



Lansing Christian School



Winter 2012

LANSING CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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I absolutely love it when a family visits Lansing Christian School for a tour and before we start our walk through the halls, they turn to me with a somewhat puzzled expression and say, "It's so quiet, is there school today?" or "Where are your students?" I smile and reply, "Why, they're in the classrooms learning, of course!"

No matter how many times I have been asked those questions, I am still amazed, yet delighted whenever I hear them.

Recently, a mom came to the school for a tour. A few days later, I received an unexpected letter from her. In it, she wrote "It felt so good to see children really happy and learning. It also felt good to see the staff showing that they care about students. In all my 31 years of being a mother, this is the first school that I felt totally at peace."

You see, it's not about the brick and mortar of the building, it's the "realness" you feel the moment you walk through our doors: the ladies in our front office who make you feel welcome; the principal who greets you (even in the midst of taking a bite of his sandwich during lunch); the teachers who care about the students and are passionate about the subjects they teach; the students who are eager to learn; the parents who volunteer their time. (By the way, as of the beginning of 2nd semester, the mom above who sent the letter is now a Lansing Christian School mom!)

If you have never visited Lansing Christian School, you should! Allow me to take you through our halls and share some of our rich history. Let me show you the beautiful artwork done by our students that line the walls. Step into a classroom. Hear and see for yourself who we are. I guarantee that you will be pleased.

And, who knows, you may find yourself asking, "It's so quiet, is there school today?" or "Where are your students?" And, I will smile and reply, "Why, they're in the classrooms learning, of course!"

Cathye Richardson, Development Director

"Put on the Full Armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."
Ephesians 6:11



A Glimpse At Next Year

8/27 – Parent Night Open House
 8/29 – School Begins (½ Day)
 9/3 – Labor Day (No School)
 9/28 – Fall Festival (½ Day)
 10/1-5 – ITBS Test Week
 10/17 – Noon dismissal for CEA
 (½ Day)
 10/18-19 – CEA Conferences (No
 School)
 11/2 - End of 1st Quarter (½ Day)
 11/9 – Report Cards Distributed
 Nov. 14-15 – Parent-Teacher
 Conferences
 11/16 – No School
 11/21 – Noon dismissal –
 Thanksgiving (½ Day)
 11/22-23 – Thanksgiving Break
 12/24 – 1/4 – Christmas Break
 1/18 – End of 2nd Quarter
 1/21 – MLK Day (No School)
 1/25 – Report Cards Distributed
 1/31 – Mid-Year Conferences
 2/2 – Science Fair
 2/15 – In-Service Day (No School)
 2/18 – Presidents’ Day (No
 School)
 3/22 – End of 3rd Quarter (½ Day)
 3/28 – Report Cards Distributed
 3/29 – Good Friday (No School)
 4/1-5 – Spring Break
 4/22-26 – Chr. Ed. Week
 4/26 – Grandparents’ Day
 5/27 – Memorial Day (No School)
 6/6 - Graduation (½ day)
 6/7 – In-Service Day (No School)



Principal’s Message: How’s Your Heart? Your Spiritual Heart.

In a recent periodical it said heart disease is responsible for 40% of all deaths, more than all forms of cancer combined. The article said that many forms of heart disease are preventable if people would only make four simple lifestyle changes, namely: exercise, avoid smoking, healthy diet, and control stress. As Christians we understand the responsibility to take care of our bodies and we take action to maintain good health and prevent heart disease and that’s important.

More importantly, however, we should be concerned about our spiritual heart - our relationship with God. And our spiritual hearts can be strengthened and developed in much the same way as doctors suggest we can strengthen our physical hearts.

First, we need to exercise regularly. Regular spiritual exercise means praying and meditating on God’s Word and His promises. It means sharing your faith and talking with others about spiritual things. Just like muscles atrophy when they are not used, so, too, our spiritual hearts become withered when our communication with God is weak.

Secondly, we have to avoid habits and practices in our lives that lead us away from God and are in opposition to His will for our lives. Temptations abound. The Devil seems to constantly tempt us to do what we know we should not do. The world’s values

and morals are alluring and can entice us to forget how we should live. Just as smoking weakens the heart so yielding to temptation leads to a diseased spiritual heart.

