



HIGHLIGHTS

Spring Issue

~

March 2020

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

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

Matthew 6:30-34

ELEMENTARY SUCCESS - "TIPS FOR PARENTS"

Mr. Ron Koole, Principal

If you are a person who notices small details, you probably noticed that most schools have large mailboxes. Hope School is no different. The volume of mail each day varies, but generally "Mr. Mailman" inserts quite a stack of mail in that box each day. I can vouch for the fact that 2020 USA is not yet close to being a paperless society.

The task of sorting through the mail usually falls on the office secretary, but periodically I undertake this "privilege". There are the normal bills for utilities and supplies. There are incoming checks and contributions for tuition, drives, and church collections. (God's people are generous givers – no, I open none of these, but see totals same as you). There are also a variety of the same fliers and "junk" mail which you receive in your mailbox every day. For example, school still receives a thick paper catalog each month advertising trucks and commercial vehicles and it is address to Hope School c/o Mr. John Buitter. (22 years retired?) This "junk" mail all helps fill up the school's paper gator each week. And then there is mail which is more school specific. It seems every art supply company, library book selling company, janitorial supply company, gym equipment company, textbook company (and the list could go on) has purchased the name and address list for sending out mail advertising their products. But before pitching these all into the paper gator receptacles, a quick glance at the contents is necessary and at times a heading or title piques the curiosity for further reading and investigation. So it was for me a few weeks ago.

A rather thick envelope of materials arrived in the mail from a company called Woodburn Press: A Student Success Company. (You can look them up on the internet). I had never heard of this company, but since I am interested in student success – as I'm sure you are – I opened the envelope to read this company's thoughts about student success. Included in the materials was a rather large bookmark-like brochure entitled, "Elementary Success – Tips for Parents". This company would have the school purchase enough of these to distribute to the parents. Not a bad idea, but instead let me share some of the tips listed on this bookmark, which I think we would agree with wholeheartedly and are at the least good reminders for you (us) as parents.

Tip #1 "As a parent, you are the most important and influential person in your child's life ----- and your child needs you to be interested and involved in his/her education". Our reaction might be "Really, parents need to be told that?" Yes, the world knows that the stability of the home (or lack thereof) and the involvement of parent(s) (or lack thereof) influences a child's education. They are not blind to the results of broken homes and lack of parental involvement on not only a child's formal education, but also on the whole of the child's life. God is not mocked. He has created the family unit as the foundation of human society and when that family unit is broken or disrupted, the results are far reaching and generally disastrous. We need to be reminded that our children need us to be "interested and involved in their education". We know this is biblical and covenantal. Vows have been made at baptism which bind us as parents to this involvement, so that we don't just rely on the school to do all of the instruction and we show no interest or involvement in the school work our children are doing. It is a temptation to make ourselves so busy as parents that we don't have time or

interest to sit down and assist the children with homework or twice a year attend a PTA meeting. Our children need us!

Tip #2 "Insist on daily attendance." It should be common sense that missing school is detrimental to a child's education. All understand that it's impossible for a child to be learning unless that child is at school. I think this is a problem in the public schools but we are not immune to this. This tip should be taken into consideration when we are making appointments and planning family vacations.

Tip #3 "Help your child create a schedule." I'm sure the last couple weeks (in the midst of pandemic restrictions) has magnified this important tip. Helping our children order their time and schedules enables them to complete their homework as part of their daily routine. It also teaches them the life skill of setting priorities and making sure they do necessary tasks in a timely manner, rather than procrastinating. For many households, besides schoolwork and catechism, there must be time set aside for musical instrument practice along with practice times for interscholastic sports. The busyness of life magnifies the necessity of heeding this tip.

Tip #4 "Make sure your child gets enough sleep." On top of all the time requirements to do the work assigned by home, church, and school, comes Tip #4. The Lord made each day 24 hours long and our children need from 9-11 hours of sleep. To not monitor our children's lives so that they get the required sleep would be foolish parenting. We must see to it that they care for the bodies the Lord has given them. I would add as an amendment to this tip "and see to it that the children eat a healthy diet of food and get sufficient exercise". Intake of sugar, sugar, and more sugar is not going to enable our children to focus on the tasks required of them.

Tip #5 "Monitor technology use." Setting technology guidelines and limits on screen time has added a new dimension to parenting. There are necessary uses of modern technology, but we all are aware of the dangers that accompany and go beyond these uses. Dangers which threaten the souls of our children and dangers which threaten their good use of time. Time which could be better spent in active play or good reading time. I think we are still learning about the harmful effects of unmonitored use of modern technology. The key here is the word "monitored". The younger parents seem to have a better handle on this than we older folks. None of us however may have our heads in the sand.

Are we as parents interested in the success of our elementary-age children? For sure! We desire their growth academically. But we desire something in addition to this that motivates us to expend ourselves for their instruction. We only count success when we are making progress toward this goal: "Our goal is a mature man of God, who lives in this world in every area of life with all his powers as God's friend-servant, loving God and serving God in all of his earthly life with all his abilities, and who lives in the world to come as a king under Christ, ruling creation to the praise of God, his Maker and Redeemer", *Reformed Education by David J. Engelsma, pg 84.*

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Tim Bomers, Chairman
Scott Moelker, Ken Engelsma, Mark Meulenberg

*Dear reader, this article is rather lengthy, almost book-like, so here is the index:
Staff interview highlights
New teacher interviews
Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)*

Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ!

I feel a little funny about the introduction but when one thinks about how the apostle Paul addresses the saints of the churches, then one understands that this greeting is not only appropriate but necessary. I am addressing saints, saints involved in supporting spiritual work at Hope School.

I am no apostle and this article is not intended to be a sermon; I will leave that up to more qualified individuals. We recognize that the many labors on behalf of Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School serve one goal and purpose, the glory of God!

How often don't we go about our life without this ultimate goal on our minds? We often set many goals in this life, but the ultimate goal somehow fails to be what we place first. God wisely sends various trials or a particular work into our lives to teach us to open our eyes to understand and see that ultimate goal much more clearly. Such has been the work of the Education Committee recently. Our eyes are more open to see the wonder of His grace to us as parents, in this Christian school. The occasion for this wider opening of our eyes is to be involved with staff interviews (current teachers) and new teacher interviews.

