

PLUMB LINE



APRIL 2009

For 60 years, Des Moines Christian School has been centered on the true, unchanging Word of God. While we have built a building and changed the physical location of DMCS, we have not altered the vertical relationship with God to which we cling. The law of gravity, which establishes the resting point for the carpenter's plumb bob, was established by God. God established the plumb line of truth in His Word and will hold us accountable for any deviation from the center. Just as the carpenter dares not miss his exact vertical when erecting a wall, DMCS will not veer from our mission:

Equipping the next generation to think, discern and act through Biblically-directed, Christ-centered education.

Plumb Line is a publication of Des Moines Christian School.

Editorial content was provided by Superintendent Dr. Bob Stouffer, Development Director Samona Joy Yentes, and Association Member Dee Moriarty.

DMCS
Des Moines Christian School

Spotlight On... The Erickson Family

By Dr. Bob Stouffer



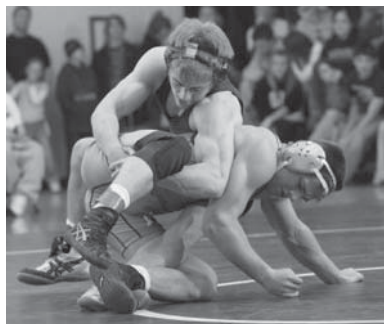
When you think of the Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) of Des Moines Christian, you think of the MANY parents who toil selflessly without any expectations for recognition, so the students and staff of our school can have even better educational experiences. You have often heard me state or write that this school is characterized by THE highest level of positive parental involvement than any school in my 29 years of experience as an educator. And I've been to a lot of schools

because of my involvement on accreditation teams. In this edition of the *Plumb Line*, we take the opportunity to recognize one PTF member who has distinguished herself during her involvement with the elementary school in particular. Jennifer Erickson is "retiring" as President of PTF, and we want everyone in the DMC community to express their appreciation to Jennifer for her distinguished service to the school. The high-quality Big Blue Bash fun night has Jennifer's personality stamped on the event. Jennifer has been a regular fixture in chapel, conducting drawings and awarding prizes for Box Top collections. She has done a marvelous job of delegating as PTF President, which has resulted in so many positive supports for DMC students and staff. She has served faithfully as a member of the Development Committee.

I asked Mrs. Erickson why she has been so involved at the school. She told me, "Fundamentally, it's about service. God calls us to serve. I've had the calling and the time and the interest to serve at Des Moines Christian, ultimately serving God through what we've done here. I love being a part of my kids' day and being a part of the activity here, even though I'm not an educator. It's a way that I can contribute. My kids like seeing their Mom helping out. My parents modeled volunteering for me, so I've seen this my whole life. There's an opportunity for people to step up and serve at the school. You're welcomed here. There are things that wouldn't happen here without volunteers. I started as a library helper when Emily was in pre-kindergarten. My involvement grew from there. I started doing what I could do, and I got more involved. People think they can't be the PTF President, but they can be a library helper. What are your skills and gifts? How can you use those skills and gifts? Those are the questions all parents should be asking themselves." Well said.

Her husband, Scott, is no slouch, either, serving as Chair of the Development Committee and Vice-President of the DMCS Board. Their daughters, Emily and Anna, are also wonderful contributing members of the DMC community. Many of you know that the entire Erickson family is often at any number of school activities -- sports, music, drama, etc. Please join me in honoring the Ericksons for their wonderful service to Des Moines Christian School!

Josiah South Takes 2nd at State Tourney



DMCS Senior Josiah South finished his high school wrestling career with an impressive 118-29 record, wrestled his way to first place at District Championships, and earned second place at the State Tournament. Josiah was also voted Most Valuable Wrestler on the Urbandale team. During every match Josiah wore a symbol of the cross and the passage Philippians 4:13 on his wrestling headgear to represent Christ as an athlete. He took advantage of the time on long wrestling trips to share his faith and to talk with the other wrestlers about spiritual truths.

