



"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.....

After months of preparation, our Site Visit on November 17 and 18 was completed as scheduled. The report of findings from this Comprehensive School Improvement Visit has been received and is based upon interviews conducted with school administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, students, community partners, advisory committee members, and board members, as well as a review of documents. The Site Visit team noted strengths of Sully Christian School as well as recommendations for improvements. We were blessed with Christian team members who were impressed with our Christian commitment and who understood our challenges. We are so thankful for God's faithfulness throughout this entire process. Below is a brief summary of the report.

Noted Strengths:

1. Certified school staff, support staff, board members, and administrators interviewed expressed a commitment to the school's vision, mission, and goals of meeting the needs of the whole child and supporting Christian values and maintaining a Biblical worldview.
2. The school values and encourages shared leadership among parents, staff, board, and society members.
3. There are numerous opportunities for collaborative relationships between and among the community, the Society, the board, teachers, support staff, students, and parents.
4. Parents and students felt they have opportunities for input and help guide decisions made in the school.
5. Standards, benchmarks, and curriculum maps have been developed for horizontal and vertical alignment of the curriculum. Daily instruction and curriculum is imbedded with Christian values that mirror the desires of all stakeholders.
6. The staff meets to have regular collaborative conversations about teaching and learning. The staff interviewed described their staff meetings as a place to exchange ideas on instruction and learn what is working in specific areas.
7. Students at Sully Christian School shared their perception that they are held to high standards and expectations. Trend line data from 2006-2009 indicate performance on the ITBS in grades 3 - 8 exceeds the state and AEA averages of percent proficiency in the areas of reading, mathematics, and science.

Recommendations for Improvement:

1. Stakeholders are encouraged to use goals as a focus for all future planning.
2. The school is encouraged to define, collect data, and analyze the effectiveness of the leadership structure and the roles and responsibilities of various leadership structures operating in the school.
3. The school is encouraged to expand the School Improvement Advisory Committee's role by providing opportunity for more active input into the goal setting process.
5. Teachers are challenged to explore concepts included in Differentiated Instruction – responsive instruction with a goal of maximizing the potential of each learner in a given area.

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5th & 6th Grade Sensational Science



The 5th graders enjoy working on experiments in the science lab, aka the Jr. High math room.

On a Tuesday morning from 8:45 until 10:00, you will most likely find the 5th and 6th graders in our science lab involved with hands-on activities and experiments. It's great to reinforce our learning of science facts and terminology by asking questions, forming hypotheses, and conducting actual experiments. These are some of our experiments so far this year:

- volcanoes (we did these outside!)
- funny putty (fun to bounce)
- Little Miss Muffet's glue (whey is NOT yummy!)
- butter (we ate this one on crackers)
- bouncing raisins (bursting bubbles!)
- Great Balls of Goop (a messy one!)
- ecosystems (these were so cool!)
- crystal formation (awesome!)
- jet engine explosion (very popular!)

We will soon experiment with Oobleck! (Mrs. Hackert says this one is REALLY messy), but we don't mind at all! **God's science is spectacular!**

5th & 6th grade responses to this question: "What has been your favorite experiment?"

"I liked when we had a jet engine explosion and the volcano."
- Connor Dunsbergen

"I liked it when we made our jet engine explosion and made funny putty."
- Derrick Jansen

"I liked our jet engine explosion. It was fun because it was a very hot fire."
- Caleb Roose

"I liked making our own funny putty and the jet engine explosion."
- Natalie Vos

"I liked the one with the crystals and also the jet engine."
- Shannon Dunsbergen

"It was sweet when Mrs. Hackert took a milk jug, put rubbing alcohol in it, and lit it on fire."
- Kyle Van Kooten

"I loved the jet engine explosion and how we made funny putty."
- Cheyenne Nikkel

"It was really cool when we did the jet engine explosion and the funny putty we made."
- Bryson Barnett

"My favorite science experiment was when we made the funny putty, and we made butter to eat with crackers. My most favorite was the rocket engine explosion."
- Joshua Fopma

"My favorite science experiments were when we blew up the jet engine, and I liked it when we made the crystals because it was really cool."
- Graham Howerzyl

"It was really cool when we had the jet engine explosion"
- Ashten Van Dyke

The students evidently liked the jet engine explosion! Our God reveals His creation in so many ways, and science class is definitely one of those ways!

- Mrs. Hackert

Site Visit Summary, cont. from page 1

Areas of Non-Compliance:

1. Staff professional development must be directly linked to the school's goals, vision, and mission, and reflect staff and student needs.
2. Due to changing laws concerning middle school endorsements, Mr. Roose's teaching license is no longer valid for teaching certain subjects.
3. School Improvement Advisory Committee must be restructured.

FUNDRAISING FOCUS

FOOD & FUN NIGHT

Committees are hard at work making preparations for a fun-filled evening - Saturday, March 6 is the date! It takes many people and lots of donations to make this a successful event. Please see the requests below and consider helping out in any way you can. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact one of the Steering Committee members - Randy & Jodi De Vries (625-4243) or Al & Karen Frischmeyer (236-5824).

Food Committee: A list will be coming home soon with students of what each family will be asked to donate for food, but in addition to that, we are needing additional donations of food or money toward the purchase of the following items: Pies (36), Cakes for the Cake Walk (11), Hamburger (105 lbs). If you can help out with any of these items, please contact Sue Pastoor (594-4178) or Brenda Van Kooten (527-2961).

