

HIGHLIGHTS

Spring Issue

~

March 2016



AN HONEST EVALUATION

Mr. Ron Koole, Principal

It happens once every two years. The students at Hope School invite their parents, grandparents and friends of the school to view the work they have done in preparation for an evening focused on an academic topic. In years past the topics have included such things as: "Science Night", "Math Night", "International Night", "The USA", and "The Continents".

As preparations are made for the evening (now from an administrator's point-of-view) one wonders if it is all worth it. First, a committee of the staff spends hours in planning, then teachers break down the topic into manageable subtopics for student projects at their grade levels, and finally students have to get to work. This all takes weeks to accomplish. A good deal of "class time" has to be devoted to project work and supervision over all that "work" can sometimes be challenging. Workroom, copy room, hallway, and classroom messes have to be cleaned up at the nagging of the principal, office staff, teachers, and others. Along with that comes the use (and often waste) of supplies to "build" projects and displays. (You only see the end products and hopefully the end justifies the means in this case). Yes, there is pain to produce the final product for the evening.

But there are benefits that in the end outweigh the negatives. It's uplifting to hear parents and others say how much they enjoyed the evening and saw evidence of all the hard work that it took to put the event together. It's wonderful to see the excitement of the students showing parents and grandparents "their" project and the class displays. It's uplifting to hear junior high students ask their teachers if they can

stay after school to work on their projects. And it's wonderful to see several generations come together with a common interest in education and Hope School.

And so, Friday evening, February 26, over four hundred parents, grandparents, and friends of the students came to Hope School to enjoy a truly "historic" event. It was "Decades Night". The guests came that night to view the students' presentations and projects which centered around the events, culture, inventions, and people of the decades which made up the 20th century.

After taking in all the activities and viewing all the project work focused on the "history" of the 20th century – one thing stands out and is prominent – CHANGE. Changes in United States and world leadership. Changes in lifestyle due to inventions. Changes in fashions and entertainment. Changes due to wars and racial tensions. Changes brought about by "disasters" such as dust storms, stock market crashes, rocket explosions, volcanoes and more. That which was new becomes old and those things that seemed so wonderfully modern are quickly outdated and useless so few years later. The words taught by the wise man, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity", ring so true. To put trust in man or the things of man is truly vain. And in stark contrast to all of that change and vanity is God. He is the changeless one and He performs all His good pleasure. He has directed and is directing all things to the glory of His own name and the coming of Christ's kingdom. All these events, inventions, and the rest serve His divine purpose and the cause of the Church and the elect on the earth. The world serves the

Church. It was uplifting to all sing together, "O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be Thou our guard while troubles last and our eternal home." These are the important lessons we all have learned from "history's light" and hopefully our students caught a glimpse of this in all that they studied in their preparation. They

must be taught to "hope in their God and trust in His might." If they learned these lessons, then all the efforts and work in preparation were a huge success. I am confident that the teachers brought home to the students such a perspective of the past and the work of the Lord. Two years from now, D.V., we'll do it all over again.



SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

****NOTICE TO ALL SUPPORTERS OF HOPE SCHOOL****

The School Board would like to make everyone aware of changes the Board approved regarding the security of our school. Beginning April 11, the Monday after Spring Break, all exterior doors will remain locked. Beginning April 11, the only way to enter the school will be through the Front (East) Doors. The first set of doors will be open so that you will have access to the vestibule. The second set of doors will be locked and has been fitted with a security intercom system. The security intercom system includes a button that you will have to push to ring the office and state your name and intent. The office will be able to unlock the door from the office or from a phone that our secretary can carry on her person. Upon entering, we ask that you stop by the office and fill out your name and time you arrived. When you are leaving, we also ask that you stop by and fill out the time that you have left. The intent of the requirement to sign in and out is so that we know who is in the building at all times. This will also be beneficial in case of an emergency and the building has to be evacuated. We need to know who is in the building to make sure they are evacuated from the building as well. The second set of vestibule doors has also been set up with a magnetic reader. Our administrator has the ability to issue permission to those who need access to our school on a regular basis by coding a card with a magnetic strip, such as a license, and assigning that to a specific person. This code can be removed at his discretion and upon doing so the magnetic card will no longer allow access.

We will also be rekeying the exterior locks and reissuing keys to staff. These keys will be numbered and kept track of on a master list. Keys will be required to be returned upon completion of service.

This change will be an adjustment for all of us and will be an inconvenience until we have become accustomed to the doors being locked. The Board felt that this change was necessary and asks for patience as we implement this new policy.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Much of the work of the Education Committee at this time of the year has to do with the upcoming school year. We have to work on budget items to be presented at the Annual Society Meeting. The teachers and staff are interviewed, not only to see how things are going this year, but also to find out their intentions for next year. Things like the 2016/2017 school calendar, the projected size of the incoming Kindergarten class, and curriculum changes for next year, to name a few, must be finalized.

