

Crossroads Connection

www.crossroadslongmont.org

August 2012

From the Principal's Desk... by Connie Nourse

I hope this newsletter finds you doing well and enjoying the end of summer! Despite the summer months and the almost overwhelming heat, the Crossroads staff worked hard to prepare for the 2012 – 2013 school year.

The new school year brings many changes. We have a new schedule, new students, new curriculum and other exciting changes. Not everything will change though. As many of you already know Crossroads School did not relocate. We were looking at moving to a larger location last Spring with the idea that the student body would continue to grow. My prayer at the time was that all would work out if we were supposed to move, and that a roadblock would appear if God's intention was for us to stay and improve on what we did last year.

The roadblock that appeared was significant enough that I am confident that God's desire is for Crossroads to remain in our current location and with an enrollment of 20 or less for another year. So our plans and efforts are being directed toward exactly that--doing what we do better. Perhaps God has plans for us to move a different year or not at all, but this I am sure of: Crossroads is His school and His plan is our goal! So as we get underway, we look forward to an excellent school year!

Spotlight On... Bronwen Skinner **Literature/Writing Teacher**

Mrs. Bronwen Skinner has been a faithful volunteer at Crossroads once a week since our first year. She loves our students and does a wonderful job of connecting with them relationally. She is also very skilled at challenging them to do their best. Born in Washington DC and raised in Mt. Vernon, Virginia, Mrs. Skinner says that she was an at-risk child herself and attended an alternative high school. She holds a BA degree in Theater/Literature with a minor in Psychology, and has homeschooled her two children for 9 years. Mrs. Skinner has worked in church youth ministries and children's ministries and led women's Bible studies for many years. She also loves reading, hiking, and "decompressing" in the mountains. Mrs. Skinner's heart is in helping at risk families and kids, especially teenagers.

Beginning this fall, Mrs. Skinner will be stepping into a part-time position teaching writing and literature at Crossroads School. We're excited to have Mrs. Skinner begin teaching regularly and expand her influence on the students at Crossroads!

Food and Fellowship Fundraisers: Join Us For These Events!

We enjoyed our Food and Fellowship Fundraisers last year, and heard great feedback from those of you who were able to participate, so we've decided to have 6 more events this year! Here are the first semester events; mark your calendar and watch for details as each approaches!

Main Street Car Wash: Thu, Aug 9: This last-minute fundraiser raised over \$850!

Applebee's Breakfast: Sat, Oct 6, 8-10 am, \$7/person: Join us for all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, and beverages served by Crossroads students! Crossroads gets \$5 for each customer.

Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers: Thu, Nov 18, 5-8 pm: Enjoy a delicious meal, connect with our students and staff, and Crossroads will receive 15% of the proceeds.

Crossroads Receives Gifts

2nd Annual Friends Dinner Raises over \$10,000

In April we held our second annual Crossroads School Friends Dinner, with over 100 people in attendance. It was a wonderful evening of good food, fellowship, and sharing about the progress of Crossroads. Guests enjoyed two videos: an overview of Crossroads School, and a series of interviews of our students (both videos are available on the home page of our website at www.crossroadslongmont.org). We also heard from John Chilson, Crossroads grandparent; Bronwen Skinner, Crossroads volunteer, and Hunter Jones, Crossroads student. All shared about the significant difference Crossroads is making in the lives of students. Guests were asked to consider joining with Crossroads financially, and we received over \$10,000 in cash and pledges. What a blessing as we continue to look to the future!

Sycamore Education and Faith Community Church Improve Data Management

In our world, data management is a big part of any job. Sycamore Education provides a tailored database system for schools. It keeps track of important information, makes teacher and staff work easier, and improves communication with parents. However, a database like this is beyond the Crossroads budget; for two years, we've been keeping track of all the information manually. We contacted Sycamore Education, and they agreed to work with us to make it affordable for Crossroads. Next, we applied to Faith Community Lutheran Church in Longmont, and in June we received a grant to pay for two years of this service. This will allow teachers to focus on the critically-important work of building relationships with students and helping them find hope for the future. Thank you to Faith Community Lutheran Church and Sycamore Education for their support of Crossroads School!

Curriculum Grant: Pages of Progress

In our first two years, we used a variety of curriculum: donated materials, internet resources, and teacher-developed lessons. This was partly because of funding, but also partly because we were searching through trial and error for the best curricular options for our students--low-ability, high-interest materials; work for basic skills that don't look too "childish" for older students; and materials that allow students to work independently at least some of the time. After two years of experimenting, we believe we have identified resources that will be effective and valuable for our students and teachers; and a \$1500 grant from the Faith Community Lutheran Church Endowment Fund received in July is making it possible for us to purchase what we need to continue to meet even more students' needs effectively!

Longmont Ford Donates 15-Passenger Van

When we had four students, transporting them for activities was easy. Even at eight or ten, we only needed a couple of cars. But as we continued to grow, transportation became more difficult. Until Brent Danner at Longmont Ford stepped in, and located a used van in excellent condition, had it serviced, and donated it to the school. He even had one of his staff add the school name on the sides for advertising purposes! Just in the last few weeks of May, after receiving the van, we used it for over half a dozen trips. It encourages teachers to plan engaging activities by simplifying transportation, and allows for relationship-building time in the van. Thank you, Longmont Ford!



Operation Christmas Child

Help Us Impact Lives--at Crossroads and Overseas

Each year, Crossroads students bring and shop for items and then pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child, the outreach ministry of Samaritan's Purse. We share stories of children who receive the boxes, and talk about how blessed we are, and how many children around the world don't have basic necessities. If you're interested in purchasing items for our boxes, back-to-school sales are a great opportunity to pick up items inexpensively! If you have extra shoe boxes around the house, we can put those to use, as well. Call Barb to arrange to drop items off or have them picked up: 303-709-9881.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Crossroads Students in Action



On a field trip to see a collection of antique cars: including the Batmobile!



Crossroads Students: 2011-12 All-School Picture

CALENDAR

Sep 3: Labor Day (NO SCHOOL)
Sep 7: Teacher Work Day (1/2 day)

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