Third, we need a diet of healthy spiritual food to maintain our strength and protect our heart. Having a daily time of personal devotions is important. When it comes to physical health, it’s recommended that we eat five daily servings of foods like fruits and vegetables or broiled or baked dishes and that we skip the French fries and put down the salt shaker. For our spiritual health we need daily servings of God’s Word. Put down the “junk food” found in much of today’s entertainment on television, internet, chat rooms, depraved books, magazines, or movies. Just as an unhealthy diet leads to severe health problems, a spiritual heart is weakened without regular nourishment of spiritual food.

Finally, we need to learn to be content and to trust that God is in control. We need to have life priorities straight and maintain a work-family-life balance. We need to keep things in perspective and always remember to “cast all your anxiety on Him...” (I Peter 5:7).

So...how’s your heart? And what are you doing to keep it strong and healthy? The Bible reminds us of the importance of a healthy (spiritual) heart when it says in Proverbs 4:23, “Above all else, guard your heart...”.

Parent Survey Summary

In an effort to hear the thoughts and needs of our families, the school board of Lansing Christian conducted an online survey last year. As a board, we felt it necessary to get a feel for what parents see as our strengths and needs for improvement as we move forward. Throughout the survey parents expressed many positive feelings about the Christian education their children are receiving. “Teachers are committed to seeing children grow academically and spiritually”, “well rounded programs with the Bible at the core”, “Lansing Christian has exceeded our expectations”, and “LCS has been blessed with great teachers who follow the example of Jesus” were just some of the many examples parents see as foundational to the school.

Parents identified other areas of strength. Several parents commented on how the school is worth every penny spent and they appreciate how the school continues to be fiscally responsible. Others indicated that LCS feels “like home” and they are thankful for the supportive families and Christian love that is expressed within the school. Some stressed that LCS is the best school and the increasing diversity is wonderful. Parents continue to feel welcome in the school, indicated they feel free to visit, see opportunities for involvement, and are comfortable when they talk with teachers. All in all, many positives were stated by a high percentage of those who responded.

In addition to the many positives, parents also expressed concerns in three specific areas. First, continued growth in technology was the greatest concern. Parents want continued improvement in both the technology used in the classroom and the use of it by teachers. Additional in-service for teachers was mentioned as a way for teachers to remain current in technology and the curriculum should be fun for kids to learn. The general consensus seemed to be that all the teachers were very competent in their teaching, but some were doing a better job than others in making technology a useful tool within the classroom.

The second issue where parents indicated a need for improvement is in the area of communication between teachers and parents. “Lack of communication is a problem and must be improved” was one of the comments. Busy parents also expressed a need for teachers to communicate through the use of email or text messaging. Although several teachers are already using email to stay in touch with parents, the school board continues to see the importance for using electronic media for communication between home and school.

The third issue mentioned by parents involves the continued need for review and updates in curriculum and textbooks, the continuing enhancement of our foreign language program, and the possibility of programs for advanced students.

Thank you to the parents who participated in the survey. The board and staff appreciate your feedback and both board and staff are committed to maintaining our strengths while also seeking to improve in our areas of weakness to provide the best Christ-centered education for our children.

Explore Test

Before entering high school the LCS eighth grade students take the Explore Test. This test is similar to the ACT test and helps determine a student’s strengths and weaknesses as they enter high school. It is also a measure of how well the students have been prepared for high school in the areas of English, Math, Reading, and Science. Of course, most of our graduates go on to Illiana Christian High School so to be sure our students are fully prepared and will be successful; we compare our scores to the scores at Illiana. When we do that, the most recent results show: English – National Average 14.9, Illiana 17.5, LCS 17.2, Math – National Average 15.7, Illiana 17.1, LCS 17.3; Reading – National Average 14.6, Illiana 17.1, LCS 16.9; Science – National Average 16.4, Illiana 18.7, LCS 19.2; Composite – National Average 15.5, Illiana 17.7, LCS 17.8. As you can see our students compare very favorably. That’s good news for our board, staff, society, and especially our students as they leave our hallways for high school knowing they have been well prepared and should be able to reach the goals they set for themselves.