January and February are very busy months for the Education Committee, whereas other months are slower in business and more routine in nature. The various Board committees during these months are particularly busy preparing for the next school year. There is the making of budgets, new board member nominations, and preparing for the annual Society meeting, to name a few. For the Education Committee, one of the most rewarding jobs of all is meeting with our current staff individually and (double bonus) to be part of the new teacher interviews. Why is this so special? Let me explain.

First the current staff interviews; these one-on-one interviews are like putting your fingers on the pulse of the school. The Education Committee chooses a spiritual theme to base these individual interviews upon. This year's theme was "the Spirit's working in our children." Teachers were asked to come with their favorite Bible verse in consideration of this topic. Our teachers spoke of the blessings of the work they do, why they do it, and their dedication and commitment to have their students excel. It is spiritually stirring to know what our children are doing during their time away from us parents.

The Education Committee learns from our staff the challenges and opportunities for educational development. More could be said about this valuable time shared together in the short thirty minute interviews but let it be said here how much this Board loves and appreciates

God's gift of covenantally inspired teachers and staff. To hear of the additional support from mothers who come to assist our teachers in various ways, we also thank God for you as well.

No, I don't feel so funny after all about the salutation at the beginning. The salutation at the beginning addresses all involved in covenantal education; parents, teachers, administration, helpers, supporters and all who directly or indirectly support our schools. Brothers and sisters in Christ supporting covenantal education of children to the glory of God.

At this time, we express a special word of thanks to Mr. Ed Bos and Mrs. Stephanie Daling. It is difficult to convey adequate appreciation for their faithful labors. Ed has taught for thirty-three years at Hope! His dedication, experience, and love for his students will be deeply missed. Stephanie also has contributed a special richness in her labors during her years at Hope. The Board gives thanks to God for their many labors and prays for his blessing upon them as they take up another work. Thank you Ed and Stephanie!

Now on to new teacher interviews. At these interviews we ask pointed personal questions surrounding these seven areas:

- 1) Spirituality
- 2) Subject matter. Subjects the applicant is teaching versus subjects needing to be taught
- 3) Staff cohesiveness, ability to bond with others
- 4) Ability to lead students, respect and discipline
- 5) Ability to lead others, fellow teachers and parents
- 6) Experience
- 7) Involvement, teamwork and taking on responsibility

To hear the answers given by these godly young men and women regarding God's calling them to teach our children, warms the heart. One can only conclude it is God who places this desire in their hearts. What a gift God has given to our churches and schools! There are currently more openings to teach in our Christian schools than there are applicants for these positions. The Board is tempted to pull out all the stops when offering a position to an applicant. The Federation of Protestant Reformed Christian Schools has wisely placed rules that must be followed by all schools in the Federation. The rules are in place to ensure both the schools and applicants are given a fair opportunity to consider and call. The end of the matter is that God, who has placed the desire to teach in the heart of teachers, will also place them where He sees fit. This is spiritual work and we must look to Him to provide. We must pray for our teachers in all regards both that they may know where He is leading them and that He provides for us in our need as parents. At the time of this writing we have made known our verbal intent to hire two new teacher applicants. They have until April 1 before they are able to sign a written contract. Thank you to all who have applied to these two open teaching positions at Hope School.

One more important topic to touch on here is the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. How many of us have an historical twitch when we hear this name? Faded memories for us as former students answering question after question on this test?! This test, recently given at Hope School is administered every two years and is very important as an indicator of how well students are performing in the following areas:

- 1) in relation to students nationwide who also take this test in subject matters such as reading, language, math, social studies, and science
- 2) within their own grade at Hope in 2020

3) within their own class historically - the test looks back to see if numbers improve or decline

This test shows a “class personality” in regards to its population. This test shows whether our students are growing and it gives our Discovery staff important numbers with which to help struggling students. These are some of the many benefits of ITBS.

The Education Committee agrees with the following overall comments given by our administrator:

- 1) The overall scores don't reveal any glaring weaknesses in the curriculum.
- 2) The exit grade scores for 7th and 8th grade are strong.
- 3) Hopefully parents of students with lower scores will see the need to provide more help at home and we will provide the needed services at school.
- 4) God has given to some more ability than others. We shouldn't expect 90s or even 60s from every student. We must expect our students to make use and develop the gifts that they have been given to the glory of God and to do their best.

The Education Committee wants parents to notice 3 and 4. Parents who help their students at home will perform better at school. This is easier said than done. Our homes are very busy places and our time demands are needed in many areas. My observation from time spent in this committee is that the better a student does in the lower grades, the fewer demands are needed in the Discovery room. I personally have seen great achievement from my struggling student when (wife) following through on the advice given from Discovery. My child who had problems reading now loves to read and that has helped in all areas of comprehension. I say this to encourage you to help your children, it will pay dividends. God bless our teachers and may God graciously continue to bless Hope School, to His glory!

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Dave Rutgers, Chairman

Tim Bomers, Jason Kregel

Spring is fast approaching and that means that winter driving may be over. Looking back over this past winter, we are thankful for the relatively mild weather and an easier driving season compared to the long forgotten polar vortex of last year. The committee would like to thank our drivers who are up early each morning to make the routes and regularly deliver our children safely home each afternoon. We would also like to use this opportunity to welcome any feedback from parents currently using the bus or parents considering the bus for next year. The change from 3 to 2 busses seems to us to have gone well, but any questions, comments or concerns would be welcome.

The Transportation Committee has begun to plan for next year. Budgets have been prepared for the '20-21 school year. We don't predict any major changes to the ridership and so we plan on another year with just two buses. The “Bus Depreciation Fund” is another item in the budget and is designated for the purchases of new buses. Our current balance in this fund would be enough to cover the purchase of another bus if the need arose. We anticipate Bus 15 being replaced in 2022 and Bus 16 around 2026.

