



SIOUX CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BULLETIN BOARD



APRIL
2018

The mission of Sioux Center Christian School is to disciple God's children by equipping them with a knowledge and understanding of Christ and His creation so that they can obediently serve God and others as they work and play.

A Word from Mr. Bowar HEAD OF SCHOOL

I'd like you to meet Noelle, a 4th grader at SCCS. Noelle is a student full of life and a passion for learning. She likes to dance, sing, and make friends. Noelle spends most of her day with her 4th grade class and part of her day working on specific skills with a resource teacher. Throughout the day, she is supported by a paraprofessional. Noelle also happens to have Down syndrome, but, more importantly, **she is a child of God.**

Meet Colton, a 5th grader at SCCS. Colton is very social and loves playing outside in the winter and on his basketball team. He likes the farm and spending time with his friends. He spends most of his day with fellow 5th graders and part of the day getting support from a resource teacher and paraprofessionals. Colton also happens to have spina bifida, but, more importantly, **he is a child of God.**

Now meet Graham, a 1st grader at SCCS. Graham loves letters and reading. He is excited about learning new things and likes to be with his friends. Graham spends all of his day with his 1st grade class and is supported by his teacher, our behavior specialist, and paraprofessionals. Graham also happens to have autism, but, more importantly, **he is a child of God.**

In 2011, we began the journey toward being as inclusive as possible in the education that happens at Sioux Center Christian School. Since then, our school has moved forward in several areas, and we are so thankful for the opportunities God has provided us to serve His kids. We continue to make strides in being as inclusive as possible.

Using the **Response to Intervention framework** (which relies on research-based curriculum and instruction, screening of students, interventions for students at all levels, progress monitoring, and data-based decision-making), all students at SCCS are served in levels of tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3.

Why do we do this? A large part of fulfilling our mission statement includes involving students with varying needs. While we realize we may not be able to serve the needs of all children, **we deeply hope to include as many children with varying needs as we possibly can.** The goal of inclusive education is to **include, support, and challenge our diverse learners to reach their potential as servants in God's world.** Inclusive education is not a program; rather, it is a philosophy, a desire. **God created all children, and we want the Kingdom of God to be well represented at SCCS.**

What makes us distinct? **We desire to be a school that provides a home for each student in the general education classroom and equips all students with the necessary support for academic and social success.** We strive to put people and programs around children whose parents desire a Christian education for them. This philosophy applies to all children in our school. **We believe that a child's value comes from being created in God's image.** Because of this belief, **all students belong.** We also believe that everyone can and should learn and develop. While we do use data and quality instruction, we believe children are image-bearers, not numbers or test results or graphs. **We want them to learn and grow in their faith and talents and seek to partner with Christian parents in doing so.** We are one in the Spirit and one in Christ. We are interdependent and all called to discipleship.

How do we work to accomplish these ideals? **We rely on God's help and guidance through the work of His people,** with our inclusive education framework fulfilled through several faculty and staff members, including: classroom and specials teachers, 4 resource teachers, a guidance counselor, a talented and gifted teacher, Title I reading support, a school nurse, a behavior specialist, a sensory specialist, several paraprofessionals, and on-site occupational and speech therapists. All faculty and staff members are fully certified, highly trained in their area(s) of expertise, and teach from a Christian perspective.

If you are interested in learning more or wonder what opportunities we could provide for your child, I invite you to connect with me by calling the school (712.722.0777) or emailing jbower@siouxcenterchristian.com.

You can also learn more at www.siouxcenterchristian.com/academics/inclusive.cfm.

With you,



EASTER CHALLENGE

LISA MOUW, DIRECTOR OF LEARNING

In early March, we challenged our students to consider ways that, as part of God's Story, we as a school could **share the Easter story** with others. As followers of Jesus, we are called to tell others about His love and gift of salvation. **We want everyone to know Jesus and how much He loves them.**

"But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do His work and speak out for Him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference He made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted." (1 Peter 2:9, The Message)



Classes came up with several ideas of how to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others, and we decided to make **jelly bean prayer packs**, which share the Good News in a simple, sweet message. On March 22 & 23, **every classroom delivered over 1000 packs to 17 places around town:** Royal Meadows, Crown Pointe, Franken Manor, Kosgrove, Hope Haven DayHab, All Seasons Center, Family Crisis Center, Hope Food Pantry, Sack Pack, Melissa's Hope Chest, Stepping Stones Preschool, Library, Atlas, Sioux Center Health, Sioux Center Mall, Promise Community Health, and the neighborhood around school. **We pray that our students and these gifts provided encouragement and a reminder of God's great love for each person who received!**



Living GOD'S STORY

<< Some classes also made a video to share the Good News of salvation



through Jesus Christ. The video was shared on Facebook and has over 1600 views! If you would like to see the video, go to www.siouxcenterchristian.com and click on the "Share the Good News of Easter video" link on the News & Updates scroll.

