



# Knox News

Thursday, December 15, 2011  
Volume 35 Number 15

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**BDCSS Board Chair** Paul Winkelhorst

**Principal/COO** Terry Van Leeuwen

**Vice Principal** Jane Hoogendam

## From the Vice-Principal's Desk

*"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:  
The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a  
son, and will call him Immanuel."* Isaiah 7:14

Emmanuel, God with us! What a wonderful time Christmas is! We love to sing carols and celebrate with family and friends. We experience the joy of worshiping and praising God in our special services. We have the privilege to learn about Christmas around the world in our classrooms. We can wonder with the shepherds and the wise men how they felt about the amazing message they heard. Many of the prophets of old prophesied the coming of a King. *"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse...with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth."* (Isaiah 11:1, 4). We are thankful to God for the love and peace surrounding our lives.

At our assembly yesterday we heard stories of many people who live in the Dominican Republic who do not have the abundance we have. Mr. and Mrs. Rypstra and Mrs. Vanhartingsveldt shared their experiences working in the Dominican Republic. God is using them, and many others, to bring hope and healing to the needy people there. We saw children in the orphanages being blessed by receiving food, toys, and medicine. A new medical center was built and Bibles are distributed amongst the nurses and doctors working there. New homes are being built. What a blessing it is that people are willing to serve in this way.

May we all remember the poor, both near and far away, in this season of joy! At our Christmas program we will be collecting for Bethesda House and for Operation Dominican Republic. Students are also collecting for the orphanage there. Let us keep these concerns, and the many other needy in your prayers this Christmas. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

## Bus Driver

We require a new bus driver starting January 9, 2012. If you are interested in applying for the position, please email your resume to [transportation@knoxchristian.com](mailto:transportation@knoxchristian.com) by December 28, 2011. Please contact our transportation coordinator, Will VanNiejehuis, if you have any questions about the position at 905.623.1461 or [transportation@knoxchristian.com](mailto:transportation@knoxchristian.com). Thank you.

## Clothing

During the fall and winter our playground is quite wet. Many of our students enjoy playing in the mud and water. Consequently we ask that your child has a pair of spare socks in their knapsack (and pants if there is room) during these seasons.

## Battle of the Books

Students have started reading the "Battle Books". They are now available in our library, although you are also encouraged to check your local public library for the books.

## Christmas Program

This year's Christmas Program will be held on **Thursday, December 22 (not Friday December 22 as previously reported)** at 7:00 pm. Invite your family and friends to celebrate Christ's birth with our school.

This year's offering will be shared between Bethesda House and the Dominican Republic (housing and a orphanage.)

The costs for housing in the Dominican Republic are as follows: an entire house can be built for \$650-\$700 - using the old floor; a complete home (24'x20') is \$900-\$1000; a roof can be replaced for \$250; a cement floor for \$150. Let your contribution make a difference!

## Skating

We will be ending 2011 with a skating party at the Garnet B. Rickard Complex on December 23 at 1:15 pm. We would love to have parents join us.

## Chess Players

We are looking for some chess players who would like to come for lunch once a week (or occasionally) and play chess with some of our students in Jan and Feb. Please contact the office if interested. Thanks.

## Special Friends Reading Club

This week is the last week for the Readers before Christmas. Thanks to all of you! We'll see you in January.

## Free Piano

A 1928 Ger. Heintz upright piano is available to a good home at no cost. It is in good condition, but requires a new place to stay. For more information please contact Diane VandeMeent at 905.623.3325.

## Snow Days

Please keep your bus route handy especially during the winter months. Please call the next family on your bus list to forward the message. If no one picks up the phone, leave a message on their machine and keep calling down the list until you talk to someone. Please be aware that any school cancellation will also be called in to the local radio stations 94.9 (FM), and 1350 (AM). It is wise to follow weather reports closely, listen to radios, and be part of a phone chain should the need arise. If you have any questions, please contact the school office at 905.623.5871

## The Inside Scoop

- We want to highlight our educational assistants, Mrs. K. Small and Mrs. E. Walton who help so many of our students and teachers! You are awesome!
- Students are busy practicing and planning the Christmas program for next Thursday. How wonderful to be able to celebrate Christ's birth with the community!
- Everyone looked very festive on Spirit Day!

