



# The Beacon

News to family and friends of Ann Arbor Christian School  
2009-2010, Number 1

*In partnership with Christian families, Ann Arbor Christian School offers Christ-centered, academically excellent education that challenges students to live and act in society as committed followers of Jesus Christ.*

## In this issue

- New staff ..... 2
- God provides! ..... 3
- Eaglets Preschool .... 4
- Pennies for peace .... 5
- Alumni corner ..... 6
- Mrs. Jansen visits Nepal ..... 7

**November 2009**

## Becoming fruit-bearing trees

Dear friends of AACCS,

School has begun and we are already into the fall season. As you may know, each year we have a chapel theme that guides our worship experience. The focus this year is Becoming Fruit-Bearing Trees. The scripture passage this theme is based on is Galatians 5:22-23. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." The overarching fruit is love, from which the rest result. If we don't have love, the other fruit cannot be present in our lives.

The chapel theme also has music related to it. This year we have two songs, "The Fruit of the Spirit," and "The Tree Song." The first tune reminds us of the names of the fruit of the spirit; the latter, how we grow in bearing fruit.

We look forward to including pastors from several area churches as our chapel speakers throughout the school year as well - something we have not done for several years.

Please join with the staff and students as the pastors lead us in understanding the fruit of the Spirit this year.

- Friday, Oct. 9 @ 8:35 a.m. - Love  
(Joy will be the topic for the Grandparents' Day chapel - grandparents and grandfriends only, for space reasons)
- Friday, Dec. 4 @ 12:35 p.m. - Peace
- Friday, Jan. 8 @ 8:35 a.m. - Patience
- Friday, Feb. 5 @ 12:35 p.m. - Kindness
- Friday, March 5 @ 8:35 a.m. - Goodness
- Friday, March 19 @ 12:35 p.m. - Faithfulness
- Friday, May 14 @ 8:35 a.m. - Gentleness
- Friday, May 28 @ 12:35 p.m. - Self-Control

It is our prayer that God will increase his fruit in your life.

In Christ,

Principal Thom Ritzema



Photo by Elaine Wong

*Mr. Ritzema joins the assembly line as he peels and slices some juicy apples for the annual apple pie fundraiser. Even the hair net couldn't keep him away!*

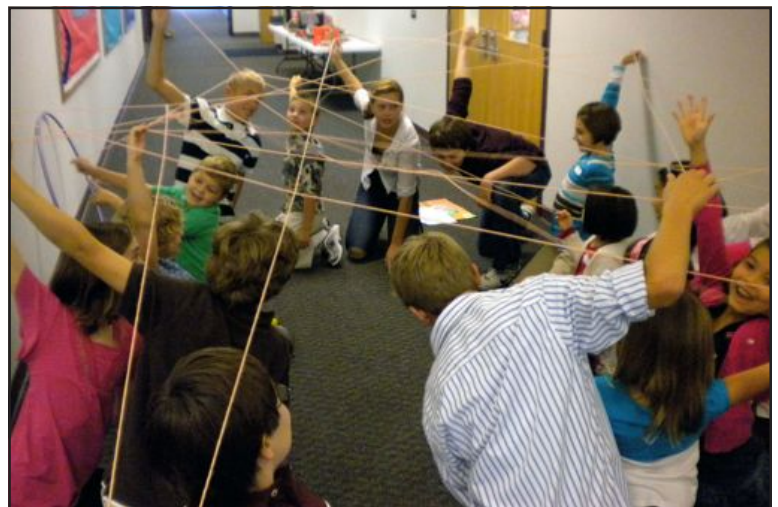


Photo by Sue De Zeeuw

*AACS chapel families get tangled up in a get-acquainted string activity at the start of the new school year. This year, chapel families are named after the fruits of the Spirit.*

# New staff add spark to AACCS

By Suzanne Vivacqua, AACCS parent

## 4th grade lands education expert

Ann Arbor Christian School's elementary wing is pleased to welcome Renée McKeone as fourth-grade teacher.

Mrs. McKeone is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a master's degree in education. Prior to coming to AACCS, she taught at EMU and supervised student teachers in the education program. She worked with students in reading intervention programs and as a reading tutor as well.

