

The Knight Light

Unity Christian School
Comprehensive Christian Education
Day Care, Preschool, Elementary, Junior & Senior High



May 31, 2019

(Next issue: August, 2019)

Reflections on a Year of Hope

Ninety-eight years in the books for Unity Christian School. Many blessings have come during the years of Christ-centered education. This year was no different. One hundred thirty-four students have been blessed this year. Many families, including students, parents, grandparents, and teachers are among the blessed. As years go by, I think there is an increasing recognition of the benefit for an alternative to some of our local public school systems; this is in no way intended to be negative toward the efforts of local teachers or administrators; some of them are doing great things. I think most people would agree that there are benefits to alternative education; competition, capitalism, accountability. But Unity does not just offer an alternative, it offers Jesus Christ. The blessings of Unity are not found primarily in academics, facilities, arts, sports, or class sizes. None of those things are innately bad; they just are not the main point. Even though we have an increasing number of people inquiring about Unity as an alternative location for their children to attend school, I fear that we have a decreasing number of people who understand why this school is here. We are not about test scores. We are not about new buildings. We are not about small class sizes. Unity Christian School is in the business of partnering with fellow believers to teach the Truth of Jesus Christ in all aspects of academics, athletics, and life. Everything else is secondary. When we put first things first, second things get better. I know that is true every minute of every day; even when I have a tendency to forget, because that is what we, as fallen human beings have a tendency to do. I need to be reminded daily - just like the rest of us. God's timing is better than my timing. No matter what happens, God is still on the throne. I have no need to fear; if God is for us, who can be against us?

In my opinion, the best part of the school year has probably been the theme. We have this hope as an anchor for our soul; firm and secure. Anchors have consumed our decorating lately, and what a great reminder. The winds and currents of this world are pushing and pulling and driving "good" people to attempt to justify behaviors that are detestable. Our hope is in Christ alone - nothing else...not Christ and (something else), but in Christ alone. Perhaps that statement seems closed-minded. I want to have my mind opened to the scriptures in the way Jesus talks about in Luke 24:45. I have no desire to open my mind to the ways of the world. There will be days when the battle seems like an uphill climb and I anticipate that will continue. I cannot think of a year when I have worked as hard and accomplished as little. This makes me weary, but I am so glad that I have hope to cling to. I will not lose hope. Hope, not in things of this world, but hope in my anchor, Christ Jesus my Lord. I had the opportunity to speak at the last chapel of the year on Wednesday. Our anchor, Jesus, is firm and secure; we are unafraid, unashamed, and safe when we are with Him. The anchor that we hold onto is made with a cross. A cross is a device of torture and death, but Jesus has transformed the darkest of tools into a representation of His love for us. It is only through grace and love for us that He displayed for us through Christ's death and resurrection that can provide any real hope. God loves you. In the good times, in the bad times, in the endless winter, in the rainy spring, in the summer while we are apart...All the time, God is good.

-Chris Pluister



We were separated, Then Jesus made a way, and now we have this hope as an anchor for our soul.



Upcoming Calendar

Thursday (30th) – High school exams
11:45 TRIP at Bargain Bonanza
6:30 8th Grade Honors Night
Friday (31st) – Last day of school
11:25, 11:30 Dismiss
7:00 High School Graduation
Saturday (1st) – Boosters' Golf Outing

Monday – Wednesday (3rd – 5th) – Teacher in-service

Wednesday (5th) – Birdies forms are due in the office

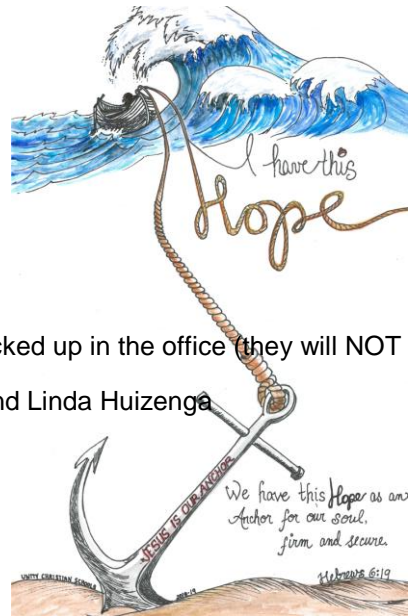
Friday (7th) – 9:00 – 3:00 Report cards for 7th-12th students are to be picked up in the office (they will NOT be mailed)

Saturday (22nd) – 1:30 – 3:00 Farewell Open House for Tim Wessels and Linda Huizenga

Monday (7/29) – Gym floor refinished

Tuesday (8/6) – 6:00 HEART sign up

6:30 – Athletic meeting for parents



Job Openings for Next Year

- **Cook** – We are looking to add another member to our kitchen staff
- **Half-time 4th grade teacher** – As our elementary enrollment has increased, the school board has decided to separate 3rd and 4th grade in the morning which will allow us to serve our families more effectively.
- **Administrator** – This is a new position to join the administrative team in an attempt to fill in some of the gaps in communication, marketing, promotions, facilities and transition planning while Mr. Pluister focuses on Truth in working with parents, students, and teachers. This position is being funded by the blessing of a private donation and will not be funded by tuition dollars for the 2019-20 school year. This individual needs to love Christ and Christian Education.
- **Elementary Music teacher** – we are seeking a part-time music teacher for Elementary.
- **Full-time High school Math Teacher** – Tim Wessels has announced that he will be moving from the area to support his wife, Laura, who is embarking on a new career.

