



# The Ireton Christian Beacon

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*The Mission of Ireton Christian School is to develop knowledge and understanding in each of God's children so they can effectively relate to God, to others, and to creation.*

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By becoming a Foundation member? Please join us anytime of the year, Christian education is an ongoing thing and we need your help. The board would like to invite anyone to help promote Ireton Christian School. For a yearly fee of \$25.00 or a lifetime membership of \$500.00, you can become an Ireton Christian School Foundation member. Please visit the school office or mail \$25.00 or \$500.00 to Ireton Christian and you will be added to the membership list! (List will be updated every month) ALL proceeds will be placed in our Endowment Fund. The money raised will help defray the cost of major repairs and educational expenses encountered throughout the year, as well as helping keep the cost of education at a minimum.

**THANKS for your support!**

## Principal's Corner

*Who Do you Serve? This was the keynote address at the Heartland Teachers Conferences held on October 6 & 7 at Dordt College. Duane Litfin, retired President of Wheaton College addressed the many educators that were in attendance at the two-day event. He focused on one specific topic with two points made from that topic. I want to summarize a little of his keynote address of: Who You Serve: Your Students! Mr. Litfin enlightened us on thinking of the word "spend." What comes to mind when you think of spend? What do we "spend"? Money? Time? Energy? What is in vain? Something that has no eternal significance, correct? So of the three things listed that we "spend," which one has no significance to a godly person? Money does not really fit if we are looking at God's plan. So, therefore we need to look at our "time" and "energy" as our focus in our pursuit of doing God's will in our fields of parenting and education. Everything we spend, all our time and energy in God's world is invested for eternity, even in our sleep. Just as the Psalmists states in Psalm 127-God gives to his beloved even in their sleep. What a great comfort to know how great and caring this God is!*

*One of the greatest blessings of our lives can be to see our children, whether parents or educators, carry on and make themselves a kingdom person. Our children are the product of that education that is received at home or in school. We can then send out our children or students and reap the joys and blessings that we invested in our kids! Psalm 127-God blesses and continues to invest and give dividends to us on how we spend our time and energy! Church or school, they are not a waste, but an investment to serve each other in Christ's name, use our resources (educators) to pay dividends in the ongoing of God's kingdom.*

*Educators are an extension of the parents, we get to continue to help (investing) for the students from their parents. Custom designed projects (each student) we need to witness to, invest our time and energy into, and have a deep rooted faith, knowing that it will pay dividends in God's kingdom!*



Mr. Schoonhoven

## *Kids of the Kingdom Preschool*

**"I love pumpkins." "That donkey is REALLY loud." "My boots are getting muddy."** These are just a few things we heard on our field trip to Diane's Pumpkin Patch. Yes, it was raining (much needed by the way so we didn't complain) but we had a great time out in God's creation. The colors of fall are so beautiful.

We also had a couple visitors read to us in October and we love that. An author came and read a book about ladybugs to us and we made a ladybug visor. Janna Kingma from the Hawarden library came to read to us about fire safety. October is Fire Safety month and we walked to the fire station. A lot of us really like the shiny trucks. We learned to STOP, DROP and ROLL. Thanks to all of those who volunteer to fight fires for us.

In our room we have been learning the letters L, F, E, H, T, I and the sounds they make. We also practice writing these letters. For show and share we get to look around our houses and find things that start with these letters and show the class. It is fun to get a variety of things to see.

In Bible we have learned about Heaven, the Ten commandments, the Tower of Babel, Hannah and her son Samuel, our Earth and the lions in the den. It is so fun to see children at this age so excited to learn so many new things. They are like sponges soaking everything in.

We look forward to leading chapel in November. The theme for the month is the belt of truth. It is hard to ALWAYS be honest but that is what God wants us to do. In November we will also be collecting items for Operation Christmas Child to make other kids happy like we are. It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner.

*God Bless,  
Mrs. Tammy and Miss Michon*



## *Kindergarten*

The Kindergarteners enjoyed a visit to the fire station on October 12. They enjoyed squirting the hose and exploring a real fire truck. They watched a movie about fire safety and tried on a firefighter's helmet and coat. The fireman gave them an assignment to go home and make sure their family has a fire safety plan in place. Check your fire alarms to make sure they are working. Decide on an outside meeting place if the need arises to evacuate.

On October 7, the Kindergarteners enjoyed a beautiful trip to Diane's Pumpkin Patch. The weather was exceptionally nice for a ride on her tractor pulled wagon. They picked just the right pumpkin and got to pain it. Diane taught them about various different things she grows in her fields. She did a great job of sharing the joy of God's beautiful creation. We took lots of pictures by her many different fall arrangements.

