



# HIGHLIGHTS

**Graduation Issue**

~

**May 2023**



**"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."**

- Psalm 32:8

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

TAKE NOTE

Mr. Ron Koole, Principal

Time marches on and the plan of God is being carried out in time and history. Significant events in this history are marked by the specific dates on which the events occurred. These events are remembered by many, and some are even recorded in history books. Most people could tell you what happened on October 31, 1517 or December 7, 1941 or September 11, 2001; but I doubt if April 17, 2023 will be a date that very many people will specifically remember. But significant history took place on the evening of that date!

On April 17, 2023, over 100 men gathered in the music room at Hope School to conduct the business of the Annual School Society meeting. Significant? In the eyes of the world, hardly. In the eyes of the Lord and God’s people, very. Significant because all the business pertained to the education and instruction of children of God for the 2023-24 school year. Each item on the agenda was dealt with seriously and it was so very evident that this cause was precious to the men and that they view Hope School as a gift from God to be treasured and cared for. The opening devotion of reading Scriptures, singing and prayer set the tone for the business at hand. Two additions were made to the constitution that are intended to safeguard the membership of the Board and also the offices of the Board. Constitutional changes don’t happen often but the overwhelming vote in favor of these additions demonstrated the love the men have for maintaining a distinctly Protestant Reformed school.

Next, three men were elected to serve three year terms on the Board of Directors. The men who serve on the Board do so for only one reason – they have a deep love and concern for the children of God’s covenant promise. There is no financial compensation or fanfare for these men. They willingly give countless hours and nights away from home and family to guide the affairs of this Christian school on behalf of God’s covenant. We owe Board members a debt of gratitude. I stand amazed how the Lord provides men with a variety of abilities to fill all the roles needed to oversee the operation of the good Christian school.

Christian education comes with a price tag. The members of the society commit themselves to a large financial obligation when they approve a budget of almost 1.3 million dollars. This takes sacrifice for many but the generous giving this past year demonstrates the willingness of so many to support this cause of the Kingdom. God is to be praised for working in so many to give generously to a cause so vital to His cause and Kingdom.

The good Christian school is truly a good gift of God and it is thrilling to see the commitment of God’s people to preserve this cause. The date may not live in infamy, but the cause is central to the history of this world.



In this *Highlights* we recognize and congratulate our twenty-three 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates. We pray the Lord’s blessing on their continued studies at CCHS next year. We also recognize those parents whose youngest child graduates from Hope School this year: Jeff & Mary Kalsbeek, Tom & Erika VanDenTop, and Erin & Sarah Windemuller. We thank them for having their children educated at Hope School and pray for their continued support in the future.

Enjoy your reading of the year-end edition of the *Highlights*. Note the supply lists as well as the abbreviated 2023-24 school calendar.

**FOUNDATION REPORT**

Josh Meulenberg, President

Matt DeBoer, Joel DeVries, Dave Langerak, Andrew Veldman, Brandon Wassink

Hope PRCS Foundation was established to provide a means by which to exercise biblical stewardship over the financial resources that God has placed under its control (Matthew 25:14-31). It was established for the benefit of the school. We realize that outside of God's grace it would fall apart so we seek and pray for His wisdom and blessing as we make decisions and do the work of the Foundation.

It has been a great privilege to be able to be a part of the Foundation for the past 3 years. I have seen a lot of support from businesses and individuals who care about the future of Hope School. We all treasure Hope School and preparing for the future of the school is very important work. This past year the Foundation has been busy with its fundraisers as well as examining and adjusting the investment portfolio.

The golf fundraiser and the clay shoot once again proved very successful events. The golf fundraiser made \$14,066.65 and the clay shoot fundraiser made \$14,970.47. These events take up a lot of time and energy. We are grateful for the men and women that give their time, energy, and skills to help the Foundation.

The Foundation approved giving to the school \$50,000 for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. This amount has jumped up quite a bit over the past years. From \$30,000 in 2019 to \$40,000 in 2020 and then to \$50,000 in 2021. It is the mindset of the Foundation to help Hope School be able to keep tuition affordable as much as we are able.

The Foundation sent out year-end mailers to supporters of Hope School to remind them to consider giving to the Foundation. One way the Foundation is able to grow is through gifts. Please consider putting the Foundation in your estate planning, as well as your yearly giving.

As of March 31, 2022 our investment portfolio was down considerably. Like many of our 401K's this was difficult to see. We acknowledge the cycles of the market, but also realize the wisdom to make sure we are being conservative with our investments. Throughout the past year, we have made adjustments to the portfolio's balance of stocks and bonds to stay within the Foundation bylaws.

