP News***

Upcoming TRIP order dates are: January 11, February 1, and February 22 To keep up to date on merchant changes or to download an order form, check out the TRIP link on the ICS website.

To order any on hand inventory call Donna at #278-2506 (home) or #278-2105 (work).

# 5th and 6th Grade

The fifth and sixth graders closed out December with doing some live scenes of the account of Jesus birth found in Luke 2:1-20 (please see picture inserts). The fifth and sixth graders wanted to wish everyone a **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

Mr. Schoonhoven



## Thank You!

**THANK YOU** to People's Bank of Hawarden for their generous donation to ICS and KOK, Mike Wiggins, President, presented two checks to our school.



# December Chapel

Our school theme of December was being happy with what we have, both inside and out. Our theme verse was written by Paul while in prison and found in Philippians 4:11-13. He talks about "being content in any and every situation" since he found strength through Christ. Chapel focused on the most priceless gift of all, the gift of grace, in God sending His son to be born, to live, to die, and then to rise for you and me. Singing the theme songs of the month "Jesus, Messiah", and "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" helped us show our praise to Him for His loving gift.

Kindergarteners began chapel by playing a Christmas song with bells. We sang a few Christmas carols. A skit was performed showing the most amazing gift was God's Grace and it was FREE to all who asked for it. Grace takes the ugly darkness of our lives and washes it away so we can be white as snow. As living groups we took the sugar cookies Kari made and each person decorated one. Then names were drawn from an envelope as to which person would receive the finished cookie. Students were encouraged to be content with what they received instead of complaining about what they wanted.

The December symbol was a happy face. When we are determined to live for God, we have joy in our hearts and that's what makes us smile. We are so blessed as our Heavenly Father daily supplies all our needs. In the uncertainty of the economy and future in the new year, we can strive to be like Paul, content knowing that we can "do everything through Him who gives me strength."



## 3rd and 4th Grade

Another month has come and gone quickly in 3rd and 4th grade. We had a lot of fun activities and learned a lot as well. The kids had a great time learning about value in art. They first took black and white and created several shades of gray. They then took their different shades and created a Christmas scene. We also a fun decoration our room with red and green chains, lights, and a Christmas tree.

In math the 4th graders worked hard on multiplication and division problems. They did an excellent job on their homework and their flashcards! The 3rd graders worked hard on learning how to subtract with regrouping. It was a challenge at first, but after a little practice they could breeze right through the problems.

Science this month was a fun topic for us. We first learned all about animals and their characteristics. We worked on learning how to read and take notes too. Then we began a unit on earth science. The kids had the chance to become mineral detectives! They were put in groups and given different mineral and rock samples. They did various tests on them to see if they could determine what each mineral was. We also read several Bible verses that compare God to a rock and discussed why we thought that was a good comparison after learning about different rock characteristics.

All of the students are excited for Christmas break coming up and we are all looking forward to starting the new year off strong in 3rd and 4th grade! :)

Mrs. Mills

## 7th and 8th Grade

What a wonderful time of year we are currently working through. We are so blessed to have the opportunity to spend time in a school that allows us to focus on our Savior. During the weeks leading up to Christmas the 7th/8th grade spend some time reflecting on what Christmas is truly about. We looked around and noticed the many things around us that can distract us from the true meaning of this holiday. As a class we were also able to spend time considering the importance of giving thanks for all that we are blessed with during this holiday. As for myself, I must say that I have been very blessed in my three years here at Ireton. The students have been amazing, challenging, and so many more things, but I must say that I do not think I could have asked for better classes to start off my teaching career.

As for what is currently going on in this classroom. In Literature, we working our way through the short story, "The Road To Bastille." The students have really been able to get into this story as they watch a young man lose his father, and then experience the many struggles that lay in front of him as he and his mother cope with the loss. This story has allowed a great deal of discussion to come up as students ponder what life must look like through this young man's eyes. Our Math class is continuing its study of real numbers in equations. We have looked into how to solve

an equation through multiplying with fractions, and studying the usefulness of proportions in our every day lives. Science class has stepped into the study of solutions and mixtures. We are looking at what it means for something to be polar or non-polar, and the things that we use day in and day out that would be considered a mixture or solution. This will be a very exciting time as we have now stepped into a level of science that is open to a wide variety of experiments. We are all looking forward to spending some time doing lab work!

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. And even though this may be late the 7th/8th Grade Classroom would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to what God has in store for us in this room after this new year arrives.

