



HIGHLIGHTS

August 2017

Back-to-School



**Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily,
as to the Lord, and not unto men;
Knowing that of the Lord ye shall
receive the reward of the inheritance:
for ye serve the Lord Christ.**

Colossians 3:23-24

PREPARATIONS

Mr. Ron Koole, Principal

Often the success of an endeavor mirrors the amount of time and effort put into the careful planning and detailed preparations made prior to the endeavor. Take, for example, a family vacation involving traveling to an unfamiliar destination. One would want to do some research to determine what sites would be most valuable to visit. Then a well-thought out itinerary involving travel routes, overnight accommodations and reservations need to be made. Decision involving the packing of appropriate clothing, food and other supplies are usually vital to the success and enjoyment of the vacation. Oh yes, and it would be wise to take along some extra cash to “plan” for the unexpected events that often take place even when the best plans are made.

As important as family vacations are, they pale in comparison to the endeavor of an upcoming school year and the education of the covenant youth. In fact, a vacation should serve as a time of refreshment and part of our preparation to accomplish the more important work and callings we have in our lives. And the schooling of our children involves a calling that we as parents have made vows about. Proper and careful preparations are therefore necessary for the desired profitability of the upcoming school year.

These preparations for the new school year best begin in the home. It is here that attitudes about the importance and seriousness of instruction and learning are fashioned. This responsibility is laid primarily on the shoulders of fathers. Fathers do well to focus the children’s attention on the biblical grounds and goals of Christian education. One way to accomplish this would be to have a series of family devotions on biblical passages such as Ephesians 6, Deuteronomy 6, Psalm 78, and II Timothy 3. Then take the time to apply the teaching of these passages to the level of understanding of the school age children in the household. The children will learn, and come to see, that their positive attitude toward school and their diligent work in their studies are things that not only their parents and teachers desire, but something God requires of them.

Once this important foundational, biblical preparation is made, then the less important, but necessary, pre-school shopping for supplies and clothes usually is accomplished by mother and children. We must be careful however, not to make these lesser details become the focus of our children’s thoughts and preparation for school.

Proper preparation is also necessary for teachers. Not only must the children be properly prepared to receive instruction, but teachers must be properly prepared to deliver that instruction. This too begins with meditation upon the biblical instruction which deals with the godly rearing and discipline of the youth of God’s covenant. Teachers do well to read and re-read such books as *Reformed Education*, *Unfolding Covenant History*, and *Reformed Worldview*, to name only a few. Only after a proper focus of the serious calling at hand, is a teacher ready to work and re-work lessons for the upcoming school year. Along with this necessary mental and spiritual preparation, teachers need to prepare their physical classrooms with bulletin boards and displays that are appropriate for a positive learning environment.

Finally, we need to recognize that once the preparations for a new school year are completed and the school year successfully begins, that preparations don’t end. In fact, the instruction given throughout the school year is itself preparation. Our children are being prepared and equipped to live in the midst of this world as knowledgeable friend-servants of Jesus Christ. Their increased

understanding of the world they live in will enable them to better know and serve their Maker, and live in all areas of life to His praise and glory.

And don't forget to pray for the Lord's blessing on the labor of our hands. Now, in preparation for a new school year, and continuing throughout the year.



SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Andy Bylsma, Chairman
Phil Kalsbeek, Jon Rutgers, Dan Schipper

"The purpose of the Society of the Hope Protestant Reformed School for Christian Instruction is to provide primary education to those children whose parents share a commitment to the Reformed traditions (faith) in a school system where instruction is based upon the infallible, inspired, written Word of God, the Holy Bible." This statement, taken from Article two of the Society's Constitution, and included in the Guidelines for Enrollment sets forth the conviction that guides the Enrollment Committee in their role and responsibility of guarding the membership here at Hope School. To that end, the Enrollment Committee interviewed eight couples whose desire was to enroll their first child(ren) into kindergarten. After eight very enjoyable interviews, the committee heartily recommended to the Board, that we approve the application of these parents, to enroll their children in Hope PRCS.

Please join the board in welcoming Jared and Amber Doezema and their son Cole, Craig and Angela Feenstra and their daughter Brianna, Allen and Michelle Jordan and their son Wyatt, Phil and Laura Kalsbeek and their daughter Harper, Steven and Sarah Kleyn and their twin boys Luke and Samuel, Kevin and Jill Koole and their son Triston, Josh and Carrie Meulenberg and their daughter Sadie, and Dwight and Cynthia Quenga and their son Anthony. That we might become acquainted with these families, they have all written a small introduction about themselves which you will find following this report.

We thank God for the precious gift of our Christian schools and for parents that share our zeal for this cause. We ask that you continue to pray that God preserve and bless the work of our schools in the Godly instruction of our covenant seed.



Greetings! We are Jared and Amber Doezema and are looking forward to sending our oldest child to Hope this year! We have been married almost 7 years now and live in Grandville with our 3 children: Cole (5), Rielle (3), and Lincoln (1). Amber grew up in Redlands CA, attending Hope Christian School until high school. She was part of the first graduating class to be homeschooled for high school in Redlands, and is excited to see the start of our own high school in CA! After high school Amber obtained her EMT certification and worked in an ER in CA and later Butterworth. She's now a full-time Mom and wouldn't have it any other way! Jared grew up in Kentwood attending Adams, Covenant, and Southeast PRC. For the past 8 years he has worked at Premier Granite & Stone. He has enjoyed learning every aspect of the job from cutting, polishing,

installing, and his current position as computer programmer. We have attended Faith PRC since being married and are happy to see Cole start kindergarten with 3 other children from Faith. Cole is also excited to be in class with his cousin Charlotte Meulenberg, who lives 4 houses down from him. You can never see too much of your best friend right? As we send our firstborn to school, we are so very thankful to have the confidence that our children will receive a truly reformed faith-based education. We look forward to getting to know all the teachers, staff, and parents here at Hope, and pray for them as they prepare for another school year!

Craig and Angela Feenstra: We live just outside the hope "ghetto" with our three children. Brianna Jane is 4 almost 5 and loves school and being around all her friends especially biking with her cousins. Bella Ann who we nicknamed "bam-bam" is very much the outdoorsy type and won't ever spend any time indoors. And lastly we have Brody Craig who is brand new to our family and is growing like crazy. We are happy members of Grace PRC and have been married for 8 awesome years in August. I am a project manager for 360 Electric and Angela is a stay at home mother.

We are Allen and Michelle Jordan. We have been married for 6 years and have two children. Our oldest is Wyatt and he will be starting kindergarten this fall. He is excited to start at his new school. Our youngest is Cienna who is three and going to the Lamont Christian preschool program. We are members of Grace PRC. Allen works for Great Lakes Superior walls in the CAD Department. I work part-time as a nurse tech for Spectrum Health Zeeland Hospital.

The Kalsbeek Family: Philip (an employee at Meulenberg painting) and I (Laura Koole) have been married for 7 years this August. In that 7 years we have been richly blessed with 3 beautiful children - Harper (5), Seadon (3), and Monroe (1). We are a very active family, loving anything that may pertain to the outdoors. As God fearing parents we are extremely thankful for such wonderful schools, and dedicated teachers, who help aid in the rearing of our children. We look forward to joining the school and all of it's activities this fall.

