



Dakota Christian School Newsletter

**November
2011**

*Dakota Christian School, 37614 SD Hwy 44, Corsica, SD 57328
Telephone: (605) 243-2211 Fax: (605) 243-2379
Website: www.dchs.net*

Random Acts of Kindness – Watch It Grow

As I reflected on the current month's theme "Be Kind", I questioned my principal duties as "hall monitor." As I walk through the halls of DCS, am I looking for those random acts of kindness or am I looking for students who are misbehaving so that I can return them to the straight and narrow. For myself, I do not know if I liked the answer I gave myself. I certainly appreciate walking down the halls and seeing a fine group of students who are obedient and are engaged in Christian education, but is that my goal as I wander the halls of DCS?

One fine upper classman related a story on how he witnessed a child crying (not at DCS) and then purchased a little toy for the young child. What a random act of kindness. When I see the big brothers/big sisters involved with their little brothers/little sisters, a warmth engulfs me as I witness the camaraderie between them—the older one helping the younger one and praying with them. As I have watched the hallways in the past week, I have been taking note on the ways our students are kind to each other. How wonderful to be blessed with such acts of kindness, because those acts are there when you look for them.

This month a tree has been placed in the foyer. Students, when they observe an act of kindness, will be allowed to put a link in the chain on which they have written the act of kindness they observed. I hope this chain is able to encompass our entire building, because our students will be witnessing so many acts of kindness, as they love as Jesus loved us.

Paul wrote in Ephesians 2, "Add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." With these words as our guide, random acts of kindness, in service to our God, will abound at DCS and in our world.

Dr. Cookson

Mark your calendars for the upcoming

DCS Christmas Concerts

* **Friday, Dec. 9th, the PreK-4th grade program** will begin with the Preschool presenting "**Hooray for Baby Jesus!**" and the K-4th grades will welcome special guest Uncle Yule as they present "**It All Happened In the Country.**"



and on

* **Thursday, December 15th, the 5th-12th Band and Choir will perform.**

Both concerts will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held in the DCS Gym.



Mark your calendars!
We will again be having a



Thanksgiving Day Luncheon

on **Wednesday, November 23, 2011** for parents, grandparents, and supporters of DCS & our students.

A program will be given at 11:45 a.m. followed by a lunch consisting of delicious homemade soups and cookies.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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 –12th Music News

In early September we wonder how we'll ever master such difficult music. As September closes, we dare to think we might just get it learned. In October, with the help of a day rehearsing in Brookings and several trips to regional rehearsals in Platte, we actually start to enjoy the music and believe that we could pass a spot check on our memory of it. The All-State Chorus quartet journeys through this process each year, preparing for the last weekend of October and the annual trip to All-State Chorus & Orchestra. This



year was no different. Many hours before school and during study halls were devoted to practice, as well as hours of time with practice CD's at home. Our quartet, including soprano Emily Maas, alto Amy Overweg, tenor Seth Vander Ley, and bass Camden Veurink, was well-prepared for the weekend in Sioux Falls under the direction of Vijay Singh of Central Washington University.

Traveling with the vocal quartet, and spending many more months preparing music, was Rheanna Pheifer. Rheanna auditioned just a couple weeks before the ASCO weekend and secured a 2nd violin spot—an astounding accomplishment! Orchestra rehearsals coincide with choral rehearsals during the weekend, although the chorus practices in the Sioux Falls Arena and the orchestra practices in an adjoining ballroom. They come together on Saturday evening for a concert featuring nearly 1,200 of the best high school musicians in South Dakota.

Our DC students are to be commended for their positive attitudes, hard work, and God-glorifying actions throughout the weekend. They truly made it a pleasure for their teachers to travel with them!

While All-State Chorus practice has filled the morning hours in the music room, in the afternoon the room has been ringing with the sounds of preparations for the Veterans Day community chapel which was held on Novem-

ber 11, and a Christmas concert on December 15. The high school chorus is preparing music in a variety of musical styles and strengthening their ability to connect with their audience while singing.

The 7th/8th music class has been preparing for several performances: the Veterans Day chapel, the 5th- 12th Christmas concert on December 15, and for the Junior High Music Festival in Platte on Tuesday, November 22. Although only the 8th graders will be participating in the festival, all are learning all the pieces. Our favorites will probably show up in performance throughout the school year. In the meantime, it helps the 8th graders to have the vocal support of the 7th graders as they learn the music for Platte. Eighth grade vocalists in the JH Festival Choir are Abbi Baan Hofman, Carissa Bruinsma, Zach DeLange, Lydia Hansum, Kennedy Muckey, and Drew Veurink. Another two students will participate in the band portion of the day: Shayla Vander Pol and Rylan De Haai.

