



Dakota Christian School Newsletter

December
2011

Dakota Christian School, 37614 SD Hwy 44, Corsica, SD 57328
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Forgiveness: Christ's Promise

I made a big mistake a couple of weeks ago—I ran in the hallways. That may not seem so bad to the readers of this column, but it is bad because it is against the school rules. The worst part of this incident was that the first and second graders saw me running. You cannot imagine the grief I received from our elementary police force. I overheard many of the students saying, “The principal is running in the hallways!” Then they approached me and asked, “Why were you running in the hallway?” And the real heartbreaker comment was, “You broke your own rule.” That was a dagger in my heart. This was just the tip of the iceberg and I am not able to write all the comments the students told me. But after all the accusatory remarks, I was asked how I was going to punish myself. The students offered suggestions such as detention, going to the principal's office, getting a spanking, and telling my mommy. I have some reconciliation to do with the elementary students in order to rid myself of this dark blot on my career. It may be a long time before Mrs. Van Zee's class forgets about the principal running in the hall, but I hope they will

soon forgive me for my mistake. But I believe the first and second graders have decided to forgive me, because I am receiving a whole lot of hugs from these little ones. They must realize that this principal needs forgiveness too and they are well on the way to forgiving me for my mistakes.

We are now in the month of December during which we celebrate the birth of Jesus, and forgiveness just happens to be the theme for this month. Even if the first and second graders have a tough time with forgiveness, I am happy that our God is a forgiving Father. Part of our verse for the month—Colossians 3:13—states, “*Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*” As we are called to forgive, so to God forgives His children. If we take the time to remember why God sent His only Son in the world, it was for the forgiveness of my sins, our sins. How wonderful to celebrate the birth of a Savior who loved me so much that He is willing to die for the forgiveness of my sins. Celebrate the season that is filled with the joy of a loving, forgiving Savior.

Dr. Gary Cookson

Dordt College/Dakota Christian DC/DCS 6th Annual Pheasant Hunt

The 6th annual pheasant hunt was held November 2-5. Like every fund raiser we have at school, it takes many people willing to give of their time and resources to make it profitable for the school. This year we hosted 13 hunters that came from Alaska, California, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa.

Many people ask how the hunt works and how we get money for it. Dordt College is in charge of taking the reservations for the hunters. Randy and Diane Niewenhuis graciously opened up their home as a place for the hunters to stay. Randy and Riley Niewenhuis and Delwin Feenstra guided them on land that DCS supporters have offered (this is some of the best hunting ground in the state—all wild birds). Members of the Fellowship and associate members helped Diane in making breakfast, lunch in the field and an evening meal as well as some housekeeping duties.



Each hunter is charged a fee for their housing, food and guide service. These fees are collected by Dordt College and given to the school. Several of the men have been coming since the hunt began 6 years ago and have grown to appreciate the hospitality shown them and choose to give an additional gift to the school. This year we collected over \$21,000!! The hunt has been growing every year and this is the best one yet! Praise God!

Many, many thanks to Randy, Diane and Riley Niewenhuis. Without them this would not be possible. Also, to Delwin Feenstra for helping Randy and Riley with guiding and Vic and Lori Munneke for the use of their motor home—more hunters than the house can hold. All the Fellowship and Associate members who help with the food. And, to everyone who donates hunting ground. Even though pheasant numbers are down in the area, the guys reached their limit every day!

The DCS 2011-2012 Theme is “Got Love?”

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” John 13:34

5th 6th Grade News

This school year welcomed five 5th grade students and eight 6th grade students into our classroom. We may be small in number, but we make it up with our energy and enthusiasm! Now we are near the middle of our school year! Looking back on our year, we have many memories we could share with you. The sixth grade class has chosen three special memories to write about.

"Our Visit to the Fort Randall Dam"

We had a fun time at the Fort Randall Dam. We learned a lot about electricity and power sources. A lot of the world's energy comes from renewable sources, like water from the Missouri River. Most of the energy produced by the dam is used instantaneously. It is used in several states and also in some parts of Canada. We got to touch the turbans as they spun around. They turned at 90mph! The generators have magnets in them to produce the electricity. There were eight of them and they were HUGE! One of the best parts was watching the water gush out of the spillway. It was a real reminder of God's power in nature!

