



All

LEARN → KNOW → LIVE
TRUTH

"In Christ lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom & knowledge." (Col 2:3)

A Newsletter of Appleton Christian School
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Walking The Path Less Traveled
by Patricia Tofte, Administrator

Have you ever noticed how much easier it is to tell someone else to "trust God" than it is to do it yourself? Actually having to walk by faith, which is trusting God to work things in our lives, for His glory and our good, flies in the face of all we have been programmed to believe and do in our culture. Certainly my temperament is not one to sit idly by and not **do something** when situations arise, but I am learning that sometimes the best response is to wait for God to confirm a right path.



Over the years I have followed the Christian School crowd by researching what other schools do to raise money or increase enrollment, and we have walked those paths only to discover that most often what works for others does not necessarily work for us. ACS is unique and part of that uniqueness is that God has led us down a most unconventional path. He has shown us that bigger is not always best and that providing a traditional education for every child neglects many children whose parents want a Christian education for their children. So, He has shown us that it is possible to blend traditional education with a unique education where it is needed. This can and does work together for the good of many. Why is it so shocking that really, really, smart, talented people can actually struggle with something like reading and spelling? It remains a constant surprise to me how much talent and ability has been lost to our world because we in the "traditional education business" have written off those who are wired differently! But, at ACS, we are letting those lights shine alongside the traditional lights in our classrooms to the glory of God!

So here we are, a modest-sized school of about 120

students, pre-k through 8th grade, offering a varied education for those students who need it. You will read about some of these changed lives in this newsletter.

At ACS we have seen miracles happen in lives because we have chosen to walk "the path less traveled" in Christian education. The blend of students **that God has placed here** never ceases to amaze me, to teach me, and to humble me. My faith has been stretched as I see Him placing the students He wants here, and then providing the finances to meet our needs. In the spirit of one of my very favorite poems by Robert Frost (full poem on page 2), I will end with the line, "and that (choosing the path less traveled) has made all the difference." **TO GOD, BE THE GLORY!**

Pat

Two roads diverged in
the woods and I, I chose
the one less traveled by,
and that has made all the
difference.

Around the Halls



The 'Explore Program: Reaching for the Stars' is a class for students who need additional challenges outside the normal classroom subjects. Each quarter the program subject matter is different and is either a class of 3rd and 4th graders or 5th and 6th graders.

The class is biblically based and broadens the student's worldview. Thus far we have covered the effects of drinking unclean water (including countries with clean drinking water), starting, running and conducting a business for profit, and cooking around the world (which involved both cooking and learning about various countries, their lifestyles and foods). This quarter we are 'exploring' volunteerism. We will learn about local service agencies and actually spend time volunteering for them. It has been exciting to see God's hand involved in our activities (ask me how sometime!) and the students enriched and broadened in their knowledge and compassion for their community and world.

~ Ann Wittman, Tutor

The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim
Because it was grassy and wanted wear,
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I marked the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost

I Recently Overheard ...

... a conversation with Mrs. Christensen and one of her kindergarten students. The students were getting ready for outdoor noon recess, and Mrs. Christensen was trying to speed up the process by tying shoes. One girl was particularly fascinated and remarked, "Boy, you are really good at tying shoes!" Mrs. Christensen finished tying and smiled at the child, saying, "Thank you, it is from years of practice." I often think of this child's statement and remember that these children are going through this stage of their life for the first time. It is interesting to note that we, too, are going through a stage of life for the very first time. By God's grace, He gently guides us through our joy, sorrow, pain, or confusion. He is there as the One who has seen it all, and we can trust Him to guide us through.

~ Heidi Davis, Teacher

For the Last Three Years ...

... the 1st & 2nd grade classes have served the community by going bell ringing. Shopko is a nice walk away and was inside the double doors so we didn't have to stand out in the cold. It has been a wonderful experience watching these little ones reach out to others. There were a very few customers who didn't quite approve of our "Merry Christmas" greetings but most loved hearing the little ones sing and say "thank you"! This year, we started a new tradition, thanks to the help of the Salvation Army and the wonderful management of Pick & Save. We were able to ring bells (to the tune of Joy to the World, thanks to Mrs. Wittman!) and sing songs about Jesus to the customers. We feel blessed to be able to spread God's love to others in our community and the children were very excited about the money they raised!

~ Mrs. Julie Ebben, 1st Grade

There is one student ...

... who comes to mind when discussing the idea of perseverance. He is the first ACS student to get to Level 10, the final level of the tutoring program, and he will be the first to finish the entire program from start to finish at this school. What an accomplishment!! The thing that I love most about this situation is being able to witness the smile that comes across his face as he tells people what he is accomplishing, knowing it is something to be proud of, and knowing that he has gained the skills to be successful in an area of initial weakness. What a praiseworthy moment! I am grateful to have the opportunity to work with these students who have impacted my life forever.

