



Best of the AACCS Blue Notes February, 2008

Fifth Grade Christmas Caroling



The fifth graders arrive at the Egedy home.



Doug and Cherie Egedy enjoy Christmas Carols.

Miss J's parents



The residents at Huron Woods were also treated to the sounds of the Christmas season by the fifth graders.



The fifth graders at Huron Woods .



Miss Jungkuntz's festively dressed fifth grade class welcomed Mr. Egedy home with Christmas carols.

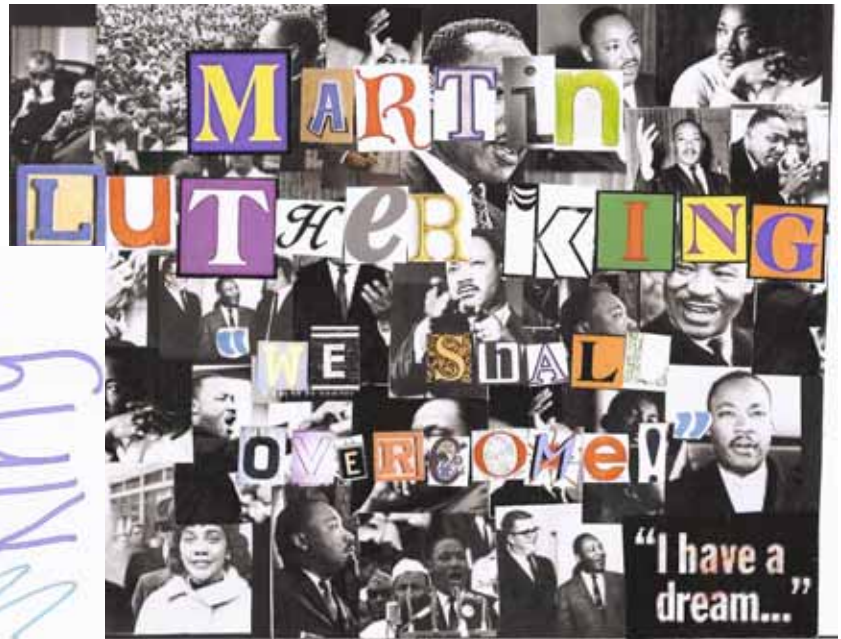
MLK Day Chapel Photos

Clockwise from right

- Rev. Postema, Annaka, Elly, and Sam Scheeres recite a choral reading written by Annaka.
- Student praise God during chapel.
- Glory Bound guitarists (AACS alumni) “jam”.
- Chapel Families sit together during chapel.
- Glory Bound vocalists (AACS alumni) lead in worship.



MLK Day Reflections From AACs Middle School Students



Blaire Crockett

We Shall Overcome Verses.

We shall keep the peace
We shall keep the peace
We shall keep the peace today
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We shall keep the peace today.

We will fight for justice
We will fight for justice
We will fight for justice today
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We will fight for justice today.

We will include all
We will include all
We will include all today
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We will include all today.

We will love our enemies
We will love our enemies
We will love our enemies today
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We will love our enemies today.

We'll help those in need
We'll help those in need
We'll help those in need today
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We'll help those in need today.

We will not use violence
We will not use violence
We will not use violence today
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We will not use violence today.

We will act like Jesus
We will act like Jesus
We will act like Jesus today
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We will act like Jesus today.

Martin Luther King



A VeggieTales MLK Day.

Once upon a time there lived a apple named Martin	He was sad because the veggie mis-treated the fruit	The fruits couldn't sit in the same seats as the veggie	One blueberry wouldn't. Her name was Rowdy
She got arrested and put in jail	the fruits boycotted the bus	There were no fruit on the bus for a year	
Martin made a famous speech in Washington DC	Martin help give fruits more rights	Martin was killed by rebellious tomatoes	His tombstone read

The U.S Is Changed By MLK

By : Emily Anderson

Little black girl and little white boy
Were not allowed to share their toys.
But the little girl has hope.
And her mother prays it doesn't elope
They see each other everyday,
But cannot play any day
They don't see each other at school
Or even at the swimming pool.

