



HIGHLIGHTS

Graduation Issue

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May 2018



The name printed across the front of this school publication is *Highlights*. Four times each school year this publication contains writings penned by Board members, teachers, students, and occasionally a guest author. Some of these writings summarize the research done by an author, others express the opinion of the author on a given topic, while still others give written expression to the imagination of the writer. Hopefully the variety of writings gives occasion for this publication's readers to be informed as well as enjoy what is written.

Near the conclusion of another school year it seems fitting to take the title of this publication literally and to write a few highlights. But that is not as easy as it may first appear. What I might consider to be highlights for me may not be a highlight for someone else. For a kindergartener, the highlights might include that scary first day at school, the field trip to Moelker's Orchards, the first lockdown drill, or the kindergarten program. For a fourth grader it may be the making and launching of a hot air balloon for science, or ice skating at Kalsbeek's for P.E. An eighth grader may not want to complete his list until after the upcoming class trip to Mackinaw Island or even graduation. Some junior high students would include a robotics competition, while others a particular athletic event. Each student's evaluation of highlights for the year would be different.

I'm sure if parents were asked to make a list of highlights, they would include such things as the All-School Program, the band/choir concerts, the chapels, Friends & Family Night, and maybe Fun Night and the Auction. Parents are for the most part on the outside looking in at the activities of the students.

Teachers are on the inside and are busy preparing and planning "big" activities such as programs, field trips, and class projects. They are a delightful part of a teacher's work and are highlights to a school year, but it's the little things that top the list of highlights for teachers. (At least I speak for myself.) My list would include the joy of seeing a student performing a kind deed or speaking a kind word toward his classmate, an overly shy student coming out of his shell and contributing to a class discussion, seeing the light go on when a struggling student grasps some new concept, an entire algebra class mastering a unit dealing with quadratic equations, a student expressing his faith in the Lord during a class discussion – you get the point. It's not always these things that receive an ovation, but these are the things that warm a teacher's heart and are the reason that I sign my contract year after year.

~ Mr. Ron Koole, Principal



In this *Highlights*, we recognize and congratulate our twenty-one 8th grade graduates. We pray the Lord's blessing on their continued studies at CCHS next year. We also recognize those parents whose youngest child attending Hope School graduates this year: Sam & Heather Cople, Joann Klamer, Steve & Brenda Langerak, Carlyle & Marcia Miersma, Ryan & Rachel Morris, and Rick & Shawna VanBaren. We thank them for having their children educated at Hope School and pray for their continued support in the future.

Enjoy your reading of the year-end edition of the *Highlights*. Note the supply lists as well as the abbreviated 2018-19 school calendar.

ANNUAL FOUNDATION REPORT

Mr. Jeremy Meulenberg

What is the purpose of Hope PR Christian School's Foundation? The constitution answers this question when it states that our purpose is to "accumulate Endowment Funds, the income of which is used to help support the education needs of Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School of Walker, Michigan."

How does the Foundation accumulate Endowment Funds? Our primary means is through estate bequests. This year we were the beneficiaries of a couple of estate bequests for which we are grateful. These funds are then carefully invested with the help of David Moelker and Dan Kalsbeek from Royal Securities with the intention of creating income to be able to support Hope School. The Foundation also accumulates funds through its fundraisers. This year the Sporting Clay Event and the Bass Fishing Tournament will be hosted to raise funds for the Foundation but more importantly these events are a means to bring awareness to the Foundation. We appreciate our sponsors and thank them for their support in these events. We encourage you to remember the Foundation in your estate planning as well as in your annual giving. By increasing this fund, we can continue to support the education needs of today as well as providing a source of income to help our children in the future, DV.

How does the Foundation help support the education needs of this school? This year the Foundation was notified by the Board treasurer that the educational costs of Hope School were going to increase. To help maintain current tuition costs, the Foundation increased its contribution from \$20,000 to \$40,000 thus fulfilling its mandate to support the "education needs"

of Hope School. Because our constitution requires that we give at least 3% and as much as 8% of our invested assets each year, it stands to reason that the more funds we can accumulate the larger the contribution. It is our goal to increase this fund through estate giving to be able to continue to help maintain tuition costs. As of December 31, 2017 our Endowment Fund balance was \$562,692 a 15.8% increase from 2016. We thank Dave, Dan and Royal Securities for their help in managing our portfolio again this year.

This time of year also means change to the Foundation Board makeup. We welcome Jason VanOostenbrugge to the Foundation board and thank retiring board member, Andy Bylsma for his years of service. We appreciate all the work Andy has done on the Foundation Board's behalf.

As we look back on what we would call a good year, we are reminded that everything we have is given by our Heavenly Father and whether He gives or takes away we are truly blessed. It is our prayer that our Lord will continue to provide and bless Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School as He has faithfully done in the past.

2018-19 School Calendar

• August 27	• First Day of School
• Aug. 31-Sept. 3	• Labor Day Break
• October 4	• PTA
• October 11-12	• Parent/Teacher Conf.
• October 18-19	• Teachers' Convention
• November 22-23	• Thanksgiving Break
• Dec. 24-Jan. 2	• Christmas Vacation
• February 7	• PTA
• February 14-15	• Parent/Teacher Conf.
• March 22	• Grandparents' Day
• April 1-5	• Spring Break
• May 27	• Memorial Day
• May 31	• Last Day of School
• June 3	• Graduation

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Tim Bomers, Chairman
Andy Bylsma, Aaron Cleveland, Jeff Kalsbeek

Educational development is alive and well at Hope School. We have administration and teachers who are willing to be part of teams in committees. These groups involve themselves with work pertaining to professional development, the fruits of which we all enjoy collectively. One area that continues to develop is the area of curriculum. Teachers who are already busy, are asked to be on teams to tackle new opportunities. A need for a writing program was identified because we presently have no organized writing curriculum. Each grade is taught writing as the teacher finds time and opportunity. A committee comprised of Mr. Ron Koole, Mrs. Sue Grasman, Miss Gayle Lotterman and Mr. Nathan DeVries recently completed a K-8th grade writing curriculum. Much time and effort was put into this program by these individuals. Emphasis of this program is on students learning the writing process. Because the emphasis is on the writing process, students should become more proficient at writing before junior high, rather than learning to write in junior high. While the program is being used in the coming year, evaluation and input from teachers will fine tune this curriculum into a valuable teaching document.

First of all, I should back up and explain what a curriculum is. According to Merriam Webster the definition is: "1) The courses offered by an educational institution ie... The elementary curriculum or the high school curriculum. 2) A set of courses constituting an area of specialization ie... The engineering curriculum or the biological sciences curriculum or the liberal arts curriculum."

According to education.com the definition is as follows: "curriculum refers to the means and materials with which students will interact for the purpose of achieving identified educational outcomes."

Why is a writing curriculum needed? This program will provide a unified effort to be put into teaching students the writing process as they progress from kindergarten through eighth grade. Each grade will build on the work of the previous grade with the goal of having students well prepared in their writing skills by the time they leave the eighth grade. Hopefully students who graduate from Hope will be able to put their thoughts into relatable and understandable written format. Why does a Christian need to learn writing? The most important reason is God has revealed Himself in the written Word. Think of the many ways we incorporate writing: letters that a child of God may send to one another encouraging a spiritual walk, articles written for *Beacon Lights* or in *The Standard Bearer*. When one has the training and tools needed to write efficiently, that individual is more confident in taking up such a task. A properly equipped student is also well prepared for writing in high school and in college. There are many other ways to show the importance of writing that time and space does not allow for in this article.

Another interesting note for parents is that our Technology Committee is active in not only keeping technology running efficiently but is also active in procuring additional technological tools for use at the school. They have planned the purchase of 30 new Chromebooks to add to the many Chromebooks already being used in the classrooms. This is one area of using technology in the classrooms that is increasingly being used, preparing our students for the technological age in which they live. Money for this purchase will come from the budget and from the School Circle funds.

School safety is always a concern of parents and teachers alike. Recently we had a meeting involving the Walker police department and our staff in which the latest safety measures were shared. Our civil authorities are proactive in helping area schools to stay abreast of the latest developments and information in school safety. Our school drills which include lock downs and fire drills are a constant reminder of the day and age we live in. We thank our Heavenly Father for the means he supplies to us to give physical protection. Pray for our children's continued safety at school, for there is just no way to be 100% guarded against the evils of today.

Mrs. Jen Kalsbeek has been hired as our new teacher aide to replace Mrs. Julie Schwarz, who will be our new first grade teacher. Welcome, Jen! At this time I would like to thank retiring committee members Aaron Cleveland and Jeff Kalsbeek for their diligent labors on our behalf. I would also like to welcome Ken Engelsma and Mark Meulenberg to our Education Committee for 2018-2019.

