

# **Dakota Christian School** Third Quarter 2021-2022 Newsletter

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Come early to walk the halls and see the talents in the field of art that the Lord has given our K—8th students.

#### A Time for Busyness and a Time for Rest

April is here, and that means the school year starts churning faster and faster! The spring is full of events that pull all of us in many different directions, from school to sporting events to testing to concerts and more! The busyness of the month makes it fly by, and graduation arrives before we really even know what actually happened!

I'm certain that spring feels the same way to just about everyone; it is not limited to those involved in education! Everyone gets that spring itch to be outside, to be active, to get chores done, and more after the winter season. With that in mind, I want to point all of us to Ecclesiastes 3, which was actually the topic of our 7-12 chapel recently.

Many of you know the passage well – A Time for Everything. Solomon poetically takes us through the various stages of life, noting that everything is good and proper in its cycle. To apply the language to the school year, specifically the spring, we can note there is a time for busyness, and a time for rest. Genesis certainly lays out this pattern in the Creation story.



Solomon's words still ring true today, but I want to add a little New Testament flavor to his writing, if I can be so bold, with two notes. First is the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus instructs the crowds to not be anxious about anything, for their Father in Heaven provides (Matthew 6). Second, and on a similar note, is the story in Acts 16 where Paul and Silas sing praises to God while in jail. Both of these add a similar item to Solomon's wisdom: be present in whatever stage of life you are in. Jesus instructs us to not worry about the future, for it is all in the Father's hands. Paul and Silas were content enough to sing praises despite being wrongfully imprisoned (seriously – they healed a demon-possessed girl!). Paul and Silas were present in the moment, trusting that God was holding them and that his sovereignty would reign supreme!

So, wherever you find yourself this spring, whether you are in midst of a busy, tight schedule like school, or whether you feel calm and relaxed knowing time is easy to come by right now, I encourage you to be content with it. Know that these seasons of life, these cycles, are just that – cycles. They come and go; we get the privilege of being present in them while trusting that the Lord will provide what we need when we need. I know that's a huge encouragement for me; I hope you can rest in that same encouragement!

Jeremy Boer, CEO

### DCS 2021-2022 Theme "Beauty for Ashes"

"To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the LORD has planted for his own glory." Isaiah 61:3

### **Relieving Stress**

Stress has become a norm in our society. Seems everyone is buzzing about too much stress, having anxiety. Even the task of "adulting" is laden with the understanding that life is hard, weighty. Teenage stress has always been around with test anxiety, relationship problems, looming future decisions...now add social media issues ("how many 'likes' did my post get?") and we have a huge problem on our hands. As the juniors and seniors recently heard from Mrs. Veurink, the key to stress (because everyone has stress) is how you cope with it. The students did some relaxation breathing (there's a GIF for that!), filled out a Control circle to discover what they can and can't control, and took a stress scale to see how stress-filled their lives are. The discussion then turned to stress relievers:

Exercise! This activity releases chemicals in our brain that help us cope with stress, calm us, and leave us with a feeling of well-being. ( So reduce stress by finding a useful YouTube video, or getting a membership to the wellness center. Kind of makes you want to get out of the chair, right?



Healthy Diet! Diet not only refers to the food you put in your stomach, but the thoughts and images you put in your brain. Scary movies, negative words, harmful pictures all generate stress in our body. Check your diet (food + more) to see if it is stress-causing or stressreducing.

Sharing thoughts and feelings with a trusted friend!



Galatians 6:2 encourages us to bear each other's burdens...and it's true! Not only can a friend provide insight and new answers, they can help carry the load of your stress, and vice versa. Friends are so important to reducing stress.

And the super beneficial way to reduce stress? Serving others! Yep, taking the focus off yourself and placing it on the needs of others helps us cope with stress. We can experience the benefits of reduced stress by helping others in need. Turns out the Bible's teachings on caring for others is one of the best stress-relieving activities there is. Let's help our students understand this.

Mrs. Donna Veurink, Head Teacher

### Senior Trip ~ March 16-20

The senior class left for our trip on Wednesday morning and arrived in Houston that night. Thursday we got up and went to our service project which was Kids' Meals, an organization that delivers food to children who are not yet in school. You can read more about them on their website at https://kidsmealsinc.org/. We helped make lunches for the kids on both Thursday and Friday.

The rest of our time that we had was spent doing different activities around Houston. Then we left Saturday night and arrived home Sunday afternoon. Thank you to Josie and Anthony De Haan for chaperoning this event, and thank you for all of your prayers for us while we were gone.





