



Dakota Christian School Newsletter

September
2011

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

Protection in Life's Ride

As my time continues at DCS, I have more and more people ask me if I was the one they saw biking in Corsica, Harrison, New Holland, or wherever. The answer is usually yes—I have been spotted. Bike riding is one of my favorite pastimes. But I must admit that I have been negligent in my bike riding gear. On one of my rides I remember seeing a fellow biker approach me and the usual protocol is to give that short wave—something South Dakotans give to everyone. But instead of giving the usual wave, he pointed to his head or more specifically to his helmet. I wasn't wearing one. This fellow biker was telling me to be prepared, to enjoy our sport with the equipment that is needed for our protection. That week I ordered a helmet, and since I received it, I have always worn it. Whoever this solitary biker was, he does not realize the effect he had on me. He caused me, in his small way, to prepare myself more adequately for bike riding.

At DCS we are in the "business" of preparing our youth for the God-honoring tasks they will perform in this world and for whatever they will encounter in life. Being adequately prepared spiritually is the main focus of education at DCS. When people walk into Dakota Christian School, it is difficult not to notice the verse, written in huge letters, directly in front of them. This verse, from Ephesians 6:10-11a and states, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God." Just as I was "told" to be prepared for my sport, we are preparing our students for their God-given task—to be in this world as the servants of Christ and doing His will. By teaching our students Bible and all other subjects in the light of God's Word, we are equipping them to do the tasks to which God has called them. We give the students the Word of God to equip them and protect them against all that they might encounter. How wonderful to be a part of instructing our students in the Bible as their protection against what is wrong and providing the equipment to keep them strong.

Dr. Gary Cookson

Meet the New DCS Teachers

Name: Dr. Gary Cookson

Colleges: Dordt College, USD, Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA

Degrees: BA in German, Secondary Education and Elementary Education; MA in Elementary Administration; Educational Doctorate

Hobbies: For relaxation I like to ride my bicycle, read, and travel.

What I like best about DCS: I am excited to be the principal at DCS because of the strong biblical, God-honoring character of the school. Also, the entire school is under one roof, and I am able to move from the preschoolers discovering shapes in the Play-doh to the seniors discovering the intricacies of

mitosis. It is wonderful to be able to interact with all the age groups in so many different situations.

Name: Karissa DeJager

Spouse: Mike DeJager

College: SDSU

Degrees: Music Education

Classes Taught at DCS: 5th/6th grade Band, 7th-12th grade Band, and instrumental lessons.

Hobbies: Playing music, walking, biking, spending time with people in the community, coffee . . . it should be a hobby!

What I like best about teaching at DCS: The kids! They're great kids!

Name: Kevin Haan

Family: Fiance' is Michelle Steiger; Parents are Ken and Joanne; Siblings: Kim, Kenny, Keith, & Kyle

College: Dordt College

Degrees: Secondary Education, Biology, and Earth Science

Classes Taught at DCS: Physical Science, Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, Zoology, Environmental Science, Chemistry

Hobbies: Fishing, playing volleyball, Frisbee, playing my trumpet & guitar, hiking, camping

What I like best about teaching at DCS: I enjoy working with the staff and I love the great personalities of the students and the respectful work environment.

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

JMC Reminder

We would like to remind that you can monitor your child/ren's grades using JMC. You can do this by going to the DCS website and under the Resources tab choose JMC-Parent/Student Portals; then select the External (from Home) 2011-2012 Parent Portal link. If you have questions about your login information, please contact the office. Teachers are also posting daily assignments, so if your child is absent they can retrieve their assignments. If you have questions concerning any grades or assignments, please contact the teacher.

Bible Bee

CONGRATULATIONS to our 19 contestants who participated in the 2011 Dakota Christian School Local Bible Bee held on August 27! These students and their families have committed to hiding God's Word in their hearts this summer, making an eternal investment in their future. We are so proud of them!

Winners in the PRIMARY Division: Staci Wolbrink-2nd place (Stickney), Trevor Timmermans (Harrison), Jace, Jade -1st place & Jacki Burma (Miller), Noah Klock-3rd place (Mt. Vernon), Ella & Hadley Steifvater (Salem) and Kase Brouwer (Armour).

