



# HIGHLIGHTS

*Spring Issue*

~

*March 2019*

Reminiscent melodies  
serenade the morning breeze.

Feathered creatures nest with care  
in cherry blossoms pink and fair.

Perfumed scent of roses flow.  
Tiny blades of green grass grow.

Misty showers soak the earth,  
glorious colors come to birth.

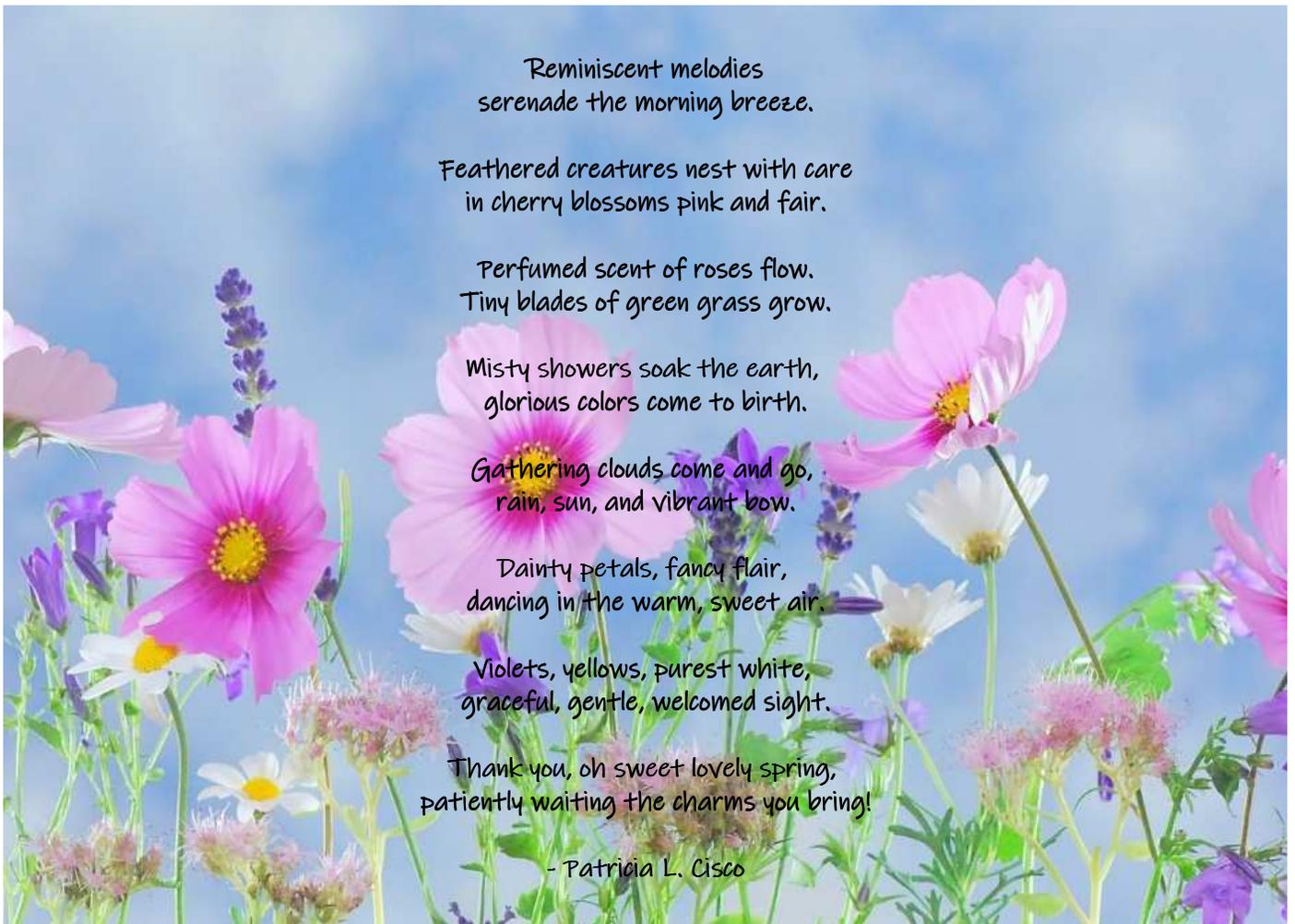
Gathering clouds come and go,  
rain, sun, and vibrant bow.

Dainty petals, fancy flair,  
dancing in the warm, sweet air.

Violets, yellows, purest white,  
graceful, gentle, welcomed sight.

Thank you, oh sweet lovely spring,  
patiently waiting the charms you bring!

- Patricia L. Cisco



**BE YE KIND**

Mr. Ron Koole, Principal

I can't tell you how many times I was told by my parents, as I was growing up, "Be ye kind one to another". These verbal instructions were given, often with much deserved physical punishment, when my siblings and I were either fighting or arguing. If you grew up in a household with a number of brothers and sisters, I'm sure you can relate to similar experiences. And now that we have our own children, hopefully these same biblical instructions accompany the discipline of our children when they display words and actions of hatred toward their brothers and sisters in the home. The instruction of Ephesians 4:32, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" must be taught to our children from their youngest years and, when violated, accompanied with loving correction (which often means the rod – Proverbs 22:15) for the sake of our children's souls.

As parents, we know our children and their natures better than anyone else. Yes, they are all sinners and all carry that old man of sin with them, but some of our children display more aggressive, selfish natures than others. And some manifest a sharper tongue than their siblings. These children especially must be taught through loving discipline that they must mortify those expressions of that old man of sin and learn to be kind.

And then, when our children reach the age of 5 or 6, we send them off to school to join many other children who carry with them a sinful nature too. As parents, we give the teachers our authority to continue to demand of our children that they be kind to their schoolmates. But our children, like us, don't come close to reaching perfection in this life, and there are times when certain students can become the "object" of unkind words and deeds. This is distressing for parents and teachers alike. Sins of this nature may not be overlooked or passed by lightly.

