



HIGHLIGHTS

August 2018

Back-to-School



But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

II Timothy 3:14-15

WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER

Mr. Ron Koole, Principal

It seems like only yesterday that the last staff meeting of the 2017-18 school year took place. One item on the agenda was a note that all teachers were to submit an article by August 6 for this back-to-school issue of the *Highlights*. It was jokingly stated that each of us should write an article entitled, "What I Did This Summer". I knew right then that I had the topic for my article. I'm sure that I am not the only teacher who gets asked multiple times each summer, "What are you doing this summer?" So let me attempt to provide the answer and touch on an important topic as well.

Summer is to be a time of refreshment for teachers and students alike. That refreshment usually includes some time spent relaxing on a vacation as well as engaging in some enjoyable recreation. For some that means travels and sightseeing either in the USA or even abroad. For me it means camping at Wabasis Lake with friends and family. I did some fishing, played board and card games with both adults and grandchildren while enjoying the fellowship of friends and family. I also enjoyed a golfing trip up north with my sons and sons-in-law. It's a necessary trip to find out which of the boys only talk a good game, and which can back up that talk with low scores. In addition, I enjoyed many bike rides around the Hope ghetto and beyond.

One other highlight of my summer was the marriage of my son, Jason, to Bethany Dykstra. It gives me great joy to see my children marry in the Lord.

And there were also opportunities to work. No, I can't paint any longer or do much physical labor, but I get to oversee a bevy of workers summer clean the school, and there is the necessary office and administrative work. All of that is progressing well.

And now let me change the focus a bit. I hope all teachers and students use some of their summer time to read. This again was a rewarding part of what I did this summer. Not only am I still catching up on the books I should have read when I was a youth, but I also again had the opportunity to read more extensively for professional and spiritual benefit. One of these reads was the recent RFPA publication entitled The Belgic Confession (Vol 1), a commentary authored by David J. Engelsma. I enjoyed the commentary of all of the first 21 articles of the confession, but my attention was especially drawn to the commentary of Article 12 "The Creation" and Article 13 "Providence". These topics are so closely connected to Christian education that Engelsma states "The truth of creation demands good Christian schools for the children of believers. The one great subject in a school is creation." (page 167) All of the instruction of the Christian school hinges on the biblical truth that the Triune God, out of nothing, by the Word of His power (Jesus Christ) called creation into existence, and in His wisdom formed it into an orderly and harmonious universe in six days. Also God continues to uphold and govern this creation by the power of His providence, all for the glory of His own name and for "the service of mankind, to the end that man may serve his God." Our children must be taught to glorify their Creator by acknowledging His great work of creation, but they must also be taught to exercise dominion and subdue this creation, exercising their kingship over this creation by pressing all of it into the service of their Creator God. The creation serves man to the end that he may serve God. When these truths are properly taught, "The power of the education of covenantal children in the good Christian school is obedience of life to the Creator God, the protection and promotion of faith, and the advance of the kingdom of Christ" (page 167, 168)

I highly recommend that all teachers in good Christian schools read carefully these two chapters before the start of another school year. We have exciting work ahead of us again. A goodly heritage is ours.

And so another profitable summer draws to its close and a new year of instruction lies before us. Let's take up the work with renewed vigor and love for the cause of Christian education.



SCHOOL BOARD NEWS



ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Mark Meulenberg, Chairman
Jon Rutgers, Jeremy Langerak, Tim Bomers

On June 18 and 19, the enrollment committee had the privilege of interviewing 8 families who desired to send their children to Hope School. It was with delight we recommended to the Board they approve the applications of these parents to enroll their children. Please join the Board in welcoming the new families below. So that we all become better acquainted with the new families, we asked each to write a small introduction about themselves.

We thank God for the precious gift of our Christian schools and for the parents that share our zeal for this cause. We ask that you pray to God that He will preserve and bless our work. We also ask you pray for these new families in their year of transition.

Wayne & Sarah Courtney (Erin)

Wayne was born and raised in the Republic of Ireland (Southern Ireland) in the Roman Catholic religion. At the age of 17 he and his family moved to attend Covenant Protestant Reformed Church in Balymena, Northern Ireland after conversion and subsequent conviction of the reformed faith. My father, Ron Hanko, was serving as missionary pastor to the church there. It was love at first sight and the rest was history-almost. He had to drum up a lot of courage to ask his minister for his daughter's hand in marriage.

He did drum up the courage and next year we will celebrate our 20th anniversary. Wayne works in the building field as a subcontractor specializing in cabinetry and trim. When he is not busy at work, he is always working on projects at home.

We have been blessed with two children: Connor (14) and Erin (11). Connor is excited to start Covenant and Erin Hope this fall. They both enjoy the academic and social aspect of our covenant schools. Outside school we love to spend time together hiking, biking, kayaking, swimming or playing sports; or spending quiet time together reading, writing, drawing or playing music.

David & Gina VanDenTop (Darla)

Hi! We are Dave and Gina VanDenTop and have been married for going on 7 years. We live in Coopersville (yes, way out in the boonies ☺). Dave grew up in Coopersville and went to Hope School. He works at Michigan Wood Fibers in Zeeland, and is an equipment operator. I am a stay at home mom of Darla (5), Lucy (4), and baby #3 due in November! We are all pretty excited to have another little baby around the house! We are members at Grace PRC, and love it there! I

grew up in Hudsonville and went to Heritage, so have enjoyed getting to know the people on this end of town.

Darla is so excited to start kindergarten this fall and to make lots of new friends. She has been counting down the months and days for a long time. :)

We are so thankful for a solid, reformed school we can send our children to, and for the teachers who will help in raising our kids as children of the King.

We look forward to getting to know the other families at Hope!

Geoff & Becki Veldman (Austen)

Hi! My name is Austen Veldman. I am 5 years old. I am so excited to be starting Kindergarten this year. Here is a little about me and my family.

My dad's name is Geoff. He is the warehouse/office manager at Fields Fabrics. He loves sports...especially basketball, baseball and golf...which is why I love them too!

My mom's name is Becki. She stays at home with my brother Beckett who will be in preschool this year, as well as my sister Emerson, who is a year and a half and keeps us all running!

I am so excited to be going to Kindergarten and looking forward to making some new friends!

Matt & Erin Rutgers (Jude)

We are Matt and Erin Rutgers and are excited to join the Hope School community! We recently moved to Hudsonville and are members at Hope PRC. We met at Grand Valley State University in 2006 and were married in 2009. Matt is a CPA and works at Kaptein Dykstra & Co. while Erin is a stay at home mom.

Our oldest son Jude was born in April of 2013 and is looking forward to starting kindergarten! Jude enjoys swimming, looking at books and playing with any kind of building toys such as Legos and Kinects. He is usually accompanied by his brother Henry (who is almost 4) and sister Charlotte (1). As a family we like to play games, do puzzles, and spend time outdoors; especially at the pool or cottage.

Caleb & Sandra Meulenberg (Alice)

We are Caleb and Sandra Meulenberg and we just moved from Hudsonville to the Walker area. We are excited (and a little nervous) to send our oldest child to kindergarten. Alice is 5 years old and very excited to start school. She likes bunnies and riding her bike. She has 3 younger siblings: Vera (3), Evan (15 months) and Josephine (1 week).

We are thankful to the Lord's guiding hand through all the changes in our lives. We are confident He will be with Alice, her teachers and her parents as we begin this new chapter.