I would like to thank Matt DeBoer for his 3 years of service on the Foundation Board. Matt was the chairman for the clay shoot fundraiser and poured a lot of time and effort into this event.

We welcome two new members to the board. Dan Kuiper and Matt Rutgers have accepted their appointments to the Foundation Board for a 3-year term. I am confident they will enjoy their time on this board and thank them for their willingness to serve.

Psalm 34:8 "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him."

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Scott Kooienga, Chairman

Matt DeBoer, Dan Kalsbeek, Dave Langerak

It's hard to believe that we are only a couple of weeks away from the end of another year of covenant instruction at Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School. Spring sports are

wrapping up, all the grades are squeezing in their final class trips, and soon the halls will be empty for another summer season. Summer break is well deserved!

We give thanks to our faithful Father in Heaven for the many blessings He has bestowed upon the school this year. As a committee, we are encouraged often, specifically monthly, when we review the classroom visitor reports from board members who visit the classes of our teachers. These visits are a very important responsibility of the school board. We conduct these visits not only for observation, but also for teacher encouragement. The occupation of a teacher can be very mentally and even emotionally draining, and our teachers deserve all the encouragement they can get. The Christian love and care that is reflected from the teachers to the students is such a blessing, and one we must not take for granted. Our teachers and staff truly care for the souls of our children!

Looking ahead to next year we are excited to have Faith Bleyenbergh teaching the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We are thankful also for the willingness of Val Minderhoud to give of her time and talents, as a teacher aide in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade next year. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade class is a large class, and the extra support of a full time aide will be much appreciated by parents, students, and staff. We pray for God's continued blessing on Mrs. Stephanie Daling as she moves on from Hope School to pursue other interests. Thank you, Stephanie, for your years of service at Hope School.

At the April annual society meeting the following men were elected to the board: Steve Langerak (Hope), Kevin Koole (Grace), Phil Kalsbeek (Faith). At the May Board meeting the following officers were elected: President-Scott Kooienga, Vice President-Rich DeMeester, Secretary-Dan Kalsbeek, Assistant Secretary-Joel DeVries, Treasurer-Josh Meulenberg, Assistant Treasurer-Phil Kalsbeek. We extend our thanks to outgoing board members, Brad VanderVeen, Dave Langerak, and Brad Schwarz. We welcome new board member Steve Langerak to the Education Committee and 3<sup>rd</sup> year board member Rich DeMeester will assume the role as chairman of the Education Committee. The board has experienced a great deal of unity over the past year, and we pray for this to continue in the year ahead. As a board we have had to navigate through a few very difficult matters over the last few months, but God has granted us grace and wisdom as we deliberated on these things.

In closing, we'd like to thank our administrator, the teachers, and staff, who have stood in the place of us as parents this past school year. God is a faithful and covenant keeping God and we have seen His faithfulness for another year. Praise be to Him and Him alone!

## **ANNUAL SECRETARY'S REPORT 2023**

Mr. Dan Kalsbeek, Board Secretary

*Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful.* Psalm 116:5 Our God is truly gracious in providing us with this school and another year of covenant instruction.

The Board is pleased to announce that except for Stephanie Daling, all the teachers and staff have signed on for the 2023-2024 school year. Last year, the board hired Suzanna Smit and she has capably assumed the 7<sup>th</sup> grade teaching position. The Education Committee interviewed potential teachers for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade position and the board is happy to announce that Faith Bleyenbergh from Byron Center PRC has signed a contract to teach in the place of Stephanie Daling. A special thank-you to Stephanie for giving her time and talent here at Hope

School for the past seven years. The Board thanks all who have labored over the past year for the good of Hope School for your dedication to the ongoing work and maintenance of this school.

The Building Committee has been busy with the upkeep and the maintenance of the school facility. The work of replacing the lockers and benches in the lower elementary hall was completed in time for the start of this school year. The Building Committee has been working with the Kent County Drain Commission who has requested an easement for a new drain to replace the existing one which runs through our property. This project, if approved, will likely happen this summer or possibly next summer and will be of no expense to the school. The committee has also made plans to replace the roof of the small gym this summer. Thanks to the School Circle for covering the cost of the lockers and bench replacement in the lower elementary hall, and for helping to cover a portion of the cost of replacing the copiers.