At our fall PTA, Mr. Dewey Engelsma presented a fresh look at this persistent problem. He emphasized that we must teach our children that the Lord, who calls each of us to love our neighbor, hates sins of unkind speech and deeds. God calls each of us to defend the poor and fatherless and to do justice to the afflicted and needy (Psalm 82:3) and to teach our children to do the same. The speech encouraged us to teach our children the importance of the bystander taking action and defending his neighbor (fellow student) who is being sinned against. Often this action of defense will be enough to stop the sinner from continuing in his sin and will free the bystander from a guilty conscience that can result if no help is given.

Because of the destructive nature of these sins, we as parents and teachers must be vigilant to prevent, if possible, these sins from occurring and also investigate any "signals" that even hint that they may be occurring. To accomplish this, a policy entitled, "Teachers Working Together" was formulated and enacted a little over a year ago (January, 2018) by the Hope teaching staff. Here is that policy:

*TEACHERS WORKING TOGETHER*

*I. Goal*

- 1. Teachers working together to ensure, to the best of their ability, the Christian conduct and kind dealings of the students with their schoolmates. (1 Peter 1:15, Ephesians 4:32)*

2. *Raise the awareness of fellow teachers of students who are:*
  - a) *Being left out*
  - b) *Being the target of other student's misbehavior*
  - c) *Treating other students in a sinful manner either verbally or physically*
3. *Seek to increase the inclusion of all students in the activities of their schoolmates so no one is left out.*
4. *To spare some students the grief of being sinned against.*
5. *To correct the sinful behavior of some students.*

## *II. Action Taken*

1. *Teachers will divide into three groups: K-2, 3-6, 7-8.*
2. *Teachers in these groups will meet together to identify and make a list of students from those grades who should be watched for:*
  - a) *Being left out*
  - b) *Being the target of other student's misbehavior*
  - c) *Treating other students in a sinful manner either verbally or physically*
3. *Each group of teachers is to meet at least once every month to review their list of students, adjust the list, and talk about necessary action to ensure the full inclusion and Christian behavior of all the students.*
4. *Teachers who witness and/or deal with students not in their grade group (in hallways or at recess) must report these incidents to the classroom teacher so the matter can be recorded.*
5. *Incidents of misbehavior will continue to be disciplined as before (see Teachers' Handbook under 'Discipline') but must also be reported to the classroom teachers, and the information recorded.*

*All serious and repeated offenses are to be referred to the principal. (Teachers' Handbook under 'Discipline')*

Has this solved all the problems and prevented all unkind behavior? Sad to say it has not. But it has raised awareness of our calling as a staff to be vigilant and to be constantly reminding our students of their calling to be kind. As I visit classes, I hear both teachers and students making this a matter of continued prayer. This is encouraging and it bears positive fruit. I can testify that I see and hear far more deeds and words of kindness displayed by students daily than of unkindness. We must truly be thankful that although we and our children have an old man of sin, we also have the new life of Christ within us. The power of sin has been broken and the work of the Spirit bears precious fruit both of repentance and acts of kindness.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

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

The School Board is very happy to announce that all teachers have signed contracts to teach for the 2019-2020 school year. We are most thankful to Jehovah God for this provision in His care to us, parents and grandparents, in teaching His covenant children. Psalm 127:3 *Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.* And Psalm 61:5 *For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.* The Heritage of God. What an inheritance! May God give to us, earthen vessels on their pilgrims' journey, this earnest seeking, that we lay up treasures in heaven and avoid temptation to lay them up upon this earth. The Board would like to thank our teachers for their dedication in teaching our children. What a blessed occupation they have, teaching members of God's church, showing them the way of Life, and all things earthly in the light of Jesus Christ. When you see them, make sure that you thank them for teaching our children and putting up with us parents.

PTA was held on February 28, after having been canceled due to snow on February 7. As you know, PTA stands for Parent Teacher Association and in the Handbook for Parents and Students this is what is stated on page 11- "All parents of students in school are members of this organization and are urged to attend. The meetings are an open-house type with a speech or panel about some aspect of education followed by refreshment and an opportunity to visit the classrooms." At this February 28 meeting, the teachers and a small representation of parents were treated to a presentation on Hope School's reading curriculum and supplemental reading programs given by Gayle Lotterman, Deb Hoeksema and Deb Kuiper. This presentation was very informative and impressed upon the audience the importance of starting our children reading at a young age. For me as a young grandpa, I know how young children love to be read to. I know that this early exposure to reading is key for their continued love of reading. Reading is a key part of the Christian life in that it opens up our minds to absorb more information concerning the truths we love. The more one reads, the better one is able to read. Starting at a young age is crucial to the life of reading well and fluently.

I stated "small representation of parents were treated to a presentation". There were many open seats at this meeting. As a member of the School Board and chairman of the Education Committee, I must tell you that I was discouraged to see this. Imagine if the meeting had to be delayed in order to seat more parents! What an encouragement that would be to our teachers! I know we have dedicated parents who had legitimate reasons for not attending. I also know that we have dedicated parents who could have been there but were not. Let me say that I am not innocent in this regard. When I was a young parent, I had to be told that I have a responsibility to join Hope's society. I would be embarrassed to tell you why I had to be prompted. So, as long as I am on this point, if you men have a child enrolled at Hope School and are not a member of Hope's society, ask yourself, why? I am compelled to say this because unbelievable to some, I have matured not only physically but spiritually, and see this school as foreground of the church militant. You are needed here at PTA meetings and at our annual society meeting. We have a responsibility to be involved with those who stand in our place,

teaching our children. Be encouraged, dear brothers and sisters, in Deuteronomy 6:1-9 we read, *Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*

“Essential is the unity of home and school, of parent and teacher, as regards the child and his rearing. The home and school must be one in mind, one in will, and above all, one in heart as to who the child is, what the required instruction and discipline are, and who God is.”  
- *Reformed Education* pg. 78. Let us stand shoulder to shoulder in this calling.

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Jason Engelsma, Chairman

Tim Bomers, Dave Rutgers

The Transportation Committee is pleased to report that the operations of busing are running smoothly. We would like to thank all of our full and part-time drivers who do an outstanding job in being alert and safe while driving our children to and from school. In light of the recent bad weather we've had when school has not been cancelled, we are thankful for the safety of our drivers and children.

