

Teachers' Convention 2015
Mr. Ron Koole, Principal

A little over a month ago (October 15, 16), Hope School hosted the 61st Protestant Reformed Teachers' Convention. Approximately one hundred fifty teachers from schools across the nation gathered to enjoy speeches, sectional presentations, and good Christian fellowship focused on the work of Protestant Reformed education of the youth of God's covenant. Hosting a convention for an increasingly large number of Protestant Reformed teachers adds a bit of extra work and planning on the part of the administrator and staff of the host school; however, the Executive Committee of the PRTI does the bulk of the planning and coordination of the events throughout the convention. The Executive Committee of the PRTI along with the volunteer mothers who prepared and served food are deserving of a large thank you for making the convention run smoothly.

This year the theme of the convention was "Surrounded by a Cloud of Witnesses" based on Hebrews 12:1. The keynote address was given by Rev. Bill Langerak. Rev. Langerak focused on the calling of Protestant Reformed teachers to actively live the Christian life through faith in Jesus Christ. He emphasized that the work of teaching depends first of all on fulfilling this calling in teachers' personal lives. The text compares living the Christian life to a race, a marathon. The running of this race is only possible by laying aside every weight and sin that so easily besets us and with patience keeping our attention focused on the goal. Communion and fellowship with Christ is the goal for ourselves and our students. The activity of faith does not fail, for we know that Christ is the author and finisher of our faith.

The heart of the message – "Run Christian School Teacher".

The rest of the day on Thursday and most of the morning on Friday were profitably spent presenting or attending presentations of hour-long sectionals on a myriad of educational topics. The following are a few sectional titles listed to give you an idea of the range of these topics:

- Literature Circles
- The Parochial Origins of the Reformed Christian Schools
- Technology: Friend or Foe?
- Teaching is Storytelling
- Preparing our Children for their Role in the Modern Culture
- Teaching Art

Each Sectional is listed in the convention booklet with a brief synopsis and a recommended targeted grade level. There are plenty of topics to interest all the teachers and administrators.

This convention ended a bit differently than many previous conventions in that all the teachers came together for the last sectional. The sectional title was, "Our Precious Christian Schools" and the presenter was Prof. Herman Hanko. He claims he "vowed" to end his public speaking engagements (3 years ago) but he can't resist the opportunity to speak "one last time".

Prof Hanko's speech was sprinkled with plenty of anecdotes and personal stories as he expressed his thanksgiving for our Protestant Reformed Schools and laid out the task and goal of the instruction given in those schools. He expressed a fear that many see the goal of the instruction in our PR schools to be the acquiring of high paying jobs so that our schools and churches can be supported in the future. (He has personally heard this stated.)

The problem with this is that it has no biblical basis. The goal is not wealth and prosperity but “the fear of the Lord” is the goal. We are to bring the children to Jesus. This means increased suffering for the child of God in the desperately evil times in which we live. We must tell the children that following Christ will mean poverty and the loss of everything. Those who follow Jesus Christ will and must suffer with him. We must teach the children to

love and serve the Lord and not to live for the things of this world. The children must be taught the truth and be prepared to deny self and this world to enjoy fellowship with their God. Yes, a fitting note to close out another profitable convention. Teachers look forward to the convention next year to be hosted by our schools in Dyer, Indiana on October 20 & 21, DV.



FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Dick Kuiper, Chairman
Dan Kalsbeek, Jeff Kalsbeek, Joel Langerak

“I will sing unto the Lord, because He hath dealt bountifully with me.” Psalm 13:6

One of the responsibilities of the members of the Board is to visit the classrooms on a regular basis. These visits are made monthly, with all members visiting once per year and the members of the Education Committee visiting twice per year. Usually either four or five classrooms are visited each month. We are always encouraged by these visits and reminded of how blessed we are to have teachers who not only capably teach our children from an academic standpoint, but who also are Godly examples to our children and apply the truths of Scripture to their daily lessons.