Mrs. McKeone is excited to share her love of learning with her fourth-grade students. She enjoys planning lessons and figuring out how to pique student interest while actively engaging them in the learning process.

"I hope to create an atmosphere where students are willing to try new things and share ideas without fear of failure," Mrs. McKeone says. She also is excited to watch her fourth graders grow into

independent learners.

Working in a Christ-centered environment is a blessing to Mrs. McKeone, a member of Christ the King Catholic Church of Ann Arbor. She looks forward to experiencing God's love through the staff, families, and students here.

Mrs. McKeone, a former AACCS mom, has four children ranging from college-aged to elementary. She enjoys spending free time with family and friends, reading, visiting museums, going to the theater, and cooking! AACCS fourth graders will certainly be blessed with a wonderful year of learning and adventure with Mrs. McKeone. We welcome her back into the AACCS family.



## New aide helps kids 'get it'

Lisa Smit is Ann Arbor Christian School's new first/second-grade teacher aide, assisting Susan Furr in the newly combined class during reading and math.

Mrs. Smit is a familiar face around our school as her three daughters attend AACCS and she continues as our library coordinator. She is excited to work with the first and second graders and see them grow in understanding of language and math. She loves seeing the "Oh, I get it!" smiles on their faces. Her experience as a dedicated classroom volunteer over the years as well as her enthusiasm for learning certainly will be a blessing to AACCS.

Mrs. Smit has a background in science with degrees from the University of Wisconsin and the University of Michigan. When she has free time, she enjoys reading, sewing, gardening, and mountain biking. The Smit family also loves to camp and sail together. We are thankful for the addition of Mrs. Smit to the AACCS staff.



## Athletic director a former Olympic hopeful

Ann Arbor Christian School welcomed Susie Sulkowski as health teacher and athletic director this fall.

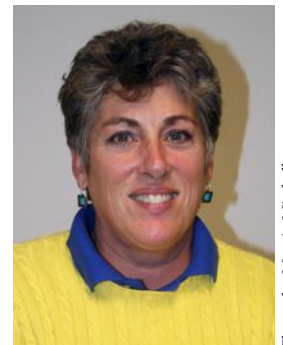
Mrs. Sulkowski graduated from Eastern Michigan University and Michigan State University. Herself an athlete, she played field hockey and ran track, even going to the Olympic Trials in 1972! Prior to starting her family, Mrs. Sulkowski served as both athletic director and coach at Detroit Country Day School.

Currently, Mrs. Sulkowski coaches AACCS volleyball and enjoys every minute of it. She says she desires "to make each and every student feel good and confident about themselves both in the

classroom and on the athletic field."

Mrs. Sulkowski looks forward to getting to know her students' interests and goals, and feels blessed to be a part of their lives and the AACCS staff.

Her two children both play volleyball in addition to other sports and activities. In her free time, she enjoys tennis, cross stitching, plus running an equestrian facility and summer volleyball camps. What a pleasure it is to welcome her to AACCS!



Photos by Marcia Mitchell

## AACCS 2009-2010 Contact People

### School

Thom Ritzema  
Principal  
principal@annarborchristian.org  
734.741.4948 x116

Cheri Lubbers  
Administrative Manager  
office@annarborchristian.org  
734.741.4948 x115

Jan Musch  
Finance  
finance@annarborchristian.org  
734.741.4948 x120

### Board Members

Doug DeVries, Treasurer  
Leslie Doorlag  
Dan Herrema  
Karl Jennings, President  
Sherry Day Kao, Vice President  
Monika Lamine, Secretary  
Matt Mazurek

contact the board at  
board@annarborchristian.org

### Committees & Chairs

Building and Grounds  
Mary Dekker

Development TBA

Education  
Karen Eekhoff

Finance  
Bill Vander Meulen

Public Relations  
Pam Gossiaux

Technology  
Wayne Sit

### Beacon

Marcia Mitchell, Editor  
marciamitchell@charter.net  
734.424.8424

Kathy Ann Moilanen, Copy  
Editor  
734.668.7437

Jennifer Boes, Layout Editor  
jlboes@ameritech.net  
734.973.9798

The Beacon is published by:

**Ann Arbor Christian School**  
5500 Whitmore Lake Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

office@annarborchristian.org  
734.741.4948  
www.annarborchristian.org

# God provides! Positions creatively filled

By Kathy Ann Moilanen, Beacon copy editor

Just when it seems a solution is impossible, God reminds us who has all the answers.