We have had overall very good reports of behavior on the buses. Thank you parents for conveying to your children the need for proper conduct while riding the bus. While obeying and submitting to the rules of bus riding and to the driver is of utmost importance, it is also for the safety of everyone on the bus and on the roads. So thank you again and continue to display good Christian conduct while on the bus!

We were recently informed by Lynn VanOverloop that she will not be renewing her license so she will be retiring from driving for Hope School. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Lynn for her many years in helping Hope School with driving bus. We will now need to fill this vacancy. If you or anybody you know would like more information regarding this opportunity, please contact Dan Kalsbeek at [dankalsbeek@att.net](mailto:dankalsbeek@att.net).

We ask our Heavenly Father for his continual care for the students and drivers and to continue to bless Hope School in the years to come.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

The Finance Committee continues to meet every month, counting and recording all of the income that came in over the past month. This issue of the *Highlights* contains a summary of this information in our most recent Financial Statement. This end of February Income Statement is the 8<sup>th</sup> report out of 12, therefore our goal would be to see that expenses and revenue are about 67% of the annual budget. The bottom line shows our income at 69% of budget, and our expenses at 67% of budget.

We will be starting the spring deficit drive shortly. The drive amount collected through February is \$171,795.00, which is 55% of this budgeted amount, over half of our yearly goal. We were quite a bit behind on our fall drive in late November, however, we received an overwhelming response in December to more than exceed the half way point for the year. Thank you for your financial support. It is much needed and appreciated. Over 25% of the school's income comes from the deficit drives and it is important to collect this money in order to maintain a balanced budget.

In our drive letter, we typically suggest a giving amount based on the numbers of supporters we expect to give to the drive. For the last number of years, we use the approximation of 200 supporters for this calculation. Last month the finance committee reviewed how accurate that information was. Interestingly, in 2018 we sent receipts to exactly 200 unique supporters. A supporter would include any family, individual or business that contributed \$250 or more to the school in 2018. Therefore, despite sending out letters and requests to many more than 200 potential supporters, we again found that 200 is a very accurate number. Many are able to give more, others less, but we hope this helps you understand where the suggested amount is coming from. Again thank you to ALL our supporters.

We would like to remind tuition-paying families that their last tuition payment should be made in May. All tuition should be paid by June 1. We have emailed tuition statements every month, shortly after our Finance Committee meeting. Please review your statement closely to make sure that you are on track to have your last tuition payment in the office before the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

We are very thankful that the financial means to operate Hope School continues. It is of God's grace that our needs are met, as He upholds and governs all things. To God be the glory.

## HOPE PROTESTANT REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## INCOME STATEMENT

67%

February-19

	YEAR TO DATE	PERCENT TO BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>			
CHURCH COLLECTIONS	25,931.46	0.59	44,000.00
GIFTS & PLEDGES	171,795.00	0.55	310,000.00
HOPE FOUNDATION	20,000.00	0.50	40,000.00
GYM RENTAL	3,092.00	0.52	6,000.00
SPECIAL ED SOCIETY	3,825.16	0.50	7,650.00
TUITION	568,536.23	0.77	738,650.00
BUS FEES	20,617.01	0.79	26,100.00
MISCELLANEOUS	3.59	-	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>813,800.45</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>1,172,400.00</b>

<b>GENERAL EXPENSES</b>			
ACCOUNTING FEES	3,166.59	0.55	5,800.00
BAND EXPENSE	3,000.00	1.00	3,000.00
BUILDING AND GROUNDS FUND	26,666.64	0.67	40,000.00
CLASS TRIP FUND	1,500.00	1.00	1,500.00
EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES AND BOOKS	27,000.00	1.08	25,000.00
ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES	-	-	500.00
FEDERATION DUES	2,487.91	1.78	1,400.00
INSURANCE, GENERAL	7,089.75	0.73	9,650.00
INSURANCE, GROUP	84,761.64	0.79	107,300.00
INSURANCE, HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT	2,666.64	0.67	4,000.00
INSURANCE, WORKERS COMP	1,681.10	0.75	2,250.00
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	2,764.70	0.69	4,000.00
LIBRARY FUND	1,500.00	1.00	1,500.00
LONG RANGE BUILDING FUND	43,333.36	0.67	65,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS	1,293.08	0.65	2,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	242.75	0.24	1,000.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	-	-	1,000.00
PAYROLL, BAND	5,400.12	0.67	8,100.00
PAYROLL, BUILDING MAINTENANCE	337.50	0.17	2,000.00
PAYROLL, CHOIR	3,666.60	0.67	5,500.00
PAYROLL, DISCOVERY	26,010.77	0.56	46,060.00
PAYROLL, JANITOR	19,667.20	0.67	29,500.00
PAYROLL, LAWN MAINTENANCE	1,853.49	0.53	3,500.00
PAYROLL, LIBRARIAN	2,322.91	0.58	4,000.00
PAYROLL, OFFICE	18,195.00	0.66	27,750.00
PAYROLL, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER	455.00	0.23	2,000.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER	351,749.16	0.66	535,350.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER AIDE	2,929.50	0.46	6,320.00
PAYROLL, TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE	-	-	3,000.00
PAYROLL TAXES	31,834.97	0.62	51,500.00
RETIREMENT PLAN	8,715.80	0.51	17,000.00
PHYS ED UNIFORMS	541.50	0.68	800.00
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	1,195.31	0.13	9,000.00
SNOW REMOVAL	712.50	0.24	3,000.00
TEACHER DEVELOPMENT	4,000.00	1.00	4,000.00
TEACHER CLASSROOM FUND	1,000.00	1.00	1,000.00
TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	8,000.00	1.00	8,000.00
UTILITIES, ELECTRIC	14,787.90	0.78	19,000.00
UTILITIES, GAS	6,362.49	0.49	13,000.00
UTILITIES, TELEPHONE	1,539.21	0.48	3,240.00
UTILITIES, TRASH	1,091.68	0.64	1,700.00
UTILITIES, WATER & SEWER	846.78	0.65	1,300.00
<b>TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>722,369.55</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>1,080,520.00</b>

