



The Ireton Christian **BEACON**

Published by Ireton School for Christian Instruction

iretonchristianschool.com • Vol. 62 No. 3 • December 2024

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

As we approach the Christmas season, we are filled with joy and gratitude for the incredible opportunity to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, with our students. At ICS, Christmas is more than just a holiday – it's a time for reflection, joy, and a deep connection to the true meaning of the season. We gather together to remember that Christ's birth brings us peace, hope, and endless joy.

In the midst of holiday festivities, we are reminded of the importance of our community – a community where each child is not only known but deeply loved. In our school, we take time to nurture and equip each student, helping them grow in their faith and understand how they can positively impact the world around them.

We are blessed to witness the transformation that takes place in the hearts of our students as they learn about Christ's love. From the smallest moments of joy in the classroom to the powerful reflections shared during chapel services, Christmas is a time for us to focus on what truly matters: the love and grace that Christ has extended to each one of us.

As we celebrate the season of Christ's birth, we are reminded that our school's mission goes beyond academics – it's about nurturing hearts for Christ and equipping students to make a difference in their community and the world. The joy of Christmas is not just something we share in December, but a joy that our students carry with them every day as they grow in faith, knowledge, and purpose.

We are excited to continue walking alongside our students this Christmas season, helping them discover the deep love of Christ and the ways they can be a light to the world. May this Christmas bring peace and joy to all of our families as we celebrate the greatest gift of all – the birth of Jesus Christ!

Merry Christmas from our Christian School family!



KIDS OF THE KINGDOM PRESCHOOL

Our preschoolers have been busy exploring the beauty of God's creation through a unit on trees, discovering how they change with the seasons. As part of this learning journey, they created a vibrant seasons mural for the school hallway, showcasing how trees reflect God's faithfulness throughout the year. From the bright greens of spring to the golden hues of fall, our students have learned that just as the trees are



so too are they. With Thanksgiving coming up, we've also been reflecting on thankfulness. The preschoolers helped create a tree of thankfulness that is now a beautiful

reminder in our classroom of God's provision. Here are some of the things our preschoolers are thankful for this season:

Jackson: my dog (Oakley)

Knox: my big brother

Weston: Pizza Ranch

Avin: Playing outside

Skye: Going on the trampoline with my dad and brother

Kason: Playing at the park with grandma

Jase: steak and potatoes

Leo: cookies

Steven: My uncle Ryder

Max: My mom

Brexton: My four wheeler

Daxton: My family



Mrs. Roghair and Mrs. Plendl

KINDERGARTEN

It is an exciting time in Kindergarten. We are learning to read! We spent the first quarter working on letter sounds, and now we are putting the sounds together to form words. We are starting off simple and adding a few trick words. This is just enough to start writing sentences, too. Our brains are full right now, but it is fun to try new things.

We just finished up a unit on weather, and are switching gears to do a mini unit on Thanksgiving. After the Thanksgiving break, we will jump back into science and finish up our unit by studying trees through the four seasons.



In math, we are studying the teen numbers. These seem to be the trickiest for us to remember. We identify, count, build, and write numbers 11-20. Sometimes we play fun games to remember the numbers - we like teen number bingo!

Many kids say Bible is their favorite thing to learn about! We are working our way through the Old Testament and are studying Solomon.

Mrs. Kuperus

1ST & 2ND GRADE

Thankfulness in First and Second Grade

It's that time of year again—the season of thankfulness! In our first and second grade classroom, we've been reflecting on all the things that fill our hearts with gratitude. Of course, being thankful for friends, family, and pizza made the list, but it's what came next that truly captured the spirit of our classroom and our Christian school.

"I'm thankful that we get to talk about God and pray at school," one student shared. Another said, "I'm thankful we learn Bible stories, even the ones with lions. Especially the lions!"

