

Crossroads Connection

Crossroads School

June 2011



Crossroads Honored: Mayor's Award

On May 31 at the Longmont City Council meeting, Mayor Bryan Baum presented Crossroads School with the Mayor's Community Positive Impact Award. The three founders, Barb Bulthuis, Joanna Topham, and Connie Nourse, were joined by Crossroads student Ricky Grundvig to receive the award. The Longmont Times-Call ran an article the next day; read the article online at http://www.timescall.com/news/longmont-local-news/ci_18178223?IADID=Search-www.timescall.com-www.timescall.com.

Celebrating Success! God has blessed us in our first school year

What a milestone to complete the first full year of school! As we watched our students present their science fair projects and receive awards and looked at their artwork on display, we were reminded of many highlights of this first year: beginning with four students, and ending the year with eight; taking students on field trips; seeing dramatic improvement in academic performance; receiving grants and gifts to completely fund the first year by January; and seeing evidence of the kind of mentoring relationships that make a real difference in kids' lives.

The success of the school is seen in the stories:

--A student who couldn't read at the beginning of the year, and was too frustrated to even try, recently *volunteered* to read in a group activity at the Rec Center, and did so successfully!

--Another student wrote a thank-you note at the end of the year that said, "If it wasn't for you. . . I'd be in jail wasting my life away."

--Dean Swedbergh, one of our volunteers who has every other Friday off work, faithfully chooses to spend that time at Crossroads, connecting with students. Dean continues to mentor students outside of school hours and during the summer, because he's committed to making a difference.

--All of our students advanced at least one grade level in reading, and some more than one. In math, students advanced one, two, or in some cases even three years in their skills!

--A parent commented in our end-of-year survey, "Because of you, my daughter has the tools she needs to achieve her goals." Another said, "(my son) has really taken control of his academics. He has focused on achieving his goals." A third added, "This school has given me hope that we can turn this child around and give him a real future."

With stories like these, how can we not celebrate? God is blessing Crossroads School, and using it--using all of us--to bless students in Longmont. Thanks for helping make these stories possible!

Staff and School Board Updates

Mona Rampy Becomes Educational Specialist

Mrs. Mona Rampy is a retired teacher with over thirty years' experience, twenty at the college level and ten in high school science and math. She has been a faithful volunteer Teacher's Aide at Crossroads this year, and has done a wonderful job of connecting with students, managing the classroom, and supporting Miss Nourse. Beginning in the fall, Mrs. Rampy will take on a new role as our second part-time Educational Specialist, training with Mrs. Topham and working with students in one-on-one sessions. We look forward to her continuing contributions to Crossroads.

Staff and School Board Updates, continued

Howard Nourse Joins Crossroads School Board

Howard Nourse holds a doctorate in Education Administration from Ohio State University and recently retired as a founding Vice-President/Partner of the Timothy Group, a fundraising consulting firm specializing in church and para-church organizations. He has also served on several nonprofit boards. Dr. Nourse has donated his consultation services to Crossroads since the fall of 2009, helping lay a solid financial foundation for the school, and now has agreed to serve on the School Board. We value his expertise, and look forward to his ongoing input as part of the leadership of the school.

Crossroads Thanks Susan Hofland for her Service

Susan Hofland, a committed Crossroads advocate and Journey church member, has served on the Crossroads School Board during our inaugural year as a Journey liaison. The position of liaison is no longer necessary, now that Crossroads has its own 501(c)3 status, and Susan is returning to school, so she has resigned from the board. We thank her for her service!

Still Seeking Ideal Teacher

The position of classroom teacher at any school, and especially at Crossroads, is critical. We are accepting resumes, conducting interviews, and doing a lot of praying as we search for the teacher we believe God has for our second classroom next year. We appreciate your prayers, too--and your referrals, if you know anyone who might be a good fit.

Facility Update: We Continue to Wait for God's Direction

In our last newsletter we announced that we would be moving, and asked for prayer for direction in the move. So far, nothing has changed--the church has not yet received the 30-day notice that begins the move process, and we and they are still exploring options for alternate locations.

It is frustrating not to have definite answers, but we know God has those answers and will lead us in his timing. As Kevin Van Pelt, one of the leaders of the Journey church, shared recently, we are like a boulder that has broken from a cliff and is rolling downhill, asking God, "Should I stop? Should I turn left or right?" and God answers, "Keep rolling." The truth is, that boulder can't decide to stop or turn, anyway, and like the rock, we are dependent on God to direct us and guide our path.

That doesn't mean we aren't doing anything; both we and the church are exploring possibilities, and waiting for those possibilities to come together in God's plan. For the school, we are packing everything to be ready to move quickly if and when the time comes, so the transition will be as smooth as possible. And having done all we can do, we continue to wait and pray to the God who can do "immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine!" We encourage you to continue to pray with us, and anticipate God's great plan for the next home for Crossroads School!

Crossroads In Action: Pictures are worth a thousand words!



Private tour of an antique car showroom



Working together to build a straw structure



Playing hockey during PE class