For our annual staff interviews this year we used the theme "The teacher's calling not only to impart knowledge, but above all to rear covenant children." All of our teachers and other staff members expressed that things are going well this year and that they appreciate the continued support and cooperation among the staff, administrator, parents, and Board. We are happy to report that, with one exception, our entire staff has signed contracts to return next year, the Lord willing. On behalf of the Board and parents we express our gratitude for their faithful labors with our covenant children.

Our second grade teacher, Mrs. Kelsey DeBoer, who began the school year as Miss Kelsey Ferguson, has informed the Board that she does not plan to return next year. We rejoice with Kelsey and her husband Matt on the news that they are expecting their first child next September. Although we are sad to see her go and will be losing an excellent teacher, we wish her the Lord's blessing as she takes up the high calling of motherhood, the Lord willing.

Hoping that Mr. Koole will not object, we would like to quote part of the Education Committee report to the Board dealing with his interview. *"Ron expressed his appreciation to the Board and society in their willingness to make changes and accommodations for him in the house and the school. He has appreciated the thoughtful, caring, and Godly response of the students to readily assist him whenever it is needed."* That last sentence should move us to gratitude to God for His work in the hearts and lives of our children, and give us encouragement as parents and teachers in the daily rearing of our children in the fear of His name.

In addition to attending continuing education courses required for certification, some of our teachers attend seminars or workshops to enhance their classroom teaching. Mr. Ed Bos attended a Math-In-Action workshop at GVSU on Saturday, February 27. Mr. Matt Elzinga attended the Michigan Music Conference on Friday and Saturday, January 22 and 23. He was impressed with the conference and met new contacts as well as gleaned new ideas for directing both band and choir.

Our Technology Committee continues to do a fine job of keeping our equipment up and running. Following is a sample of some of the work they have been involved with since our last report. The annual replacement of four staff computers has been completed, the new Ubiquiti Unifi wireless system with five access points was installed, two short-throw projectors were replaced, and there is the never ending work of maintaining our current equipment and evaluating the need for new equipment.

May God continue to bless our labors as parents, teachers, and Board as we strive to rear our children in the fear of His name.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Aaron Cleveland, Chairman
Dan Boeve, Dan Kalsbeek

The 2015-16 school year has been mostly uneventful for the Transportation Committee. For the most part students have behaved on the buses and the routes have been going well for our regular drivers: Tom Oosterhouse, Philip Rainey, and Lynn VanOverloop. Last September, shortly after the school year began, Bus #13 (our oldest bus) needed a new transmission. In January of this year, a new set of tires was installed on this bus. Other than these two main expenses and the usual minor repairs, we have been able to keep within our maintenance budget.

The committee is already making plans for next year. Lynn VanOverloop anticipates "retiring" at the end of this school year. We are thankful for her many years of driving for Hope School. This means that we must find another driver. Because of new laws going into effect later this year, it is going to require more time and cost more money to obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL). Our supervisor, Dan Kalsbeek has been spreading the word that we are looking for more drivers, part time or full time. If anyone is interested in becoming a bus driver, please contact Dan Kalsbeek (791-4425 home, 890-1029 cell). We are willing to work with you in order to obtain the necessary instruction and testing to get a CDL.

We are very thankful that the financial picture for Hope School remains sound, and we thank God for the means to support our schools.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Steve Lotterman, Chairman
Dan Boeve, Jeremy Meulenberg, Mike Rau

The financial statement for the current fiscal year is included in this *Highlights* for your review. The end of February puts us two-thirds of the way through our fiscal year, so as we track our income and expenses, we look for numbers that are around 67% of the annual budget. Looking at the bottom lines, we see that our total income is at 73%, and our total expenses are at 65% of budget.

Tuition continues to be paid in a timely manner, and our Assistant Treasurer would like to thank you for this (one of his main duties is to keep a close eye on tuition receipts, and to personally follow up on a few of the delinquent accounts). Emailed tuition statements have been sent monthly, and this seems to help in keeping tuition receipts on track. We would like to remind all tuition-paying families that their last payment should be made in May. There should not be any tuition left to pay by June 1. Please review your tuition statement closely to make sure that you are on track to have your last payment into the office by May 26, so that we can include the payment in the May receipts.

We will be starting the spring deficit drive shortly - you may have already received the envelopes in the mail or in your mailboxes at church. We collected over our targeted amount for the Fall Drive, but we still need a strong Spring Drive to meet our financial obligations. 23% of the school's income in this year's budget comes from the deficit drives and it is important to collect this money in order to maintain a balanced budget.

