



February 8, 2012

# ZCS Blue Note

For more information, please visit our website at [www.zcs.org](http://www.zcs.org).  
334 W. Central Ave. • Ph. (616) 772-2609 • Fax (616) 772-2706 • E-mail [zcsinfo@zcs.org](mailto:zcsinfo@zcs.org)

Zeeland Christian continues to be blessed with many dedicated parents who work in cooperation with the school to raise their children to the honor and glory of God. I had a chance to meet many of these parents last week Thursday night before preschool registration. We had over 100 people lined up in the hallway waiting to register their children, and it was fun to talk with them about Zeeland Christian, their children, and their dreams for the future. Please join me in praising God for a school system and a group of families that can work together to the honor and glory of God. *Bill Van Dyk*

**Blessed to  
be a  
Blessing**

## Calendar

Feb. 9	Kindergarten Info. Meeting-7:00
Feb. 13	Kindergarten Registration Begins On-Line-7:00 Current ZCS Preschool Families only
Feb. 16	Kindergarten Registration Begins On-Line-7:00
Feb. 17	No Bussing/No Hot Lunch
Feb. 20	No School

## Athletic Schedule

Go to [www.zcs.org/school/activities/team-athletics/](http://www.zcs.org/school/activities/team-athletics/) and then scroll down to zcs athletics website to find announcements, dates, and locations of sporting events!

## Hot Lunch

Thurs.	A-Chili, B-Pepperoni pizza
Fri.	A-Beefy ravioli, B-Footlong hot dog
Mon.	A-Nachos supreme, B-Cheesy breadsticks
Tues.	A-Corn dog, B-French toast sticks with egg patty
Wed.	A-Salisbury steak, B-Chicken nuggets

The cost for hot lunch is \$2 for K-5; \$2.25 for 6-8; milk is \$.50.

**Mandarin Meeting** The Mandarin meeting that we held last week at Hope College was well attended. We were blessed with a group of Chinese families from Grand Rapids who performed some traditional Chinese dances and shared the evening with us. We also were blessed with 15-20 additional families who expressed interest in a Mandarin program. The School Board will be meeting this week Thursday and having further discussions on the possible future of doing Mandarin Immersion here at Zeeland Christian.

**Preschool Registration** was a great success once again this year. We still do have open spots. Please share with your friends and neighbors that Zeeland Christian has a great preschool program.

**Kindergarten Information Meeting** will be held on Thursday, February 9 at 7:00 pm in the media center. This is an important meeting for parents of students who will be attending kindergarten at ZCS next year and for parents looking for more information on our kindergarten program. We plan to offer an all day/every day option, an all day/alternate day option (2 1/2 days per week), a half-day/every day option and both a morning and an afternoon Spanish immersion option based on interest. Signing up for program preference will be done online, and information for that will be provided at this meeting. If you know of anyone who is thinking of attending Zeeland Christian School, this meeting would be very helpful for them. Information packets will also be available in the office beginning on February 10.

**Kindergarten Registration** will happen online this year. We **strongly** encourage you to attend the information

meeting on Feb. 9 to ensure that you understand this new process. Current preschool families will be able to register beginning at 7:00 pm on February 13. Registration will open to everyone at 7:00 pm on February 16.

**Ditto News:** Last week there was a newsletter from Ditto that went out with the Blue Note. We praise God that the great work that the staff and volunteers at Ditto does for Zeeland Christian and Holland Christian. The volunteers at Ditto bless our Christian schools in amazing ways. Over the course of this year, Ditto will donate over \$120,000 just to Zeeland Christian School.

Ditto is pleased to announce that Mitzi Berens, a long time volunteer at Ditto, has accepted the position of overall Store Director. Mitzi will be responsible to oversee all aspects of the store operations including donor relations, volunteer coordination, public relations, and administration.

**Visitors in the Building** We have had a lot of visitors here at Zeeland Christian; both families who are considering enrolling their children, and visitors from other schools. On Tuesday of this week, we had a visit from students from Holland Christian, on Thursday we will have several teachers from a school in Iowa. It's very important as Christian schools that we share information with each other so that we can all do the best job possible to honor and glorify God and provide kids with a great education.

**University Model Program Update:** We are excited to make preparations for the 2012/13 school year and will continue to offer families the one-to-one laptop program, as well as a combination of online and traditional ZCS curriculum. The new 3-day format for all grades will provide families

more consistent teaching time both at school and at home. If a family you know is considering this educational option for their children next year, please encourage them to contact program coordinator Julie Walters ([jwalters@zcs.org](mailto:jwalters@zcs.org)) for additional information or to set up a time to visit the UM classes. The next parent information meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28 at 7:00 pm in the media center. Anyone interested in learning more about the program is encouraged to attend.

**Tuition Assistance** Once again you may apply for tuition assistance online at [www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com). You will need to provide information from your 2011 tax return. The deadline to apply is March 15. Families who participate in the Milt Kuyers plan through their church are not eligible for assistance.

**FACTS Payments Adjustments** If you have any TRIP or church gift credits outstanding, and you want your FACTS payments adjusted, call Linda at 879-0302.

**Winter Parade of Bands Concert** is scheduled for March 8, and there are several ways in which our parent community can be involved. First, we're hoping many of you can attend that evening and enjoy the progress the 5th, 6th, and 7th/8th bands have been making. Each band will perform alone as well as in combination with one other band. You will enjoy the wide variety of sounds and styles. Also, we're inviting any parents, grandparents, older siblings, or ZCS band alumni to play with us on the final number for the night. Simply bring your instrument along and join us for an on-the-spot rehearsal before we perform a great patriotic selection together! You can email Mr. Schonewill to obtain copies of the score ahead of time if you wish to practice. It will be loads of fun to remind the students that playing a band instrument doesn't have to quit once you leave school. Finally, we'll be taking an offering that evening to help with expenses for our upcoming band trip to Chicago in April. Mr. Schonewill will share more information about the trip as well.

