

The Ireton Christian Beacon

Published by
Ireton School for Christian Instruction

www.iretonchristianschool.com

Vol.48 No. 2 • October 2009

*The Mission of Ireton
Christian School is to
develop knowledge
and understanding in
each of God's children
so they can effectively
relate to God, to
others, and to
creation.*

NICSTO - Donors Needed!

We have many families that could use financial support from our society members and friends. PLEASE prayerfully consider a contribution or donation to Ireton Christian School through the NICSTO program. It has GREAT TAX BENEFITS for you, the donor!

We are approaching the end of the 2009 year and with that comes the end of giving towards NICSTO (Northwest Iowa Christian Schools Tuition Organization). You may download a copy of the NICSTO form off our website link at (www.iretonchristianschool.com) or ask for copy from the office. We need your continued support to ensure all families may have a choice of letting the children attend Ireton Christian School. December 23 is the deadline for your contributions. Thanks again for your consideration and financial assistance!

Principal's Corner

All too often we find children running today's households instead of their parents. Whatever the reasons, an overwhelming number of students lack the structure at home and the firm, fair, and consistent discipline they desperately need.

Children who lack discipline have an impact at school. Teachers have to work harder to maintain classroom control. It is harder to hold students' attention. Building student achievement and improving test scores is a greater challenge every year. And schools can't solve the problems alone.

The discipline and structure needs to start at home! Schools need parents' support to develop well disciplined children so teachers can teach, students can learn and our schools can be measure up to the high expectations of our society for educational institutes!

Start the school year with successful habits-research shows a link between parent involvement and student success. So planto pitch in with school activities-right at home. This will require some self-discipline, but will also set a great example for your child, Try to:

- * *Put priorities on the calendar, such as study times and school events*
- * *Stay nearby while your child does homework. He needs your support.*
- * *Create routines. Read, exercise, go to the library, have family meals.*
- * *Talk with your child about school. Show your interest everyday.*
- * *Keep in touch with the teacher. Attend scheduled meetings.*
- * *Be consistent. Use a daily and weekly schedule that works.*

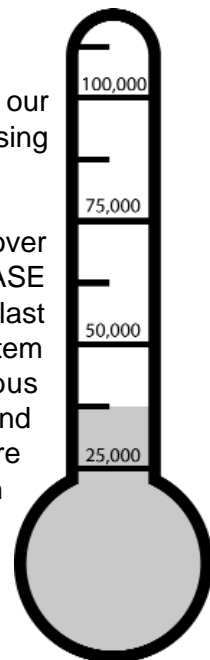
(This excerpt taken from The Parent Institute-Firm, Fair, & Consistent)

Mr. Schoonhoven

Building Toward Our Future Campaign

This year starts the second wave of fundraising for some needed updates in and around our school. We will not be holding our annual Building Fund drive, but will continue to work on raising the capital needed for the updates of our current facility.

The Building Toward Our Future Campaign started in December of 2008 and has raised over \$36,000 to date, but we want to reach our total of \$102,500 by the end of this school year. PLEASE consider donating to this timely event. We have not had any major building campaigns in the last sixteen years. The campaign had four areas of improvement, they were: furnace and boiler system replacement, office relocation/renovation, concrete repair/replacement, and school bus replacement. All these items added together had an estimated cost of \$102,500. The boiler and furnace system have already been replaced and are currently helping our schools be more energy efficient. We would like to move the office and repair and replace the concrete as soon as possible, but for that to happen we need to meet our campaign goal. We are currently taking donations and pledges (payment over a two to five year period), please talk with one of the board members or stop by school for more details. If you have any questions, please call school and talk to Mr. Schoonhoven (278-2245).



