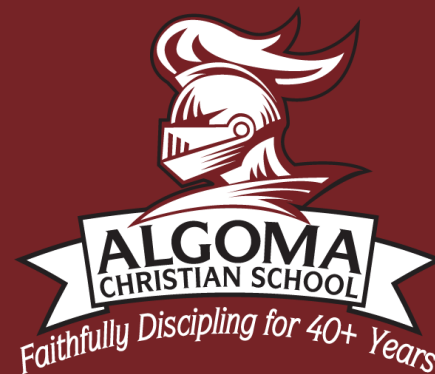


THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

WINTER 2023



BREAKING GROUND!



Algoma Christian School Board members, along with Superintendent, Tim Quinlan, have officially broken ground as ACS prepares to begin building the new Cafetorium/Gymnasium! This 13,000 square foot auxiliary space will include a cafeteria with a brand new kitchen, elementary gymnasium, and a much longed for auditorium space. Featuring a bull-nosed (curved front) performing arts platform with lighting and sound, the auditorium will be able to house our annual spring play as well as weekly chapels and possibly other performances. It will also contain a mezzanine for the AV booth, weight room, and mechanical space. We are so excited to see how God will use this space! See Mr. Quinlan's update on page 3 for more details.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Generational Knights (p. 2)
- Auction Results (p. 2)
- Upcoming Events (p. 3)
- A Word from the Superintendent (p. 3)
- Sports Update (p. 4)

WEE KNIGHTS THRIVE IN NEW SPACE

The Wee Knights Child Development Center is all moved into their brand new building! This move allowed for more space and has 3 infant rooms, 2 young toddler rooms, 2 older toddler rooms, a 3 year old preschool, and a 4 year old preschool. The 4 year old preschool is taught by Andrea Quillan. Ms. Annie creates a curriculum that prepares each of the children for Pre-K and/or Kindergarten. The Christ-centered, hands-on learning experiences allow each child to learn more about the wonderful creation God has given us. In September the children were Sunflower Scientists. They learned about the parts of a sunflower and read about how a big, tall sunflower grows from a tiny seed. They were able to dissect, examine, and identify the parts of the flower and even got to taste some roasted sunflower seeds. Each child was able to experience first-hand how truly amazing God's creation is.



GENERATIONAL KNIGHTS

After more than 40 years of discipling students, ACS is now serving a second generation of Knights. Denny and Felicia (Hunter) Smith both attended ACS for some or all of their schooling. Denny is the son of first-generation Christians who withstood criticism from their family and friends to make the financial sacrifice of sending their kids to a Christian school. He is part of the “All The Way Through Club” after completing Pre-K through 12th grade at ACS. He met Felicia when she first started attending in 1998. She graduated in 2000, he graduated in 2001, and they were married in 2008. Both have fond memories of small class sizes and close friendships. Denny notes that, “Class sizes were too small to form separations or cliques based on income, hobbies, nationality, or hometowns. Everyone had to learn to get along with everyone else.” They each also appreciate the teachers, coaches, and mentors who,



“always put the students’ best interest ahead of their own careers, teaching valuable life skills while pushing students to do better every day and grow closer to God through scripture memory, chapels, and teaching all the topics through a Biblical worldview.” Denny left Algoma to get his degree in Mechanical Engineering from GVSU. He has been a Product Engineer with DISHER for over 16 years, serving the automotive and office furniture industries in West Michigan. Felicia went on to achieve her Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from GVSU and a Master’s from Walden University. She is currently in her third year as a paraprofessional in Mrs. Ellsworth’s Kindergarten class here at ACS. Denny and Felicia are now the parents to three kids: Alana (7th grade), Ryker (4th grade), and Ronan (1st grade). “We started considering all the options while [Alana] was still a toddler,” Felicia says. “We immediately dismissed the idea of public school because of policies, beliefs, and quality.” After considering homeschooling and other Christian schools in the area, Felicia explains, “we came back to Algoma because of cost, size, and our personal experiences.” The Smiths believe in the power of a Christian education. “We are committed to good quality, Christian education for our family and are therefore invested in seeing the school develop and improve. The tuition is a big expense, especially with multiple children, but we make sacrifices because their education is important to us.” ACS has made a lasting impact in the lives of Denny and Felicia Smith, and continues to impact their children. They share that, “our favorite part about ACS is the commitment that everyone shares about Christian education. We set the standard for our children’s education.”

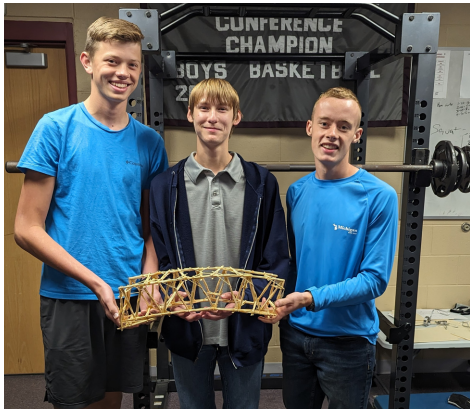
YEAR-END GIVING

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, parents, and stakeholders, the donations during Giving Tuesday and our Year-End giving campaign total over \$35,000 so far! If you’re interested in helping us meet our goal of \$45,000 to continue making a Christ-centered education possible in our community, scan below to donate!