Back in February 2009, Ann Arbor Christian School Association members heard some pretty bleak news. Hard economic times meant dropping enrollment over a three-year period and as a result, saying goodbye to several staff members.

"As a parent with kids attached to many of the staff that were released, I was heartbroken," says Karl Jennings, who was on the school board last year and now is board president. "But we were looking at a possible \$250,000 budget deficit!"

Under the leadership of previous school board president Joel Hofman, the board made tough decisions on cuts and created an initial framework for staffing changes. The changes better aligned AACs staffing with the projected student enrollment.

After working through and refining the initial framework, our teachers set about the task of ensuring quality instruction would continue for all grades and subjects. The board and staff continued to work together through the summer to redistribute responsibilities, define roles, and creatively cover the workload.

"The staff shined in their ability to be flexible," said Mr. Jennings, bragging about the creative problem-solving and dedication of the staff.

The changes include:

- Principal Thom Ritzema teaching music and decreasing his administrative time,
- Former administrative assistant Cheri Lubbers expanding her duties to become administrative manager,
- Former first-grade teacher Susan Furr teaching

a combined first- and second-grade class, along with new part-time classroom aide Lisa Smit (see Page 2),

- Renée McKeone joining the elementary school as fourth-grade teacher (see Page 2),
- Former Kindergarten Aftercare teacher Jennifer Bryson taking the new role of Eaglets Preschool teacher (see Page 4),
- Barb Dick's kindergarten class moving to the elementary wing, in line with the new pre-school and K-5 elementary model,
- Mrs. McKeone, along with AACs parents Tricia Wise and Tama Frison, providing reading and math tutoring,
- Mandy Boelter teaching physical education for K-8 while continuing to teach seventh- and eighth-grade math, seventh-grade Bible and middle-school advisory,
- Sue De Zeeuw resumes some middle-school administrative duties along with adding fifth- and sixth-grade math classes, and continuing to teach sixth-grade EACH (Economics, Academics, Computers, Health), eighth-grade history, eighth-grade Bible and middle-school advisory,
- Susie Sulkowski joining AACs as athletic director/health teacher (see Page 2), and
- Janet Schleh joining AACs to lead Kindergarten Aftercare (see Page 3).

Whew!

"God is just faithful about bringing the right people forward," says Mr. Ritzema.

AACs once again is prepared to excel in 2009-2010 and our whole school community together can repeat the refrain "The Lord provides!"

Last June, these boys celebrated the final day of first grade with toothless grins! Pictured here, beginning with the front row, are Lukas J., Noah M., Keegan M., John B., Grant L., Earl B., and James M.



"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



## Aftercare provider brings purposeful fun

Aftercare has a new face this year! Janet Schleh is excited to serve as the Kindergarten Aftercare provider.

Mrs. Schleh earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Michigan State University, followed by a master's in instructional technology from Wayne State University. After teaching kindergarten through second grades, she chose to stay home with her two kids, now ages 12 and 9. She appreciates that the part-time position allows her to spend more time with her family.

"I have really had fun going through all my 'stored' teaching materials and outlining a yearly plan," she says. "I get to take all my favorite lessons and pick out the fun ones!"

Mrs. Schleh is active in youth group leadership, children's church, and praise team at Solid Rock Bible Church in South Lyon. She also enjoys jewelry making, reading, golf, and camping.



Who is that masked man? Zero the Hero makes a surprise visit to the kindergarten classroom on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of school.



Kindergartner Zach G. proudly wears his "zero" glasses from Zero the Hero!

day 30

Photos by Marcia Mitchell



Preschoolers Irene K. and Andrew E. sit still for a spilt second as preschool teacher Jennifer Bryson conducts an experiment with plants and food coloring.

