



Warrior Connection

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—SULLY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
JULY 28, 2017

From the Desk of Mrs. Veenstra...

It is hard to believe that another summer has almost come and gone. At times it seems like school has just ended and other days it seems like it was so long ago. Either way it will start in about a month if we are ready or not.

I pray that you were able to have a relaxing summer spending time with family and friends. For me it was a busy summer of ball games, which just came to an end on July 15. I love baseball, but like everything it has to come to an end. Then it is onto another sport, which is then my favorite!

Maybe you were able to take a vacation where you could see God's creation in a different state. I was able to travel with my parents to South Dakota to see Trevor at the International Cadet Camporee in Custer. It was a beautiful trip and great to spend time in awe of how God created our country so differently. The Badlands National Park was an amazing...and HOT sight to see. Driving through Custer State Park and seeing all the buffalo and different wildlife was amazing to see as well. And of course Mount Rushmore is beautiful. God sure gave Gutzon Borglum and his son Lincoln an amazing gift as they were able to carve four Presidents into Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills. It was a sight to remember. I would recommend if you go there to see it during the day and then at night when they light it up.

The highlight of the trip was of course being able to see Trevor and the other boys from our school, church and area that had attended as well. The towns of Sully and Pella were well represented as many families made the trip to see their sons for the Sunday church service. It was so neat to see all the boys in their uniforms as they filed in for the church service outside in the hills of SD.

Now, as we are all back at home and starting to see the "Back to School" signs in the stores our minds have to shift from a summer of, not much structure, back to the mind set of our school routines.

I am so blessed to be able to lead the school this year and as I do I ask for your prayers and patience as I learn the ropes. I have a great group of teachers and staff to work with as well as wonderful kids and family support. I am looking forward to seeing all of you on our first day of school...Wednesday, August 23! Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Angela Veenstra

Society Report
June 21, 2017

We began the 2016-2017 academic year with 43 students in grades K-8.

We also welcome three new staff members: Miss Kylie Lamb sharing the teaching duties at the 1st & 2nd grade level and served as our resource room teacher. Mrs. Carolyn Ansley taught music and band, while Mrs. Lisa Davis taught art classes. We were blessed by their service as these teachers, as well as all the "Old Timers" provided a strong Christian presence in our school.

Our theme for the year was "Sermon in Shoes" and it served as a wonderful base for many of our chapels and activities. Our service project for the year - the collection of shoes for Hope Mission in Des Moines - was readily embraced by the students, and we collected over 50 boxes of shoes.

As in the past, our "Prayer Partner" program served as an opportunity for older students to mentor the younger ones, and for them all to play and pray together. Special activities were set up on a monthly level, and the year was topped off with a scavenger trip at Mariposa County Park.

During the year students enjoyed a variety of field trips to such places as: Nelson Pioneer Farm, Creation Garden, The Science Center, Living History Farms, the Temple Theater, the Jasper County Court House, and the Des Moines Art Gallery. These types of experiences provide an important part of their education and may also serve as an inspiration.

The students were quite diligent this year, as their Iowa Assessment attest to. Students were either achieving above grade level or showed gains of a grade level from to previous year. Students in the upper grades were generally performing between 2 and 4 years above grade level. About a half of our students were achieving at the Advanced level in Reading and Math, with a third at the Advanced level in Science. Nationwide, only one tenth of students are identified as advanced. It is also worth noting that our students in grades 5-8 read between 500,000 and 3 million words this past year.

In addition to these academic achievements, our students continued to develop musical, dramatic, and artistic skills and talents. These were demonstrated at our Fine Arts Festival, and in other programs. It was also good to see them participate in the Marching Band with students from area Christian Schools. Middle school students were also given an opportunity to participate in several sports such as volleyball, softball, and Track & Field. You may be commended for having a school that encourages its students to become well rounded citizens of this county and God's Kingdom.

In this past year your Board has been hard at work making improvements to the school programs, buildings and grounds. The fire/smoke alarms were upgraded. A security system was installed, new playground equipment was purchased, painting projects were performed, and Chromebooks were purchased for grades 5-8. The Chromebooks were used to make students spelling, research, and writing more efficient.