<b>BUS EXPENSES</b>			
BUS DEPRECIATION FUND	17,333.36	0.67	26,000.00
BUS DRIVER COST SUBSIDY	64.00	0.06	1,000.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL	19,860.50	0.64	31,000.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL TAXES	1,131.63	0.49	2,330.00
BUS DRIVER WORKER'S COMP	747.15	0.75	1,000.00
BUS INSURANCE	2,530.59	0.77	3,300.00
BUS REPAIR	5,953.11	0.54	11,000.00
GAS AND OIL	9,827.89	0.66	15,000.00
TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR	1,250.00	1.00	1,250.00
<b>TOTAL BUS EXPENSES:</b>	<b>58,698.23</b>	<b>0.64</b>	<b>91,880.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>781,067.78</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>1,172,400.00</b>
<b>GAIN OR (LOSS):</b>	<b>32,732.67</b>		



## STAFF & STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS



### FROM THE FIRST GRADE – PART ONE

Mrs. Susann Grasman, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

I have always looked up to my sister Julie, as a sister, friend, and teacher. I remember as a teenager being so happy for her when she signed a contract to teach 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Heritage Christian School and I spent many hours each summer helping her to set up her classroom. I loved listening to her school stories, while dreaming of having my own classroom one day, and would sit at her desk and imagine that it was my own.

Those dreams became a reality for me when I began teaching at Hope School, and this time it was Julie who was helping me to organize and prepare my classroom every time August rolled around. Her help was invaluable, and I still can't thank her enough for the hours she spent helping, creating and advising while we tackled preparations for each new school year. We made a good team, but the best was yet to come. It started a few years ago, when Hope School needed an elementary teacher aide. Julie was hired for the position and soon we were working together again and enjoying it! And then, Hope School needed a teacher for another section of 1<sup>st</sup> grade. After quite some time of teaching "solo", I would once again be team teaching – this time with Julie. We began the year with excitement and a strong desire to keep our two classes of 1<sup>st</sup> graders together and connected as much as possible. After all, although we had two sections, we had one class and we felt that it would be beneficial to help the students stay close to another. In doing this, we have been working closely together and have been enjoying helping each other to learn and grow as we plan for each new school day and experience the joys and struggles that each one brings as we teach the little ones in His service.

### FROM THE FIRST GRADE – PART TWO

Mrs. Julie Schwarz, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

This year another teacher was needed at Hope School because it was necessary to split the rather large first grade. I was a little apprehensive about teaching full time but also excited to teach again and to teach so closely with my sister, Sue. I was right to be apprehensive about teaching full time-it was quite an adjustment. Life outside of teaching does not exist much. I do not have time for a lot of the things I usually enjoy. Having coffee with friends is a distant memory. Shopping for anything other than groceries requires careful planning. Although life is different and quite a bit busier, the year has been full of blessings also.

Teaching with Sue is special. I remember when Sue became a teacher, following in "my" footsteps. For a time I was the experienced one and she would ask for my advice. How things have changed! Now, Sue is by far the more experienced one, and she patiently listens to all my questions and helps me in so many ways. Not only does she help keep me sane when things get crazy, but she helps with some of the workload. Sue makes sure all the worksheets are copied, she writes up the Monday note for both classrooms, she organized our chapel, and she even taught Bible for a few days when I didn't have a voice.

We like working together and thought it would be nice to keep the classrooms together as much as possible. We find that it works well to sing together each morning. We take turns

using each other's rooms to sing in and the first graders do a great job of quietly carrying their chairs down the hall and finding a partner to sit by. We try to do gym class together at least once a month so the classes can mix with each other. We have also done a couple of art classes together. It works well and the kids seem to enjoy working together.

I was also right to be excited about teaching. Teaching has many rewards. To start the day singing God's praises with 32 first graders is beautiful. It is a wonderful feeling when you see their interest in hearing the Bible story. It is amazing to see them begin to read and then become confident and fluent readers. The year has had its ups and downs, but I am thankful I had this special opportunity to teach here at Hope School.



Grandparents' Day was quickly approaching, and the 1<sup>st</sup> graders could not have been more excited! In preparation for the big event, the 1<sup>st</sup> graders wrote letters to their grandparents. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as the students enjoyed writing them!

Dear Grandma,  
I love you because you fixed my coat. I like to play with Jack. We went to the library.  
Love, Gideon Kuiper

Dear Grandma,  
I wish you could go to Jamaica with me. I want to go to your house another time. I like your Wii.  
Love, Cole Feenstra

Dear Grandma,  
I can't wait until we go to Australia. I love your cat, Pepper. I love you because you love God.  
Love, Wyatt Jordan

Dear Grandma,  
I like to eat at the café at Sunset Manor. And I like to swim in the pool. And also I can't wait to go back to Sunset again.  
Love, Nolan Moelker

Dear Grandma,  
I love you because you are nice and you are godly. I love you because you babysit me.  
Love, Levi Bleyenber

Dear Grandma,  
I hope you are okay. I love you because you are a good grandma. I like your toy room.  
Love, Bri Feenstra

Dear Grandma,  
I love you because you love God. I like you because you let us play on the tablet.  
Love, Triston Koole

Dear Grandma,  
I love you because you take me to the dollar store on my birthday. I like you because you let me watch a bunch of TV. I love you because you love me.  
Love, Charlotte Meulenberg

Dear Grandma,  
I like to swim in your pool. I like to go to Florida. I'm going to be playing soccer.  
Love, Sadie Meulenberg

Dear Grandma,  
I love your dog, Jack. I am thankful that you bought those Polly Pockets. I've been playing with my friends at recess and having fun.  
Love, Hazel Van Uffelen

Dear Grandma,  
I love you! Thank you for the birthday card and the money. Do you want winter to be gone and spring to be here?  
Love, Cora Overway

Dear Grandma,  
I like your pool and your dog. I like to go to your house and play.  
Love, Reuben Kuiper