Winners in the JUNIOR Division: Hannah & Sarah Cleveland (Aberdeen), Brooklyn Brouwer-3rd place (Armour), Ellie Borah-2nd place (Pierre), Shayla VanderPol (Harrison), Kayla Erickson-1st place (Dell Rapids) and Colton Wolbrink (Stickney).

Winners in the SENIOR Division: Shamira & Miracle Holder-2nd & 3rd place (Spearfish) and Kari Erickson-1st place (Dell Rapids).

THANK YOU to our awesome volunteers and donors who have helped make this day a success! Oral Round & Final Round Judges: Lori Miedema, Barb Shea, Kristi Pheifer and Sam Mudder; Written Test Proctors: Marilyn VandenHoek & Beth Maas; Registration & Family Fun Area: Sonia Hayes & Jean Kuyper; Snacks & Scanners: Jessica Brouwer & Renae Timmermans; Final Round Commander: Dr. Cookson; Runners: Emily Maas & Megan Mudder; Hoffman Drug, Puddleducks, all who helped support our World Magazine fundraiser, Community Bible Church of Pierre, and all of our Bible Bee families. **THANKS SO MUCH!**

Based on the combined scores of their oral round and written test round, **two of our contestants qualified for the National Bible Bee:** Kari Erickson-SR Division and Kayla Erickson-JR Division. They will represent South Dakota at Nationals in Nashville, TN on November 16-19. Congratulations, Kari & Kayla from Dell Rapids, SD!

Your Local Bible Bee Team,
Renae Timmermans and Carolyn Wolbrink

Upcoming Programs—Save these Dates!

- * Friday, December 9: K-4th Choir will perform *and on*
- * Thursday, December 15: 5th-12th Band and Choirs will be performing.

Thank you to . . .

- * To Pearl Feiok, Platte Pizza Ranch, for sponsoring the athletic rosters for volleyball and girls' and boys' basketball for the 2011-2012 athletic season.
- * To BW Insurance for providing our athletic pocket schedules. These can be picked up at the school office, at any home athletic event, or at BW insurance in Platte.
- * To Barb & Steve Bakken for donating a ping pong table to Dakota Christian School. We will get many hours of enjoyment from this!

Box Tops For Education

Box tops will be sent in again on October 17, 2011. Please have all box tops turned into school by Friday, Oct. 14th.

Mr. Bosma's Neighborhood

Welcome back to Mr. Bosma's neighborhood. We have been on a break over the summer, but now we are back into contact and looking forward to a good year. World History, U.S. History, Geography, Health & P.E., 7 & 8 U.S. History, and new to our neighborhood is Rosetta Stone Spanish.

We are digging the footings for all of the class work through the year with our subject content right now. The Juniors and 7th & 8th graders have reviewed how the Age of Explorations and early Native American cultures began American History. We are tracing the locations and events which our Biblical figures lived through in World History. Geography is developing an understanding of how the world's structure appears to work and how God created it that way. Health and P.E. are learning the basics of keeping the Holy Spirit's temple healthy and functioning, and Spanish II has blazed through the basic review of last year's content and are now moving into less familiar vocabulary and speaking.

Over all we are on track for completing our knowledge base and moving on to more structural parts of knowledge in the near future.

From my neighborhood to yours,
Mr. Greg Bosma

Donations of homemade jelly

Any Size Jar—Any Flavor
to be sold at the
"Taste of Dakota"



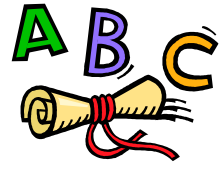
Donations can be brought to the DCS office

Black and Yellow: You know what it is

The 2010-2011 yearbooks are still available for \$35. Contact Donna Veurink to purchase one. Don't miss out on the great memories of last year!