**Advanced Bussing/Hot Lunch Info** Zeeland Public does not have school on Friday, Feb. 17, so we will not have bussing or hot lunch that day. Also, mark your calendars that there will be **no school** on Monday, February 20. This is our Winter Break.

**Box Top Tips** It's the last month, let's Bring in the Box Tops!

**Little Caesars** Check out the yummy choices and stock up! The forms need to be returned on February 14. Orders will need to be picked up on Wednesday, February 22.

**Magazine Sale** The magazine sale kicks off this week. A packet should be coming home with your student with all the information you need. Here are some important dates:  
Feb. 10~Booklets are due (1 per family)  
Feb. 14~Internet orders are due  
New Website: Check us out on [www.gaschoolstore.com](http://www.gaschoolstore.com)

**Lost and Found** Please come and check the lost and found. There are several boxes of found hats and mittens. We also have many coats and sweatshirts, and they will all be donated soon!

**For Sale:** Apple dumplings (\$6 per 1/2 dozen), pig in the blankets (\$7 per dozen), and basket (\$5 per stick) are in the hallway freezer. Please pay the office.

**The 2012 CHAMPS books** cost \$25 and are available in the office.

**The dates for the 8th grade play** have changed from March 22 and 23 to March 15 and 16. Please make a note of this.

**3 on 3 Basketball Tournament** will be held Sat., March 24 at Zeeland East High School. Forms are due Feb. 25, and can be found on the ZCS website, in the ZCS or HCS school offices and at the Zeeland Rec. office. Cost is \$80 per team. Questions? Call Hundermans at 875-3713, Mokmas at 875-2253 or Riemersmas at 772-1624.

### Question of the Week

**I'm have trouble finding information on the new website ([www.zcs.org](http://www.zcs.org)). For example, I can't find the Parent Portal.**

Launching a new website is always a nail-biting experience. So much work goes in the architecture, navigation, design and build. But you never really know how the site will go over until the site users have a chance to experience it. Overall, we are thrilled with the new website. We are so excited to have a site that more accurately conveys the ZCS personality. Plus, we can update the site ourselves which gives us much more flexibility.

At the same time, the site is a work in progress. As many people have pointed out, a few key pieces of information are proving to be difficult to find (**the Parent Portal**). To address this problem, we are working on revising a few parts of the website. In the next few weeks, keep an eye out for: search functionality on the homepage, a direct link to "People" on the homepage, an expanded "School" section that will bring more attention to things like athletics and specials, a site map on the bottom of the homepage and a new newsletter web app for families.

We hope these revisions will help people find what they need faster. **In the meantime, the Parent Portal can be found by clicking on the "News & Calendar" tab under the Bulletin Board section of the homepage.**

### TRIP NEWS

To get info for signing up for online ordering of TRIP, go to the ZCS webpage, click on Enrollment, and then click on Tuition Assistance. Next and final TRIP Registration meeting is March 22 at 7:00 pm. If you would like to recycle your spent gift cards, please deposit them in the box by the TRIP office.

### ZCS Shopper

- Free for Pick-up: Piano combined with organ, spinet style. Organ has 15 stops and foot pedals. Piano part needs to be tuned. Call 741-1138.
- Must Sell: 2 bedroom time-share condo in Branson. 5 Star Marriott, week 39. Can be "locked off" into 2 weeks, or trade for a week or 2 elsewhere. Make offer. Call Carolyn at 772-8272.
- Singer/songwriter Matt Maher in concert Sunday, Feb. 12 at Community Ref. Church at 6 pm. Tickets available at [www.communityreformed.org](http://www.communityreformed.org). \$10 advance/\$15 at door.
- Condo for Rent: Crestwood Village, Zeeland. 2 bedroom, 1 stall garage, 55 or older. \$600. Call (616)283-3407.
- Quaint, summer cottage for rent on north shore of Big Star Lake, Baldwin. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, sleeps 4-6, no pets. \$800/week. Call 772-6208.
- Disney Area Condo for Rent: Spring break and other dates available, 2 miles from Disney, 2 bedrooms, 2 heated pool, 4 jacuzzis, full kitchen, laundry, activity director, reasonable rent. Call (616)717-0017 or [sdeloof@c3network.biz](mailto:sdeloof@c3network.biz).

## **HELPFUL LINKS:**

- To gain valuable ZCS information, go to [www.zcs.org](http://www.zcs.org)
- To view the Blue Note on line, go to ZCS's web site, click on News & Events at the top of the page.
- To subscribe to the Blue Note via email, email your request to [bringer@zcs.org](mailto:bringer@zcs.org)
- For a hot lunch menu, go to [www.zps.org](http://www.zps.org) and click on the Lunch Menu tab at the top of the page.
- For free and reduced cost lunch information and to access your student's lunch account, go to [www.zps.org](http://www.zps.org), click on Serving Parents at the left side on the page, and click on Food Service.
- To receive a cell phone or email alert if school is delayed or closed, go to [http://  
closings.woodtv.com/](http://closings.woodtv.com/)
- To access your student's grades, go to [www.zcs.org](http://www.zcs.org) and click on Parent Portal under click links
- To join us on facebook, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for Zeeland Christian School.