Singing with the 5th/6th music class is just plain fun! They are an enthusiastic bunch who mostly like to sing... and seem to be drawn to bigger and tougher challenges. It is exciting to work with a group this uninhibited and willing to experiment with their voices to find the best possible musical sound. An indicator of their love for music?

Nine students submitted audition vocal recordings for the Elementary Honors Festival Choir held in Brookings in February! Regardless of who is accepted into this choir, I'm thrilled as their teacher to work with them on these goals and applaud their courage in auditioning.

Praise God for music! May we glorify the Creator of music with His creation!

Mrs. Kim Zomer,
5-12 Vocal Director



2011–2012 DCS Board Officers & Committees

Board Officers

Marly Maas, President
Steve Vander Pol, Vice Pres.
Brenda BaanHofman, Secretary
Kenny Lieuwen, Treasurer
Dan Niewenhuis, Vicar

Other Board Members

Keith Vanden Hoek
Doug Kaemingk
Paul Baas
Corey Vander Pol

Education Committee

Steve Vander Pol
Marlin Maas
Brenda Baan Hofman
Joel De Haan (2012)
Jan Van Vuren (2014)
Lori Miedema (2014)
Gary Cookson

Finance Committee

Ken Lieuwen
Paul Baas
Keith Vanden Hoek
Gary Cookson

Building & Grounds Committee

Keith Vanden Hoek
Corey Vander Pol
Ken Lieuwen
Doug Kaemingk

Transportation Committee

Dan Niewenhuis
Doug Kaemingk

Promotion Committee

Marlin Maas
Gary Cookson
Ken Lieuwen
Brenda Baan Hofman
Brad Veurink

Foundation/Scholarship/ Tuition Assistance Committee

Yvonne Bentz
Ken Lieuwen
Ivan Van Dusseldorp
Ken Vanden Hoek

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.

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.

Dakota Christian Band

When we think of the word Fall or Autumn, I believe a lot of us think change. The temperature gets colder, the leaves change, wildlife start to grow their warmer coats, and in general, we prepare for a long winter and some of the fun holidays it brings with it.

In this year's 5-6 and 7-12 Bands, we have also experienced a lot of growth and a lot of changes this fall. This year has been my first year working with the Dakota Christian bands. It has been a year of the students getting used to a new teacher and the new ideas and philosophies that entails. We have been working together as a group to especially work on scales, rhythms, dynamics, and how to play musically as a group this year. We have been excitedly preparing for our upcoming Christmas concert on December 15 where both bands will perform, and this year's 5th graders will play in a band concert for the very first time!

This fall, if you are an avid football fan, you may have seen our 7-12 Pep Band playing on Friday nights along with the public school at the Platte-Geddes football field. We are looking forward to basketball season in just a couple of short months as Pep Band music is one of the things the students at DC love to play the best!

As for other performances, our 7-12 band was recently given the opportunity to play at the Veterans Day Chapel on November 11, where they performed the "Star Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful" for those who served our country along with the Dakota Christian students and surrounding community.

Our 8th grade students will take part in a Junior High Festival in Platte coming up on November 22. We are thrilled at their hard work and excitement about band and choir at such a young age!

We also had one very special highlight this fall. Rheanna Pheifer (10th grader) was a participant in All-State Orchestra this past October. After auditioning and making it on Violin earlier that month, she headed to Sioux Falls with four All-State Choir members, myself, and Kim Zomer for extensive rehearsals and a final awesome public display on Saturday, October 29. These are experiences these students will take with them forever. We are very grateful for the parent supporters who make weekends like this so special.

Thank you, parents and community, for supporting our students, as well as supporting the music program at Dakota Christian. We could not do what we do without your support in our community and at home!

Mrs. Karissa DeJager, 5-12 Band Director

Oral Interp Talents Shine

The oral interp season is in its "tournament" time with districts and regions being held recently. The team consists of Seth VanderLey-Non-original Oratory, Camden Veurink-Serious Prose, Kim Veurink-Poetry, Amy Overweg-Humorous, and Abby Overweg/Danica Dykstra-Duet. Camden and Seth were able to attend a contest in Pierre where they did well. The entire team entered into district competition on November 2 at DWU. Advancing to Regions on November 15 were Amy Overweg, Abby Overweg/Danica Dykstra, and Camden Veurink, alternate. DCS has been blessed with talent and energy in oral interpretation!

