



# The Ireton Christian **BEACON**

Published by Ireton School for Christian Instruction

iretonchristianschool.com • Vol. 61 No. 3 • December 2023

## **PRINCIPAL'S CORNER**

*As we approach Christmas, my heart is filled with joy for the incredible community that defines Ireton Christian School. In the halls of our school, we see reflections of the love, compassion, and grace that Christ brought into the world. Our biblical worldview is not only a part of our curriculum, it is woven into the fabric of our daily lives.*

*The Christmas story reminds us that the greatest gift is love, and within our school walls, we are committed to cultivating an atmosphere full of love. Our theme this year is Blessed (Beatitudes). Christmas and the Beatitudes share a deep and meaningful connection as they demonstrate principles of love, compassion, humility, and blessing. The Beatitudes, spoken by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount provide a blueprint for living a blessed and righteous life.*

*This month students will be focusing on two Beatitudes. One, blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Two, blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. The humility of Mary and Joseph, who accepted God's plan with meekness, teaches us that the meek shall inherit not only the earth, but a spiritual richness that far surpasses material wealth. Let us approach the Christmas festivities with hearts that are focused on the gentle guidance of Christ.*

*As we celebrate Christmas, may we reflect on the profound connection between the birth of Christ and the wisdom of the Beatitudes. In the hustle and bustle of the season, amidst the carols and the twinkling lights, may we remember the blessings God has given us.*



*Wishing you a Christmas filled with the joy, peace, and love that emerge from the heart of the Beatitudes.*

Mrs. Kooima

# KIDS OF THE KINGDOM PRESCHOOL

October and November were exciting months of joy and growth for Kids of the Kingdom! They continue to amaze me with their bright personalities and willingness to learn new things each day at school. In preschool, our students get to complete “studies”, where they take a topic of interest and investigate it for several weeks. The Kids of the Kingdom completed their first study of the year, on trees. They investigated types of trees, how trees grow, the animals that live in trees, foods that grow on trees, and what we can make with trees. As a culminating project for the end of the tree study, the preschoolers created a tree seasons mural in the hallway (check out the photo below). The preschoolers have also been hard at work practicing name writing, learning all the letters in the alphabet, and identifying numbers 1-10. During Bible time, we are working our way through the key stories in the Old Testament. Some of our favorite preschool memories from the last two months include picking pumpkins at Fields of Fun, playing outside in the leaves and first snow of the season, crafting, and singing praises to our good God!

*Mrs. Roghair and Mrs. Plendl*



so very  
thankful

## 5TH & 6TH GRADE

The 2nd quarter is well upon us, and the middle schoolers are adjusting to all the new responsibilities that come with middle school. The 5th and 6th graders wrapped up history 1st quarter by each doing a project on an ancient civilization. It was great to see their artist and creative talents shine! They are now doing science this quarter with Mrs. Hoogland, and I am teaching the 7th and 8th graders history. We just wrapped up our first chapter on early civilizations. We discussed in both classes that History is “His Story”, and we are thankful that we are able to learn it through the Biblical worldview at Ireton Christian. On November 16, the 7th & 8th graders went to Link Manufacturing in Sioux Center where we had a tour of the factory and offices. My husband Mark gave us the tour, and he was quite impressed at the knowledge some of them had about the trucking industry! Before our tour, we had a delicious lunch at McDonald’s. I found out that some of my students still enjoy Happy Meals! The 7th and 8th graders also finished the first module in literature. The final assignment was to write three poems that connected a significant moment in their life that changed them. They then presented these poems to the class. This was something that definitely got them out of their comfort zone! I was so proud of them! Through the assignment, we gained a greater understanding of how everyone goes through trials in their lives, and how God is using it all to shape us into who He needs us to be to further His Kingdom here on earth.

*Mrs. Zylstra*



# KINDERGARTEN

The kindergarteners are learning to be thankful! We are excited about the Thanksgiving holiday, and have some many things that we are thankful for:

Axl: My dad and mom and that I get to watch TV with them, and for people to play sports with

Axton: Playing games like soccer

Brighton: That I have a brother that I can play with and a school that we can learn about God

Collins: The heavens!