Hi, we are Steven and Sarah Kleyn and our twin boys are Samuel and Luke who will be starting kindergarten this year. We are excited and a little nervous about this new chapter in our family's life. A little history about us, we are members at Grace PRC. Steven is a son of Nick and Ina Kleyn from Tasmania, Australia. In Tasmania, he was an expert truck driver until he moved to Michigan when we got married in 2000. He has been employed since then, full time at Kleyn Electric and he enjoys his work, but in the winter, he really misses his homeland and the warm weather. So we have been blessed to be able to travel together to Tassie many times during the Michigan winters. We have taken the boys twice, at age 1 and 3, and they really enjoyed the trips and made a lasting bond with their cousins there. Sarah is a daughter of Art and Sarah DeJong from South Holland, Illinois. She worked at Walgreens for a number of years until the boys came along. Now she enjoys being a stay at home mom full time to them and we have also been 'fostering' a little girl, age 2, for almost a year. Samuel and Luke are adventurous, fun-loving boys who love to learn things, especially about mighty construction machines or farming machines. We've taken them twice to the John Deere headquarters and Pavillion in Moline, IL. They are twins, but have different personalities that blend together, most of the time :-). We are thankful for them to be receiving a wonderful Christian education and hope they (and us also) will enjoy their schooling and make lasting Christian friendships in their time at Hope school.

We are Kevin and Jill Koole. We have 4 kids. Triston is our oldest and will be attending kindergarten at Hope School this fall. Jayden is our second oldest. He is 4 and will be attending Lamont Christians Pre-K this fall. Jayden is very jealous that Triston gets to ride the bus to school and that he gets to go to "Papa Koole's" school. Our third is Miriam and she is 2 years old. And our most recent addition to the family is Emma who was born on May 19. Kevin has worked for Meulenberg Painting for 9 years. We are excited for Triston to start at Hope PRC School.

We are Josh and Carrie Meulenberg, we have 3 children; Sadie who is five, Casen who is 3, and Nella who will be one in August. Carrie is a daughter of Bruce and Deb Lubbers and grew up in Byron Center. She doesn't know many people on this side of town but is looking forward to meeting them. We are members at Grace PRC. Josh works at Meulenberg Painting and Decorating. We all enjoy camping in the summer time. We also enjoy taking walks around the neighborhood with Sadie riding her bike. Sadie is very excited to start Kindergarten and we are all excited to begin a new chapter in this life God has blessed us with.

Dwight and Cynthia Quenga: Our colors are green and yellow. A John Deere tractor and a hobby farm might be in our future. Our son, Anthony, is five and our daughter Barbara is three. Barbara calls, "Look, a combine!" Mom will use restraint so she does not pull Tony out of school for another ride in the big John Deere combine at harvest time.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Jeremy Meulenberg, Chairman
Jason Engelsma, Dan Schipper, Joel Vink

The Building Committee has been busy over the summer with our regularly scheduled projects, including painting and carpet replacement in the fifth grade classroom, painting of the lower and middle grade corridors, and refinishing of the wood floor in the large gymnasium. We have been working on and will have completed the society approved project of installing new ceiling grid, tiles, and lighting in the lower hallway. The new LED lighting, ceiling grid, and tiles look great and improve the lighting and look of our hallways. Some of us think that the improved lighting and clean look will increase learning, but have no scientific proof to back it up, so it's a hypothesis at this point. Thanks to Bosveld Inc., Kleyn Electric, and all those who helped with the demolition and removal of the existing ceiling.

The annual work bee was held this spring which resulted in the hallway ceiling being removed, portions of the exterior being painted, the bus barn being organized and cleaned, and the main entrance landscaping being removed and new plants installed. Thanks to Kregel's Landscape for all their help with the landscape project and to all of those who showed up to lend a hand and make this day a big success!

The Building Committees work involves the maintaining and caring for our existing building and grounds. We would like to thank our janitors -the Koole family, our maintenance manager Erin Windemuller, and our grounds manager Andrew Veldman, for their work in maintaining our facilities and grounds by following up and taking care of the issues that arise during the day-to-day operation of the school.

We look forward to a new school year and pray that the Lord will bless our efforts, as together we strive to educate our children in the fear of His name.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Rutgers, Chairman
Phil Kalsbeek, Dick Kuiper, Mark Meulenberg

Our children are now ready to start a new year of school. For the Finance Committee, the new school year started in July with Enrollment. We are happy to report all past due tuition has been collected and we are starting fresh with new tuition and bussing fees for each family. Some of our families pay their tuition all upfront, which is greatly appreciated by this committee! Most pay following the "10 month" schedule. Please keep current on these payments, as it is imperative for the operation of the school that tuition payments stay on schedule. The finance committee usually meets the last Thursday of the month, at which time we make a monthly deposit. Within a few days of our meeting, tuition statements will be emailed to inform all families of their status. This will show the beginning balance, payments that were made, and the ending balance, and will serve as a reminder to maintain a regular schedule for payments. Please contact one of the committee members if you have any questions or concerns regarding your tuition statements or balance.

Included in this issue of *The Highlights* is the final Financial Statement from the 2016 - 2017 school year. A quick review shows that we ended the past fiscal year at close to break-even (\$81.00 gain). This would have been higher if we had not made a one-time transfer to the Long Range Building Fund. In July 2017, we made a \$60,000 transfer to this fund, which now has a balance of \$88,920.84. The transfer was primarily possible because of a \$40,000 additional payment we made on the mortgage in July 2016. Because of that, our mortgage was paid off earlier in the 2016-17 year than we had budgeted. The remaining \$20,000 was from expenses coming in under budget. The Church Collections and Gifts and Pledges categories fell a combined \$23,350.00 short of our budgeted amount. Please continue to give to our drives as you are able.

Did you notice we mentioned the mortgage was paid off this past year? It is with thanksgiving to God that we enter the current school year "debt free". As a Society, and as the Board of Hope School, we are in a position to plan our growth wisely using the funds we have been given. For this reason, we encourage you to continue providing suggestions to our Long Range Building Committee. They are working to plan out the best use of our facility and grounds for future generations and encourage your input.

Recently, the Board decided it would be a good idea to share some fund balances once a year in the August *Highlights* for those who may be interested. See below for the information.

Balances as of July 31, 2017

Building & Grounds Fund	\$8,878.04
Bus Depreciation Fund	\$91,053.17 (New bus to be paid for in the next month)
Long Range Building Fund	\$88,920.84
Teacher Development Fund	(\$1,198.85)
Website Fund	\$1,213.65
Science Fund	\$1,123.22

It is a great privilege to have this school for our covenant children. We are thankful that our Heavenly Father supplies our needs and provides the means to operate this school. We are confident each day we send our children to Hope School, that teachers who are united with us in doctrine and life, assist in rearing the precious seed of the covenant. God's blessing will continue in our generations when we show our gratitude by supporting Christian education with our gifts and prayers.