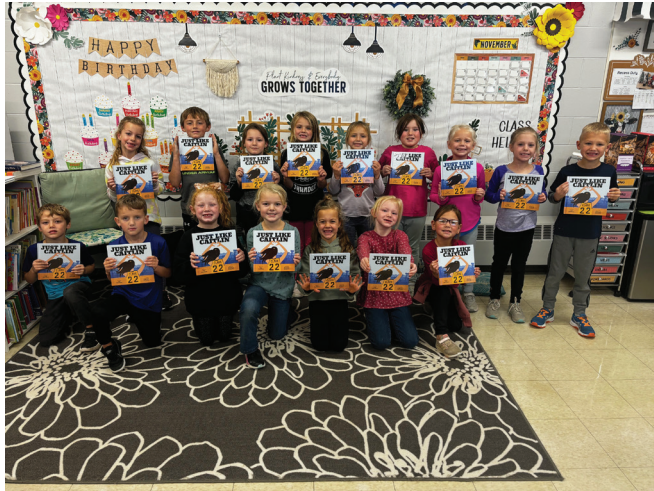


Here at Ireton Christian, we are incredibly thankful for the privilege of weaving faith into learning. From hearing giggles during phonics practice to seeing the excitement of a hand raised to answer a Bible question, it's clear that gratitude lives in the everyday moments.

So this Thanksgiving season, we invite you to join us in being thankful—not just for the turkeys, pies, and comfy elastic waistbands, but for the joy of learning and growing together in a Christ-centered community. Because whether it's recess, pizza, or lions, there's always something to be grateful for.

Happy Thanksgiving from the first and second graders!

Mrs. Oolman



2ND & 3RD GRADE

It's been a fun month full of different activities in the 2nd/3rd grade classroom. The 2nd graders are wrapping up their unit on the changes that happen in the fall. While learning about the oil paintings in the book "Sky Tree", students were able to create their own version using oil pastels! They did a fantastic job and had fun learning how to use a tool other than crayons and colored pencils to create illustrations.

The 3rd graders have been busy working on finishing up their unit on the sea. They are using their new editing skills to help them make a short picture book. Each student has chosen some fun details to include in their stories! It's a joy to watch their creativity in writing and illustrating grow! Keep up the great work 3rd graders!



Mrs. Vander Berg

3RD & 4TH GRADE

Happy holiday season from the 3rd and 4th grade room! We are getting so excited for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I asked the kids 5 things they were thankful for. These are not all of the answers given but the ones with the most responses-family, food, home, God, friends, school, Bible, pets, church and pastor. Wow! We should all be thankful for these things each and every day.



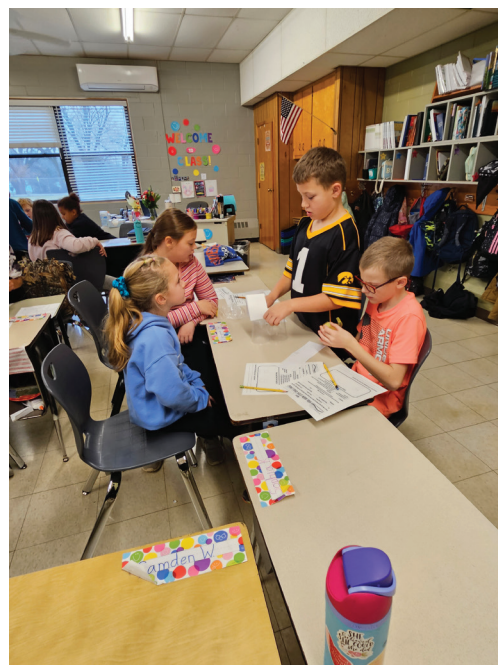
We were able to go to the plays at Northwestern and Western Christian recently. We saw some talented acting and the kids enjoyed watching them. I believe some of our kids will be participating in theater things when they get older.

We enjoy our monthly time with Kara, AG instructor. This month we learned about pigs and made structures for pigs to live in. They had to have a slanted roof and a building the pigs could not escape from. We used paper cups, index cards, straws, clay, tape and paper plates. The kids learned they needed to have teamwork to make this happen.

Another highlight our room has been doing is writing letters to a class in South Carolina that was also affected by flooding in their area like we were. We have sent our first letters to them and know they are working on sending some back to us. I love that we can be friends with people in another part of the country and share our stories and love for Jesus with them as well.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas season with your family and friends.