This year the Board is recommending a budget of \$1,278,244 which is an increase of \$51,878 or 4.23% from the 2022-2023 budget. The Board is also recommending a wage scale increase of \$2,500 each for the teaching staff. The Finance Committee's proposed budget has the cost of tuition increasing 3% since last year. The Finance Committee reported that we ended last year with a modest gain of \$9,786.54. Kaptein Dykstra CPA's have conducted and completed the annual review of our financials, and everything was found to be in good order. We thank retiring Board member and treasurer (for the past two years) Brad VanderVeen, for his labors.

The Circle Contact Committee of the Board met with the School Circle's officers to review the monetary yearly commitments of the Circle. This committee is also tasked with planning lunches or breakfasts for the teachers throughout the year.

The Transportation Committee has proposed to the Board and the Board has agreed to not replacing Bus 15 at this time. After consulting with Speedwrench it was decided that this bus is good to go for another year. Dennis Kaptein came on as a bus driver, but he has asked to be replaced for the next school year. Also, this year, Jennifer Kalsbeek has taken over as Transportation Supervisor and has already shown herself to be quite competent.

The Education Committee of the Board has been busy this past year as well. Aside from the routine work of the Education Committee, the committee conducted the annual interviews/reviews with the current teachers and staff in January. Late last summer, the Education Committee approved a new 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade American History curriculum from Bob Jones University. From the technology committee, 25 new Chromebooks have been purchased and the old Chromebooks have been donated to the Covenant Christian School in Lynden, Washington.

With sorrow, the board in recent months has been called to deal with the awfulness of child sexual abuse perpetrated by former teachers. This child sexual abuse was directed at Hope School students and continues to affect these former students many years later. Back in September of 2021, a request came from a concerned society member and father of students here at Hope School for an Abuse Policy to be drafted and adopted for the school. The Education Committee has been working on producing an Abuse Policy for Hope School. After many drafts and input from many sources, this policy is nearing completion.

This past October, Hope School hosted the annual Teachers' Convention. Two of our teachers led sectionals at this Teacher's Convention, Mr. B. Dykstra and Ms. G. Lotterman. Every year, the school is involved in the Zaner-Bloser Penmanship competition and recently the

school participated in a Spelling Bee at Adams Christian School on March 9. The Robotics program participated in the RoBowl on Saturday, November 19 and placed first in this competition.

Along with Brad VanderVeen and Brad Schwarz, our board president, David Langerak is completing his three-year term on the School Board. We thank these men for their capable leadership and their dedication to Hope School.

We rejoice in the righteousness of our Lord and for His abundant mercy toward us.

*Most kind and righteous is the Lord,  
Our God is merciful indeed,  
Delighting ever to afford  
His help to me in time of need.  
Psalter #310 vs. 3*

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Brad Vander Veen, Chairman  
Scott Kooienga, Josh Meulenberg

The Lord continues to provide for the financial needs of Hope School. With only two months remaining in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, we are in a good financial position with regard to the overall budget. A review of the YTD financial statement shows that our income is at 98.6% of budget and our expenses are at 80.1% of budget. Our target position for both after ten months is 83.3%. On the income side, we had a very healthy Fall and Spring deficit drive, and many families already have their tuition paid in full for the year. On the expense side, we are tracking at or under budget on the major line items. Look for a final 2022-2023 financial summary in the next issue of the *Highlights*.

At the annual Society meeting a budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year was approved. Tuition will be increasing 3% for all families. The Hope Foundation has again pledged \$50,000 towards the operation of the school. We plan to run a small budget deficit during the 2023-2024 fiscal year, but anticipated interest from putting some of our "stagnant" funds in a 12-month CD will offset the deficit so that we plan to end the year with balanced income and expenses.

Thank you to all tuition paying families who have stayed up to date or ahead of tuition payments during the past school year. We are happy to report that throughout the course of the school year there was very little discussion about delinquent tuition. A reminder that the last tuition payment of the year is due in May, so please have that into the office by May 31<sup>st</sup>. If you need to make special arrangements, please contact a member of the Finance Committee.

With a new slate of school board members comes new committee assignments. Josh Meulenberg will be assuming the role of treasurer for the next two years. Joining him on the Finance Committee this year are Phil Kalsbeek and Kevin Koole. Thanks to third-year board member Scott Kooienga and retiring board member Brad Vander Veen for their careful work on the Finance Committee over the last few years.

The Finance Committee expresses its thanks to the individuals, families, and businesses that have given abundantly towards Hope School again this year. Not a meeting went by this year by that we did not give thanks in our prayers for the overwhelming financial support of

Christian education at Hope School. Thanks be to God! Please continue to keep the financial needs of Hope School in your prayers, and in your giving plans.

