

BYRON CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
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 An Excellent Education

 Rooted in God's Word

 For Lifelong Service

The mission of Byron Center Christian School is to provide for children of the Christian community an excellent education, rooted in God's Word, preparing them for lifelong service in God's Kingdom.



REMEMBERING OUR PAST: 1917-2017 GROWING FOR OUR FUTURE.

Byron Center Christian School

Groundbreaking Faith Capital Campaign Update

BCCS is steadfast in its passion and commitment to raise up God-honoring men and women leaders to serve in the public or private sector as led by God. To help ensure that BCCS continues to provide an exceptional education, we are embarking on a facility expansion and renovation project.

In Phase I, we plan to expand the East Campus to accommodate growth and provide additional space for today's educational programming. We will also update the West Campus. Combined, the project cost is \$2.65 million. We plan to raise those funds and remain debt free.

Phase II of the campaign is the construction of a larger gymnasium at a projected cost of \$1.5 million. We will begin Phase II after Phase I is fully funded. Already we've secured nearly 2 million in gifts, pledges, and in-kind commitments. We praise God for this momentum and ask for the additional funds required to complete Phase I.

Here is how you can be involved.

Pray Ask God to greatly bless this project so BCCS may continue to prepare students to impact the world for Jesus Christ.

Encourage Tell your family and friends about the campaign! Send us names of those who may be interested in partnering with BCCS to gbfaith@bccs.org.

Give Please consider making a generous contribution in support of the project. Your commitment can be in the form of cash, check, appreciated assets, real estate, or securities.

Please contact campaign representatives at gbfaith@bccs.org with your questions and comments.



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www.bccs.org

Byron Center Christian School Perspective Discover the Difference

Fall 2015



2015 Day of Service



A sweet picture of what it means to serve. 400 bingo-playing, fence-painting, dance-partying, worship-singing, stall-cleaning, lunch-packing BCCS students coupled their big hearts with enthusiastic hands during our annual SOS² Day of Service. More pictures inside and on this video!



Made For More

"We are the clay, You are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64:8

While studying this year's theme verse, students will discover how they are "Made for More" – created by God and continually molded for a specific purpose which is far greater and more fulfilling than anything they could ever ask or imagine!



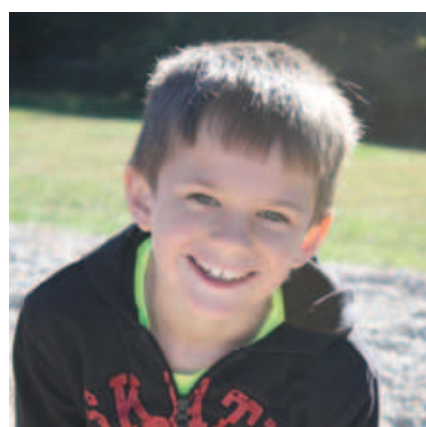
Teacher Notes...

These are snippets of actual notes our teachers sent to their students' parents. How would you like to receive one of these?

1 It is a delightful year as we discover the personalities and gifts of each learner. We view each student as a unique child of the King, and we work to meet the needs of each one. You can know with confidence that your child is prayed for by name, and we covet your prayers as we seek to nurture your child.

2 Although we've only been together for a few days, we have fallen in love with your children. We know that God handpicked these students to be in our classroom. This school year was in His plan from the beginning of time, and we recognize that it is our awesome duty to participate in it. Please pray for us! Pray that God gives us wisdom, guidance, encouragement, and grace. We cherish your support and your prayers as we begin this journey with your precious children.

3 One of our devotionals this week was about miracles. First we talked about what a miracle is. Can people do miracles? No! Only God can do miracles! I told the class that "I see 15 miracles right in our room! God did a miracle when he created you! He made lungs that could take in oxygen, he created your heart that can beat, a brain that can learn new things..." When I see these miracles, I can't help but praise God for his amazing power!



Powerful Prayers

We wrapped up our study of James in Bible this week with a lesson on prayer. James encourages us to pray when we are in trouble, when we are happy, and when we are sick. What a blessing that we can have an audience with the creator of the universe! Here are some of the things your kids are praying about this week: "Dear Father, You are mighty! Please forgive me for everything I've done that's wrong." "Please be with Ben's sister." "Please be with Mrs. VW's back and Austin's mom's back." "Please be with the refugees." "I love you because you are powerful." "I'm sorry that sometimes we argue." "And help me to keep finding caterpillars."