"The sign says WHITES ONLY can't you read?"
She droops and smaller the hope the seed
One day she wants a drink
But a man blocks her way to the sink
The sign says WHITES ONLY can't you read?"
She droops and smaller the hope the seed.
Then her mother takes her on a bus
But as soon as she sits down a white man makes a fuss
The sign says WHITES ONLY can't you read
She droops and smaller the hoe the seed
When she's older word comes
Now she doesn't ride the bus but runs
She goes to a speech of MLK's
And things are changing like a phase
Then one day MLK is shot
But with his help the U.S.A has changed a lot
And now there are no WHITES ONLY signs
But for MLK the people pine



January 15, 2008

- The AACS School Board met on January 15. Here are the highlights of the meeting.
- After opening prayer the Board members approved the December meeting minutes (available for review in the school office by Association members).
- 8th Grade Class Trip—Mrs. DeZeeuw visited the board meeting and shared the trip purpose and goals, why we choose the locations and events we schedule, ties into classroom work, participation criteria, finances, etc. The Board members reiterated their full support for this wonderful bonding and learning opportunity for our oldest students.
- New Board Business
 - School Surveys
 - will be send home to parents on January 18, due February 1
 - Board Performance Assessment
 - given to staff members by January 18, due February 1
 - Need for an Abuse Prevention Policy
 - not needed as long as we continue the steps in place now for abuse prevention
 - Reformed Theology Discussion
 - needs to be added to staff training in August
 - Does AACS need a Chaplain?
 - local pastor volunteers sought for specific needs
 - Board Nominations
 - work on for next month
- Continuing Board Business
 - Principal Performance Feedback Plan
 - out to staff this week
 - summary to be shared with principal by Joel and Doug when summary is complete
 - By-laws Review
 - Articles XIV - XXII—small changes in verbiage
 - Entire By-laws to be reviewed before next meeting and compared to the By-laws of another Christian school
 - Staff/Board Resignation/Replacement
 - Development Committee Chair, Development Coordinator, Public Relations Chair—Board members to submit names for consideration
 - Electronic File Management and Storage
 - demonstration next month
- Committee Reports
 - Admissions—loss of one family this month
 - Building & Grounds
 - work day painting
 - electrician coming to check ballasts, pump wiring & fire suppression pump
 - B&G committee is gathering information on future major cost items
 - Development
 - golf outing in the spring!
 - Wish list items for small group of AACS supporters
 - Bleachers for gym
 - Continued on back



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- Kitchen
- Projection systems for classrooms
- Education
 - a curriculum guide for parents is being developed for open houses
 - new policies for locker searches and against corporal punishment are being developed
 - math curriculum is being reviewed
- Finance
 - refinancing of our loan should save \$1,000 a month on our loan payment
 - compensation committee will meet over the next month to recommend salary and benefits changes for 2008-2009
- Information Technology
 - electronic storage of board and association minutes is going well
- Public Relations
 - The mailing for open houses February 12 and March 27 are ready to be sent in February.
 - We may consider a billboard in March.
- School Improvement Process
 - Elementary and middle school parent surveys will be sent home January 18 and are due February 1.
 - SIP updates from each Board committee are due to Mr. Ritzema A.S.A.P.
- Principal Report
 - Thirteen classroom door handles have been replaced which will provide additional building security.
 - Our first safety drill this year went very well.
 - The December 17 snow day was communicated well; snow removal was excellent.
 - \$1337.81 was raised for heat relief on the Pine Ridge Reservation.
 - \$600 and several bags of groceries were donated to Avalon Housing.
 - The Blue Note should be ready to be sent out electronically, saving copying costs, later this month.
 - Pastor recommendations will be required for future teacher candidates.
 - Formal teacher evaluations are complete for first semester.
 - A Progress Report Parent Guide will be included with the February Progress Reports for grades 6-8.
 - LSEM services are effective for our current needs.
- Calendar
 - School/Staff
 - MLK Day Chapel, Monday, January 21 @ 8:45
 - end of first semester, Friday, January 25
- Future Agenda Items:
 - Board approval of Committee Chairs
 - Donor Recognition Policy
 - Class Size Policy
 - Section 504 Review
 - Board Handbook Development
 - Board Staff Meeting Date
- Next Meeting – February 7, 2008 @ 7:15 p.m.

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SPORTS NEWS: Congratulations to all of the AACCS basketball teams! They competed in the league tournaments with great success! JV Boys placed 2nd; JV Girls placed 2nd; Varsity Boys placed 2nd and Varsity Girls placed 3rd. Way to go Eagles!