Mrs. Donna Veurink, Oral Interp Advisor

Seeing What You Know

I have realized that many times we go about our days without actually thinking about what we see. This may be because we do not know a whole lot about the things we pass by every day. I am trying to get the students to understand the way things work in everyday life.

In biology we made a leaf collection in order to get the students to look at different plants that they come across on a day to day basis whether they realize it or not. We are also started to look at enzymes and the chemistry that makes up living things like you and me. God has made an incredibly diverse and amazing world and I hope the students are starting to realize this.

In environmental science the students have put in a small pond by the side of school. This pond is a "work in progress" that will hopefully show the complexity of ecosystems and the care and thought that has to go into creating a working habitat. We are also getting into weather and have learned some ways to try to predict weather without looking at a forecast. Weather affects people every day and it is important to know what kind of weather to expect for different jobs and chores that take place outside.

Hopefully the students are beginning to see the world around them with new eyes; how it works and the complexity behind it. These are only some of the activities we have done this year. I look forward to doing more activities and teaching about God's amazing creation that He gave us.

Mr. Kevin Haan, High School Science

Math News

Time continues to keep moving for the many opportunities and growth of the students, faculty, and staff here at Dakota Christian. My day in the Math room starts out with the sophomore class in devotions. I have the privilege of having these students for 3 hours Monday through Thursday and 4 hours on Fridays. It has been a great journey so far, and my prayer is that they can continue to grow in Christ and with each other as a class. After devotions we have Geometry class which has included many new concepts for this class. Right now we are finishing a chapter on proving triangles are congruent. The next chapter will introduce many new theorems and concepts that happen within triangles. The next hour of the day is the juniors in Algebra II. We currently finished a chapter on inequalities, graphs of inequalities, and absolute values. The next chapter we will discuss parabolas, their graphs, and equations of their graphs. Then, the math room fills up with the Algebra I class of 7 students. This class is moving right along with equations of lines and the different forms to find equations of lines. Then, I teach a semester course of Trigonometry. We are currently working on using Algebra with verifying Trigonometric equations and learning many other Trigonometric Identities. Then, I teach a year long course of Pre-Calculus, where we are currently learning about exponential functions and their inverses (logarithms). To end the day the Spanish I class meets to work on special laptops with Rosetta Stone learning the language of Spanish. It seems to be a great program so far and students continue to plug away at the program. It can be a busy day, but is full of many personalities that God has formed and brought together to find their identity in Him.

Mrs. Jacque Boyle, High School Math

1st Nine Weeks Honor Roll Listings

“A” Honor Roll

Seniors

Danica Dykstra
 Abby Overweg
 Amy Overweg
 Lexy Overweg
 Christin Vander Pol
 Kim Veurink
 Laurel Zomer

Juniors

Emily Maas
 Camden Veurink

Sophomores

Aaron De Haai
 Ashley Hansum
 Seth Vander Ley

Freshmen

Erika Veenstra

**C
O
N
G
R
A
T
U
L
A
T
I
O
N
S
!**

“B” Honor Roll

Seniors

Michael Buitenbos
 Sara De Waard

Juniors

Amber Baan Hofman
 Jessica Kaemingk
 Taryn Van Der Pol

Sophomores

Rheanna Pheifer

Freshmen

Micah De Waard
 Carter Dykstra
 Allie Lane
 Brooklyn Vander Pol



First Semester Exam Schedule

Tuesday, Dec. 20

8:25—10:00 a.m. *Study Period
 10:15—11:45 a.m. 1st hr exams
 11:45—12:15 p.m. NOON Break
 12:15— 1:45 p.m. 2nd hr exams

Wednesday, Dec. 21

8:25—10:00 a.m. 3rd hr exams
 10:15—11:45 a.m. 4th hr exams
 11:45—12:15 p.m. NOON Break
 12:15— 1:45 p.m. 5th hr exams

Thursday, Dec. 22

8:25—10:00 a.m. 7th hr exams
 10:15—11:45 a.m. 8th hr exams

*Note: It is optional for students to attend this study time, but all students that come will be assigned to a study hall. Students who come for the first exam should not arrive earlier than 10:00 a.m.