Mrs. Deb Kuiper and Mrs. Jill Reitsma attended the Everyone Reading (Dyslexia) Conference in Chicago in early October. They reported that the two day conference was both informational and beneficial for keeping them up on the best practices for teaching students who struggle. An added benefit is interacting with teachers from our other schools, discussing each other’s programs and helping each other with difficulties they may face in

their classrooms.

Because of an increase in the number of students who are interested in Robotics this year, it was necessary to form an additional team. With the help of donations and money received from the School Circle we are not only able to fund the Robotics teams this year, but also able to purchase the additional equipment necessary for the second team. We want to thank our mentors Jon Rutgers and Matt Elzinga for the time and expertise they put into this endeavor. Watch the *Monday Memo* for opportunities to come out and support the Robotics teams at one of their scrimmages or tournaments.

In early 2014, the possibility of starting a preschool here at Hope School under the supervision of our Board was discussed. It was decided to send out an informal survey to gauge what kind of interest there would be in such an endeavor. It was also decided to proceed with investigating what would be involved in starting a preschool. The Education Committee met with a Child Care Licensing Consultant for the State of Michigan who confirmed that licensing would be required. Things like Support Documents, Policies, and Facility Inspections would be required prior to licensing. Among other things, the Committee discussed initial start-up costs, the costs of

operation, an estimate of income, and the potential benefits and downsides of having our own preschool. At the May 2015 Board Meeting, the following recommendation was approved: "That the board not pursue a preschool for Hope School at this time. Grounds: a) Currently, there does not appear to be a compelling need for a preschool b) The amount of work necessary to comply with all the state daycare guidelines required for a preschool is unwarranted and not feasible at this time."

Michigan State law requires all K-12 schools to have a record of employee

fingerprints and background checks on file. We are working closely with our administrator and office staff to make sure we are compliant with that law and that we have a process in place to make sure that any future changes to the law are noted and implemented. We are currently weighing the advice of our Insurance Agent and the State Police with regard to volunteers such as coaches, mentors, chaperones, etc. who do not fall under this law.

May the Lord continue to bless us as we labor together in the instruction of the covenant children He has entrusted to our care.



FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
Mr. Steve Lotterman, Chairman
Dan Boeve, Jeremy Meulenberg, Michael Rau

The Finance Committee continues to work from month to month in the collecting of tuition, bus fees, drive contributions and other income. We would like to take this opportunity to report on the financial status of Hope School. The First Quarter Financial Statement is shown for your review. This statement shows both our income and our expenses are in line with the budgeted amounts.

What this quarterly statement will not show is an accurate reflection of our Fall Drive receipts. Although we currently have over 500 families, individuals, and businesses on our Drive mailing list, at the time of this letter only 155 or so of these have contributed. That is correct, less than half have given to this necessary and worthy cause. The two drives that we conduct play a vital role in covering the expenses of the school, and help us all to share the financial burden of covenantal education. Please prayerfully consider the needs of our school, and give as you are able.

All of our tuition paying families should have received a few e-mailed tuition statements by now. These statements show the

money that the Finance Committee received on or before the last Thursday of the month, so there are occasions that your tuition payment was sent in after the time of our meeting. If you would like the statement to more accurately show your balance, please send in your tuition before the last Thursday of the month. If you have not received an e-mailed statement, please contact Steve Lotterman.

As noted in a previous *Highlights* article, the School Circle gave the school two large contributions this past spring. We received a \$70,000.00 gift that went directly into Debt Reduction. An additional gift of \$20,000.00 was to be used at the Board's discretion. It was decided to use a part of these funds toward some necessary improvements and expenses - a new sign on Wilson Ave, a redesign of the Hope School web site, and a new set of tympani drums for our band. As well, we have allocated additional funds for our Robotics Team, and have recently designated some funds toward the construction of a 'fireproof room' in our school to be used as a School Board and office archive room. Again, thank you School Circle for these gifts, and for the work that you readily and cheerfully do!