Principal's Corner

In late January, my mother, Lois Ritzema, suffered a triple stroke. My dad, Jim, was home with her at the time and was able to get her downtown to Spectrum Hospital (the Butterworth campus) very quickly via ambulance. Initially, her balance was way off, her entire left side was numb and unresponsive, and her vision was very fuzzy. After further testing and therapy at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital in Grand Rapids, the doctors determined that my mother has lost a portion of her reasoning capabilities, but the motor control and sensation on her left side should continue to improve.

Please continue to pray for the following:

1. Clearer reasoning abilities for Lois.
2. Pain relief for her neck (weakened due to polio 55 years ago) and back (sore since two recent back surgeries).
3. Clearer and more vision in both eyes (She had about an 80-85% loss in both eyes).
4. Sleep for Jim and Lois.
5. God's peace as they go through these challenges.



Jim and Lois Ritzema

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thom".



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- The AACS School Board met on February 7. Here are the highlights of the meeting.
- After opening prayer the Board members approved the January meeting minutes (available for review in the school office by Association members).
- Board Nominations were discussed. Individuals will be contacted this month.
- The 2008-2009 Benefits and Compensation Plans were reviewed. Recommendations in these areas should be acted on at the March Board Meeting.
- Board Information Updates
 - 2008-2009 Budget
 - A preview of a rough budget was reviewed for information. A recommended budget for 2008-2009 should be acted on at the March Board Meeting.
 - Principal Performance Feedback Status
 - Staff surveys highlighting Mr. Ritzema's strengths and areas to work on should be summarized and shared with Mr. Ritzema in the next month.
 - Board Performance Feedback Status
 - Staff surveys highlighting the AACS Board's strengths and areas to work on have been compiled and shared with the Board members.
 - School Survey Status
 - Elementary and Middle School Parent Surveys highlighting strengths and areas to work on are being summarized and will be shared with the Board next month.
- Committee Reports
 - Admissions—nothing to report at this time
 - Building & Grounds
 - A draft budget for this school year as well as reserve estimate recommendations for future projects (parking lot, roof, etc.) was submitted to the Board Treasurer.
 - An electrician was hired to install timers on our exterior lighting. The savings realized should pay for the cost of the electrician in a few months. He also repaired a parking lot light, installed a waterproof splice in our well electrical line, and repaired all of the gym lights.
 - Development
 - Board members will be contacting donors this month to encourage them to give to AACS.
 - The Dekker Scholarship Committee met to finalize the plans for the Harriet Dekker Memorial Scholarship Fund.
 - Progress on the annual development goals was reported.
 - A fundraiser plan for 2008-2009 was shared with the Board.
 - The Development Director job description is being updated.
 - Education
 - No report
 - Finance
 - The monthly Finance Committee Report was received for information.
 - The Finance Committee recognizes that balancing the budget this next year will be difficult. The Committee recommends that the Board press all parents, committees, and staff to develop ways to increase enrollment.
 - Human Resources
 - Staff job descriptions are being developed.