HOPE PROTESTANT REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
INCOME STATEMENT
JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017

	YEAR TO DATE	PERCENT TO BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
INCOME			
CHURCH COLLECTIONS	41,697.44	0.89	47,000.00
GIFTS & PLEDGES	256,954.00	0.93	275,000.00
HOPE FOUNDATION	18,000.00	1.00	18,000.00
GYM RENTAL	6,052.00	1.32	4,600.00
SPECIAL ED SOCIETY	7,752.16	1.00	7,750.00
TUITION	719,043.70	1.01	713,580.00
BUS FEES	29,185.00	1.01	28,800.00
MISCELLANEOUS	200.00	-	-
TOTAL INCOME:	1,078,884.30	0.99	1,094,730.00

GENERAL EXPENSES			
ACCOUNTING FEES	3,520.00	0.99	3,540.00
BAND EXPENSE	2,000.00	1.00	2,000.00
CLASS TRIP FUND	2,500.00	1.00	2,500.00
EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES AND BOOKS	22,800.00	1.00	22,800.00
BUILDING AND GROUNDS FUND	24,999.96	1.00	25,000.00
ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES	320.00	0.24	1,350.00
FEDERATION DUES	1,249.60	1.25	1,000.00
INSURANCE, GENERAL	9,512.50	1.02	9,350.00
INSURANCE, GROUP	87,856.34	0.88	100,115.00
INSURANCE, WORKERS COMP	2,360.90	0.76	3,100.00
INSURANCE, HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT	3,999.96	1.00	4,000.00
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	3,780.96	0.95	4,000.00
LIBRARY FUND	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS	3,095.72	1.24	2,500.00
BUILDING MORTGAGE PAYMENT	34,201.10	0.46	75,000.00
LONG RANGE BUILDING FUND	76,455.00	4.65	16,455.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,086.26	0.91	1,200.00
PAYROLL, ART TEACHER	-	-	2,000.00
PAYROLL, BAND	6,170.88	0.83	7,400.00
PAYROLL, BUILDING MAINTENANCE	1,557.00	1.11	1,400.00
PAYROLL, CHOIR	4,141.72	0.83	4,975.00
PAYROLL, DISCOVERY ROOM	45,073.90	0.99	45,600.00
PAYROLL, JANITOR	28,502.40	1.00	28,500.00
PAYROLL, LAWN MAINTENANCE	2,229.81	1.24	1,800.00
PAYROLL, LIBRARIAN	3,306.97	0.78	4,265.00
PAYROLL, OFFICE	27,405.25	1.05	26,000.00
PAYROLL, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER	990.00	0.50	2,000.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER	462,415.96	1.00	464,100.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER AIDE	11,970.54	1.33	9,000.00
PAYROLL, TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE	880.00	0.25	3,500.00
PAYROLL TAXES	42,684.31	0.93	46,000.00
RETIREMENT PLAN	17,424.81	1.14	15,300.00
PHYS ED UNIFORMS	623.25	0.69	900.00
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	8,699.01	0.97	9,000.00
SNOW REMOVAL	2,414.97	0.80	3,000.00
TEACHER DEVELOPMENT	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
TEACHER CLASSROOM FUND	2,800.00	1.00	2,800.00
TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	5,000.00	1.00	5,000.00
UTILITIES, ELECTRIC	18,601.77	0.98	19,000.00
UTILITIES, GAS	8,464.01	0.65	13,000.00
UTILITIES, TELEPHONE	2,199.34	1.37	1,600.00
UTILITIES, TRASH	1,781.56	1.05	1,700.00
UTILITIES, WATER & SEWER	1,069.34	0.71	1,500.00
CONTINGENCY	-	-	5,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES:	988,145.10	0.99	1,000,250.00

BUS EXPENSES			
BUS DEPRECIATION FUND	26,700.00	1.00	26,700.00
BUS DRIVER COST SUBSIDY	1,145.41	0.76	1,500.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL	32,008.50	1.03	31,000.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL TAXES	2,170.00	0.93	2,330.00
BUS DRIVER WORKER'S COMP	762.60	0.76	1,000.00
BUS INSURANCE	2,944.00	0.98	3,000.00
BUS REPAIR	11,905.18	0.94	12,700.00
GAS AND OIL	11,772.51	0.78	15,000.00
TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR	1,250.00	1.00	1,250.00
TOTAL BUS EXPENSES:	90,658.20	0.96	94,480.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	1,078,803.30	0.99	1,094,730.00
GAIN OR (LOSS):	81.00		

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Jason Engelsma, Chairman

Tim Bomers, Dick Kuiper

As we prepare for another school year, we ought to look back and give thanks to our God above for the safety He has provided for our students and drivers in the school year gone by. Each day we go about our life here on earth, knowing our well-being and that of our children are in His providential care.

We, as a Transportation Committee, are glad to report that all three buses have passed state inspections, and are ready for another school year. A hearty thanks to Dan Kalsbeek, our school's Transportation Supervisor. Along with making sure that our buses pass yearly inspections, Dan looks after the day to day items to make sure operations run smoothly. We also take this opportunity to thank our three primary drivers, Tom Oosterhouse, Philip Rainey, and Jennifer Kalsbeek for their willingness and dedication to driving our children to and from school. We also have a handful of part time drivers who fill in when needed. Thank you drivers!

The committee is pleased to report that the new bus that was approved at the last association meeting has arrived, and is ready to hit the road. The Board approved the Transportations Committee's proposal to install a camera system on the new bus. This is being done to improve the safety of both the driver and students. The driver can focus their primary attention on the road and a video recording can be reviewed if any accidents or issues arise during the route. If a student behavior incident arises that requires the replaying of the video, the Transportation Supervisor will go back and look at the recording and determine if any action is to be taken. The Transportation Committee will assist the supervisor if needed. While it is our hope that we will not need to replay any recordings, we also know that we and our children are prone to sin. And so, while we are yet in our earthly bodies, misbehavior can and will happen. We believe that the recordings will assist those who make any judgements in regards to questionable behavior on the bus to be as fair as possible. We ask that if any concern or incident should arise, that we can together approach the concern in a Christ-like manner so that together we can handle the matter properly.

As we prepare for another school year, we give thanks once more to our Heavenly Father for the many blessings He has given to us at Hope School, and we pray for His watchful care over this school year.