2018 ANNUAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Aaron Cleveland, Board Secretary

This year marks the 71st year of instruction at Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School. As we reflect on another year of instruction that is almost completed, we must again ask the question, "Why do we maintain Christian schools?" David J. Engelsma asks this question in the opening paragraph of his book *Reformed Education*. God's eternal covenant of grace established with us and our children in the line of continued generations is the basis for the establishment and maintaining of our Christian schools. We must be continually reminded of this covenantal basis. Writes Engelsma,

It is of the utmost importance that there be knowledge among us of the basis of Christian education. By "knowledge" is meant the knowledge of conviction. Parents and teachers alike should know the basis. The entire endeavor of Christian education depends on it! And a large endeavor it is in terms of time, money, energy, and struggle. Especially when the going gets tough, knowledge of the basis is crucial. It is crucial for parents who must sacrifice to pay tuition. It is crucial for teachers who may have heavy work loads, suffer thanklessness and criticism, and, in some cases, be paid little besides. It is crucial for school boards when they wrestle with knotty problems and become involved in painful conflicts (*Reformed Education*, 2).

The covenantal basis of Hope School has been on the minds of the school board members as this year has progressed. Because of growing class sizes and a teacher who is moving on to another calling, we have had to conduct a number of interviews in order to fill these positions. Our 6th grade teacher, Mikal Kooiker, will be leaving Hope School after five years to take up the high calling of a mother in the home. As most constituents of Hope School already know, Mikal and her husband Will are expecting their first child this summer, the Lord willing.

Mr. Jason Boone, from Dyer, Indiana, has been hired for the 6th grade position. He has a degree from GVSU and has taught at our Heritage Christian School in Indiana for the past three years. He is married to Brandi (Oostra) and they have a one year old son.

Because of the large size of the current Kindergarten class, the Board has decided to split that class next year, requiring the hiring of another 1st grade teacher for 2018-19. Julie Schwarz has been hired for this position and will be teaching half of the 1st grade alongside her sister Sue. Julie has taught at Heritage Christian School in Hudsonville and is currently a teacher aide and helps in the Discovery Room at Hope School. With the current shortage of Protestant Reformed teachers and the abundance of openings, the Board is very thankful that God has provided Hope School with a full slate of teachers for the upcoming year.

Technology is increasingly being incorporated into the classroom instruction at Hope School. Most of our teachers make use of smartboards and projectors in their classrooms. Chromebooks are available to teachers for use by their students and are increasingly being used for research, testing and writing projects. Because of increased demand, the Technology Committee intends to purchase another cart of Chromebooks this summer. These Chromebooks will have touch screen capabilities and will be ready for use when school starts this fall. Dan DeVries (Grandville PRC), Matt Elzinga, and our new hire, Jackson Huizinga, have done excellent work over the past year installing a new server, more wireless access points, setting up new teacher desktops, setting up cloud storage, and maintaining smartboards, projectors and classroom computers--all on a limited budget.

The Building Committee has been busy over the past year maintaining our facilities. New LED lighting has been installed in the small gym. New tables and chairs have been purchased for the library and new desks for the 5th grade classroom. The front of the school has been re-landscaped and a new nine square has been installed on the playground. The work of the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) has also progressed. Over the past year the committee went to our local Protestant Reformed Schools to gather ideas on how to improve Hope's facilities in the future. After conducting some interviews, the committee has decided to hire The Design Forum to assist in the next phase of planning. The Design Forum has worked with CCHS, Adams and Heritage on their building projects. The LRPC is currently working on a master plan for our property and buildings. After this plan is developed, work can begin on renovation and building projects. Limited funds continue to be budgeted for long range planning. Donations to this fund, no doubt, would speed up the building and renovation timeline.

Again, during this past school year, as in the many years before, Hope School has benefitted richly from the army of volunteers who help in the classrooms, the kitchen, the office, the library, the gym and many other areas. As a Board we express our appreciation to the ladies of the School Circle for all that they do to enrich the life Hope School. The Board, parents and teachers are also thankful for the volunteers who run the Reading Together Program, the Motor Movement Program, playing the piano in the classrooms, teaching elementary music, aiding teachers, staffing the library, mentoring the robotics team...and the list could go on.

The Finance Committee has been busy during the past year, not only collecting funds from tuition, collections and drives, but also making adjustments to the budget throughout the year and shifting funds to areas where we overspent during the past year, for example, the Teacher Development Fund. This year the Board brings a budget of \$1,179,600 for approval. This is an increase of \$46,390 from last year and is due mainly to the fact that we are hiring an additional 1st grade teacher and furnishing another classroom for next year. The Foundation plans to contribute \$40,000 to the 2018-19 budget, an increase of \$20,000 over

this year. Gifts and pledges will remain at 26.5% of the expected income and tuition rates will remain the same after last year's slight increase.

As was reported last year, the Board established a Protection Against Worldly Threats Ad Hoc Committee. Over the past two years this committee has collaborated with committees from other local Protestant Reformed Schools and developed a "Statement on Gender, Marriage, and Sexuality." Our Board committee then edited the Statement to flow out of our Constitution. The Statement was extensively reviewed by an attorney from Warner Norcross & Judd LLP. The committee then reviewed all of Hope School's existing documents, forms and policies to ensure that the language of the GMS Statement is incorporated into our forms and documents. The fruits of their two years of labor appear at the meeting this evening in the form of a proposal needing Society approval.

Why the expenditure of all of this time, money, energy and struggle on behalf of Hope School? Again, we return to the basis for the establishment and maintaining of Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School--God's eternal covenant of grace established with us and our children in the line of continued generations. As Prof. Engelsma demonstrates in *Reformed Education*, "this instruction of [our] children is one of the outstanding covenant responsibilities of parents, that is, one aspect of [our] calling as God's friend-servants to love, serve, and glorify God" (p. 6). The Christian school, including Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School, "arises from the covenant of grace" (*Reformed Education*, 7). With this knowledge we continue to carry out our calling before God to instruct our children "to the utmost of [our] power."

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." Psalm 127:1.

FEDERATION/CIRCLE CONTACT/PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Aaron Cleveland, Chairman

Mark Meulenberg, Dan Schipper

Looking back upon this past school year, the "Circle Contact" aspect of our work has been the main part of our work. The School Circle was instrumental in making a lot of things happen at Hope School during this past school year. Our committee and the Board would like to use this opportunity to publically thank the School Circle for all of their labors over the past year.

Every month the Circle sends their meeting minutes to our committee for review and for Board supervision. Reading through the minutes reveals that the Circle is involved in many areas of the successful operation of Hope School. Every week students enjoy a hot lunch organized by the Circle. Family Fun Night is sponsored by the Circle. Teachers enjoy a "Love Lunch" in February prepared by the Circle. The Circle provides funding for playground equipment and has been active over the past year in projects to enhance the experience of visiting Hope School. Take, for example, the display of historical pictures in the front entrance and the displays for presenting art in the hallways. These are just a few examples of their work.

Earlier this year the Circle also provided funding for a project that has been desired for a long time and for a key item in the school budget. The project they funded is the new ball diamond that will be installed this summer near the northwest corner of our property. The regulation diamond will include a backstop and fencing. This project will cost \$30,000. Due to an unanticipated number of requests, our Teacher Development Fund had a shortfall of

\$10,000 this past year. The School Board requested \$15,000 and the School Circle approved giving this amount to return this important fund to a positive balance.

Once again, on behalf of the School Board and supporters of Hope School, *thanks* to the ladies of the School Circle for your labors.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

The Lord continues to provide financial means for the school to operate. With only two more months to go in the 2017/2018 fiscal year, we should be at 83% of the approved budget. A review of the April financial statement shows that our expenses are at 82% of budget so we are 1% ahead of the projected spending.

We are thankful to report that our income is coming along very well for the year. We have had very little work to do this year in tracking delinquent tuition. Only one tuition payment in May should remain for this fiscal year. We expect all tuition to be paid by June, so please send any remaining balance in this month.

During the fall drive we exceeded our expectations and the response to the spring drive has also been very positive. We need an additional \$38,500 to meet our goal of \$300,000 for the year. We have done some projections and the budget will need all of this money to be collected in order for us to balance the budget. We do not expect any excess funds and will have a loss unless the drive total is met. Please give if you are able and we will publish announcements into June to keep you updated.

At the annual society meeting, approval was given for a budget that did not raise tuition rates despite the addition of a full time teacher for the split 1st grade expected next year. The Hope School Foundation was willing to increase their contribution amount from \$20,000 to \$40,000 to help offset some cost increases. Thank you for supporting the foundation also!