Mitch & Julie Feenstra (Claire)

Hello, we are the Feenstra family! We have been married for 6 years and have been richly blessed with three children: Claire who will be attending kindergarten at Hope School this year, Teagan (3 years old) who will miss her best friend dearly this school year, and our little boy Anson (1 years old). We have attended Grace PRC our whole married lives. Mitch runs his own construction company called Treks Construction and Julie enjoys her days being a stay at home mother and wife. Claire is super excited for kindergarten this year especially since her close friend and first cousin Darla will be in her class. We are so thankful to be able to send our children to a school where they are able to receive a faith based education and make Christian friendships with other kids.

Cory & Rachel VanOverloop (Finley)

Hi, we are Cory and Rachel VanOverloop. We have been married for eight years and have three children. Finley is our oldest and is very excited to start kindergarten this year. She has two younger brothers, Hoyt (4) and Boone (3 months). Cory has worked at Kamps Hardwoods for 7 years and we are members at Grace PRC. We have enjoyed our summer filled with lots of swimming, bike rides, and a new baby to snuggle, as well as a week at the cottage with family. We are looking forward to having Finley start at Hope this fall!

Steve & Carrie Huizinga (Ainsley)

Hi! My name is Ainsley Huizinga. I am so excited to be starting kindergarten this year. My parents are Steve and Carrie Huizinga and they have been married almost 14 years. We attend Grandville PRC. My dad works for Bosveld Inc. and likes to hunt and play with us kids. My mom likes to read and do crafts if she has time. I have a younger brother named Cole who is 3 years old and loves all boy things like construction trucks and farm toys. I also have a younger sister named Julia who is 2, and loves to play babies and follow us big kids around. I myself love to color, play house and spend time outside riding bikes or swimming with my siblings. As a family we enjoy camping and road tripping to explore God's creation around us from here to Colorado to California. The whole family is looking forward to beginning our schooling life at Hope School and getting to know all the teachers and other families!

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Joel Vink, Chairman

Jason Engelsma, Joe Schimmel, Dan Schipper

The Building Committee has been busy this past year with overseeing typical maintenance of the school such as leaky doors, windows, loose baseboards... and the list goes on. Besides this we have also, with the help of many volunteers, been able to do some projects that keep the school looking and functioning well.

During the summer months the elementary classroom bathrooms have been repainted, had new lighting and new epoxy flooring installed. The new first grade room also got a new smartboard, white board and tack boards. New desks have been ordered for the sixth grade. During one of our work bees we had a small army of painters working on different hallways, classrooms, bathrooms, and closets. The teachers' lounge walls and cabinetry was also painted in the past year. What a difference this makes in the look and feel of the school.

In the small gymnasium, volunteers installed sheets of Tectum around the upper perimeter of the room. Tectum is a very durable acoustical wall panel that is designed to reduce the echo effect of sound. This product should reduce the reverberation time of sound, making the practicing of band and choir a better acoustical experience.

The Building Committee also has representatives on the Long Range Planning Committee. This committee has been meeting every couple months and although they don't have anything formal at this time, they are making forward progress with the architect on the master plan. It is their intention to get input from various groups so that all aspects are considered before any plan is drawn. Please contact someone on the committee if you feel there is something that needs to be considered when putting this plan together.

Just in the past few weeks committee members noticed there was a tree leaning quite far over the administrator's house on the north side. Upon further inspection they found there were

many trees leaning towards the house and others towards the parking lot and Wilson Avenue. With the help of volunteers and equipment, the trees have been taken down and removed. The committee is very thankful for the help of all the volunteers throughout the year working on various projects. It truly is a wonderful thing to see our fellow brothers give of their time and talents working towards the cause of educating our covenant children.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Tim Bomers, Chairman
Andy Bylsma, Ken Engelsma, Mark Meulenberg

On behalf of the Education Committee: Welcome back to our students, teachers (old and new) and administrator for another year of covenantal instruction. We are entering our 72nd year of covenantal education at Hope School. This is a simple opening statement that has profound implications. Stop to think of where we are, in all of history. Talks of war and talks of peace. A world political arena wrought by lies and scandal. Droughts, floods, volcanoes, untold wealth, extreme poverty, famine and great plenty. We see the gospel spreading to the four corners of the world. Technology is improving life, or not? We see that wickedness is abounding around the world. That world, like no other time in history is ripe for the judgment of God. Thinking about these things can make us uneasy. What are our thoughts? What are our emotions? What is that which makes us be at peace? What is that upon which we stand firm and secure? It better be the Rock, the Rock of our salvation.

Isaiah 43:10: "Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me."

There are more questions to be asked. What is most important to us as Christians? Is it a new home? Is it a new car? Is it just enough cash to get through another month? Although these material things are needful for us, they should never occupy our chief desire. Our chief desire is to be with our Lord. Sure, we cannot go to heaven yet but how is this motivating love for Christ evident in our lives? Contrast the Spirit of Jesus Christ with the darkness and hopelessness of this world. Christ has supplied all our needs and a great blessed example of this provision is Hope School. There is great need at Hope School and in our other Protestant Reformed schools, including PR special education that God has supplied year after year. Where would we be now, in life, spiritually without our own Protestant Reformed Christian education?

Deuteronomy 8:18: "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day."

Everything is in place for another school year. We train His children to understand this world with the eyes of faith. We do this as a body of believers. We do this as brothers and sisters of the same spiritual family. We know each other, trust each other and love each other. We have teachers that believe they are called of God to teach, not in place of us but in addition to us. Teachers that help us instruct our children in life's way and in the light of Christ's Word. Many questions have been asked. Let's go back to the original opening statement: we are entering our 72nd year of covenantal education at Hope School. How does that make you feel? What are your thoughts? May our hearts be overwhelmed with thankfulness, giving praise to God! Thank Him today and tomorrow for all He has given us in Protestant Reformed Christian education. Keep Hope School

and her teachers, administrator and Board in your prayers. Pray also that He may continue to give us teachers, Protestant Reformed teachers. May God bless this work, to the glory of His name.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Jon Rutgers, Chairman
Phil Kalsbeek, Jeremy Langerak, David Rutgers

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Eccl. 3:1
The last few months have been a time of rest from formal school training and now it is time to start again. With much thankfulness to God we look forward to another year of instruction at Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School. He alone preserves us and has given unto us this great blessing for us and our children.

For the School Board and Finance Committee, the new year started in July with the enrollment process. We find this to be a very enjoyable process, in which we are encouraged by the financial support and prayers of the 95 families that again commit to another year of covenantal instruction of their children.

This issue of the Highlights contains the 2017 - 2018 Year End Financial statement. We receive 99% of our budgeted income and our total expenses came in at 98% of budget. This resulted in a modest gain of \$6,540.41 for the past fiscal year. We would like to thank all those that have supported the school through the financial drives. Although we fell \$6,750 short of our \$300,000 goal, our lower expenses made up the difference. Please continue to give to our drives as you are able, remembering that the society has approved a \$10,000 increase of our Drive goal for the next fiscal year.

As we begin another school year, we are thankful that our Heavenly Father supplies our needs and provides the means to operate this school, and it is our prayer that God’s blessing will continue in the generations to come. “But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.” Psalm 103:17-18.



The Gator is hungry!

Feed it your newspapers, phone books, old books, magazines, & catalogues.

Our Paper Gator bin is located on the south side of school between the garage and the school (next to the trash bin).

Thank you for your support!