On October 12, we were privileged to have Jeanette Hopkins at Ireton Christian. She is the author of "The Ladybug Waltz" and "The Juggler". It was fun to listen to her explain how she got her ideas for the books. The Kindergarteners listened attentively as she read "The Juggler" to them. She gave them all a juggling kit and showed us how to juggle. She challenged them to practice learning how to juggle.

I was blessed once again by attending the Heartland Convention. One of the sectionals I attended was a sectional entitled "Fifty Teaching Tools in Sixty Seconds" by Barbara Newman. She gave many useful Visual tips, Attention tips, and Writing/Hand tools. She also gave us a resource list of where to find all of these tools.

The new Math series is giving the Kindergarteners a challenging workout. The vocabulary words for this unity have been: circle, triangle, square, rectangle, sphere, cone, cylinder, cube, rectangular prism. They experimented with solid figures to see which ones could slide, stack, and/or roll. Thinking skills were exercised as they identified plane figures that make up the flat surfaces of solid figures. They also worked with color patterns, shape patterns, and size patterns. Listening skills and following directions are heavily worked on in this Math series.

I hope everyone is enjoying a beautiful and colorful fall. Enjoy the changing of the season and praise God for His Majesty.

*In His Service,  
Mrs. Vos*

## 1st and 2nd Grade

One of the children commented, "It seems like we have been in school only 5 days but we are counting our 35th day. Time goes so fast when you are learning and busy every day." That is true! We are busy every moment of the day.

We went to visit Diane's Pumpkin Patch on the last day of September. It was such a gorgeous day, with no Asian beetles or black bugs to bite us. The children picked and painted their own pumpkins. Then Diane explained the differences between all kinds of gourds and how she gets them to grow in her field. The most fun part is riding in the wagon behind the tractor into the field. God's creation was awesome.

The first through fourth graders went to the Hillcrest Nursing Home. We sang many of the songs that we sing on Wednesday morning when we sing together. Then we played our bells with a few songs. The most fun was to do the "Hokey Pokey" for the residents. There were many smiles on their faces.

Our class got to go to Oak Grove Park for a few hours to look at nature there. Sunday Ford was our leader as we walked through various trails to look at the different leaves, a birdhouse, river, and badger hole. We even laid down on our backs, looking up to see what we could hear, smell, and see. After collecting five different leaves, we made leaf rubbings to see the different shapes and sizes of the leaves.

Both classes have been practicing their math facts-the first graders have learned facts from 1 through 5, but will get busy on higher facts soon. The second graders have learned all of their 11 through 18 addition facts, but need to get going on the subtraction facts soon. We have practiced different strategies to help remember the facts-doubles, double plus 1, fast 9's, counting ahead, counting back. We need to know these facts well.

In Social Studies, we have been learning about geography and where people live. The children made a poster of a farm, or town, or city. We use the big words of: continent, ocean, country, state, city to know where we live in this world. God has given many natural resources to us and we need to learn how to conserve those resources, too.

*Mrs. Goslinga*

## 3rd and 4th Grade

The month of October has been a lot of fun in our classroom. I asked the students what their favorite part of school has been so far and I received numerous answers! The 3rd and 4th graders had an opportunity to go to Unity and meet with The Cast. Those high school students taught the children about acting. Then each of the kids got to try it out in small groups! We also had the opportunity to meet with Jeneatte Hopkins, a real author! The kids listened to her read her new

book about juggling and then tried their hand juggling! They had a lot of fun! Another favorite of the year so far has been art with Mrs. De Jong. They are learning so much with her and always look forward to art Friday!

The SMART board has been another unanimous favorite among all the students. In science, we have been learning about invertebrates. Each of the students was given a group of invertebrates to become experts on. Then they had the chance to create their own SMART board presentation for the class. They all did a fantastic job using the SMART board and explaining their topic to the rest of the kids.



In math, the 3rd and 4th graders have been moving right along! The 3rd graders have finished their unit on addition and are well underway learning about subtraction. They are even using what they learned about addition to help them check their work with subtraction! The 4th graders are already into multiplication! They have been doing a fantastic job paying attention and working hard each day.