Intricate Insects

This week we collected quite a few critters: a walking stick, some wooly bears, a caterpillar, and a couple of praying mantises. We've researched and investigated every one and are amazed at the intricate details of each. God sure thought of all the details when He created these insects. And if He thought so carefully about insects, how much more does He think about us?! He has designed us from our head to our toes. He can count our hairs and the freckles on our nose! But the most special part of His human design is that He gave us each a soul; the part of us that loves, believes, forgives, trusts, and clings to Jesus.

Discover the

New Staff Members...

We are thrilled to welcome eight new staff members to the Byron Center Christian School Family!



Mrs. Shonna Geels
Paraprofessional



Mrs. Beth Kiekintveld
Middle School Math



Mrs. Lillea Prins
Middle School Language Arts



Mrs. Jill Schrotenboer
Paraprofessional



Mr. Rod Schutte
Spiritual Development
Coordinator



Mrs. Amy Trifan
Paraprofessional



Mr. Tod VanDoeselaar
Head Custodian



Mrs. Aubrey VanWylen
4th Grade

Why Have a Student Teacher?



Our school is tremendously blessed by our parents, our students, our board, and our staff. We have a unique, vibrant, growing culture. What better place for a teacher-in-training to learn the art of teaching, to cultivate the gift that God has laid on their heart? It has been a great pleasure to welcome Calvin College's Paige Stephens to the BCCS middle school science department this semester.

There are several benefits to having a student teacher. First of all, mentoring a candidate makes me a better teacher by helping me think through how and why I do what I do in the classroom. It brings a fresh set of eyes to observe my craft. Plus, as the student teacher takes on more responsibility for particular lessons, it affords the regular teacher the opportunity to do some extensive long-range planning, teaching unit revisions, and special project work.

Having a student teacher can be a valuable experience for our students. When they walk alongside a teacher intern, they realize that learning is a life-long process. It doesn't end when we graduate! Students learn patience and grace, and have the opportunity to help shape the successful teaching style of a future educator.

But one of the greatest reasons to have a student teacher is that we have a duty to give back. We Christians are called to be reformers in the world, and that involves preparing both my middle school students and future teaching partners for a lifetime of service in the kingdom. As Abraham Kuyper stated, "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!" When we take on a student teacher at BCCS, we are privileged to help them carry this message out into the world.



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Difference



Football Fervor

"I coach several of the BCCS 7th graders in the South Christian football program. Prior to one game, Colton and Jackson (two Byron Christian players) approached us and asked if they could invite the opposing team to pray with us after the game. We said "for sure", so the two of them walked over and asked the other coaches, who politely obliged. After 4 quarters of competitive play, and following the shaking of hands, 50+ boys and coaches from Hopkins Public and South Christian feeder schools gathered on their knees at midfield to pray together. It was a pretty cool witness opportunity taken on by a couple of young men from BCCS and a very proud moment as coaches."



Upcoming Events

11/25-11/27	Thanksgiving Break
12/3	Michigan Projects
12/4	Christmas Shoppe
12/5	Byron Center Christmas Parade
12/5	Solo & Ensemble Festival
12/7	Hour of Code Week
12/10	5th & 6th Grade Christmas Concert
12/14	Young Fives Birthday Party for Jesus
12/23-1/3	Christmas Vacation
1/11	K-2 Musical
1/12	Preschool Open House

Our Class Rules!

We spent a portion of our morning brainstorming classroom rules that would make our room a safe and fun place to be. The kids did a wonderful job contributing to the discussion. We thought about how our room might be special because we love Jesus and we want to honor him in all we do.

Big Hearts

During one of our devotionals, we learned that although Zaccheus didn't grow very tall, his heart was big with love for Jesus when he spent time with Him. I shared with the children that this year we will be watching them grow - they will probably get taller, maybe lose a tooth, grow out of their shoes... but the thing that I am praying for is that their heart will grow big with love for Jesus as we spend time reading the Bible and talking to Him in prayer.

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God's glorious bounty



Time for recess!



7th grade volleyball team



Making a difference in the community.



Winning strategy.



Parents committed to the future of BCCS and our capital campaign.



Outstanding cross country team



Dad's enjoy field trips, too!



Painting the fence at HUGS ranch.



Kids can accomplish a lot, even in a short amount of time!



Our being there mattered.



I think the hay is getting to these first graders!