Chapel

The first month of chapel was completed by the 5th and sixth grade classroom. The students had been studying the importance of being "attentive" in school, at home, and at all times. Especially attentive to God's Word and what it says to each one of them. The theme verse for the month of September was Proverbs 4:20-21 which says, "My son pay close attention to what I say, listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart." Each student from the class read a verse that helped them understand how to be attentive according to God's will and they acted out a Drama with an artist, mime, and prophet. We sang a few songs that conveyed the message of our monthly theme. We collected canned food items that the 5th and 6th grade students will be distributing to certain families or places in need of assistance as our service project for the month as well. Our living groups also got together and played a game like charades which dealt with paying attention to actions and pictures. Living groups enjoyed the time together and were very willing to help one another understand and to solve the word.

Thanks to ALL the students who brought in canned food items to be distributed in our local communities! Continue to be a living letter in everything you do!

Volleyball Schedule

October 5	Home vs. Inwood	4:00
October 8	Home vs. Hull Protestant	4:00
October 13	Away vs. SCCS	4:00
October 15	Away vs. Hull Chr.	4:00
October 22	Away vs. Rock Valley	4:00
October 27	Home vs. SCCS	4:00

Boxtop News

We have a "Super Summer Saver"! Quinton Dorhout is the winner with 522 boxtops! Good job Quinton! You can be a winner too! You just need to collect as many boxtops as you can, and bring them to school by October 16. This is the deadline for the next competition. We will do it by classes. The person from each class that brings in the most boxtops will get a prize. There is also a twist to the competition. If you bring in at least 25 boxtops or more, your name will go into a hat, and there will be a drawing for a \$25 Pizza Ranch gift card. So, you could win a prize for being the one with the most boxtops in your class, and you could win the second prize for having 25 or more boxtops. The prizes will be handed out after the October 16 deadline. Please make sure your name is written on the plastic bag in clear black marker, and that only boxtops are in the bag. Soup labels must go in a different bag. Families with more than one child can collect together and a prize will be given to each child if they are the winner. If you have questions, you can call me at 605-547-1574(home) or 551-3115(work). *Happy Collecting! Judy*

TRIP News

The next ICS TRIP order date is Oct. 5 by 9:00 AM. We will be ordering every two weeks starting in October through our December order. Hopefully, this will make it easier for you to use TRIP for all your holiday shopping.

Pizza Fresco out of Sioux Center (take & bake pizzas) has joined our program. It is available in \$10/\$20 with 10% discount. Check out their website for more information on what they have.

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

Kindergarten

My summer flew by faster than ever! In June I traveled to Okaboji and took a class called "Reading Comprehension Strategies". It was a very interesting and enjoyable class to attend. After that I enjoyed many visits to our lake home. Our whole family was able to spend a week together at the lake over the 4th of July. It was so much fun to watch the three babies interact and play together. They all loved riding on the pontoon and they loved splashing in the lake!! Grandchildren are truly a joy and a huge blessing!

This school year is off to a great start. We have eleven students in Kindergarten. There are six girls and five boys. Everyone is adjusting quickly to Kindergarten.

We are learning from the new CSI Bible curriculum, entitled "Walking with God and His People." Our first lessons emphasized the importance of the Bible as God's holy and true Word. They have learned how much God loves us and how God created everything for us to enjoy. They did very well at learning the days of creation. They went home and had fun testing their parents on this.

Another highlight for this year is learning from a new Reading series. They are learning lots of high frequency words. They are enjoying the book of folk tales that goes with this series. The book really works on comprehension, which is a very important skill to strengthen. They have also learned the sounds of four letters already and they can sound out a few words too!

Mrs. Vos

1st and 2nd Grade

School has begun again and the learning is taking place. First we need to review all of the old things we learned last year but forgot over the summer. Then we get to go on and learn many wonderful things in God's creation and world.

The first grade has seven cheerful and loving girls. Our second grade has two eager and fun boys plus two bright and friendly girls. The class seems to get along well and they are eager and willing to learn. We covet your prayers for our class.