This past spring, the Board received a somewhat unusual and remarkable request. A

family, that remains anonymous to most of us, wished to contribute funds to the school. The question presented to us was “What would be worthwhile desires or needs that the school would have?” This request led to a ‘Donor Project List’. Through our discussion it was also

revealed various items to be placed on this list, such as the remodel of the teachers’ lounge, redecorating (including new lighting and ceiling) in the main hallways and entry of school, new student desks in various classrooms, and new office chairs for our teachers. The various funds that individuals could donate to include:

- Athletics
- Band
- Building and Grounds
- Library
- Robotics
- Science
- Teacher Development
- Technology

If you or someone in your family wishes to donate to any of these causes, please feel free to do so.

remarked that in years past such a list was printed in the Thanksgiving *Highlights*, so that others who desire to give to specific funds would be able to do so. Inspecting areas of the school

**HOPE PROTESTANT REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
INCOME STATEMENT
First Quarter (July - September)**

	YEAR TO DATE	PERCENT TO BUDGET 3/12 - .25	ANNUAL BUDGET
INCOME			
CHURCH COLLECTIONS	11,349.29	0.28	40,000.00
GIFTS & PLEDGES	5,293.00	0.02	250,000.00
HOPE FOUNDATION	9,000.00	0.50	18,000.00
GYM RENTAL	-	-	3,500.00
MISCELLANEOUS	500.00		-
SPECIAL ED SOCIETY	4,040.75	0.36	11,357.20
TUITION	209,049.43	0.29	717,570.00
BUS FEES	8,446.00	0.29	28,800.00
TOTAL INCOME:	247,678.47	0.23	1,069,227.20

GENERAL EXPENSES			
ACCOUNTING FEES	900.00	0.26	3,450.00
BAND EXPENSE	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES AND BOOKS	11,000.00	0.55	20,000.00
BUILDING AND GROUNDS FUND	3,375.00	0.25	13,500.00
ELECTRIC	3,085.01	0.17	18,000.00
ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES	-	-	1,350.00
FEDERATION DUES	-	-	1,000.00
GENERAL INSURANCE	2,298.75	0.25	9,256.00
GROUP INSURANCE	20,986.02	0.21	99,400.00
HEAT	132.69	0.01	13,000.00
HRA	999.99	0.25	4,000.00
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	873.43	0.27	3,200.00
LAWN MAINTENANCE	649.00	0.43	1,500.00
LIBRARY FUND	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
MAINTENANCE MAN	-	-	2,100.00
MISCELLANEOUS	30.00	0.01	2,354.41
BUILDING MORTGAGE PAYMENT	18,450.00	0.15	120,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	172.80	0.14	1,200.00
PAYROLL, ART TEACHER	-	-	2,000.00
PAYROLL, BAND	610.00	0.08	7,300.00
PAYROLL, CHOIR	406.66	0.08	4,900.00
PAYROLL, DISCOVERY ROOM	11,208.08	0.26	43,156.00
PAYROLL, JANITOR	7,000.40	0.25	28,000.00
PAYROLL, LIBRARIAN	420.75	0.10	4,200.00
PAYROLL, OFFICE	4,655.00	0.19	25,130.00
PAYROLL, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER	180.00	0.09	2,000.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER	118,422.20	0.26	454,935.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER AIDE	861.25	0.17	5,009.00
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	2,789.86	0.31	9,000.00
RETIREMENT PLAN	4,251.19	0.28	14,942.73
SNOW REMOVAL	-	-	3,000.00
TRASH REMOVAL	391.56	0.26	1,500.00
TAXES, PAYROLL	10,424.11	0.23	44,420.57
TEACHER DEVELOPMENT	160.00	0.16	1,000.00
TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE	1,532.00	0.38	4,000.00
TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
TELEPHONE	376.36	0.24	1,600.00
WATER & SEWER	288.80	0.22	1,300.00
WORKER'S COMP	615.94	0.21	3,000.00
CONTINGENCY	-	-	5,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES:	230,546.85	0.23	981,703.71

BUS EXPENSES			
BUS DEPRECIATION FUND	5,000.01	0.25	20,000.00
BUS DRIVER COST SUBSIDY	-	-	400.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL	3,688.61	0.12	29,562.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL TAXES	269.00	0.12	2,261.49