HOPE PROTESTANT REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
 INCOME STATEMENT
 JULY 2017- JUNE 2018

	YEAR TO DATE	PERCENT TO BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
INCOME			
CHURCH COLLECTIONS	42,676.78	0.97	44,000.00
GIFTS & PLEDGES	293,286.06	0.98	300,000.00
HOPE FOUNDATION	20,500.00	1.03	20,000.00
GYM RENTAL	6,211.80	1.04	6,000.00
SPECIAL ED SOCIETY	7,635.00	1.00	7,610.00
TUITION	720,716.79	0.99	727,100.00
BUS FEES	28,163.00	0.99	28,500.00
MISCELLANEOUS	75.00	-	-
TOTAL INCOME:	1,119,264.43	0.99	1,133,210.00

GENERAL EXPENSES			
ACCOUNTING FEES	3,630.00	1.00	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	22,000.00	1.00	22,000.00
BUILDING AND GROUNDS FUND	39,999.96	1.00	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	97,896.62	1.12	87,600.00
INSURANCE, WORKERS COMP	1,876.23	0.61	3,100.00
INSURANCE, HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT	3,999.96	1.00	4,000.00
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	4,189.79	1.05	4,000.00
LIBRARY FUND	1,500.00	1.00	1,500.00
MISCELLANEOUS	2,380.74	1.19	2,000.00
LONG RANGE BUILDING FUND	75,000.00	1.00	75,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	926.75	0.77	1,200.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
PAYROLL, BAND	7,987.52	0.99	8,100.00
PAYROLL, BUILDING MAINTENANCE	979.50	0.49	2,000.00
PAYROLL, CHOIR	5,408.37	0.98	5,500.00
PAYROLL, DISCOVERY	40,857.00	0.89	46,000.00
PAYROLL, JANITOR	29,001.60	1.00	29,000.00
PAYROLL, LAWN MAINTENANCE	2,569.75	0.73	3,500.00
PAYROLL, LIBRARIAN	3,955.76	1.00	3,950.00
PAYROLL, OFFICE	27,689.47	1.03	26,950.00
PAYROLL, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER	270.00	0.14	2,000.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER	495,737.40	0.99	501,800.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER AIDE	11,697.06	1.19	9,800.00
PAYROLL, TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE	1,160.00	0.39	3,000.00
PAYROLL TAXES	44,816.31	0.91	49,100.00
RETIREMENT PLAN	18,422.67	1.02	18,100.00
PHYS ED UNIFORMS	744.75	0.83	900.00
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	11,824.75	1.31	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	18,150.28	0.96	19,000.00
UTILITIES, GAS	9,739.47	0.75	13,000.00
UTILITIES, INTERNET	1,904.65	1.27	1,500.00
UTILITIES, TELEPHONE	2,333.95	1.41	1,650.00
UTILITIES, TRASH	1,571.52	0.98	1,600.00
UTILITIES, WATER & SEWER	1,290.27	0.99	1,300.00
CONTINGENCY	-	-	5,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES:	1,022,195.56	0.98	1,040,630.00

BUS EXPENSES			
BUS DEPRECIATION FUND	26,000.04	1.00	26,000.00
BUS DRIVER COST SUBSIDY	28.71	0.02	1,500.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL	32,508.81	1.05	31,000.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL TAXES	2,455.00	1.05	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	10,746.45	0.98	11,000.00
GAS AND OIL	14,330.96	0.96	15,000.00
TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR	1,250.00	1.00	1,250.00
TOTAL BUS EXPENSES:	90,528.46	0.98	92,580.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	1,112,724.02	0.98	1,133,210.00
GAIN OR (LOSS):	6,540.41		

TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Mr. Jason Engelsma, Chairman
Tim Bomers, Dave Rutgers

The transportation committee is glad to report that the buses have passed inspection and are ready for a new school year. There were a few repairs needed on the buses and these have been addressed and we are now ready to hit the road.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Speedwrench for the quality service they provide Hope PRCS and the timely fashion in which they provide these services.

We would like to thank Dan Kalsbeek as well for the work he does as the Transportation Supervisor. From busing routes to arranging scheduled repairs and the unexpected ones, your work is much appreciated.

A hearty thanks to our three main bus drivers in Jen Kalsbeek, Philip Rainey and Tom Oosterhouse who have committed to driving for us for another year. With so many schools in need of drivers this year we are thankful that we have such dedicated and capable drivers year after year. Our thanks as well to our team of reserve drivers who fill in when needed.

We as the transportation committee would like to encourage parents of riders to read the bus riding policies in the back of the school directory. The policies are there to promote safety for the children, bus drivers and all those on the road. We thank you as parents for contributing to the good behavior that the children have displayed in the past years. We also ask our Heavenly Father for a safe and blessed new school year!

ATTENTION:

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

ATTENTION:

On Tuesday, August 28, 7:00-8:30 pm, we will have an informational meeting at Hope School regarding the upcoming LEGO Robotics season. All junior high students interested in joining the LEGO Robotics team(s), with their parents, are invited to attend this meeting. This year's challenge will also be revealed at that time. We hope that you will join us!

2018-19 Hope PRCS Bus Routes

Grandville/Jenison

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

7:00	N. Price	1631 Stoneybrook Dr. Jenison 49428
7:04	T. Kalsbeek	8071 Lamplight Dr. Jenison 49428
7:06	D. DeJong	7655 Graceland Dr. Jenison 49428
7:16	K. Kalsbeek	7185 48 th Ave. Hudsonville MI 49426
7:22	M. Rutgers	3411 Sagecrest Dr. Hudsonville 49426
7:25	M. DeBoer	7028 Rolling Hills Dr. Hudsonville 49426
7:28	J. Molenkamp	7420 Harmon Ln. Jenison 49428
7:33	D. Kuiper	7555 Louise Ave. Jenison 49428
7:40	W. Courtney	193 Brookwood Ct. Grandville 49418
7:47	S. Stange	3682 Prairie Grandville 49428
7:57	B. Duistermars	1092 White Pine Dr. Grand Rapids 49534
8:00	Covenant	

Standale/Coopersville

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

7:00	D. Rutgers	11830 24th Ave, Marne, 49435
7:07	K. Koole	4997 Leonard St. Coopersville MI 49404
7:09	J. Langerak	5150 Candlewood Ct. Coopersville 49404
7:12	T. Ver Strate	Corner of Johnson & 48 th
7:17	S. Hoeksema (T. TH)	13983 32 nd Ave. Marne 49435
7:21	T. Kleyn	4263 Garfield Coopersville 49404
7:31	T. VanDenTop	4234 E. Cleveland Coopersville 49404
7:31	D. VanDenTop	4234 E. Cleveland Coopersville 49404
7:45	J. Peterson	0-13145 14 th Ave. Grand Rapids 49534
7:55	J. VanOostenbrugge	50 Cummings Grand Rapids MI 49534
8:00	Covenant	

Byron Center

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

7:00	B. Kregel	6886 Kenowa Ave, Byron Center, 49315
7:07	J. Meulenber	Corner of Quincy & Angling Rd.
7:12	J. Kregel	4613 Caspian Dr. Hudsonville, 49426
7:21	T. Bomers	1815 8 th . Ave Byron Center 49315
7:25	B. VanBaren	2055 Perry St. Byron Center 49315
7:32	M. VandenBerg	3180 Mason St. Hudsonville 49426
7:36	K. VanPutten	9890 Brin Pt. Ct. Byron Center 49315
7:38	B. Klamer	Corner of 100 th and Wilson
7:44	J. Cleveland	9170 Byron Center 49315
8:00	Covenant	

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

STAFF CONTRIBUTIONS

READING, READING, READING!