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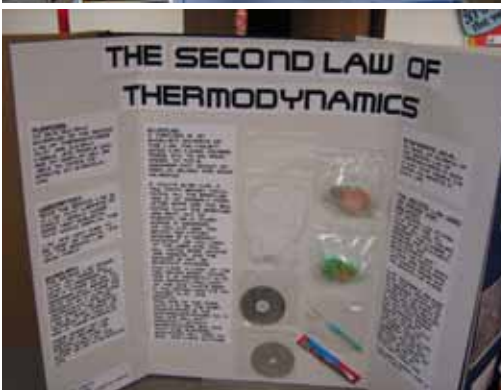
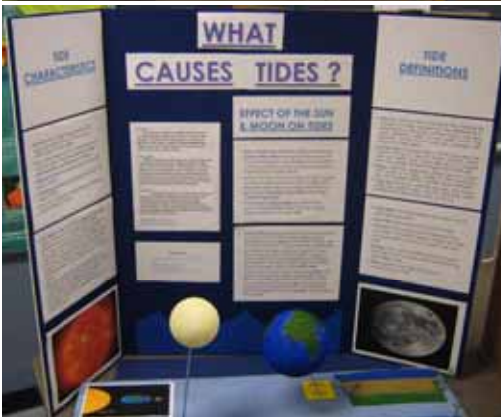
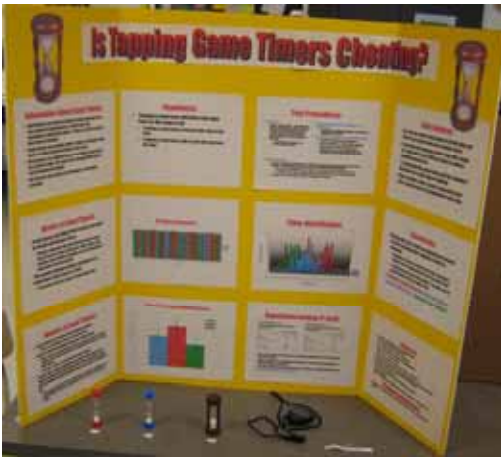
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- Information Technology
 - No report
- Public Relations - Here's what PR has been doing:
 1. Posted enrollment sign and Open House sign.
 2. Mailed 5,000 postcards to Christian families with kids who live within 15 miles of the school.
 3. Open House fliers printed and distributed to 10 families to post in communities. In addition, all families given two copies to distribute.
 4. Info about open houses e-mailed to churches.
 5. Info about open houses sent to area newspapers for community listing.
 6. Tuition credit vouchers produced.
 7. Thom met with preschool directors, gave them PR packets and info about Open Houses.
 8. Website updated with new section called "What Families Say about AACS". Quotes from DVD also added to the website.
 9. All DVD interviews completed, narration completed. Joe Yonkman is working on first cut of DVD, and recording a pianist for background music.
 10. Jen Boes is updating school brochure because we are almost out of the brochures.
 11. Will have a booth at the Moms of Preschoolers school open house in Chelsea on Feb. 27.
- School Improvement Planning
 - SIP updates from each Board committee were shared with the Board. SIP action items for each committee for the next five years were shared with the Board members.
- Principal Report
 - Many thanks to Harvey Vredevelde who found 90 additional Herman Miller chairs for use in the gym.
 - The most recent Blue Note was e-mailed to school families, staff, alumni, and supporters.
 - We had a snow day on Friday, February 1.
 - The MLK and Disability Awareness Chapels held since our last Board meeting were great! We even had a few area families come to the MLK Chapel.
 - Congratulations to all of the AACS basketball teams! They competed in the league tournaments the weekend of January 25 & 26 with great success! The JV Boys placed 2nd; the JV Girls placed 2nd; the Varsity Boys placed 2nd, and the Varsity Girls placed 3rd. Way to go Eagles!
 - A parent coffee was held on Friday, January 25.
 - Many thanks to Suzanne Vivacqua who coordinated an extended staff lunch on Tuesday, February 5. The staff members really enjoyed the opportunity to eat all together.
 - A second set of formal evaluations on our teachers who have less than five years of experience has been completed.
 - Attendance for the first quarter of the school year: K-2 **97%**, 3-5 **97%**, 6-8 **98%**
 - Attendance for second quarter of the school year: K-2 **97.6%**, 3-5 **97%**, 6-8 **97.6%**
- School/Staff Calendar
 - Open House Tuesday, February 12 7-8:30 p.m.
 - Parent Work Day Saturday, February 16
 - Exercise Your Faith Chapel Friday, February 22
 - No School Monday and Tuesday February 25 & 26 for Mid-Winter Break
- Next Meeting – March 4, 2008 @ 7:15 p.m.

March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
					Chapel: Bullying and Gossip are Diseases in the Body K-5 @ 8:35 MS @ 12:45	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	ITBS Testing Week	ITBS Testing Week	ITBS Testing Week	ITBS Testing Week	Elementary P/T Conferences, 5-8:30pm Half Day Staff CPR Training	Parent Work Day 8:00 a.m.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Hearing and Vision Screening St. Patrick's Day		Elementary P/T Conferences, 5-8:30pm	K-8 Praise Parade (8:35, Becky/Sue) -Half day, Grades 1-8 (No school for K) -Elementary P/T Conferences, 1-4pm	No School Easter Break Good Friday	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Easter	No School Easter Break			Open House #2 7:00-8:30 p.m.	K-8 Resurrection Chapel 8:35 a.m. Buried and Raised with Christ End of 3 rd quarter	
30	31					

The AACCS Science Fair was a great success on February 19.



Here
are
some
of
the
Science
Fair
projects.



I will plan to send you future copies of the *Best of the AACCS Blue Notes* as the school year progresses. Please let me know what you'd like to see in future editions of this family connection to AACCS. In addition, if you'd like to be removed from the list of families that receive this publication, please respond to the e-mail by requesting to be removed from the *Best of the AACCS Blue Notes* list.

Serving the King of Kings,

Principal Thom Ritzema