As of the writing of this article, we stand at the beginning of a 3-week government ordered shut down of our school. One cannot help but think of how easily our plans are

subject to change. We budget for another school year and do our best to predict what we can, but at the same time recognize that there is a sovereign God who rules over all things and can thwart our plans in a moment. With thanksgiving we rest in the comfort that this sovereign God is our Heavenly Father who is working all things for our good. We pray that our children can soon return to their normal school life at Hope School.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Jeremy Langerak, Chairman
Phil Kalsbeek, Trevor Kalsbeek, Dave Rutgers

The Finance Committee continues to meet every month, counting and recording all of the income received. 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 8th report out of 12, therefore our goal would be to see that expenses and revenue are about 66% of the annual budget. The bottom line shows our income at 70% of budget, and our expenses at 67% of budget.

At this time the spring deficit drive is in full swing. The drive amount collected through February is \$188,938, which is 61% of our budgeted annual amount of \$310,000. We have sent out spring drive letters and forms to collect the remaining amount balance of \$121,062. Over 26% 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.

We would like to remind all tuition-paying families that their last tuition payment should be made in May. All tuition should be paid by June 1. We have email 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 1st of June.

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

HOPE PROTESTANT REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
INCOME STATEMENT February 2020

66%

	YEAR TO DATE	PERCENT TO BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
Income: Budgeted Items			
CHURCH COLLECTIONS	27,574.22	0.63	44,000.00
GIFTS & PLEDGES	188,937.98	0.61	310,000.00
HOPE FOUNDATION	15,000.00	0.50	30,000.00
GYM RENTAL	4,829.00	0.80	6,000.00
SPECIAL ED SOCIETY	3,988.12	0.52	7,628.00
TUITION	563,921.53	0.74	758,779.00
BUS FEES	14,404.85	0.86	16,800.00
MISCELLANEOUS	-	-	-
Total Income: Budgeted Items	818,655.70	0.70	1,173,207.00

GENERAL EXPENSES

ACCOUNTING FEES	3,496.48	0.70	5,000.00
BAND EXPENSE	3,000.00	1.00	3,000.00
CLASS TRIP FUND	1,500.00	1.00	1,500.00
EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES AND BOOKS	26,000.00	1.00	26,000.00
BUILDING AND GROUNDS FUND	20,000.00	0.67	30,000.00
FEDERATION DUES	3,560.35	1.37	2,600.00
INSURANCE, GENERAL	7,736.20	0.81	9,600.00
INSURANCE, GROUP	71,376.30	0.71	100,908.00
INSURANCE, WORKERS COMP	1,518.68	0.72	2,100.00
INSURANCE, HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT	2,666.64	0.67	4,000.00
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	3,612.70	0.80	4,500.00
LIBRARY FUND	1,500.00	1.00	1,500.00
MISCELLANEOUS	1,083.88	0.54	2,000.00
LONG RANGE BUILDING FUND	42,666.64	0.67	64,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	292.63	0.29	1,000.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	-	-	1,000.00
PAYROLL, BAND	5,490.25	0.66	8,280.00
PAYROLL, BUILDING MAINTENANCE	630.00	0.37	1,700.00
PAYROLL, CHOIR	3,726.47	0.66	5,620.00
PAYROLL, DISCOVERY	30,520.12	0.66	46,375.00
PAYROLL, JANITOR	20,000.00	0.67	30,000.00
PAYROLL, LAWN MAINTENANCE	1,939.32	0.55	3,500.00
PAYROLL, LIBRARIAN	3,340.28	0.81	4,125.00
PAYROLL, OFFICE	19,552.00	0.66	29,600.00
PAYROLL, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER	1,020.00	1.02	1,000.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER	367,931.56	0.66	556,750.00
PAYROLL, TEACHER AIDE	3,434.55	0.55	6,300.00
PAYROLL, TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE	750.00	0.25	3,000.00
PAYROLL TAXES	32,923.62	0.62	53,255.00
RETIREMENT PLAN	10,060.05	0.57	17,635.00
PHYS ED UNIFORMS	1,184.50	1.48	800.00
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	4,120.47	0.46	9,000.00
SNOW REMOVAL	446.53	0.15	3,000.00
TEACHER DEVELOPMENT	11,600.00	0.67	17,400.00
TEACHER CLASSROOM FUND	1,500.00	1.00	1,500.00
TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	10,000.00	1.00	10,000.00
UTILITIES, ELECTRIC	12,506.92	0.66	19,000.00
UTILITIES, GAS	5,901.33	0.54	11,000.00
UTILITIES, Phone / Internet	1,799.55	0.50	3,600.00
UTILITIES, TRASH	1,137.88	0.67	1,700.00
UTILITIES, WATER & SEWER	848.30	0.65	1,300.00
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES:	742,374.20	0.67	1,104,148.00

BUS EXPENSES

BUS DEPRECIATION FUND	11,333.36	0.67	17,000.00
BUS DRIVER COST SUBSIDY	743.00	0.74	1,000.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL	16,788.50	0.75	22,250.00
BUS DRIVER PAYROLL TAXES	976.80	0.62	1,580.00
BUS DRIVER WORKER'S COMP	867.82	0.72	1,200.00
BUS INSURANCE	2,003.00	0.58	3,450.00
BUS REPAIR	675.00	0.10	7,000.00
GAS AND OIL	5,602.73	0.51	11,000.00
TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR	1,250.00	1.00	1,250.00
TOTAL BUS EXPENSES:	40,240.21	0.61	65,730.00
Total Expenses: Budgeted Items	782,614.41	0.67	1,169,878.00
Operational Income on Budgeted Items	36,041.29		

“FOR I KNOW THE PLANS FOR YOU ...”

Mrs. Sue Grasman, 1st Grade

As I write this *Highlights* article, the world is in the throes and grip of a pandemic that has warranted the closing of schools all across the country, including Hope. Last Friday, as the students left at the end of the day, materials were sent home and directions for digital instructions were given. For all of us, this abrupt closure was unexpected, unplanned and unwanted. As most students and teachers will attest, a random snow day or two is hoped for, welcomed and even celebrated – but a multiple week coronavirus disruption – no thank you. That feeling was evident as the news that school was cancelled was met with anxiousness and soberness, many students well aware of the gravity of the situation. Uncharted waters for all of us, to be sure, but also a lesson on the thoughts and ways of the Lord and the plan that he lays before us. We hear this lesson plainly in Isaiah 55:8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” and also in Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” The Lord is clearly teaching us that although we may make plans, He alone knows The Plan for our lives. He alone knew that in 2020 our way would involve the Coronavirus and its rippling effect, even the ending of classroom instruction for a time. Our ways are not His ways, nor are our plans His plans.