Written by: Brooklyn Brouwer, Kami Pheifer, and Megan Mudder

"Pet Day"

Earlier this fall, our class got to bring our pets to school for a day. We did this while we were studying animals in science class. Many different pets were brought including: dogs, a pony, goats, sheep, a llama, cats, and a bunny. Grade school and high school students were asked to see our pets during a special 'petting zoo' hour. The baby goat was very noisy because it was the first time away from his mother. Many students tried to make the fainting goat faint by scaring it. It fainted three times! The younger students liked to pet the puppies and kittens. We all wish we could have Pet Day again this year!

Written by: Xavier Marshall and Kendall Veenstra

"Showing Love to the Elderly"

Our class had a great time spreading Christmas cheer at the Corsica Nursing Home and Leisure Living Facility. We sang Christmas carols and played Christmas songs with our instruments. It was good practice for our concert. We think everyone enjoyed our music because of all the smiles that we saw. Before we left, we shook hands with the people there. Many knew our parents or grandparents. It was fun brightening their day with music!

Written by: Chase Pheifer, Luke Kaemingk, and Colton Wolbrink

All of us in 5th and 6th grade would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. God is so good and will always continue to be so!

Mrs. Lori Miedema, 5th/6th Grade

What is a Disciple?

In junior high Bible class, we have been studying what a disciple is and how a disciple of Jesus Christ should act. To end our study, we decided to put our learning into practice. After brainstorming and coming up with many ideas, we all agreed on baking cookies for people who might need a little encouragement. Each student brought one or more ingredients, and then the fun began. Students took turns stirring, scooping the dough onto the cookie sheets, putting the baked cookies on cookie racks, and then putting a dozen in each bag. We each taste tested one and agreed they were excellent. (Thank you, Elaine Veurink, for your recipe!) We came up with a list of different families we could share the delicious treats with, and the next day drove around delivering them. Even though we were sharing cookies to bless others, we also received a blessing from the people we encountered. We shared a group hug at one home, and at another, we received profuse thanks. At still another, we were entertained with stories from the past. If there was no one home, we left the cookies and a card so they knew we were thinking of them. We stopped to get gas at a convenience store in Armour, and when the clerk heard what we were doing, she was so impressed that she treated each of us to a free glass of pop! "It is in blessing that we are blessed." ~ Anonymous



Mrs. Jan Van Vuren, 7th/8th

Mrs. Noteboom's News

Oh, how I love this wonderful season of the year! Like some of you, I'm at the point in my life where it is much better to give than to receive! In Personal Finance class Dave Ramsey is teaching us about budgeting and living within our means. He encourages us to plan ahead and not to spend on "stuff" we don't need. Rather, how can we live to give! Our Personal Finance textbook states "people buy things they don't need, with money they don't have, to impress people they don't even like! Remember, even if you win the rat race, you're still a rat!" The seniors are learning some valuable life lessons.

Some of the nicest things come in small packages. That is certainly true of the freshmen in Computer I. They are finishing the Excel program. We can take almost any information, put it in a worksheet and make a graph or chart.

In Advanced Accounting the seniors are learning about starting a corporation. We have been looking at charters and different types of stock options. Fourth hour finds us in the business room with the juniors in accounting. They have completed the entire accounting cycle for a proprietorship and are starting corporate accounting.

Hardly seems possible that we are looking at the Christmas season and the end of the first semester. Retail stores are tempting us to forget about the real meaning of this season as they want the consumer to focus on buying instead of being content. Oh, how we have been blessed here at DCS with faithful parents and grandparents who know what it means to sacrifice for Christian education. When we count our blessings, we think of all you who have given so that the students and school can be blessed. THANK YOU! Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all of you!

Mrs. Jeanne Noteboom, HS Computer/Business

Music Needs at DCS

1) We are looking for a Parent with a Video Camera to Video-Tape the 5-12 Instrumental and Choral Concert on Thursday, December 15. The concert starts at 7:00pm.

2) The Music Department at Dakota Christian is looking for Piano Accompanists for Junior High Contest and High School Contest in the Spring.

** Region H.S. Instrumental Contest is Feb. 22, at Parkston

** The 5-8 Instr. Contest is April 25 at Platte-Geddes H.S.

Please call the school or email Karissa De Jager or Kim Zomer if you can help with any of these needs.