LEGACY PLAN UPDATE

SCOTT HULSTEIN, PRESIDENT OF LEGACY PLAN TEAM

Our mission as one society of believers is to support the distinct, Christ-centered education of God's precious children, with a lifelong commitment of prayer, sharing of spiritual gifts, and financial support.

60% of our annual school budget is provided by parents' investment through tuition, plus NICSTO and TRIP contributions. The remaining 40% of the budget relies on the provision of our society of believers, which is called the Legacy Plan.

**The 2017-18 goal for the Legacy Plan is \$1,365,000, and we have received \$774,009 through March 31.
We are 66.67% of the way through the year, with the YTD goal of \$910,000.**

We are **so thankful for your faithful support** of Sioux Center Christian School through the Legacy Plan and **encourage your continued generous giving**, so that we may reach 100% of the goal to provide for SCCS by the end of July 2018.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Sensory Specialist: Duties include working with classroom teachers, our behavior specialist, and our occupational therapist to design effective sensory activities for students who benefit from regular sensory breaks. This person would also support teachers using sensory and activity breaks in the general education classroom. This is a full-time hourly position, working only during the school year.

Paraprofessional: Duties include supporting a student one-on-one, supporting students during unstructured times (like recess and lunch), and working with small groups. This position has the potential to be full- or part-time when school is in session, depending on a combination of candidate preference and current staff schedules.

TRIP Assistant: Duties include the daily operations of the TRIP Office, working in collaboration with the director of finance. This person would run the front window, interact with customers on a regular basis, and perform general data entry and record-keeping. This is an hourly, year-long position, and hours are 8:00-1:00 three days per week.

Applicants interested in any of the positions should send a completed Staff Application (including an updated resume) to Josh Bowar, head of school, jbowar@siouxcenterchristian.com. The application is available on the SCCS website at www.siouxcenterchristian.com/glance/employment.cfm (please use the Staff Application). A review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the positions are filled.

TUESDAY LADIES

Every Tuesday morning, a group of twelve ladies comes to school for a unique purpose...to help teachers prepare for classroom projects by cutting, taping, stapling, gluing, wrapping... and more cutting. During the week, teachers drop off various projects in their workroom, with instructions, knowing that the Tuesday Ladies will "take care of it".

"It is a way for us to encourage teachers and provide more time for them to give to their other classroom preparations."



The Tuesday Ladies workroom started after the Cash for Trash program ended over 20 years ago. Carol Koekkoek and Virginia Vermeer remember initiating the idea along with Thelma Broek, Lena Fedders, and Phyllis Kelly. Now the group has grown to twelve and they find that is a good number... just right for fitting around the tables with their projects, and just right for the amount of work they have waiting for them each week.

These volunteers are the precision engineers behind several famous things you may have seen your children and grandchildren come home with ... pilgrim vests, pop-up books, Arthur's glasses, spiders (consensus is that Charlotte the spider is not their favorite project :)), burlap squares for 2nd grade embroidery, and much, much more!

They experience joy in doing this "busy work", while talking, sharing, and laughing together. They find inspiration and encouragement from each other and fulfillment in serving teachers and students (plus several ladies are former teachers).



We thank you ladies for the quiet, behind-the-scenes way you serve our school, our teachers, our students, and our Lord!

Left to Right: Carol Koekkoek (20 years), Pat Eggebeen (2 years), Lee Rhoda (13 years), Vicki Hall (3 years, just "retired"), Lois Wielenga (2 years), Mary Bonnema (2 years), Mary Ploegstra (2 years), Kathy De Wit (10 years), Rose Koele (5 years), Terry Bruck (2 years), Virginia Vermeer (20 years), Mike Kooistra (new), and Jo Vander Werf (5 years)

CALENDAR NOTES

Sat, April 14: Trail'Raiser Night

Fri, April 20: Just Ask Josh, Noon - 1pm

Tues, April 24: Solo/Ensemble Contest for area 6th - 8th graders at SCCS. 4:30 - 8:30pm.

Thurs, April 26: PACE Business Meeting at 7pm

Fri, April 27: 11:15 dismissal. Professional Development

Thurs, May 10: 5th to 8th Grade Choral Concert at BJ Haan at 7pm

Fri, May 18: Spring Matinee Pops Concert at SCCS Gym. 6th - 8th grade band & orchestra. Time TBD.

Mon, May 21: Storyline Extravaganza. TK - 8th grade at BJ Haan at 7pm

Wed, May 23: 8th grade graduation at New Life Church at 7pm

Thurs, May 24: Last day of school! Dismissal at 11:15.

