



Zion Classical Academy

Monthly Newsletter

January 2025



The New Year

Happy New Year, Zion Classical families! I hope this letter finds you happy and well. We have had a wonderful and exciting first semester. Our students and staff closed it out with our classroom parties, a sing-along, and a PJs day! Our teachers' and para-educators' work in teaching our students to read well continues to bring us successful academic student outcomes. More and more students are improving their reading skills and becoming confident in reading independently.

At Zion Classical Academy, Christian Education is an important part of our daily lessons. Students pray often, sing songs, read Bible stories, and learn about positive ways to live. Our teachers model strong character and set high expectations for children as we learn together. We pray that the new year brings peace, joy, and learning lessons to make our community stronger than last.

With every year being so busy, I have often come back to a verse for reflection: Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Perhaps this verse is more for me than other parents, but I am sure many feel the same stresses of life, busyness, and being spread too thin as I do.

I also remember a quote from *Mere Christianity*: "God cannot give us happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing." In our new year, may your burdens, peace, and happiness be set in Christ; may we strive to be content in every situation.

~Andy Adams

Important Announcements

Snow and the Playground

Who doesn't want to go play in the snow after Hastings gets a few inches? Our students often want to go and dive head first once they see it on the playground, but here's a couple of reminders so that kids can have the opportunity!

Step 1: Snow Boots. Wet socks all day feel miserable, and we ask that students wear them or they stay on the concrete (no snow, how sad).

Step 2: Snow Pants. Yes, they take forever to put on and take off, but wet pants are more miserable than wet socks!

Step 3: Gloves and Hats. Staying warm is good.

Incremental Weather

Snow and cold weather days are not uncommon in our area. If weather makes it unsafe for students to travel to school, Zion Classical Academy may choose to cancel classes for the day.

Cancellations will also be posted on social media, Remind, our local television, and local radio broadcasts.

Typically, the office will not be staffed during these days.

Parent-Teachers United January 7th

Please join us for a meal and meeting with our parents and teachers. We will discuss ways to help the school, discuss events, and plan for the future. Childcare is available on-site for families.

6:00 p.m. is our meal, followed by our 6:30 meeting. We encourage you to engage with our community!



Important Dates: January

January 6: School Resumes

7th: PTU meal 6:00 p.m., 6:30 meeting

7th: ACLEA meeting, 7:00 p.m. @ Zion

13th: Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 p.m.

17th: No After School Care

21st: ACLEA meeting, 7:00 p.m. @Zion

27th-30th: Zion Classical Academy Week~

30th: Early Dismissal, 12:30 p.m.

31st: No School

Reading at Home

As we look ahead to another new year of helping students narrow their reading achievement gap, we are deeply aware of the importance of children reading with their parent or guardian at home. Reading at home is invaluable to a child's academic development. Research has shown that one-on-one reading time and access to books are important predictors of future literacy skills and, inevitably, future educational outcomes. Children who aren't given the opportunity to read as often fall behind in school, with difficulties following them through middle school, high school, and beyond. Consider this: if "the absence of parental involvement can lower average reading scores by 74%," then imagine how far a little at-home reading can go (USC Rossier School of Education). (Online article pulled from readingpartners.org)



The following website gives 10 great ideas for reading at home:
<https://readingpartners.org/blog/back-to-school-reading-tips/>



Grandparents and VIP Day

Grandparents' and Very Important Persons' Day is on January 30th. We will have a morning chapel, activities, fundraisers, and excitement all morning! We will have some unique things happening each day leading up to Thursday. These events aren't mandatory, so please do not feel pressured; remember the New Year's message. More details about penny wars and silent auctions will come later!

Monday, January 27	Tuesday, January 28	Wednesday, January 29	Thursday, January 30	Friday, January 31
Sports Day! Wear your favorite sports team gear!	Classroom Color Wars!	80's Day! Wear your best 1980's themed outfit!	Grandparents Day! (or other special guests) ZCA t-shirt & jeans! Lunch will be Little Caesar's Pizza.	NO SCHOOL!