## Eaglets Preschool opens kids' eyes

By Marcia Mitchell, Beacon editor

The next time you visit Ann Arbor Christian School, be sure to take a peek in Room 201. It is bustling with some energetic preschoolers!

After a year of creative thinking, planning, licensing, and hard work, the dream of a preschool at AACCS is a reality. The Eaglets Preschool opened its doors this fall with 13 bright-eyed students, six in the 3-year-old's program (Tuesday and Thursday), and seven in the 4-year-old's class (Monday, Wednesday, Friday).

You may recognize the adult's face, too. Jennifer Bryson, AACCS parent and former Kindergarten Aftercare provider, stepped into the role of preschool teacher. It's one she is familiar with, having previously taught for many years at

Sonshine Cooperative Nursery in Ann Arbor. With a master's degree in social work, required child-related courses completed, and familiarity with the educational style at AACCS, Mrs. Bryson is the perfect fit for the position.

Eaglets Preschool uses a unit approach, with most activities focusing on the current theme. God's Crawly Creatures was a great way to start off the year, while critters were still enjoying the warm weather. Other recent themes include colors, and pumpkins and apples.

A typical preschool day consists of calendar and weather time, choice time, Bible, singing, prayer, snack, reading, and center time, which includes projects related to the current theme. The energetic and engaging atmosphere offers plenty of freedom to explore, discover, and ask questions about God's creation.

"The thing that is unique about Eaglets is the opportunity that we have to incorporate a sense of wonder about God's creation and care for us into each day," shares Mrs. Bryson. "I love the opportunity to explore God's creation with [the kids] and delight in our joint discoveries."

During a recent unit on colors, Mrs. Bryson incorporated science into the day with an experiment on "capillary action," or the transport of fluids in plants. As the kids placed wildflowers (picked that morning from Mrs. Bryson's neighborhood) into vases containing red, yellow, or blue water, an unexpected guest, a.k.a. a bumblebee (!), crawled out of a flower and onto the table. Though the instant reaction was squeals of fear, Mrs. Bryson calmed the kids, explaining that the bee also is one of God's creatures, and that bees are quite tame unless provoked. Minutes later, she had the bee in a clear container, unharmed, so the kids could observe it closely before setting it free outside.

Teachable moments, flexibility, creativity, and the joy of discovery... exactly what God had in mind for Eaglets Preschool!

## Detroit offers gift of science

By Marcia Mitchell, Beacon editor



Eighth-graders Maria B., Avery D., and Hannah L. get a jolt out of the plasma ball at the Detroit Science Center.

It was a science teacher's dream.

This fall, Ann Arbor Christian School's eighth graders spent an entire day exploring interactive exhibits at the Detroit Science Center. Hands-on displays offered the chance to re-visit many scientific concepts taught at AACCS through the years, including laws of motion, nutrition, simple machines, and electricity. Kids recorded their observations as they explored the motion of an object on a turntable and the usefulness of a large lever when attempting to lift 1,000 pounds.

Students also were treated to some exciting shows which kept them awake and alert. Knowledge of scientific concepts was tested in a friendly, interactive trivia competition between four schools. Individual students quickly used remote controls to record their answers to science questions similar to those on MEAP tests. (The Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests are given at public schools statewide.) Scores were tabulated immediately, and AACCS was proud to take second place!

Eighth graders also discovered some exciting engineering careers as they watched a 4-D movie, complete with moving chairs, sprays of mist, and small creatures running under their feet - OK, not really, but it sure was a good effect!

While visiting the science center with his family over the summer, middle-school science teacher Mark Wiersma discovered it was offering free day passes to eighth-grade classes for a limited time. He jumped at the opportunity to provide a valuable learning experience - for FREE! Just one more way God has provided at AACCS during uncertain economic times.

# Pennies for peace: kids helping kids

By Kathy Ann Moilanen, Beacon copy editor

A penny for a pencil apparently makes a lasting impression on third graders. Even a long summer ago under the capable hands of third-grade teacher Kellie Steen, the current fourth graders at Ann Arbor Christian School remember learning that a mere penny – pretty much worthless in our country – buys a writing utensil for a student in Pakistan. In fact, 100 pennies pays a teacher's daily salary in Afghanistan. Yet the village of Korphe, Pakistan, could only afford that three times a week.