Recently, I was given an old Hope *Highlights* from 1959 that my grandma had saved for over sixty years. Included in this *Highlights* was the goodbye that Miss Alice Reitsma penned to her beloved Hope School community. Miss Reitsma had given much of her life to Hope School, and her grief at saying good bye, as the cancer that ultimately took her life made it impossible for her to teach, is poignant. She writes: “*The thought of opening day without an assignment for myself on the teaching staff at Hope quite overwhelms me at times. Often I have contemplated this day, sometimes with hope, sometimes with fear, sometimes with the prayer – “O Lord, let me teach – any grades, any conditions – just give me the strength to teach once more.” But opening day is here and the Lord has shown us the way. He has also given the necessary grace. I shall attempt to carry on with a few of the administrative duties, but most of my work will consist in shifting the responsibilities from myself to others and helping them to do the work in the best interests of the school.*” As much as she had longed to teach, her way was not His way.

Miss Reitsma ended her farewell with a poem that was as fitting for Hope School in 1959 as it is in 2020. The author of the poem is unknown to me. It was given to Miss Reitsma by a mother in Hudsonville whose way was enriched by deep sorrow along a difficult path. Its message is timely and pertinent – He alone knows the plans for us, and His way is always best.

*Disappointment – His appointment,
Change one letter then I see
That the thwarting of my purpose
Is God’s better choice for me.
His appointment must be blessing
Tho’ it may come in disguise,
For the end from the beginning
Open to His wisdom lies.*

As part of our writing curriculum, the 1st graders are required to write a "how to" piece, an assignment that gives the directions or instructions for performing a particular task or activity using time and order words. Enjoy their creativity!

How to Hunt

by Nathan Price II

First you wait. Next a buck comes. Then you shoot the gun. Finally, you bring the buck home!

How to Make Cereal

by Claire Feenstra

First you get the bowl. Then you put the cereal in. Next pour the milk. Last eat it!

How to Ride My Bike

by Finley VanOverloop

First I sit on the seat. Next I put my foot on the pedal. Then I push off the pedal and ride away.

How to Hunt

by Preston Kregel

First you need a gun. Then you shoot a deer. Next cut up the deer. Last eat the deer.

How to Play Basketball

by Brody DeVries

First I get the ball. Then I dribble the ball. Next I get ready to shoot. Last I shoot the ball.

How to Cut with A Chainsaw

by Levi VandenBerg

First I get out the chainsaw. Then I start it. Next I get the wood. Last I cut with it.

How to Feed My Dog

by Millie DeMeester

First I get the dish. Then I put the food in it. Finally, he eats it all up.

How to Play Football

by Danton VanderVeen

First you hut the ball to the QB. Then you run down the field. Next the QB throws it to you. Last you run and make the touchdown!

How to Jump Rope

by Darla VanDenTop

First I get the jump rope. Then I fling the jump rope behind me. Next I start to jump. Last I did it!

How to Play Twister

by Ainsley Huizinga

First I get the game out. Then I spread the mat out. Next I twist the spinner. Last I go on the blue square!

How to Play the Harmonica

by Jude Rutgers

First take out the harmonica. Then put it in your mouth. Next blow! Finally, there will be music.

How to Swim

by Kelsey Minderhoud

First everyone lines up. Then they start. Next Kelsey is winning. Finally, Kelsey wins!

How to Walk the Dog

by Tony Oosterhouse

First I get the leash. Then I put the leash on the dog. Next I take the dog for a walk. Last I am finished.

How to Wrestle

by Gavin Rau

First we are on the mat. Then we bend down. Next we charge. Last I win!

How to Feed My Dog

by Tessa Kregel

First I get the bowl. Then I fill it up. Next I put the bowl in front of Duke. Last he eats it.

How to Ride a Horse

by Macy Moelker

First I put the saddle on. Then I get on the horse. Next we trot. Last we ride the jump!

How to Change the Baby's Diaper

by Bella Peters

First get out the wipes. Then clean the baby. Next put the baby's new diaper on. Last put the baby to sleep.

How to Play Soccer

by Margaux Duistermars

First I get the ball. Then I bring it to the field. Next the soccer game starts. Finally, our team wins!

How to Play Knock Out

by Austen Veldman

First you have to get the basketballs. Then you line up. Next shoot the ball. Last give it to the other person if you make it!

How to Fish

by William Cleveland

First get the worms. Then get a fishing pole. Next put the worms on the pole. Last go fishing!

How to Play Games

by Teddy Langerak

First I go downstairs. Then I take a toy. Next I find someone to play with. Last we can play!

How to Fish

by Silas Rutgers

First I get my fishing pole. Then I cast it out. Next I catch one! Last I eat it.

How to Play Battleship

by Jayden Koole

First you get the pieces. Then you get the boxes. Next you put the pieces in the box. Last you get where the ships are!

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

Mrs. Julie Schwarz, 2nd Grade

I spend my day with 16 seven and eight year olds. I experience many emotions throughout the day. There are moments of panic, stress, frustration, humor, and also great joy. Panic sets in when my lesson gets finished ten minutes earlier than planned and I have to think fast for something to fill this time gap. Stress is when the door opens and Mr. Koole comes in to observe my classroom. Then there are times when I am in the middle of an engaging lesson and I am interrupted by mysterious singing coming from the bathroom. We all try not to smile and we carry on.

There are frustrating moments, but overall there is a lot of joy throughout my day. The morning starts with devotions. Preparing for devotions takes a lot of time and it can be frustrating when I see blank faces and glassy eyes, but then I remember it is early and they are only eight and maybe my questions *were* a bit vague. When I prompt them a bit and ask a

more pointed question, their eyes light up and a few hands are raised and then a few more. Ah...now ideas flow!