TOOTHPICK BRIDGE STEM

Mr. Berg’s STEM class was challenged to create a bridge that would be able to span a 12 inch gap and hold as much weight as possible. The groups were each given 3000 toothpicks and wood glue. The winning bridge held 380 pounds!



A WORD FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Hail Knights! I trust this letter finds you all well and that you are living in the abundance of God’s blessings! I can’t believe that we are already through the first quarter and staring the holiday season right square in the face! Time does fly!

I wanted to give you some information about the current enrollment at ACS and what we see as trends for the near future. We are always one step away from the raining down of God’s largesse in this area, or a crisis that causes enrollment to decrease drastically. What we have to do in our frailty and limited capacity is to make the best predictions we can based on what we know to be true presently and trust the Lord to work in His time.

Our enrollment currently stands at 377 students PreK - 12. This year we are graduating 13 seniors, and if we figure that our new PreK class will be at least 30 students (that’s a conservative estimate).....hmmm....let me do the math.....carry the aught.....scribble, scribble.....Yep, looks like if nothing changes we will have at least 394 students enrolled for next year! Wow! That is truly amazing! Thank you, Lord! If we bank on a slight increase (in keeping with trends) that number could easily be 400. Incredible! However, with all this blessing, a problem has arisen. Where do we put all these students? Especially the secondary ones?

Well, you may be happy to know that we do have a plan. I won’t go into all the details, but we can accommodate this growth (and prayerfully, at least a couple of more years of it) IF we can complete the new multipurpose facility (elementary gym) ASAP. Last year we talked about this new building as being something that we could build as the Lord blessed us, but once we moved the Wee Knights to their own building, the Lord showered us with 35 more students than last year. That growth created a new impetus for completion. If we can move performance arts to the multipurpose building, move a class, or two, into a flexible location schedule, we should be able to make things work for the next three years.....provided growth trends stay stable. However, we need to generate funds for the new building. You may recall that we have had an anonymous donor who has gifted funds of \$500,000.00/ We applied last year’s PL9 funds to the project and intend to continue that as needed, but that leaves a current shortfall of about \$800,000 (included in this is the cost of the kitchen) to complete the project. We are all praying for the Lord to help us find the funding for this, but, of course, we need your help. Prayer, fundraising efforts, donations, and suggestions for potential donors are all helpful. We are looking into some foundations for help. Many folks instantly think of grants for this type of thing, but unfortunately, in the current state of our culture, our scriptural stands make it difficult to obtain these types of monies!

Thanks for taking the time to read this and bathe the issue in prayer and as always, stay open to changing plans as our situation changes! This is our plan now, but we need to remain open to the Lord’s leading. I am constantly amazed and humbled by the commitment you all have to ACS! ‘God Bless!

I love my Knights!
Timothy M. Quinlan II, BS, MSed,
Superintendent
Algoma Christian School/Wee Knights Child Development Center

HEY, ALUMNI! 

Save the date for Homecoming on February 2nd! All alumni will receive free admission to the games, plus a complimentary hospitality room where you can catch up with past classmates and enjoy free refreshments!

UPCOMING EVENTS			
Dec. 18-Jan. 2	Christmas Break	Feb. 22	PL9 Kickoff
Jan 22.	No School	Mar. 15-16	High School Drama
Feb. 2	Homecoming	Mar. 21	PL9 Packing Party
Feb. 13	PreK/K Open House	Mar. 29-Apr. 8	Spring Break
Feb. 16-19	Mid-Winter Break	Apr. 19	K-12 Talent Show

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SPORTS UPDATE

In the spring of 2023, the **Varsity Girls' Soccer** team ended their season with a 9-3-2 overall record and an 8-2-1 conference record. The Lady Knights finished in second place in both regular season and the GL6 conference tournament. Izzy Lockwood (Sr.), Jaymee Powell (Jr.), and Cassie Shavalier (Jr.) earned all conference honors.

Playing their first season on the new ACS baseball diamond, the **Boys' Varsity Baseball** team completed their 2023 season with a record of 15-9. The Knights closed out their season with a second place finish in the conference regular season and a third place finish in the conference tournament. All conference honors went to Thane Breen (Jr.), Logan Bouma (Jr.), and Hudson Lockwood (Fr.).

Girls' Varsity Volleyball finished their 2023 campaign with an overall record of 21-14-1 and 9-2 in conference play. The season was highlighted by the Lady Knights finishing second place in the Rivertown Christian Freedom Tournament, the Grand River Prep tournament, GL6 regular season, and GL6 conference tournament. All conference honors were received by Jaymee Powell (Sr.), Sophia Calnin (Sr.), Makayla Afton (Jr.), and Bella Fox (Jr.).

The **Boys' Varsity Soccer** team was able to defend their GL6 conference tournament title this year while adding the regular season title as well. The boys ended with a record of 18-2-2, ACS Invitational champions, and a fifth place finish in Division 3 winning the consolation bracket at the NCSAA national tournament. Christian Eshbach (Sr.), Logan Bouma (Sr.), Simon Hoskins (Jr.), and Lucas Bouma (Jr.) received all conference honors.