Dear Grandma,  
When will we go to your house? We caught 7 mice last night. When will we go to the zoo?  
Love, Anthony Quenga

Dear Grandma,  
I like your pool. I like your toys. I like you picking us up from school.  
Love, Seth Van Oostenbrugge

Dear Grandma,  
Thanks for the birthday card and thanks for the wonderful things and that you have brought me to many places.  
Love, Walter Langerak

Dear Grandpa,  
We are going to California in the summer. We are going to go hiking. We are going to visit Nathan.  
Love,  
Emko Doezema

Dear Grandma,  
I know that you are sick. I hope that you are feeling better. I hope that you will come to church! I want to see you there and hope that you will give me candy.  
Love, Gabrielle Langerak

Dear Grandma,  
Thanks for letting me come to your house on Sunday. I love my church and my friends.  
Love, Harper Kalsbeek

Dear Grandpa,  
On spring break we are going to a hotel! Thank you for coming to my birthday party. Thank you for the presents that you gave me.  
Love, Emmitt Cleveland

Dear Grandpa,  
I love your sermons. I like snow days! Yesterday was a snow day!  
Love, Reuben Langerak

Dear Grandma,  
Please come to my birthday party on March 25. I hope you come to Florida with my cousins and uncles and my friends.  
Love, Cole Doezema

Dear Grandma,  
Thanks for teaching me about God. I love you and I miss you. Visit me soon! See you at the pool!  
Love, Alexa Schipper

Dear Grandma,  
I have a wiggly tooth. I like all the toys that you give me. Do you want to come to our chapel?  
Love, Sophia Langerak

Dear Grandpa,  
 I love you. Thanks for giving me a ride on your backhoe. Are you coming to our program?  
 Love, Luke Kleyn

Dear Grandpa,  
 Will you be going to Colorado? Will you go to our program? I went on the sledding hill and I fell on my face.  
 Love, Jamon Hanko

Dear Grandpa,  
 I have a cat. My cat's name is Flossy. I can't wait to go to Tennessee.  
 Love, Sam Kleyn

Dear Grandma,  
 Hi! I am glad that you let me go out for supper. I am going to the Smoky Mountains. I love you and I hope that you love me!  
 Love, Libby Kleyn

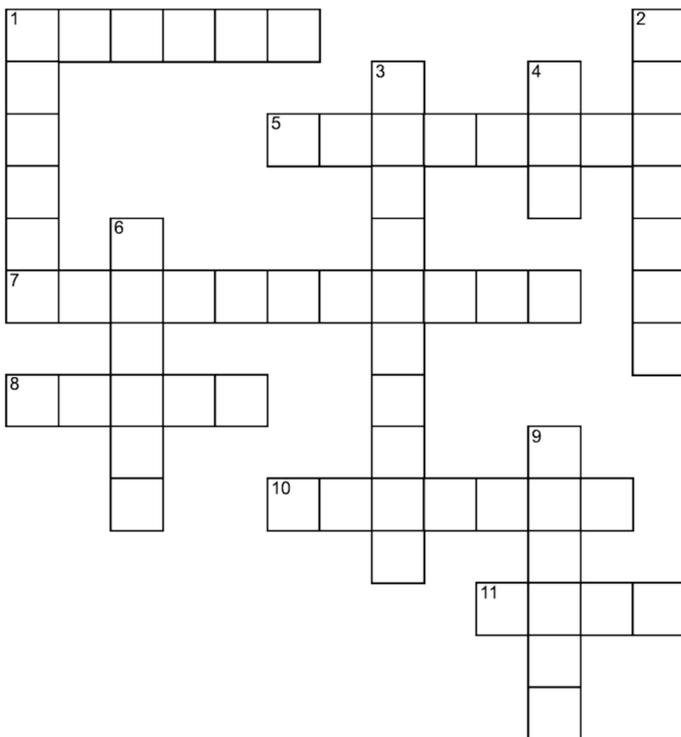
Dear Grandma,  
 I can't wait for Grandparents Day! I love you and Grandpa. Addy (our dog) is doing good!  
 Love, Alex Oosterhouse

Dear Grandpa,  
 Thanks for having me over. That game was fun! Thanks for teaching me about God!  
 Love, Zachary Bylsma

Dear Grandpa,  
 Thanks for pulling me tubing and for letting me fish at your lake. Thank you for showing me pictures of Hawaii.  
 Love, Trevor Rutgers

Dear Grandma,  
 Thank you for the present to go to Florida. I like it! It was lots of fun! I hope you liked it too!  
 Love, Elizabeth De Boer

Dear Grandpa,  
 Thank you for the presents you gave me. Will you come to my birthday party? I liked the trip to Ludington. Maybe you didn't know about it.  
 Love, Caleb De Jong



## GRANDPARENTS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answers on Page 18

### ACROSS

- 1 To hold close in your arms in a show of affection
- 5 A valued item to keep carefully
- 7 The parent of one's father or mother
- 8 For we walk by \_\_\_\_\_, not by sight
- 10 Another word for pampered
- 11 This is my commandment, that ye \_\_\_\_\_ one another

### DOWN

- 1 Feeling concern for others
- 2 Exceptionally good or precious
- 3 People of the same age
- 4 To embrace
- 6 Parents and their children
- 9 A specific thing remembered

## JEHOVAH'S IMMUTABILITY

Mrs. Stephanie Daling, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

In the second grade classroom, I enjoy spending time discussing the different names of God in morning devotions: what these names mean and how we can properly use them in prayer. A couple weeks ago, we talked about the name Jehovah or LORD. This name shares with us the trait of immutability – the fact that God is unchanging. I asked my students what they thought that meant, that God was unchanging, or does not change, and the responses that came out of 7- and 8-year olds' mouths were humbling. One in particular said that it means no matter what we do, because we are God's children, we have salvation, even when we sin. I then asked them why it's a comfort to know that God is immutable. They responded by saying that we sin ALL the time, and if we had to worry about God changing His mind about saving us that would not be very comforting. I could go on with more of their answers, but I'll leave it there!