College Provost Commends DMCS Graduates By Dr. Bob Stouffer

Recently, I received a very encouraging letter from the Provost of Judson University in Chicago – “This morning I had occasion to consider the application of one of your students. Being unfamiliar with your school, I wanted to do a bit more investigating. I was delighted to find that 6 of your alumni have enrolled at Judson in the last three years—Jessica Johnson, Jonathan Dixon, Nancy Greiman, Andrew [A.J.] Woodyard, Anna Cooper, and Abigail Godwin. Moreover, as the Chief Academic Officer I was thrilled to see just how well most of these students are doing, as the majority of them have consistently landed on the Dean’s List. Their solid performance is no doubt a credit to the excellent educational programming you offer at Des Moines Christian. I just wanted to commend you and your faculty and staff for your good work. We look forward to many more of your students matriculating at Judson in the years ahead. Yours in Christ’s Fellowship, Dr. Dale H. Simmons, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.” I was delighted that the Chief Academic Officer of a university would take the time to compose and send such a sincere expression of regard for Des Moines Christian School and our alumni. Congratulations to DMCS personnel for impacting these six DMCS graduates, who have obviously made a positive impression on the people of Judson University!

Young Girls Basketball Team Finishes Strong



Back row (L-R): Ass’t. Coach Lance Peterson, Anette Bosman, Rachel Mabrey, Emily Horstman, Stephanie Goeldner, Katie Vander Linden, Coach Kevin Kline Middle row (L-R): Bianca Long, Jade Schroder, Britt Schoon, Jessa Veenstra Front row (L-R): Kaitlin Lundeen, Emily Bosman

The girls’ basketball team this year may have been young, but they had plenty of potential. Coach Kevin Klein stated, “I knew we had some talented players, but it would take a while to develop as a team.” Last year’s team graduated four senior starters, so this year’s team came into the season ready to gain experience. “Some of the highlights of the season included playing at the Wells Fargo Arena, beating Panorama twice, and setting school records for a team defensive average of 29.7 points per game was near the top in state history” added Coach Klein.

The team showed their strong defensive skills throughout the season. In fact, they set school records for fewest points allowed. Being strong defensively allowed them to have a chance in every game. Their largest regular season loss was by 11 points, and five of their eight losses were by six points or fewer. They won eight of their last nine games to finish the season 15-8. “God showed us that through adversity comes triumph...when you have passion about something you can be successful,” concluded Coach Klein.

We Love Our Pastors



DMCS Teachers pray for Pastors Matt Waring, Michael Mudlaff, Tom Vandenberg and Joshua Denhart during a special Pastors Day assembly.

DMCS greatly values the many wonderful relationships with Pastors at the 100+ churches represented at the school. Every year, we attempt to properly honor those Pastors at We Love Our Pastors Day, held on February 11th this year. Refreshments were served. Tours of the school were available. Visits to classrooms were offered. A special K-12 chapel focused on the Pastors, as we laid hands on them to close their time on this special school day. We thank God for the Pastors who are shepherding the students of DMCS!


Intergenerational Learning at DMCS



On February 11, Des Moines Christian School junior high science instructor Karen Blake embraced the opportunity for her students to enjoy an intergenerational learning experience with residents of Legacy Pointe in Waukee when seashell collector and enthusiast Marlin Docter co-taught about Mr. Docter’s seashell collection (located in Mrs. Blake’s classroom).

Here, DMCS eighth grader Devan Brown, on the left -- alongside Mrs. Blake, Doris Bailey, and Helen Dickerson-- learns about how God designed seashells with natural defenses from predators.

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His Faithfulness Continues Through All Generations



Mrs. C.H. Hustonpillar

The year was 1951. Des Moines Christian School was a mere 3 years old when the Board voted to purchase a \$6,000 parcel of land at 62nd and Franklin to build a new school building. Mr. and Mrs. Gelmer Dylhoff donated the first \$2,000, a “major gift,” considering that in 1951 the median family income was only \$4,200!

A variety of fundraisers followed, first to raise the remaining \$4,000 for the property, and then to construct a one-story brick building to house the school, which had grown from 15 to nearly 100 students. A catering committee provided dinners for various Christian organizations in the city; a \$1.00 a month club was formed, and student choral concerts were performed in various churches, with offerings being directed to the building fund. In the summer of 1953, 2500 hand-held fans advertising the school were distributed to churches without air conditioning.

Monthly prayer groups undergirded the entire fundraising program. A bid was accepted from contractor Christie Voss of Sibley, Iowa. He stated in a letter, “May I say to God’s glory, it was a real joy to meet with a board of different denominations, yet all of one accord...” The Board agreed to sell bonds to raise funds for the new building. Many participated, including benefactor Mrs. Lillian Hutsonpillar, who purchase \$20,000 in bonds to be given to the school at her death.

