



"The Sully Christian School, together with the Christian parents and Society, will provide a quality education that is based on the Word of God. We will equip our children, through God's grace, to be active members of God's Kingdom."

96
Years

From the Desk of Mrs. Hackert.....

I often share stories from my childhood with my students. Since retirement age is at my doorstep, some of my childhood stories can be difficult for the younger crowd to comprehend. For example, trying to explain how one lived in a home with no running water, no inside plumbing, and no television provides for some interesting questions from my students. Technology such as computers, cell phones, and all the rest were not part of my life down on the farm. Our students live in a tech world with wonderful benefits to their education, but also with hidden dangers via the Internet for children and young people.

Focus on the Family provides an option for additional peace of mind for parents to monitor Internet usage in the home. For a fee of approximately \$50.00 per year, parents can subscribe to a service which filters the availability of inappropriate websites and topics. If you are interested in more information, here is the website: [www.familyisafety](http://www.familyisafety.com) - scroll down to "besecure.com." This filter is already being used by some of our families with positive comments and results.

Included in the School Board Policy Manual and the Parent/Student Handbook is the addition of our adopted "Extra Curricular Activities Philosophy." Extra curricular activities are an important component of our school's Christ-centered education and serve as an extension of Sully Christian's commitment to develop Christian character in our students. These goals are listed below. I encourage you to read this information in its entirety in the Parent/Student Handbook if you have not already done so, and talk about these goals with your children.

- Begin each event with prayer
- Represent Christ in a public platform
- Appreciate arts, athletics, and academics
- Commit to excellence
- Display good sportsmanship
- Foster school spirit
- Encourage participation
- Develop leadership
- Develop self-discipline
- Develop teamwork
- Develop a respect for school property

These goals should also be the goals of parents and grandparents, teachers, staff members, and coaches. We have a responsibility to model Christian behavior, and working together, we can make a difference.

Letter from the Boards of SCS and Inspirations

Dear Society members,

On September 3, 2009, the boards of Sully Christian School and Inspirations Childcare and Preschool Center met to share ideas and goals for the school year. Both boards found it helpful to share a brief history and an explanation of what challenges and joys Inspirations has realized while growing within SCS.

Inspirations was formed as a non-profit, faith-based, pre-school/childcare center and was looking for a building to grow into. Supporters raised a large amount of money to get the organization started and felt the center would fit best at SCS. These supporters approached the Inspirations board to bring a proposal back to SCS. The SCS society passed this proposal and \$50,000 was raised to be divided equally; \$25,000 was raised to go to Inspirations to buy equipment, hire staff, and begin operation and \$25,000 was given to SCS for the renovation of 3 rooms and for additional energy and utility costs, etc. (sometimes this is referred to as 'rent', but SCS does not benefit financially; only their increased costs are covered) for the first two years. Additional funds would remain for SCS to return the building to its original layout if the new organization failed or moved out. In the original proposal to accommodate Inspirations, providing meals by SCS Food Service would potentially increase efficiency and benefit both organizations. Many volunteers and supporters came out to help with the remodeling and to cut costs. After a great deal of work, Inspirations was able to open in October 2007.

Inspirations has always appreciated the support of the SCS Board and the accommodations which the school has made since the original agreement. Inspirations has been given full use of the lower gym doors and has had parking designated for its clientele by those doors. SCS Food Service allows Inspirations to use the kitchenette at specified times for breakfast and snack preparation, non-school days, and summer food preparation. Carts are provided by the Food Service Committee to transport food and dishes to the rooms of the Center. A storage area has also been provided in the janitor's closet for the washer and dryer and in the attic for classroom materials. Following the first two years, the utility costs were assessed and Inspirations now pays a monthly amount to cover these costs so that SCS is not impacted.

A typical day in the Inspirations baby room incorporates stories, art, sensory, time outside, language development, singing of songs (including Bible songs) and reading Bible stories designed for babies. They accomplish this while catering to each individual child's schedule. There is also breakfast, snack, lunch, and afternoon snack provided, with prayer for the meals. The 2 and 3 year old room is very similar: story time, weather chart, music time (incorporating Bible songs), language building time, art, sensory, dramatic play, blocks, Bible story time, outside time, small motor skills, and potty training. Meals

include breakfast, snack, lunch, and afternoon snack. A monthly prayer is said at mealtime and is also sent home to parents through the newsletter for use at home (family meals, etc.). The afternoons include outside time, Bible story activity, homework help for school agers, along with the occasional food activity. In all three rooms of the Center, prayer at meal time is customary with Bible stories and songs randomly integrated into the activities of the day.

Recently Inspirations entered into an agreement to provide pre-school at no charge for 4 year olds through a state-funded grant. The grant money provided is funneled through public school districts (in our case Lynnville-Sully), and is dispersed to pre-school centers (Diamond Trail & Inspirations) to provide for curriculum, staff, and other costs (supplies, home visits, etc.). Pre-schools can choose from three state-approved curriculums. The curriculum Inspirations will use is called Creative Curriculum. It provides flexibility for the teacher and is academically excellent. However, the grant does not allow for any faith-oriented content. Therefore, Inspirations is extending its pre-school time by providing an additional segment at the end of the grant-sponsored pre-school time to share God's light with these little ones.

Evaluations by parents of the Center reflect a desire for faith to remain central, and that is the Board's goal. Inspirations will have to continue to be diligent, as we all will, to be certain that nothing adverse to our faith will ever be taught or even implied.

Since its beginning, Inspirations has been able to provide the highest quality childcare. It has exceeded many of the requirements and benchmarks for licensing and other levels of certification. Families have moved to this area, in part, because childcare of this caliber is offered here. Many families from Inspirations have had the opportunity to attend Food and Fun Night as well, providing support for SCS. The hope of serving the community in these and many ways has been realized.