We are in need of constant comfort. Even when we look fine on the outside, things are still going on inside, due to our sin. Our misery becomes worse when we choose to use earthly things as our means of comfort. We must remember and share with our students and children that there is no comfort apart from God. God preserves us. As Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1 states, not even a hair can fall from our head except by God's will. What a wonderful comfort this is to us!

In Psalm 102:25-27 we read, "Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end." The psalmist in this particular chapter is speaking about his afflictions and troubles in this world and is telling us how we must hope in God's unchanging character. He starts the psalm by asking God not to hide his face from him when he is in distress or danger. He goes on to talk about how his days are like a shadow and he is withering like the grass, BUT he has a comfort, because he knows the Lord shalt endure forever (vs. 12).

Troubles, afflictions, deaths, temptations, the world around us – these things drive the wicked to unbelief, but as God's children, it drives us into His presence. In the worst of times it is best to draw near to Him in prayer. Whatever happens to us in life, there should be no place for despair. Instead, our hearts should be filled with hope. This hope of God's children rests upon God's immutability. He is ALWAYS the same God, and therefore we know that He will do what He promised to do in Christ, the unchanging Lord. We, as His children, can know that He will never abandon us. We are reassured of this in many passages, but a passage that came to mind for me was Hebrews 13: 5 and 8. "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee...Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

No matter what ups and downs we may face, no matter our sins, troubles, or afflictions, our Savior remains the same! This truth brings us true happiness. It's not the earthly riches around us, but instead our Savior that brings us joy. So, I ask you, where do you look for your strength or light in times of darkness? What do you turn to for hope or answers? What are you pointing your children to in times of trouble? Let it not be in the things of this world or what the world uses: like alcohol, vacation, recreational activities, money, and so much more. But

instead, turn to your Savior who is constantly reminding us of His abiding love. "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." Psalm 90:2



*Below is a sampling of what it means to the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders that God is immutable.*

I am glad God is immutable, because if God changed then He could decide to not love us.

~ Lily Rutgers

Immutable means God doesn't change. It is comforting to us that God doesn't change because we don't have to worry that God will care for us one day and not the next day.

~ Brooklyn Huizinga

It is comforting to know that God is immutable because God never changes His mind so when we sin we are sorry for are sin and God doesn't change His mind and forgives us for what we did.

~ Sonya Minderhoud

I am glad God is immutable because if we sinned then He would just leave us and not love us anymore.

~ Hannah Vander Veen

Immutable means God does not change. It is a comfort to know that God does not change because if He did He could send us to hell for our sin.

~ Keira Wassink

We can be thankful that God is immutable so that we do not have to be scared that He is going to change and say that we can't go to heaven.

~ Logan Bylsma

I am thankful that God is immutable because then we do not half to worry about if we are going to heaven or not.

~ Oliver DeMeester

I am glad that God is immutable because if He wasn't immutable then we would be worrying all the time if He loved us or not.

~ Cara Kalsbeek

It is comforting to know that God is immutable because we know that God will never send a flood again. We know this because God sent a rainbow after the flood. We know that we will go to heaven because God is immutable.

~ Chase DeVries

God is immutable which means that He doesn't change. We are glad that God is immutable because if He was not than He could have changed His mind and not have His son die on the cross for our sins.

~ Kate DeVries

## LIVING IN THE LIGHT IN A WORLD OF DARKNESS

Mr. Ed Bos, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?*

*Psalm 27:1*

So often the Scriptures equate darkness with evil. For example, Isaiah 5:20 tells us, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness." Psalm 107:10 tells us, "Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron", showing the evil in which man lives. When Judas went to betray Jesus, the apostle John tells us that "it was night" (John 13:30). This is not describing merely the time of day, but the condition of Judas' heart.

Conditions have not improved in our day and time. We live in dark times. Nearly the entire world around us lives in darkness. More and more we can see the truth of such Bible passages as "They grope in the dark without light" (Job 12:25), and "The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble" (Prov. 4:19). Those who rule our land rule in darkness; our justice system is corrupt; babies are murdered in the womb (and now, in some states, even outside the womb); morality is turned on its head – things we were all as a society ashamed even to speak of are now openly practiced, and the corruption inspires "pride".

And even if the Light is brought to them, they cannot see it; they continue on in their darkness. "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" (John 1:5). They not only do not comprehend; they can not comprehend. Many times in the book of John, Jesus says that unbelievers can not follow Him to where He goes.

Even the church world has fallen into these ways – forsaking Biblical worship and regulations, and not having any Christian discipline. They make true the words of God in Psalm 50:21, where He says, "These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself." More and more we can see how the Anti-Christian Kingdom is not only possible, but may be very near.

These things can make us afraid. But then we see the text at the top, "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" Walking in the Light gives us hope; "For thou art my lamp, O Lord: and the Lord will lighten my darkness" (II Samuel 22:29). Also, Psalm 112:4 tells us that "unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness." That Light in which we are called to walk is Jesus Christ (John 8:12). He it was who protected the Israelites in the wilderness in the form of a pillar of cloud/fire, and He it is who is with us by His Spirit and protects us; so we have no need to fear.

And yet so often we do worry, and fear, and fret. There are at least a couple reasons for this. One of these is our knowledge of our own depraved natures. We too often ignore that antithesis between the light and the dark, and we live for, and talk about, and enjoy the things of the world. Then we look at ourselves and can get down on ourselves for not living as we should. The key to this is not to depend on ourselves. When we bring our needs to God in prayer, we are assured that "if I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me" (Psalm 139:11).

Connected to this is our lack of faith. Faith is a gift, but it must be exercised in our lives. This is especially true in the spiritual war we fight where we are commanded to use the shield of faith. This faith is rooted in the Word of God. We must know and depend on the Word, our

strength and protection, which is the Light that shines in this dark world around us. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined" (Isaiah 9:2). Let us live in this hope and not depend on the world or our political leaders for our help and salvation.