Our Social Studies has taken us to learning more about our families. We have many different celebrations and holidays that we love to do together. The family rules keep everyone safe and happy. The home address will help others know where we live so we need to learn that. The duties around the home will keep things orderly and teach us how to work and be responsible. So families play a very important part in our lives!

This summer I went to a Reading Conference in Okaboji. We listened to many different authors and speakers telling how important it is for the children to read every day. Some authors wrote about their dog or their child who had

autism. Others wrote about America or Iowa. They said it takes training to become a reader who can sit and read for longer periods of time. You need to start short and then stretch that time a little bit every day. Then the children can sit and read longer in school too. It is good when parents have time to model that for their children, also.

We praise God for good health and minds. Please pray for safety in travels and many good days for learning.

Mrs. Goslinga

3rd and 4th Grade

I cannot believe a whole month of school has flown by already! We have been doing so much in third and fourth grade. From Bible and math to reading and science, these third and fourth graders have really been working hard!

In Bible we studied how the writings of the Bible began. We practiced our storytelling skills and our reading Hebrew skills! We all decided that English was enough for us:) Math brought about new challenges in learning how to read and create our own graphs. We worked on bar graphs, line graphs, and even some stem and leaf plots! We had fun creating our own surveys and making the graphs to display our information. We even got to be gumshoe detectives for a day to figure out the algebra problems. We had fun looking for clues and finding the answers.

In reading, we worked on several short stories. All the students did so great! They worked on their fluency and comprehension as well as finding the main ideas and supporting details. It was hard work at times, but they did great:) Science quickly became our biggest challenge of the month. We studied organisms, cells, ecosystems, fossils, classification groups, and all the vocabulary words that went with it. We had the chance to create terrariums, or miniature ecosystems, inside of pop bottles. We then observed how living and nonliving things interact with each other and depend on each other. We learned how there is an order to creation and we are needed to take care of it and preserve it just as God has called us to do. Most of all, we discovered how perfectly God created everything to fit together. It is always a good reminder for all of us to see how magnificent God is in His infinite wisdom!

I am looking forward to this next month of new topics to explore with the third and fourth graders. It is sure to be a wonderful experience!

Mrs. Mills

October Birthdays

October 1	Sam Mueller
October 2	Kolton Gradert
October 3	Jenna Dekkers
October 10	Jessica Osterkamp
October 13	Josee Abbas & Erin Miedema
October 16	Gerald Postma
October 21-	Grace Huenink
October 23	Jorja Zomermaand
October 29	Lori Bonnema



5th and 6th Grade

The fifth and sixth graders are into full gear, with five weeks already under our belt! We are currently doing many beginning activities in a few subjects, such as: In Bible we are looking at the beginning of history with the ancient stories found in the Pentateuch books of the Bible. We are also looking at the whole realm of the world through our social studies first few chapters. We see why history, geography, climate, economics, etc, are important to learn about and understand from our past.

The class has already made posters pertaining to the three parts of the Pentateuch-Ancient stories, Patriarchs, & Exodus to Canaan. They have written poems about school, they have taken an interest surveys, they have been fascinated by the world population clock, and many numerous other activities or events.

All this is great, but there is something that we continuously strive for in our class and that is following our theme for this year-LIVING LETTERS. We always try to revert back to the theme and self check to see if we are being "living letters" everyday. At school, at home, with others, and by ourselves we need to show God's love through ourselves.

Mr. Schoonhoven

7th and 8th Grade

This is already looking like it will be a great year in the 7th and 8th grade room this year. It feels great to be back in the swing of things and ready to push forward in a new school year. We have also been extremely thankful that God has blessed us with such beautiful weather for the start of this year. We have been able to spend our recess time outside and enjoying a very fall like end to summer. After a summer of traveling between Montana and Illinois I am so excited to dive into another school year with a great class. Already we are seeing the girls starting their volleyball season and a few of our boys playing football with the Jr. Knights program. It is already looking to be an active, and busy first quarter!