Kindergarten News

Another school year brings many new joys to the Kindergarten classroom. Such joys are Jamie Baas, Andy Benton, Madison Bosma, Tony Hansum, Danica Middendorp, Lauryn Reimnitz, Andrew Sybesma, Brennon Threton, and Carter Vander Pol. We are still learning our daily routine and have a picture schedule to help us know what will happen next. Learning to write the ABC's in lines and spaces the "kindergarten way" takes a lot of time and practice.



Bible time is very important. Each child has a turn to pray for the day. It is scary but helps that everyone's eyes are closed and we are thinking about God and not ourself! Our first verse to learn is *"In the beginning GOD created the heavens and the earth. He saw all He had made and it was VERY GOOD"*. Gen. 1:1, 31.

Mrs. Vande Zande

Wanted: Hot Lunch Helpers

More Volunteers are needed to help serve Monday-Thursday hot lunch. Volunteers need to be at school at 11:40 a.m. on Mondays & Wednesdays, and 11:55 on Tuesdays & Thursdays, and are generally done by 1:30 p.m. The number of times per school year that you are asked to help depends on the amount of people who volunteer. If you would like your name added to the list please call Kirsti Muckey at 243-2215.

Fellowship News

The DCS Fellowship met Thursday, September 8th. First of all we want to thank every one who continues to support the school in anyway—from all the parents that put time into different work groups to the auxiliary members that served at several auctions this summer. We also talked about the different things you can collect: box tops for education; Land O' Lake milk lids and Campbell's soup labels. Please send these to school on a regular basis as some have expiration dates on. The money we get from this goes into Fellowship Fund and helps with getting different needs for our students.

We encourage any new parents with questions as to what is going on and about the different fund raisers to please ask someone that has had children in school for a while!

We also discussed the different fundraisers coming up such as Harvest Sale, Taste of Dakota and the Dordt Hunt. We decided to combine the Fellowship Supper with the Festival of Tables this year on a trial basis. We also are going to serve food at two double-header ball games this year. Teachers will be given a monetary gift for classroom use before the Heartland Convention in October. Also we agreed to purchase two projector DVD combo players and two elementary computer tables.

Thank you all for coming to the meeting and may we all continue to pray the God will bless our school in this coming year.

Lisa Spoelstra, Fellowship Secretary

3rd Annual "Taste of Dakota"

Once again the DCS Fellowship is inviting the community to join us for the 3rd annual "Taste of Dakota". Plans are underway and we feel you will be pleased with some of the changes this year.

The supper menu will include canned meat and mashed potatoes along with a sprinkling of other good tastes. The kids may want to try a happy meal this year. The happy meal will include a hot dog or corn dog, some side foods, and of course a toy surprise!

You can again anticipate a silent auction which will include a gun, a massage, and other local art items. If all of this is not enough, just bring your dollar and sit at the bake walk! This has to be one of the best selections of baked goods: cheese cake, homemade pie, cinnamon rolls, and more!

KGRD radio has already contacted us and is excited to meet everyone and participate in the evening's events. If you enjoyed yourself last year, then join us again and bring a friend. If you have not personally experienced the "taste", then it is time to join the DCS family from 5-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 18th. We are excited to spend the evening with all of you. See you at "The Taste"!

School Reach

School Reach is offering a new feature to their call system. On the DCS home web page is a Message Retrieval link that will take you directly to the SchoolReach Parent Center page. On that page you will find directions how to retrieve the last phone message sent or up to the last 30 days of messages.

Junior High Jottings

Welcome back to a new school year! From the students' descriptions, it sounded like everyone had a fun and relaxing summer. We jumped into our work immediately and have already completed a test in each subject: math, science, and Bible. In Bible we are studying the New Testament this year. We started with the four Gospels, seeing how they are alike and how each is different. Each one tells us about the life of Jesus from a slightly different perspective. When we take into account who the author is and who his intended audience was, we gain a deeper insight into each Gospel.

In math the seventh graders started with patterns and algebraic thinking while the eighth graders began with integers. In science we are studying life science, beginning with the study of flowers. Each student was asked to bring in different leaves and flowers found outdoors in nature. The varieties in shape, size, and color were amazing! There were a couple items brought in that were the same, but not very many. Our God is very creative in the area of nature. We need to open our eyes to see this wonder and then praise Him for it.