In writing, we work on paragraph writing and then developing our writing into longer essays. As examples of paragraph writing, I have included a few of the students' noon devotions. I also included an example of a 7<sup>th</sup> grader's and an 8<sup>th</sup> grader's persuasive essay.

This passage teaches us that the Lord knows and pities us. It also teaches us that the mercy of the Lord is everlasting, to them that fear Him and keep His commandments. It also teaches us to bless the Lord, with all our soul. Also, it teaches us to hearken to His word. Because of this, we must also appreciate our ministers, who bring that word to us. (Based on Psalm 103:13-22)

~ Lindsay Minderhoud

This passage speaks of Daniel's three friends. They were told they had to worship the god of Babylon and not worship God. They worshipped God, and not Babylon's god. Because of that, they were brought to the King to accept their punishment. The King was furious because they still wouldn't bow down to his god. The three friends of Daniel still trusted in God even though they were going to be thrown in the furnace. We must learn to trust God in everything, even when we are about to die, just as Daniel's three friends did. (Based on Daniel 3: 11-16)

~ Owen Langerak

From II Timothy 3 we get our basis for "Scripture alone is our authority." All scripture is given of God which is most important. The Roman Catholic Church believes that the traditions are more important. We must turn and go to the Scripture for guidance and reproof against Spiritual matters. When the passage says, a man shall "be thoroughly furnished unto all good works", it does not mean by our good works. But when we read the Bible we grow in knowledge, by the working of the Spirit in us. (Based on II Timothy 3:10-17)

~ Elaine Doezema

This passage deals with several of Calvin's five points. It talks about depravity; in verse 44 it says no man can come unto Jesus except by God. This shows how we can't come to God on our own because of our sin. We also can't help to pay for our sins. Christ is the only one able to save us. It also shows us the perseverance of the saints when God can choose whom he wants to come to Christ then He says "him will I raise up at the last day". So this also has a connection to unconditional election and how He chose us before we were born, to raise us up in the last day. (Based on John 6:37-44)

~ Michael DeVries

## WHY LABOR UNIONS ARE WRONG

Eleanor Duistermars, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

The labor union movement in the United States grew out of the need to protect the common interests of workers, such as higher wages and shorter working days. Another reason labor unions increased was because of the social and profitable impacts of the Industrial Revolution. Unions fought for fairness, rights, and higher wages. (Wienlick, Joe. "Pros and Cons of Labor Unions." 9 March 2018. <https://www.nexxt.com/articles/pros-and-cons-of-unions-16881-article.htm>). However, we, as God's people, believe that unions are both physically and spiritually wrong.

Some people view labor unions as beneficial because they protect the rights of workers in specific industries. They say that if a worker is being mistreated or abused, he has the right to stand up for himself and defend his rights. Unions have the power to negotiate higher wages, improve working conditions, bring better benefits to the union workers, and provide increased safety for the workers. A union also provides workers with power through a collective voice. The right to strike is the ultimate show of worker motivation and control (Wienlick). So, they say, basically unions work for the good of mankind.

On the other hand, labor unions are wrong from an earthly point of view. Unions can cause tension between employee and employer. This tension can cause the workplace to be a place of hostility rather than a place of cooperation. Additionally, the company makes less profit when workers go on strike. Finally, striking does not usually gain public approval, especially from non-union workers.

Labor unions are not only wrong from an earthly point of view, but also from a biblical point of view. The Bible says that the child of God should not join himself to worldly unions for many reasons. Unions seek first the things of the world such as; higher wages, better benefits, and they promote man-centered selfishness. In the article "The Antithesis and Unionism" (Hanko, Cornelius. "The Antithesis and Unionism." *Standard Bearer*, Volume 62, 1 December 1985: pages 115-117), Rev. C. Hanko wrote about how we must live antithetically and separate from the world. We must seek the things of the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 6:33) and not seek the worldly things that labor unions promote.

Another reason labor unions are wrong is because they use force, coercion, and strikes to force employers to do what *they* want. This is rebellion. In Romans 13:1-2, Paul speaks of how we must obey authority and he talks about God's punishment upon those who don't. When we rebel against those in authority, we are rebelling against God. Paul also says in Ephesians 6:5-6 that we obey those over us as servants of Christ, doing His will. If we work for a company that makes us belong to a union in order to work there, we meekly and humbly, *not* causing a big ruckus, quit our job. If we work for a bad, abusive boss, we do not rebel against him, or cause a strike, but instead we submit because he is the authority. No hurt is done trying to talk with him personally and asking for a raise or something else, but we mustn't cause an uproar or strike.

Additionally, labor unions are not pleasing to the Lord because unions expect that their members trust in the power of numbers instead of trusting in God. Jeremiah 17:5-8 tells us that the man who does not trust in God, but in man, is cursed. On the contrary, the man who trusts in God shall flourish like a tree planted by water. Mark 8:36 says that serving God for our spiritual good and edification is more profitable than man gaining the whole world.

Finally, the child of God should not be involved in ungodly labor unions because unions are formed by unbelieving and wicked men. The child of God must be separate from the world. This brings out the idea of the antithesis, the spiritual separation between the world and the church. 11 Corinthians 6:14-15 brings this out when it says that we must not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. What fellowship does light have with darkness?

Even though labor unions are wrong, God has used them in history for the good of the church. Unions have provided higher wages, safer working conditions, shorter working day, vacation time, health insurance, and retirement funds. These have benefited the church in many ways. By this, we see that God is sovereign and that he uses even the most wicked men to do His will for the well-being and safety of His church. This is a great comfort to us, as we live in an age of sin and hatred of God. What a great God we serve!

### **AN OCEAN APART**

Sophia Meulenberg, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

The colonists had been growing apart from Mother England for a long time. Eventually, they revolted against taxes the King of Britain placed on items they bought. First the Boston Massacre and then the Boston Tea Party took place. Also, boycotts organized by the Sons of Liberty were set up. All these events resulted in the American Revolution. Were the colonists right in what they did?