Inside the classroom we are pushing ahead in all subject areas. The 7th grade has finished up a review chapter in Math, and is looking ahead at studying the various properties of Math. They will be looking at how the concepts of Math can allow numbers to switch positions and turn what seems to at first be a difficult problem, into a problem that can be solved with ease. The 8th grade will be pushing into the world of Algebra. They are learning the numerous ways in which problems can show themselves, and the steps that are needed to take in order to solve them. The 8th graders will be looking into single and multi-step equations, along with number cubes. All of which can be a struggle to master, but ultimately very rewarding once accomplished.

In Literature we are studying from a new book this year! The class has started a unit with stories that all base their plot around friendship. The students have been able to see a variety of ways in which friendships are formed and sustained by diverse characters. Through these stories we have been able to discuss and observe the intricate details that allow us to have the friendships that God has blessed us with. During science, the students have moved into the study of Chemistry. We are beginning with the concepts of mixtures and solutions. It is incredible to see the amazing things that God has done for us, and allowed us to do in the realm of science. We take for granted the endless details of creation that God has permitted us to discover and study. Each of which takes us further into awe of His artistry and focus on detail. I hope that each of the students is able to find themselves taken back by the mystery of what is still left to find out about this world that God has given us.

Mr. Mills

It's Fall Again -Thanks God!

I'm guessing there are a lot of you who agree with me that the trees are beginning to turn color too soon. It means cold weather and difficult travel is on the way. But it also means that God is keeping his promise that "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." (Gen. 8:22) God keeps his promises and we are privileged to see Him keeping them in our everyday life. Preparing for harvest, feeling that cool crispness in the mornings again-these all are gentle reminders that God is faithful.

It is indeed a pleasure to be involved in a school where God's faithfulness is seen in the people and the educational perspective. I worked in a public school for almost 18 years and many of my coworkers were Christians who did a good job of showing God's love to the students they worked with. But not being able to openly teach God's faithfulness in a world of stress and disappointment was frustrating and always left us feeling sad because students were unable to know what the truth really was.

So let's all thank God for the changing seasons, showing us that He is indeed keeping all His promises. And let's thank Him that we are in a school where we are free to openly acknowledge that He is our God and we are his people!

Rose Van Engen, Counselor

Board Meeting - September 14, 2009

- I. DEVOTIONS by Board President Rick Schouten
- II. MINUTES by Secretary Eric Van Wyk
- III. TREASURERS' REPORTS
 - General \$19,561.92 Tuition Asst- \$661.92
 - Building(Glen)- No report
 - KOK Preschool(handout)- \$4,644.33
- IV. BILLS SUBMITTED Ten Kredit-Exit signs & security lights \$823.68, Staff Dev reimbursement-Goslinga-\$95, Vos-\$95, Jer Mills \$35, De Jong \$35, Van Engen \$35, S Byker \$35, M Byker \$35, Obbink-KOK \$35, Sieck-KOK \$35
- V. REVIEW POLICIES Constitution of Endowment Fund p57, 400-402.9
- VI. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
 - A. Memorials/donations received (12 yearly memberships & 1 lifetime for 09-10 to Foundation (total=20lifetime & 12 yearly)
 - B. Past events
 - Aug 11-Society Meeting & Registration was well attended
 - Aug 20-25 Staff/Faculty Meetings
 - Brian Nelsen-DI
 - Josh Folkerts Technology
 - Dan Mehlbrech-Aflac
 - Aug 26-First day of school /chapel speaker was Pastor Norlyn Van Beek
 - C. Upcoming events
 - Sept 14-VB at OCCS 4pm
 - Sept 19-VB Round Robin at DC
 - Sept 21-Cross Country at Unity 4:15pm
 - Sept 22-VB at Sheldon vs Sanborn & Sheldon 4:15pm
 - Sept 26-Rally Day Sale 5pm lunch, 6:30 auction
 - Sept 28-Cross Country at Western (Rolling Hills Golf Course) 4pm
 - Oct 1-2-No School, Heartland Teachers Conferences at DC Ken Medem Keynote
 - Oct 5-VB Home vs Inwood 4pm
 - Oct 8-VB Home vs Hull Prot 4pm
 - D. Principal Club meeting dates for 09-10 school year are: Oct 1, Nov 19, Jan 29, & Mar 5
- VII. ITEMS FOR ACTION
 - 1. Board meeting procedures-separate committees will meet at 7pm and full board meeting at 7:30pm
 - 2. Concert update from Leroy Punt
 - 3. Rally Day Sale-set up at 3pm
 - 4. PTA mtg-Chad Abbas President-need to set up a Fall meeting (speaker or guest), Jim Viet will look into this since Chad is laid up at this time
 - 5. Building Toward Our Future Campaign (wave #2) ask for pledges as well, Glen Bonnema and Marlin Schoonhoven will make updated flyers
 - 6. Roller Skating Party-tabled till March
- VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - A. Building
 - 1. Exit lights, security light installed-fire marshall report sent as completed
 - 2. KOK Playground
 - B. Education
 - 1. Still would like a Coop teacher for Tuesday & Thursday afternoons
 - 2. Board Symposium -Nov 19 4-9pm (same night as ICS Fall Musical)
 - C. Finance
 - 1. Tuition-general update
 - D. Bus
 - 1. Routes seem to be working well
 - 2. Bus Inspection-October 21 at 10:30am West Sioux Bus barn in Hawarden

