

ACS BOARD NEWSLETTER

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Looking Forward

**Mr. Dewey Engelsma
Chairman, Education Committee**

In an article written for the Association of Christian Schools International, John Schimmer Jr. describes the characteristics of a school board that enables that board to be effective.

Schimmer writes that the board must not become bogged down in administrative minutiae, rather it must hire the right people that allow it to focus on providing “visionary leadership.” By the grace of God, ACS has an administrator that sees ably to the daily running of the school and teachers that are devoted, hard-working, and serious about their calling as instructors in the Christian school. This allows the Education Committee, and the board as a whole, to “guard the school’s mission, values, and beliefs” and not “focus on solving problems and rehashing past actions and decisions”.

I thought it might be helpful to lay out for our constituency—on whose behalf we serve—some of the items that the Education Committee has been working on this year.

The board president instructed each committee to examine a document, Statement on Gender, Marriage, and Sexuality, and come with recommendations and thoughts on how that statement would affect their committee. The purpose of this document is to protect us, as best as we are able, against the assault of the world on the biblical understanding of sexuality, gender, and marriage as it relates to our policies at school. The committee discussed this document over three months and came with several changes which we then recommended to the board. The board will take all the suggested changes and have it reviewed by legal counsel. All of this is done while remaining firmly conscious of the reality that our protection ultimately comes from the Lord (Ps. 32:7).

Our committee continues to work on our IDEA (Identify-Develop-Expand-Act) program. This program is for those students who are academically talented and require a higher level of instruction in various subjects.

We are once again implementing the Protectors curriculum into the life of the school. This program is designed to educate and instruct our children as it relates to the sin of bullying. The program seeks to instill in our children the confidence and knowledge they need to stand up for and defend a child who is being bullied. Two of our teachers were willing to adapt the material so that it fits better into the life of the school, and fits into the current school policies, for example, changing the scripture references to the King James Version.

One of our office secretaries, Linda Zandstra, has recently been placed, by the God that loves her eternally, in the way of sickness and trial. Because of her illness and treatments, she will not be able to serve in her role as secretary this school year. To fill this void for the remainder of the school year, the board—on the advice of the

Education Committee—approached Tressa Lubbers and asked her to serve alongside Judy Key for the rest of the year. She agreed to this, and this arrangement, we’re thankful to report, is going very well. We express our gratitude to Tressa and our love for Linda and the sincere desire that she experiences a full recovery and can one day return to her previous position. Psalm 55:22, “Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved”.

The committee meets, plans, deliberates, discusses, but most importantly prays that God would continue to lead us, and our school, in the way of wisdom. We desire to look forward not just to next year, but to the next five or ten years (and beyond). We are thankful that God is pleased to use weak means to accomplish his purpose.

Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee. ~ Jeremiah 10:7

From the Finance Committee

**Mr. Tyler Pipe
Chairman, Finance Committee**

Greetings from the Finance Committee... Jason Elzinga (year 1), Ron Schipper (year 3), Ed Ophoff, Jr. (year 1) and myself (year 2).

Our committee oversees the financial matters of Adams Christian School. Our two main responsibilities are oversight of tuition payments and of the annual support drive. These two items make up approximately 91% of our revenue stream.

Tuition receipts are 72% of our overall revenue! We depend on this steady stream to pay all the various line items on our budget. For this reason, families are reminded that it is extremely important that they keep their tuition accounts current. Our committee meets the first Monday of each month, so please have your tuition payments in prior to that. If you are having trouble paying tuition, we ask that you communicate this to the Finance Committee.

The support drive is approximately 19% of our revenue. Our goal for this year’s drive is \$275,000. We conduct this drive via mail in the spring and in the fall. The Spring Drive has brought in pledges of nearly \$150,000! To the many who have given so far, we thank you. If you have pledged but have not yet made your donation, please remember to fulfill your commitment.

As I write this letter, we are kicking off the fall deficit drive with the goal of collecting the remaining \$125,000. Please prayerfully consider contributing to help us achieve this goal. This is a wonderful opportunity for grandparents and friends of Adams Christian School to show their financial support for the work that is done here. II Corinthians 9:6, “He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully”.

We give thanks to God for the many supporters of Adams Christian School. We ask for your continued prayers and financial support throughout the school year ahead.