Dalton: My sister and her dog, Gus! And my Grandpa De Boer and Aunt Lisa.

Eden: God and the earth that he made and our church.

Emma: My dad because I get to work with him and he is fun.

Harper: Jesus and all the animals!

Jade: My mom because I like to snuggle with her.

Kalli: electricity in our house and our beds, my grandparents.

Taylor: Food and water . . . especially strawberries and my friends

As a class, we have learned Psalm 100, and we recite it almost every day! As we work toward Christmas, we will be learning about the best gift ever! Jesus! There are a lot of other things going on in the world at Christmas time - gifts, santa, food, family . . . but our goal is to focus on the birth of Jesus and how important that is for our lives!



*Mrs. Kuperus*





# 1ST & 2ND GRADE

Camden: I am thankful for Jesus because he saved us from our sins and he also showed us in the Bible that if we make friends we'll be happy.

Raelyn: I'm thankful for my friends and my family because they're nice.

Levi: I am thankful for houses because they keep you safe.

Kara: That baby Ryder was born because I love him.

Isabella: I'm thankful for baby Tate and Quinn because I like playing with them. And Tate likes playing with the tractors at our house.

Vincent: I'm glad there's turkey and food so we don't starve to death.

Sophia: I'm thankful for gymnastics because I like to be upside down!

Jaxon: Jesus is for Thanksgiving because he died for us on the cross.

Kensley: I'm thankful that we get to go to the Black Hills because Grandma is coming and we are bringing along placemats.

Deacon: I'm thankful for Joyce and Hank because they're kind to me.

Abram: I am thankful for fall because I get to jump into the leaves when I make a pile.

Taelyn: I am thankful for my friends because then I can have somebody to play with and they play with me and we have fun together.

Joseph: I am thankful for my grandparents because they always cheer me up when I feel sad.

Olivia: I'm thankful for Jesus because he's really nice.

All statements are direct quotes from the students! We have so much to be thankful for this holiday season. May you all enjoy a blessed time of the year as we especially remember the birth of Jesus!

*Mrs. Oolman*





## 3RD & 4TH GRADE

Time just keeps flying by but we are having fun in our room. We have had a lot of sickness in our room but we are grateful everyone is finally back today. We have been busy learning in each subject. In Bible we are learning about all of the judges (some of them were not very good leaders or very smart). Our favorite stories have been about Samson. In Wit and Wisdom we started our next module



about the heart both literally and figuratively. We are loving it so far. We have been learning about rocks, minerals and fossils in Science. We even made “dirt” cups with different layers representing the layers of soil. Next we will talk about cells. Math is a challenge for some of us but we are learning multiplication in 3rd grade and decimals in 4th.



The teachers have also been learning lately with Heartland Convention at Dordt. We also went to Ankeny to a dyslexia conference and learned so much about the challenges people have with that. It was great to learn and spend time with each other and get to know each other better as well.

The students went to Western Christian to watch a play this month. Some of them also performed at the holiday festival. They are busy learning their songs now for the school musical on December 7.



At this time we are focusing on Thanksgiving and all of the things we appreciate. Here is a list of what we are thankful for:

God, Mom and Dad, family, friends, warm shelter, the Bible, Jesus, the world, missionaries, holidays, a house, and pets. What are you thankful for?