Thank You, Mr. Schenkel

Preschoolers

God certainly has made a wonderful, big world, full of variety in its shapes and sizes, textures and temperatures, people and animals, things that we can see and even things we cannot see. The preschool class discovers a little bit more every day about God's world and their place in it. Lately, the preschoolers learned about the deep, deep ocean. What did God make to live there? The boys and girls have looked in books and heard stories about the ocean, they made a mural for their hallway that fairly closely resembles an ocean. They can tell you that seahorses, whales, dolphins, jellyfish, turtles, sharks, octopus, all colors and sizes of fish, and seaweed all live and grow in the ocean. The preschool children were reminded again that there is no one like God, who creates and cares for His creation. Even more, He loves His own people, big and small. In Jesus Christ, His children have new hearts; hearts that love Him and want to live for Him, and that are thankful for the beautiful world He has made. The boys and girls are excited to explore more of God's world in the months ahead.



Mr. Henry Schenkel announced his retirement as our school janitor right after the Christmas break. Mr. Schenkel has a long history of working with Lansing Christian in a wide variety of areas. Early in his career Henry was hired as a fourth grade teacher and assistant principal. His work included not only teaching in the classroom part-time, but his administrative duties also included serving as bus coordinator, coaching, working with curriculum, and inventorying and ordering certain cleaning and school supplies. After ten years in education, Henry left the school to pursue other vocations, but returned as our school's head janitor for the 1992-93 school year and has served in that capacity since then. When added all together, Mr. Schenkel has served our school in various capacities for nearly 30 years! In addition to working for the school, Henry and his wife Ann (who also served as a teacher at LCS for 9 ½ years) were the parents of three children who all graduated from Lansing Christian. We want to express our thanks to Mr. Schenkel for his many years of service to our school and wish him God's blessing as he retires from his work here and enters a new phase in his life. Thank you, Mr. Schenkel!



PreK and Kindergarten Pre-Enrollment

Preparing for next school year is already being done. The school calendar has been set, a budget is being developed, staffing needs are being assessed, and other plans are in the early stages of discussion. It's important at this time to get an idea of how many families are planning to enroll students in either the Pre-K or kindergarten programs at LCS.

If you, or someone you know, plans to enroll a child in the Pre-K or kindergarten program at Lansing Christian for the 2012-13 school year, or if you have a child going into first grade who did not attend LCS as a kindergarten student, please call the school office (474-1700) so a packet of information can be sent to the home and both the school and home can begin to make plans. To be eligible for Pre-K a child must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2012, for kindergarten the rule is 5 years old on or before September 1, 2012, and for first grade 6 years old on or before September 1, 2012.

Love Gift Project

Heidelberg Question and Answer 93 – Love God and love your neighbor as yourself.

What do a cow, a water filter, a bike, a tent, a pencil, an outhouse, and a chicken have in common? No, they don't all want to cross their road. They are items CRWRC (Christian Reformed World Relief Committee) recommends as gifts to the poor and needy of the world. Nations such as Haiti, Honduras, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kenya, and Uganda are being ministered to by CRWRC through the gifts and support of many Christians around the world. LCS is using one of its two yearly service projects to support this effort.

Each LCS homeroom or grade level is collecting monies for an item or two which the students themselves choose. For example, the 8th grade is collecting for chickens and water filters. Some classes may collect for school supplies, while others may give toward larger gifts such as cows or bicycles. Our gifts will be presented to the Lord at our February 16th Chapel.

Our chapel theme this year has been comfort. Question and Answer 92 – 115 speak of the comfort we have through knowing and living out the Law of God. Q/A 93 summarizes the Law by pointing us to our relationship with God and our neighbor – Love God first and Neighbor as self. Jesus said that what we do for the least in the world we do for Him. Our desire at LCS is to train and encourage our children to demonstrate love for God through our love, giving and sharing, for those in need. May a cow or water filter given in Christ's name someday point someone to the God of all comfort.



Pancake Breakfast

Each year the 8th grade class has a couple events to raise some money to help defray their graduation costs. One event each spring is a school-wide roller-skating party and the other is their annual pancake breakfast. This year the pancake breakfast is set for Saturday, March 17. For a free-will donation you can join the fun and all-you-can-eat pancakes. Pancakes are served from 7:00 – 11:00 a.m. Mark your calendars today so you won't miss being part of this delicious start to your Saturday.



New Website

For a number of years Lansing Christian has had a presence on the world-wide-web with our school's website. Our website has been visited by hundreds of people and has led to several inquiries about our school and, in some cases, led families to apply and become members of our school association.