In Bible, we have been doing a review of the beginning books. We talked a lot about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These were great stories to review because of the lessons we can learn from them! We saw once again that the men God chose were not perfect. In fact, they did a lot of things wrong! But God's love remained through the time they were sinful. We saw how God kept His promises, even when it took many years! We discussed how this happens in our lives. It was so encouraging to see the 3rd and 4th graders recognizing how God is working in their lives even at a young age!

As we close out our first quarter of the year, the third and fourth graders continue to amaze me with their positive attitudes, hard work, and their love for Jesus. I am excited for what the second quarter will bring with these wonderful children of God!

*Mrs. Mills*



## TRIP News

Upcoming order dates are: November 14, November 28, and December 12. Note these are every two weeks. Orders need to be in the TRIP box in the school office by 8:45 AM on the order dates or they can be put in Donna Koopmans' church mailbox (Ireton CRC) by 7:00 PM on the Sunday night before. Please try to remind your child to bring the order to their teacher or to the office as soon as they get to school, so that orders will not be forgotten or late. Remember to start looking ahead to the holidays and purchase TRIP to use with all your holiday shopping.

Taco Johns has changed to \$10/\$25 gift cards. I have ordered \$10 cards and will hopefully have them on hand soon.

Long Johns Silver is being discontinued. So, we will no longer be able to get them.

On hand TRIP is now available in the school office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:15 to 2:00. To purchase TRIP on other days call Donna at #278-2506 or e-mail dkoopmans@hotmail.com.

## November Birthdays

Nov. 8	Kate Noteboom Eva Van Donkelaar
Nov. 9	Caden Schouten
Nov. 10	Tammy Sieck Jennifer Mills
Nov. 15	Marlin Schoonhoven
Nov. 19	Haley Brunstring
Nov. 24	Jace Noyes



## Calendar of Events

Nov. 1	PTA Meeting 7:00 PM
Nov. 5	Honor Band Concert 6:00 PM
Nov. 8, 10	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-8pm, Tuesday & Thursday
Nov. 11	No School
Nov. 23	1:30 dismissal
Nov. 24-25	Thanksgiving break, no school

## 2nd Annual Ladies Expo

The ICS Auxiliary is planning the 2nd Annual Ladies Expo for November 19 from 9am-1pm in the Ireton Community Center. Find that perfect gift for yourself or someone special and support Ireton Christian School. Some vendors coming include...Thirty-One Bags, Scentsy, Usborne Books, Pampered Chef, Creative Memories, Mary Kay, Stampin up, Tupperware, Tastefully Simple, Starfish Jewlery, and Michelle Bomgaars. We will also be having a bake sale during the expo. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. *Hope to see you there!*

## Jog-A-Thon

The Lord blessed the Jog-a-thon with a beautiful, sunny day on September 27. There was great participation and enthusiasm shown by all. If you came to watch, you probably saw 8th graders walking with kindergarteners. They did a great job of encouraging each other! Prizes were awarded in each grade for the person with the most laps. The class winners were: K - Caden Schouten (12), 1st - Cassady Dekkers (13), 2nd - Brett Schouten (15), 3rd - Josee Abbas & Hanah Van Beek (17), 4th - Benjamin Abbas (18), 5th - Joey Schoonhoven (23), 6th - Adam Viet (19), 7th - Alexis Zomermaand (20) & 8th - Tessa Schoonhoven (21). Joey Schoonhoven was our overall winner and Cassady Dekkers collected the most donations. Thanks to all who supported this fundraiser. We had set a goal to raise \$3500. At present, we have collected \$3700, and not all the students have turned in their donations yet! We praise God for each and every person who worked to support our school with this fundraiser, whether it was by running or pledging! May Jesus Christ be praised.

## Library News

"Passion, practice, and patience" was the advice of author, Jeanette Hopkins, as she spoke to the ICS students on October 12. She was talking about her latest book *The Juggler and the character Andri* and his goal to learn how to juggle more things. After reading her book to the students, they were given the opportunity to try juggling themselves. Miss Van Beek



amazed all by being the only one able to juggle with three balls. Mrs. Hopkins advice to teachers and parents is to read aloud to kids of all ages. It is the single most important

thing parents can do with children to help in their education. Take the time to read together from authors this month of H.A. Hays who wrote the *Curious George* books and Mary Pope Osborne who wrote the *Magic Tree House* series. Enjoy the world of reading!

*Mrs. S. Byker*



## 5th and 6th Grade

Our class had to lead chapel for the month of October. The theme of the month was the struggle against the powers of darkness and against flesh and blood, and against the authorities, and against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms-Ephesians 6:12-13. A tougher concept to grasp, especially for the younger students, but hopefully the students saw and learned from some of the examples that were presented by the class.

