

Cougar Call...

October 2009

From the Principal's Desk...

It is hard to believe that we have already experienced a couple of snowfalls so early in the fall. As much as this may discourage us adults, it is interesting to see how the children respond. As for the younger students, particularly kindergarten through fifth grade, I am again awestruck as to their reaction to the first snow of the school year. They LOVE it! Even though it is only October, they still love it. Why? I suppose because of the enjoyment and renewed activities they are reunited with. Before I knew it they had me excited. I joined them for recess and we started to build a snow fort and practiced throwing snowballs at targets. Yes, it was cold and we were wet, but it's a new season and we were going to enjoy it! Now please do not misunderstand me, I'm hoping for an Indian summer like the rest of you. There is a lot of harvesting to do and fall activities to be enjoyed yet, but may the Lord bless each of us with the perspective of a child. As we read in Matthew 18:4 "So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven." As this school year moves on and we run into the unexpected, I pray that you and I will be humble like a child and trust God for what He has in store for us, even through the unanticipated changes of a season.

School Board News...

*The Fall Donation Sale with Baked Potato Supper will be held on Friday, November 6 at the school. The Baked Potato Supper will be served from 5 pm – 7:30 pm. The donation sale will begin at 7 pm. Please come out to support our school. We currently are very low

of funds and have recently taken out a loan. We need your support! Donations can be dropped off at school at anytime. Please mark this on your calendar and come to help out CCS!

*If you would like to see our weekly newsletter on-line, check out unitedchristianschools.com, click on Chandler Elementary and then choose newsletter.

*We want to thank those who have recently donated items to the school or have assisted with monetary gifts! Thank you from thinking of us.

Upcoming Events...

October 17: Rock River Pumpkin Festival at SWC

October 30: End of the first quarter

November 3: SWC Soup Supper

November 5: Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 6: Donation Sale and Supper at CCS

November 9: Selah and Avalon Concert at SWC

November 16: Music Festival at Worthington

November 25-27: Thanksgiving Break

December 14: CCS Christmas Program

First & Second Grade News...

Hello from the first and second grade class! We have been very busy these first two months of school. Our room is decorated with a zoo theme and sometimes it is very zoo like! We have spent a lot of time reviewing information from last year and now we are beginning to build on that. We have zipped through the Old Testament in Bible class, as well as some history of Bible times. Our next unit is the Christmas story. A little early for that, but the weather almost feels like it. In Math, we are working on adding and subtracting, using different strategies to work the problems, and of course the best is still to memorize the facts. We are practicing the facts and doing our time tests. Some are really flying through them. In Reading, we keep reading our stories and working on the skill lessons. We are trying to practice our fluency which can sometimes be hard, but we don't want to give up. In our room, you can also hear the students saying, shouting, and singing the sounds for the alphabet and the vowels. We can say the entire alphabet with all the sayings and 2 vowel sounds in one minute and sixteen seconds. That is pretty awesome! Now of course the highlight of school has been our field trips. We went to the apple orchard and End of the Line railroad park with the Kindergarten. That was fun. We also went to the zoo in Sioux Falls. That was really cool. The stuffed animals were amazing, but some of us were scared of them. We also have some who don't like spiders or snakes—not even behind the glass! As you can tell we keep plenty busy with our learning and having fun. Continue to pray for these young minds as we seek to teach them knowledge as well as how to live for Christ.

Fifth & Sixth Grade News...

We have gotten off to a great start this year. As some of you know, I'm now Mrs. Schaap instead of Ms. Huenink, I have even been called Mrs. Schmitke. ☺ It took the kids awhile to catch on, but they are

finally remembering to call me Mrs. Schaap. The 5th and 6th graders are working hard in all of their subjects. This year we have our returning students, Cassie Groen, Mariah Talsma, Heather Vander Woude for 6th grade, and Chantel Groen, Jeremy Vander Woude, and our new student, David Moss for 5th grade. This is a very conscientious group in which they stay on top of all of their work and are a very focused and driven.

In math, we have been working a lot of multiplications, rounding/estimating, multiplying with decimals, exponents, and different properties as well as subtracting and adding. For the majority of them, it is a refresher from what they have known before. In science, we have study about fossils, and oceans. We are currently working on a power point project on oceans individually. They were to select and research about the following oceans, Indian Ocean, Arctic Ocean, the North Atlantic Ocean, the South Atlantic Ocean, the North Pacific Ocean, and the South Pacific Ocean. They will be looking at countries that are found around the ocean, animals, landscape of the ocean, climates, and other fascinating facts.

We are also working on a personal narrative paper. The students are to write about a personal experience or memory that they feel comfortable sharing. In the writing, they are focusing on writing in the form of first person, which is "I" and "me". We are also trying to work on organizing our story as well as elaborating the details in the story to create a visual scene for the audience. The 5th and 6th graders switch at two different times during the day to Mrs. Schmitke's class where she teaches them History and Bible. The 7th and 8th graders switch to my class for math and science. I truly enjoy teaching math to all of my classes, it is one of my favorite subject to teach. I'm happy to say that they are doing very well in grasping the concepts as well as retaining it. Science is a bit of a challenge for the 7th and 8th graders. They began learning about the

earth's motion and the different theories that scientists had about it. The stars and the sun was another area in which we learn extensively about. The next chapter we will be studying are the planets that make up the solar system.

We hope and pray that you will all have a great fall season!

Notes from Grace...

Tuition Reduction Incentive Program (TRIP)

It was 12 years ago that our committee first heard of this great fundraising opportunity which is available to non-profit organizations. This program offers an option to families to help fund the cost of tuition at our local Christian schools. Our program has grown tremendously from its modest inception, thanks to the continued participation of the families involved. We constantly seek to make improvements and as the need grew, we have added retailers accordingly. If you do not currently participate in the program, we strongly urge you to consider doing so. An exciting option that has been added is the ability to order your certificates online. This way you do not have to drop off your order envelope and can place your order anytime, day or night. The deadline remains the same. All orders need to be received by 8:30 AM on Mondays. Your filled order can be picked up in the usual manner.

Remember, these gift cards make great presents for any holiday or occasion. Maybe you have friends or family that give gift cards for Christmas and would be willing to order them through you this year. Does your employer give gift cards? Ask them to order through you and they do not even have to travel to the store to pick them up. Certificates purchased through TRIP are a convenient option and you earn tuition credit at the same time.

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, we are mindful of the great blessing this program has been to our school and to the families it serves. Remember to thank the retailers involved in the program, particularly our local merchants. Without their participation, we would not be able to operate a successful program. Thank you to all the volunteers who pick up and deliver the certificates, especially those who faithfully pick up the Worthington orders. Thank you to all our supporters, friends, grandparents, and other family members, who assist families in earning part of their tuition through TRIP.

If you have any questions about the different aspects of TRIP, how TRIP and CEF work together, or any suggestions on how to improve our program, please contact a committee member.

Grace Talsma, TRIP Coordinator, Marcia Talsma, Geri Sankey, Kathy VanderLugt