I love singing in the morning. A couple of days a week my room is filled with 33 second graders and 23 first graders. When they sing, the room is definitely filled with a joyful song! They love to pick their favorite songs and sometime it seems we sing the same song again and again but this is a blessing too because they can sing these words from memory and they sing it out from the heart.

After singing comes the Bible story. Having 16 pairs of eyes staring intently at me as I try to remember all the details I need to tell them can be disconcerting at times. Then again, not all eyes are on me. There is the one student studying his Fitbit, one who is tying her shoe, one who is jabbing his pencil into an eraser and one who is staring longingly out the window. A frustrating moment to be sure. But then, eyes light up and a hand goes in the air and someone can't wait to tell me they heard this story in catechism or they talked about this story at home. The lesson is done and they can't wait to know what happens next. A joyous moment!

There are the times a student comes to me, shows me a book they are reading and they excitedly point out a word or a word spelling that we learned earlier in the day. Yeah! They were listening and learning! What joy!

Despite the few trying moments the day may hold, I have great joy knowing I am spending my day with precious children of the covenant. The great responsibility I have to instruct these children in the ways of God can bring on more panic, but I can feel relief and peace knowing that God is at work in these children and I am a mere instrument in God's hand.



One of the second grade writing projects is to make an autobiography. We tried something a little different this year and had the students write a Bio Poem. They had fun with this and I think you will enjoy reading them.

Emmitt Michael Cleveland
Child of John and Ashley Cleveland
Whose favorite color is red
Who loves his mom and dad because they are kind and nice
Who does not like cold weather because his ears and hands get cold
Who wants to go to China because they celebrate Lunar New Year and eat fancy food
Whose favorite food is pizza because it is spicy
Who is scared of scary videos because they give him nightmares
Who loves to play with his friends Zach, Quinton, Reuben, and Jamon
Who lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan
Who has 10 people in his family
Who wants to be an artist when he grows up
Who goes to Byron Center Protestant Reformed Church
Emmitt Michael Cleveland

Elizabeth Joy DeBoer
Child of Matthew and Stephanie DeBoer
Whose favorite color is purple
Who loves making jewelry
Who does not like ticks
Who wants to go to California to see her cousins
Whose favorite food is hotdogs
Who is scared of creepy things
Who loves to play with Gabby
Who lives in Hudsonville, Michigan
Who has 7 people in her family
Who wants to be a teacher when she grows up
Who goes to Grandville Church
Elizabeth Joy DeBoer

Cole Henry Doezema
Child of Amber and Jared Doezema
Whose favorite colors are yellow and dark blue
Who loves to shoot baskets with his brother
Who does not like lions because they will eat you
Who wants to go to Florida and camp there
Whose favorite food is noodles because they are warm
Who is scared of heights
Who loves to play Legos with his brother, Lincoln
Who lives in Grandville, Michigan
Who has six people in his family
Who wants to be a teacher when he grows up
Who goes to Faith Church
Cole Henry Doezema

Jamon Lee Hanko
Child of Dan and Andra Hanko
Whose favorite color is orange
Who loves his relatives
Who does not like robbers because they try to steal him
Who wants to go to the fair because he wants to go on the rides
Whose favorite food is pizza because of the sauce
Who loves to play with his friends
Who lives in Hudsonville, Michigan
Who has 15 people in his family
Who wants to be a teacher when he grows up
Who goes to Faith Church
Jamon Lee Hanko

Wyatt Allen Jordan
Child of Michelle and Allen Jordan
Whose favorite color is red
Who loves snakes because they have sharp teeth
Who does not like monkeys because they are silly
Who wants to go to Pentwater
Whose favorite food is noodles
Who is scared of the dark
Who loves to play with Nolan
Who lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan
Who has 5 people in his family
Who wants to be a teacher when he grows up
Who goes to Grace Church
Wyatt Allen Jordan

Triston Edward Koole
Child of Kevin and Jill Koole
Whose favorite color is red
Who loves to go to his grandma and grandpa's
Who does not like to go to the doctor
Who wants to go to Texas
Whose favorite food is pizza and breadsticks
Who is scared of sickness
Who loves to play with his cousins
Who lives in Coopersville, Michigan
Who has 6 people in his family
Who wants to be a painter when he grows up
Who goes to Grace Church
Triston Edward Koole

Gideon Richard Kuiper
Child of Jori and Dan Kuiper
Whose favorite colors are black and gold
Who loves his mom and dad
Who does not like venomous snakes
Who wants to go to Florida because he wants to collect shark teeth
Whose favorite food is pizza
Who is scared of stone fish because they are deadly
Who loves to play with Nolan and Triston
Who lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan
Who has 8 people in his family
Who wants to be a vet when he grows up
Who goes to Hudsonville Church
Gideon Richard Kuiper

Reuben George Kuiper
Child of Daniel and Jordana Kuiper
Whose favorite color is blue
Who loves to play stuffed animals
Who does not like sausage
Who wants to go to Disneyland to go on the rides
Whose favorite food is pizza
Who is scared of bad guys because they are mean
Who loves to play with Gideon
Who lives in Grand Rapids
Who has 8 people in his family
Who wants to be a basketball player when he grows up
Who goes to Hudsonville Church
Reuben George Kuiper

Reuben Jon Langerak
Child of Dave and Carla Langerak
Whose favorite color is orange
Who loves to go fishing
Who does not like winter because he has to go to school
Who wants to go to Alabama
Whose favorite food is pizza from Hungry Howies
Who is scared of jellyfish
Who loves to play with Nolan
Who lives in Grand Rapids
Who has 10 people in his family
Who wants to be a dad when he grows up
Who goes to Hope Church
Reuben Jon Langerak

Sophia Bell Langerak
Child of Joel and Jori Langerak
Whose favorite color is baby blue
Who loves babies
Who does not like heights
Who wants to go to the White House to see the President
Whose favorite food is Panda Express
Who is scared of scary movies
Who loves to play with Alexa
Who lives in Grand Rapids
Who has ten people in her family
Who wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up
Who goes to Hope Church
Sophia Bell Langerak