Inspirations understands and agrees to uphold the mission statements and faith claims that Sully Christian School abides by today. Inspirations shares the base of Christian faith that defines SCS and it is important for it to reflect those values expressed in its mission. Although Inspirations is a separate organization from SCS, their goal is the same in how they treat and love the children entrusted to them. Inspirations truly desires to serve the entire community, not alienating anyone, but teaching with love by example.

Inspirations is thankful for this opportunity and for all of the support SCS has shown. They appreciate this opportunity to offer a glimpse of who they are and their history.

As SCS and Inspirations both move forward in service to the community and our Lord, we covet your prayers and support.

The boards of Sully Christian School & Inspirations

Welcome, New Teachers!



Mrs. Lyn Howerzyl is our new morning Kindergarten teacher this year. Last year she volunteered her time and it worked out very well so, this year she is on staff. She has worked hard to make the Kindergarten room into a fun and cheerful place to learn. Her four students spend the morning with her, having devotions, working on their Prayer Journals, Reading, Handwriting, Math, Art and Language. In the afternoons the Kindergarteners go to Mrs. Lewis' room to join the 1st and 2nd graders for Bible, Science, Social Studies and P.E.

Athletic Sharing

Earlier in the school year our School Board was approached by Peoria Christian in regards to possibly doing some athletic sharing in light of smaller classes that make it difficult to get enough players for some sports. Our board consulted with Mr. Roose, our athletic director, and decided that we would give it a try with volleyball. Stacey James is our volunteer volleyball coach and graciously agreed to the arrangement as well. Everyone involved has cooperated and it has initially worked out well.

Since SCS already has enough soccer players, we will not be combining soccer teams. No decision has been made yet regarding basketball.

Smiles for Education

Don't forget each time you're in a local Hy-Vee to stop and register a Sully Christian student in the "Smiles for Education" program. If the student's name is drawn they win a laptop computer and their school receives \$5,000 from Hy-Vee. Derrick Jansen's name was drawn last year and that was an awesome surprise!!



Mrs. Deb Merrill is our new Music teacher and is using her God-given talents to do a great job of getting the students excited about singing. Jr. High students report that they are learning some "awesome" songs! It's great to hear the singing from down in the Music Room every Tuesday and Friday.

Welcome, Mrs. Howerzyl and Mrs. Merrill! We're so blessed to have you both as part of our SCS teaching staff.

Calendar

September 22	Volleyball @ DMC 4:00
September 23	Bus Inspection 10:00 a.m. Bus Driver in-service 6:30 p.m.
September 28	Volleyball @ ICA 4:00
September 29	Volleyball @ Oskaloosa 4:00
September 30	1:30 Dismissal
October 1-2	Heartland Teachers' Convention
October 12	Soccer @ PC 4:15
October 13	Soccer vs. Oskaloosa (H) 4:00
October 20	Dutch Letter mixing day Soccer vs. Oskaloosa (H) 4:00
October 21	5th/6th Chapel
October 22	Soccer @ PC 4:15
October 23	1:30 Dismissal - 1 st Quarter ends Dutch Letter rolling day
October 24	Dutch Letter rolling day
October 26	Soccer @ Oskaloosa 4:00
October 27	Soccer vs. PC (H) 4:15

August Board Highlights

August 13, 2009

Education Committee

- Motion was approved to pursue the concept of athletic sharing with Peoria Christian School for the 2009-10 school year and to be reviewed yearly.
- Updates for the Parent/Student Handbook and the Staff Handbook were approved.

Fundraising Committee

- Reported that the golf outing on August 1 went very well.

Technology Committee

- Committee is looking at security options and guidelines for the SCS website.

Hot Lunch Committee

- Discussion on offering an updated contract to Inspirations.

Administrator's Report

- The enrollment this year is 55 students, representing 32 families.
- Teacher workdays are scheduled for 8-17 and 8-18.
- Mrs. Hackert and Mrs. De Nooy continue to prepare for the upcoming state site visit in November.

Prayer Warrior's Corner

1. Prayers of thanks for our wonderful staff at Sully Christian.
2. Prayers of thanks for the dedication of every family represented at Sully Christian School.
3. Prayers of thanks for our School Board and their diligence in seeking God's will for our school.
4. Prayers for the grace to handle problems we encounter as staff, parents, students and board members in a loving and Christ-like manner.
5. Prayers of praise for the amazing weather we have had so far this school year.



September Board Highlights

September 10, 2009

Education Committee

- Motion to update several board policies was approved.
- Discussed how the new extracurricular policy is being implemented and changes that need to be addressed.
- Motion to adopt an updated anti-bullying policy to replace the current one.

Building and Grounds Committee

- Roof update: all is going well and we're ready for the last stage of repairs.

Finance Committee

- Discussion on reimbursing teachers for items purchased for their classrooms.
- Discussed ideas for helping families catch up on back tuition.

Fundraising Committee

- Decision was made to continue holding a golf outing each year.
- The Hostess Supper will tentatively be held in mid-winter.
- Curt Vos will replace Brenda Van Kooten as the board representative on this committee since he is already a committee member.

Promotions Committee

- Discussion on the benefit of reaching new families before their children are school age. Committee was challenged to come up with ideas, suggestions, etc.

Foundation

- Craig Zylstra's term on the committee has ended so Stan Laverman will be taking over as the treasurer.

Hot Lunch

- Motion to add items to the Head Cook job description to include duties relating to Inspirations Childcare.

New Theme for 2009-10

Our new theme for this school year is "Our Amazing Race." Our theme scripture verses are taken from Hebrews 12:1,2a: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..."