



# Dakota Christian School Newsletter

**October  
2011**

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## Sharing isn't just for Kindergarten

Recently a fine young man in the elementary school stopped to talk to me about my clothes. Yes, my clothes! He informed me that I always wear a nice shirt with a tie that matches, that I always wear the same pants, and that he especially likes the days on which I wear purple. (He was wrong about the pants.) As this young man was talking to me, I was thinking, "They watch everything I do."

This conversation was not the first time I have thought about how students perceive me, but it did make me realize once again that actions count, and that even little children are watching. I further thought what else am I doing that is being noticed by my students? Am I being the role model I need to be?

This month our theme under the "Got Love?" banner is "sharing." Sharing is something I was supposed to learn in Kindergarten, but I didn't go to Kindergarten. In spite of that lack of schooling, I share daily in everything I do and say. I began once again to evaluate my actions to determine how I "share" at school—both in word and deed. The students do not have me in class, so they do not often hear my words, but they do see me every day. My actions could "speak" more loudly than the words I utter. I have to be careful in what I share through those actions.

Paul wrote to Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:18, "Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." As principal, as well as all Christians who come into the life of students, we share so much with children. We give them so many life-lessons—as we teach them the truths of the Bible. But this verse also illustrates the promise that what we share, by words and by actions, is not just for a short time, it is for eternity. What an important task we have to share the truth of the Gospel and the hope in Jesus Christ, because sharing these important doctrines is eternal. Sharing lasts longer than Kindergarten.

Dr. Gary Cookson

The DCS Chapel Committee  
&  
Music Department  
will be presenting a

### Veterans Day Program

on Friday, November 11,  
beginning at 10:00 a.m.  
in the DCS Gym.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend.



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*

## DCS Sophomore Fruit Sales

Gift Boxes: Mixed Fruit, Meat/Cheese  
Apples! Oranges! Grapefruit!



Estimated Delivery Date: December 1  
Order Deadline: November 1



Please contact a sophomore class member or class advisor Jacque Boyle, if you have any questions or have not been contacted by the end of this month.

## Got Love?

Chapels this year have been based on the school theme for the year which is *Got Love?* The theme is based on John 13:34: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

Mr. Brad Veurink challenged us at the beginning of the year to love those who are hard to love. Since that opening chapel, we've had some great speakers share with us and challenge us to consider what love really looks like. Some of the speakers include Pastor Dave Prince, Mr. Gary Maas, Mr. Greg Bosma, Mr. Joel DeHaan, Pastor Dan Daum, Pastor Steve Hayes, Ms. Amy Overweg, and Mr. Michael Buitenbos. While there has been a variety of speakers, the theme of the year has been carried loud and clear through those speaking: God is love. In order to love one another, we must love God.

Another opportunity we have is to meet as an entire school once a month during All-School Chapel. This opportunity allows students of all ages to come together for a time of praise and worship as well as some quality time with their "buddies" – students from grades 7-12 are matched up with students from grades K-6. This allows friendship, mentoring, and fun!

Chapel is an important part of each week at Dakota Christian. Thanks to all of those who have been willing to share with us. It is our prayer that our love for God will be evident and obvious in our love for others.

Mr. Joel DeHaan

## Geddes American Legion Auxiliary Seeks New Members

The Geddes American Legion Auxiliary has graciously sponsored the DCS Girls State Representative for the past five years. Because of this organization, DCS students have been able to take part in the state-wide American Legion Girl's State program. The Auxiliary also sends care packages to the local troops and Christmas gifts to the Veteran's hospital.

They are currently seeking new members. Dues are \$15 and the eligibility requirements are as follows: if you are a mother, wife, sister, daugh-

ter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter, or grandmother of a current member of the American Legion, a female veteran who served during any of the listed conflicts, and/or a female member of the American Legion. Contact Sandy Gant at 337-2340 or John Fuerst at 337-2473 if you would like to join this organization.

\*\*\*Listed conflicts include World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Grenada/Lebanon, Panama, and Persian Gulf War still in progress.

## It's Birthday Calendar Time!

Preparations for the 2012 calendar are being made by the DCS Class of 2013. Order forms are included in this Newsletter and are available at churches. These order forms can be used to list birthdays or anniversaries on the calendar, as well as to order calendars for yourself and your family! Contact any member of the class of 2013 (junior class) or Donna Veurink for more information.

## Back At It!

Believe it or not, the first quarter of school is already nearing completion. English classes have been busy. While it may seem as though we've just gotten back into the groove of another school year, students are well into different areas of reading and writing.

The freshmen began the year by reviewing their study habits and perhaps learning some new ones. Early literature from Mesopotamia, Babylonia, and Assyria was the first major reading of the semester. Early Egyptian literature was next. The freshmen were relieved to take a break from the "old and boring" stuff to read the first novel of the year – *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton.