Anticipated Changes for Next Year

-4th Grade: The biggest change will come in the form of a split 3rd/4th grade classroom. You may recall that last summer the Unity school board had to make a decision that it didn't anticipate - to cap enrollment for 3rd and 4th grade. We are now in the process of attempting to hire a part-time morning 4th grade teacher. Another big question is where will they go? There are a couple different possibilities the school board will be investigating within the next month.

-Administrator: Similarly, another change will be the addition of an additional administrator. We are recruiting for this position as well. The physical location of this individual's work space will be based on the work that they will be doing, which may be off campus much of the time due to our current space constraints.

-After-school care: We will continue to provide after-school care at UCPC and Bethel until 6PM, but we will no longer be providing this as a free service. This has been a tremendous blessing to many families, but we are frequently sending over 15 students in the afternoon which causes the need for additional staff. Even before the huge increase in minimum wage takes effect, the cost of this benefit to Unity families costs a more substantial amount of money than what was anticipated when the program began. If lack of free after-school care, creates a financial burden on your family that would prevent you from being able to return, please reach out to the school board or the office for assistance.

Sympathy

We express our deepest sympathy to Roger and Bonnie Bork (and Daniel) on the passing of Bonnie's father. We pray that God will bless them with His perfect comfort and peace.

Looking for an Auction Coordinator

Could this be you? We are looking for someone to work in conjunction with a Live Auction coordinator and a Silent Auction coordinator for our auction next year. Please contact Korri Marcum if you are interested or have questions (563-357-8308).

Coaches Needed

We will need coaches for jr. high girls' and boys' basketball teams. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Behr or call the high school office.

Birdies for Charity

Birdies for Charity is an easy fundraiser that will give you a start on your 2019-20 HEART obligation. Participants only need to make a one-time flat donation or pledge one or more cents per birdie made at the John Deere Classic tournament. The foundation will bill all participants so there is no need for you to collect money. In addition to the pledges received, the JDC will match a minimum of 5%. There are forms available in the office. Completed forms need to be turned in at the office by June 5. If you have any questions, call or text Eric (618-447-2046) or Tiffani (618-447-2043).

Help Wanted

The Bargain Bonanza Board of Directors is looking for a person to work part time in the store. The hours are flexible but will typically be 9:00-4:00 and three to four days a week. This is an exciting time at Bargain Bonanza as God is blessing us in many areas. If you are interested in working for a store that is run with Christian values and supports Unity Christian School, stop by the store and pick up an application or contact Roy Wilson at 563-503-2727 for an application and job description.

Farewell Open House for Tim Wessels & Linda Huizenga

Saturday June 22 from 1:30-3:00

Everyone is invited to attend the Open House for Mr. Wessels and Mrs. Huizenga on Saturday, June 22, from 1:30-3:00 in the gym. Come and spend a few minutes reminiscing about their years at Unity. Spread the word among their former students as well. We are grateful for the time they have given to Unity and they will surely be missed! Both Tim and Linda have blessed an entire generation of families at Unity.

2019-20 School Year

Watch for a packet of information in the mail in late July that will include a number of items you will need to have at the beginning of the school year. When you get them, please complete the forms as soon as possible and get them turned in so they don't get lost.

Moving?

If you plan to move during the summer or if you change your email address, please let us know your new information so you don't miss out on anything important from school. Please also let us know if you have a name change or a new phone number, or if you change churches. Thank you!

The Unity Family is Cordially Invited

The Class of 2019 would like to invite you to the following graduation celebrations:

-Tyler Appel, Haley & Trevor Bickelhaupt, Joey Woods- Saturday, June 1, 4-7 PM at Mt. Carroll Farm Bureau (811 Clay, Mount Carroll)

-Caleb Hirl & Zach Wilbur – Saturday, June 1, 1-4:00 at Journey Church Fellowship Hall (1010 13th Ave. N Clinton – previously known as Evangelical Free Church)

-Makayla Smith – Saturday, June 1, 11-1:00 in the back/banquet area of Manny's Too in Fulton (305 11th Avenue)

New Building Update:

In October of 2018, the school board voted to begin building a new campus in Clinton, IA, even though we hadn't reached 80% of the funds needed. This decision was made for many reasons, including rising costs of steel that were desired to be locked in before tariff prices increased and a time-sensitive bid that saved over \$100,000.00. At that time, the plan was to move into the new building in January of 2020. After installing drain tile and getting the building site to grade, the weather in November prevented further progress without incurring more additional expense than the school board was willing to incur. This resulted in the builders needing to wait until the spring to resume building. A preliminary draft of Unity's 2019-2020 calendar was drafted with the desire to move into the new building during an extended spring break in April of 2020.

Due to the continued rain, the ground is still too wet to pour the foundation of the building. The school board has not stopped the building project, but the weather delay has caused another decision to postpone the completion date. The current plan is no longer to move into the new building during the 2019-2020 school year; the target is now to move in during the summer of 2020. In order for this to happen, building will need to commence this summer.

Note from the President of our school board: The school board has not had another regular meeting since the Association meeting, but will meet again in early June to review the building plans and building budget. As a school we have raised money and secured pledges totaling over \$4 Million over the last 2 years. The total cost of the project will be \$6.5 Million. We need your help in raising significant funds over the course of the next year to keep Unity debt-free. Your board will keep you up-to-date on the building progress over the summer months via email.

Todd Wilbur, School Board President (todd.wilbur@adm.com)



SUMMER HOURS

Beginning June 14

Monday – Thursday 9-12:00, 1-3:00

Friday – closed

(Closed for vacation the week of July 1 – 5)

August 5 – normal hours resume



The Board and Staff of Unity Christian wish everyone a safe and restful summer! Watch for information about next year in your mail by the end of July. Projected start date is August 14

