

# Crossroads Connection

[www.crossroadslongmont.org](http://www.crossroadslongmont.org)

April 2012

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

### **Spring Is Here--The End Is Near!**

One of the bulletin boards I have used in the past says, "Spring Is Here--The End Is Near!" I again find myself scratching my head in amazement: where has the time gone?! We are already in our final quarter of this school year. With that comes much activity: painting drama scenery, planning end-of-the-year field trips, designing invitations for the Friends Dinner, planning decorations, welcoming new students, welcoming a new staff member, planning for next year, and typing this letter. Life is very busy, but in the middle of all that it is also very rewarding. We are seeing students asking in-depth questions about God on a DAILY basis! Who is God? What does He mean to me? Why does it matter how I act, or what I listen to, or what kind of language I use? Questions and moments like these make it ALL worthwhile! We **ARE** making a difference in the lives of these children, and not just academically.

As the year comes to a close, I would encourage all parents and family members--and anyone else who may be interested--to mark your calendars for Friday, May 18. On that evening, students will present their drama production, and their art projects, academic projects, and other accomplishments will also be on display.

### **Crossroads School 2nd Annual Friends Dinner: April 20, 6:30 pm**

This year's annual fundraising dinner will be held at Lifebridge Church. We have rented their facility because we have outgrown ours--praise God that we are growing!! We invite everyone to come join us to hear Crossroads stories: why a student is glad to be at Crossroads, what the school has meant for a family, why a volunteer gives her time. Consider whether God is calling you to invest your time, talent, or treasure in Crossroads School! Contact Barb Bulthuis (303-709-9881; [crossroadsinformation@yahoo.com](mailto:crossroadsinformation@yahoo.com)) to request tickets to join us for dinner.

### **Food and Fellowship Fundraisers: Meals benefit Crossroads**

This school year, students served pancakes to hundreds of guests at Applebee's Restaurant. They learned how to make pizzas at Abbondanza's. They greeted guests at Texas Roadhouse. And we all enjoyed chicken at Chick-fil-A. Everywhere we went, we enjoyed great fellowship with Crossroads supporters, and those of you who have been hearing about Crossroads got the opportunity to meet some of the kids you support and pray for. In the process, we've raised over \$1000 for the school. We are pleased with the outcome of the program, both financially and relationally, and we look forward to repeating some of these meals next year--and possibly adding new restaurants to the mix. Thanks to all who joined us for these events!

### **Spotlight On... Elizabeth Ellis: Language Arts Teacher**

Elizabeth Ellis is teaching Language Arts for the rest of the school year, and will continue next year. She is finishing her Master's in Human Services and has worked as an adolescent therapist and behavioral coach. Mrs. Ellis has also worked in schools, teaching secondary English and PE and serving as school counselor. She and her husband, Drew, a local pastor, are adoptive parents and have three children. Already, Mrs. Ellis is connecting with students and making a positive impact. We are excited to have her using her gifts to Crossroads School!

## Corporate Giving: Crossroads Receives Gifts

Last fall, Bill Jackson called Crossroads, thinking he was calling a school he had worked with five years earlier. Discovering his mistake, he offered to help us anyway, and explained that he was a businessman whose passion was helping nonprofits--especially schools, and most especially alternative schools like ours--to access funding from corporate America.

After talking further and checking his references, we arranged to have Bill come to Longmont for two days to work with our administrator, Barb Bulhuis, teaching her how to develop relationships with local businesses and encourage charitable giving.

That God-ordained contact has led to Crossroads receiving hundreds of dollars in cash and in-kind gifts from local businesses, including the following:

- Starbucks: free coffee for family Christmas party
- WalMart: \$500 grant + \$125 gift cards
- Home Depot: \$100 gift cards
- Anthony's Pizza: free pizza lunch for students
- King Soopers: \$50 gift cards
- Lowe's: cleaning supplies and more
- Office Max and Staples: office and school supplies
- Best Buy: volunteers brought electronics for Friday Fun activities
- Buffalo Wild Wings: free hot wings lunch for students
- Noodles and Company: free monthly lunch for staff meeting
- Dairy Queen: free blizzard coupons for student rewards

## Community Recognizes Crossroads

### School Honored at Awards Breakfast

On April 5, Crossroads School was presented with two grants through the Longmont Community Foundation: \$500 from the Steven Holmes Fund and \$1000 from the Nading Family Fund. Being honored by the Community Foundation not only helps support Crossroads now, but also gives us credibility when we approach other foundations for grant funding.

## A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: Students in Action



Feeding goats at Sunflower Farm



Hands-on Language Arts



Mr. O'Brien teaching drama—come see our show on Fri, May 18, 7 pm!

## Calendar:

**Pizza Fridays:** Every Friday, 12:30 pm

**Apr 20: Crossroads Friends Dinner (NO SCHOOL)**

May 2: Late Start

May 18, 7 pm: Year-End Celebration (Drama, art show, and more)

May 24: Noon Dismissal: Last Day!