5th/6th Basketball Summary

What a successful basketball season the 4th/5th/6th grade girls and 5th/6th grade boys had! Our goals were to be Christians on and off the court, have fun, learn basketball knowledge and skills, and maybe win a few games. I feel we reached all of our goals. Amazingly the girls and boys season ended identically. At the Kimball Tournament, each team won 1 game and lost 2 games. However, during the regular season both teams ended with 4 wins and 2 losses.

I want to thank the parents and those who supported us by coming to the games. It was so fun to see the skills of each player improve at every game. It was during the last 2 games that we began playing as a team instead of as individuals—now that is something to be proud of!

I had so much fun as a coach - I hope to be able to do it again next year.
~ Coach Linda De Haai

XC Excitement

I came into this cross country season unsure of what to expect. After 4 out of 5 of last year's team graduated, I was left with a blank roster. I was hopeful as many students informed me that they would run this year, only to find that most had changed their minds. At the first meet of the year I had two runners on the starting line – seniors Kim Veurink and Laurel Zomer.

Neither Kim nor Laurel had participated in cross country before, but I am so thankful that they decided to give it a try. We ran at eight meets this year and both girls were able to letter by placing at the Wagner Invitational. The girls weren't always gung ho about running, but we managed to have some fun along the way! Thanks, girls, for your willingness to run and for your hard work throughout the season. I hope that you will be an inspiration to students who may be interested in trying cross country next year.
~ Coach DeHaan

Ping Pong Tournament Results

The first ever DCS doubles ping pong tournament has just been completed. The tournament started with a total of 24 teams, and in the last week, was whittled down to three teams. Harlan Niewenhuis and Michael Buitenbos drew a bye since they had given up the fewest points throughout the tournament. That left Mr. Bosma and Mr. Miedema playing Zach De Lange and Mrs. Van Vuren in the semifinals. Zach and Mrs. Van Vuren won, so they advanced to the championship round. A great game took place against Michael and Harlan with Zach De Lange and Mrs. Van Vuren emerging as the winners.

Thank you to everyone for competing in the tournament. There has definitely been improvement in the players as they practiced and played games. The singles tournament will begin right after the start of the New Year. The brackets will be determined by a random drawing, and everyone is encouraged to join.
~Mrs. Jan Van Vuren

Labels for Education

There is a bonus for all labels sent in December. These labels are found on Campbell Soups, Glad products, Pop Secret popcorn, BIC pens, certain cereals, Emerald Snacks and other products. Thanks for supporting DCS!

Congratulations to . . .

Amber Baan Hofman received Honorable Mention to the SCC All Conference Volleyball team. All-Conference members were selected by the coaches for outstanding play during the 2011-2012 season. Congratulations for this recognition.

Volleyball Wrap-up

The volleyball season of 2011 has been an amazing growing experience for the entire team. It was fun seeing the abilities God has given each of the players, and how they could see how to bring it all together and grow through the season. We will definitely miss our senior players next year: Kim Veurink, Amy Overweg, Danica Dykstra, and Christin Vander Pol. They showed wonderful leadership, had positive attitudes, and were great role models for the younger teammates. Thank-you, girls, for everything!

We also would like to thank the eighth grade girls for all their help with stats and working so hard in every practice with us. They were a great asset to our team. Also, a big thank-you needs to go to Shauna Vander Pol for keeping book for us this entire season. Thanks to Mr. Haan, the assistant coach, for all the help and support throughout the season. We are looking forward to just picking up right where we left off this year, and moving forward for the next volleyball season.

Thank-you to all the girls for your hard work and dedication to the team! May God continue to get the glory for everything He has given to us!

Coach Jacque Boyle



JV Volleyball Summary

The JV team finished the season with a record just below 500. However, this team is a very young team with four 8th graders that played every game. This team is showing a lot of potential and improved over the entire season. I look forward to seeing what they can accomplish next year as we get more experience on and off the court. The team played with heart and fought for every point during the season. The games that we did not win were very close and even had us in the lead for most of the game. There was excitement from our athletes, and they really started to go after every ball with the determination to win the point. I am thankful for the injury free season and the effort the girls put forth.

Coach Kevin Haan



Early Dismissal

Due to exams the K-12th grades will be dismissed at 1:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 20, and Wednesday, Dec. 21. On Thursday, Dec. 22 all students will be dismissed at 11:45 a.m. for the beginning of Christmas break.