Over the years we have made small changes, added some things, and tried to stay current because, like so many things, web pages also need to be updated, reorganized, and improved. Recently we have been working on making some changes to our site. We have visited other school's pages to get ideas, sought advice and suggestions from people who have had some training or design web pages, asked for guidance and opinions from college professors who teach web design classes, and listened to many different people who offered their own ideas. Our hope is to have a site that is attractive, easy to navigate, current, and valuable for finding information about our school for both current families and others looking to learn something about us. Our new, improved website is now complete and available. Take a few minutes to check it out at www.lansingchristian.org. We think you'll like the changes.

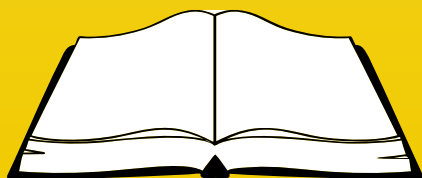
6th Grade Boys Basketball

My Neighbor's Bible

I am my neighbor's Bible
He reads me when we meet;
Today he reads me in my home –
Tomorrow in the street.
He may be a relative or friend,
Or slight acquaintance be;
He may not even know my name,
Yet, he is reading me.
And pray, who is this neighbor,
Who reads me day by day,
To learn if I am living right,
And walking as I pray?

Oh, he is with me always,
To criticize or blame;
So worldly wise in his own eyes,
And "Sinner" is his name.
Dear Christian friends and brothers,
If we could only know
How faithfully the world records
Just what we say and do;
Oh, we would write our record plain,
And come in time to see
Our worldly neighbor won to Christ
While reading you and me.

-The Herald of Light



At 8:00 in the morning on Saturday, December 17, while many of you were just reaching for that first cup of coffee, our 6th grade boys basketball players were tightening up their laces and heading onto the hardwood court for a day of intense competition. Four schools came to Highland Christian's gym that day, but only one would leave as champion of the tournament.

Lansing brought with them an impressive and unblemished season record of 12-0, and had their sights on a first place finish. But the Warriors would have to get by a tough Calvin team first. The game was close for a couple quarters, but Lansing took control in the second half and finished with a 37-24 victory.

This would bring a matchup of Lansing vs. Highland in the championship game. The Warriors opened the game strong and built a 10-1 lead early in the first quarter. With tough defense and an effective inside game, Lansing held a comfortable lead throughout the game, and when the final buzzer went off, the scoreboard read 47-34, thereby crowning the 6th graders from Lansing Christian as the champions of the 2011 tournament.



Back Row (L-R): Derek Van Prooyen, Austin Ohm, Tolu Thomas, Payton Smit, Jake Lyzenga, Jared VanderWoude, Isaac Lyzenga, Mr. Stallinga

Front Row (L-R): Arthur Veal, Jesse Hoekstra, Tony Lucito, Ben Fabrizius, George Van Ryn, Zach McNary, Keagan De Vries

The season then concluded the following Monday, with A and B games at home against Tinley Park. Lansing notched two more victories, thereby ending their season with an undefeated record of 16-0.

Mr. Stallinga, coach of the 6th graders, reflected on the season, "It was a fun group of boys to coach. I've never had a team so deep

in talent. No matter who I put out on the court, they played well and contributed. There were several games where every player on the team scored. I also appreciated how my players carried themselves. They demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and represented our school and Christ very well."

Point guard Isaac Lyzenga adds, "I think we did great this season because we worked hard and we never quit. I liked it because no one was trying to be an all-star and everyone got lots of playing time."

Austin Ohm comments, "I loved the season because we could all work together as a team and work hard to glorify God and we could go undefeated."

“It was a great season and it was great that we went undefeated, but also that we could play for the Lord,” says Tony Lucito.

Derek Van Prooyen recalls, “I really liked our team devotional time, and the games were fun, they were really intense.”

“We had a great season,” agrees Jesse Hoekstra. “We played as a team and we really had time for God, and we always put our best effort into the game and into our devotions.”

The team devotional time that Derek and Jesse referred to took place after each Saturday morning practice for about a half hour. Throughout the season, the players all read a devotional book called *Cross Training* and Saturday morning was the time to discuss what they learned and to also have prayer time together. The focus of the book was on the fact that everything we do and every area of our lives should be done to the honor and glory of God. The team’s theme verse came from 1st Corinthians 10:31. “Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”



Keagan De Vries states, “I liked the Bible studies and how we could get closer to God. It impacted my life because now it’s making me think about what I should do right when I see something bad and it’s helping me get closer to God.”