Sadie Grace Meulenberg
Child of Josh and Carrie Meulenberg
Whose favorite color is mauve
Who loves Ludington
Who does not like to go in caves
Who wants to go to Disney World because she wants to see Elsa
Whose favorite food is bagels
Who is scared of robbers
Who loves to play with her family
Who lives in Grand Rapids
Who has 6 people in her family
Who wants to be an illustrator when she grows up
Who goes to Grace Church
Sadie Grace Meulenberg

Nolan John Moelker
Child of Dave and Pam Moelker
Whose favorite color is green
Who loves reading
Who does not like winter because it is very cold
Who wants to go to Africa to look in the jungle
Whose favorite food is pizza
Who is scared of nothing
Who loves to play with Jamon and Reuben
Who lives in Tallmadge Twp., Michigan
Who has seven people in his family
Who wants to be an architect when he grows up
Who goes to Grace Church
Nolan John Moelker

Alex Oosterhouse
Child of Scott and Lynn Oosterhouse
Whose favorite color is red
Who loves his mom because she cares for him
Who does not like hotdogs
Who wants to go to California to visit his uncle
Whose favorite food is macaroni and cheese
Who is scared of heights
Who loves to play with Wyatt
Who lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan
Who has 7 people in his family
Who wants to be a builder when he grows up
Who goes to Hope Church
Alex Oosterhouse

Cora Eden Overway
Child of Matt and Chris Overway
Whose favorite color is pink because it looks nice to her
Who loves dolphins because they are graceful
Who does not like spiders
Who wants to go to Wisconsin to see her cousins
Whose favorite food is tuna
Who is scared of bees because they sting
Who loves to play with Judah and Gwen
Who loves dolphins and horses
Who has six people in her family
Who wants to be a vet when she grows up
Who goes to Byron Center Church
Cora Eden Overway

Anthony Gerard Quenga
Child of Dwight and Cynthia Quenga
Whose favorite color is yellow
Who loves trains because you can go on them
Who does not like the dark
Who wants to go to the South Pole because it is cold there
Whose favorite food is spaghetti
Who is scared of tornadoes
Who loves to play with Emko
Who lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan
Who has four people in his family
Who wants to be a minister when he grows up
Who goes to First Church
Anthony Gerard Quenga

Alexa Marie Schipper
Child of Brad and Sara Schipper
Whose favorite color is purple
Who loves lions because they go fast
Who does not like snow because it is so cold
Who wants to go to Canada
Whose favorite food is pizza
Who is scared of bees
Who loves to play with Legos
Who lives in Jenison, Michigan
Who has 7 people in her family
Who wants to be a scientist when she grows up
Who goes to Hope Church
Alexa Marie Schipper

STRANGE

Mr. Jason Boone, 6th Grade

"Strange" is the best word I can come up with to describe the times we are living in. It is strange not to do my morning routine which has been so ingrained into my life that I still am waking up at the same time even without my alarm. School has been strange. We are doing our best with the limited resources we have to continue the covenantal education of the students, but still this "remote" schooling has been very strange. Church has been very strange. Whether the church is splitting the congregation or just closing altogether, this is a strange time. I am thankful for the technological means we have to still listen and hear through the use of the internet. It is also strange being home all day. I have been given this chance to glimpse the life of a stay-at-home mother. I must say, respect for this calling is an understatement. My appreciation and respect go out to those mothers who now have the role mother/teacher/supervisor. What is the strangest, however, is not knowing what the future holds. We have no idea how long this "quarantined" time will last. It may last just the three weeks like the governor hopes, but there is also a chance that we may not meet again for the rest of the school year according to some.

There is one thing that is not strange, however. The fact that we know and put our trust in One who is higher than we. One who continues to preserve and uphold all things for our good (Lord's Day 10). This feeling of trust is not strange to us. How often do we hear the words from Proverbs, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."? Fun fact, the word "worry" is not found a single time in the Bible, but the word "trust" is found 134 times. This should be a clear indicator of what God wants us to focus on.

This time is a good reminder that we, as humans, are not in control. This time of the year, from Christmas to spring break, is usually a time where we see the most consistency as a teacher. There are no breaks or days off scheduled. This is usually the time when we see the most growth from students as they also have been pushing through this "grind". This time off is strange and not consistent with our normal lives, but it can still be fruitful and educational.

So, I plead with the teachers, do not be dismayed with the daunting task of trying to work with your children through these strange times. Work with them, test them, push them to do their best and continue to learn. We need to work together and put our trust in God knowing that all these things will work together for our good even though all of this may seem very strange.



Recently the 6th graders completed a writing project on how to make their writing more enjoyable. We have been working with adding adjectives, adverbs, appositives, and prepositional phrases to make more of each sentence. I had the students take basic, boring sentences and make them interesting. The sentences went like this: A boy walked around. He got tired and took a nap. He woke up. He called his friend over. It was a fun night.

The 9-year-old Indian boy, Tala, had just returned from the hunt. It had been a long and tiring journey to the hunting grounds and back. He and the rest of the Indians had eagerly

trekked back to their homes imagining the joyful reunions they would have. Tala, who was barely awake, walked into the wigwam. For the first time in months he climbed into his own bed and fell asleep the instant his head hit his pillow. When he woke up a few hours later, he heard and smelled his grandmother cooking stew. He sat up and his grandmother gave him a bowl. Just after he finished his supper he heard his friend Awan outside. Tala asked his grandmother if Awan could stay over and she said yes. Later that night he and Awan went fishing. They caught a huge fish! Grandmother would be so proud. Tala and Awan both agreed that this was the best night ever because of that great big fish.

– Sydney VanderVeen

The cowboy named Joe was ambling to the big red barn to get his horse, Charlie. He mounted up and began to ride off down the road leaving a trail of dust behind them. They were trotting along the road to his friend's house. Joe began to get tired so they stopped to take a rest. He sat against a tree and his eyes began to flutter. His eyes closed shut and he fell asleep. When he woke up, another boy was riding up to him; it was his friend, Jim! Together they rode to Jim's house. Joe and Jim played games such as lasso tag and cow herding. Jim, his family, and Joe all had big juicy steaks and mashed potatoes with gravy for dinner. After dinner Joe and Jim went for a ride, and when they came back they went to their cots to go to sleep. Joe had a very fun night at Jim's house.

