

Crossroads Connection

February 2014

CALENDAR

Tue, Feb 25, 4-10 pm:
Food & Fellowship-Chili's
Mar 31-Apr 4: Spring Break
Tue, Apr 8, 4-9 pm: Food &
Fellowship-Noodles &
Company (2255 Main)
Fri, May 2: Friends Dinner
LifeBridge Church

From the Principal's Desk: Be Joyful Always. . . by Connie Nourse

Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18a (NIV)

God made us to be joyful, not gloomy or grumpy. But finding joy can be a challenge. In a world where we have instant access to world news, we are constantly barraged with negative stories. Even within our own neighborhoods and homes there are plenty of reasons to complain or nit-pick at our circumstances. I am convinced that being joyful is a choice: a choice that requires effort, but nevertheless a choice.

I have a very dear friend who keeps a joy journal. In that journal she writes 5 things each day that are positive. I was amazed at how uplifting it was to go back and read those entries months or even years later. It was that "Joy Journal" that inspired this article. I want to share the "Joy of Crossroads:"

- We accepted 4 new students this semester
- We are blessed to be in a building that has more space than we currently need
- The Central Church staff has poured themselves into the school and the staff
- We have 3 fulltime staff for the first time ever
- The local YMCA has donated gym time so we can have P.E. indoors

The list could go on and on. We have much to be joyful for, and as winter presses on it is good to stop and remember that we are called to "be joyful always!"

Giving Spark Award: Congratulations to Connie Nourse!



Congratulations to Crossroads Teaching Principal Connie Nourse, who recently received the Giving Spark Award from the Longmont Community Foundation! This award is given to one individual each year "who has ignited a difference in our community." Connie received a hand-made glass sculpture as a recognition of her award. We're proud of the difference Connie and Crossroads are making in the

Longmont community, and grateful for this recognition!



To view the announcement and winning video on the Longmont Community Foundation website, go here: <http://www.longmontfoundation.org/community/in-the-news/125-congratulations-to-connie>

Development Corner: Crossroads' Purpose. . . by Howard Nourse

The mission of Crossroads School is to change the world, one life at a time, working with at-risk youth to prepare them to be productive, self-sufficient citizens. A major emphasis in accomplishing this mission is to raise the students' self-esteem, to encourage their awareness of their potential and to develop the skills to prepare them for a rewarding life.

The mission sounds like every school's mission statement, and if it ended there, it could be. But because of the unique needs of each Crossroads student there is an additional purpose that is central at Crossroads. In support of the learning process, Crossroads embraces a larger vision for each student. An excellent Purpose Statement for Crossroads School is found in I Timothy 6:18-19 (NIV):

Teach them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

The mission of changing the world one student at a time is fully accomplished as the purpose of Crossroads is integrated into our mission.

Spotlight On: Enrichment Classes. . . by Konni Keuter



Volunteer Karen Bianco teaches cooking

In our last newsletter, we highlighted the wonderful opportunities that our 10th through 12th grade students have at the Career Development Center. Not to be outdone, our 6th-9th graders are also offered classes that appeal to their artistic and adventurous natures. These classes, taught by our awesome volunteers and teachers, allow Crossroads to offer a well-rounded education.

Crossroads enrichment courses range from Art to Technology; Cooking to Drama; Cake Decorating to Physical Education. Each semester the staff at Crossroads develops an offering of classes that appeal to a wide range of students, based on the talents available in our volunteer pool. Students get to choose what they participate in. Volunteers engage students, build relationships, and help raise esteem, all while students are engaged and learning.

Each enrichment class offers different delights. Volunteer Tammy Kerr's Art class is in its third year. Her students' creativity is on display at every Crossroads gathering, and even overflows into the community: our student's art was on display at Ziggis' Coffee House in January.

Our Technology class is led by parent volunteer Paul Chilson. Last semester his students created their own PONG game and found out just how much work goes into those video games they play!

Cooking, taught by long-time volunteer Karen Bianco, never ceases to turn out wonderful goodies, from salsa to pizza to chocolate chip cookies. She strives to teach students about food groups, healthy cooking and eating, and a variety of culinary skills in the process.

Even Cake Decorating, offered for the first time this year, is a hit. By popular demand, we've added an advanced cake decorating class this semester for those who wanted to continue to develop their skills!

These enrichment classes align with the Crossroads mission of meeting students where they are and equipping them to reach their potential. By offering a variety of hands-on classes, our students are engaged and excited about learning and with the knowledge and determination of our volunteers and staff, the possibilities are endless.



Dakota Wiechman puts the finishing touches on her mini cake

Supporting Church Snapshot: Faith Community Lutheran Church

Faith Community Lutheran Church, pastored by Dan Hansen, is a church with an exceptional heart for the community. Founded in 1980 in North Longmont, they have undergone three expansions to host their growing community of over 1100 members. Their goals for outreach and stewardship are based in the core principles of extending the gospel and mercy to individuals and communities near and far.

Faith Community began their relationship with Crossroads School in April 2012. Konni Keuter, one of the founders of Crossroads who is also a member at Faith, brought the compelling Crossroads story to the Outreach Committee. From there the relationship blossomed and has been a great blessing to our school. The church's financial gifts have increased the effectiveness of the learning environment and provided grants for staff growth.

Crossroads is very thankful for the support that Faith Community has provided to us as well as to many other groups in our community. They have helped warm and feed those in need, provided financial as well as hands & feet assistance in the recent catastrophic floods in Lyons, and partnered with the Kids Hope Mentoring Program, just to name a few. This strong and caring church community has thrived as a result of their core values and outreach. We thank Faith Community Lutheran Church for being a valued partner with Crossroads School.



Food & Fellowship: Join Us!

Chili's: Tues, Feb 25, 4-9 pm; Noodles & Co: Tuesday, Apr 8, 4-9 pm

Join us for great food and good fellowship! Crossroads gets a percentage!



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