Games Committee: Workers are needed! Each parent will be asked to work at one of the games, but more are needed! We are also looking for sponsors for the games. This money will be used to help purchase prizes for the games. If you would be willing to sponsor a game or can help out at one of the games, please contact Paula Nikkel (798-4515).

Auction Committee: Do you have any ideas for items that you would like to see on the Auction? The Auction Committee is looking for ideas and suggestions of items to be on the Silent Auction. If you are willing to donate money toward the purchase of an item or if you have an item that you are willing to donate to the Auction, please contact Candice Vos (798-4664).

HOSTESS SUPPER

Thank you to everyone who joined us for a wonderful evening of food and entertainment at the Hostess Supper! As always, the generosity of our Sully Christian family was overwhelming and we praise God for His provision. Thank you to each and every one!

Licensure Update

As we shared in last month's newsletter, we had one area of teacher licensure noncompliance cited in our state site visit. Mr. Roose, who has been at SCS for 18 years, is licensed in the area of secondary social studies and has an athletic director endorsement. Due to changed laws on middle school endorsements needed, that licensure is no longer valid to cover all areas that he has been teaching. These new requirements mean that Mr. Roose must enroll in classes requiring a huge time commitment on his part to receive the necessary training and licensure for elementary/middle school. This has been an item of much prayer for all of us as well as the focus of much action this past month on the part of Mr. Roose, our administrative team and the Education Committee of our School Board.

We praise God that January 19 brought some better news! The Department of Education has issued Mr. Roose a Class B conditional license. This license means that he meets state accreditation as a fully certified teacher at Sully Christian for the remainder of this school year and for the next school year, 2010-2011. This conditional license will expire on June 30, 2011, but this extension gives him a little more time to get a plan put together should he decide to pursue the extra classes he will need to take to remain licensed for what he is currently teaching. Please continue to be in prayer for Mr. Roose as he makes decisions regarding continuing his education as well as the changes and challenges that his going back to school would present for him and his family.

Calendar

February 2	Basketball @ Peoria 4:00 p.m.
February 3	All About Kindergarten 6:30 p.m.
February 8	Education Committee meets
February 11	School Board meets
February 24	2:30 dismissal -P/T Conf. evening
February 25	Parent/Teacher Conf. evening
February 26	No School
March 5	No School - teacher in-service
March 6	Food & Fun Night
March 9	Local Fine Arts Night at SCS
March 12	1:30 dismissal - end of 3rd quarter
March 15-19	Spring Break
March 26	District V Fine Arts at SCS

School Board Minutes

December 10, 2009

Education Committee

- Dave Te Grotenhuis, the area Christian schools' curriculum director, has been asked to come and assess our technology situation.
- Reported on the initial findings of the state site visit

Fundraising Report

- The total amount raised so far this year is \$20,717.24.

Promotion Committee

- Will be sending out surveys to parents soon to ask for input on finding prospective parents, ideas, suggestions, etc.

Administrator's Report

- Pastor Appreciation Day went well.
- The first District V Fine Arts meeting is scheduled for 12-10-09.
- Discussion on the staff cell phone policy

Other Items

- It was noted that the Christmas program went very well.
- Motion made and carried to make up a snow day on January 4.

Box Top\$ for Education

Thank you to all who continue to faithfully collect the Box Tops for Education coupons from the many grocery brands that participate. If you don't currently do so, please consider helping us out in this way. We send in coupons every February and October and SCS receives 10 cents for every coupon submitted! Please be sure to place all the coupons you currently have on hand in either the Box Tops box in the church kitchen or the box in the foyer at SCS by this week Wednesday. The next submission date won't be till October 1. Thank you and keep collecting!

(Just a reminder that we no longer collect Campbell's Soup labels or Betty Crocker coupons.)

SCS Wishlist

Some ideas for those who may wish to gift our school in specific ways:

1. \$ to purchase chair/desk slippers for Mrs. Lewis' classroom - cost: approx. \$30
2. Music folders for choir - approx. \$5-\$10 each
3. 1st and 2nd grade level chapter books for Mrs. Lewis' classroom library

School Board Minutes

January 14, 2010

Education Committee

- Dave Te Grotenhuis' report has been distributed to the Technology Committee for review
- Administrative team is working on the necessary requirements for Mr. Roose to be able to finish the year teaching his current classes

Administrator's Report

- The attic storage area needs to be reorganized for more teacher storage.
- Judy Vos plans to attend the 1-13-10 staff meeting to help work on a staff development plan.
- The Promotions Committee and staff are working on an informal kindergarten night to be held sometime soon.
- The local Fine Arts night will be held on March 9. Preparations have begun.
- Discussed possible make-up days
- Pastor Phil and Joyce Kok are volunteering in the library on Wednesday afternoons
- Sent out surveys to current kindergarten parents for input - only one returned so far.
- Judson V. reported on the Iowa Core Curriculum meeting he attended.
- Classrooms are warmer this winter and we thank Denny Vos for helping us with this issue
- DIBELS tests will be given the week of January 18.

Fundraising Committee

\$22,391.00 has been raised so far this school year.

Promotions Committee

Cindy L. reported on a meeting of sister schools' Promotions Committees where they talked about ways we can work together.

Prayer Warrior's Corner

1. Pray for the people of Haiti and all the rescue efforts under way there.
2. Pray for Mr. Roose as he makes decisions for his future.
3. Pray for the District V Fine Arts Committee in the planning that lies ahead of them.