2017-18 Hope PRCS Bus Routes

Grandville/Jenison

Driver: Jen Kalsbeek (616-350-5376 cell)

6:56	N. Price	1631 Stoneybrook Dr. Jenison 49428	
7:01	J. Potjer	8703 Willow Run Dr. Jenison 49428	Covenant
7:04	T. Kalsbeek	8071 Lamplight Dr. Jenison 49428	
7:06	D. DeJong	7655 Graceland Dr. Jenison 49428	
7:16	K. Kalsbeek	7185 48 th Ave. Hudsonville MI 49426	
7:21	M. Potjer	6955 Longtail Dr. Hudsonville MI 49426	Covenant
7:26	M. DeBoer	7028 Rolling Hills Dr. Hudsonville 49426	
7:29	M. DeKraker	Corner of Greentree Dr. & Pine St.	Covenant
7:30	J. Molenkamp	7420 Harmon Ln. Jenison 49428	
7:38	D. Kuiper	7555 Louise Ave. Jenison 49428	
7:55	B. Duistermars	1092 White Pine Dr. Grand Rapids 49534	
8:00	Covenant		

Standale/Coopersville

Driver: Tom Oosterhouse (616-238-9026 cell)

6:55	N. DeVries/D. Rutgers	11830 24th Ave, Marne, 49435	
7:04	J. Langerak	5150 Candlewood Ct. Coopersville 49404	
7:11	T. Kleyn	4263 Garfield Coopersville 49404	
7:13	T. VanDenTop	Sams Joint Coopersville	
7:13	D. Kaptein	Sams Joint Coopersville	
7:13	K. Koole	Sams Joint Coopersville	
7:27	J. Peterson	0-13145 14 th Ave. Grand Rapids 49534	
7:47	S. Copple/R. Smit	659 Lincoln Ave. Grand Rapids 49504	Covenant
7:59	J. VanOostenbrugge	50 Cummings Grand Rapids MI 49534	
8:03	Covenant		

Byron Center

Driver: Phillip Rainey (616-340-1333 cell)

7:00	B. Kregel	6886 Kenowa Ave, Byron Center, 49315	
7:05	P. Doezeema	1040 Quincy St. Grandville MI 49418	Covenant
7:12	J. Kregel	4613 Caspian Dr. Hudsonville, 49426	
7:22	M. Gritters	2018 8 th Ave. Byron Center 49315	Covenant
7:23	T. Bomers	1815 8 th Ave. Byron Center 49315	
7:26	B. VanBaren	2055 Perry St. Byron Center 49315	
7:32	M. VandenBerg	3180 Mason St. Hudsonville 49426	
7:38	B. Klamer	Corner of 100 th and Wilson	
7:41	T. Kaptein	3375 92 nd St. Byron Center 49315	Covenant
7:44	J. Cleveland	9170 Byron Center Byron Center 49315	
8:00	Covenant		

If you have any questions regarding the schedule, please contact the Transportation Supervisor, Dan Kalsbeek at 616-791-4425 (home) or 616-890-1029 (cell).



STAFF CONTRIBUTIONS



ARE WE ALMOST THERE YET? Mrs. Deb Hoeksema, Kindergarten

This might be a phrase that has been repeated in your household over the last few months. I know that it certainly has in our household and especially inside my head. There are many reasons why this might be repeated so frequently. Our society has become a fast paced one in which everyone wants their hopes and desires fulfilled the moment they are conceived in their minds. We are always looking for a way to make things happen faster (drive thru fast food restaurants), complete tasks easier (copy and paste instead of rewriting a page), or even finishing a job without actually doing the work (hello, Roomba vacuums). When life goes by so quickly, we miss out on what God has given us each and every day. The opportunity to open His word; enjoy a beautiful sunrise; relax to the sounds of the wind in the trees, or even sitting down to a leisurely family meal. There are many more reasons why we should slow down but the following are my reasons why I have repeated the phrase "Are we there yet?" so often this summer.

One reason is my new kindergarten class. I have heard from more than one parent that the incoming kindergarteners believe that once testing and Kindergarten Round-up has been completed, it is time to begin school. Some even think that they will start the very next day after Round-up. They are so excited to begin their educational journey that the concept of summer vacation does not exist for them yet. (I am sure that will change in the next few years.)

Another reason why this phrase might be familiar is because of the vacations that are taken during the summer time frame. Last month, we were able to take a week off and enjoy God's beautiful creation near the Mackinac Bridge. We even took a day trip up to Lake Superior and Tahquamenon Falls. Four hours in the truck might not seem like a long time, but to a kindergartner or their teacher, this is a very long time to sit still. I read some of my book, had good family discussions, and viewed lots of beautiful scenery, but toward the end of our journey, my mind started wondering how much longer until I would be able to get out and stretch my legs.

Yet another reason why this phrase has been on my mind this summer is the impending completion of my Master's Degree, the Lord willing. I have been working away at this for the last six years. I immediately took some classes to recertify my provisional teaching license after returning to teaching. I then completed more classes to earn my professional license. I took some years off while I was bouncing around schools and getting established at Hope Christian. In the last year, I have taken three more classes. My goal is to complete my last two remaining classes during this school year and write my project over summer vacation next year. I feel like I am so close, but not there yet.

The last reason I am going to mention is how quickly the summer has passed. As I head back into my room to prepare for the new class, I begin to get excited about the new members of our class. It is hard to believe that school will start in just a few weeks. And yet I say to myself, "Are we almost done already? Can it possibly be time for school to start?" It seems like I just packed up the materials from the last school year and now it is time to put up new bulletin boards for the next class.

I am sure that I will have moments this year when I ask myself "Are we almost there yet?" These include the gathering of fellow Christian teachers for our annual Teachers' Convention,

the time off to give thanks to God for all that He has done for us and given us; and even the little break from school as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. But I am just as certain that I will say to myself, "Are we almost done already?" when the testing of next year's class is complete, the kindergarten program will soon be looming, and when Spring Break will mean that another school year will be done in the blink of an eye. I ask for your prayers as we start another year of covenantal education, both for the staff who work with the students each day, but also the men who serve on our School Board. May we all take the time to enjoy each moment of each day instead of saying "Are we there yet?" *Psalm 118:24 – This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

JUST A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

Mrs. Sue Grasman, 1st Grade

A few days ago I turned my calendar over to the month of August. July, with its sunny days and summertime memories, is now in the past and my thoughts begin to turn toward the beginning of the new school year that is fast approaching at the end of August. Anxiousness, nervousness, anticipation are all alike emotions that students and teachers share on the first day of school, and I am sure that this year will be no different as the doors of Hope School open to welcome us on August 28. Excitement will fill the air, so noticeable that you can feel it. I look forward to that excitement, for it is one of my favorite things. Just one of many, though, as along with the start of a new school year come many of my favorite things. Let me share just a few ...

1. **Singing** - my students and I begin each school day singing together. I am thankful for this wonderful start to the day, and I often wish that everybody had the opportunity to begin their day singing with these 6 year olds. Although they are just learning to read and to follow the Psalter, they sing from the heart and their joy is overflowing. Truly a blessed experience and just possibly my most favorite thing.
2. **Bible** – our Bible curriculum in 1st grade begins with creation and ends with David. A lot of material is covered and information learned and although that is important, it is most special when students begin to understand and apply the spiritual lessons that are being taught in each of the stories. Watching them grow spiritually brings such joy and a deep thankfulness to our heavenly Father for His work in their young hearts.
3. **Reading aloud** – personally I love to read and find great joy in coming home from the library with a large stack of books just waiting to be devoured. Sharing this love for books with my students brings me much happiness, and I love reading aloud to them every afternoon. With each new class comes the opportunity to read to them all the great books on our classroom bookshelves (I may or may not have bought more over the summer ☺) and I can't wait!
4. **Reading** – a large part of our day in 1st grade is spent learning to read. Ask any child entering 1st grade what they are most excited to learn in school and they will probably answer that they want to learn to read. This excitement for reading is contagious as learning to read opens up to a child a whole new world and being a part of it is another of my favorite things. How wonderful it is to see students who couldn't read mere months ago now enjoying all sorts of books! It really is amazing!

