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This group of students, above, and this second-grader, at right, were excited to show off the pumpkins they selected. (Photos/Jessica Jensen and Tristan Taylor)



## PICK A PUMPKIN

Jessica Jensen | Managing Editor  
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A perfect fall day on Thursday, September 29 made for a great afternoon for students in preschool through third grade to get a pumpkin!

"The Pumpkin Man", an anonymous donor, brought a pickup truck full of pumpkins and students lined up one-by-one to pick their pumpkin, eager to show off their respective orange cultivar of fruit grown on a vine.

"This is the greatest day!" remarked one student, excitedly hoisting his selection into the air.



## Students, parents gather for 'See You at the Pole' event

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The school day at Inwood Christian School started slightly differently Wednesday, Sept. 28, as students, teacher, staff and parents met outside at the flagpole for morning prayer. The gathering was for See You at the Pole™, a nationwide event and part of the national Global Day of Student Prayer. Simply put, See You at the Pole™ is a prayer rally during which students meet at the school flagpole before school to lift up their friends, families, teachers, school and nation to God.

"For See You at the Pole™, everyone meets around the flagpole and is led in prayer by students of the school," said Rebecca Schouten, head teacher at Inwood Christian School. "Our seventh- and eighth-grade students took part in writing and saying their own prayers."

See You at the Pole™ is an annual gathering of Christian students on a day committed to global unity in Christ through prayer. The event began in 1990 as a grass-roots movement with 10 students

praying at their school, according to the See You at the Pole™ website. Decades later, millions pray on their campuses on the fourth Wednesday in September.

The prayers read by students at Inwood Christian School focused on the leaders in the school, community, state, country and world.

"We are so grateful we get to have the freedom to practice our religion every day in our schools, but this just shows unity between our schools throughout the nation in praying for our leadership," said Schouten. "We hope students, parents and teachers understand the privilege we have every day to be able to pray freely in our schools, and that it is so important to be praying for the people making decisions for our everyday lives."

Students who led the prayers understand those privileges.

"I was happy we could be an example the little kids could look up to," said student Tena Leusink. "I was glad we could pray for everyone and everything in the world that is going on together," said student Micah Van Beek. (Photos/Submitted)

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Community Flu Shot Clinic

Avera Medical Group Rock Rapids will host community flu shot clinics Oct. 12 and 13 from 4-6 p.m. and Oct. 15 from 9-11 a.m. It is not necessary to be a patient at Avera. Appointments are appreciated. Cash payments are accepted or insurance cards will be accepted for billing purposes. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 712-472-5300.

#### Drive-Through Flu Vaccines

Sanford Rock Rapids Clinic will have drive-through flu vaccine events Wednesday, Oct. 5 from 4-6:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 15 from 9-11:30 a.m. for anyone ages 6 months and older. Those receiving vaccines should stay in the vehicle and wear a short-sleeved shirt. Children should be dressed in a diaper or shorts. For more information, call 712-472-3333.

#### Feenstra Traveling Office

U.S. Rep. Randy Feenstra's office will conduct traveling office hours Tuesday, Oct. 11 from 10-11 a.m. in the Rock Rapids Public Library. Representatives from Feenstra's office will be available to help constituents with casework relating to passports, veterans' benefits, and other federal programs.

#### Lake Pahoja Octoberfest

Octoberfest at Lake Pahoja will be Saturday, Oct. 8 with activities and concessions at the Education Center from 2-5 p.m. and trick-or-treat at the campground from 5-7 p.m.



#### IMPACTFUL NEW TEACHER

West Lyon third-grade teacher Alyssa Kock received the Teacher Who Makes an Impact Award from Lyon County Chiropractic in Rock Rapids Sept. 27. This award included a gift card Kock can use to purchase items for her classroom. Kock was especially honored to be nominated for this award since she is new at West Lyon this year. (Photo/submitted)

## Encouraging educators' positivity

### Lyon County Chiropractic thanks teachers with award

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Giving back to the community is important to the staff at Lyon County Chiropractic of Rock Rapids. This year they decided to thank educators throughout the county who

## Third-graders step into the past

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It is nearly impossible for elementary teachers to have in-depth knowledge of every subject matter they teach or physical replicas of every example they introduce to students. Oftentimes, "experts" are invited into classrooms to share what they know with students to supplement the material presented by the classroom teacher. Such is the relationship between West Lyon teachers and Lyon County Conservation naturalist, Emily Ostrander.

On Thursday, September 29, third-grade students got a small break from their usual classroom learning to learn about the land and our country hundreds of years ago. Ostrander brought in two different programs to teach the students about the pioneers from the days of westward expansion, as well as the bison that roamed the plains of the region.

In Kris DeWandel's classroom, students learned all about bison, known previously as the American bison. Ostrander explained how the bison used to thrive on the plains in herds so massive that caravans of wagons heading west would sometimes have to



Students in Colleen Sorensen's third-grade classroom work to decide what supplies they would need if they were pioneers moving west. Pictured left to right are Avery, Caden, Ashlynn and Liam. (Photo/Tristan Taylor)



Hudson Bosler and Haislee Metzger, students in Kris DeWandel's third-grade classroom, inspect parts of a bison. (Photo/Tristan Taylor)