Hope School is in a new position financially as we no longer carry any mortgage debt. God has given us much and we pray that we continue to be led to use the means He provides to maintain the education of our covenant children. Instead of paying a mortgage, our building and grounds fund is being well funded to support necessary maintenance activities and we are able to continue to grow the Long Range Planning Fund. Our goal is to use this fund to support future growth and improvements of the school without incurring any or only minimal debt.

We thank God for providing the means to finance Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School. Please continue to pray for God's blessing on all our Christian schools.

**HOPE PROTESTANT REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
INCOME STATEMENT
JULY - APRIL 2018**

83%

	YEAR TO DATE	PERCENT TO BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
INCOME			
CHURCH COLLECTIONS	33,534.98	0.76	44,000.00
GIFTS & PLEDGES	261,414.26	0.87	300,000.00
HOPE FOUNDATION	10,500.00	0.53	20,000.00
GYM RENTAL	5,266.00	0.88	6,000.00
SPECIAL ED SOCIETY	5,726.25	0.75	7,610.00
TUITION	667,857.67	0.92	727,100.00
BUS FEES	26,247.00	0.92	28,500.00
MISCELLANEOUS	75.00	-	-
TOTAL INCOME:	1,010,621.16	0.89	1,133,210.00

GENERAL EXPENSES			
ACCOUNTING FEES	3,000.00	0.83	3,630.00
BAND EXPENSE	3,000.00	1.00	3,000.00
CLASS TRIP FUND	2,000.00	0.80	2,500.00
EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES AND BOOKS	21,000.00	0.95	22,000.00
BUILDING AND GROUNDS FUND	33,333.30	0.83	40,000.00
ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES	-	-	500.00
FEDERATION DUES	1,366.04	1.05	1,300.00
INSURANCE, GENERAL	7,283.67	0.78	9,350.00
INSURANCE, GROUP	80,537.18	0.92	87,600.00
INSURANCE, WORKERS COMP	1,808.23	0.58	3,100.00
INSURANCE, HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT	3,333.30	0.83	4,000.00
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	3,843.01	0.96	4,000.00
LIBRARY FUND	1,500.00	1.00	1,500.00
MISCELLANEOUS	1,700.62	0.85	2,000.00
LONG RANGE BUILDING FUND	62,500.00	0.83	75,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	754.00	0.63	1,200.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	-	-	1,000.00
PAYROLL, BAND	6,637.52	0.82	8,100.00
PAYROLL, BUILDING MAINTENANCE	941.50	0.47	2,000.00
PAYROLL, CHOIR	4,491.69	0.82	5,500.00
	34,079.25	0.74	46,000.00
PAYROLL, JANITOR	24,168.00	0.83	29,000.00
PAYROLL, LAWN MAINTENANCE	1,741.00	0.50	3,500.00
PAYROLL, LIBRARIAN	3,495.51	0.88	3,950.00
PAYROLL, OFFICE	23,120.63	0.86	26,950.00
PAYROLL, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER	270.00	0.14	2,000.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER	412,106.16	0.82	501,800.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER AIDE	9,775.62	1.00	9,800.00
PAYROLL, TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE	1,160.00	0.39	3,000.00
PAYROLL TAXES	37,253.24	0.76	49,100.00
RETIREMENT PLAN	13,756.52	0.76	18,100.00
PHYS ED UNIFORMS	744.75	0.83	900.00
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	4,733.44	0.53	9,000.00
SNOW REMOVAL	3,033.75	1.01	3,000.00
TEACHER DEVELOPMENT	4,000.00	1.00	4,000.00
TEACHER CLASSROOM FUND	1,000.00	0.45	2,200.00
TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	8,000.00	1.00	8,000.00
UTILITIES, ELECTRIC	13,665.65	0.72	19,000.00
UTILITIES, GAS	9,190.61	0.71	13,000.00
UTILITIES, INTERNET	1,471.35	0.98	1,500.00
UTILITIES, TELEPHONE	2,333.95	1.41	1,650.00
UTILITIES, TRASH	1,304.10	0.82	1,600.00
UTILITIES, WATER & SEWER	1,018.89	0.78	1,300.00
CONTINGENCY	-	-	5,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES:	850,452.48	0.82	1,040,630.00

BUS EXPENSES			
BUS DEPRECIATION FUND	21,666.70	0.83	26,000.00
BUS DRIVER COST SUBSIDY	(54.29)	(0.04)	1,500.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL	27,251.81	0.88	31,000.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL TAXES	2,045.00	0.88	2,330.00
BUS DRIVER WORKER'S COMP	571.02	0.57	1,000.00
BUS INSURANCE	2,637.47	0.75	3,500.00
BUS REPAIR	8,960.70	0.81	11,000.00
GAS AND OIL	9,911.69	0.66	15,000.00
TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR	1,250.00	1.00	1,250.00
TOTAL BUS EXPENSES:	74,240.10	0.80	92,580.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	924,692.58	0.82	1,133,210.00
GAIN OR (LOSS):	85,928.58		

SCHOOL CIRCLE REPORT
Candace Meulenberg, Secretary

It's hard to believe that another school year has come and gone! We as a community of believers have been richly blessed with a wonderful school. We have teachers, board members and many others who give of their time with willingness and joyfulness, and whose goal is the Godly instruction of our children and the furtherance of the kingdom of our God. What a joy it is to look back over the notes from the last year and review all the events that have taken place. Our goal as a School Circle is to work together to provide assistance for the benefit of Hope School and to promote Godly fellowship among our parents and constituents. This goal is something that we as a Circle try our best to accomplish by continually re-evaluating the best ways to serve.

This past year at Hope has once again been marked with many opportunities for service and participation in enjoyable events. The auction took place in March this year and is just one of many fundraisers that contribute toward our yearly contribution goal of approximately \$8,000. The Circle was also busy with catering weddings, making famous pig-in-the-blankets, selling TRIP, serving hot lunch every Wednesday, organizing the snack sale, serving a Love Lunch to the staff, cleaning the kitchen, selling Moelker Orchard fudge, bringing goodies for Teacher Appreciation Week, organizing Family Fun Night, and many other ongoing projects. Thank you to all the supporters of Hope School. We greatly appreciate your attendance at our events and the gifts you give.

This year was also marked by a large kindergarten class, which meant the necessity of preparing an extra class room for next year and hiring an additional teacher. We as a School Circle were thankful to assist the School Board by giving \$4,000 toward the technology and preparation of this new classroom. The amount of \$15,000 was also given toward funding current and future teacher development. Both of these gifts assisted the School Board in keeping tuition at the same rate for yet another year. Finally the amount of \$30,000 was given toward the building of a baseball field. This will be an exciting addition for all the players as we have never had our own field.

Working together with all the Circle members this year has been a great joy and blessing. God has gifted our school with the means for much improvements and we eagerly acknowledge His hand in providing for us. We look to Him and pray for our daily needs and He has been gracious to provide much more. Thank you for all your encouragement and support. Please pray for us as a School Circle that we might keep Christ at the center of our work and strive to serve Him in all we do.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR MOTHERS

Mrs. Deb Hoeksema, Kindergarten

One of the things we work on throughout the second half of the school year is listening to all of the sounds in a word. We are currently working on writing all of those sounds too. Since Mother's Day was recently celebrated, we completed a questionnaire about our godly mothers as part of our presents. Here is a portion of the questions asked and the students' responses. Try to read their "creative spelling" as they tell us about their moms. The regular spelling of the phrases can be found on the next page.