5. **The 1st day of school** – the start of a new school year brings adjustment to students and teacher alike after a free and enjoyable summer. It is now time to adjust to the structure and demands of the school day. But, most importantly, it is also time to experience the excitement and anticipation of the new school year and the fresh start that it brings. It is time to renew friendship and fellowship with the staff, parents and students of Hope School. This start of a new school year is also just one of my favorite things. Are you ready for a new year? I am! See you soon!

A TRIP OUT WEST

Mrs. Stephanie Daling, 2nd Grade

This past summer I spent two weeks exploring God’s beautiful creation in Utah, Arizona, and Colorado with my husband’s family. While in Utah we hiked through the “Mighty Five” National Parks as they are called. As we entered each park I was in awe at how drastically different each of them was. Some of their rocks were red, others were brown. Some rocks stood more than 2,000 feet above us, while at other national parks you looked 2,000 feet down. As I gazed upon God’s handiwork, Psalm 95:4-5 kept popping into my head, “In His hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is His also. The sea is His and He made it: and His hands formed the dry land.”

In this Psalm, the psalmist exhorts us to praise God for His greatness and providence while warning against sin. In verse 4, opposites, like depth and height indicate a sense of totality. The deep places of the earth are unexplored by man, and there are heights so high we are not capable of knowing their greatness. Yet, the depths, heights, and everything in between, are in God’s hand, for He created everything.

It is important for us then as God’s people to engage in worship and sing God’s praises, but also to praise Him through listening to the scripture reading and the preaching. We have two options when we attend each worship service, either we gladly glorify God through Christ, or we harden our hearts and put Him to the test. Psalm 95 is calling us, by faith, to flee from the wrath of God, placing our trust in the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep.

As I stood there admiring each national park, thinking about which one I admired or enjoyed most (let’s just say you can’t pick one! They are all beautiful in their own unique ways!), I thought about how heart wrenching it was to hear the people around me try to explain to their children how all of this took millions of years to form. They had no sense of a Creator, and it blew my mind how someone can look at the world around us and our bodies and think that all of the little intricacies and designs were formed by the hand of evolution!

This trip reminded me to continually give God the glory. We see the things around us each and every day, and we fall accustom to them, almost too accustomed. We soon forget their beauty, and are unfortunately not reminded of it unless something awful happens, or we explore a place we have never seen before. My task for you is to stop and see beauty in each and every day of your life and remember how great and powerful our God is. He is in control of all, and for that we must continually praise and worship Him, and, by His grace alone, flee from sin.

“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness.” Pslam 48:1

#AFILTEREDLIFE

Miss Gayle Lotterman, 3rd Grade

Very few of us are immune to the charms of common social media platforms. Instagram: where all that users can share are pictures. Twitter: an excuse to share witty and short fragments of thoughts. Facebook: where ads from products are shared by friends as quickly and willingly as "humble" advice. Snapchat: an app that shares pictures and thoughts in so short a time that it doesn't matter what you say or look like; it will be gone in an instant. These are a few of the most common, and many of us have profiles on all four of these.

The allure of these social media networks is just that - they are networks. One can keep up with old high school or college friends, and one can virtually hang out with old acquaintances, friends from out of town, or even someone in the next room. This summer, I used these apps to stay in touch with friends from out of state; I don't argue that this networking can be valuable.

Yet, a lot of pressure comes with this. If these old friends only get to see a glimpse of my life, don't I want it to be the best glimpse? The one that shows my successes rather than my failures? Very quickly we can convince ourselves of what sorts of things we should post. I definitely will not be posting a picture of my desk at the end of the school day (because the mess could cause distress). Instead, I find a bookshelf that still looks organized and post that picture. #teacherlife.

Surely I wouldn't post the six sketches I tossed (because it wasn't until the seventh that my drawing actually looked like a person). Instead, I post that seventh sketch and slap on a filter to make the colors more vibrant, the lines more confident. #artteacher. In the bombardment of images that accost users' eyes as they scroll, will mine stand out?

That feeling – waiting for likes and comments to roll in – causes a problem. Among other things, these platforms cause a great amount of exaggeration and dissatisfaction. Everyone is competing with each other to look more put-together, accomplished, well-traveled, beautiful, etc. It's very easy to make life look great when we are in control of what others see. How easy too, to feel as if everyone else's life must be perfect as we look through picture after picture of #blessed, #greatweekend, #lovinglife.

Scrolling through sites filled with images, where the beauty of God's creation could be on display, instead we see photographs that have been altered and edited so greatly that the actual sky above us no longer looks blue enough, and the grass beneath our feet appears too mild a green. The lack of reality to these pictures doesn't even cross our minds as we accept that somewhere, somehow, someone else's sunset had twenty more colors in it than ours did. We believe this "reality" so easily that we don't realize how it is affecting us.

At what point does this lead to dissatisfaction with the bodies we have been given and the beauty God has created? The selfie, so painstakingly altered to make the teeth more white, the face more clear, and the skin more tan, has now become a lie in picture form. Disappointed eyes gaze in the mirror later to see yellowed teeth, a freckled face, and pale skin. No longer is a sunset a beautiful display of the artistry of God, it's an opportunity to instantly change and warp reality to fit a "better" definition of beauty.

Many an article has been written on this topic, and I know mine has not yet done it justice. Yet, as summer draws to a close and school starts again, I reflect on these things for a number of reasons. We must instruct and remind each other to be careful with the use of these

social media platforms. Your children, my students, are growing up in a generation where images express increasingly wicked ideas. The way in which we use social media can contribute to those ideas, even when we are not conscious of it.

In the same ways that we exaggerate or become dissatisfied, the young minds watching us also do. They might grow up discontent with the sights they see and the lives they live. Furthermore, as they soon grow old enough to use social media themselves, will they too hide the truth in an effort to appear more glamorous or successful? Or will they realize the danger in seeking the approval of men?

It is good for all to be reminded, in the same way that Samuel was when finding a second king for Israel, that “the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7b). Let us not become as the Pharisee, boasting of our goodness, but instead as the publican, walking humbly before the Lord.

WHAT BOOK SHOULD I READ?

Mr. Dan Hanko, 4th Grade

Once a week for a half hour or so, each class in the elementary grades has library time. I take all my fourth graders on Mondays, following afternoon devotions. We walk in single file down the hall to the library, and the students begin their search for books. Many come to me with the question, “Do you know a good book I can read?” This sounds like an easy question to answer, but it can often prove to be quite challenging. What I like might not be what another student enjoys. Maybe the book will be too difficult or “boring” for him. The book I suggest may be too long for him to stay interested. After a few years of teaching I now know how to better prepare myself for this common question.

I need to know each child’s interest. I ask each student what books he has read recently or last school year. By this I get a feel for the kind of books that will capture his attention and a reading level that will be good for him. I want to know the length of book that will keep his interest. Throughout the year oral reading and comprehension quizzes give me a better idea of books to suggest. One’s enthusiasm in a subject or knowledge about a certain topic can also lead me to a good book.

I need to spend time reading. Reading through children’s literature helps me become familiar with school’s library. I quickly skim through a new series or reread some classics to refresh my memory. If time cannot be spent reading the whole book or several books by one author, the book reviews on the internet can be helpful. I often suggest a series of books or special authors so that a child could return to the library with a better idea of what book to check out.