1954: A ground breaking service was held on September 2 to begin construction of the new school. When the building was two-thirds complete, all available funds were depleted, and the board voted to halt construction until funds became available. Upon hearing this, Mr. Voss personally borrowed money, cashed his personal insurance, and carried the remaining indebtedness of \$17,000, so the school building could be opened in September 1955. By October of 1959, the debt was paid in full with interest to Mr. Voss.

Des Moines Christian enjoyed that facility until 1980, when the school joined First Federated Church in the use of the old Franklin Junior High School. Another 25 years later, DMCS again grew out of its facilities and moved to the current campus on Douglas Parkway in Urbandale. The details of God’s faithfulness omitted in this paragraph could fill a book!

Leaping forward to March, 2009: It is not often that Superintendent Dr. Bob Stouffer is speechless, but he was left without words as he accepted the single largest check our organization has received in the last decade - and perhaps in the school’s history – \$180,000! “We are grateful for donors who have such high regard for Christ-centered education and Des Moines Christian School in particular,” said Dr. Stouffer, adding his appreciation to the entire staff for providing a high quality experience for DMCS students.

Although DMCS entered the recent economic downturn in a solid financial position, we have been cinching our budget belts, preparing for potentially difficult year(s) ahead. This gift provides a breath of fresh air for our budget stewardship and will be appropriated as follows: a tithe to savings for funded depreciation; a portion to help meet our annual fundraising goals; and the purchase of items listed on the school’s Gift Registry, such as a bell system, library books, lockers, technology, and building improvements.

Indeed, God faithfulness continues through all generations! (Psalm 100:5) Meanwhile, the budget belt remains snugly fastened as we seek to be good stewards of that which God provides.

Big Blue Bash a Hit



Back row (l-r): Meredith Heer, Mariah Mayse, Elle Skinner. Front row (l-r): Lauren Ellingboe, Vivienne Skinner

On February 7th, the building was teeming with cakewalkers, carnival game players, basket bidders and eaters at the Big Blue Cafe! Congratulations to the PTF for organizing and delivering another outstanding Big Blue Bash for DMCS. Special thanks to all who helped contribute to a replenishment of the Emergency Tuition Fund, which assists families who have periodic difficulties making their monthly tuition payments!

Grandparents Deck The Halls with Love



Back row (l-r): Ethan Lindsey, April Gray and Gabriella Connor. Middle row (l-r): Seth Juhl, Mwiaki Njoroge and Sarah Veurink. Front row (l-r): Elea Cooper, Carly Steenrod, Ellie Schlapkohl

The ‘08 Grandparents Day filled up an entire Saturday this year when Early Education joined Elementary and Secondary to hold their Christmas program in conjunction with this special event. The distinctively Christ-centered programs, open houses in classrooms, and refreshments make it a favorite day for students as well as grandparents. An especially generous offering was matched by an anonymous gift of \$20,000 to provide scholarships for students who could not otherwise attend DMCS.





DES MOINES CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PLUMB LINE

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DMCS Calendar of Events

Good Friday - No School	April 10
Annual Celebration & Auction	April 17
Discover DMCS Open House	April 21
Spring Association Meeting	April 28
Spring Musical	May 1 & 2
Kindergarten Experience Day	May 7 & 8
Senior Recognition Night	May 12
State Track Meet	May 21 - 23
Graduation	May 23
Memorial Day - No School	May 25
Last Day of School	June 2

Annual Benefit to Celebrate 60 Years

DMCS continues its 60th Birthday Celebration at the 22nd Annual Benefit and Auction from 6:00-9:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2009 at Johnston E Free Church. Energized by our recent major gift, as well as a \$25,000 Challenge Pledge, we hope to leverage a unique giving opportunity. Enjoy the fabulous auction, Christiani's dinner buffet, gourmet desserts, fellowship with friends, student talent, DMCS history, and the excitement of what's coming next... Please contact the Development Office at (515)252-2496 with any questions. Gifts sent prior to the benefit will also count towards the \$25,000 Challenge!



Marching Band Receives Superior Rating

For the first time in school history, the DMCS Marching Band received a Division 1 Superior rating at the state marching band festival. They also took 1st place at the Waukee Marching Invitational as well as 3rd place at the Urbandale Marching Festival.