That's where 9-year-old AACCS student Robert R. steps in. He read the book, "Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg & Three Cups of Tea." It tells the true story of Greg Mortenson attempting to climb K-2, the world's second highest peak, and being saved by villagers when he stumbled down the mountain cold, hungry, and sick in 1993. Mr. Mortenson vowed to return and build a school to say thank you. His organization has since built 130 schools.

Here at AACCS, Robert was impressed that it wasn't rich companies or celebrities or even adults who helped. Donated loose change, mostly from American school kids, built these schools.

"Robert was so inspired by the book that he took on this project," says third-grade teacher Mrs. Steen. She allowed a "Pennies for Peace" jar in her room last year and showed a video clip explaining the project to students. (Visit [www.penniesforpeace.org](http://www.penniesforpeace.org) to view videos.)

The phrase "three cups of tea" refers to being a stranger sharing only one cup, becoming a friend after sharing two cups, and turning into a family member at three cups. A wise village elder advised Mr. Mortenson to "listen to the wind" to figure out a way to say thank you. The "wind" suggested offering education, so he built schools! Finally, "peace" can be the ultimate outcome of people learning about others cultures and making friends.

Several of Robert's classmates still remember how valuable pennies are in Pakistan; Julia B. recalled how good it felt to give money last year: "I felt like I was blessing people big time," she said.

Robert's mom Adrienne said her son has no qualms about asking people for money. He approached neighbors and folks at church to gather \$60 and then collected even more from his classmates. In fact, 12 cents left in the coin



Photo by Marcia Mitchell

Fourth-grader Robert R. was inspired by the book "Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg & Three Cups of Tea."

counting machine miraculously brought his class's grand total donation to a nice, round \$70.

"Wow, God really provides," Robert says. "And God provided that village so Greg could be helped."

"That's how God works," he says. "It's really quite amazing."

## The Ann Arbor Christian School auction is back!

Mark your calendars for

### An Evening in the Islands

Friday, March 12

Consider donating an item or two:

- Gift certificates to your favorite stores (donated by you or the store)
- A skill you can share: music lessons, computer repair, gourmet meals, etc.
- Tickets to a big game
- Use of your cottage/vacation home
- Services or goods from your business
- Homemade gift baskets or quality crafts

Please contact Rachel Bush  
([Rachel.bush@att.net](mailto:Rachel.bush@att.net)) with donations  
or Lisa Ann Schliebe  
([lisaann.schliebe@charter.net](mailto:lisaann.schliebe@charter.net)) to get involved!



## Who am I?

First and second graders created detailed self portraits during a recent art unit.

Q: Can you guess who this first grader is?

A: It's Leia S!

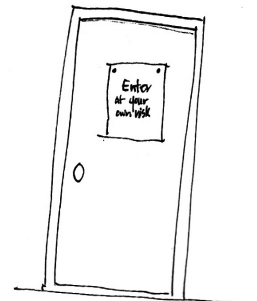
AACS sixth graders used sensory details, alliteration, and imagination to write impromptu "list" poems during a recent poetry unit.

## An Over-stuffed Room

A list poem by Nick N., sixth grade

9-29-09

A Sony TV,  
A bed of Glee,  
Guitar of Electrical Cordage,  
Monster in the closet,  
A dresser of clothes,  
A window of sunshine,  
A mirror of reflection,  
A snake of slime,  
A cage to contain,  
A floor of footsteps,  
A bunch of fishhooks,  
A wallet of money,  
A shelf of books,  
A door of exit and entrance...  
And that's what's in my room.



## Alumni Corner

### Mission trip changes lives, at home & abroad

By Marcia Mitchell, Beacon editor

For some former Ann Arbor Christian School students, the summer of 2009 was eye-opening and life-changing.

Last August, 25 AACS alumni selflessly served the people of Belize, a small country in Central America. The group, comprised of 31 students and four leaders from the Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church high school youth group, spent five days leading vacation Bible school and doing various repairs and improvements on a home and church in San Ignacio, Belize.