Mr. Mills

## ICS FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>Balance on hand</b>		Copier	220.80	
	<b>\$51,403.75</b>	Miscellaneous	1,300.00	
Receipts:		Supplies	23.89	
Bridge of Hope	227.80	Technology	40.35	
Bus (state)	25.00	Textbooks	595.35	
Donation	797.67	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$216.31</b>	
House Rent	400.00	Building Disbursements:		
Interest	8.80	Bldg. repairs	1,073.85	
Ireton CRC	10,900.00	Fuel	401.65	
Rent	315.00	Janitor Supplies	311.63	
Tuition and TRIP	8,279.40	Utilities	598.97	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,953.67</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$2,386.10</b>	
<b>Receipts &amp; Beginning Balance</b>		Bus Disbursements:		
	<b>\$72,357.42</b>	Bus Wages	1,796.12	
Salaries:		Gas & Oil	1,389.09	
Cooks Wages & SS	1,416.64	Miscellaneous	109.00	
Educational	14,248.30	Repairs	97.18	
Educational SS	1,283.36	Social Security	473.71	
Janitor	555.73	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$3,465.10</b>	
Medical Employee	1,666.53	<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$26,175.88</b>	
Medical Employer	1,003.27	<b>Balance on Hand</b>	<b>\$46,181.54</b>	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$20,540.99</b>			
Educational Disbursements:				
Administrative	150.00			
Band	53.30			
Church	09-10 Goal	Received	Balance	%Paid
Haw CRC	8,050.00	1,610.00	6,440.00	20%
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	510.54	2,939.46	15%
Ed. Partners	14,375.00	0.00	14,375.00	0%
Totals	56,925.00	18,810.00	38,115.00	33%

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	\$5,174.35	Loan to KOK \$105.00
Bus Fund CD		
GPRE Stock	\$440.00	

## Board Meeting - December 14, 2009

Separate committees-meet at 7pm,  
Full board meeting begins at 7:30pm

1. Call to Order-Roll
2. Opening Prayer & Devotions by Rick Schouten-Luke 2:1-20
3. Approval of MINUTES of last meeting
4. Items to be added to agenda
5. Old Business
  - a. Mama's Goodies are making us Christmas Candy bags (\$1.25/bag)
  - b. Building insurance has been updated to \$1.67million
  - c. Heartland Marketing completed (see handout)
  - d. Received from AED matching grant funds of \$1300 for defibrillator
6. Principal's Report was read for information
7. Committee Reports
  - a. Building-Scott (Randy VW & Marlin Schoonhoven picked up 40 used chairs from NCC)
  - b. Education-Rick discussed the staff/faculty visits, Heartland salary review, Compensation Report, and Iowa Core Curriculum
  - c. Finance-Tim informed the board on family tuition, donations, NICSTO, Heartland salary review
  - d. Bus-van has a safety recall, will be repaired by Mouw Motor
  - f. Preschool-Glen discussed funding amount from grant, have yet to receive reimbursement
  - g. Technology-Marlin AR Online up & running, purchased a new LCD projector
8. Finance Committee Reports
  - General (Tim)- \$46,181.54
  - Tuition Asst (Tim)- \$662.75
  - Building (Glen)- \$2,040.13
  - KOK Preschool (Glen)- \$4,599.87

\* Reports were approved
9. New Business (Items for Action)
  - 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, board members will be making visits to society members
  - c. Administrator Evaluations were handed out to be completed
  - d. Education Comm. has met with staff & will complete by Dec 18
  - e. ICC requirements (board & SIAC) Iowa Core Curriculum was discussed, will be presented to PTA at the spring meeting
  - f. Received donation from People's Bank Pres. Mike Wiggins for \$1,000.00, a thank you was sent
10. Bills submitted and approved
  11. Reviewed Board Policies 443-444 (Crisis Plan Handbook)
  12. Board Visit -Rick Schouten reported an outstanding, positive, and good visit NEXT month: Jim Viet
  13. Next meeting January 11, 2010, at 7:30pm
  14. Concept Minutes were read and adjourned
  15. Closing Prayer

## January Birthdays

January 4	Jared Nohava
January 10	Sara Dekkers
January 11	Cali Mulder
January 22	Cainen Vander Windt
January 27	Dustin Endrulat
	Anna Hennings
	Kortnie Bonnema
	Adam Van Beek
January 30	Jenna Van Wyk
January 31	Anthony Stotts Westra

## 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\***  
**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**

**\* 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!**