Volunteers Needed

The school board is asking the Fellowship of DCS to organize an all-school reunion to be held in the summer of 2012. This is in conjunction with the anniversary of Christian Education and may also be used as a tool to focus on debt reduction. We, the Fellowship, are looking for anyone that is interested in helping organize this. Calling all current students or alumni, any DCS supporters whether young, old, male or female please consider being on the cutting edge of this event. Details (complexity or simplicity) of the event have not been discussed and will be in the hands of the committee we are hoping to form. Please prayerfully consider being on this committee and direct your questions or interest toward Jo Ellen Dykstra 243-2232. It will be wonderful to celebrate God's goodness to us in being able to educate our children through years of Christian education.

Jo Ellen Dykstra, Fellowship President

3rd & 4th Grade News

It is time to share with you some of the things that are happening in our classroom. This week is a busy one as we are getting ready for the PK - 4 Christmas concert on Friday evening. It is exciting to be able to see the students use the talents that God has given each of them. Each of them have different talents and together all those talents will be used to give others enjoyment by telling the Christmas story through song and acting:

3—three third graders in our room.

R—reading, Math, English, VoWac, Spelling, Science, Social Studies and Bible are the subjects that keep us busy every day.

D—doing our best each day with God's help makes learning fun.

4—fourth graders number ten so that makes a total of thirteen students who have lots of enthusiasm and are a wonderful group to teach because they are always eager to learn.

T—the theme for the school year is helping all of us to show we've "Got Love" by accepting, sharing, being kind, and forgiving.

H—helpers are plentiful in our room. They are willing to help each other and to help out in whatever way they can.

Everyone in our room is looking forward to Christmas to celebrate the birthday of Jesus and to having some time away from school to spend with family and friends. Here are some of their favorite things to do at Christmas:

Regan—open presents and eat supper.

Mackenzie—Have time with my family and celebrate Jesus' birth.

Brandon—Play in the snow. (Hopefully we get some.)

Gabe—Read a Christmas story and after that we open presents. Last year I got a good movie and a board game.

Hannah—Sledding down the hill and celebrating with my family.

Josh—Eat cookies, open presents, watch Christmas movies, go sledding and snowmobiling. Riding on a sled behind a snowmobile and seeing who can stay on the

Fellowship News

The DCS Fellowship meeting was held Nov. 17, 2011. Thank you notes were read from the teachers for the money given to them before the Heartland Convention. Also the previous fund raisers were discussed with all being very successful. The Harvest Sale went very well and Taste of Dakota was a big success. There were many comments heard about the good meal. Thank you to all the committee members and the parents, and grandparents that helped in any way. Again the Dordt Hunt went very well this year too. We want to thank all those on this committee as it is a lot of work preparing the food. We also want to say a huge thank you to Randy and Diane Niewenhuis who open up their home to house these guys, as well as the landowners who furnish land for them to hunt! We appreciate you very much.

Upcoming fund raisers were also discussed. The fellowship will be serving food at a total of four basketball games this year. Also will be hosting a 7th and 8th boys basketball tournament again in January. Also the school board has asked us to form a committee to organize a Celebration of Christian Education for the summer of 2012.

Sam Mudder with the help of Tiffany Sybesma will be taking over the Rada Cutlery, Dutch Peppermints, and dish cloths. We want to thank all the ladies that have done this in the past. We appreciate your willingness to help with this for a lot of years.

We wish every one a very Merry Christmas and God's Blessings in 2012.

Lisa Spoelstra, Fellowship Secretary

Attention Parents!

Any late starts or early closings due to emergency or unfavorable weather conditions will be announced via our School Reach, KMIT (105.9 FM radio) and KELOland (TV and online).



longest is really fun. I like putting the star on top of the Christmas tree, decorating it, and singing songs.

Melanie—Making Christmas cookies and holiday cupcakes. The best part is making a card for someone and giving a gift to someone in need.

Isabel—Go to my Grandpa and Grandma's house and have a fondue with the Pheifers.

Karleah—Watch Christmas movies, bake Christmas cookies, read Christmas books, and stuff like that.

Noah—I never celebrate Christmas at home. It's either out of state or in or outside of Geddes. But never at home.

Trevor—Bake Christmas cookies.