My mom looks beautiful when:

1. she goz to curch – Emko Doezema
2. gos out to eet – Cole Feenstra
3. she iz bodiful in a dras – Sophia Langerak
4. she was prpl nalklas – Alexa Schipper
5. wen sh smils - – Reuben Langerak
6. weden yres – Seth Van Oostenbrugge
7. se smils – Luke Kleyn
8. plas drese up wef me – Cora Overway

My mom laughs when:

1. she is on the kumputr – Sam Kleyn
2. she sees my sistr Greadu chrooys to git her baby tos – Hazel Van Uffelen
3. she ges splasht – Charlotte Meulenberg
4. pepole say funny stuf – Caleb DeJong
5. my Dad ses funne thane – Nolan Moelker
6. she meces fhon crls – Levi Bleyenberg

My mom is really good at:

1. makei paks – Bri Feenstra
2. tac pitrz – Emmitt Cleveland
3. playg socr – Harper Kalsbeek
4. riteing pikchers – Elizabeth DeBoer
5. cac bacen – Alex Oosterhouse
6. rrb pi – Libby Kleyn
7. bakon – Anthony Quenga
8. dagbil – Zach Bylsma

When I am at school my mom:

1. sil ot luch – Jamon Hanko
2. wacshes the dishes - Cole Doezema
3. tasck cir of th babe – Triston Koole
4. shiping – Gabby Langerak
5. go to the jim – Sadie Meulenberg

My favorite thing to do with my mom is:

1. gowe to coscow – Trevor Rutgers
2. plae w Mom – Wyatt Jordan
3. halp he crk – Reuben Kuiper
4. goos to the prk – Walter Langerak
5. go to eh beshe - Baylah Ten Brock
6. red eyn boks – Gideon Kuiper

My mom looks beautiful when:

1. she goes to church
2. goes out to eat
3. she is beautiful in a dress
4. she wears a purple necklace
5. she smiles
6. wears her wedding dress
7. she smiles
8. plays dress up with me

My mom laughs when:

1. she is on the computer
2. she sees my sister Greta trying to get her baby toys
3. she gets splashed
4. people say funny stuff
5. my dad says funny things
6. she makes phone calls

My mom is really good at:

1. making pancakes
2. taking pictures
3. playing soccer
4. writing pictures
5. cake baking
6. rhubarb pie
7. baking
8. dodgeball

When I am at school my mom:

1. sells hot lunch
2. washes the dishes
3. takes care of the baby
4. shopping
5. go to the gym

My favorite thing to do with my mom is:

1. go to Costco
2. play with Mom
3. help her cook
4. go to the park
5. go to the beach
6. reading books

OUR SEMINARY FIELD TRIP

Mr. Dan Hanko, 4th Grade

Luke 10:2 *Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.*

As Hope School's fourth graders and I walked into the quiet Protestant Reformed seminary building several weeks ago, I was reminded of the great need our churches have for "labourers" to preach the gospel. Due to last year's large graduating class of seven, we observed a school with an entire student body of four young men. I enjoyed the visit, thought it very worthwhile, and share a few thoughts now. My prayer is that God used our time there to plant some seeds in the hearts of the boys in my room to cause them to return to this school to study and grow.

For the past two years I have taken my fourth graders to the Protestant Reformed Seminary for a short field trip. This year not one of my students had ever visited this important school of learning. We arrived at 9:00 AM on a Tuesday morning. Professor Dykstra met us and took us on a brief tour of the library, the offices of the professors, and three classrooms. After the tour we all sat down by tables in the large lecture room and listened to Professor Dykstra talk about seminarians and their four years of training. He briefly explained the following four areas of study: 1) the Bible: the learning of Hebrew and Greek, the introduction to each book, exegesis, and more 2) Church History: from the Apostles to today 3) Dogmatics:

six semesters of studying doctrine and the confessions 4) Practical: making sermons, teaching, counseling, etc.

After this informing power point presentation, Seminarian Matt Kortus led us in singing and devotions. We then had time to visit with the professors, students, and staff at the seminary as we enjoyed snacks provided by my room mothers. Before we left at 10:15, the students explored the basement, seeing the archive room and taking turns trying their hand at ping pong. My students enjoyed seeing where the seminarians spent most of their time for four years and mingling with the students and staff. A few students even expressed their interest in becoming a minister in the future. One thing was apparent – a new picture of the seminary was formed in the mind of each of these young children.

Written comments after our trip:

The building was larger than I expected.

*I didn't know. . . . they had so many books.
they had such a big library.
they had to learn Hebrew.
how hard they had to work to make one sermon.
played ping pong in their spare time.
you can have free burgers at the seminary on Friday.*

*I was surprised that their classes were so small.
they had to take a 2-day test to become a preacher.
about how much the seminarians study and read.*



The following fourth grade writing selections were written throughout the course of the year:

Weapons Given by God

By: Samantha Meulenberg

A porcupine protects itself in so many ways! They rustle their quills and produce an odor if they are scared or feeling threatened. They use both sound and smell to keep their enemies away! When a porcupine is attacked, it uses its quills for protection. The quills are not poisonous but have many layers of barbs. It is very painful and sometimes hard to remove these quills because they dig deep into the attacker's skin. These are some ways porcupines protect themselves from enemies.

Just as porcupines have enemies, we also have a great enemy - the devil or Satan. God gives us weapons just as he gave porcupines weapons. Our weapons are described as the "whole armor of God". One very important weapon is God's word, which God gives to us through the Bible and Psalter. God also gives us faith. In Lord's Day 52 Question and Answer 127 it speaks of other enemies - the world and our own flesh. These things lead us to sin. 1 Peter 5:8 says: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

Different Weapons of Defense

By: Jeremy Rutgers

God gave the porcupine very special and unique ways of defense. The porcupine has quills that can stick into an enemy. A porcupine also rustles its quills to tell an attacker to back off! Another thing a porcupine does is that it produces odor to ward off enemies. These are some things God gave the porcupine for defense.

Just as God gave the porcupine ways of defense, God gives us protection against our enemies, the chief one being the devil. God gave us the Bible and the Psalter to strengthen ourselves. God also gave us the preaching to strengthen and help us fight against the devil. The shield of faith and the sword of the spirit are two things that we have been given. God gave us these things to protect us from the devil.

Amazing and Powerful Weapons

By: Levi Overway

God created crocodiles and alligators with some amazing weapons to fight against their predators. For instance, alligators and crocodiles have sharp teeth and a powerful tail like a whip. They also have good eyesight in both light and dim light, and they both have excellent hearing and sense of smell. God created these animals with amazing and powerful weapons. God created us with powerful weapons to use against our chief enemy, the devil. He sets many snares for us and tries to trap us in sin, but Christ is our light and guide. We often fall into sin and into those snares. Some of these weapons that God has given us for defense are faith, the Word, creeds, knowledge, and the work of the Spirit in our hearts. I Thessalonians 5:8 talks about our weapons and armor from God, namely, the breastplate of faith and love and an helmet, the hope of salvation.

How Hedgehogs and Humans Defend Themselves

By: Brooklynn Meulenberg

Hedgehogs have special ways to protect themselves. When a hedgehog is frightened, it curls up into a ball. Its muscles help it roll up into a ball. Hedgehogs go out at night. That helps them stay safe from some predators in the night. At night it is harder for animals to see them because they are rolled up so tightly. They do not get sick to snake venom and other toxins. These are ways that God made hedgehogs protect themselves.

Our predator is the devil. As Christians we should put all our trust in God. God gave us the Word, the law, and faith. The Bible helps us defend ourselves from the devil when he tempts us to do something we should not do. We should put on the whole armor of God to protect us from sin. That is how God protects us from sin.

Sledding in the Snow

By: Ian Cleveland

I get out of bed
To go get my sled
Then went to the hill
Until I get a chill
I go back home
To read my tome.

Winter Sledding

By: Micah Hanko

I got out of my nice warm bed
To play in the snow with my new sled
Walked through the storm, climbed a big hill
Went flying down and took a big spill
Tried a few more times before I quit
Dragged my sore body home, by the fire to sit.

Winter Fun

By: Annika Kamps

Jump outside and you will see
Oh, how you'll holler with great glee.
Horses trotting, sleigh bells jingling
Toes are cold and even tingling.
Sleds and ice skates coming out
And kids let out a very loud shout.

Winter Fun

By: Joey Oosterhouse

Ground is white
Wow, it's bright
The snow's great
On the crate
Wall of snow forming
House is warming.

Winter Fun

By: Sidney Vander Veen

Snowflakes falling from the sky,
From the swirling clouds so high.
Snowballs flying all around,
Kids are playing on the ground.
Icicles crack, snap, and pop -
I never want the snow to stop!

Winter

By: Madison Schwarz

The snow sparkling in the sun
Playing outside is so much fun.
Making snowmen gives me thrills
So does sledding down big hills.
Winter has just begun
I'll be sad when it is done.

The Missing Hat

By: Benjamin Overway

Winter is here
That makes me cheer!
I look outside and see lots of snow
Let's go outside, Oh no!
I can't find my hat
I can't go outside without that!
It's not on my hook
And it's not by my book
I do not see it within the box
I cannot find it beside my socks
It's surely not hiding under my bed
Maybe I'll wear my earmuffs instead
All this work -- It's on my head!!!

How to Brush Your Teeth

By: Ava Langerak

First, you get your toothbrush. Second, get your toothpaste and squirt it out on your toothbrush. Third, pour on some water. Then you put your toothbrush on your teeth. Next, brush left from right and brush your teeth in the back of your mouth. After that, spit out your toothpaste and rinse your mouth. Finally, wipe your mouth on a towel to get the toothpaste off.