TEACHING KINDNESS
Mrs. Deb Kuiper, Discovery Room

*“She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.”
 Proverbs 31:26*

Proverbs 31 gives us a picture of a godly woman, a woman who loves God and cares for her family and for the church. She works willingly with her hands to make sure her family has clothes to wear. She rises while it is still night to prepare food for her family. She does all her work in such a way that her husband trusts in her and her children rise up and call her blessed. Proverbs tells us that she is not idle but is constantly working to make the life of her family structured and pleasant. But her job is not only to attend to the physical needs of her family. Her time is spent in teaching her children both by direct instruction and also by her example how to live a godly life. Verse 20 says, “She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.” She teaches her daughters that, “Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.” And then, too, “She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.” Proverbs 31:26

As teachers we stand in the place of parents. Parents have a great responsibility to instruct their children in the fear of the Lord. “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up” (Deut. 6:6&7). Starting with Bible stories at the earliest age, parents must teach their children Bible history. Continuing throughout the years, they must instruct them in all the doctrines of the Christian religion. As teachers working with parents, we also educate our students in every subject area: history, math, English, etc.

Along with these, however, must be the teaching of kindness. It is a shame to us as Christians when we or our children are unkind to one another. We are sinful people and as such will not be rid of our pride and jealousy until we leave this world, but we must not use this as a reason to excuse bad behavior.

By nature, each of us desires to be the first, the best, the most popular. We want to be a part of the “cool group”, surrounded by the important people and distanced from those less attractive. Often this desire is accompanied by actions that push others down in an attempt to elevate ourselves in the eyes of those around us. This began already in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve heeded the temptation of the devil to “be like God” and it continues today in us and in our students. This is sin that we must constantly guard against in our lives.

How can we convey this message to our children? First, by our expectations and example we will show them how we must treat others. While showing favoritism and excluding others is rooted in sin, many times it is also a matter of going along with the crowd. Children who see others acting a certain way will often act the same way without giving a thought to how their actions affect others. As parents and as teachers, we must point out how our actions affect others. We must continually emphasize our calling to love our neighbor as ourselves, and we must call an immediate halt to any action that puts down others. We must teach children to choose alternate behavior when they are tempted to treat others the wrong way.

Secondly, parents and teachers must teach children who we are in Christ. By nature, we are sinful creatures, the enemies of God. Because of this we are the chiefest of sinners, less than the dust of the earth, worthy of eternal condemnation. Through no work or merit of our own, we have been chosen to be children of God. Not only our salvation, but all the gifts and abilities that we have are given by God. Our good looks, our academic aptitude, our athletic ability are all gifts bestowed on us by our Creator.

Thirdly, we must show our children that God has made all of His children good, according to His plan and for His glory. Each of us has a special place in His kingdom and none of us is complete without the rest of the body of Christ. James warns against showing favoritism to one person over another. "For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool. Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?" (James 2:2-4) How often don't we do this in our lives? However, when we see each of God's children as necessary members of the body of Christ, we can appreciate the way that God has made our fellow members. When we remember that for our classmates and fellow church members as well as for ourselves Christ endured the wrath of God, how dare we then look down on those around us? Let us show by our actions that we value not just the popular crowd but all of God's children.

Finally, we must counsel our children that "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." (Luke 12:48). By God's grace, we have all been given many physical and spiritual gifts. We are called to use these gifts in the service of God and His church. Often a small act of kindness will take little effort on our part but will have a great effect on our neighbor. Let's teach our children to look for ways to show God's love.

Through the counsel of parents and teachers, children will see that the way they treat each other now will affect them for years to come. Lord willing, their classmates will not only go through the school years with them, but will be fellow church members, fellow office bearers, members of the same Mothers' Circle, and parents of their children's friends. Let's teach them to start now to show love and respect to one another. As Romans 12:10 teaches "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 133:1



STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS
Miss Kelsey Ferguson, 2nd Grade

Right after lunch recess and our devotions each afternoon we have a small block set aside for story time. I thoroughly enjoy this time, as do the students. I choose a book to read to them, either a chapter book, which we read over a few weeks or

months, or a picture book. This book can be above their reading level because their actual vocabulary is much larger than what they can read in second grade. Due to this, we take time to discuss and explain words or situations that are too difficult for them to understand on their own.