“I liked our devotional times because us young boys could learn more about God together as a team and become closer to him,” adds Austin Ohm.

Jesse Hoekstra says, “The devotions really impacted my life and made me think twice about what I watched and what I played and how I acted at home and at school.”

“The devotions were great and I got to learn more about God and I got to share the things I learned with my friends,” reflects George Van Ryn.

Payton Smit concludes, “It helped me get back on my spiritual walk, and I liked the topic doing everything for God’s glory, because that was our theme for this year and I think we did well in keeping it.”

“When we look back to evaluate whether our season was a ‘success’, the number of wins is only one small part of it,” emphasizes Coach Stallinga. “These boys used their talents to honor God and played in a way that glorified Him. They were admirable representatives of our school and of Christ. They played as a team, with the proper attitudes, always showing respect to the coach, each other, the refs, and the opposing team. It is all of those things that truly make this season a success.”

-J. Stallinga

That’s My Pan!

The LCS Parents’ Club is conducting a “That’s My Pan” fundraising event during the month of February. Have you ever brought a covered dish to a church dinner, pot-luck, or family get-together only to find your pan was missing when you were ready to go home? Well, worry no longer. Finally, a pan you can use and not lose! “That’s My Pan” products are personalized cake pans and Pyrex, small and large recipe boxes, cutting boards, and picture frames. With your personalized pans you will never go hunting for lost pans again. These pans make great gift ideas for weddings, showers, mother’s day, birthdays, or any other gift-giving occasion – or you just may want a few for your own cupboard. The sale is going on right now. Samples are on display at the school and order forms are available in the school office.



LCS Junior High Drama

Anyone at your house a “drama queen?” Exactly the kind of students we have in this year’s LCS dramatic productions, or should we say, our “melodramatic” productions. LCS will present two melodramas March 22 and 23, 2012. Thursday night is a general audience performance. Friday evening is a dinner/theater show put on by the LCS Parents Club. You are all invited.

Our first play is “The Inventor’s Daughter or The Villain Made a Grab for the Lab.” This is a turn-of-the century story in which a grieving mother and daughter, Adora and Charmaine Winsome, hope to save the now deceased Mr. Winsome’s lab and inventions from villainous Gustav Guttermost.

In the tangled mess created by Guttermost’s treacherous duplicity, Ima Foxx, his side kick, nearly fools the unsuspecting family. Two possible heroes arrive on the scene, Cashin’ Devault, local bank president and Frankie Fixxit, Old Pennsylvania University grad and lab assistant to Mr. Winsome. How will they save our damsels in distress? Will they?

We could ask the same question in our second production, “Double Take at Beatrice’s Boardin’ House or Things Ain’t Always What They Seem.” Beatrice, the owner, and her tenants(all two of them) and friends(all two of them) are in danger of losing their home and friendships. Will they be saved?

Causin’ all the stink in the neighborhood is our smelly, I mean, smiley villain, Luther Swett. Luther holds the mortgage and wants the boardin’ house and its owner as his own. Beulah Mae, our nearly deaf and crankiest boarder, and mild Mortimer Taylor, the town mortician muddle the rescue, or do they?

It would seem Beatrice’s friends, twins Augusta(ugliest woman in the world) and Adelaide(a bit addled but cute as a bug) Worthy may need to come to the rescue. Or can they? Will Adelaide’s idea of a Broadway variety show save the day? Or is there some other hero just a-waitin’ in the wings? A worthy question.

Come, join us for this bi-annual LCS Drama production. Be prepared to boo and hiss the villainous villains or cheer and encourage our heroic heroes in these classically melodramatic dramas. Oh, and bring your own “drama queens.”

Notice of Non-Discriminatory Policy for Students

Lansing Christian School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded to or made available to students of the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, or athletic or other school-administered programs.

Memorials

We gratefully acknowledge the following gifts to the Lansing Christian School Foundation:

In memory of Mr. Cliff Van Beek
Gabe’s Place
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Mejan

In memory of Mrs. Gloria Giller
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Furlong

What Think Ye of Christ?

Walking with Alfred Lord Tennyson in his garden, a friend asked him, “What do you think of Christ?” The great poet, stopping to examine the flower at his feet replied, “What the sunshine is to that flower, the Lord Jesus Christ is to my soul.”

Can you say the same?

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**LANSING CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
TRUMPET**
Staff, Parents, and Board Members
CONTRIBUTORS