When considering this question, we should first look at Matthew 22:21. This passage commands the people of Judea to give Caesar, their earthly king, what was Caesar's and to give God what is God's. Right away, we see the error of the colonies in their refusal to pay taxes which rightfully belonged to King George III. The colonists failed to see God's authority in King George III. In rebelling and not paying their taxes they were not concerned about whether it went against God. They were not giving God the complete glory or trusting in him.

A second consideration comes from Romans 13:1&2. "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God." We understand from this passage that disobeying a higher power is equal to disobeying God. God put the king in power over the colonists in order that he might govern them. In revolting against the king, the colonists were rejecting God's power.

Finally, 1 Peter 2 and Lord's Day 39 teach the colonists that they must love all manner of men and submit themselves to their authority. Despite whether King George III was wicked or not, the colonists had to obey his laws. God often uses wicked men to bring about His divine plan. The colonists should have trusted in God to do everything for their good, even if God's plan caused earthly difficulty for the colonists.

The American Revolution occurred because the colonist wanted freedom and independence from Britain. The whole idea of the Revolution was wrong because the colonists only did it for their own greed and not for the glory of God. The colonists were not submitting to their authority when they began the American Revolution. The lies they started about the Boston Massacre prove this. They spread these lies to deceive others into joining their cause against Britain.

The colonists were not at all justified in their actions; however, God used their sin to the good of his people. Instead of obeying the Bible by submitting to the king, they disobeyed what the Bible says about authority. They should not have acted outwardly against Britain with their boycotts and threats. They also should have submitted to the punishment that their actions brought upon them. In spite of their rebellion against God, the colonists gained independence and gave the persecuted Church of God in Europe a place to flee. In the independent colonies, God provided a haven where the Church could continue teaching and hearing the word of God. Despite their disobedience, God used it for the good of his church.

## IF SPEAKING IS SILVER, THEN LISTENING IS GOLD!

Mrs. Jill Reitsma, Discovery Room

Ah, listening, the neglected literacy skill. We think of the more measurable literacy skills: reading, writing and speaking, however, listening skills are just as important!

As teachers, one of our main jobs is classroom management. We need our learning environments to be safe and respectful to encourage learning. But, sometimes it goes like this: “ok boys and girls, quietly take out your language workbooks”. Only four of the 24 students actually do it. The others turn and start talking to one another. Again the teacher says with a little more “oomph” in her voice, “Students, I said take out your language workbooks”. Only two more students comply. Now...frustration sets in because this scenario has happened three other times already today!

So how do we help kids become better listeners?

First, I would like to emphasize listening as an act of worship. As Christians, we must listen to the word of God. When one is not paying attention, one assumes an attitude of indifference or refusal to acknowledge authority. Good listening goes hand and hand with the mind-set of Christ (Philippians 2:5). It flows from a humble heart that counts others more significant than ourselves (Philippians 2:3). It looks not only to its own interests, but also the interests of others (Philippians 2:4). It is patient and kind (I Corinthians 13:4) May we use this model also in our teaching, so that students understand why it is important to be a good listener!

I would like to share some classroom ideas:

### 1. **Say it Once:**

Repeating ourselves in the classroom will produce lazy listening in our students. If kids are accustomed to hearing instructions twice, three times and even four times, listening the first time around becomes unnecessary. Start out the year establishing that you are a teacher that rarely repeats instructions and this will surely perk up ears.

### 2. **Turn and Talk:**

One way to inspire active listening in your students is to give them a listening task. It might look like this, “I’m going to describe the process of \_\_\_\_\_. I will pause along the way and ask you to turn to a partner and explain to them what you heard.” You can ask students to take turns talking each time you pause, and meanwhile, walk around observing their conversations (also allowing you to check for understanding)

### 3. **Student Hand Signals:**

Asking students to pay full attention and indicating that they will follow this with a non-verbal signal is a wonderful tool for shaping those listening skills. It can look like this: “I’m going

to read a former president’s statement about why he believes war is sometimes necessary. When I’m finished, you will share your opinion by holding up one finger if you agree, two fingers if you disagree and three fingers if you have a question.” This strategy allows whole-class participation and response. It’s also a favorite for kids who are more on the shy side, giving them a “voice”. You can come up with your own signs and system you feel will work with your class.

**4. I say; You say; We say:**

This model is used in many subject areas for listening to directions or understanding information. In a nutshell, the I Say involves you telling the students what they are to be doing (directions or information about what and how they need to complete the assignment). The You Say is the students themselves repeating it back to you. The We Say involves both teacher and students saying it together. Now they have heard the information three times!! You make the decision when and how often to use this method.

**5. Creating Questions:**

If your students are listening to a speech, watching a documentary clip, or hearing a story read aloud, break it up by stopping a few times and having students write a question or two about what they just heard. This way, students actively listen for any confusion or wonderings they may have. This takes a high level of concentration. It’s important to provide models for this since we are typically trained in school to look for the answers and information rather than to focus on what is not understood or is still a mystery.

May we all work together to train our covenant youth to become good listeners at home, school and in church!





**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Hope Classic Races**

**Saturday,  
June 1, 2019**

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

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

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

April 1-5	Spring Break
April 24	Kindergarten Program
April 26	Fearfully & Wonderfully Made Day
April 30	Band/Choir Concert
May 3	Elementary Music Program
May 9	Kindergarten Round Up
May 22	All-Schools Band Program
May 27	Memorial Day – No School
May 31	Last Day of School
June 1	Hope Classic Races
June 3	Graduation

**2019-20 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

August 26	First Day of School
Aug. 30 - Sept. 2	Labor Day Break
October 16-18	Teachers' Convention (IA)
November 28-29	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 23 – Jan 1	Christmas Break
January 17	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester (1/2 day)
April 6-10	Spring Break
May 25	Memorial Day
June 3	Graduation

**HOPE SCHOOL  
KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP!**

**Kindergarten Round-Up will be held at 9:30 AM on  
Thursday, May 9 at Hope School.**

**Parents, please remember to bring your child's  
*birth certificate* to round-up.**

**Invitations will be mailed mid - April.  
If you have not been contacted regarding Kindergarten  
testing and would like to attend Hope School,  
please call us at 616-453-9717.**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!**