God's blessings were also evident as He moved hearts to generously give to Sully Christian School at both our Hostess Supper and Food & Fun Night. People also proved to be generous with their time and energy as they gave both making Dutch Letters in November.

I would also like to provide a word of thanks to those who served our school by driving busses, cooking and serving food, cleaning and maintaining both the building and grounds, providing all the secretarial services and keeping our library running smoothly. Thanks to the board members and committee members for their work in keeping this school running efficiently.

In all, we had much to be thankful for in the past year, and we pray that God will continue to bless Sully Christian School in the future.

Jim Warden

2017 Society Meeting Highlights

Verlan Van Wyk, Board President, opened in devotions and prayer.

40 members present along with 28 absentee ballots.

Rick Vos, Stephanie Dykema and Landon Van Zante were elected to School Board.

Lauren Van Wyk and Wes Zylstra were elected to the Bus Board.

Angela Veenstra has been hired for 50% teacher and 50% head teacher for the next school year. A part-time teacher or teachers are needed to teach 7th-8th grade science, 5th-8th Bible and 5th-8th social studies which would be a 50% position. Also a qualified Administrator will need to be hired to sign official documents as needed.

Ambassadors reported about the events that they had been involved with in the last year and for the year ahead. Polos with the SCS logo have been ordered for the students to wear for field trips.

Building and Grounds reported that a section on the roof above the science lab has been leaking and will need addressed. Several new items have been purchased from memorial funds this past year.

Bus Board reported that the current operating balance for the bus is \$34,551.79. The new bus fund balance is currently \$47,709.18.

Mr. Warden talked about the theme for the year, Sermons in Shoes. An overview of the events that took place during the school year was given to the Society. He thanked the Society for the last two years of serving as Interim Administrator and asks God blessing on Sully Christian School.

Fundraising gratefully reported that \$50,000 was raised from the golf tournament, Dutch Letters, Fun and Food Night and misc. The Hostess Supper will be held on September 23.

School Operating Budget was presented for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion was made to approve the 2017-2018 budget. Motion was approved.

Mr. Jim Warden closed in prayer.

Dear Supporters of Sully Christian School, SCS Food Service has been struggling financially the last few years due to the rising costs of food and decreased student enrollment. Please keep this in mind as you make the gracious decision to donate money to SCS. Please consider donating to SCS Food Service to help them in this time of financial hardship.

Without some financial help and donations, Food Service is facing the risk of not being able to continue to serve hot lunches to our students. Please be sure to watch for some upcoming fundraising events to help support SCS Food Service and make plans to attend these events!

PRAYER WARRIOR'S CORNER.

1. Prayers for all students and staff as they are preparing for the start of a new school year.
2. Prayers of thanks for our new off-site Administrator Janna Voss.



June Board Highlights

Election of Officers were held, elected were: President Verlan Van Wyk, Vice President Nicole Olivier, Secretary Stephanie Dykema, Vicar Eric Van Weelden, General Fund Treasurer Landon Van Zante and Tuition Treasurer Ronda Van Soelen.

Angela Veenstra has accepted the head role for the next school year. Angela will be 50% teacher and 50% head teacher. The Education Committee is searching for a qualified 50% teacher or teachers to teach 7th and 8th grade Science, 5th-8th Bible and Social Studies. A qualified Administrator will need to be hired to sign official documents as needed.

Angela Veenstra will meet with the teachers and discuss how STEM can be incorporated in all the classrooms.

Building and Grounds reported the new playground stand up teeter totter needs to be installed and the Gazebo in the playground was unsafe and has been taken down and a replacement is being looked into.

Pella Christian Grade School has decided to leave the local LOGSTO program. More information will follow if this will affect Sully Christian School.

Deb Benson will meet with the teachers and school board on July 19 and 20 with an on-site training which includes planning goals and staff development.

School Registration will be held on August 7 from 6-8 pm.

School Registration

Monday, August 7 from 6p-8p

**Please bring all required forms and payments*

Back to School Night and Picnic!

Tuesday, August 22 from 6p-8p.

First Day of School

Wednesday, August 23



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