Mrs. Deb Hoeksema, Kindergarten

*And he **read** therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law. (Nehemiah 8:3) And it shall be with him, and he shall **read** therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: (Deuteronomy 17:19).*

I have done a substantial amount of reading this summer. Some of it was for pleasure while we were on vacation (three whole books that did not include any pictures!), some of it was reading new books to put into our classroom library, and some of it was in preparation for getting my room ready for the upcoming school year. The majority of my summer reading though was to learn the best way to teach my kindergarteners to become readers themselves.

One of the biggest factors of leading students to be readers is to encourage parents to read, read, read to their children even before the children enter the classroom. Students who understand the concepts of letters and the sounds they represent are substantially more successful at reading in the early grades. This is even evident when the students come into my classroom. Students who already recognized the letters and know some of the sounds continue to learn, while the students who do not have an abundance of exposure to the alphabet struggle to stay on track. More often than not, the student with little exposure will get further and further behind the students who have letter experience as the students progress through the first few years of school.

There are many strategies that I will be using in my classroom that parents can begin working on at home with their child. One strategy is to teach a few letters at a time instead of trying to have the student memorize the entire alphabet at once. While focusing on only a few letters (start with the letters in their name), teach the sounds the letters make at the same time. Students who learn both letter recognition and sounds together learn to read earlier. Once the alphabet and sounds are mastered, parents can use games to extend the learning. Such activities as creating rhyming words, playing the alphabet game or even looking for letter sounds around the child (Can you find an object that starts with a /t/ sound?) can reinforce these letters and sounds for the pre-reader while still having fun.

Technology is another great way to strengthen these reading skills. Having access to books that highlight the text as it is read aloud, helps students to see the connection between letters and words. Playing letter and word games also helps the students to stay excited as they learn their letters. I will include a few websites that parents can use at home to make learning more fun.

The most important strategy to help lead your children to becoming a strong reader is to read, read, read with them. Spend quality time looking at books, discussing them with your children and help them to learn their letters so that they can use this new-found ability to learn more about Christ and the world that He has revealed to us through His word. *Whereby, when ye **read**, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ (Ephesians 3:4).*

Here are some I-pad apps and websites that can be used to reinforce letter recognition and sounds:

Reading Apps

- Little Matchups ABC – This app works for recognizing and learning letters of the alphabet. Uses capital and lowercase letters, in addition to pictures that begin with the letter. Uses audio, visual and sensory skills.
- ABC Photo touch- This app works for recognizing and learning letters of the alphabet. Uses audio, visual and sensory skills. Students need to find the letter given as it floats by.

ABCYA.COM

Letter Recognition

- Alphabet Bingo - http://www.abcya.com/kindergarten_alphabet_bingo.htm - Select upper or lowercase letters or sounds. Try to make Bingo. Gives repeated attempts.
- Alphabet Bubbles - http://www.abcya.com/alphabet_bubble_letter_match.htm - Pop bubbles to drop beginning letter into correct treasure chest.
- Alphabet Match - http://www.abcya.com/alphabet_matching_game.htm - Match monster with beginning sounds. Can be played as either as memory game or revealed cards.
- Alphabet Slider - http://www.abcya.com/alphabet_puzzle.htm - Slide tiles to reveal letter flashcards.
- Connect the Dots ABC http://www.abcya.com/connect_the_dots_abc_order.htm - Connect the dots using capital or lowercase letters.
- Alphabetical Order - <http://www.abcya.com/alphabet.htm> - Click and drag tiles into alphabetical order.
- Letter Bubble Alphabetical Order - http://www.abcya.com/letter_bubble_alphabetical_order.htm - Similar to Alphabet Bubbles, but it can say letter name or letter sound.
- Keyboarding Zoo - http://www.abcya.com/keyboarding_practice.htm - Has student type or use mouse to select letter, then gives animal that begins with letter sound.
- Keyboarding Zoo 2 - http://www.abcya.com/keyboarding_practice_2.htm - Uses capital and lowercase letters to make words and sentences.
- Letter and Number tracing - http://www.abcya.com/letter_trace.htm - Trace capital or lowercase letters and numbers set to music.
- Letter match - http://www.abcya.com/letter_match_uppercase_lowercase.htm - Match monster with beginning sounds. Can be played as either as memory game or revealed cards.
- Sight Word Bingo - http://www.abcya.com/dolch_sight_word_bingo.htm - Play bingo with Dolch sight words.
- Spelling Practice - http://www.abcya.com/dolch_sight_word_spelling.htm - Make spelling words using given letters.
- Uppercase and Lowercase Matching - http://www.abcya.com/uppercase_lowercase_letter_matching.htm - Match letter cases to add color to a rainbow.

ARE YOU READY?

Mrs. Sue Grasman, 1st Grade

As the days slowly become shorter and August 27 creeps closer and closer, I am often asked the question "Are you ready for school to start?" Yes, once again it seems as though the summer months have slipped by in the blink of eye and here we are at the brink of a brand new school year. But what a summer it was as the Lord blessed us with an abundance of warm sunny days and clear blue skies, perfect for enjoying the beauty that living in the Great Lakes State offers us Michiganders. From talking with various students, it seems as though many were able to spend some time camping, swimming and sight-seeing all around Michigan. I love hearing stories about these adventures and the locations my students have visited during the summer, and even received a surprise postcard or two in the mail from students traveling in some of my favorite places!

A highlight of my summer was that once again my family spent time camping at Mears State Park in Pentwater. This was our 32nd year, and although the group is now larger with grandkids and even great grandkids, the fun, sun, sand and surf is the same and a good time was had by all! My husband and I were also able to spend a few days in Northern Michigan, always a treat! And of course I also spent a good deal of time visiting the Grandville Library, a place I know well and was glad to see that many Hope families know it too as I saw many of you there. Yes, summer was certainly wonderful with many new memories and experiences, a time of refreshment and relaxation, and a time to prepare for the upcoming school year.

This school year will be different for those of us who call first grade "home", as after quite a few years we will once again have two sections of first grade due to a large class size of 33 students. I am looking forward to teaching these students with my sister, Mrs. Julie Schwarz, and we will work hard to keep the two sections close together with shared activities such as classroom singing, p.e., and field trips to name a few examples.

The start of a new school year always brings the promise of fresh and exciting beginnings, a time when everything is crisp, clean and ready to go. Everyone is anxious to begin, and a catching enthusiasm is in the air, for students and teachers alike. And so, yes, in answer to the question "Are you ready for school?" my response, and I hope yours is too, is "Yes, I can't wait!"

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

Mrs. Julie Schwarz, 1st Grade

It is no surprise that I became a teacher. My father was a teacher. I had two great aunts who were teachers and taught here at Hope School. My aunt was a teacher and my older sister became a teacher. I just followed in their footsteps. I was born to Jim and Barb Huizinga, the 2nd of 8 children. I have six sisters and one brother. I grew up in "the Hope Ghetto" and have gone to Hope Church all my life. I attended Hope School and then went to Covenant.

When I graduated from Covenant Christian High I attended Calvin College for 4 years and earned my teaching certificate for elementary education. I then taught 5th grade and 4/5th split for 5 years at Heritage Christian School. When I look at this year's first graders I notice

that I taught seven of their parents. ☺ I quit teaching when I had my 1st child and became a stay at home mom.

