

Newton's News— Feb. 24, 2010



Developing Christlike Character
and Academic Excellence

Academic Achievement in Christian Education

In my last message we were focusing on intellectual growth in the development of our children into well-rounded Christian young men and women. We are looking for balanced growth as described in Jesus' life: "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." (Luke 2:52) We are certainly expecting that spiritual maturity will aid academic development. We are also expecting that the like-mindedness of Christian school parents will allow us to have a learning environment with fewer distractions and more support from home. What does this look like in practice?

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

First of all, Christian school curriculums are generally accelerated above public school curriculums. This is not that noticeable in the lower grades, but as students progress, the gap becomes more obvious. By the time Christian school students complete junior high, they are on average one year ahead of their public school counterparts. The gap is even more evident in standardized testing and in the success of our students in the public high schools. The freshman class advisors for our local high schools routinely counsel INCA students to sign up for the top level courses offered at their schools.

Second, a Christian school education will result in students with better skills for advanced learning. The students will have developed strong study habits from a challenging workload. They will have a stronger sense of direction and purpose, a natural result of the values, moral standards, and Biblical truths integrated into their education.

The whole premise of an accelerated program relies on parents who support the educational goals of the school. Parents must be willing to work with their children to maintain the academic pace. Many students will require extra help and attention at some point. The combined efforts of the teacher and parents are required to maximize the chances for success.

Long term academic excellence should be expected in Christian schools. It results from the efforts of dedicated teachers and like-minded parents and the blessing of God on his favorite people, our children.

Mark Kline

President, LCEA Board of Directors

Calendar

Feb. 25: Enrollment Open House, 7:00 PM
Feb. 26: Second Trimester Ends
Chapel-Pastor McIntosh, Calvary Baptist, Onslow
Basketball Award Banquet 6:00-7:30
Mar. 2: PSO Meeting-Teachers' Lounge 6:30
Mar. 4: Early Dismissal, No lunch, Conferences 1:00-8:00
Mar. 5: No School; Conferences 12:00-6:00
Mar. 12: PSO Carnival
Mar. 16: Board Meeting
Mar. 22-26: Spring Break

Upcoming Field Trips

Thurs., Feb. 25: Preschool to Sommersaults
8:40-10:20
Fri., Feb. 26: 5th Grade to Gallagher Bluedorn
& UNI Science Museum
8:15-3:45
Kdg. to Texas Roadhouse
10:15-12:00



Enrollment Open House

Join us Thursday evening, February 25, at 7:00 for the Annual Enrollment Open House! As you visit the teachers and classrooms your children will have next year, please be on the lookout for new families who are checking out the school! Introduce yourselves and make them feel welcomed. PSO will be giving tours, we'll have representatives available to discuss our scholarship programs, and our aim is to make newcomers feel the warm and caring atmosphere for which Isaac Newton is known! If you know of any families who are in the process of making a decision about where to send their children next year, encourage them to attend on Thursday night.

Don't forget, as of Thursday, enrollment will be open to the public, so please return your registration for next year!

Isaac Newton Spelling Bee Contestants

Congratulations to our spelling bee contestants who competed in the regional spelling bee in Eldridge, Iowa, on February 19th.

1st Grade: Paige Pesch

Jeralyn Wessel (finished 2nd at her level)

2nd Grade: Thomas Brandt

Emma Prostine (finished 1st at her level)

3rd Grade: Gabriel Fink

4th Grade: Joseph Bushman

5th Grade: Camryn Wolter

6th Grade: Carissa Lee

7th Grade: Douglas Hopper

8th Grade: Abigail Rubsam (finished 1st at her level)



Congratulations to all of our great spellers! We appreciate the hard work and effort you put forth in representing Isaac Newton.

PSO Tidbits

The carnival is just a little over two weeks away. The deadline to pre-order punch cards is Friday, February 26. Thanks to those who have donated candy for prizes and thank you to those who have committed to furnish cakes for the cake walk. We have received slips for a total of 17 cakes, but would like to have a minimum of 75.

Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to supervise carnival games. We are in need of many more volunteers. Please contact your child's home room parent to sign up.

Please feel welcome to attend the monthly PSO meeting on Tuesday, March 2nd, at 6:30 PM in the teacher's lounge.

Josh is Coming!

Josh is coming! Mark your calendar! The weekend of April 9-10 is a big one! Friday night, internationally acclaimed author/speaker Josh McDowell is the featured speaker at the Annual Banquet! Please contact Jim Nemitz, Banquet Table Sponsor Chairman, if you are interested in sponsoring a table. He can be reached at jim@msifutures.com or 560-8394. Table sponsors will be inviting people to sit at their tables. You can also secure a reservation by contacting the office.

On Saturday evening, April 10, Isaac Newton is hosting "The 411 on Parenting: How to Positively Influence Your Children and Grandchildren." Josh will present his three-part parenting seminar. The venue is St. Mark's Lutheran. Detailed information can be found on our home page at incaonline.org.