The past couple years I have read a slightly modified version of John Bunyan's

work Pilgrim's Progress retold by Gary Schmidt. Apart from being a great story, it is also a great teaching tool and gives us good reminders. Although it is a heavy read that requires a lot of discussion in our second grade classroom, it is a beautiful illustration that instructs the students concerning their walk of life here on this earth. They get wrapped up in the story of a man named Christian who leaves his family, his possessions, and his town with his burden on his back and trudges towards the Celestial City. Christian meets many people along the way. Some help him and others try to tempt him away from the narrow path that he walked. He goes through many trials, both physical and spiritual, that serve to remind him of his dependence on God. Christian goes through high points and low points along his travels, ultimately reaching his destination of the Celestial City in the end.

Although the students do not catch all of the details that Bunyan works into the story, they catch on to the main points quickly. They easily recognize that the path that Christian must walk is the hard path, but the right path, and that any detour off the path would lead him away from the Celestial City. Often I will hear, "Oh no, he left the path!" or "He shouldn't go that way." They also point out that the burden on Christian's back is a picture of sin that no person or thing could remove, only Christ. It is wonderful to see them apply these pictures to themselves and see that we too must walk the narrow way of which Scripture speaks. And yes, sometimes it is difficult to be a pilgrim on that path and there are not many who walk with us, but that path leads us to our eternal home in heaven. It is also a joy to hear their confessions of trust in Jesus as the only way our sins are cleansed, by His blood as our Savior on the cross. They understand much

even though they are so young. It is a blessing to have these conversations with them. These moments serve as a constant reminder that our covenant youth are a great gift to the church.

"But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." Hebrews 11:16



After we finished reading Pilgrim's Progress I asked the students to respond to a few questions. Here are some of their responses:

I liked the story Pilgrim's Progress because...

Christin was godly and he obeyed Gods law.
– Jeremy

I liked it because he had to fite against the devil. – Annika

It was intresting how God made Christian to go threw all the stuff. – Raquel

It was really cool to hear about a god-fearing story. – Sidney

It taugt me that I have to stay on the path and go throw very scarry stuff. – Samantha

I liked the story because it tawt me sumthing. – Levi

What did you learn while reading Pilgrim's Progress?

I learned the strate wai is the hard but rite way. – Roy

I learned about the wicked world. – Micah R.
I learned not to go astray off the path. – Julia

I learned to take the strat and narow path. – Benjamin

I learned to always follow the strate but hard way. – Micah H.

I learned that you shod keep trieene. – Maddie

I learned that we have to take the strate and narrow ways. You shoud not roll off the strate and narrow way. – Brooklynn

I learned that christins have to blev in God. - Tressa

My favorite part of Pilgrim's Progress was...

Wen Cristyun was dufeting the dragon. – Everett

When he went to the cross and his burden fell off of him. – Caden

Win he walked into the Celestial City. – Joey

When Christian killed Apollyan. – Ian

When he whent up to the cross. – Ava

TAUGHT TO WRITE ***Mr. Dan Hanko, 4th Grade***

In our fast paced society of today it is important that our children learn the art of writing. God has given us the great gift of communication. We speak to one another

in a common language. As early as nine months old a child learns to communicate with words. Usually it is because of something that the child wants that a word or phrase is uttered. As a child grows and develops, conversation consists of longer phrases and run-on sentences as stories and exciting events are explained and expounded. After letters and words enter the child's sponge-like mind, written communication is practiced. Paper after paper is filled with words. Once phrases and thoughts are able to be expressed on paper, the student is taught to form sentences. The child is used to communicating with conversation, but writing in complete sentences needs to be taught. Soon sentences of like ideas are put together to form paragraphs and eventually stories.