I am married to Brad and we have 4 children. Elyssa is 21 and she graduated from Baker College as a Licensed Veterinary Technician. She works at Jelsema Veterinary Clinic in Hudsonville. She loves animals so this is the perfect job for her. Taylor is 19 and she graduated from Grand Rapids Community College as a Registered Dental Assistant. She works at a dental office right by Grace Church-maybe some of you will see her there. Zachary is 15 and is entering 10th grade at Covenant and Madison is 10 and going into 5th grade here at Hope.

My family is important to me and I love spending time with them. In the summer the whole clan spends a week at Pentwater State Park. We have been doing this for many years, in fact, we just went for the 32rd year! My husband is from Colorado and we love to spend time with family there also.

Four years ago I began aiding at Hope School in the 1st and 2nd grades. I really love aiding and as a bonus I got to work in the classroom of Sue, my younger sister who also followed in the family footsteps. I wasn't looking to teach full time but then Hope needed a teacher and I began to think seriously about teaching for a year. After much thought and prayers, God led me to accept the teaching position this year. I am very excited to teach but it is a daunting task and I covet your prayers as I teach your covenant children.

THE BEAUTY IN CREATION

Mrs. Stephanie Daling, 2nd Grade

And by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.
Colossians 1:16-17

And just like that summer is done and another school year has begun! Brandon and I were able to spend quite a bit of time exploring God's creation this summer. From the Upper Peninsula to Indianapolis all the way across the Atlantic Ocean to Ireland. We were both amazed at the differences in creation among all the places we visited. In Northern Michigan the water glistened a blue-green color and the Pictured Rocks lakeshore showed God's handiwork in the intricate design. Ireland was filled with, as the Irish say, 40 shades of green throughout the fields. The sky changed from gray to blue, rain to sun, with very little warning, and the mountains stood tall among the fields below. The ocean roared against the cliffs, and God sent many reminders of His faithful covenant with His people through the rainbows we saw almost daily! "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined." Psalm 50:2

On many occasions this summer, but especially while in Ireland, Brandon and I discussed how the breathtaking scenery we were looking at was something the people in those cities barely even thought about. Not to say they do not enjoy the beauty around them, but that sense of awe seemed to not be as evident among them. These daily views have become mundane. As we talked about how it seemed impossible to get sick of such views, we realized we are just as guilty of this! People come to Michigan to see the great lakes, to experience our beautiful beaches and campgrounds, and yet we do not think second of them. We love and enjoy them, but we do not spend as much time in awe of them as we should. We tend to take

for granted what is sitting right in front of us, what we drive by every single day on the way to school, work, and church. Instead, we need to take these opportunities to speak to our children, our spouses, our friends about the beauty of the creation around us. For as Paul spoke in Colossians, all things were made by Christ and FOR Christ. We need to use what is around to us to speak to them about how powerful, mighty, majestic, faithful, and holy our God is. About how we can use this creation around us to serve Him. I am thankful that God has used this past summer to put this all into perspective again. We must continue to remind ourselves of how thankful we should be that God has given us this world every day to learn and teach from, and I am excited to continue to learn and teach from it in the classroom this upcoming school year!

MY SUMMER SURVIVAL KIT

Miss Gayle Lotterman, 3rd Grade

At the end of every school year, I send students home with what I call a “Summer Survival Kit”. It contains a variety of activities for students to complete at their leisure over the summer. Some examples of these activities are: math worksheets, cursive practice, a scavenger hunt, coloring pages, a summer reading list, a 30 day drawing challenge, and more. I don’t have any delusions about what happens with this kit – it is by no means required of students – so I imagine some students bring it home and finish it in the first 3 weeks of summer, others bring it home with good intentions yet don’t spend much time on it, and others throw it away as soon as they get home from the last day of school. Whatever the case may be, my hope is that a few students and parents find it of value and use it to supplement their summer activities.

This past school year, not only did I give students a Summer Survival Kit, but I received one in return. On the last day of school, a student came to me privately and handed me a small package. “Miss Lotterman, here’s YOUR Summer Survival Kit!” Upon opening it, I found inside a sketchbook and a few drawing supplies. It made me smile to see that this student had taken the time to pick out something just for me! My students always know I like making art in art class; in fact, a lot of parents probably know that too. However, it isn’t very often that I get out some paper and pencils and sketch something. And if I compare this to my students, I imagine some might say they like math, but it isn’t very often that they get out those math worksheets I sent home and work on one. For others, it’s cursive, or coloring.

Summer really is the perfect time to work on these things, even if we don’t choose to very often. The truth is, this summer I rarely used the Summer Survival Kit that was given to me. Why is it that something else always sounds better? “I could draw, or I could go to the beach,” I’d say, opting for that nice summer tan. “I could draw, or I could play spikeball,” I’d think while throwing my hair into a ponytail and joining my cousins. “I could draw, or I could go get ice cream,” my stomach would tell me on a hot and humid evening. Pretty soon I’d forgotten all about my Summer Survival Kit.

Yet, I think most would say that summer isn’t really something we need to survive. It’s to be enjoyed. There may be a few busy moms who send their children off to the first day of school and disagree with me. “Phew, I survived!” they sigh as they look forward to getting back into the routine of school. But for me this summer, with an unusually small amount of swimming lessons to teach and no other summer job, “surviving” summer meant spending time doing

things I enjoyed. Not every summer for me is as relaxing as this one has been, with three camping trips and a fourth yet to come. On each trip I unintentionally forgot about that sketchbook and survived by filling my time with other things. In June, a campground not far from the beach where I discovered the joy of reading in a hammock. In July, a campground with a pool and lots of cousins to play with, where we watch the best fireworks show. In August, a campground on the canal with food so legendary that it has its own name: Camp Eat-A-Lott. Each of these trips were enjoyable for different reasons, and while I didn't ever completely forget about my work as teacher, I did have a nice break. As summer draws to an end and I take out that sketchbook and drawing supplies, preparing to teach art, I think that this student's gift would be better named "Art Teacher Survival Kit". Because I'm certain it will get good use this school year, it just wasn't something I pulled out much the past few months. Which makes me wonder, what really should have been in my Summer Survival Kit? Probably a good book and a camping chair. How about you?

SUMMER CLASS REFLECTIONS

Mr. Dan Hanko, 4th Grade

Although my two summer workshops proved worthwhile in providing more ideas to motivate my students to read and write, the most valuable information I gleaned was from the comments made and the stories told from other teachers. Their rambling complaints and discussion taught me to be extremely thankful for the school where I presently teach. I could only listen as their woes of instructing in the inner-city school spewed out of their mouths. The stark contrast between my teaching environment and classroom setting and theirs was obvious. It opened my eyes still wider to public school instruction and the blessing I have teaching at Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School.

One problem discussed was the order that needed to be established in the classroom at lunchtime. Few students had any concept of sitting around a table, listening and engaging in conversation for a brief time. The cause, they believed, was in the home where meal times had a "fend for yourself" policy. No one sat down for meals but grazed around the cupboards and refrigerator. Another complaint was the lack of support received from the parents. Communication was difficult and little interest was given to the child's learning. The many broken homes contributed to this difficulty. Lack of resources was a third dilemma. Several teachers had very cramped work spaces due to large class sizes or very small rooms. Time was spent talking about how to attach things to the wall to maximize floor space used for desks and tables. School libraries were non-existent and classroom libraries were small due to lack of space and money. Once again, the home offered little relief in this matter for public libraries were rarely visited. The last "bone of contention" was the pressure to meet state and district standards and the time used to fulfill these requirements. A language barrier with some foreign students added to this problem.