## **JK/SK – Mrs. DeJong**

As we're learning about Christmas symbols, we're doing many related activities: art, math, language and PE. The games played in the gym relating to stars and lambs were especially enjoyable. It's almost winter, and our fall trees have moved over to make room for winter trees. Come check it out. Also, we've formed an angelic choir! Visit the West Wing and view our bulletin board! This week's letter is "Mm". Jesus' mother's name begins with "M". What else can you think of? Anything that is mmmm good?

## **Grade 1/2 – Mrs. Crookall**

Next Tuesday (Dec. 20), we will be having "Career Day" in our classroom. You should have received a note about it earlier in the week. Please make sure to read the note and send your child to school dressed appropriately that day. Thanks! The grade 1 Word Wall Words for this week were: "was", "rain", "saw", "day", and "why." Please return December Reading Logs on Friday, December 23. Next week's Show & Tell theme is "Christmas".

## **Grade 3 - Mrs. McDowell**

We've had fun playing review games in preparation for our Word Wall quiz on Tuesday. Our *Charlotte's Web* novel study is almost finished. We've enjoyed reading the novel and look forward to "Pig Day" next Thursday (a note was sent home yesterday about the day.) We are also excited about all of next week's Christmas activities.

## **Grade 4 - Ms. Ullman**

We will finish our math unit on multiplication this week and will begin a unit on rounding next week. Students should continue practicing their basic facts. We are working on a novel study of *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. In P.E. we have begun a unit on basketball.

## **Grade 5 – Mrs. Bandstra & Mrs. Rozema**

We are using adjectives and adverbs like they're going out of style! Our writing is improving every week! Keep practicing double digit multiplication at home - we have a quiz next Friday on Number Sense - the same day as our personal multiplication goal quiz, and it's the last day of class for 2011! There will not be a www quiz next week. We will review our words we've learned so far.

## **Grade 6 - Mrs. Fayer-Murphy**

The students are enjoying the new Socials Unit on Ancient Greece with Mrs. Rozema. We appreciated the presentation by Mr. and Mrs Ed and Sylvia Rypstra and Mrs. Elaine VanHartingsveldt about the Dominican Republic during our Spirit Day Assembly on Wednesday. Hot lunch was yummy, too! Next week Wednesday we have memory work on the final part of 1 Corinthians 13:8-13. In January we'll work at reciting the entire chapter! There will be a grammar test on Tues – a review sheet will be provided. We look forward to our participation in the Christmas program next Thursday evening.

## **Grade 7 - Mrs. Feddema**

We will wrap up our introduction to biomes with a geography test on Thursday. Our next unit will focus on the icy world of the tundra biome. We explored the challenges and joys of change in families through our reading of the short story "Pictures." We are enjoying our preparations for the Christmas program! Last week's spelling dictation results were not up to our usual standard. Let's make sure there is improvement this week, students! French audition preparations are well underway. Students will present before the break!

## **Grade 8 - Mr. Janssen**

Dejection and despair - that's what Elijah felt shortly after Mount Carmel even though God had showed himself through fire and rain to be the one true God only days before. We've considered the blessings of rest, food, and encouragement provided to him by God. In history, the Quebec Act has appeased some in North America but launched the 13 colonies into the American Revolution. We are mid-way through a circle unit in math that will conclude before Christmas. (Awesome work on your math test, grade eight - 85% average!) We are reviewing heat and energy in science for a test next week as well.

## **Resource - Mrs. VandeMeent and Mrs. Hoogendam**

Students are finishing the study of the Explorers. It's amazing in this era to think about going in a sailboat for many months and not knowing where you are going! We found that many parts of our country are named after explorers.

## **Athletics At Knox:**

The volleyball teams are taking a break until after Christmas. On Tuesday, Jan. 10 both teams will practice from 3:30 – 4:30. On Thursday, January 12 the boys have a practice until 5:00 and the girls have an exhibition game at Monseigneur Leo Cleary. On Tues., January 17 both teams will practice until 5:00 pm. Both teams have an all-day tournament on Wednesday, January 18 with the Catholic schools.

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## **Prayer Items**

For health for students and staff during this busy time of the year.

Pray for the work being done in the Dominican Republic and for the Rypstra's as they make plans to move to the their in the spring.

If you have a Prayer item you would like included in the *Knox News*, please let the office know.

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## **Upcoming Dates**

**Wednesday, December 21** Band Concert (2 pm)  
**Thursday, December 22** Christmas Program (7 pm)  
**Friday, December 23** School Skating (1:15 pm)  
**Friday, December 23** Last Day of School in 2011  
**Monday, January 9** School resumes