The Question of the Day recently was, "How many non-presidents are depicted on U.S. paper currency?" Do you know the answer? Ask a junior high student to see if you are correct.

~Mrs. Jan Van Vuren



DCS Financial Report

General Fund Checking Acct Report for August:

Balance 8/1/11		\$ 67.86
Deposits	\$ 107,593.48	
Withdrawals	\$ 105,862.05	
Closing Balance 8/31/11		\$ 1,799.29

Monthly Church Ministry Offerings

Funds received in August	\$ 3,835.00
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Budget Goal for Church Ministry Offerings

Yearly Budget Goal	\$ 150,000.00
Funds received as of 8/31/11	\$ 3,835.00
Balance needed by 7/31/12	\$ 146,165.00

Employment Opportunities for the 2011-2012 School Year

- ◆ HS Golf coach
- ◆ Part-time Janitor (position available immediately).

Contact Dr. Cookson at 243-2211
if interested or have questions regarding
either of these positions.

Monsanto Funds

The Monsanto Fund is proud to invest in rural communities by offering farmers the opportunity to direct \$2500.00 to their favorite local nonprofit organization through Grow Communities. Farmers are asked to register by November 30, 2011 by visiting GrowCommunities.com or by calling 1-877-267-3332. One winner will be selected at random from each of the 1,245 eligible counties.

We are pleased to welcome Don & Fran with their

Van Polen Travelogue

entitled

“Autumn Across America”

at the DCS Gym
on Thursday, September 22, 2011
at 7:00 p.m.



Professional photography of American landscapes, narration, and old favorite songs will be featured in this program.

Admission is free-will with a suggested donation of \$5 for adults and \$2 for K-12 students.

You are welcome to stay for refreshments and fellowship following the program.

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 Sept. Board Activity

1. Dr. Gary Cookson opened by reading a portion of Philippians 2 and praying.
2. Roll call showed Brenda Baan Hofman, Yvonne Bentz, Heath Brouwer, Doug Kaemingk, Ken Lieuwen, Marlin Maas, Carol Overweg, Keith Vanden Hoek, Steve Vander Pol, and Administrator Dr. Gary Cookson present.
3. Minutes of the August 11, 2011 meeting were approved as presented.
4. Agenda was approved.
5. Correspondence: A letter from the Bible Bee Committee requesting that it be a Dakota Christian School activity was approved.
6. Finance Committee: Treasurer's report was given. Bills to be paid were approved. The Budget for the 2011-2012 school year was approved. It will be presented for approval to the Society at the annual meeting on September 26, 2011.
7. Education Committee: The tardy policy for school was updated. After three tardies a letter will be sent home; after 4 tardies a one hour detention will be served; after 5 tardies a 2 hour detention will be served; after 6 tardies and each subsequent tardy a 3 hour detention will be served. These are cumulative each quarter and each student will start each quarter with 0 tardies. Fees for non-students who wish to take part in school activities were approved.
8. Building and Grounds: A walk-thru was held with two representatives from Puetz Construction. Several issues about the school building were addressed. The stage floor has been completed and looks good.
9. Principal's Report: Inservice days were productive, CPR classes were offered for the teachers as well as a seminar regarding Restorative Justice. About 70 parents and grandparents attended the opening chapel of the year. Fire and Tornado drills have been held. A credit card has been ordered for school use. A policy was set about home schooled students being allowed to take part in DCS activities at the high school level.
10. Old Business: Discussion was held regarding holding a drive to pay off the mortgage. Marlin will pursue this. The half time janitor position that needs to be filled was discussed.
11. New Business: Nominees for board positions are as follows: East Area : Aaron Timmermans and Dan Niewenhuis; Middle Area: Matthew Hubers and Corey Vander Pol; West Area: Paul Baas and Mary Kraayenbrink. Election will be at the Society meeting. Retiring school board members are Yvonne Bentz, Heath Brouwer, and Carol Overweg. Coaches for Boys' 7/8 and JV basketball were discussed.
12. Meeting was adjourned.
13. Carol Overweg closed in prayer.

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.