Listening to these discussions and stories of school difficulties, I could only sit back and lend a listening ear. When I contributed my "two cents worth" about my school atmosphere and parental involvement, they turned a deaf ear to me as sympathy was found from another colleague with a similar experience. The four days of my summer workshops prompted time to reflect upon my own experiences in our Protestant Reformed schools and the great support and

encouragement from parents in the years gone by. A new school year will begin in a few weeks. I look forward to another year of instructing God's covenant seed in a Christ centered atmosphere. Yes, sin will be present. Weaknesses will be seen. Yet I have confidence that we will grow in knowledge and wisdom. I ask for your prayers as the children and I use God's Word to understand our studies and our calling as humble servants.

A BETTER SUMMER

Mr. Brian Dykstra, 5th Grade

This summer my wife and I took a trip the easy way. We felt an easy camping trip would compensate for last year's misadventure! The highlight of the trip would be visiting my wife's brother and his family in Lynden, Washington. Rather than spending a week driving there and back and having only a week to camp, we decided it would be better for our nerves if we flew to Seattle and rented a little camper so we could have two weeks camping. We felt no need to drive through North Dakota and eastern Montana again!

We flew to Seattle on a Monday and picked up the rental camper. The "camper" was a modified Dodge Caravan. By folding and rearranging wood panels and support posts, the back of the van could be made into a bed or a small table. Opening the van's back hatch revealed a small sink, large cooler and a portable stove. It was quite ingenious! Our camping neighbors found our arrangements to be quite amusing.

We began our adventure at Mt. St. Helens. The landscape immediately surrounding the peak still gives evidence of the devastating 1980 eruption. Mt. Rainier National Park was the next stop. Ice and snow blanket the towering peak. The forests were healthy and wildflowers were in bloom. Our hikes there were amazing.

The final week was spent in the Mt. Baker Wilderness Area and North Cascades National Park. The most amazing hike was the Maple Pass loop trail in the area of Lake Ann and Rainy Lake in North Cascades. The weather was perfect for a long hike. At one point of the hike we crossed over a ridge and were greeted by another beautiful vista which caused us both to exclaim simultaneously, "Oh, wow!" Imagine, two weeks camping and hiking in Washington and there was no rain! It's a beautiful part of creation.

The middle of the trip was a weekend spent in the Lynden, Washington area with family. Many of us aren't very familiar with Lynden, and that's unfortunate. It's not a place where many of us have visited because we have passed through on our way to some other destination. Many have visited our congregations in the northwest Iowa area and Loveland, Colorado during family trips, but Lynden's location doesn't allow that.

We have an excellent church and school there. The church building is not the same one as I visited on my only other trip there many years ago. If I recall correctly, this church building is about twenty years old. Agriculture is the main feature of the economy right around Lynden. I understand our young people do very well doing seasonal work on the blueberry and raspberry farms. Construction is another opportunity for work and is also going very well there now. Bellingham, a city of about 50,000 people, is a thirty-minute drive from Lynden. There's a variety of businesses and work there.

I was told that although the cost of living is greater there, that's balanced out by the fact that wages are higher. Some of my former students have spread out across the country, and I

met three former students there. They enjoy living there. My wife and I had a great time there, and we encourage you to take a trip there some day. Who knows? Perhaps you'd even like to stay!

A NEW BEGINNING

Mr. Jason Boone, 6th Grade

Hello everyone! I am Jason Boone. Some of you may remember me as a little kid, some may remember me as a high schooler, or maybe some of you remember me as the junior high soccer coach a few years back, so let me catch you up with what has been going on over the past few years. I started going to GVSU in 2010 as a pre-dental major with dreams of becoming a dentist. I found out the hard way that sometimes my plans do not align with God's plans. After struggling through some lower level chemistry classes, I decided that I was not cut out for this program. I was lost in what to do. I knew I wanted to finish college but I did not really know what for. I am not sure how teaching came to mind, but I am glad it did because that led me to some of the most important things in my life. My father, who is also a teacher, told me that I better get some experience working with children if I really wanted to pursue teaching as a career. So, I packed my bags one summer and moved to the great state of Iowa to work as a camp counselor at Inspiration Hills in Inwood. I absolutely loved it. It put me in a leadership role that made me not only mature personally but also spiritually. I also met a wonderful young lady in Iowa, who I now call my wife, Brandi.

I moved back home to Michigan, reinvigorated to finish my college as an education major. I completed my student assisting at Parkview Elementary in Wyoming, MI. It was a good experience working in a public school, but I knew that I wanted to work in a Protestant Reformed school to help educate and nourish children in a reformed manner. I was selected to do my student teaching at Griffin Elementary in Grand Haven. I thought I had my life all planned out at this point, with finishing college, working in Grand Haven, graduating and then ideally getting a job in Michigan. One of these days, I will learn that my plans do not always go the way I think they do. It was around this time that Ryan Van Overloop, the administrator at PRCS in Dyer, contacted me and was wondering if I would be able to do my student teaching in Indiana and continue straight through the year as a teacher. I figured there was no way that GVSU would let me work in a Christian school in another state, because they have a very strict policy about placements. God works in mysterious ways and made it possible for me to become the first student in GVSU's 50 years of college of education to choose my placement in a Christian, out-of-state school. My dream of working in a Protestant Reformed school had finally become true.

I got married in July of 2015, and moved with my wife to a basement of an older couple as our first home together. I started working as a student teacher under Mike Feenstra and gained a lot of knowledge on how to educate students with a reformed worldview. I continued to work there for three years. I have nothing but great things to say for the school, churches and the people of Indiana/Illinois and I will certainly miss them.

So here I am, back in my home state, ready to pick up the ropes here at Hope. I am excited to meet many of you, and more excited to work with the students every day. I hope that

I can continue learning new things at a new school and bring a few new things to the school. I crave your support and your prayers and please, come and say hello to my wife and me.

COMING OFF THE MOUNTAIN

Mr. Ed Bos, 7th Grade

Quite a few years ago, I wrote an article for the summer *Highlights* about a hike I took up Long's Peak in Colorado. I made the comparison to being on a spiritual mountain but not being able to stay there. Well, a week ago I was on that spiritual mountain. And it is certainly more difficult to come back to daily life from that, than from the joys of being on the physical mountain. I am speaking of being at the British Reformed Fellowship Conference in Wales, and of the blessed fellowship we had there.

This conference was the culmination of an extended trip through Iceland and northern Norway with Phil Harbach, my niece Hannah from Colorado, and her friend Christina Wierenga from Lacombe. It was a marvelous trip through the wonders of God's creation. Iceland was "other-worldly" with its strange landscape, lava flows, geysers, volcano cones, fjords, and beautiful mountains. Every day brought new wonders and surprises. Norway had its own wonders, the most amazing of which was seeing not only the "midnight sun" (quite literally) but also the sun never setting at all. The Lofoten Islands, which is where we saw this, are a wonder all in themselves with their majestic mountains rising straight out of the sea. Driving along the fjords brings new visions of the glories of God's creation at every turn. To choose between Iceland and Norway as a favorite is really quite impossible.