We are very thankful that the financial picture for Hope School remains sound, and we thank God for the means to support our schools.

**HOPE PROTESTANT REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
INCOME STATEMENT
Through February 2016**

	YEAR TO DATE	% TO BUDGET 8 / 12 - 67%	ANNUAL BUDGET
INCOME			
CHURCH COLLECTIONS	32,260.40	0.81	40,000.00
GIFTS & PLEDGES	143,884.00	0.58	250,000.00
HOPE FOUNDATION	9,000.00	0.50	18,000.00
GYM RENTAL	4,048.08	1.16	3,500.00
MISCELLANEOUS	-		-
SPECIAL ED SOCIETY	6,880.00	0.61	11,357.20
TUITION	558,948.19	0.78	717,570.00
BUS FEES	22,349.00	0.78	28,800.00
TOTAL INCOME:	777,369.67	0.73	1,069,227.20

GENERAL EXPENSES

ACCOUNTING FEES	2,325.00	0.67	3,450.00
BAND EXPENSE	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES AND BOOKS	16,000.00	0.80	20,000.00
BUILDING AND GROUNDS FUND	9,000.00	0.67	13,500.00
ELECTRIC	12,387.30	0.69	18,000.00
ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES	750.00	0.56	1,350.00
FEDERATION DUES	-	0.00	1,000.00
GENERAL INSURANCE	4,597.50	0.50	9,256.00
GROUP INSURANCE	62,100.61	0.62	99,400.00
HEAT	5,183.22	0.40	13,000.00
HRA	2,666.64	0.67	4,000.00
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	1,751.54	0.55	3,200.00
LAWN MAINTENANCE	1,693.63	1.13	1,500.00
LIBRARY FUND	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
MAINTENANCE MAN	290.50	0.14	2,100.00
MISCELLANEOUS	99.95	0.04	2,354.41
BUILDING MORTGAGE PAYMENT	80,000.00	0.67	120,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	584.55	0.49	1,200.00
PAYROLL, ART TEACHER	1,170.00	0.59	2,000.00
PAYROLL, BAND	3,912.34	0.54	7,300.00
PAYROLL, CHOIR	2,623.34	0.54	4,900.00
PAYROLL, DISCOVERY ROOM	33,980.92	0.79	43,156.00
PAYROLL, JANITOR	18,668.40	0.67	28,000.00
PAYROLL, LIBRARIAN	2,601.00	0.62	4,200.00
PAYROLL, OFFICE	15,865.50	0.63	25,130.00
PAYROLL, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER	540.00	0.27	2,000.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER	307,294.80	0.68	454,935.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER AIDE	5,876.40	1.17	5,009.00
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	4,718.95	0.52	9,000.00
RETIREMENT PLAN	8,509.78	0.57	14,942.73
SNOW REMOVAL	476.25	0.16	3,000.00
TRASH REMOVAL	929.98	0.62	1,500.00
TAXES, PAYROLL	28,227.25	0.64	44,420.57
TEACHER DEVELOPMENT	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE	2,552.00	0.64	4,000.00
TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
TELEPHONE	993.98	0.62	1,600.00
WATER & SEWER	960.10	0.74	1,300.00
WORKER'S COMP	1,237.19	0.41	3,000.00
CONTINGENCY	894.42	0.18	5,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES:	645,463.04	0.66	981,703.71

BUS EXPENSES

BUS DEPRECIATION FUND	13,333.36	0.67	20,000.00
BUS DRIVER COST SUBSIDY	-	0.00	400.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL	20,134.48	0.68	29,562.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL TAXES	1,529.00	0.68	2,261.49
BUS DRIVER WORKER'S COMP	405.31	0.41	1,000.00
BUS INSURANCE	1,422.00	0.51	2,800.00
BUS REPAIR	6,137.62	0.47	13,000.00
GAS AND OIL	7,307.77	0.42	17,500.00
TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
TOTAL BUS EXPENSES:	51,269.54	0.59	87,523.49
TOTAL EXPENSES:	696,732.58	0.65	1,069,227.20
GAIN OR (LOSS):	80,637.09		-

HOPE ROBOTICS – 2015 SEASON - YEAR IN REVIEW

Jon Rutgers, Robotics Mentor

A kickoff meeting at Hope School one evening in late August got our Robotics season at Hope School rolling. Potential robotics students (7th & 8th grades) and parents attend and together we watch the “unveiling” of the new First Lego League (FLL) challenge and Project for 2015. The theme this year was “Trash Trek” so student projects had to focus on improving the way the world handles trash. The robot playing board included many interesting mechanical models including a trash sorter, compost dispenser and scrap car to name a few. The kick off meeting was again a good way to start off as we can provide the parents with information and answer any questions. Most parents and children also stayed around to help assemble the Lego kits that make up the playing field for the year.