I need to keep that student excited about reading. Sometimes this is a struggle. I try to remember to ask questions about the book I suggested. I ask about the main plot or the mystery being solved. I ask about the ending or have the student briefly tell me about the best part of the book. This helps me check to see if he understands the book or whether it was too difficult for him. I can also gauge his interest for the book or topic. Having each child keep a reading record for a time reminds me of the books I suggested and gives me an idea of the progress made through the book.

The value of reading and understanding what you read is priceless. In this fast-paced digital age, books are less likely to be picked up and enjoyed. Showing an interest in a child's reading and assisting them in finding books to read may just help capture a love for reading. Encourage your child to read, and I will try to be prepared for the common library time question, "Do you know a good book I can read?"

FIRSTS AND LAST

Mr. Brian Dykstra, 5th Grade

Who would have thought that at my age a summer could still provide a few first-in-a-lifetime experiences? Several years ago, when my children were younger, which resulted in the bills for which I was responsible being higher, summer employment was greatly needed and appreciated. I would make my annual mid-spring visit to Feenstra and Associates to determine whether or not they needed my services on a surveying crew. I had thought summer employment was a thing of my past. I was no longer hungry enough to be motivated, nor was I young enough to see the beauty of the fifty-five or sixty-hour work week.

However, for the first time summer employment came looking for me. I wondered whether Feenstra's job offer was just a ruse to put me back in the field to survey. In previous years my bouts with poison ivy, occasional discussions with police officers and a little feud with the Kent County Road Commission became the stuff of company lore. (Something about those road commission trucks instantly drains away my patience.) In fact, sometimes I thought the main benefit of my summer employment for the company was the amusement I unintentionally provided. Yet, Feenstra's assured me they just needed help in the office two days a week. They would teach me some basic AutoCAD so I could do some simple projects which would free the talented people to do some serious work. I hope both parties benefitted.

Another first was that I picked strawberries with my wife. While crawling on the ground picking berries, I reflected how my life had come full circle. My first job was at Van Solkema Farms in Byron Center where I and other youngsters weeded onions, harvested turnips and parsnips, and were once accidentally crop-dusted. We sometimes discussed the \$1.24/hour pay. We found the pay rate very strange, \$1.24. If the pay were \$1.20, would nobody work there? Yet somehow paying us \$1.25 would break the bank?

Another first was picking blueberries. This time my wife recruited the help of two of our grandchildren. Putting the first few berries in the bucket was discouraging. The berries looked rather small in the bottom of the bucket. Obviously, this would take some time. Still, we made progress and buckets gradually filled as the grandkids experienced some good healthy exposure to dirt.

The final first was not so pleasant. While vacationing in Montana, our truck, with our truck camper in the back, had to be abandoned at the mechanic in Billings. We loaded our food in boxes, crammed clothes in garbage bags, packed sleeping bags and pillows, rented a GMC Acadia and bought a tent at Wal-Mart. We met our daughter in Jasper National Park in Canada, enjoyed camping together and went to Glacier National Park to camp with my wife's siblings and their families. At least we enjoyed the middle part of our vacation.

Upon returning to Billings, we found our truck was not quite finished, even after being there a week-and-a-half. When they finally gave us our truck just after 5:00 P.M., we noticed

a large screw in one of the tires. This hiss of air slowly leaking from the tire did not compare well to the sound of the wind passing through coniferous forests. Of course, by then the tire shops had closed, but we were more than eager to go home. We would drive a few hours, fill up with gas, fill the tire with air and charge down the highway. This brings me to the “last” mentioned in the title above. My wife and I have decided this would be our last camping trip. However, years ago we had said we would never camp in a tent again, so we’ll see, but I think we’re done.

A trip such as that makes me look forward to another first, the first day of school. I’ll see the new fifth graders soon. By the way, how many of you have noticed that the sound of the zippers on students’ binders and trapper keepers is very similar to the sound of a tent zipper?

THY WAYS ARE HIGHER

Miss Mikal Dykshorn, 6th Grade

Life is a perfect graveyard of buried hopes. This line comes from Anne of Green Gables, one of my favorite books. How often we plan out things on this earth: vacations, weddings, futures. God gives us enough grace to face each day and constantly we are looking to what is to come in the future. God tells us in His Word not to worry about tomorrow (Matt 6:25-34) and that His grace is sufficient for each day (II Cor. 12:9). And yet, when we do those things, and our plans don’t work out as we wished, so often we are disappointed. If you haven’t read the Anne series, you should. Anne is an orphan adopted by a brother and sister, Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert. They ordered a boy and instead received an imaginative red-haired girl, who somehow got herself into all sorts of scrapes and adventures. I always imagined myself to be a bit like Anne, stuck in a world of my imagination...and then reality hits.

Another quote in the book that I enjoy is when Anne gets admonished about getting so excited about things...and then so upset when things don’t happen the way she had hoped. “...“Oh, Marilla, looking forward to things is half the pleasure of them,” exclaimed Anne. “You mayn’t get the things themselves; but nothing can prevent you from having the fun of looking forward to them. Mrs. Lynde says, ‘Blessed are they who expect nothing for they shall not be disappointed.’ But I think it would be worse to expect nothing than to be disappointed.”...I always related to this quote. I’m pretty sure my mother had given me a similar sentiment in my earlier years. But there is just something about getting excited for plans to come that sometimes make them worth the heartbreak. However, in the past few weeks I have learned more than ever, that it is not my plans that are important, but God’s, and at times those plans are so hard for us to comprehend.

My father, John Dykshorn, passed away suddenly on the 5th of July. As a family we are still grappling with how to find a new normal without him around. It wasn’t how we had planned for our summer to go. We had plans. When he got back from North Dakota, there were trips planned and weddings he was going to be at. My mother and he had plans for his retirement which was right around the corner. But those plans were our plans, not God’s. *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.* Isaiah 55:9. As the prophet Isaiah states, we can’t even begin to comprehend God’s thoughts, they are so much higher than our earthly minds and abilities are able. We can see His handiwork throughout them. But we cannot comprehend them. Even

in losing my father, as devastating as it is, we can see God's hand in it. My dad had been working in North Dakota for an extended period of time. The weekend before he died he was able to come home and spend time with his family. He saw all of his kids and grandchildren. He went out to dinner with his brother and friends. He saw his church family Sunday. We are so thankful God gave us that time with him before He took him home.

Although some days we wonder how it is possible to go through each day with a hole where that person was, we know that God will give us the grace and peace that passes all understanding. There are constant reminders, where we absentmindedly think when the phone rings it's him or when the screen door shuts and we look, expecting to see him walking onto the back porch. When things happen in everyday life and you think about telling him. During these times we have to remind ourselves that he is no longer here but with his Savior in heaven. It's amazing the grace that God gives to us, that we know that no matter what adversity we face, and even if we cannot comprehend it at this time...it is for our good and the good of our salvation. *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.* Romans 8:28-29.