The trip, planned by former AACS parent Bill Vander Roest and Praying Pelican Missions ([prayingpelicanmissions.org](http://prayingpelicanmissions.org)), impacted not only the

Belizeans but those who went to serve as well. Here are a few reflections:

"This trip has taught me that we have so much. More than we often need. Our closets are full; our houses don't sink; our homes are cooled and heated. Our leader/tour guide said that the Belizeans are rich. They have everything they NEED. Now what I saw was not rich by American standards, but they had food, water, shelter,

and love. This trip has taught me that living without is sometimes OK, and that you can scrape by with less. I'm going to stop thinking "I need" and start asking "Do I really need it?"  
-Amelia D., AACS class of 2005

"God is using this experience to remind me he is there. He has exterminated my doubts and shown me the way he wants me to live."  
-Matt V., AACS class of 2008

"[The kids] didn't care who we were, what we had done, or where we came from; they were ready to absorb God and his love, mercy, and compassion. I spoke with my new friend Ashley and she shared with me how much she loved church and loved singing, and loved her Bible. It really made me check myself and wonder why I don't have the same feelings, and how I could let myself get so wrapped up in the unimportant things when God's way is so CLEAR!"

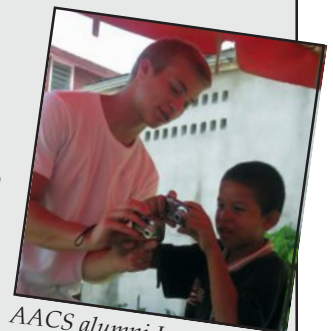
-Greta B., AACS class of 2006

"I have had my eyes opened to the fact that God makes his power perfect in our weaknesses. I also have learned that the more you pour yourself out to God, the more he will fill you up with himself."

-Ian G., former AACS student



AACS alumni Lauren M. and Callie S. give some love to their new friends from Belize.



AACS alumni Jonathan G. and friend share photo tips.

### Would you like to receive The Beacon electronically?

To cut costs and save trees, we are offering the option to receive the AACS newsletter by email. If you are interested, please email the AACS office at [office@annarborchristian.org](mailto:office@annarborchristian.org), or call 734-741-4948.

### AACS almost back in black

By Doug De Vries, board treasurer

Ann Arbor Christian School continues to be blessed!

Last year, the school board and the finance committee projected a loss of more than \$90,000 and AACS ended up losing only \$25,000. With the staff and committees keeping an eye on expenses and receiving more gifts than budgeted, the loss wasn't so great. Thank you all for your constant support to AACS. In addition, we've been blessed by those who have contributed over the years to have \$409,000 cash on hand. God is good.

The forecasted shortfall of the 2008-2009 budget prompted the board and the finance committee to find a way to stop the negative numbers. Many of you saw AACS' presentations to communicate the anticipated loss and our plans to stem the loss. Thanks to the commitments of many and significant sacrifices by the staff, a new budget assembled for the 2009-2010 school year put us back on track. The budget was forecasted with 124 (K-8) students enrolled. The higher actual enrollment of 134 students for the 2009-2010 year helped significantly.

The finance committee and board want to be sure everyone understands the numbers. One idea is to share what the tuition shortfall is per student or to explain what the allocation is of the cash on hand. Please feel free to share by email ([board@annarborchristian.org](mailto:board@annarborchristian.org)) what information would be helpful to understand how AACS is doing financially.

# Mrs. Jansen visits Nepal with prestigious Fulbright-Hays

By Jeanette Brooks, AACCS mom

Next time you're at Ann Arbor Christian School, say "Namaste" to middle-school teacher Janet Jansen! (In Sanskrit, this greeting literally means "I bow to you.")

Mrs. Jansen was one of 15 Michigan teachers chosen to travel to Nepal this past summer as a Fulbright-Hays scholar. This prestigious program promotes cultural and educational awareness among countries.

During four weeks in Nepal, Mrs. Jansen served in an elementary school in Pokhara, a city about twice the size of Ann Arbor. She partnered with a Nepali teacher as an observer and encourager, and she helped teach lessons in language arts and social studies.