The sophomores started out by dusting off some of the things they learned last year, and then picked up with Homer's *The Iliad*. They were also encouraged to read something that was easier to understand in *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

Juniors in American Literature began the year with Native American literature and followed the course of history from early settlements, to the colonies, to the revolution, and now to the expanding United States of America. Each of the different time periods has its own unique style and voice in the literature of the time. Students are currently looking at the romantic period.

The seniors in British Literature started out the year with *Beowulf*. They then learned about the medieval period and the feudal system. Seniors had opportunity to choose a monarch from history and report on his or her rule. What seemed to be boring at first turned to excitement once the students realized the corruption and darkness involved in many of the reigns of the monarchs. Seniors are now reading the first Shakespeare play of the year – *The Tragedy of Macbeth*. Seeing the kids get into the play has been a lot of fun to watch!

It is a great joy to spend my days with the students of Dakota Christian School. We've gotten off to a great start and I pray that the year will continue to go smoothly and that the burning for learning continues!

Mr. Joel DeHaan,  
High School English

## 1st & 2nd Grade News

It is hard to believe it is October already. The 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> graders are settling into the daily routine. There are 11 first graders and 8 second graders. We are so excited to welcome Jaden Plooster to 1<sup>st</sup> grade. We are thankful that she could join the DCS family.

There is never a dull moment in our room (and on some days rarely a quiet one ☺). We have enjoyed getting to know each other these first couple months. It is fun to work and learn together each day. We continue to enjoy our smart board. Both grades just finished a chapter on graphing. It was so much fun to graph moving dinosaurs and flapping fish. We will now continue with working on our addition facts.

The school purchased new CSI science curriculum this year. It has been so enjoyable to teach this new curriculum. The approach is very hands-on. I love this because it seems that the children learn so much better when they are engaged in an activity. We have been studying about our bodies and about the way that God put us together so that everything works just right. We made our spine out of noodles and marshmallows to represent our bones and cartilage. The kids thought it was great to be able to eat cartilage. ☺ We also soaked chicken bones in vinegar for two weeks to take the calcium out of the bones. I think that all the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be drinking milk now after seeing squishy bones with no calcium.

This is just a small glimpse into some of what we do in the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade room. We spend a lot of time with reading each day. It is so fun to see a whole new world open up for these children as they progress with their reading. We also spend time learning Vowac, going to music and P.E., and learning our spelling words each week. Our favorite way to end the day is with our Bible story and activity. God has blessed us greatly and we ask that you will continue to keep us in your prayers throughout this year.

Mrs. Jody Van Zee, 1st/2nd Grade

## Free Flu Shots

Flu shots will be given at DCS on Wednesday, Oct. 26, beginning at 8:30 a.m. These shots are available to anyone 6 months to adult. Consent forms will be needed for kids under 18 years of age. Cost for adults that get the shot will be \$30/shot—make checks payable to Platte Medical Clinic. Shots are free to anyone 18 years of age and under, or anyone with Medicare or Medicaid. You should not get the shot if you are allergic to eggs.

The DCS Student Council is looking for people willing to donate food items for the Thanksgiving Luncheon.

Items needed:  
Chicken Noodle Soup,  
Chili Soup, or Cookies



If you would be willing to help please contact Donna Veurink by phone at 243-2211 or by email at [dvrnk@dchs.net](mailto:dvrnk@dchs.net).

## Student Council Selling Spiritwear!

The DCS Student Council is once again selling Spirit Wear! Order forms were sent home with the oldest student in each family. Extra order forms can be found in the office at school. Anyone may pick up an order form or check out the online site with even more options!  
[www.blue84spirit.com/SD002](http://www.blue84spirit.com/SD002)

The Student Council receives 10% of all purchases (including online purchases). All purchases will be delivered to school by the end of November . . . perfect timing for Christmas presents!

Please help support our Student Council and buy Spirit Wear! This also helps show school pride in a fun way!

## . . . . . And We're Off!

A new school year means new changes; that's the beauty of teaching—nothing ever stays the same! This summer I attended a workshop on how to incorporate photos and art work into English in order to create visual imagery and literacy. I decided to attempt this "new" method with the 8th graders, and I must say, it was a success. As we began our unit on descriptive writing, the students brought several baby, toddler, and elementary pictures to school, and their goal was to make that picture come alive through the use of expressive, colorful words and phrases. The most enjoyable part of this project was to see how much the kids have improved their writing from 7th grade! Since there were many arguments between the 8th graders on who is considered to be the "cutest baby," we have decided to turn this project into a cutest baby contest. We will be hanging the finishing products on the wall and allowing the other students to vote. The 8th graders can hardly wait to hear the results and know who will be gaining "bragging rights" in the class!



Likewise, the 7th graders are also diving into descriptive writing, although we are taking things a bit more slowly. You can definitely tell there is a transition from elementary to junior high when you hear comments like, "I have to write a whole paragraph with 5 sentences!!!" I have already seen improvements from day one, so I'm excited to see how much these 7th graders will grow throughout the year. I have come to realize that one of their favorite activities is journaling in which I allow them to make up stories. I think we may even have a few authors on our hands!