We had 16 students this year, an increase of 5 from last year. Because teams are limited by FLL to ten students, we started a second team. We practiced twice a week during the twelve week season. Wednesdays were required attendance and Fridays were optional. With the added team, practices were very busy times, but all in all the students have to do the work, so things went well. We did see advantages of having only 8 students on each team as each of them had more opportunity to participate in the many different aspects of the challenge. Some prefer programming the robot, others building, but they must all also work together to complete a project along with a 5 minute presentation. Lots to do in 12 weeks!

Both teams participated in a Saturday “qualifying event” in mid-November at Grandville High School. Ten out of forty-five teams at the event qualified for a State Tournament. Both of Hope’s teams did very

well earning 1st place awards in “Team Building” and “Robot Design” respectively. Awards are only given to approximately 15 teams, so we were very excited to be recognized for our work. One of our teams also did very well in their Project presentation (they designed a truck to sort recyclables from trash) and they finished in 7th place overall. Three weeks later they participated in the State Tournament in Flint, MI where they finished in the middle of the pack.

The 1st place award in Team Building at the Grandville Tournament was especially rewarding. Both Matt Elzinga and I spent many hours working with the team that won the award. Decision making was a huge struggle for the team and consensus took a lot of effort. It wasn’t until the last few weeks of practice that the entire team pulled together and accomplished more than they had in the entire season, in a short amount of time. The life lessons we see throughout the season go far beyond building and programming a robot. Matt and I both had plenty of opportunity to encourage, guide and instruct these students in valuable life lessons concerning our proper godly walk.

In January, Hope School hosted “RoBowl II”, a mini-tournament with the three Heritage Christian robotics teams and the one Adams team. It was again a great event and an excellent opportunity for parents, family and friends to watch and learn. We received very positive feedback again – mostly from parents who appreciated this smaller event. The local and state tournaments are very large and difficult for parents to watch and understand everything that is happening. We are planning to keep doing these RoBowl events, however, the coaches would like to move the date up to November so that it falls more in line with our other tournaments.

We look forward to the 2016 season and would like to encourage students, parents and constituents to support our robotics

program. 7th and 8th grade students of all skill levels and interests are encouraged to join us. Robotics is a great team program and one of the few where both girls & boys can work together. As the teams from 2015 know; having some girls on your team can REALLY help out! Great job Electro-Eagles and RoboRoyals – see you in the fall.

NEW SCHOOL LOGO & WEBSITE UPDATE

Aaron Cleveland, Jon Hop, Joel Langerak

Most readers probably noticed the new school logo on the cover of the *Highlights* and recently on the *Monday Note*. Last November the School Board approved the development of a new school website by Jordan Hiemstra, of Northbound Studio Design, using funds generously donated by the School Circle. In December the Board approved the development of a new school logo to be used on the website. One of the grounds for the development of a logo was that the logo could be used by the "School Board, administration, School Circle and athletics."

At the January Board meeting, the logo concept that appears on the cover of the *Highlights* was approved. It is the intention of the Board to incorporate this logo into all Hope School publicity. The logo will appear on official school letterhead, the *Monday Note*, the *Highlights*, enrollment forms, the directory, handbooks, the website and other material published by Hope School. We hope that over time, when you see the logo, you will immediately make the connection to Hope School.

The logo contains five words: HOPE- PROTESTANT- REFORMED- CHRISTIAN-SCHOOL. All of the words are significant and identify what Hope School is and stands for. Perhaps some teachers may find it a worthwhile assignment to have their students write a few paragraphs about the significance of each of these five words in our new logo - potential material for the next *Highlights*.

Work on the new website is progressing. The framework has been built and copy is being added to the various pages. In the near future we hope to unveil the new website and use it as an efficient means of communication between Hope School and the parents and supporters of the school.

OUR DAILY BREAD

Mrs. Deb Hoeksema, Kindergarten

Matthew 6:34 – Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

During the last month, my mind has been in overdrive. Trying to finish our Decades Night projects and preparing for conferences have taken over my thoughts, in addition to the normal labors that I have each week, as I am sure has happened in other classrooms also. During conferences, while talking with the parents of my students, I caught myself speaking in a pattern. “The Kindergarten program is in about 8 weeks. We hope to accomplish x, y, and z by then and the kids will have to learn their speaking parts by then.” “Kindergarten testing will take place in the weeks right after Spring Break. I have to figure out the new process for testing the kiddos.” “Our Kindergarten Roundup is the 2nd week in May. I have to compile all of the testing scores and decided what materials we need for next year.” “We have 6 more memory verses to learn before the end of the year. Which ones can we finish before we leave for Spring Break?” Even getting ready for a vacation, we worry about everything that needs to be finished before we leave. Then while we are actually on vacation, our mind goes to all that we have to do when we return. We never take the time to enjoy the surroundings and just let the next day take thought for itself. It seems that we spend all of our time looking to accomplish things in the future, without ever stopping to think about the gifts that God has given to us today. We need to slow down and reflect on what He has provided for us today, without worrying about what comes next.