Although at times it is difficult for me understand God's plan, I know it is perfect and as my wedding date approaches, I will admit there is a bit more apprehension in it. Although I am excited, it will be a bittersweet celebration of the picture of God's love for His Church, without my dad's sturdy arm to hold on to, without his ridiculous comments, or his smile that made his eyes all but disappear. I know that day will be difficult, but God will give me the grace and mercy needed through His Word and His people.

I cannot express my gratefulness for the outpouring of love my family has received during this time from our fellow saints, even some sweet emails from former students. Just as Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert in Anne of Green Gables didn't realize they needed a strange little orphan girl, in the book it was God's plan for them. *"She's been a blessing to us, and there never was a luckier mistake than what Mrs. Spencer made—if it WAS luck. I don't believe it was any such thing. It was Providence, because the Almighty saw we needed her, I reckon."* My family and I realize that this also is God's plan and for our good, and although there are still rough days ahead, God will guide us through them. *It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.* Lamentations 3:22-23.

USING THE MACHINES

Mr. Ed Bos, 7th Grade

When I went to the Upper Peninsula a few weeks ago, I took along a tablet and my smart phone but hardly used them – the phone only a minimal amount, and the tablet not at all. At first the reason was that we were in places where there was no signal. That’s right – no internet, no email, no Facebook, no phone, and (I hear the gasps) no texting! Soon this got to be refreshing – to get away from “the machines”. From then on, it was choice. I never used the tablet, and I used the phone only once when someone called me, and I cleaned out the email inbox one time without reading anything; much of the time it was turned off. That became part of the vacation – getting away from it all.

I read a book by Bill O’Reilly called *Old School*. One of the things he pushes (he did this on his tv news program also) is that it’s better to keep the “urchins off the machines”. Much of today’s youth have no awareness of anything going on around them. Their social skills decline. All in all, it’s not a good thing.

There actually is a danger of addiction to these tools. When we think of addictions, we tend to think of drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and such things. But anything can be an addiction, including work, exercise, and technology, if we let these things take over our lives. I have seen young people texting at our school programs. And I know some people who actually get the jitters when they cannot email, text, or check social media at a moment’s notice, or even if they lose physical contact with their smart phone or iPhone. This kind of attitude is really an addiction. The machines are good gifts of God (so are cocaine, alcohol, work, etc.), but they are not blessings if they are abused. We must be careful of these things also because, in our totally depraved human natures, we are not immune to the sins of the world.

It has also been shown that the infusion of technology has led to shorter attention spans. This has caused educators to move toward teaching in short bursts and sound bites because this is what children are used to. This will not help them when they enter the work force. More importantly, this is a great danger to us who need to develop our attention spans to be able to pay attention to the preaching of the Word – not in sound bites, but in fully developed, exegetical sermons. We must develop the minds of our children to be able to concentrate for longer periods of time in order that they may better listen to and comprehend the preaching, meditate on the Word of God, and have a healthy prayer life.

I am certainly not saying that the machines are evil. There are definitely good uses for them. I could not do my job as well without them. And they make life easier for the students when they are used in a right way. But this involves close supervision by teachers and parents. Let us be vigilant in how we use the gifts of God, model these behaviors for the children, and help them to use these gifts in a Godly Christian way.

IN THE BEGINNING GOD

Mr. Nate DeVries, 8th Grade

The belief in the creation of all things by the Almighty God is critical to the teaching of every subject in school, centrally science classes. Science begins with the foundational principle that God is the Creator, that His creation was perfectly formed according to His eternal counsel, and that each creature is upheld and governed by a God who is sovereign. Each creature, whether living or non-living, serves the purpose of the Lord of creation and shows “his eternal power and Godhead, so that [men] are without excuse”. Wicked men have so hated God that they have used the study of the very creation of God to attempt to disprove His existence. By examining the state science educational standards and the well-touted common core standards, one can readily observe that the chief goal of science teaching today is evolutionary theory; there is no higher being, and all things happen by “natural laws” and continue now as always. Evolution is the foundational basis for all of secular science teaching today. Of course the basic teaching of evolution does not, cannot even, stop in the science classroom and leads to such things as euthanasia, eugenics, and an open mockery of the institution of marriage.

As seen in the teachings of science and the growing, open depravity of society, the most basic premise of evolutionary theory must be “there is no God”. This belief leaves men as the highest possible being, a belief that has had far-reaching consequences in the scientific world today. But just how far is man willing to go? Where will science based on man as “god” go next? One need not look far for examples; I will give just two. The first is a quote from Sarah Scoles in the July/August 2017 *Popular Science*. “Nature has foisted precipitation on humans forever, forcing us to be wet, iced-over, snowed-in, hail-stung, flooded, parched-whatever, whenever. **Synthetic weather modification** is the ultimate statement that we are supreme beings and can make the world perform to our needs.” [emphasis mine] The previous quote is taken from the context of descriptions of attempts scientists are making to create snow and rainfall, control and direct lightning strikes, stop rain, and control or tame hurricanes; essentially gain control of the weather and bend it to the needs and whims of men in the name of science. The second is the news reported early in August of the breakthrough in the gene editing of an embryo. Scientists, using the powerful gene editing CRISPR-cas9, successfully removed a gene that would have caused an inherited, fatal heart condition. Following the gene editing, the embryos continued in successful cell division before they were, sadly, “discarded”. Even modern scientists are unsure exactly how far to take this powerful new tool; however, “designer babies”, or possibly the end of diseases, are certainly a possibility in the near future.

Thankfully, we are yet given the freedom to teach literal, six-day creation-based science classes. The knowledge that there is a Creator who is sovereign forms the basis, direction, and interpretation of each science lesson: from the geology of the earth, plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes to weather and storms, natural resources and their use, and the formation of rocks and minerals. All creatures praise their Maker, and all science should be taught and learned to praise the God of heaven and earth. The first unit in eighth grade science sets the foundation for the entire year. The reading material for the unit is a book titled *In the Beginning God* by Homer Hoeksema. During this two-week period, we will study the proper approach to science, namely faith; look at supposed evidences of evolution; and study different theories of evolution. We will also learn to detect incorrect arguments used to teach false positions, arguments such as hasty generalizations, appeals to force, ad hominem arguments,

circular reasoning, and missing the point. The goal of this area of learning is to prepare us to recognize the false teaching of evolutionists and to further our understanding of the marvelous creation we are able to observe. What a blessing it is to study the creation, freely and openly, and always based on the word of our God.

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

Mrs. Deb Kuiper, Discovery Room

The words came from my radio as I drove to the store, "How can I keep from singing?" I thought, "How can I sing?" I had just been weeping with my daughter over the death of her classmate. The tears were still falling so that it was difficult to drive. Earlier that week, we had learned that the brother of another of her classmates had been diagnosed with leukemia. This boy's grandmother had spoken to our 8th graders for 'Fearfully and Wonderfully Made Day' about how cancer had already affected their family. How can I sing at a time like this? This is hard for me and these are not even my children.

My thoughts turned to the widow of Zarephath. While on vacation in Iowa our family heard an excellent sermon by Rev. Griess on her grief when her only son died. "And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? Art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?" (1 Kings 17:18). Her response to this difficulty in her life was to ask if this was a punishment from God for her past sins. It is certainly appropriate in these circumstances to examine our lives and see how God is calling us back to Himself. It is also good to be reminded that this sin cursed valley is not our eternal home. However with respect to the question of God's punishment, the answer is, "God has not punished your past sins in the death of your son. He has punished your past sins in the death of His own dear Son".