The art of good writing is an important part of the child's education in the elementary years. I am thankful that I teach fourth graders, for I often struggle with writing myself. My teaching of writing is only the building blocks of those who carry on the work in junior high and high school. I need to set aside time in the classroom to teach how to write. Yet this can be difficult to fit into the schedule, and writing can be put on the back burner of the busy classroom of today. Oh, writing is going on – that cannot be escaped. But am I teaching the children to write and to write well? It certainly takes time out of an already packed school day. Sentences and paragraphs are given as answers on worksheets and tests, but are they written correctly? How much time do I spend on the spelling, the grammar, or the punctuation? Sometimes I simply look for a general idea or connection in the mass of tangled words on the paper. If I take the time to correct the mistake on paper, will the child see it and learn from it? Doubtful. Unless I or a parent looking at the graded paper point out

the mistake and explain it, the child will hastily look past the flaws and red scribbles and look at the final grade. Spare time for the child can be used to proofread one's own writing and to make corrections. Pairing up with a friend could work also. But then there are those who have little spare time. Those who do their work slowly will not benefit, and they may be the ones who would benefit most. A short block of time could be set aside for proofreading and correction. But once again, how many desks will I be able to visit and how long will it take to make one see his mistakes? I may tend to say that there will be a better time later, or that this is not the assignment to work on grammar and spelling.

No one would argue that writing correctly is not important. Maybe it is even more important today in a culture of texting, messaging, abbreviated words and symbols, and advertising and billboards with no capitalization than years ago when people actually sat down and wrote a letter with complete sentences. High schools and colleges will require a fair share of writing. It is important to organize ideas and thoughts and write with clarity. There is a need sometimes to summarize and give main ideas rather than give details. At other times it is necessary to explain in colorful and descriptive words to correctly portray the picture in the reader's mind. As adults, writing does not end. Certain occupations require good writing skills. There will also be times when one must carefully write down the truth of God's Word to show one's sin or give words of comfort. There may be occasions to carefully and accurately state on paper your beliefs or a doctrine of the church. Opportunities may arise to write for publications such as the *Beacon Lights* or *Standard Bearer*. Good writing is important and must be taught.

As a teacher it is important that I do not let writing continue without any correction or instruction. There must be time for the correcting of some writing. Children need to develop some good habits when it comes to writing and proofreading. I will also encourage reading. One English teacher mentioned, "I have never seen a good writer who was not a reader." Yes, we learn to write well by reading literature with good sentence structure and challenging vocabulary. I need to become familiar with the children's books in the library and know their interests in order to give suggestions for a child's search for a good book. Some children will wander aimlessly around for fifteen minutes without picking out a book. They sometimes need to be shown the book and given a brief overview of it in order to convince them to check it out. The value of writing is great. May the teaching of writing be a priority in those elementary years and continue for the rest of their education.



4th Grade writing samples:

Leaves' Colors

Leaves are fun, and I think the colors are the best
We see whose leaves are colorful – it's a contest
My siblings and I love to rake the leaves
We love it when we jump from the trees
When we are eating we see leaves fall
I'm going to give my friends a call.
~ Amber Koole

Autumn's Leaves

Autumn has colorful leaves
We start wearing our long sleeves
Those red and yellow leaves on the trees
We're chilly when we sit in the breeze
We see the leaves come down
When the wind blows around.

~ Lindsay Minderhoud

Autumn's Sports

Football is the sport to play
We can play this game all day
The World Series is on our T.V.
Maybe the pitcher is Matt Harvey
I even would like to play soccer
I could keep the ball in a locker.

~ Justin Hanko

Fall Fun

On all the trees
There are leaves
I love fall when all the leaves are red
But at the end they are all dead
There are brown leaves
That come down from the trees
Fall is a ball
When all the leaves fall.

~ Rebecca Brunsting

Fall!

The chilly season, wrap yourself with a scarf
And a coat, go by the hearth.
Apples, pumpkins, and much more
Have a fire, make a s'more.
Cider, cocoa, candy corn,
Raking leaves is such a bore.
The chilly season, fuzzy pajamas
Don't forget to go to Grandmas
For the lovely Thanksgiving turkey
Maybe even a little jerky.
With a coat or long sleeves
Jump in piled up, crispy leaves.
Changing, changing, every color
Rake 'em up and get a dollar.
Doughnuts you eat, people you meet
Have a great Thanksgiving treat!