The weather we had was interesting. Western Iceland was cloudy and rainy the whole time we were in Iceland; in fact they had had that weather pattern for about three months, which they said was unusual even for that side of the island. Happily, we spent a good deal of time on the east side, which typically has much better weather, and did while we were there. The warmest weather we had was on the Lofoten Islands, about 100 miles north of the Arctic Circle; there the temperature got up to 90 degrees. We had a car with an air conditioner, but it did not work. The most interesting weather was in Wales, but not because of the temperatures – because of the people's reactions. It was around 75-80 degrees; the people of Wales thought this was very hot (for them it was; the golf courses were scorched brown because they normally do not have to water); for us Americans, it was very comfortable; as for the Singaporeans, they were putting on sweatshirts.

If you should decide to go to either one of these places, I must warn you first of all that it is expensive to travel in Scandinavia. For example, the cheapest breakfast there was the equivalent of \$22; now, while their breakfasts have huge layouts (eggs, bacon, sausage, beans, cheeses, cold cuts, fish, breads, cereals, etc.), that's still expensive, seeing one can eat only so much. And the B&Bs are really only "Bs" – no breakfast. We also spent over \$420 for 10 days' worth of gasoline for our rental car. So here are some tips we learned, some by happy accident. Go in a group; not only does this cut each person's cost of rental and gasoline, but when you get a place to stay (we used Airbnb and book everything ahead of time), you get a small house with its own kitchen and often its own laundry room (laundry is super-expensive if you have to go out for it also). Then go out to a local grocery store and buy groceries for how long you will be in that place, and cook your own meals. By the time we finished the trip, we were spending

an average of only \$4-7 per person per meal by wise shopping. And we ate well! – grilled meat (when we had a grill), chicken alfredo made from scratch, etc. In the second place, both places are a spiritual wasteland. Scandinavia is nominally Lutheran, but very few (about 1% according to some statistics) go to church, and those who go don't get fed really.

As I said before, to choose just one of the countries we visited as a favorite would be impossible; but to choose the highlight of the trip is very easy. By far, the experience of Conference was so fantastic, it is hard not to use the word "awesome", as misused as that word is today. I wish all of you could experience that fellowship and communion of the saints from all over the world. There were people there from the UK, Ireland, and the US (5 different states) of course, but also from Canada, Hungary, Germany, Brazil, Sardinia, Singapore, and Australia. Yet there is an immediate oneness in the faith we share. It was sheer joy to not only get back together with family and friends (friends who have become family) from past conferences, but also to make new acquaintances and friends.

The Conference topic was "The Reformed Family According to the Word of God", and there was a real family atmosphere there – that of the one spiritual family of God. And while hearing again the doctrine of the family so clearly expounded was nothing new to us from North America, having it all put together in that way was very instructive. The speeches along with the daily activities and discussions brought a value that is difficult to describe. It gave a whole new and amazing view to what the family is. These BRF Conferences have always been an incredibly high point spiritually for me. (The subject of the next BRF Conference "Union With Christ" and the conference will be held in Castlewellen – yes, a real castle – in Northern Ireland in mid-July 2020, the Lord willing; start saving up now! 😊)

What made this conference especially nice is what became known as the "post-Conference conference" at the Harris's house in Wales the weekend after. The Harris family have become good friends of mine and Phil's over the years. We made a lot of the arrangements for them when they came to the States three years ago, and now they put us up as they did also in 1998). But it wasn't just us; they invited a total of 15 people to their house for the weekend after the BRF Conference. This was one of the most enjoyable weekends I can remember. Once again the fellowship was wonderful, and we all had a great time together. It was a great way to end the Conference.

Now it's time to start gearing up for school again. I have to come back to reality, but hopefully I can take some of the goodness of those highly spiritual days with me as I go along into the school year. We too have a family life within the school itself. This is truly a gift of God – a shared faith that God gives us so that we may enjoy covenant family fellowship with one another as we again continue the task of bring up the next generation in the fear of the Lord.

THE STUDY OF GOD'S HANDIWORK

Mr. Nate DeVries, 8th Grade

One of my favorite topics in 7th grade life science is human formation and development. Although special each time we study this topic, this year had exceptional meaning because my wife and I were experiencing the development of our sixth child—a boy, Kort Nathaniel, who was born June 30. We followed milestones (embryonically speaking) of our baby, and often marveled at what we knew to be the actual size of the baby at the end of each developmental week. Even though God's handiwork is clearly displayed in every area of science and in each part of creation, nothing shows the work of the Creator more than the creation of a child—an amazing gift of life that develops so intricately that scientists and doctors cannot begin to fully explain the process of infant development. Much could be said about this development; however, this short article covers the subject material of the 7th grade science unit.

A child begins as one cell, yet that one cell contains every bit of genetic code needed for the growth and development from one cell to an adult human. This one cell, contrary to what modern science teaches, is human life. The cell remains one for a very short time and soon becomes two identical cells called blastomeres. Cell division continues until a structure called a blastocyst forms. This occurs at about day seven in the life of the baby and is the point at which it attaches to mother and begins to receive life-giving support from mom—up to now it has fed on the yolk sac. Baby is now approximately 1/10th of a millimeter long. At this point the identical cells begin to differentiate—they now become new cells which develop into all the different types of cells found in a human. By the end of the third week, the baby is now developing blood, kidney, nerve, brain, spinal cord, and heart cells and measures 0.4 millimeters (0.015 inches); during the next week heart chambers rapidly develop and can be seen pumping. At this point in development, the infant is growing so rapidly that if it continued at that rate for all nine months, it would weigh 3,000 pounds at birth. By the end of week seven, the developing infant can clearly be identified as a human even though it measures just over half an inch. By day 58, over 4,000 of the 4,500 structures found in an adult human can be found in the child, and it now measures a whopping 1.25 inches long.

The second trimester of the baby's life is one of continued growth and structure development. The existing structures continue to grow, although growth begins to slow now, and new ones such as the tongue, eyelids, and toenails develop. By the end of this period, the baby now measures around 10 inches long and is normally active—crucially important for its progress. The head and face of baby are now what they will be at birth. Human infants are considered fully developed by week 37 with lungs that can function properly on their own, and most are born by the end of week 40. By the time babies are born, they are composed of trillions of cells, each cell uniquely formed by the hand of God, and the cells have differentiated into all the tissues that form a human body. Amazingly, an infant at birth has about 60,000 miles (about 2.5 times the circumference of Earth) of vessels that carry nutrients, gases, and waste throughout the body. The infant's lungs contain approximately 150 million alveoli, the tiny air sacs that allow for carbon dioxide and oxygen exchange (normal adults have about 500 million). Also of interest, the surface area of newborn lungs is the size of a Ping-Pong table (fully developed adult lungs have the surface area of one-half a regulation tennis court). This process of human infant development is so intricate that the only explanation can be God—even some secular scientists must attribute the process to "divinity". How the code contained in

DNA can tell each cell when to form, how to form, and what type of cell to become cannot be explained apart from the belief in God. Sadly, the world gives credit for this marvelous process to chance-random chance that could have happened completely differently so that no human ever developed. Even more horrible is the lack of care for the unborn infants formed by God. Statistics reveal that about 900,000 abortions took place in the U.S. in 2016 while approximately 56 million occur worldwide each year. Over one-third of pregnancies in New York end in abortion, and 61% of all African American pregnancies also end in the murder of unborn children. It's important to me to discuss this evil process during the human development section of life science. It is reassuring to me that 7th grade students are always shocked by this ghastly process called abortion, and all immediately recognize it as murder and an appalling effect of the evil found in depraved human nature. We as Christians must guard against becoming desensitized to the murder of unborn children and cherish the gift of God that children are. Studying the process of infant development hopefully helps us recognize that life begins long before a child is born and is an amazing and wonderful process. Surely each child can say with the Psalmist, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

SUMMER READING

Mrs. Deb Kuiper, Discovery Room

I recently went camping with a group of friends from church with whom I have camped for over twenty years. Whereas I used to camp with five small children, this year I found myself down to camping with one pretty self-sufficient teenager. Now while other moms were busy taking their children to the pool or grandmas were entertaining their visiting grandchildren, I was free to pull my lawn chair into a shady spot and read a book. I am a person who likes to read books several times. We also have books we have read as a family over the years.