Also in Iowa, we heard a sermon by Rev. Laning, in which he quoted from the Lord's Supper form to demonstrate the contrast between us and Christ, "... He was bound that we might be freed from our sins; that he afterwards suffered innumerable reproaches that we might never be confounded; that he was innocently condemned to death that we might be acquitted at the judgement seat of God."

How can I keep from singing? Not only my sins, but those of my children and all God's elect are taken away in the sacrifice of His Son. Sometimes our song is barely a whisper, "I believe, Lord help Thou my unbelief. Help me get through this day, this hour, this minute. Lord, help me breathe." But we do not sorrow as the world sorrows. The Bible teaches us, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him" (1 Thessalonians 4: 13-14). And again, "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God" (Job 19:25-26). All of this is possible because of our redemption in Christ. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

When I got home from the store I looked up the words to the song, 'How Can I Keep from Singing?' by Chris Tomlin. The Covenant choir sang it just this past year.

There is an endless song echoes in my soul
I hear the music ring and though the storms may come
I am holding on to the rock I cling

I will lift my eyes in the darkest night
For I know my Savior lives
And I will walk with You knowing You'll see me through
And sing the songs You give

How can I keep from singing Thy praise
How can I ever say enough
How amazing is Thy love
How can I keep from shouting Thy name
I know I am loved by the King
And it makes my heart want to sing

The original song also included a verse that was not included in the version sung by the CCHS choir.

I can sing with my last breath
Sing for I know
That I'll sing with the angels
And the saints around the throne

We do not know what this school year holds, but we know that God holds the future in His hand and that His will makes all things work together for our good. He has redeemed us in Christ and will one day take us to live with Him. How can we keep from singing?



SCHOOL OFFICE NEWS



ATTENTION:

On Tuesday, August 29, 7:00-8:30 pm, we will have an informational meeting at Hope School regarding the upcoming LEGO Robotics season. All students interested in joining the LEGO Robotics team(s), with their parents, are invited to attend this meeting. This year's challenge will also be revealed at that time. We hope that you will join us!

ATTENTION:

All band students, please bring your instruments to school on the first day.

NEWS FOR YOU. . .

1. **Parents of Kindergarten students, 7th grade students and new students:** Immunizations are required for all students entering 7th grade, kindergarten, and any transfer students. If your child’s shots are not up to date, please have them completed by Monday, August 28.
2. The “School Supply Store” has many school supplies for sale including flash drives and calculators at low prices throughout the year. The “store” (located in the office) is open before school begins in the morning and during first recess.
3. If you would like to receive the **Monday Memo** via email, please send your request to hopeschool@hopeprcschool.org or call 453-9717. If you received the memo last year, you are already on the list and do not have to email or call.
4. Please try to avoid making appointments during school hours on these dates:
SCHOOL PICTURES! - Friday, September 22
HEARING TESTING will be held on Thursday, October 26 for grades K-B, 2, 4
HEARING TESTING will be held on Friday, October 27 for grade K-A
VISION TESTING will be held on Friday, October 27 for grades 1, 3, 5

2017-18 School Calendar

• August 28	• First Day of School
• September 1-4	• Labor Day Break
• September 22	• School Pictures
• October 12-13	• Parent/Teacher Conferences
• October 19-20	• Teachers’ Convention
• October 26	• Hearing Screening (K-B,2,4)
• October 27	• Hearing Screening (K-A)
• October 27	• Vision Screening (1,3,5)
• November 17	• All-School Program
• November 23-24	• Thanksgiving Break
• Dec. 25-Jan. 2	• Christmas Break
• April 2-6	• Spring Vacation
• May 11	• Elementary Music Program
• May 28	• Memorial Day – No School
• June 1	• Last Day of School

CUPCAKE & SNACK SALE CARD!

\$9.00/per year/per student

- The School Circle will once again be selling cupcakes every other Wednesday.
- The 7th and 8th grade students will take turns selling snacks on the alternating Wednesdays.
- Look for the sign-up sheet coming home with your child the first week of school.



MAGAZINE SALE KICK-OFF
 Thursday, August 31

Help support Hope School by renewing all of your magazine subscriptions with us!

SUPPLY LISTS

Kindergarten

Backpack	Pillow (labeled)
Folder w/ pockets	Gym shoes - velcro style (labeled)
Scissors	2-3 large glue sticks
Crayons (24)	Eraser
Pencil box/holder	Colored Pencils (optional)
Paint shirt (labeled)	
Markers (optional)	*We provide "fat" Tri-Write pencils



1st Grade

KJV Bible (2 nd semester)	Scissors
Pencil box	Folder (2 pocket)
4 pencils	Paint shirt
1 large eraser	Gym shoes (labeled)
Washable markers	Colored Pencils
16-24 crayons	2 solid glue sticks

2nd Grade

KJV Bible	Homework folder with 2 pockets
Pencil box	Gym shoes (labeled)
12 Pencils (#2)	Paint shirt (labeled with name)
2 large erasers	2 solid glue sticks
16-24 crayons	Scissors
Colored pencils	Red Pen
Washable markers	2 plastic folders with 2 pockets
2 Spiral notebooks	

3rd Grade

KJV Bible	12 pencils
Glue stick	2 large erasers
Colored pencils	Crayons (16-24)
Washable Markers	Ruler (in and cm)
Pencil box	Scissors
(2) 2-pocket folders	Gym shoes
2 red pens	
1 spiral notebook (NO binders)	
2 (100 ct) packages sticky notes	
1 sock (no holes)	
Paint Shirt (labeled)	



4th Grade

KJV Bible	Wide-ruled notebook paper
Pencils/Erasers	Scissors
Gym shoes (labeled)	3-ring binder
3 Red pens	Binder dividers with 5 tabs
Colored pencils	Glue Stick or Elmer's Glue
Ruler w/ inches & cm.	



5th Grade

KJV Bible	Pencils/Eraser
Crayons	Scissors
Ruler	Notebook paper
Pencil sharpener	3-ring binder
Gym Shoes	
Glue stick or rubber cement	
Binder dividers with 5 tabs	

6th Grade

KJV Bible	3 ring binder w/ 6 folders
Psalter	Assignment Book
Notebook paper	Pencils
Gym shoes (labeled)	Scissors (good)
Eraser	Colored pencils
Pens	Ruler
Highlighter	Black felt tip pen
3-5 subject notebook	Pencil Sharpener
Glue or rubber cement	



7th & 8th Grades

KJV Bible w/ references, concordance, and maps
 Blue/black pens
 Several red pens
 Colored pencils
 Pencils
 Scissors
 Something in which to carry above items
 Notebook paper
 Binder w/ folders
 Assignment book
 5 subject notebook
 Ruler
 Protractor & compass (optional)
 Scientific calculator - TI-30XIIS (available at school for \$14)
 Flash drive
 Gym clothes – labeled
 Gym Shoes
 Single subject notebook

PARENTS:
 Please mark your child's items with his/her name, especially clothing items.