In Exodus 16, we see the Israelites wandering in the wilderness. God provided manna for them daily, only giving them what they could consume for that day. Any more collected would rot before the next morning. God was teaching them to consider their daily needs, not to look at what they need in the future. In Matthew 6:11, part of the Lord’s Prayer is “*give us this day our daily bread*”. Jesus is teaching us that God will give us what is necessary for today, not what we need for the rest of the week.

Although God tells us in our opening verse to only worry about today, that does not mean that we shouldn’t plan for the future. In Proverbs 6:6-9, Solomon talks of the ant – “*Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer and gathereth her food in the harvest.*” Another example is Matthew 7: 26-27 – “*And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*” In both of these texts, God tells us to plan for our needs for the future, whether they be for food or shelter, but not to worry about them, or to dwell on them constantly.

Saturday night I was hoping to get many things accomplished around our house. It was the first night that Steve and I were both home all week. Instead of getting to my list of chores, Steve started a fire to burn some of the brush in our backyard. We spent the next three hours helping Becca with her 4-H calf and watching the wood pile slowly burn down during a gorgeous evening. We really didn’t get anything completed, but it was one of the most beneficial nights we have had in a long time. We took time to slow down and view God’s goodness in a beautiful sunset, in feeling the warmth of a fire

as the evening cooled, in the ability to spend time with family. We are told not to worry about tasks that should be finished in the next month. God knows them and will provide for all our needs during the appointed time. We are to stop and consider His gifts to us each day, even in the smallest things. In Psalm 40: 5, we read “*Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to usward; they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.*” God’s thoughts toward us are uncountable. What about us? Do we take the enough time each day to offer up the thoughts due to Him? Do we stop to think about all of the abundant gifts He has given us so that we can properly thank Him? We should never be too busy to dedicate the amount of awe, respect and love to God each day. Even when we are so busy trying to get all of our clothing packed for Spring Break.

DECADES NIGHT AND THE RMS *TITANIC*

Mrs. Sue Grasman, 1st Grade

The staff and students of Hope recently hosted a Decades Night, with each class responsible for the history of a decade from the 20th century. Close to 400 parents, grandparents and friends came out to experience that history by exploring the presentations, posters, videos and artwork that the students had made. The first grade was assigned the years 1910 – 1919, and one of the major events of those years was the sinking of the RMS *Titanic* in 1912. And so, we just had to take an in-depth look into the history of the mighty steamship.

The RMS *Titanic* left Southampton, England on April 10, 1912. The destination on this her maiden voyage was New York City. She never arrived. On the night of April 14 at 11:40 PM, four days into her crossing and about 375 miles south of Newfoundland, Canada, *Titanic* hit an iceberg. The collision caused the ship’s hull plates to buckle inwards along her starboard side and opened five of her sixteen watertight compartments to the sea. The unthinkable had happened, and it was soon determined that the ship which was said to be unsinkable, was rapidly going down. God himself had spoken, and by 2:20 AM on April 15 the *Titanic* foundered, with

well over 1000 passengers and crew still aboard.

The hymn, “Nearer My God to Thee,” is often associated with the *Titanic*, as many passengers reported that it was the last song the ship’s band played as she sank. This hymn was known to be a favorite of the bandmaster, Wallace Hartley. In fact, he was once asked what he would do if he ever found himself on the deck a sinking vessel. His answer: “I would assemble the orchestra and play ‘O God our Help in Ages Past’ or ‘Nearer My God to Thee.’” It is generally accepted that *Titanic*’s band did indeed play on as the majestic ship slipped beneath the icy waters of the North Atlantic in the early morning hours of April 15, 1912. Although they were not official crew members and were thus free to seek any available means for survival, these 8 men instead chose to use their musical talents to provide a measure of comfort and calm on the decks of the sinking ocean liner that cold and clear April night.

The first graders, who performed “Nearer My God to Thee” at Decades Night, were fascinated with the *Titanic* and the history that they had learned about her.

They also love to share that fascination and knowledge, so please read on. ☺

First Grade Writings

I loved the RMS *Titanic* because it was a big ship with a ship's cat. I liked it because the band was good.