How to Clean a Car

By: Everett Kalsbeek

First, you get a bucket, put soap on the bottom, and pour water into the bucket. Second, you pour water on the car. Third, you get a sponge and put it in the bucket. Then you take the sponge and scrub the car. After that, you spray water on the car until there is no soap left on the car. Finally, you get a towel and dry it.

How to Tack Your Horse

By: Julia Kleyn

First, get your horse from the pasture. Tie your horse to the hitching post. Then, put the saddle blanket on. After that, get the saddle out of the tack room. Next, put the saddle on your horse.

After you tie the girth, go back to the tack room to get the bridle. (It doesn't matter if you keep the halter on when you put the bridle on.) Then, put the bridle on. Finally, get on your horse. Have fun!

How to Wash Your Hands

By: Raquel DeVries

First, you go to the bathroom and turn on the water. Then, you squirt soap on your hands. The soap smells like apple blossom. Next, you rub your hands together so you can get soap on both your hands. After that, you put your hands in the water to get all the soap off. Finally, you dry your hands on a towel or paper towel.

How to Make Taco Dip

By: Tressa DeVries

First, get a bowl and taco seasoning. Second, get out the mayonnaise and sour cream. Third, mix it until it is fully blended. After that, get out a platter and spread the mix on the top of the platter. Then, cut up the lettuce and put it on the top of the mix. Next, put shredded cheese over the lettuce. Now, put peppers or tomatoes on the top if you want. After that, put it in the fridge for an hour or so. Finally, get out the tortilla chips and enjoy!

CHANGE

Mrs. Mikal Kooiker, 6th Grade

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. ~ Ecclesiastes 3: 1 & 14

For me the last five years have been a continual time of change. I moved from my childhood home to the state of Michigan. I was pretty sure I would stay for a year, maybe two at most...and yet here I am, five years later. I started here at Hope School scared, terrified of what lay before me. Teaching is an exciting and daunting task and each year I learn more and more from it. Although many projects and things have stayed, their requirements and how they are presented have changed dramatically, for the better (I hope). My family in Indiana continually supported my move and prayed with me each year as my contract came up. They encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone and go where I felt the Lord was calling me to be, even if *they* wanted me back in Indiana. So, I packed up my bags and moved with my best friend. I couldn't have asked for a better person to live with or to support me. She was helpful and there when I needed a shoulder to cry on, she understood when I was desperately homesick, when I needed a word of advice, or encouragement for the day. I can't imagine how I would have survived the years without her. I thought we would continue to live with one another and see each other on a daily basis until it was time for me to move back home. But God had other plans for me, there was another season of change coming. I started Hope School as Miss Dykshorn and I will be leaving it as Mrs. Kooiker. That was a change I never saw coming. I was pretty sure that I was never going to find someone who could be the head of my household and help guide me through this earthly life. As someone who is quite attached to my family, I was pretty sure I only had enough love for them. I'm so happy I was wrong. These events show how little our plans are compared to God's plan. My life has changed so

much in the last years, in ways that I never imagined and I cannot envision my life without the strength of my husband by my side.

There are so many people who have supported me throughout all the changes that I have encountered while I have been here at Hope. Besides my family, best friend and husband, the parents here at Hope have encouraged and helped me throughout the years. Especially, while I struggled to navigate those first years of teaching. I can truly see how the parents and teachers work together here at Hope, to ensure that Hope is an extension of the home, and that we are striving to raise God's covenant children in His truth, together. My support system would be lacking without mentioning the staff and volunteers here at Hope School as well. They have been my sounding board and guidance. From the administration and school board, to my colleagues, and those who have helped within my classroom as well. They are there with advice, instruction, and encouragement. It's a little bittersweet to think of them all going on next year without me. However, there is a season for everything. The Lord willing in July my husband and I will welcome our first child. I was so nervous to spread the news, that this would be my last year. I still am quite taken aback by all the support I have been given in this new season of life from parents, staff, friends, and students alike. The students here have definitely made me feel more at home. They went through struggles with me when I faced struggles, they bore with me when I was absent minded or made mistakes, and they rejoiced with me at each blessing along the way. I'm so glad I was given the opportunity to be a part of their lives if only for a few months.

I cannot thank or mention everyone that I would like to. I hope you all know how much your support and encouragement has meant to me throughout the years and now as I take on the calling of motherhood. After watching over roomfuls of 6th graders, you'd think it wouldn't be quite as intimidating as it is. *Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. ~ Romans 13:15*



Below you find excerpts from 6th grade persuasive papers. Thanks to the parents who helped them formulate their thoughts and reasoning at home as well as proofread their many papers.

Homework gives students stress and can give health issues like high blood pressure and heart disease. Schools should have less homework because it gives kids more time to spend with family members and friends, kids need a break when they get home from school, and it can cause health problems.

Less homework gives children more time to spend with their families and friends. More time with family and friends builds self-esteem. Children feel more valued which makes kids feel positive.

Another reason kids should have less homework is because kids need breaks. Breaks are good for the brain, also kids that struggle in school spend most of their time doing homework. Too much homework can give headaches, cause lack of sleep, and even stomach problems. In grade school, kids are growing and maturing, therefore their brains need a break from school work.

~Becca Brunsting

Did you know that 98 people die per year in bus accidents? Well, it's true. Hope School should purchase new buses with seat belts or install seatbelts in the buses we have now because, the buses will have more riders, there will be better concentration for the driver, and more safety.

First, Hope will have more bus riders because it would be safer for children to ride the bus. If Hope had more bus riders that would mean more money to use for school funds and new and better supplies. Parents would trust that if the bus did get in a crash, their children wouldn't get hurt or hurt others. Scientists have done tests with dummies in a bus that has no seatbelts. Those dummies flew around and hit other dummies, this wouldn't happen if our buses had seatbelts.

Secondly, if the children are running, fooling around, or going over the seats in the school bus, the driver will have to look back and tell them to stop. This could cause accidents because the driver would have to look, tell them to stop, and look away from the road. If buses had seatbelts, the kids couldn't fool around nearly as much.

~Isaac Cleveland

Did you know that students who study art are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement? Hope School could have more focused students graduating because of art. We should have more art periods at Hope School because many careers involve art, art comes through history, and art increases skills, attention spans, and hand-eye coordination.

Careers such as being an artist, an illustrator, a photographer, a graphic designer, and many others, involve art. Books and textbooks sometimes use pictures for illustration, but many times they use art. How is someone meant to get a picture of microscopic creatures?

Similarly, art increases attention spans, creativity, and hand-eye coordination because a person has to have his complete focus on art. When somebody is drawing or painting he has to put his stroke in the perfect place otherwise it looks strange.

Therefore, Hope School should have more art periods because it's educational, it teaches us about history and skills are increasing. We should have at least one more art period at Hope School. It's time to realize our creative potential so we can grow in our God-given gifts.

~Annica Engelsma

Dear Mr. Koole and the School Board,

Have you ever heard an orchestra of string instruments playing beautiful music? Have you ever thought it would be great to have an orchestra at Hope School? Hope School should get an orchestra because it increases knowledge and skill, involves teamwork, teaches discipline, and will benefit student careers.

Having an orchestra involves teamwork. If you think only sports involve teamwork you're wrong, because in an orchestra everyone will have to work together because every section in an orchestra might have to play a different part. In each section the students will work together. That way all the sections combined will make music. When everyone works together students will get along better. When students get along better, they will do better getting along with people in the everyday world and even more, where they work.

An orchestra will challenge people because it will push students to achieve what seems like the impossible. That's how a student will become better, not just in an orchestra but in many activities. If students have more challenging music they will be challenged to work harder

to master it, and as the year goes on students will learn how to play music better. This hard work will continue into other subjects as well.

People might say an orchestra will take students away from band, but orchestra could always be after school or at a different time than band. Another thing people might say is it takes away from homework time, however so does band and sports and students can just pick one or the other.

~Owen Langerak

Giving phones to young people can seem like a good idea, but is it really bad when they go on wicked sites and listen to wicked music? Students should not have phones on buses because they can be a distraction to the bus driver, they can be misused, and teenagers are not mature enough to have phones.

Phones are a distraction to the bus driver because the bus driver might end up having to watch what the students are doing on their phone instead of the road. She/He shouldn't have to monitor what the students are doing on their phones; she/he is supposed to be focused on driving. She/He may have to monitor the students, because they are too immature to handle a phone with music or the internet. Also some of the older kids show younger children sinful things or let them listen to wicked music the younger children's parents don't approve of.

Another reason students with phones is not good is phones are often used by teenagers to hurt others a well. "With the rise of social media student have, bullying is easier than ever..." Also the kids being bullied may get depressed, because they are being bullied and it makes them feel stupid or bad, maybe because of what they wear or believe.