JANUARY - LUNCH MENU

2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
30	31	1 NO SCHOOL	2 NO SCHOOL	3 NO SCHOOL
6 CHEESE TORTELLINI	7 TAQUITOS	8 POTATO SOUP	9 LASAGNA GARLIC BREAD	10 HAMBURGERS FRENCH FRIES
13 GRILLED CHICKEN	14 CHICKEN NACHOS	15 SWEET AND SOUR CHICKEN	16 MEXICAN LASAGNA	17 HOT DOGS PRETZEL BITES
20 MEATBALL SUB	21 POPCORN CHICKEN	22 GARLIC CHICKEN PARMESEAN PASTA	23 MINI CORNDOGS	24 BBQ RIB SANDWICH
27 BEEF TIPS MASHED POTATOES	28 CHICKEN SANDWICH	29 CHICKEN ALFREDO	30 GRANDPARENTS DAY PIZZA!	31 NO SCHOOL TEACHER WORK DAY

Fresh fruit and vegetables are available daily
ZCA is an equal opportunity provider (equal portions for all students)



The Flame

www.acleafire.org • November 2024 Edition

Walking Through Fire

"Walking Through Fire" can mean different things for each of us—facing challenges, growing in faith, or seeing our children make courageous choices. Fire is a purifier, a force that strengthens and transforms. As we mark 20 years of "Faithfully Investing in Religious Education" (FIRE), we reflect on how our journey has evolved. Former Nebraska governor Kay Orr once noted that our path reaches future generations. This is our story—a ministry ignited by a few people with a burning passion to invest in Christian education.

Kenesaw Motor Co. Raffle Announcement

Kenesaw Motor Co. and our sponsors have donated a 2025 Ford Bronco Sport for our raffle at FIRE XX! Viewing starts after January 10th, and tickets go on sale January 2, 2025, for \$100 each—only 300 tickets available!

Follow acleafire.org or our Facebook page for updates. FIRE banquet tickets will be available soon. Plan your table for an incredible evening of friends, fellowship, and celebration as we kick off FIRE season!



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Adams County Lutheran Education Association is to promote Lutheran education and schools in the Adams County area, to generate revenue for scholarships and to provide means and resources to provide a quality Christian education. We desire that all involved with the organization will "grow us into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." (Ephesians 4:15-16)

Principal's Perspective



Greetings from Zion Classical Academy. This year, we are introducing a new principal, Andy Adams. We continue to work on deepening our classical education by adding new rigorous math materials, a well-constructed classical writing curriculum, as well as adding enrichment time to allow for differentiated instruction.

Our students are memorizing Bible verses, Latin, and history. Our students are learning Truth, Wisdom, and Virtue through a Christian perspective and values.

We are thankful for the work ACLEA has achieved on our behalf. A generous donation of time and funding ensures that our school is stable and flourishes. Much of your work may be unseen by our parents, but our families and students have been blessed by your sustained efforts for these past 20 years. In fellowship, may we continue to do good work to equip our children for a life of service to God and neighbor.



I can't believe how fast the first two months of the school year have flown by. Christ Lutheran has cheered on athletes in Volleyball, Football and Cross Country. We have gathered chapel offering to help Orphan Grain Train and their ministry of outreach. We have joined forces with our family from Zion Classical Academy and Open Table to back bags for those in need. All of that activity finds us at the beginning of November, celebrating fall and the changing seasons.

Just last week, we had the opportunity to celebrate Reformation Day. The day that Martin Luther nailed his 95 Thesis to the church door in Wittenberg, October 31, 1517. Luther wanted the people to understand God's grace and forgiveness. What a privilege we have, through daily lessons and weekly chapels, to learn more about God's Word, His world, and His unending love for His people. We are thankful for the continued support of ACLEA as they support Lutheran Education in Adams County.

Through the Lens: Our Schools in Action





Board of Directors

Laura Hargis - President
Andy Piel - Vice President
Molly Poppe - Treasurer
Toni Bockerman - Secretary
Mark Philipi
Chad Nienhueser
Dan Rayburn
Andrew Adams - Zion Principal
Joel Witt - Christ Principal

Adams County Lutheran Education Association

PO Box 2122
Hastings, NE 68902

Return Service Requested

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hastings, NE
Permit No. 479

Save the Date

**20th Annual
Parochial Education
Fundraiser
Saturday, March 1st, 2025
Adams County Fairgrounds**