~ Brice Feenstra

I liked the band and the song that they played ("Nearer My God to Thee"). I liked the *Titanic* because it was the fanciest ship in the world.

~ Olivia Van Den Top

The *Titanic* was built in 1909. It weighed 46,000 tons. *Titanic* sunk in 1912.

~ Leah Kalsbeek

The *Titanic* had large boilers. When it sunk the smokestacks fell in the water.

~ Ely Miersma

I liked *Titanic* because it was the biggest ship. The ship's cat was cute.

~ Ava Cleveland

A lot of people died when the *Titanic* sank.

~ Jadon Langerak

I learned that the *Titanic* had 4 smokestacks but one was fake. The boat weighed 46,000 tons. The band played "Nearer My God to Thee". Ely's (Miersma) relative had ashes in his eye. He was supposed to go on the ship but he couldn't. It was an injury, but the people said that it was infected.

~ Lydia Minderhoud

I liked when we learned about the different calls on the *Titanic* like S.O.S and C.Q.D. (Come quick, distress).

~ Lydia Price

The *Titanic* was just starting to sail in 1912. They built the *Titanic* from 1909 – 1911.

~ Nathan De Jong

The *Titanic* sank in 1912. My favorite thing about the *Titanic* was that when it was sinking it sent a message – S.O.S.

~ Sara De Vries

RMS means Royal Mail Steamship. The *Titanic* had 4 smokestacks. It sailed on April 10, 1912.

~ Chase Kooienga

I like reading books about the *Titanic*.

~ Cory Van Oostenbrugge

The *Titanic* sank in 1912. It weighed 46,000 tons. It was supposed to go to New York City.

~ Micah Kuiper

I wish that I could go down and see the *Titanic* on the bottom of the ocean. The *Titanic* was the biggest ship in the world.

~ Evan Kleyn

I liked when the band played "Nearer My God to Thee". I am glad that I was not on the *Titanic* when it set sail on April 10, 1912.

~ Malea Moelker

I liked the RMS *Titanic* because it was the biggest ship in the world and it had about 3000 people on it.

~ Kohen Hanko

A boy and his teddy bear were on the *Titanic*. They were put into a lifeboat and the *Carpathia* picked them up. The bear was left in the lifeboat, but a sailor took it and gave it back to the boy.

~ Jake Rutgers

I liked hearing stories about the *Titanic's* band and how it sunk.
~ Xander Peterson

I liked singing "Nearer My God to Thee."
~ Jenna De Vries

The *Titanic's* maiden voyage was on April 10, 1912. Many people died the night it sank.
~ Harry Langerak

I liked hearing about the *Titanic's* band. The boilers were so heavy that they broke through the bottom of the ship.
~ Alanna Kalsbeek

I liked hearing about the *Titanic* because it was the biggest ship in the world. I liked reading about the *Titanic's* cat because it saved the boy from going on the ship and then maybe sinking with it.
~ Anna De Vries

I liked seeing pictures of the *Titanic's* grand staircase.
~ Simon Windemuller

I liked learning that RMS means Royal Mail Steamship. I liked learning about the men who built the *Titanic*.
~ Graham De Meester

I can't believe how big the *Titanic* was! I liked the grand staircase because it was made of gold.
~ Wyatt Wassink

The *Titanic* first set sail on April 10, 1912.
~ Maci Ten Brock

The *Titanic* hit an iceberg. Captain Smith died on the *Titanic*.
~ Darren Kalsbeek

I learned that a rich man wants to build a new *Titanic*. It is going to set sail in 2018.
~ Laura Cleveland

A MOMENT IN THIRD GRADE

Miss Gayle Lotterman, 3rd Grade

Do you remember the moment when you first learned to put words together to make a sentence? What about putting sentences together to make paragraphs? Or maybe turning paragraphs into an essay? If you don't remember, maybe that's because it takes more than a moment. Writing doesn't just dawn on you, the same way a math concept might; writing takes practice - a series of moments, perhaps. Moment after moment of remembering that first you need a subject, then a verb, then a few adjectives, now a topic sentence, what about supporting details? Only then can you start to think about a paragraph, or multiple paragraphs.

So when do these moments happen? How does a person get from kindergarten - learning their letters - to eighth grade - writing an essay? When do we start to understand that each sentence needs a subject and a predicate; that adjectives can add interest; that a verb can give a sentence life? Understanding these concepts, having these moments, happens anywhere and everywhere in grades K-8. These moments happen fast for some and slow for others.

In third grade, our language curriculum focuses quite a bit on grammar and the mechanics of writing, but students also need to know how to put the things they have learned into practice. It is

easy to assign creative writing tasks, but third graders don't always find them so easy to accomplish. "What do I write about?" is a common question among others heard at the beginning of the year. Giving students prompts, allowing them to write about their own interests, and making sure they know that there isn't just one correct answer are some ways we work through these questions.