*Mrs. Sieck*

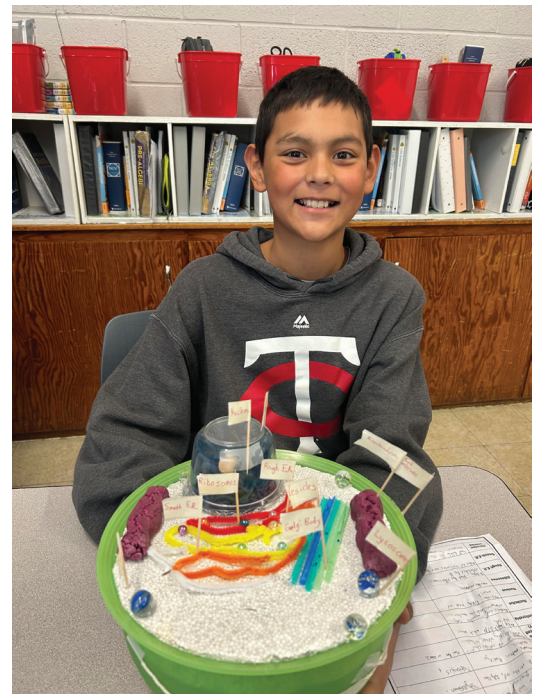
## 7TH & 8TH GRADE

In the past couple of months, the 7th and 8th graders have been learning about the hardships that Job faced in his life. Despite all the tests he had, he still feared God and trusted in Him. Now we are studying the book of Ecclesiastes and determining that everything is “meaningless, a chasing after the wind” (Ecc. 1:14) if God is not at the center of it.



In 7/8 science we wrapped up a unit on cells by creating models of cells. Then we created models of DNA—plastic ones and edible ones. What unique bodies God has given us with such incredible details!

*Mrs. Hoogland*





# DECEMBER AND JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

December 4	Emberlynn Franken
December 8	Hunter Kroese
December 9	Jade Bultman
December 11	Jenna Barrera
December 12	Ty Hoekstra
December 18	Donna Koopmans
December 19	Karston Wynia
December 21	Taylor Hoogland
January 6	Rylee Hoogland
January 10	Mason Kramer
January 12	Molly Carpenter
January 14	Angela Kuperus
January 16	Jaxon Van Driessen
January 24	Zachary Dekkers

# UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7	Fall Musical 7:00 PM at Ireton Christian Reformed Church
December 21	1:30 dismissal (Christmas Break)
Dec 22 - Jan. 1	No School (Christmas Break)
January 2	Classes Resume
January 11	End of 2nd Quarter
January 29/30	Parent/Teacher Conferences

# TRIP NEWS

Upcoming order dates are: December 11

TRIP Order forms can be printed off the school website if you need one. Orders need to be in the TRIP box in the school office or given to Donna Koopmans by 8:00 AM on order dates in your family envelope. No late orders will be taken.

## 2023-2024 Ireton Christian School Covenant Foundation Members

Brenda Van Wyhe  
Marion and Janice Van Soelen  
(2021 - 4 years)

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\*  
Jay and Marlene Broek\*  
Verlyn and Karel Dekkers\*  
Brian and Sharla Gradert\*  
Allen and Ruth De Jager\*  
Roger and Joann Obbink\*  
Dick and Harriet Bonnema \*  
Tim and Lori Bonnema\*  
Bryan and Deanne Dekkers\*  
Doug and Cinda Faber \*  
David and Tammy Noteboom \*  
William & Nancy Kingma \*  
June Erickson \*  
Paul & Karen Bos \*  
Kathy Van Wyhe \*  
Dean and Jean Bos \*

Jim and Angela Dekkers \*  
Carl and Ellen Klompier \*  
Sadie De Vries Memorial \*\*  
Arie Jr. and Mary Noteboom \*  
Louis and Gloria Kingma \*  
Delbert and Betty Zwart \*  
Jason and Laura Dekkers \*  
Doug and Sue Ten Napel \*  
Bud and Delma Vreeman \*  
Don and Verla Van Sloten \*  
Alfred De Jong Memorial \*\*  
Doug and Betty Elgersma \*  
Cory and Arla Van Sloten \*  
Stan and Beth Vanden Berg \*  
Doug & Betty Elgersma \*  
Shirley Ten Napel \*  
Lynn Juffer \*\*

\* 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!

*Ireton Christian School does not discriminate in its employment policies and practices, or in its educational program on the basis of race, color, age, sex, handicap, national origin, or ancestry.*