WE REMEMBER HAROLD VANDE KIEFT

Harold Vande Kieft, who faithfully drove bus for SCCS for 30 years, passed away on February 11, 2018. Harold will be remembered for his kind ways with students, and he was blessed with no accidents in all those years of driving in various conditions! He drove bus from 1983 to 2013 and Kathy reflects that Harold loved connecting with and getting to know the students (even if they were not perfectly behaved all the time!).

We at Sioux Center Christian extend our sympathy to Kathy, his wife of 58 years, and their children and grandchildren. Harold was a faithful servant of his Lord and King. We praise God for his life and the care and time he gave to safely deliver God's children to and from school for so many years!



IN MEMORY OF GOD'S FAITHFUL SERVANTS

With gratitude to God, we gratefully acknowledge the receipt of gifts to the SCCS Building Fund in memory of *Harold Vande Kieft* and gifts to Tuition Assistance in memory of *Helen Kobes*.

TRAIL'RAISER NIGHT

AMY VANDER BERG, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & PROMOTIONS

God's Story is **learned** and **lived** each day at Sioux Center Christian School. The 2015 building expansion project, which added 25,000 square feet of learning space is a wonderful blessing we praise God for daily! We are right at **\$1.2 million left to raise to clear the remaining debt**. Our goal is to have the expansion **paid off by early 2020**.

Our annual Trail'Raiser Night is a very important piece in our debt reduction plans and we invite you to come this Saturday, April 14! There is something for everyone at Trail'Raiser Night! Gourmet cupcakes, packages of subs (perfect for the busy spring season), Truth t-shirts, buy-it-now and silent auction tables, freewill supper plus an auction!

Plus...we are having a **Celebration of Learning Open House** ...everyone is welcome to tour the school and see how our students are learning and living God's Story each day!



Go to siouxcenterchristian.com and click on Trail'Raiser Night 2018 for all the details and to see the amazing Auction items!

EVENT SCHEDULE

3:00pm **DOORS OPEN**

Gourmet cupcakes, subs, Truth t-shirts, fold-up bags, silent auction, buy-it-now

3:30-5pm **CELEBRATION OF LEARNING OPEN HOUSE**

4:30-6:30pm **FREEWILL SUPPER**

6:30pm **LIVE AUCTION**

4pm-dark FREE inflatables for kids

6-9pm Trailblazer Treat concessions

AUCTION DONATION HIGHLIGHTS

(watch Facebook for more highlights this week)

- ⇒ 4 Champions Club tickets to Twins vs Royals game ... behind home plate with wide, high-back chairs, lounge area access, five-star dining & beverage service.
- ⇒ 7 night stay at beautiful Velas Vallarta Resort in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
- ⇒ Louisiana Pellet Grill Series 900 ⇒ Vikings PreSeason Tickets
- ⇒ Hot Air Balloon Ride ⇒ Guiding Fishing Excursion ⇒ Dinner Train Ride
- ⇒ So many more great items on the auction...be sure to go online to see it all!

Can't attend? You can still bid on items you want through PROXY BIDDING!

Send item(s) & max bid to Brent.Kooiman@gmail.com or text to 712-441-3701

STORIES FROM THE HALLWAYS

- The Iowa Reading Association has chosen **Mr. Bowar as Reading Administrator of the Year**. He was nominated by the Northwest Iowa Reading Council and selected at the state level. Josh will be honored at a banquet during the State Reading Conference in June.
- In order to continue to meet student needs and enhance learning, the **junior high teachers have been working to create flexible seating options for our 7th and 8th graders**. Supported by PACE special projects and a potential matching grant, the **teachers have worked with students to design the best possible learning spaces**. Students worked in groups to research best practices and furniture options, create scale models, and present their ideas to the teachers. We hope to have the furniture in place by the fall.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION

REBECCA DE SMITH, DISCOVERY TEACHER

This year, SCCS offered a new after-school enrichment program called Destination Imagination to seven 4th graders. **D.I. is an educational program that promotes creativity, problem solving skills, teamwork, STEM concepts, and 21st century skills**. The students were presented with a variety of open-ended challenges that required them to work together to create original solutions to problems *without help from adults*.

Our team of 4th graders chose to participate in the **Maze Craze Technical Challenge** at a regional tournament in New Ulm, MN, on March 17. They created a robotic Maze Traveler who navigated a maze while they acted out a story for the D.I. Appraisers.

These 4th graders did a fantastic job of representing SCCS at this tournament!

Team members include: Benjamin Ploegstra, Layne Vos, Jaida Barrow, William Breems, Aiden Heldt, Ethan Moline, and Karsten De Jong.



 Find us on Facebook