Even then, students can have a hard time trying not to just please the teacher, but trying to think critically about a subject so they can write down their thoughts. Yet, this is exactly what we ask our students to do every time we have devotions, every time they are asked to explain a passage of the Bible. Even though they are not writing, the concept is the same. When we sing in the morning and we try to understand a difficult word or tricky phrasing, students are drawing conclusions. Students are using their knowledge of the Bible and their knowledge of grammar to decipher text, to deduce what is meant by a series of words. They are then interpreting those words so that they can apply them to their own lives. What they might not realize is that if they can do this when asked a question in class, they can do it on paper as well. Without even realizing it, they are building upon their moments.

It then becomes important to incorporate these moments into other subject areas. The more moments to build upon, the less daunting the task of writing seems, and the easier it is to draw conclusions from other areas of study. If students are asked to start by writing about something they already have a base knowledge of, they can make deductions more easily. In third grade, this is something we regularly do in science.

Since the beginning of the school year, third grade students have had a writing portion to every science test. We spend two days after each test, writing on the connections we've found. However, students aren't just writing their opinions on the science lessons, but instead take the opportunity to think more critically on how to connect God's Word to what they have just learned. After reading a Bible passage together, there is much discussion as to how it connects with our science lessons. Then, students are given time to write down their thoughts. Question prompts are provided for those who need a little more guidance, but for the most part students are allowed to use what we've learned in science and what we've read in the passage to draw their own conclusions from these truths.

It can be a struggle sometimes. Yet, in completing assignments like this, students are showing the work it takes to practice writing, to have that series of moments that leads to a better writer. As we all grow, it becomes easier to think on these things, discuss them, write about them, and truly understand them.

Below are a few samples of these writings in their unedited, first draft form:

God gave us the ability to read and sing praises to our God. God gave us the ability to understand the Bible and the words that we sing. God has given us a Mom and a Dad that teach us God's word and that is the most thing I am thankful of. God gave us the church and he wrote our names in the book, and that is most, most, most, best thing that I am thankful of. God has built this earth for us to glorify him and now the devil has crept into most of the people soul and we pray that God will guard our souls, and we are thankful that he does guard our hearts, and that is why we try our best to praise him. God gave us our body parts and we are thankful that he gave us our eyes our nose and our mouth and our touch, bones and most importantly our souls. Psalm:103 verse 1 "Lord my heart is not naughty nor mine eyes lofty neither do I exercise myself in great matters or in things too high for me."

~ Michael Cleveland

God made everything for us to praise Him. He did not give it to us because we deserve it, we actually don't deserve it because we sometimes don't thank God for what He made. We give praise to other people or things.

If we do praise God we praise Him by using the thing He has given us, like trees for pencils, wood, furniture that is made out of wood and many other things. In Genesis 1:1-2 it says "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." So God made all of these things for us. If God made all of these things for us we must use them to the best of our ability. We must not use them foolishly.

~ Avery DeVries

Many people don't know we are very small compared to God. God is heavenly. We are earthly. That does not mean that everybody is wicked and yes we do sin but we are all very small compared to God. If we draw the sun and moon and the earth we should know that God controls it all. Every crater on the moon every speck of sand every snowflake. Every snowflake is different. Every sin you have God knows about it you can not hide from God. Our hearts are bigger than our bodies. We may be very small compared to God but he cares about his people more than anything. Some people think the world starts with a big bang they don't care that some people say that God actually created everything they just believe what they think. Romans 1: verse 20 "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen being understood by the things that are made even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

~ Clair Kalsbeek

The Lord is strong and powerful and we are so weak and tiny. And yet the Lord saved us with His own begotten son Jesus Christ and cares for us tiny pieces of dust. Psalm 8:4 "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" He is so strong that He rains over heaven, earth, and the universe and all that is in them. What is man what hath he done? And yet God saves and loves little pieces of dust. The Lord is strong and mighty, created so small of things like germs and atoms and so on that shows how powerful He is.

~ Liam Kalsbeek

God has given us eyes in order to read His word. God has given us our parents in order to teach God's word and to keep us away from the traps and snares of the devil. God gave us our mouth to sing and praise God in other ways. God created me so that I could praise him and do His will. We have been made to praise and glorify His name. God has given us our talents in order for us to praise God's name with them. God has given us the Bible so we can read it and praise His name. God has given us godly teachers in order to teach us the ways of God. Psalm 139:14 "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

~ David Langerak

The most important thing we have learned this year in science was life cycles. This has taught us to look up to God in everything. Psalm 139:14 "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works: and that my soul knoweth right well." In this verse it tells us that God knows every thing about us more than we know about our selves. The whole of Psalm 139 explains that it is very true that God knows every thing even the number of hairs on our head. And in verse 13 also, "thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb." That talks about when you are in your mother's womb God knows our sin. We can not even remember our sins.