On Saturday, February 5, Dakota Christian students participated in the Mitchell Spelling Bee. Audrey DeHaan placed 1st in the 7th grade contest and Alyssa Middendorp placed 2nd in the 8th grade contest.

### We're So Grateful

Thank you to all who supported the chicken pot pie fundraiser. A total of 233 pot pies were made and distributed from Academy to Mitchell to Sioux Falls to Northwest Iowa as well as locally. Thank you to all who bought them and to all the women and girls who worked to get them made.



Danae Feenstra earned 1st place in the 5th grade contest at the Missouri Valley Spelling Bee.



On Wednesday, February 23, Dakota Christian students in grades 1-6 participated in the Missouri Valley Spelling Bee in Gregory.

Front row: Max Masur, Will Vander Ley, Louie DeLange, Chanelle Kott, Lucy Vander Ley, and Ashlyn Erickson. Back row: Danae Feenstra, Kora Backes, Aspen Niewenhuis, Christopher Baas, Jack Backes, and Kolton Dykshorn.

## **DCS Capital Campaign Fund**

Loan balance 04/12/21	\$ 169,000.00			
Starting Balance 04/12/21	\$ 5,153.92			
Income	13,515.31			
Interest	1.02			
Total	\$ 18,670.25			
Expenses				
Interest to Foundation Fund	\$ 7,013.50			
Loan repayment to FF	9,000.00			
Total Expenses	\$ 16,013.50			
Balance on Hand 04/12/22	\$ 2,656.75			
Loan Balance 04/12/22	\$ 160,000.00			

### So...What IS the DCS Fellowship?

The Fellowship is an organization of parents and other supporters whose purpose is to further the interest of Christian education through support and service to Dakota Christian School. This membership team organizes fundraising events for the school and does service events. Anyone is welcome to attend the Fellowship meetings.

The name "Fellowship" was chosen carefully by a planning committee when the three Christian schools joined together at the current location. The vision and goal of this committee were to have an organization that would be a support to the school financially and in service. But the vision did not end there! It is about getting to know people, families mingling, camaraderie, fun fellowship, and continual support of each other plus lifting this school family up in prayer. Thus the name "Fellowship".

We have been blessed in our fundraising and have been able to give \$95,000 to the school for this year to help teachers purchase items for their classrooms, equipment for the kitchen as well as some building maintenance. To God be the Glory!

### Where did it go??

Check out the DCS website at dchs.net. Click on the "NEWS" tab to find:

-school board minutes posted after each meeting -DCS Fellowship minutes posted after each meeting -announcements for each school day

-a digital copy of the newsletter

Click on the "CALENDAR" tab to find: -hot lunch menu and helpers -extracurricular and sports events -meeting notices -school vacations/holidays



Also check out the DCS Facebook page for more information, updates, and upcoming events.

### **DCS Financial Report**

General Fund Checking Acct Report for March						
Balance 3/01/22			\$ 1	27,338.91		
Deposits	\$	43,080.3	30			
Withdrawals	<u>\$</u>	95,579.	<u>50</u>			
Closing Balance 3/31/	/22		\$	74,839.71		
Monthly Church Ministry Offerings						
Monthly Budget Goal			\$	12,500.00		
Funds received in Marc	h		\$	14,81850		
Budget Goal for Church Ministry Offerings						
Yearly Budget Goal			\$	150,000.00		
Funds received as of 3/	31/	22	\$	99,158.64		
Balance Needed by 7/31/22		\$	50,841.36			

### **Praise and Prayer**

⇒Thank God for the service of the outgoing school board members—Dustin Feenstra, Curtis Sybesma, and Denise Vander Pol—and for all those who were willing to have their names added to list of nominees. Pray for those newly elected—Paul Baas, Anthony De Haan, and Mitch Munneke—as well as the incumbents they continue to provide leadership for the school.

 $\Rightarrow$ As the DCS Fellowship will soon be holding elections for their new officers pray for God to provide, and thank Him for those who have filled those positions for the past year.

⇒Thank God that all the teaching positions are filled for the coming school year. Joanna Engels has been hired as music teacher. After graduating SDSU in May she and her husband plan to move to our area this summer. (Fun Fact: Joanna's high school band teacher was Mrs. DeJager's roommate at SDSU.)

 $\Rightarrow$ Pray for all the staff as they finish out the last weeks of school, and over the summer as they take some time for R & R as well as prepare for the next school year.

 $\Rightarrow$ Pray for students to finish out the school year strong and pray for the seniors as they move on to the next chapter in their lives.

#### April 2022 NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at <u>http://www.ascr.usda.gov/</u> <u>complaint\_filing\_cust.html</u>, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at <u>program.intake@usda.gov</u>.

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.