The class performed still life portraits of certain moments in time from Bible related passages when the Israelites, Christians, or even Jesus himself were struggling against the powers of Satan. They had the story of David versus Goliath, gossiping, battle scenes from time of judges or prophets such as Gideon leading the people away from sin and destruction, Jesus before his crucifixion, even though he was suffering, he did not fall into the devil's temptations. Each one of the groups used 2-4 still life portraits to depict the message of standing up against the devil.

The chapel also included the singing of October theme songs-A Mighty Fortress is Our God and Your Grace is Enough. The students then ended their chapel in their living families and played "pin the armor of God on the soldier." We need to be able to stand our ground against the evil of this world.

The class has completed the 1st 9-weeks of school and with that comes many rewards and blessings. The students have gotten to know each other, work with each other, and build each other up. They have the opportunity each day to truly show what they believe in their daily walk. We are challenging each student in our class to continue to put Christ first and at the center of everything we do, then put others next, and to place ourselves at the end. This is tough, but is a goal of this class each day.

*Mr. Schoonhoven*

## KIDS OF THE KINGDOM FINANCIAL REPORT

*For One Month Ended September 30, 2011*

<b>Income:</b>	
Bus Income	50.00
Refund	75.46
Tuition	620.00
Universal Grant	<u>4,438.15</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5,183.61</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Educational	
Miscellaneous	14.00
Supplies	83.43
Salaries	
Payroll Expenses	7.00
Payroll Taxes	207.18
Teacher	<u>2,708.32</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,019.93</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>\$2,163.68</b>
Interest Income	1.75
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$2,165.43</b>

## 7th and 8th Grade

As the seasons have changed, changes are being made in the classroom in some ways as well. More of the students' work is up on the walls, they're used to their daily schedule, and God continues to work in their lives as they grow and mature.

The 7th and 8th graders have worked hard writing fictional stories, studying the different states of matter, graphing equations, feasts of Jewish traditions, and learning the importance of speech.

Each of the students participated in the Speech Contest at Rock Valley Christian and did a fabulous job! Although this may not be a strong gift in everyone, this was a great opportunity to develop a skill each of them will have to use. We all will face speaking in front of people and so going through that process allowed them to increase their confidence and learning levels.

As we get further into the year, the 7th and 8th graders will be challenged academically and I pray spiritually as well. At this point in their life, each of them has questions about certain life issues, God, and where they fit in His world. I also pray that we can openly discuss some of these questions while we build a stronger community in our classroom.

*Miss Van Beek*

## ICS FINANCIAL REPORT

*For One Month Ended September 30, 2011*

<b>Income:</b>		<b>Educational Disbursements:</b>	
Bus Income	4,090.69	Miscellaneous	815.20
Donation	13,995.00	Staff Development	670.00
Fair Share		Supplies	294.21
Bride of Hope	930.00	Technology	2,656.10
Hawarden CRC	2,880.00	Telephone	67.58
Ireton CRC	4,337.00	Textbooks	4,281.65
Other Income	1,100.00	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$8,784.74</b>
Rally Day Sale	19,772.26	<b>Salaries:</b>	
Refund	224.09	Accounting Expense	1,690.64
Rent	65.00	Beacon	110.00
Tuition	1,786.74	Cook	1,307.18
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$49,180.78</b>	Workmans Comp	2,654.07
<b>Building Expenses:</b>		Janitor	1,134.96
Building Repairs	5,92.20	Medical Ins. Employee	260.84
Fuel	405.00	Payroll Expenses	29.02
Janitor Supplies	294.77	Payroll Taxes	1,362.21
Property Tax	1,234.00	Pension	911.48
Utilities	46.56	Secretary	570.34
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$8,329.53</b>	Teacher	15,774.88
<b>Bus:</b>		<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$25,805.62</b>
Bus Gas & Oil	760.53	<b>Total Expenses \$44,940.54</b>	
Bus Repairs	1,260.12	<b>Net Ordinary Income \$4,240.24</b>	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$2,020.65</b>	Interest Income	88.67
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>Net Income 4,328.91</b>	