Some of you are probably aware of the Summer Reading program the Discovery Room operates in the summer to keep children reading. It is important to keep students reading, but it's also good for adults to take time to read. If you can read together as a family, that's even better.

I decided to recommend a few of my favorite books for you to read as a family. Depending on when the *Highlights* gets sent out, you might have time to enjoy one of these before school starts. Otherwise, set the list aside for when the weather gets colder and night comes earlier and you can spend some time reading together.

True Grit by Charles Portis. This is one of the books I reread while camping. My husband had read this one to our family a few years ago, and it has enough action to keep everyone's interest. In this story 14 year old Mattie Ross sets out to find her father's killer and bring him to justice. To do this she needs the help of a United States Marshall, and she looks for one with true grit who will see the job through to the end. There are a few rather gruesome parts in this book, so if you are reading to a family, you might want to read ahead and edit as you go.

Old Yeller by Fred Gipson. This tear-jerker is a great family read. It tells the story of 14 year old Travis who is left as the man of the family while his father goes on a cattle drive. What Travis really wants is a horse, but what he gets instead is an ugly yellow thieving dog. The part

that Old Yeller plays in the family's life and the maturity that Travis shows lead his father to see that he really has acted like a man while he was gone.

The Railway Children by E. Nesbit. This is a family favorite. My kids and I find ourselves quoting little parts of it and laughing together. This is the story of Roberta, Peter and Phyllis and their mother who suddenly find themselves poor when their father is taken away. The story follows the different adventures the children have when they move to a new location and try to stay out of their mother's way while she writes stories to sell. I like this book because it shows the family working together to overcome adversity.

Hans Brinker or The Silver Skates by Mary Mapes Dodge. This book is a classic. It tells the story of a poor family in the Netherlands in the mid-1800s. The father has had an accident years ago while working on the dykes and is unable to support his family. He is in fact much like a small child for whom the family must care. The way the family works together to make a living is a good example of sacrificial family love. Because many of us can trace our roots to the Netherlands, I find it interesting to read about life there long ago. One thing that stands out to me is the difference in the treatment of people based on their wealth to which I believe some of the older members in our circles would attest based on their ancestors' stories. This is a very descriptive and somewhat wordy story. If you want to read it to your family, you might want to look for an abridged version.

Indian Captive by Lois Lenski. This is a story I first read when I was young. It is based on the life of Molly (Mary) Jemison, an Irish immigrant who was taken captive by the Shawnee Indian tribe. While the rest of her family were killed, Molly was adopted by the Seneca Indians. Later when the opportunity came to go back to live with white folk, Molly had to decide whether to go or to stay with her Indian family. This book was such a favorite of mine that once while we were on a family vacation, I asked my husband to drive fifty miles out of the way to see a statue of Mary Jemison.

The Endless Steppe by Esther Hautzig. This is probably the book that had the biggest influence on me while I was growing up. It is the true story of a Polish girl and her family who are deported from their homeland during World War II and taken to live out on the steppes of Siberia. The hardships they faced still make me appreciate the comforts we have in our homes, and the history that it tells is an important one.

Lassie Come Home by Eric Knight. This is the story of Joe, a young boy in Yorkshire, England and his dog, Lassie. The family is poor and the father deems it best to sell the dog. Lassie's new owner takes him to Scotland. The trials that Lassie goes through to return to his family have you rooting for both Lassie and Joe.

School Cancellations

When school cancellations due to weather or other emergencies are necessary, all families will be informed via a mass email. Bus calls will be made only when special circumstances demand it, but not for general school cancellations.

Cancellations can also be viewed on woodtv.com or wzzm13.com. You can also sign up for email and/or text alerts for closings. Go to woodtv.com and click on "more" to customize these alerts.

1ST GRADE CLASS LISTS

Mrs. Julie Schwarz – 1A

Levi Bleyenber
Bri Feenstra
Cole Feenstra
Wyatt Jordan
Triston Koole
Gideon Kuiper
Reuben Kuiper
Walter Langerak
Charlotte Meulenberg
Sadie Meulenberg
Nolan Moelker
Cora Overway
Anthony Quenga
Baylah TenBrock
Seth VanOostenbrugge
Hazel VanUffelen

Mrs. Sue Grasman – 1B

Zach Bylsma
Emmitt Cleveland
Elizabeth DeBoer
Caleb DeJong
Cole Doezema
Emko Doezema
Jamon Hanko
Harper Kalsbeek
Libby Kleyn
Luke Kleyn
Sam Kleyn
Gabby Langerak
Reuben Langerak
Sophia Langerak
Alex Oosterhouse
Trevor Rutgers
Alexa Schipper

POLICY REMINDER:

Athletic Eligibility Policy

Those students who fail one or more subjects in a six week period are ineligible to participate in interscholastic sports for a period of two weeks. After this period, their grades will be recalculated to determine their eligibility. Also, those students who have multiple D's will be subject to junior high staff evaluation to determine their eligibility.

Participation Policy

Participation in extracurricular athletic or robotics practices and games is restricted to students who have been in school for the entire day. Participation will be allowed for those students who are legitimately excused from class due to necessary appointments or other family emergencies.

Pick Ups and Drop Offs

SLOW! SLOW! SLOW!
Drivers please exercise extreme caution when picking up or dropping off students. Use either the SE parking lot (NOT the front of school area) or the church lot (SW). Please enter through Hope Church lot and exit out to Riverbend so that all traffic flows the same way. Also leave a lane open on the north side of the parking lots for area walkers and bikers to arrive and depart safely. (Cones will be placed out periodically to help.) Thanks for your cooperation!

NEWS FOR YOU. . .

1. **Parents of Kindergarten students, 7th grade students and new students:** Immunizations are required for all students entering 7th grade, kindergarten, and any transfer students. If your child's shots are not up to date, please have them completed by Monday, August 27.
2. The "School Supply Store" has many school supplies for sale including flash drives and calculators at low prices throughout the year. The "store" (located in the office) is open before school begins in the morning and during first recess.
3. If you would like to receive the **Monday Memo** via email, please send your request to hopeschool@hopeprcschool.org or call 453-9717. If you received the memo last year, you are already on the list and do not have to email or call.
4. Please try to avoid making appointments on this date:
SCHOOL PICTURES! - Wednesday, September 19

2018-19 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 27	First Day of School
Aug. 31- Sept. 3	Labor Day Break
September 19	School Pictures
October 11-12	Parent/Teacher Conferences
October 18-19	Teachers' Convention
November 16	All-School Program
November 22-23	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 24-Jan. 2	Christmas Break
April 1-5	Spring Vacation
May 10	Elementary Music Program
May 27	Memorial Day – No School
May 31	Last Day of School
June 1	Hope Classic Races
June 3	Graduation

**CUPCAKE & SNACK SALE
CARD!**

\$9.00/per year/per student

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



MAGAZINE SALE KICK-OFF

Thursday, August 30

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

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.