

Greetings,

It's hard to believe that the end of our school year is so near. ZLS has had a busy semester with lots of fun and educational activities for our students. One highlight was our educational partnership with Julie Ochsner from the Adams County Extension. She led several STEM projects with our 3<sup>rd</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> graders. They learned about weather science experiments, computer coding programs, and building bridges with household objects. She also did an embryology study with our entire student body. Fourteen adorable baby chicks hatched (and even some that were unique breeds). Julie will also be starting a 4-H program at our school next year so we are looking forward to that. Another STEM focus is our current pilot program with CS (Computer Science) Prep that Mrs. Teel just launched for select 4<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> graders. They have code mentors from Google, Harvard University, and UNL that will work one-on-one with our students. This program will provide invaluable experience to students who are interested in exploring future careers in Computer Science.

Our first-ever ZLS Passport Night on April 25<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our students. It was a great opportunity for them to showcase all of their hard work. Everyone learned a lot about the culture, customs, and governing structures of the various countries of the world. We plan to have a student exhibit fair every year so we hope to see you all again at the next one!

On Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, our students will be taking mule and horse-drawn hayrack rides over to Brickyard Park for a picnic, and then to the 4-H barns for a tour. Teams and drivers will be provided by the Hastings Saddle Club and the Ayr Harness Hustlers Driving Club. Mr. Berens is looking forward to showing us all of the baby animals they've had at the barns this spring. Please be sure to pack a sack lunch for your children that day!

We are also very excited about our God is Great! concert on May 10<sup>th</sup> featuring Nashville Christian recording artist, Jennie Williamson. The school concert for ZLS students will be at 2:00pm and the family/community concert will be at 6:00pm. This is a FREE event for families of all ages and includes a hot dog meal beforehand (free will donation). Jennie travels across the world to share her interactive music ministry and has sold over 800,000 albums. She brings an energy and excitement for Jesus that is contagious. Make plans now to attend, and please invite your friends and family!

Blessings,

Mrs. Sara Nielsen