To summarize, kids with phones on buses are not good. They are not mature enough and often are tempted with wicked things. The risks outweigh the benefits at this time. As a result of reading this paper, without doubt you will enforce this rule and it will have an effect on bus policy regarding phones in the future.

~Hannah DeJong

Did you know that for kids, dehydration can make them lose their attention and have bad memory? Hope School teachers should allow water bottles in class because lack of water can cause dehydration which leads to painful headaches, fainting, grumpiness, and mental and physical pain.

Lack of water causes nerve endings to become sensitive, triggering cramps or contractions. Muscle cramps are very painful and also distracting. Students will concentrate on their pain and miss important things said in class or instructions.

In addition, lack of water can cause grumpiness, and mental and physical pain. Dehydration negatively affects someone's mood. Brain tissue fluid decreases with dehydration which reduces brain volume and temporarily affects cell function. For that reason students become grumpy and don't want to learn. This causes them not to put in their best effort. Students who normally get very good grades can rapidly decrease their grades. It makes school feel forced and not enjoyable.

~ Sophia Meulenberg

SIGNS OF THE TIMES - SCIENTIFIC WONDERS

Mr. Nate DeVries, 8th Grade

The signs in the creation and the world clearly point to the near coming of Jesus Christ. We know and are aware that before his bodily return, many specific things must happen, and all the things that occur reveal Christ's coming. God has shown what His people should watch for and expect as we approach the end of time. The primary thing for the elect to watch for is the arising of the kingdom of Antichrist as Satan attempts to resurrect the Tower of Babel in an earthly kingdom that has as its one goal to destroy the church on earth. One prominent component that is warned of multiple times in scripture is the great signs and miracles that will be accomplished as the antichristian kingdom arises and especially by the Antichrist himself.

Three particular passages clearly warn the people of God to beware of these great signs lest we be deceived. As part of his Olivet Discourse, Jesus instructs in Matt. 24:24, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." In 2 Thessalonians, Paul gives further instruction:

Verse 3: Let no man deceive you by any means... Verses 8-10a: And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish...

Finally, in the description given to John of the persuasive component-represented by the second beast coming out of the earth- of the Antichristian kingdom, we are given a vivid description of the power to be revealed of this kingdom:

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast... Revelation 13:11-14a

While Antichrist does not have the power to do miracles, the signs and wonders he will do are so great that they will appear to men to be miracles. As we see the increasingly rapid development of science and technology, it is clear that these signs and wonders will involve advances in technology and science in which the men of the world harness amazing powers God has placed in His creation and abuse them for the lusts of their flesh. These advances are so great that, just one generation ago, they would have been impossible to achieve or even to conceive of.

A few notable examples show the amazing advances in science technology that have been achieved in the last few years. The first is gene editing. This process involves re-writing the basic genetic code that God uses to make all organisms what they are. Genes, which code for all characteristics and processes in all living things-including changed genes known as mutations- can now be removed and replaced with a new gene, either from an organism's own cells or from the cells of another of the same species. This gives a myriad of possibilities for future use (and abuse) and follows the new ideas of medicine; instead of treating sickness or disease after they occur, science and medicine hope to eliminate them by simply replacing

defective genes. Thought to be theoretical only a few years ago, the first human patient to receive a gene-editing treatment was reported last November in California. If this patient's treatment is successful, and it appears now as if it is, doctors hope to continue using this type of treatment more frequently in the near future. Another example is bioprinting. This science technology is working on using three-dimensional cell printers to print functional, human organs. While no full-size human organs have been printed to date, hundreds of small, fully functional organs have been created and are being used for disease testing. Companies that are engaged in bioprinting are working on creating printers that will print spare, human organs for individuals (either for needed replacement or to store for the future); print new cells on damaged tissue areas inside or on the human body; and even print new faces for those who wish to appear as someone else or remain forever looking young. The third example is what some scientists are calling the Biobag, a bag essentially used as an artificial womb. Until this point, scientists had been unable to create and develop life outside a natural mother. Now, they have successfully grown fetal sheep in a Biobag, in the future intending to use them to develop humans outside the womb of a mother, eliminating the need for a "mother". Although there are many more examples that could be used, the last is a process called quantum teleportation. Last year, Chinese scientists successfully "teleported" a photon from Earth to a satellite in space. Scientists say they are years away from being able to teleport large objects, but they are working under the idea that it may be possible. For now, the true importance of this advance in technology can be summarized by a quote from the Chinese scientists. "This work establishes the first ground-to-satellite up-link for faithful and ultra-long-distance quantum teleportation, an essential step toward global-scale quantum internet." In other words, the end goal is super-speed internet that can span the entire globe and be completely secure, allowing instant communication for every person on the planet.

Similar to the advances made by men at the tower of Babel, progressions in science and technology are now accelerating, and it is clear that once all nations unite, men will be able to achieve amazing things. The current progresses in science and medical technology, even though amazing when we stop and consider them and compare them to the past, are barely noticed by the majority of people. This gives us a perspective on how great the wonders will be that Antichrist is able to perform once his kingdom is established. Thankfully, the promise to the people of God is that they will not be deceived. This is possible only by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit and serves as a great comfort to believers living in the end times. It also comes with a command: be prepared and watching and be understanding of the times lest the coming of the Son of Man be as a thief in the night.

A Short History of Lynden Protestant Reformed Church

Written by: Lydia VandenBerg

Lynden Protestant Reformed Church, located in Lynden, Washington, has a history of hardships and triumphs. In 1931, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Oordt first read Rev. Hoeksema's teachings in the *Standard Bearer*, and in 1941 Rev. Hoeksema came to Lynden. He gave a lecture in the Lynden Auditorium, which was attended so well that there was almost no room for Rev. Hoeksma to even enter. From 1948 to 1951, there were three Protestant Reformed missionaries who worked in the area of Lynden. These three included Rev. W. Hofman, Candidate E. Knott, and Rev. A. Cammenga. In November of 1951, a congregation was formed, consisting of six families. Two years later, in 1953, eleven families were a part of the

Lynden congregation, but they were still without a permanent pastor. However, in the denominational split of the same year, six of these families left. Despite this, the families left continued in the faith and the very next year, 1954, they had enough money to buy a parsonage, though they didn't have their own minister yet. Finally, in 1955, the congregation of Lynden, Washington, got their first permanent minister, Rev. Robert Harbach. It was not very long before this congregation was vacant once again, in 1963. By that time, the Lynden congregation had been able to purchase a second parsonage as well as land for their own church building. Their first church building was dedicated in 1964 and remained their church until 1990.

In 1965, Lynden received another pastor into their midst, Rev. Bernard Woudenberg. Rev. Woudenberg did many things in his ministry, including significant church extension and witnessing, weekly mailings, a radio program, and also every other week he would conduct a Bible study in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He also left for a short time and helped form First PRC of Edmonton. As well as this work, Rev. Woudenberg also organized a Young People's Society in Lynden PRC. Another triumph in this congregation was when a new parsonage was bought after the first one was sold in 1974. However, Rev. Woudenberg left Lynden in 1976, with the congregation numbering about twenty-two families. In the same year, Rev. Dale Kuiper became the third pastor of Lynden PRC. Rev. Kuiper especially focused his attention on enlarging the church, especially in the communities of Monroe and Mt. Vernon in Washington. Rev. Kuiper also helped organize the Protestant Reformed School in Lynden in 1979, named Covenant Christian School. He left in 1984, and the Lynden congregation was vacant until 1986, when Rev. Carl Haak took the call to Lynden. His work in Lynden consisted of reviving the radio program and organizing the Ladies' Bible Study Society. He also focused his attention on helping other churches in extension work. During Rev. Haak's work in Lynden, the Church Extension Committee of Lynden held many lectures in Lynden as well as surrounding communities. Because of the work of these ministers, numbers in the church were growing, and the need arose for a bigger church building. In August of 1990, the congregation had their last service in the old building before tearing it down and building a bigger church. The new building was dedicated in 1991, and there were fifty-five families in the church at that time. Rev. Haak left Lynden in 1994, but Rev. Meindert Joostens came the next year, and the congregation grew to sixty-four families. Joostens left in 2000, and in 2002, Rev. Hanko became the minister. Because of health problems, he retired and received emeritus status in 2017.

Currently the Protestant Reformed Church in Lynden has twenty-eight families, sixty-eight confessing members, and a total of one hundred three members. Their current minister is Rev. Stephen Regnerus, who was ordained in December of 2017.¹ Lynden has grown and decreased over the years, but we can see how God preserves all of His people, no matter where they are.^{2, 3}

¹ *Acts of Synod and Yearbook of the Protestant Reformed Churches in America*. Protestant Reformed Churches in America. 2017 pp 405

² "Our goodly heritage preserved: 75 years, 1925-2000: 9780916206628" <https://www.amazon.com/Our-goodly-heritage-preserved-1925-2000/dp/0916206629>. Accessed 9 May. 2018.