*Jesus is the reason for the season,
Mrs. Sieck*



5TH & 6TH GRADE

The 5th and 6th Graders are continuing to grow and develop in the Lord. In Bible class, we just finished learning about Daniel. Daniel was a faithful servant who showed continual loyalty to God. The students continue to develop their faith through their learning of God's servants.

In Reading, we have been finalizing our study of the Great Depression, by reading the book *Out of the Dust*. This book follows the life of a young girl during the Dust Bowl. The students have been discovering how to overcome hardships through her example.



The students finished their first quarter of Social Studies learning about Heritage, by visiting the Dutch Heritage Museum.

Finally, in Writing, the students have been honing their skills to write comic books. They are using their creative skills to develop unique stories. At the end of the first quarter, some 6th graders used their speaking skills to compete in a speech contest at Rock Valley Christian School.

We continue to thank God for all the gifts he has given us.

Miss Schiebout



7TH & 8TH GRADE

The middle school students have been busy this fall season! We enjoyed the outdoor weather as long as we could—doing science stations outside while learning about the human body. We learned about the different ways our bodies get rid of waste, the circulatory system, how our hearts function, and the way we breathe. We ended our science units with projects such as making a collage, giving the class a quiz, creating a sculpture, and creating a presentation about a certain respiratory disorder. Now the 5th and 6th graders are learning about God’s created order in ecosystems, and how He has made everything so intricately. In Bible, we are learning about Paul’s missionary journeys. We watched a few episodes of the movie entitled “AD The Bible Continues” which showed us a lot of the persecution those in the early church received. We are very thankful to live in a place where we can openly talk about our faith without the fear of persecution, and we pray that this continues. In math we are learning about many fun things such as rational numbers, scientific notation, and applying formulas. Next spring, we are looking forward to taking a trip to Kentucky to visit the Ark and the Creation Museum. We will be having a bake sale on Thursday, December 5 with lots of Christmas goodies to raise money for this trip. We thank you in advance for your support of this trip!

Mrs. Hoogland



DECEMBER & JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

December 1	Hudson Byker
December 4	Emberlynn Franken
December 8	Hunter Kroese
December 9	Jade Bultman
December 12	Ty Hoekstra
December 14	Marcus Kiel
December 18	Donna Koopmans
December 21	Taylor Hoogland
December 30	Kason Dekkers
January 6	Rylee Hoogland
January 10	Mason Kramer
January 14	Angela Kuperus
January 16	Jaxon Van Driessen
January 24	Zachary Dekkers
January 28	Katelyn Blankespoor

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 3-5	Book Fair
December 5	Grandparent’s Day (1:00 PM)
	Christmas Program (7:00 PM)
December 6	Pizzas, Puzzles, Pints
December 20	Full Day of School
Dec. 23 - Jan. 3	No School - Christmas Break
January 10	End of 2nd Quarter
January 20 & 21	Parent Teacher Conferences

TRIP NEWS

Upcoming order dates are: December 9.

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.

OPERATION SHOEBOXES

God is so good! After taking a year off from packing boxes, we are excited to say we packed them again this year. Our goal was one per student at ICS and KOK which is 90! Guess what? We packed 115 boxes. Praise the Lord! The kids all donated items for children ages 2-14. We had awesome toys, art supplies, games, hygiene items and stuffed animals. Each box is then sent to a processing center where they include a Bible in the language of the child who will receive the box.

Shipping money was given by several donors from churches and surrounding community members. What better way to show God's love for kids across the world. THANK YOU for your support of this project! Merry Christmas to you!



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Marion and Janice Van Soelen
(2021 - 4 years)

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* Lifetime members (\$500.00)
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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 employs person without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin or qualifying disability. However, as a specifically Christian school and ministry of the church, Ireton Christian School reserves the right to deny employment based on a person's religious beliefs and/or practices that are in conflict with our Statement of Faith. We reserve the right to terminate employment for the same.