– Annika Kamps

After an exhilarating and victorious game of baseball against the neighboring town's team of the Tallmadge Tornadoes, Joe, the capable and quick-witted shortstop player for the hometown team of the Standale Sluggers, trotted down the street toward home. He was drained from pummeling home runs, hurdling around the bases and catching fast grounders. When Joe got home, he collapsed into his favorite electronic Italian leather massage chair and enjoyed a peaceful rest that rejuvenated and revitalized him. After waking from a restful nap full of dreams of playing in major league baseball, Joe devoured a meal of crispy, extra salty french fries, and a crisp cheeseburger loaded with mayonnaise, extra pickles, one romaine lettuce leaf, and ketchup. To celebrate their superb victory, Joe invited his favorite chum and fellow baseball player, Jake, over to share the evening. Practicing and honing their skills as baseball players was their favorite activity during the dusky spring evenings when baseball was continually on their minds. The smell of sweaty mitts and fresh grass, the feel of cool crisp, night air, the sight of beautiful ombre sunsets with clumps of tiny insects dotting the horizon, and the sound of the ball as it was caught solidly in their mitts, acted together to develop a night full of poignant, sensory memories. As the brilliant sun dipped lower in the sky and the blaze of changing lights slowly disappeared, Jake and Joe said their goodbyes and parted ways. These kind of nights were the best kind of nights. Victory. Friends. Baseball. Memories.

– Levi Overway

3, 2, 1, go! A little 8-year-old boy named Wally dashed from the starting line. Running with all his might, he could see in the distance the finished line. Now he was in the lead. Wally could hear his mother yelling and cheering on and on. Still moving faster than ever, he crossed the finish line almost without even knowing. After running that exhausting race Wally decided to lumber home on his wobbly feet. At home Wally sank into his bed, dozing off into sleep.

Wally finally woke up with droopy eyes. He went to sit at the table to eat his snack, Cheetos. After his cheesy and crunchy snack, Wally asked his mother if he could call his friend. Wally's mother nodded. He picked up the phone from the table and dialed the number. Wally's friend, Bobby said that Wally was coming to his house to sleepover. Wally's mother brought him to Bobby's house. He went inside Bobby's house and looked all around. Wally and Bobby went down the stairs to find a game to play. They found Monopoly in the storage room. Wally and Bobby played all night. They played all sorts of games. They also played basketball outside. They finally had to go to bed. Wally and Bobby had fun but it tired them out. It was the most amazing night ever that Wally had with his friend.

– Ava Langerak

An energetic eighteen-year-old boy, Jake ran like lightning for two and a half miles until he reached the gas station where he bought some soda. He then turned back and hustled home. He was so exhausted he could barely open the heavy front door without help. He stepped inside, plopped on the couch, and took a siesta without even taking off his favorite Nike shoes. When he stirred from his rest, he heard a large rumble that seemed to come from his stomach. Jake wandered over to the fridge, and found some leftover Italian pasta. While he was eating his Italian lunch he was reminded of the pizza party his best friend, Logan, was having that night. Jake quickly phoned Logan and asked what time he should be there. The party had already started, so Jake grabbed his bike and peddled fast. The party was over by the time he got there, but Logan invited him to spend the night. It was a boisterous and lively evening.

– Sammy Meulenberg

MEMORIES

Mr. Ed Bos, 7th Grade

It looks as if my final two years at Hope will be the strangest I have had in my thirty three years here. I thought nothing could beat having eleven "snow days" last year to make a challenge out of trying to get work in by the end of the year. That year taught me patience and the fact that we don't necessarily have to get all the material in; I have always known that teaching goes far beyond the material. But once in a while one needs to be reminded of that.

Then came this year. It seemed as if we were not going to get any days off - an irregularity in itself. Now we are dealing with a minimum of three weeks off. "Take therefore no thought for the morrow" for "ye know not what shall be on the morrow." (Matthew 6:34 & James 4:14) And so this year is even stranger than last year. What a memory with which to finish off my time at Hope School!

And what memories there have been! I remember some of the humorous answers I got on worksheets and tests. It's amazing what one can learn from the children. I learned that the Panama Canal is important "because there's a store there where you can buy things if you need them." I learned that, in Peter's vision of the sheet, "Peter saw a sheet coming down, and God told him to eat it, but he wouldn't because it was unclean." Imagine eating dirty laundry! And also, I found out that Teddy Roosevelt had unusual names for his children: "Teddy brought

home a horse for all of his children named General Grant.” That reminds me of George Foreman, who named all five of his boys “George”.

But seriously, I have learned a lot from my students. Every year, my students have come up with facts and other things that I never knew before. They often have questions that really make me think – some which I have not been able to answer, and I have never been afraid to admit that. They also can come up with observations that surprise me coming from people of a young age. We recently watched a video of the life of George Washington, and the students had some really good observations about it. The video talked about him in glowing terms about how he was always concerned about his character, and about his desire to advance to the highest rungs of society – all admirable traits according to the world today. My students, wisely, saw it in a different light. One year, after showing this video, a student said, “Why did they spend the whole video tearing him down?”, meaning that she saw all these things and desires as being sinful. My students this year saw the same thing. It always does my heart good to hear students show their beliefs in this way. As I said above, teaching goes far beyond the material.

And this kind of teaching does not reflect only the classroom; it reflects the homes from which the students come. That is another thing I have always enjoyed at Hope – there has always been tremendous parental support, which I pray continues long after I am gone. As I have expressed often, if it is not happening at home, it will not happen at school. I am not a parent; I cannot do the job without support from the home. I thank all you parents, past and present, for this.