³ "Ministers Listing - Protestant Reformed Churches." <http://www.prca.org/?Itemid=210>. Accessed 9 May. 2018.

Hope PRC in Redlands, CA

Written by: Chloe Kaptein

Hope Protestant Reformed Christian Church in Redlands was established in the year of 1932. At that time, they had no minister and had to have an elder conduct their services. Later that same year, Rev. Gerrit Vos came to serve as their first minister. A church, parsonage, and Christian day school were constructed in the next couple of years. Before the split of 1953, there were about eighty families attending, but afterward, only twelve remained. During that time, they also lost the church, parsonage, and day school. Soon after the split, the church was renamed Hope Protestant Reformed Church. In 1959, a small Methodist church and parsonage became available and were purchased. Hope Christian School was established during the four years that Rev. Marvin Kamps was minister. It was after he left and Rev. Kortering came that the plans for the new and current church building on Brockton Avenue began. Services began in this building on Thanksgiving Day, 1983 and were led by Rev. Kenneth Koole.¹ Presently, there are seventy-three families and one hundred and seventy-three confessing members.² Hope PRC has also been blessed with eleven different ministers, with Rev. Brian Huizinga currently filling the pulpit there.³ About two years ago, my family and I went on a vacation to California and had the chance to visit the church there. I was amazed by the sense of community there. We were invited into homes for coffee, lunch, and dinner in the evening. In West Michigan, we can sometimes be slow to recognize visitors and invite them into our homes or feel the same closeness that the smaller and individual congregations have. I would highly recommend taking the chance to visit Hope or one of the many other churches outside of West Michigan.

A New Home Filled with God's Beloved - Provident Christian Church

Written by: Brooke Cammenga

God's church is spread throughout the whole world, without distinction of race or nation. One of the churches that is working toward becoming part of the PRCP (Protestant Reformed Churches in the Philippines) denomination is Provident Christian Church in Provident Village, found in an area of metro Manila called Marikina with Rev. Daniel Holstege as their missionary. However, Rev. Holstege hasn't been there very long. Back in January of 2017, the Holstes: Rev. Holstege, his wife, and four children, moved to the Philippines. The Holstes had to say goodbye to everyone and everything they knew and say hello to a new world and adventure. However, saying goodbye was not the only thing they had to get used to. Rev. Holstege and his family had to deal with being sick and jet lagged for the first week or two, and they had to get used to the hot weather- definitely different from what they experienced in Michigan- heavy traffic, the language barriers, and figuring out how to get from one place to another. The Holstes had to adjust to their new home, knowing that it was God's will that they teach His word to His elect children at Provident Christian Church. Rev. Holstege is now the main preacher at Provident Christian Church, which is forty-five minutes from his home, and he preaches there almost every Sunday, preaching the Heidelberg Catechism at nine o'clock in the morning and a text at eleven o'clock, while teaching the church order in between. After hearing the word of God, the Filipino saints and the Holstes have fellowship together over lunch. Later, Rev. Holstege teaches the young people or the Steering Committee meeting

¹ *Our Godly Heritage Preserved*. Protestant Reformed Churches in America. 2000. Pp 52-53.

² *Acts of Synod and Yearbook of the Protestant Reformed Churches*. Protestant Reformed Churches. 2016. Pp 403.

³ *Our Godly Heritage Preserved*. Protestant Reformed Churches in America. 2000. Pp 52-53.

and makes visits to the people in the church. Though much smaller than our churches here in the U.S., consisting of only about 50-75 members with some that come and go irregularly, Provident Christian Church is a faithful group of God's chosen people.

Moving to a new country also means having language differences. All the members of Provident speak Tagalog, but they know English very well, so Rev. Holstege reads the Ten Commandments and says the congregational prayers in Tagalog, but then preaches his sermons in English, which is his preferred language even though he studies Tagalog every week diligently. Provident Christian Church, mostly made of members that used to be Reformed Baptists or Pentecostal, began just as a Bible study way back in 1992, and then organized as a church in January, 1993. However, they were teaching some doctrine that was not leading them on the right path, but then Rev. Ronald Failano went to the PR pastor's training classes in Manila and told them his desire for them to make that church part of their mission work. So began our work with Provident Christian Church in November of 2012.¹

Today, this church has the desire to join the PRCP denomination, and the love they show for God and His people is extraordinary. This year, Provident Christian Church is hoping to join the PRCP denomination, and they are in the process of installing elders and deacons. Provident Christian Church is a faithful church of God and will remain full of God's children. God's church is spread throughout the whole world, and He will show His people the right path to follow until we are all in His heavenly kingdom, for the word of God is a lamp unto our feet.²

Mission Work in India

Written by: Lydia Grace Meulenberg

Georgetown Protestant Reformed Church is currently active in the mission work in India. They were given this wonderful work by Rev. Kortering and funds from the Contact Committee. The Republic of India is located in Southeast Asia. It is the one of the largest countries in the world with population reaching 1.3 billion people. Approximately 80.5% of the population is Hindu, 13.4% Muslim, 2.3% Christian, 1.9% Sikh, and 1.9% other religion. India is a very poor country where more than 80% Indians live on less than two dollars a day.³ Despite this, there is a Protestant Reformed church in Vellore, India. Work here was started in August 2003 by their pastor, Paul Raj, and his wife, Kasthuri. Along with starting a church, they started an orphanage called the Grace Foster Home (GFH). Here, Paul Raj and his family live, helping bring up the kids and young adults in the fear of the Lord. Georgetown PRC helps provide financial aid for the orphanage. Since the church started, it grew to about one hundred and fifty saints, including the fifty children at GFH.⁴ Presently, those in India are facing some hard times. A mob of Hindu nationalists call for an all-Hindu nation and vow to eliminate Christianity. To do this, the mob of Hindus are going around India and persecuting Christians. They go from church to church, persecuting the people but mainly the pastors. Included in this mob was a state-provided police officer. This is a hardship for the church because they can't bring this to the police expecting them to punish the mob. Georgetown has been active in the India

¹ "March 2014 Philippines Newsletter." <http://www.prc.org/component/jdownloads/finish/15-philippines/519-march-2014-philippines-newsletter?Itemid=0>. Accessed 9 May. 2018.

² Information received from email with Rev. Daniel Holstege

³ (n.d.). India Mission - Georgetown PRC. Retrieved May 3, 2018, from <http://georgetownprc.org/outreach/india-mission/>

⁴ (n.d.). The India Mission and Grace Foster Home: Georgetown Church's Retrieved May 7, 2018, from <https://www.beaconlights.org/articles/the-india-mission-and-grace-foster-home-georgetown-churchs-work-of-love/>

missions for quite some years now. I would like to encourage you to remember those in Georgetown and our fellow persecuted saints in India in your prayers.

The Eternal and Everlasting Blessings of God

Written by: Tabitha Van Den Top

Grace Protestant Reformed Church, a daughter church of Hope Protestant Reformed Church, became its own separate congregation in 1995, becoming, consequently, the third daughter church of Hope in history. Grace Protestant Reformed Church is part of the remnant of the Protestant Reformation of Europe in the sixteenth century, along with thirty-three other churches including more than eight thousand members. All of these churches and members are part of the Federation of Protestant Reformed Churches of America.¹

On June 5, 1994, separate services started at Grand Valley Orthodox Christian Reformed Church under the supervision of Hope's consistory. Because of the current services, one at 9:30 and the other at 5:00 being held at Grand Valley Orthodox Christian Reformed Church, the services of soon-to-be Grace Protestant Reformed Church were held at 1:00 in the afternoon and 7:30 at night, which correlated well with the milking times of the cows of certain of the members. The first organized service was preached by Reverend J. Slopsema, who was the pastor of Hope, and the text was Matthew 16:18 "The Building of the Church". Fourteen families and six individuals attended this first service. Up until May 10, 1995, when the request was granted to the soon-to-be Grace to become an organized Protestant Reformed Church, the pulpit was always filled. Reverend Cornelius Hanko often preached, sitting on a stool because of his age, and Reverend P. Breen preached three evenings a month. On July 6, 1995, Grace Protestant Reformed Church was officially organized. Grace firmly believed, and still does, in the Three Forms of Unity, which includes the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, and the Canons of Dordt. Less than a year after being officially organized, on Sunday, April 21, 1996, Reverend M. Dick was ordained as minister at Grace and continued to preach there until 2008.² Reverend Ronald Van Overloop took the call to be a minister at Grace in 2008, almost immediately taking over after Reverend M. Dick left. Reverend Ronald Van Overloop, who is currently the pastor at Grace Protestant Reformed Church, graduated from the Protestant Reformed Theological Seminary and was ordained as a minister in 1972. Through all of this, the formation of Grace PRC and all the others of the Protestant Reformed denomination, we can truly see the eternal and everlasting blessings of God.