God created are famly, God created us in such a perfect way. It is so beutiful what God has done for us. We see him working in every thing around us. We even see him working when we think. Psalm 139:2, "Thou knowest my downsiting and my uprising, Thou understandeth my thout ufar off." This tells us that God knows our thouts. If we are 100 and we don't rember anything God still knows are thuats from when we were in are mothers womb, and even when you are a egg in your mothers stomach when she was about 8 years old, it is crasy how God made us. ~ Evelyn Price

God's purppos for createn the world is so we can live and use all the things God made. We do not always use the things that He made rite. But we always need to strive to use the things He made to glorify God. We use things in the wrong way by serving it or him/her. We use it in the rite way by serving God. God created things perfectly. If He had not created things perfectly the whole world would go wrong. ~ Abbie VandenBerg

We are rooted in the faith (truth), like a plant is rooted in the ground. We are growing towrds God. Like a plant that groes towrd the sun.

We can produse more Christains, like a flower produces more seeds wich gro into mor flowers (plants). I am the seed that groes in good soil. Not in thorns, or rocks. The sower which is Jesus plants the word to us wich feeds us and helps us fight against Saten and (or) the wicked poeple. In Mark 4:4 Jesus said, that the sower soed seed and some fell on rocks, thorns, and good ground. And we are the seeds that are in the good ground. Somethings that distract me are: like the wicked (which are weeds). ~ Alex VanOostenbrugge

God made me so I could use my body to praies God. God made my mouth, so I could sing praieses to God. God made my eye so I could see the butifall nacher that He made. God made my ears to I can hear the birds sing praieses to God.

God made the life sicol of a caterpillar. The caterpillar can form a into a crisilis and hach into a butter fly. As the cadipiler makes its self a cucoon and cracks open as a butter fly. So do we, we are the cadipiler, we die as a cucoon and we crack into heven and we are young again. ~ Dirk VanUffelen

READING IS FOR EVERYONE!!

Mrs. Jill Reitsma, Discovery Room

When was the last time you read a book, a magazine article, or read to someone? Do your daily reading habits center around texts, Facebook updates or maybe even your cereal box? If you're one of many people who don't make reading a regular habit, you are definitely missing out!!

Reading has a significant number of benefits for your well-being. After much research, here are the top 10 benefits of reading:

1. Mental Stimulation
2. Stress Reduction
3. Knowledge
4. Vocabulary Expansion
5. Memory Improvement
6. Stronger Analytical Thinking

7. Improved Focus – Concentration
8. Writing Skills
9. Tranquility
10. FREE Entertainment

Much of my work at Hope School revolves around reading and writing, thus my passion for reading is very profound and hopefully contagious!

The Bible also instructs us to read. In I Timothy 4:13 “Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” Also, Romans 15:4, “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning...” It is amazing when you see the 1st graders pulling out their Bibles and eagerly waiting until it’s their turn to read! In Matthew 21:16 we read, “And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?”

The month of March is known as “National Reading Month”. This would be a great time for you to grab your favorite book, and dive right in! Or if you haven’t read in a while, check out some books at your local library. Better yet, come to Hope School library and I think you will find something that interests you. If you do, you will also be able to see the library bulletin board that the 3rd graders did for the month of March. It is pretty WILD!!



SCHOOL OFFICE NEWS



**HOPE SCHOOL
KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP!**

**Kindergarten Round-Up will be held at 9:45 AM on
Thursday, May 12 at Hope School.
Parents, please remember to bring your child’s
birth certificate to round-up.**

**Invitations will be mailed mid - April.
If you do not receive an invitation and would like to attend,
please call Hope School at 616-453-9717.**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!



Kindergarten Program
Hope Protestant Reformed Church
Wednesday, April 27, 2016
7:30 PM

<u>DATES TO REMEMBER</u>	
April 4-8	Spring Break
April 27	Kindergarten Program
April 28	Band/Choir Concert
May 12	Kindergarten Round Up
May 13	Elementary Music Program
May 21	Hope Classic Races
May 30	Memorial Day – No School
June 2	Last Day of School – Graduation



**19th Annual
 Hope Classic
 Races**

**Saturday,
 May 21, 2016**

**5K Run, 5K Walk
 &
 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk**

**Watch for
 registration forms
 in mid - April!**



Elementary Music Program
Friday, May 13 at 7:30 PM
Grandville High School
Auditorium