The high school students will be having exams on these days. Parents of elementary students—if you rely on high school students helping with transportation, please be aware that you may need to make other arrangements on those days.

DCS Financial Report

General Fund Checking Acct Report for October:

Balance 10/1/11	\$ 1,619.39
Deposits	\$ 84,130.56
Withdrawals	\$ 85,298.52
Closing Balance 10/31/11	\$ 451.43

Monthly Church Ministry Offerings

Funds received in October	\$ 9,168.00
---------------------------	-------------

Budget Goal for Church Ministry Offerings

Yearly Budget Goal	\$ 150,000.00
Funds received as of 10/31/11	\$ 24,444.03
Balance needed by 7/31/12	\$ 125,555.97

Art Angles

The song "My God How Wonderful Thou Art" comes to mind as the students from Grades 5-8 study the elements of art. Color, lines, shapes, forms, and much more show us unique things about God's creation.

Several artists' works give us inspiration for our projects. The junior high students painted with gravity similar to the technique of Morris Louis. Victor Vasarely is an artist who works with cubes. The students drew checker board cubes and also cubes with objects going through them. Our latest project was drawing past and present windmills using stencils and a masking method.

Leaves, lines, and hands are part of the fifth and sixth grade art projects. We are slowly creating a giraffe using pipe cleaners, tin foil, and clay. We realize that God created faster and better than us when He created the giraffe!

The students' art projects are displayed in the DC hallways. Take a look when you visit school!

Mrs. Lois VanDusseldorp, 5-8 Art

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).

Taste of Dakota

Thank you to all who helped make the 3rd annual "Taste of Dakota" a successful evening! Approximately 500 people were served and approximately \$10,000 was raised. The menu was changed to bring back a few of the smorgasbord favorites such as canned beef, potatoes, and vegetables with kids meals for those children who desired a lighter menu. It was a fun evening for old and young alike with a "taste" of something for everyone. Thank you to all the parents who worked and donated and to the grandparents who donated food, time, or money. As usual, this is an ever changing event and next year will likely bring something new to "taste" and listen to. We hope to see you all next year for an evening of fun, food, and entertainment for all. Happy Thanksgiving!

Grandparents Invited!

Along with the Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Lunch we invite all grandparents to visit the school.

Grandparents are welcome to visit their grandchildren's classrooms, starting at 10 am.

Program and Lunch for grandparents and supporters will begin at 11:45.

Welcome to DCS!

DCS November Board Activity

1. Brenda Baan Hofman opened with reading from Psalm 117 and praying.
2. Roll call showed Marlin Maas, Ken Lieuwen, Doug Kaemingk, Paul Baas, Keith Vanden Hoek, Corey Vander Pol, Administrator Dr. Cookson, and Brenda Baan Hofman present.
3. Minutes of the October 12th, 2011 meeting were approved as presented.
4. The agenda was approved.
5. Correspondence: Dr. Cookson read two letters that were addressed to the board for information.
6. Finance Committee: The Treasurer's Report was given. Bills to pay were approved.
7. Education Committee: The Bereavement Policy will be changed to state that: More time may be requested and granted under the discretion of the Administrator. Also, that point e) of policy 501 will state Tank tops of any type: spaghetti strapped tops or tops with revealing scoop or V-necks.
8. Building and Grounds: Doug and Steve have begun some work on getting new soil tests on the high school wing, more action will be taken after the results.
9. Promotion: Lyle Schipper will no longer be serving on the Capitol Campaign Committee; the Board wants to thank him for his many years of faithful service to this cause.
10. Principal's Report: The Fellowship will be asked if they will be willing to begin preparations for the 100th year of Christian Education that will be taking place in 2012. Our tax accountant is working on reinstating our 501 (c) 3 status for receiving charitable donations. More information will be presented to the board as it comes available for getting all new Christian textbooks. Dr. Cookson also reported the parent teachers conferences were well attended, but will work on them not being scheduled on the night of a volleyball game. Our annual Thanksgiving Day lunch will be held on Wednesday, November 23rd. Also, included on this day will be a time for grandparents to visit the classes in the morning before the lunch.
11. New Business: A Debt Reduction Drive Committee will be formed from the society; more information will become available at a later time as to their thoughts and actions. Letters will be sent out to our students to see how much interest there is to join an archery club; at this time the students interested will have permission to practice in the gym under adult supervision.
12. Paul Baas closed in prayer.