Growth of the CERC

Written by: Emma Minderhoud

Covenant Evangelical Reformed Church of Singapore (CERC) has been established for over thirty years. CERC is a daughter congregation of the Evangelical Reformed Church which was organized in 1984. The CERC traces its roots back to Bible studies in the 1960s. In 1963, the Bible study group formed the Gospel Literature and Tracts Society (GLTS) which was meant to help with the spread of the gospel. In 1975, a few ministers and men from the Protestant Reformed Churches in America visited Singapore and were asked by the GLTS to give a few speeches about the Reformed doctrine.³ This led the GLTS to begin studying the Reformed

¹ "Grace Protestant Reformed Church." <http://www.graceprc.org/>. Accessed 10 May, 2018.

² *Our Goodly Heritage Preserved*. Protestant Reformed Churches in America. 2000. Pp. 30-31

³ (n.d.). Get to know us - First Evangelical Reformed Church. Retrieved May 10, 2018, from <http://ferc.org.sg/gettoknowus>

doctrine and Confessions. They began to see the necessity for a church dedicated to these doctrines. During this time period, Rev. denHartog came as the foreign missionary in 1979 and helped them to organize as a congregation. The GLTS was organized on January 24, 1984, as Evangelical Reformed Church in Singapore (ERCS) on the basis of the Reformed confessions. Rev. denHartog was no longer needed as a missionary pastor in Singapore and returned to the United States.¹ The ERCS rented a school building for their worship services for a time, until the government refused to allow them to have the land. They then rented other buildings for ten years until their growth made it possible and necessary to buy an old warehouse to develop as a place of worship.² Also, because of this growth, ERCS decided in 1986 to split into two congregations, First ERC and Covenant ERC. After some time though, because of the growth of the ERCS, it was decided that another pastor was needed to help in Singapore. Rev. Kortering was called as the minister-on-loan in 1992, and Rev. denHartog would be the minister-on-loan from 2002-2005.³ Throughout the years, the ERCS experienced some struggles and conflicts. First ERCS adopted a report that supported remarriage and divorce. Covenant ERC refused to adopt it, so the denomination was split. Half of CERC's members left and went to First, but many members from First came and joined Covenant.⁴ Thus, Covenant remained a congregation, thrives with currently around 140 members, and even produces a bimonthly magazine published by its youth, called Salt Shakers.⁵

Pittsburgh: Our Church in the East

Written by: Claire DeVries

The Protestant Reformed Churches have congregations in many different locations. Many of these churches are found in the West and Midwest, but Pittsburgh Protestant Reformed Church is found in the East. In the beginning, Pittsburgh was a mission field for about nine years, starting in 2006. Pittsburgh Protestant Reformed Church started recently in 2016. Rev. Bruinsma has been their pastor and continues in his labors there. Currently, there are eight families and a total of thirty-three members that belong to the church.⁶ We rejoice together with this small body of believers and ask God's continued care as they stand on their own in years to come. We should pray for them as they begin their labors and witness as a church of Jesus Christ.⁷

We should also realize that there are opportunities arising in Pittsburgh. There is the opportunity for a young minister to learn from an experienced missionary by working alongside of him. Rev. Bruinsma has the ability to work well and teach and preach in a mission setting. It

¹ (n.d.). 30th Anniversary Special Issue - Covenant Evangelical Reformed Retrieved May 9, 2018, from https://www.cerc.org.sg/ss_uploads/ss_continuing_heritage.pdf

² (2012, November 1). Covenant Evangelical Reformed Church in - Standard Bearer. Retrieved May 9, 2018, from <https://standardbearer.rfpa.org/node/53763>

³ (n.d.). 30th Anniversary Special Issue - Covenant Evangelical Reformed Retrieved May 9, 2018, from https://www.cerc.org.sg/ss_uploads/ss_continuing_heritage.pdf

⁴ (2012, November 1). Covenant Evangelical Reformed Church in - Standard Bearer. Retrieved May 9, 2018, from <https://standardbearer.rfpa.org/node/53763>

⁵ (n.d.). 30th Anniversary Special Issue - Covenant Evangelical Reformed Retrieved May 9, 2018, from https://www.cerc.org.sg/ss_uploads/ss_continuing_heritage.pdf

⁶ "Acts of Synod and yearbook"- Protestant Reformed Churches in America 2017. pg. 396

⁷ "Our Newest PRC Congregation - Pittsburgh PRC - June 24, 2016" 12 Jul. 2016, <http://www.prc.org/missions/domestic/byron-center-prc/item/4800-our-newest-denominational-sister-pittsburgh-prc>. Accessed 9 May. 2018.

would be a huge profit for a young missionary to learn from him, and an opportunity that should not be passed by.¹

Rev. Bruinsma has made a special appeal for a second missionary to Pittsburgh. He had four main grounds for his request. First, his present labor as a pastor in Pittsburgh must be nearly full-time. Secondly, there is clearly a need for additional labors in surrounding areas which he is not able to perform. Thirdly, two laborers would be an advantage to the fellowship and the present pastor. Lastly, it would give him time to write tracts and study guides for use on the mission field.

We are thankful to see the fruit of Rev. Bruinsma's labors. The fact that there is more work that could be done is encouraging. We rejoice with the organization of another Protestant Reformed congregation. We pray God's richest blessing on her as she shines as Christ's light in Pittsburgh.

Myanmar Mission

Written by: Callie DeVries

The white horse of the gospel is running visibly in the congregation of Myanmar. It stands out as a radiant light in the midst of a corrupt pagan country. Currently, the pastor of the congregation is Rev. Titus, who continues to faithfully labor tirelessly as the shepherd of this congregation. He is busy translating the KJV Bible, *Come Ye Children, For Thy Truth's Sake*, and *Unfolding Covenant History* as well as delivering weekly sermons and teaching catechism classes and Bible study. He also fulfills requests to preach or conduct seminars in both the Yangon area and surrounding areas. Besides preaching in local areas, Rev. Titus also makes a trip once or twice a year to bring the word of God to northern Myanmar. Surely, he has dedicated his life to the spread of the gospel.²

The Protestant Reformed congregation in Myanmar originated when contact began in the 1990s between a pastor in the Bible Presbyterian Church (Myanmar) and ministers in the Evangelical Reformed Church in Singapore (ERCS). Rev. Titus was convicted of the Reformed truth and, therefore, excommunicated from the Bible Presbyterian Church, not able to preach or teach again. Contact was extended and strengthened by the Protestant Reformed Churches and the ERCS. In 2007, Synod authorized Hope PRC to continue giving assistance to the PRC in Myanmar. Since then Hope PRC has sent six delegations to Myanmar and continues to assist in the work in Myanmar.³ May God continue to gather his church from the uttermost parts of the Earth through faithful pastors according to the command of the gospel in Matthew 18:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

¹ "Pray the Lord of the Harvest...The Agenda for ... - Standard Bearer." <https://standardbearer.rfpa.org/node/54891>. Accessed 8 May, 2018.

² DeVries, Nathan. "Hope PRC's Work in Myanmar: In Love for the Church". *Standard Bearer*, 1 May 2017, pp.351-353.

³ Ibid.

Congratulations, Class of 2018!!!



Brooke Cammenga



Ethan Coppel



Callie DeVries



Claire DeVries



Sally Doezema



Evan Engelsma



Grant Hanko



Caleb Kalsbeek



Grace Kalsbeek



Jedd Kalsbeck



Chloe Kaptain



Levi Kramer



Brendan Langerak



Lydia Meulenberg



Lydia Miersma



Emma Minderhoud



Jessica Morris



Russell VanBaren



Lydia Vandenberg



Tabitha Van Den Top



Chloe Windemuller

SUPPLY LISTS

Kindergarten

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



1st Grade

KJV Bible (2 nd semester)	Scissors
Pencil box	Folder (2 pocket)
12 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	1 plastic folder 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	Wide-ruled paper
1 spiral notebook (NO binders)	
2 (100 ct) packages sticky notes	
1 sock (no holes)	
Paint Shirt (labeled)	



4th Grade

KJV Bible	Notebook paper
Pencils/Eraser	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
Pencil sharpener	Notebook paper
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 (8th only)

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