Athletics at Adams

Mr. Jon Mingerink
Athletic Director

Another year of Adams Christian Athletics is under way! The 7th and 8th grade girls' volleyball season is finished, and the 7th/8th grade boys' soccer season has wrapped up as well. A big thank you to our coaches; Emily Looyenga for coaching the 7th girls' volleyball, Brianna Langerak for coaching the 8th girls' volleyball, and Trevor Huisken for coaching the 7th/8th boys' soccer team. The growth from the first game to the last was tremendous for all the teams. Well done!

As those seasons have come to a close, we quickly transition into the boys' basketball season. Adams Athletics is in **urgent** need of a 7th grade boys' basketball coach. Practice has already begun for the 8th grade team. Please consider this fantastic opening to work with the kids. It's a great opportunity for growth for yourself and the kids!

If you pop into the gym, you will notice that new wall mats with the Adams logo can be found underneath the basketball hoops. A big Thank You to last year's 8th grade class for this gift. Also, in the locker rooms are white boards with the Adams logo. These were given as a class gift from the '16/'17 8th grade. They turned out fantastic! New reversible basketball jerseys were purchased for the girls last year and new baseball jerseys will be coming this year. Thank you all for your continued support of Adams Christian Athletics...and Go Knights!

Boosters Club Update

Mr. Brent Kuiper
President, Boosters Club

As we begin another year of school, we cannot help but be thankful for all that the Lord has blessed us with at Adams Christian School. Much time and money are spent, year after year, to keep our school a wonderful place to have our children instructed in a GOD-centered environment. We are very thankful for all of those who participate in this cause, and we as Boosters of Adams strive to do our part as well.

As the season begins to change, we are reminded once again that it is auction time at Adams. We look forward to seeing everyone on Nov. 9. The Boosters appreciate the great support we receive year after year in this great way to support Adams Christian school and its Athletic Department.

The Boosters were once again busy throughout the summer. We held our yearly father-daughter canoe trip. We had a great turnout and once again had wonderful weather. We hope everyone had a great time and we hope to see everyone next summer. We also helped on improving our ball diamond and other activities around school.

The Boosters club is always looking for new and different ways to get our fathers involved in the school. If you have any ideas or activities you would like us to pursue, please feel free to join us at any upcoming meeting and become a member. It is always great to see new men that seek to support our school.

ACS Foundation News

Mr. Christian Flikkema
Chairman, ACS Foundation

The purpose of Adams Christian School Foundation (ACSF) is to accumulate a special endowment fund from which earnings are used to reduce the cost of the education at Adams Christian School. In addition to cash, the Foundation can accept other types of gifts. These noncash gifts include stocks, bonds, mutual funds, land, buildings, personal property, and virtually any other thing of value. Gifts maybe deferred (that is, promised but delivered at some future date) and may be given directly or through special vehicles such as wills, trusts, life insurance policies, annuities, etc.

By God's hand the ACSF was able to meet our commitment to the operation of the 2018-2019 school year of \$15,000 with proceeds from yet another successful golf outing which earned \$25,000. On behalf of the board and the school we would like to thank all the teams and sponsors for their generosity that made the 29th Annual ACSF golf outing at Egypt Valley Country Club a success; we wouldn't be able to do it without you and look forward to the 30th Annual!

Providing Christian education for God's covenant children is not simply a parental privilege but a divine mandate. God has given this responsibility not only to the parents of school-age children but to the Church at large. The ACSF encourages everyone to consider the foundation when planning their estate distribution. If you have any questions on estate planning or giving please contact any foundation member, Tim VanTil (secretary), Marc Velthouse (Vice-all), Brent Kuiper, Justin Kamps, Joe Kuiper (treasurer), and Christian Flikkema (president).

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. ~ II Corinthians 9:7

The Home Stretch

Mr. Matt Velthouse
Chairman, Capital Campaign Committee

The Capital Campaign committee thanks all of the school's many supporters for their generosity in giving to this cause. We have 8 months to go, and we ask for your continued consideration to this cause.

As of this writing, we have collected \$492,042 in gifts and pledges of the \$750,000 goal. That leaves us with \$257,958 to go by our goal of July 1. This drive is slated to fund our recently approved building expansion, which includes additional classrooms and bathrooms. We are aware that year-end tax planning is underway. Have you considered this drive in that planning? Our goal is ambitious; we are attempting to fund this expansion without taking on any bank debt. If we can accomplish that, our facility is expected to accommodate enrollment growth for the next 20 years. Hitting this goal allows current and future generations to operate the school without this burden. The goal is in sight, and it is attainable.

Thank you again for your support. Please contact me at matthew.velthouse@gmail.com or 616-826-8356 with any questions you may have.