- E. Endowment- no report
- F. Preschool
 - 1. 21 students (4-3 yr olds, 17-4-5 yr olds)
 - 2. Grant -\$48,598.58 (2858.74/student receiving) (\$3,328.00 subtract \$469.26/child for Administrative expenses at WS
 - 3. Contracts for Christina & Tammy-change of status (see handout)-President & secretary need to sign new contracts
- G. Technology
 - 1. Motion made and passed to set up email accounts for all staff (rackspace.com)
 - 2. Technology update from Josh Folkerts
- H. Concert Committee/Promotion Committee
 - 1. Marketing Application deadline - December 15
- IX. Board Visit -No report (for September-report in October) next-Tim Bonnema
- X. Adjourn Next meeting October 12 at 7pm

***The miracle is this-the more we share,
the more we have.***
Leonard Nimoy

***Last year, 65.4 million Americans volunteered
through or for an organization.***

Nearly 29% of the American population volunteers.

ICS FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance on hand	\$22,637.98	Educational Disbursements:	
Receipts:		Band	-77.63
Band Income	100.00	Copier	75.50
Bridge of Hope	1,531.55	Supplies	87.00
Education Partners	8,000.00	Textbooks	3,518.97
Tuition and TRIP	3,244.70	Sub Total	\$3,603.84
Total	\$12,876.25	Building Disbursements:	
Receipts & Beginning Balance	\$35,514.23	Bldg. repairs	438.84
Salaries:		Utilities	90.39
Educational	8,917.81	Sub Total	\$529.23
Educational Pension	718.75	Bus Disbursements:	
Educational SS	-756.73	Bus Purchase	2,051.00
Janitor	554.79	Sub Total	\$2,051.00
Medical Employee	166.81	Total Disbursements	\$15,952.31
Medical Employer	166.81	Balance on Hand	\$19,561.92
Sub Total	\$9,768.24		

Church	08-09 Goal	Received	Balance	%Paid
Haw CRC	9,200.00	9,200.00	0.00	100%
Ire CRC	27,600.00	34,450.00	-6,850.00	125%
Lebanon CRC	2,300.00	2,300.00	0.00	100%
Bridge of Hope	3,200.00	3,200.00	0.00	100%
Ed. Partners	16,200.00	11,458.12	4,741.88	71%
Totals	55,300.00	57,408.12	-2,108.12	104%

ISB Financial Network	\$646.26
ISB Financial Network	\$27,276.92
Endowment CD's & Savings	\$47,770.84
Tuition Savings	\$661.92
Concert fund Checking	\$23,833.98
General fund Money Market	\$15,674.35
GPPE Stock	\$440.00

New Staff at Ireton Christian School

Don Mulder



Hello! My name is Don Mulder and I am the new bus driver on the West route. I was asked to write a little about myself so here goes. I was born and raised in the Ireton area. I am and always have been a member of the Ireton Christian Reformed Church. As a child, I attended the Ireton Christian School and then Western Christian High.