<b>Actual to Budget. July 2022 - Apr 2023</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>%</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Church Collections	43,962.38	46,000.00	95.6%
Gifts and Pledges	358,396.42	346,000.00	103.6%
Gym Rental	5,277.00	5,000.00	105.5%
Hope Foundation	50,000.00	50,000.00	100.0%
Special Ed Society	7,869.96	12,074.00	65.2%
Tuition	709,624.10	737,570.00	96.2%
Z - Bus Fees	19,253.87	14,950.00	128.8%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,194,383.73</b>	<b>1,211,594.00</b>	<b>98.6%</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>			
Accounting Fees	5,750.00	6,450.00	89.1%
Band Expenses	2,000.00	2,000.00	100.0%
Building and Grounds - Y/E	1,484.94	43,000.00	3.5%
Class Trip Fund	1,500.00	1,500.00	100.0%
Educational Supplies and Books	30,000.00	30,000.00	100.0%
Federation Dues	4,179.34	4,168.00	100.3%
Insurance, General	14,303.00	14,118.00	101.3%
Insurance, Group	70,034.65	95,000.00	73.7%
Insurance, HRA - Y/E	2,445.56	4,000.00	61.1%
Insurance, Workers Comp	2,583.27	2,620.00	98.6%
Janitors Supplies	3,192.75	4,500.00	71.0%
Library Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00	100.0%
Long Range Building Fund Trans	18,750.00	22,500.00	83.3%
Miscellaneous Expense	2,023.98	2,000.00	101.2%
Office Equipment - Y/E	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%
Office Supplies	1,383.80	1,000.00	138.4%
Payroll - Band / Choir	16,759.50	21,000.00	79.8%
Payroll - Building Maintenance	1,895.50	2,250.00	84.2%
Payroll - Discovery Room	61,966.97	67,600.00	91.7%
Payroll - Janitor	27,920.00	33,500.00	83.3%
Payroll - Lawn Maintenance	2,466.50	4,200.00	58.7%
Payroll - Librarian	4,495.00	5,200.00	86.4%
Payroll - Office	28,416.00	34,225.00	83.0%
Payroll - Substitute Teachers	310.00	1,000.00	31.0%
Payroll - Teachers	486,230.84	581,797.00	83.6%
Payroll - Teachers Aids	9,289.25	19,000.00	48.9%
Payroll - Technolgy Maintenance	150.00	3,000.00	5.0%
Payroll Taxes	45,392.72	59,158.00	76.7%
Phys Ed Uniforms	838.59	1,000.00	83.9%
Repairs and Maintenance	3,608.67	7,400.00	48.8%
Retirement Plan	16,265.41	18,862.00	86.2%

**Actual to Budget. July 2022 - Apr 2023**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Snow Removal</b>	2,235.00	3,500.00	63.9%
<b>Teacher Classroom</b>	1,700.00	1,700.00	100.0%
<b>Teacher Development - Y/E</b>	8,593.94	12,000.00	71.6%
<b>Technology Supplies</b>	13,250.00	14,000.00	94.6%
<b>Utilities, Electric</b>	14,965.25	23,000.00	65.1%
<b>Utilities, Gas</b>	10,862.04	11,000.00	98.7%
<b>Utilities, Internet &amp; Phone</b>	3,643.49	4,000.00	91.1%
<b>Utilities, Trash</b>	1,620.85	2,100.00	77.2%
<b>Utilities, Water &amp; Sewer</b>	1,043.15	1,300.00	80.2%
<b>Z. Bus Expenses</b>			
<b>Bus Depreciation Fund Trans</b>	7,291.70	8,750.00	83.3%
<b>Bus Driver Cost Subsidy</b>	390.00	1,000.00	39.0%
<b>Bus Driver Payroll</b>	20,913.00	22,918.00	91.3%
<b>Bus Driver Payroll Taxes</b>	1,304.43	1,700.00	76.7%
<b>Bus Driver Workers Compensation</b>	985.98	1,000.00	98.6%
<b>Bus Insurance</b>	2,164.75	2,100.00	103.1%
<b>Bus Repair</b>	11,363.19	7,000.00	162.3%
<b>Gas and Oil</b>	11,364.65	12,500.00	90.9%
<b>Transportation Supervisor</b>	1,600.00	1,250.00	128.0%
<b>Total Z. Bus Expenses</b>	57,377.70	58,218.00	98.6%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	982,927.66	<b>1,226,366.00</b>	<b>80.1%</b>