"It was a lot of fun sharing with the kids about how our nations are similar in some ways, and different in others. We talked about landmarks, geography, population – it was an amazing learning experience for me as much as for the kids."

A highlight for Mrs. Jansen was the opportunity to immerse herself in Nepali culture. She lived with a Nepali host family and each evening shared an abundance of Nepali foods and conversation. (Ask her about "momo" – her favorite dish!)

When she returned to the United States, Mrs. Jansen worked with fellow Fulbrighters to develop a curriculum on Nepal. Michigan State University will publish the team's materials for any teacher's classroom use. Mrs. Jansen plans to use portions of the lessons in AACCS's middle-school curriculum this year.

Mrs. Jansen's biggest takeaway from her time in Nepal?

"It was definitely the wealth of things we can learn from the Nepali culture," she explains. "The kids and families I met were such a great example in so many ways. Their devotion to one another, the kids' eagerness to learn, and their intense apprecia-



A two-week teaching assignment at SOS Herman Gmeiner School in Pokhara, Nepal, is a professional experience middle-school teacher Janet Jansen will always cherish. Co-teachers Meera Budhathoki and Knchan Garung played a significant role in her acclimation to Nepal's private education system.

tion for even the smallest things, like crayons and backpacks – these are all things worthy of emulating."

Mrs. Jansen also was inspired by Lynne Mark, who co-directed the Fulbrighters' trip. A former Peace Corps worker, he started a small dairy co-op in the 1970s to give Nepali villagers access to fresh milk. Today, the co-op has more than 900 members and is a thriving source of fruit, vegetables, and dairy for more than 2,000 people. "The amazing thing," Janet says, "is that we all have the chance to make an impact like that. What a cool gift! Our challenge is to ask ourselves, how can we bring unconditional love, support, and help to people who need it? How can we give that kind of hope?"

Though she's not certain of a timeframe, Mrs. Jansen is eager to return to Nepal, possibly with her family, to work more with Nepali schools. For now, she's grateful for an amazing experience, and AACCS is honored to have a Fulbrighter in our midst.

As a Fulbrighter, Mrs. Jansen's in good company! Former AACCS principal Ann Deckert and her husband spent several years abroad in the Fulbright program.

## In brief

### Committees revitalized

At the September back-to-school nights, board president Karl Jennings stressed the importance of families "partnering" with Ann Arbor Christian School. Parents responded by getting involved! Many school committee positions, as well as educational and extracurricular partnering opportunities now have been filled with fresh faces and ideas. A big thank you to all parents who stepped up to the plate! To see a spreadsheet displaying the volunteer opportunities that have been filled, and those still in need, check out the visual aid on the wall outside the library.

### Grant awarded

Ann Arbor Christian School received a \$1,000 grant from the Westerman Foundation to purchase a new computer for the school library. Thank you, Westerman Foundation, for your generous support of our school! AACCS hopes to receive other grants to purchase additional library computers in the near future.

Briefs by Marcia Mitchell, Beacon editor



Photo by Marcia Mitchell

Last June, Nick N., Justin E. and their classmates ran across the finish line, marking the passage from fifth grade into middle school!



Photo by Elaine Wong

Joe B., Timothy K., and Ella E. listen intently at the Matthaei Botanical gardens. The field trip was a part of the fourth-grade unit on plants and trees.



*Seventh graders Isabela F., Leanne D., Tim A., Ethan C., and Jonathan K. get ready to beautify St. Joseph Mercy Hospital with fresh fall plantings. Sixth and seventh graders also helped rid nearby Shanghai Prairie of non-native, invasive plants.*

## Upcoming AACCS dates:

Grandparents' Day  
Nov. 6

Family Christmas  
Gathering  
Dec. 17, 7:00 pm

Visit us on the web at  
[annarborchristian.org](http://annarborchristian.org)

## Pancake Breakfast

Nov. 7  
8:30-10:30 am

Join AACCS  
families & friends  
for a delicious  
breakfast.

(Donations accepted  
for the breakfast.)

5500 Whitmore Lake Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
Phone: 734.741.4948

Ann Arbor  
Christian School

