

# Newton's News— Jan. 20, 2010



Developing Christlike Character  
and Academic Excellence

## Our Philosophy of Christian Education

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." (Luke 2:52) This passage from Luke describes Jesus at age twelve. He was maturing intellectually, physically, spiritually, and socially. The balance that we see in Jesus' life as he was growing up is the same balance that we want our children to have in their lives.

**Intellectual Growth:** We want our children to be more than just smart. We want them to marvel at God's creation, to see his hand in history, and to be articulate in sharing their faith. The like-mindedness of Christian school parents allows us to have a learning environment with fewer distractions and more support from home, leading to greater academic achievement.

**Physical Growth:** We want our children to be healthy and strong. Our goal is lifetime fitness. The longer you are able to stay healthy, the longer you will be able to serve others rather than needing to be served.

**Spiritual Growth:** Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Talking about God's commandments, Moses says: "Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." INCA exists to help fill your child's life with God's word.

**Social Growth:** I take great comfort in knowing that children at INCA are surrounded by a community of believers. I want their lives strengthened by a network of Christian friends and Christian role models. The strength and encouragement our children draw from the believers around them will help them to be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Over the next few weeks I will expand on these areas and discuss some of the challenges a Christian school faces. I ask for your continued prayers and support in this transition time. I see great things ahead for INCA.

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things." (Philippians 4:8)

### Mark Kline

President, LCEA Board of Directors

The minds and the hearts of children are tender...Jesus used them as an example: "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:4

### The SWAT Team is Coming!

Last year's Serve and Walk-A-Thon was a huge success! The committee is making some great changes based on feedback from last year. Plan now for a family "packet party" sometime between Friday, February 12 and Monday, February 15 (an early dismissal day). Details and inspiration will be coming soon!

## Calendar

### JANUARY

22 Pop can drive ends

25 Grant Wood Vision Screening for Kdg.

### FEBRUARY

5 Early Dismissal- 11:45/12:00; No Lunch

15 Early Dismissal 11:45/12:00; No Lunch

25 Enrollment Open House 7:00 PM

26 Second Trimester ends

### MARCH

12 PSO Carnival

19 Junior Leadership Program hosts

Middle School Outreach with 89.1

Spirit Radio at Oakland Church of the Nazarene

### APRIL

9 Annual banquet featuring

Josh McDowell

10 Parenting Seminar featuring

Josh McDowell

15 Kdg.-5th Grade Music Program & All-School Instrumental Concert

## "Calling Up" Class

This week, we welcome Pastor Mick Schultz, New Covenant Bible Church's Children's Pastor, as he begins teaching a study titled "Calling Up" to the 7th and 8th grade boys who have been in Miss Hungerford's music class. His class will use a scripture based approach to call students up to owning their own faith (Acts 16:31) their thoughts (Proverbs 23:7) and legacy (Proverbs 20:11). The structure of the class will include lecture, small group discussion, as well as analysis and written report of personal conduct. The purpose of the class will be to challenge students to consider their choices and behaviors as they reflect their relationship with Christ and impact those to whom they are called to be an example. Pastor Mick is currently the Varsity girls' basketball coach and has been involved at Isaac Newton for several years. Let's welcome Pastor Mick as he uses his gifts of wisdom, wit and relationship building to challenge the young men! The course will run in lieu of the music class for the remainder of the school year.

### Newton's News is Going Paperless

Beginning in February, Newton's News will not be sent home unless you notify the office that you would like a hard copy. You may read Newton's News on our website.

## Exciting Changes for our Preschool Program

This fall, teachers Mrs. Wolf, Mrs. Yount, Miss Kadlec, Mrs. Spronk, along with Board members Gloria Telecky and Kathy Moser, and Development Director Kathryn Oates, collaborated together to evaluate our current Preschool and Kindergarten program. A survey was sent home to get some feedback about our program and to gather ideas of how to better meet the needs of our families. We then discussed the results of this survey, followed up with additional phone calls, and developed a plan to better serve families with young children. In December the Board approved the proposal for the 2010-2011 school year.

We are excited to share with you the changes for next year! Our four-year-old Preschool will now meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, from 8:15 – 11:15. Children must be four by September 15<sup>th</sup> to enroll in this program. In the afternoons, we are now going to offer a Pre-Kindergarten class from 12:00-3:00 five days a week. This unique program is a bridge between Preschool and Kindergarten. Pre-Kindergarten does not repeat the curriculum that is used in Preschool, and does not jump ahead to borrow from the Kindergarten curriculum. Instead, it will build and expand on what preschoolers learn, and expose them to a variety of activities that will help them develop social, emotional and academic skills needed for Kindergarten. It is perfect for those children who would benefit from the gift of time. We believe childhood should be a “journey, and not a race.” Part of that childhood journey occurs during the hours that your child is at Isaac Newton. Slowing down a bit and making a child’s early years a journey, rather than a race, will pay big dividends in their future!

Our Kindergarten program for next year will stay the same with the option of three full days or five full days a week. We are also revamping our “readiness test” that is given to prospective Kindergarteners, which will be one tool used to evaluate whether a child is recommended for Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten.

We will be promoting the new program, and ask that you help spread the word among your friends! For a brochure about all of our early childhood education programs, contact the office or read it online under Academics/early childhood education program.

## **From the Development Office**

My fingers and toes may be freezing in this ridiculously cold weather, but my heart is warm! Thanks to all who have stepped up to volunteer for some of the projects for which I requested help. The Lord used your willing hearts to encourage me last week. Together, we will get these special events done in magnificent fashion!

A committee has begun its work on the SWAT Team fundraiser. We’ve got a great core team, but we need more help. **Give me a call or email if you can help.** This is not a project that involves a lot of meetings! Last year participation in this event was voluntary and we want to run it this way again this year. We are trusting God that families will step up and do their part. Money raised goes to our “closing the gap” fund, and every family benefits directly from this fundraiser.

The Coordinator for the Josh McDowell parenting seminar is **Terese Dummermuth!** She will be assembling a group to work on this event. **Grab your calendar and mark the weekend of April 9-10.** It is a busy weekend and we want to make sure you have lots of advance notice. Josh McDowell will be the Annual Banquet speaker on Friday night at the Marriott. Saturday evening we will host Josh as he presents his three-part parenting seminar. We have heard it is phenomenal! It will be from around 6-9:30 p.m., and the venue is St. Mark’s Lutheran. There will be lots more information on this, including invitations that you can give to your friends, and ways you can help. We booked Josh over a year in advance and are thrilled that he will be coming to Cedar Rapids. I know that it is a lot for you to pack into one weekend, but we want to give Josh several opportunities to speak while he is here.

On a more personal note, I have been looking at **Philippians 2:1-2** . . . “Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.” Actually, that whole chapter is incredible! Take a minute to read it, and be reminded, “It is God who is at work in us both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” Wonderful!

In His Service,  
Kathryne Oates