Kelsey—The Christmas play at school. I like finding out who you get to be in the play, practicing, and best of all performing it.

Parker—Open presents.

Have a Merry Christmas as you celebrate the birthday of Jesus and rejoice that he came to earth and gave us the very best gift we will ever receive.

Miss Vanden Hoek, 3rd/4th Grades

DCS Financial Report

General Fund Checking Acct Report for November:

Balance 11/1/11		\$ 451.53
Deposits	\$ 100,202.67	
Withdrawals	\$ 94,628.14	
Closing Balance 11/30/11		\$ 6,025.96

Monthly Church Ministry Offerings

Funds received in October	\$ 35,523.25
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Budget Goal for Church Ministry Offerings

Yearly Budget Goal	\$ 150,000.00
Funds received as of 11/30/11	\$ 59,967.28
Balance needed by 7/31/12	\$ 90,032.72

For Sale:



Rada Cutlery, dishcloths,
and Dutch peppermints

These make great gifts for Christmas!

To place orders contact: Sam Mudder (207-3936)
or Tiffany Sybesma (337-2519)

Pep Band

Our Dakota Christian Pep Band, made up of the 7-12 graders, are gearing up for home basketball games! We would like to invite any parents, community members, faculty, and staff who play band instruments to join us on Saturday, December 17, for our first home basketball game against Wagner. It is a Double-Header! We will play before the girl's varsity game which is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m., at half-time, before the boy's varsity game, and again at half time. Bring your instruments and meet us in the Dakota Christian music room at 5:45 p.m. Oh, and by the way...ALL Pep Band members get into the game FREE!

The Games that the Pep Band will be playing at this year are as follows:

Saturday, Dec. 17 – Double Header with Wagner
Thursday, Jan. 5 – Boys Basketball vs. South Central
Monday, Jan. 9 – Girls Basketball vs. Tripp-Del./Armour
Thursday, Jan. 19 – Double Header with Mt. Vernon
Tuesday, Jan. 24 – Girls Basketball vs. Corsica/Stickney
Thursday, Feb. 2 – Girls Basketball vs. South Central
Thursday, Feb. 9 – Boys Basketball vs. Kimball/White Lake

Friday, Feb. 17 – Boys Basketball vs. Colome

Thank you again to our Parents and Community for all that you do in supporting music at Dakota Christian! See you on Saturday!

Mrs. Karissa De Jager, 5-12 Band Director

DCS 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.

Tuition Reminder to Parents

DCS has a policy that tuition for the first half of the school year should be paid by the end of the first semester. Timely payment of tuition makes it possible for us to pay OUR bills. If you have circumstances that prevent payment of tuition at this time, please talk to Kenny Lieuwen, board treasurer, or Brenda Veurink, business manager.

Thank you!

DCS December Board Activity

1. Paul Baas opened the meeting reading a devotional and from Psalm 46:10 and prayer.
2. Roll call showed Dr. Cookson, Marlin Maas, Paul Baas, Keith Vanden Hoek, Corey Vander Pol, Steve Vander Pol, Dan Niewenhuis present.
3. Minutes of the November 10th, 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.
4. Finance: Bills to pay were discussed. The Finance Committee will approve bills at a later date.
5. Education: The board approved additions to the cyber bullying policy.
6. The board approved one freshmen class fundraiser per year.
7. Building and Grounds: Mrs. Van Vuren's room has been wired for her projector. A new faucet will be purchased and installed in the kitchen.
8. Transportation: Motion was made to put new tires on the school van.
9. Principal's Report: Discussion was held on fundraisers during the basketball games. The Bible Bee will be selling Pizza Ranch coupons as a fundraiser. Dan Niewenhuis will help with snow spotting as to when school should be cancelled. It was decided to change the sign on Highway 44.
10. Old Business: Funds have started to be received in regards to the Capital Campaign activities.
11. New Business: Marlin Maas gave a good school following his school visit. Memorial flowers will be sent to Brenda Veurink family after the loss of her father, Chet Zomer.
14. Keith Vanden Hoek closed in prayer.

“He will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace”



From the faculty & staff at DCS:
We wish you a Blessed Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

The mission of DCS is to assist parents by providing education based on a biblical worldview, thereby enabling their children to grow in Christian wisdom, to nurture godly character, and to serve Christ as Lord.