## Board Meeting - Monday, October 10, 2011 at 7 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer & Devotions (I Timothy 3:1-7) were read by Board President Jim Viet
3. MINUTES of last meeting read for approval
4. NO Items were added to agenda
5. Old Business
  - a. Administrative Assistant-motion made and approved to hire Donna Koopmans and Nicole Weida
  - b. Board/ Staff party-Sept 24 -39 people were in attendance, thanks to game coordinators!
  - c. NICSTO-\$11,500 will be distributed Oct 1 motion made and approved the dollars distributed Oct 1
  - d. Thank You for Rally Day Sale was put in 3 newspapers (\$300)-profit approximately \$19,000
  - e. PTA fall meeting set for November 1 at 7pm, general business meeting and demo of Smartboards by staff
  - f. Telephone/intercom system, motion made & approved to purchase 13 phones/system/card/setup
  - g. Annual Progress Report (APR)-was in October Beacon for information to society
  - h. VB & VV agreement for 11-12 year motion made and approved to continue agreement with VB & VV until we complete transfer to in-house bookkeeping
6. Principal's Report was given by Marlin Schoonhoven -highlighted the convention & staff/faculty work this year
7. Bills/Donations were submitted for approval
8. Committee Reports
  - a. Building-complete office and outside maintenance from list last month
  - b. Education-Interscholastics and Heartland Conference
  - c. Finance-NICSTO applied to Oct statements, Ed Partners 10-11 balance (will carry over from last month)
  - d. Bus-inspection both have a 2-30 day items to be fixed, need to get name changed & change license plates on bus purchased from UC
  - e. Endowment-NR
  - f. Preschool written report was read by Director Tammy Sieck
  - g. Technology-5 flat panels, 3 laptops (library, Title I, & office)
  - h. Promotion/Concert-NR
9. Finance Committee Reports (ending balances as of September 30)

General-\$52,950.49	Tuition Asst-\$1,018.23
Building-\$13,236.30	KOK Preschool-\$24,040.53
Administrative-\$1,807.44	Hot Lunch-\$1,840.34

\*Need approval of Principal report, Committee reports, and Finance reports
10. New Business (Items for Action)
  - a. State Fire Marshall report  
-will get quotes for updates needed
  - b. Interscholastic dues (\$2/student)/CSI dues (\$9.20/student) Heartland dues (\$10.50/student)-motion made & approved
  - c. Accelerated Reader annual renewal (\$980)-motion made & approved
  - d. Snocap renewal (\$200)-motion made & approved
  - e. Purchased Quickbooks & Payroll Pro 2012(\$545.95)- motion made & approved
  - f. Christmas Bonuses (gift cards) & candy for students motion made to raise staff/faculty amounts to \$75/\$50 approved
  - g. Goals-SIAC goals & vision of ICS 3-5 years from now-will discuss in depth at November meeting (physically, educationally, philosophically, and spiritually)
11. Reviewed Board Policy-700-714.2 (p30) Curriculum schedule
12. Board Visit report by Eric Van Wyk gave a very positive and informative report Next: Dave Van Donkelaar
13. Next meeting November 14, at 7pm (committees will meet at 6:30pm)
14. Concept Minutes read/motion to Adjourn
15. Eric Van Wyk-closing prayer



## 2011-2012 Ireton Christian School Covenant Foundation Members:

Eric & Cheryl Van Wyk  
Randy & Tammy Sieck  
Ryan & Angela Zomermaand  
Scott & Jennifer Miedema  
Chris Mueller  
Dale Hennings  
Jason Meyer \*  
Nicholaas and Arletta Dorhout\*  
Brent and Cindy Davelaar\*  
Tena Kramer \*  
Curtis J. DeVries\*  
Sadie De Vries\*  
Leroy and Joan Punt\*

Evonne Wielenga\*  
John and Alice Jongma\*  
Allen and Clara Eisma \*  
Jim and Mandy Viet\*  
Rick and Jill Schouten\*  
Michael J. Jongma\*  
Randy and Glenda Van Wyhe \*  
Gerrit and Tracy Byker\*  
Kelly and Carmen Noteboom\*  
Darrell and Kate Noteboom\*  
Warren and Ruth Dekkers\*  
Lawrence and Dinah Ter Horst\*  
Duane and Lee Ann Bonnema\*

Earl and Toots Kooi\*  
Dan and Sharon Byker\*  
Gerald and Rhonda Postma\*  
Stan and Barb Hoekstra\*  
Jay and Marlene Broek\*  
Verlyn and Karel Dekkers\*  
Brian and Sharla Gradert\*  
Allen & Ruth De Jager\*  
Roger and Joann Obbink\*  
Dick and Harriet Bonnema \*  
Tim & Lori Bonnema\*  
Bryan & Deanne Dekkers\*

\* Lifetime members (\$500.00)  
Yearly Members (\$25.00)

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