~ Amber Creamer, 4th Teacher and ACS/DRC Liaison



Dyslexia Reading Connection® (DRC) is the largest provider of tutoring services designed specifically for dyslexic students in northeast Wisconsin. DRC specializes in teaching struggling readers how to read by teaching them how to spell. DRC is now in its 8th year of providing reading instruction to children, teens, and adults throughout the Fox Valley. We have been blessed to improve the lives of many by teaching them how to read and spell.

Highlights include students reporting they received an A on a spelling test for the first time, are getting A's and B's in their subjects, or are ready to participate fully in the regular education classroom and no longer needing to be in the special education program. Some other terrific examples:

- One of our students is an adult man in his 40's who could not read or write anything except his name when he contacted DRC. He is an intelligent, skilled mechanic who has found that reading is essential to getting and keeping a job. He was thrilled when after a few months of tutoring he was able to sound out words on billboards

as he was driving. When he found how much the program taught him, he enrolled his teenaged son, as well.

- Two of our ACS students will complete the final level of the Barton Reading and Spelling System® (BRSS). These two students will soon be the 4th & 5th students to complete the entire program with DRC and the first two ACS students to complete the program while still at ACS.

DRC currently has 13 tutors, teaching 55 students from Green Bay to Greenville to Neenah, and one student in Bolivia who receives instruction via SKYPE!

It is our calling and passion as tutors to improve the lives of our students by providing them the highest level of training available in reading and spelling. It is an incredible honor and blessing to be part of this program which God has so graciously brought to ACS.

~ Nancy Menn, Director

WHAT ABOUT THE MATH SIDE OF DYSLEXIA?

Last year when I started tutoring reading to students with dyslexia, that was one of my first questions. What about the math side of the brain? A month later, Nancy Menn and I attended a conference for tutors of dyslexia and heard a man speak about a new program he was developing to teach math to students with dyslexia. Nancy and one of her students became a beta site for the program – someone to test out the developing program. Because of my love of math, I soon became a beta site as well. Actually, as of this writing Nancy and I are the only two in the state of Wisconsin who have been trained in the new program. Words cannot express how impressed I am with this program. I have a degree in math, have taught math for many years and have tutored struggling students in math for several years. This program has given me insight as to how some of my struggling students **think and ways to teach them that they can grasp when conventional methods just don't work.** The task of this program is huge. Most of us think of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, but there is so much more. I feel very privileged to be a beta site and be able to bring this new program to our students here at ACS.

~ Ann Wittman, Tutor



I know that for many (parents) it has come at some sacrifice to provide your children this opportunity to attend ACS but whatever the cost be assured that every thing you've put on hold or had to give up it is the best investment you could make. I am thanking God for making the way for Christian education and Appleton Christian School."

~ Mavis Loescher, ACS Grandparent

APPLETON CHRISTIAN School

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This is the season of miracles, the time of year that we celebrate the greatest miracle ever. Although I wholeheartedly believe in the virgin birth, that is not the greatest miracle of the season. The greatest miracle is that God would send His Son to earth to live as fully human and fully God and to die on a cross for our sins.

This is the most amazing thing that God would condescend and sacrifice His life so that we might live for all eternity with Him. Not only did He sacrifice His life for us, but He desires to be intimately involved in our lives and He especially does so as we work to do all things to His glory.

Although nothing compares with the gift of Christ, we at ACS have seen God move in mysterious and miraculous ways. I believe one of the greatest gifts God has given to ACS is the fact that we have been forced to depend upon solely upon Him. As a smaller school we do not always have the finances readily available to write a check for every need that comes our way, but more than once God has blessed this school in ways that are nothing short of a miracle. Over the years God has provided “out of the blue donations” to the school that have met immediate needs, blessed us with wonderful teachers and staff who see the school and its mission not as a job, but as a ministry, and given us

wonderful Board Members who desire to do what is best for the students, the parents, and the staff. I am very grateful for what God has done in our past and I am looking forward to what He will do in the future. We have had the privilege of watching God take our “five loaves and two fishes” and blessing them and making them go even further than we could even imagine.

Although I wholeheartedly believe in the virgin birth, that is not the greatest miracle of the season.

My hope and prayer is that whatever your connection to the school may be you come to realize that one of the “benefits” of being part of this school is that we have the opportunity to have our faith tested. We have the joy of watching God work everyday miracles in the life of this school and I personally would not trade that for all the financial resources in the world. So in this season of miracles, make sure to

thank God for the greatest miracle ever, but do not forget to thank Him for the everyday miracles that He is working out in the lives of those connected to Appleton Christian School. On behalf of myself and the Board we want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

~ Pastor Tim Godfrey, ACS Board President