On November 25, 1966, I married my wife, Marie Louwerse, now Mulder. We have five children of which our youngest son, Christopher is with our Lord. Marie and I are thankful that we chose Christian education as a tool to help us instruct our children in the way of the Lord. Christ is the most important person in our lives! Hopefully our children realize this at an early age and see the need to accept Christ as their personal Savior.

Marie and I have fifteen grandchildren and one grandson-in-law. Two of them attend Ireton Christian. They are Cali and Miranda Mulder.

I first drove bus when I was sixteen for Western Christian High. Later I drove for West Sioux Community School and last year I drove for Sioux Center Christian School. I have enjoyed it very much so far this year and am looking forward to having a good time with the students on my bus this year. I am afraid that we have rules that we as drivers have to enforce for the safety of the children. They are very precious cargo and I sure don't want any of them to be hurt. So parents, sometimes we have to discipline your children, but it is for the good of all who are riding. Remind them regularly of the rules and it makes Gerald and my job a joy instead of work.

Have a blessed school year! Don Mulder

Dwight VanTol



Hello, I'm Mr. Dwight VanTol and I am teaching in the resource room. I moved with my family to Iowa from Michigan the first week of August. We moved here because my wife Kathleen is also starting a new job as a professor of education at Dordt College. I grew up in Muskegon, Michigan near the shore of Lake Michigan where I enjoyed swimming and

wind surfing and water skiing. After I graduated from Calvin College I

moved with my wife to Holland, Michigan. My wife taught at Holland Christian High School while I worked as a decorator / painter for many years until I also became a teacher and joined her at Holland Christian. Holland has a tulip festival every year like Orange City, and my wife and I enjoyed wearing our costumes and dancing every year for the tourists. We have five children, the oldest, Colin, lives in Grand Rapids, MI then we have a son Jacob, who is a freshman at Dordt, and Luke who is a sophomore at Unity, and Maria who we adopted from Romania and is now in 6th grade at SCC and Jon Felipe who we adopted from Colombia and is in 2nd grade. North West Iowa has always been familiar to me because my father was born and raised on a farm near Doon so I have been in the area to visit my grandparents many times over the years.

Jennifer Mills



I am excited to have begun teaching third and fourth grade! I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know a lot of the families here at Ireton Christian. I have met several of you already and you have all been so encouraging and welcoming!

I am originally from Churchill, MT. where I attended school at Manhattan Christian School from kindergarten through senior year. My dad, mom, and younger brother

still live there. My dad owns his own computer business and my mom works for him. My brother is a sophomore at Manhattan Christian and my younger sister is out of high school and living in Seattle.

I was involved in many activities during high school including sports and volunteer work. After high school I attended Dordt College with a major in elementary education. This is where I met Jeremy (Mr. Mills) and we married the summer after my senior year in June of 2008. I completed my student teaching in the fall of 2008 and graduated that Christmas. After graduation, I did subbing at various schools around the area. In February, I was given a long term subbing job at Orange City Christian teaching fifth grade until the end of the year. It was a wonderful experience leading up to my job that I now have teaching here at Ireton along with coaching the girls volleyball team.

Jeremy and I live in Orange City now and we feel very blessed to have been welcomed so warmly into the Ireton Christian community. I am looking forward to the surprises and challenges that my future here at Ireton has in store.

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*
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

* 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!