Above all this cannot happen without the providential grace of God. Above all, I am thankful to God for all the years I had at Hope School. I thank Him above all for all that He has given me – the students, the parents, the ability, and even all the failings I had (teachable moments, or as I tell the students, “learning experiences”). I am thankful for the trials. I am thankful for the Lord taking my father; it taught me humility and showed me I am not indispensable. I am thankful for the heart issues I had; they brought me closer to Him. All these issues also brought me closer to my students. In all my trials, I have come to appreciate and enjoy the students even more each time, and to see God’s goodness through it all.

So again, thank you all, students and parents, and quite few who have been both students and now parents of my students. I would like to say I will never forget you, but I have learned also what old age does, and I see this more and more in my life that I do not always remember all my students. I like to tell myself that my little brain is full, but I know that I am getting older and I know the effects of this. And I appreciate more and more the patience and work of the students and parents. And thanks be to God! May He continue to be with you and bless you!



For 7th grade writing selections, once again, I have picked some things from their noon-time devotions:

This passage gives us encouragement to keep going in our race of faith. It speaks of how the people of God were confused and desperate, and then the Messiah came. It talks of how we were walking in darkness, but have seen the light in Christ. It speaks of Christ’s coming, and how desperately we needed Him. We must always remember that our Redeemer is

Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace, so we can always trust and confide in him. (Based on Isaiah 9: 1-7)

- Jayden Bylsma

I want to focus on verse 18. Here it states "Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord." This applies to everyone. We won't stop learning until we enter our eternal home. This applies more to the younger generation, us. We haven't had time to experience all of this and learn from our mistakes. We do very silly things sometimes and don't know what to do about it. Sometimes they are still small things but result in large unwanted outcomes. As we grow physically, we can get taller, and our feet grow, but none of that matters if you still act like a 2-year-old. It also doesn't matter if you have the ability to do well, and neglect the fact that you could do better. We must grow in grace, and knowledge, so if God calls young men to be ministers or construction workers, they don't say it would be too hard. They embrace the fact, and take God's call seriously and willingly. (Based on 2 Peter 3: 14-18)

- Caitlin Brands

In verse 3 it speaks of the total depravity of humans. We are all filthy and none do any good. Many times, we act like there is no God. We must remember how much we are depraved in sin, but we must also remember that although we are very sinful, God looks at us, seeing us pure in Christ Jesus' blood. This should make us have constant thankfulness to God. (Based on Psalm 14)

- Michael Cleveland

Also, I had them write letters to politicians at local, state and national levels. Here are a couple samples of letters to some of our national leaders:

Dear, Mr. President,

Hello, I am Nick Kleyn, age 13, from Grand Rapids, Michigan. I go to Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I very strongly support you. I am respectfully writing a letter to you to thank you for all the good things you have done in your Presidency thus far, and to thank you for your hard work against abortion. If I was old enough, I would have voted for you in the 2016 election, and I hope you win the election in 2020, this year, if the Lord wills. I hope you always trust in God as the President of the United States.

I especially am thankful for your work of keeping illegal immigrants out of America. I appreciate your effort to build a wall separating America and Mexico. I am also very thankful for your work against abortion. Aborting a baby is an extremely wicked sin. Here are a couple of references from the Bible that speak against abortion: Psalm 139:13-16; Exodus 20:13. This must be stopped. I know that you are against it, and I am too. I hope you will continue to the best of your ability fight against abortions. If you haven't already, you should listen to Gianna Jessen's speech. This lady survived an abortion attempt. In fact, the abortionist that attempted to kill Gianna, had to sign her own birth certificate.

"Keep America great."

Most respectfully,

Nick Kleyn

Dear Mr. Mike Pence,

I am Alex Van Oostenbrugge. I attend seventh grade at Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School. I honor your courage and our President's as well in this very dark and sinful age here in the present world. I would like to talk to you in this letter about true Christian leadership and how we, as Christians, ought to behave as leaders, and how we must use our abilities in the best way possible.

Christian leaders know that serving is their priority. Jesus came not to be served but to serve others. Christian leaders are not power hungry, for they know that the One who gave them power and authority is God. God is merciful and cares about the needs of the weak and helpless. He sent Jesus to serve and save His people.

When someone is a leader, he must have a very disciplined mind to know when to take action and when to wait and listen. We as Christians are told not to take advantage of power but to use it for the good of everyone over whom we have power. Jesus is the perfect example of this. God gives gifts to all of us and He has gifted all of us different qualities. Godly leaders are gifted to serve. In order to be a strong community, we all must focus less on serving ourselves and more on serving each other.

As the election approaches, I will pray that God will guide your thoughts and speech to be first pleasing to Him. God already knows the outcome and tells us to trust Him. Thank you for serving our country this way. I hope to see you leading the USA for another four years. Keep America great!

Sincerely,

Alex Van Oostenbrugge

Dear Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi,

My name is Paige Beute, and I live in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I go to Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School. I am going to talk about abortion. I am very interested in your opinion and your thoughts about abortion, so I really hope you will respond to my letter.

Jeremiah 1:5 (King James Version) says, "Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee; and before thou camest out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." This shows abortion is not right. God planned out a life for all of us, and He had a reason why he put us here. For some people like you, for example, it is to be somebody who helps the country by being in the government. God uses every kind of person for the means of His people. For others of us He has other reasons for us to be here, that might not be as noticeable. We all still have a purpose even if we don't know it. It also shows how God had everything planned before our lives began. Before He put us in our mothers' stomachs, we had a specific role. There are many religions that forbid abortion, including the Roman Catholics.

Another verse that talks about this is Psalm 139:13-14. It says, "For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." This talks more about how we should be thankful God sent us to earth. It shows how we should praise Him. It shows how he is our heavenly King, and we shouldn't worship anything else.

The last verse I am going to mention is I Peter 2:13. It says, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme." This shows how we should submit ourselves to those in authority over us. This shows we should obey those in authority over us, unless it is disobeying one of God's commandments. Even if we are not the

happiest with those elected, we should be thankful because God put all of us in a specific place. This is all in His plan. This is why we learn about the people who are put in important places for our country. We point out what we think is wrong, but we also point out all the many positive things they do for our country. We should be happy for our people in government, and we thank those in the government positions that help our country out. We continue to pray for you daily. (I Timothy 2:1-4)

Sincerely,
Paige Beute