~ Annica Engelsma

Fall Fun

Fall is a ball
When all the leaves fall
You bring out the rakes
And suddenly it breaks

Finally you get the leaves in a pile
And all leaves are standing single file
Oh you say, they made it a dump
You're so exhausted but join in the jump
You go inside for a Thanksgiving meal
You can't wait- this is a big deal!

~ Sophia Meulenberg

Summer Fun

From July 6 – 10 my family was at Aunt Jan's
and Uncle Tim's cottage. I went tubing with
Uncle Doug and Aunt Pam's boat. I went on
the purple tube and bounced over a lot of
big waves. I played *Peanuts* with Tabitha
Talsma, Aunt Bev (Kamps) and Roxanne
Hasevort. I never won, but it was so much
fun! After staying for a while, we went
home.

I was also able to have Sophia, Lindsay,
Elaine and Sally, and Jenny over; not all in
one day though. Each of them took up one
day. It was so fun!

~ Hannah DeJong

My Vacation

On a Thursday and Friday my dad took me,
my brother, and sister to a Tigers' game. My
little brother did not want to go because he
is afraid of mascots. The Tigers won 7 – 6.
They had a homerun by Victor Martinez and
a walk off homerun by Ian Kinsler. On the
way home we went to the Henry Ford
Company, and we went to Greenfield
Village.

~ Michael DeVries

Summer

When I went fishing I caught a sunfish. It
was about 8 inches. I went to Iowa for
vacation. I got to see my great Grandpa and
Grandma. My cousin Charlie came over
mostly every week.

~ Kodie Klamer

Fall Fun

When the leaves are turning colors you can tell it is fall. Then you can rake, rake, rake, all day long. But now you have to say goodbye to summer. Birds are flying down south and squirrels are gathering nuts. And we can all have a big Thanksgiving Day.

~ Sydnie Schimmel

Vacation in Summer

About a week after I got out of third grade I went camping with my family in Muskegon State Park. Three weeks after that we went with the whole Langerak family. Later we went to a cottage up north near Traverse City. My family went, and my Uncle Joel and Grandpa and Grandma Langerak went too. We got the cottage because my dad did work for a guy who let us use it. We went tubing with my Grandpa's boat. It was fun!

~ Owen Langerak

Summer Fun

During the summer I liked to ride my bike to my friends' houses and play. Sometimes they came to my house, and we went swimming or jumping on the tramp. I liked to play Xbox One games during the summer and tried to beat my brother.

~ Rylee Moelker

If I could pick to be an animal, I would be a cheetah. I would live in the savanna of South Africa. I would eat gazelles and zebras. God would have given me the ability to run fast, have retractable claws, and a tail to have balance when running and trying to catch prey.

~ Brett Cammenga

If I was a beaver, I would live in the water. My skills are so, that I could swim and dive. I would eat inner bark, twigs, leaves and roots of trees and shrubs. There are popular trees that beavers eat. Aspens, cottonwoods, and willow trees would be among my favorites. The skill that God would give me would be that I could cut down trees.

~ Elaine Doezema

My favorite books are probably the Doctor Doolittle series. He is a funny little man that goes on voyages and collects different animals that he gets on his voyages. He gets an assistant that is 10 years old. He learns animal language from his parrot Polynesia. His assistant is also taught animal language from her too.

~ Jonathan Bomers



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Family Fun Night

When: January 23, 2016

Where: Hope School

Time: 4-7 pm



2015-16 School Calendar

November 26-27	Thanksgiving Break
December 3	Band/Choir Concert
Dec. 24-Jan. 1	Christmas Break
January 22	End of 1st Semester, ½ day
January 23	Family Fun Night
January 25-29	Iowa Tests of Basic Skills
February 11	PTA
February 26	Parent Night
March 3-4	Parent/Teacher Conferences
April 4-8	Spring Break
April 27	Kindergarten Program
April 28	Band/Choir Concert
May 13	Elementary Music Program
May 21	Hope Classic Races
May 30	Memorial Day – No School
June 2	Graduation