In literature, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been reading a selection of short stories, all dealing with different countries. They have been finding out different customs and cultures of India, China, Germany, Poland, etc. They just finished their first book report for the month of September in which they had to choose a book dealing with a different country, read it, and then make a PowerPoint to present to the class.

All in all, we've had a great start to the school year. I look forward to seeing each student grow and progress throughout these nine months!

Mrs. Jenna Masur, Junior High Language Arts

*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.*

## DCS Financial Report

### General Fund Checking Acct Report for September:

Balance 9/1/11	\$ 1,799.29
Deposits	\$ 83,649.83
Withdrawals	\$ 83,829.73
Closing Balance 9/30/11	\$ 1,619.39

### Monthly Church Ministry Offerings

Funds received in September	\$ 11,951.03
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### Budget Goal for Church Ministry Offerings

Yearly Budget Goal	\$ 150,000.00
Funds received as of 9/30/11	\$ 15,276.03
Balance needed by 7/31/12	\$ 134,723.97

## DCS Is Going GREEN!

Paper copies of report cards will NOT be sent home with students this year. Parents will be viewing grades / report cards solely online via JMC. If you need help logging into JMC, please call the office and we will gladly assist you.

Report cards will be posted by the end of the school day on Monday, October 24th. Paper copies will only be sent home with the youngest student in each family without internet access and for those others who specifically request one.

## Parent-Teacher Conferences to be Held

Parent-teacher conferences will be held Thursday, October 27th, from 2-8:30 p.m.

The K-6th grade parents have been assigned a 15 minute period with each teacher. This schedule will be sent home with the students on Monday, October 24.

Teachers of 7th—12th grade students will be available in their classrooms and parents can come when it is convenient for them. Please keep in mind that because of the home volleyball game, Mrs. Boyle and Mr. Haan will only be available until 6:00 p.m. that evening (or you can schedule a conference with them on another day.) We ask that parents be considerate and do not visit with any teacher longer than 10-15 minutes. If you feel you need more time with a certain teacher, please make other arrangements with them for a separate conference. Thank you!

## Subscribe and Support!

DCS Fellowship and SD Magazine have once again teamed up to support DCS! When you subscribe, simply use the order form that has been included with this newsletter and 40% of a new subscription or 10% of renewals will go to DCS Fellowship. Send your payment directly to SD Magazine with the order form. Or call them to renew, and tell them "I want to support Dakota Christian School." This is a great gift idea!

*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.*

## DCS October Board Activity

1. Ken Lieuwen opened our meeting with reading from Psalm 32:1 and praying.
2. Marlin Maas began by welcoming our new board members Corey Vander Pol, Paul Baas, and Dan Niewenhuis.
3. Roll Call showed Ken Lieuwen, Doug Kaemingk, Paul Baas, Steve Vander Pol, Dan Niewenhuis, Corey Vander Pol, Carol Overweg, Marlin Maas, Keith Vanden Hoek, Brenda Baan Hofman, and Administrator Dr. Gary Cookson.
4. Minutes of the September 8th, 2011 meeting were approved as presented.
5. The agenda was approved.
6. Correspondence: We were notified that we received a memorial gift of \$800 from the family of Tracy Veenstra to be used at our discretion.
7. Finance Committee: Treasurer's report was given. Bills to be paid were approved.
8. Building and Grounds: Follow up discussion was held on the walk-through that took place last month with Puetz Construction. Further action will be taken after more results are made known to the board.
9. Election of board officers were held results are: President: Marlin Maas, Vice President: Steve Vander Pol, Treasurer: Ken Lieuwen, Secretary: Brenda Baan Hofman, Vicar: Dan Niewenhuis.
10. Principal's Report: Dr Cookson informed us on Homecoming activities going well. More internet monitoring software will be purchased for additional computers. Dr. Cookson reported that he attended SDCSA meetings in Sioux Falls along with the juniors and seniors attending a Christian College Fair at the same time. DCS teachers attended the Heartland Convention hearing some motivational speakers and attending good sectionals.
11. Boys 7th & 8th and Junior Varsity basketball coaching contract was issued to Randy Veurink and Rocky Nelson.
12. New Business: A committee will be made up to begin work on having a debt reduction drive. Dr. Cookson will look further into purchasing a refurbished copier.
13. Meeting was adjourned.
14. Brenda Baan Hofman closed in prayer.

## Lines from the Library

The elementary library has a new look because of the generosity of our supporters. Additional bookcases were purchased from the memorial fund to make a wall to set off the work area of the library. Thank you to those who have given to our memorial fund!



A new computer program has also been purchased that can be used from our school web site. The public may also access this system. If you would like to search for material in our library using your own computer, please contact me. Searching is quite a simple process.

Mrs. Lois Van Dusseldorp  
Librarian