**FEDERATION, PUBLICITY, CIRCLE CONTACT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dan Boeve, Chairman  
Joel DeVries, Dan Kalsbeek

Our committee corresponds with the Federation of Protestant Reformed Schools to keep Hope School aligned with other Protestant Reformed schools in education, technology, and teacher compensation. While we participate in the Federation Association Annual Meeting, much of the work is carried out by the Federation Board. This year the President is Marc Scholten, Kyle Bruinooge is the Executive Director, and Derek Van Overloop is the Technology Director. Other members are Rick Noorman, Dan Pastoor, Jon Drnek, and Ryan Worries. The Federation Board has been developing a Mentoring program to encourage experienced teachers to pass on their knowledge to newer teachers. This program is progressing nicely and has led to an increase in the budget to cover the incentives the teachers receive for participating. The Board is also investigating the role of the Federation regarding sexual harassment/child safety policies in our schools. A survey was sent to the schools to evaluate the interest of the schools in this area. Please keep these men in your prayers as they work behind the scenes to keep our Protestant Reformed Schools unified in teaching our covenant youth.

In May, fellow school board member Joel DeVries and myself stopped by school at lunchtime to grill hamburgers for the teachers and staff. We did this to show appreciation for



their work and it gave us an opportunity to visit with the staff over a good meal. The school board has done a number of these teacher appreciation meals and special treats throughout the year with different board members participating.

Our committee is also communicating with the School Circle to pass along potential needs or projects for the school throughout the year. Through their fundraising, they provide funds for projects that are not planned on in the yearly budget or that are of a special nature. This year, the School Circle is providing funds for the upgrades to the 3-6 grade hallway. The worn-out carpeting is going to be replaced, the walls and lockers will be painted, and the doors will be stained to match the rest of the school. HeartPrize was held recently, showcasing many artistic talents, and bringing many people out for an enjoyable event. On behalf of the Board, our committee would like to thank the School Circle for the work they do to assist Christian education at Hope and the events they host that bring the school community together and encourage the students and staff.



## SCHOOL CIRCLE NEWS



### HOPE SCHOOL CIRCLE REPORT Candace Meulenberg, Secretary

Hope School Circle is thankful to report on another year of good work, successful fundraising and volunteering. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Col. 3:17. We are humbled to see God's faithfulness in blessing our efforts, and in providing this means of service.

Over the past school year, the Circle continued the long standing tradition of making pigs-in-the-blanket and catering for local weddings. We also continued to sell TRIP, Key Cards and raised funds with the Start Strong Jog-A-Thon, Family Fun Night, snack sale, hot lunch, and Motmans' gift cards. Hope HeArt Prize took place in April, and many of the children shared their artistic and musical talents. This is a unique and enjoyable night that brings the broader art community together and showcases an appreciation of God's world through design, nature and color!

The teachers and the administration at Hope put in a tremendous amount of work each year, and as members of the School Circle we are privileged to witness this. In appreciation, the Circle gave a Love Lunch to the staff, provided snacks during Teacher Appreciation Week, and monitored kids at recess in the hallways on rainy days. We were also able to give new Hope sweatshirts and polos to the staff. Lend-A-Helping-Hand took place earlier this year and hopefully provided the staff with many extra classroom supplies. Thank you teachers for your labor of love and your dedication to educating our children!

In addition to our regular yearly commitments, the Circle was able to provide \$2,000 toward a new copier, \$6,000 for new third grade desks, and \$9,000 to help remodel the hallways of grades 3-6. We also contributed \$4,400 toward a commemorative glass display on the brick wall in the teacher's lounge.

It has been a joy and a blessing to serve our school again this year. The Circle would like to thank all the supporters of Hope School. We appreciate your attendance at our events

and the gifts you give. Please continue to pray for our committee and that God would be pleased to use us in His service.



## STAFF & STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS



### A GIFT FROM GOD

Mrs. Deb Hoeksema, Kindergarten

*Ecclesiastes 3:13 - And also that every man should eat and drink,  
and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.*

Since I began teaching Kindergarten, this has always been my favorite time of year. The students have spent the first half of the year learning their letters and sounds, and then they began practicing how to put the sounds together into words. Around the beginning of the new year, the words begin to merge together to form sentences. And finally, after Spring Break, those sentences become books that they can actually read by themselves. Soon, I have a line at my desk with students who cannot wait to share their reading abilities with me. (I have heard *Pig Wants a Peach* enough times that I almost have it memorized and I have only officially read it once. Take note though, I still love to listen to them read it to me each time! 😊)

In reading class each week, we have decodable books to practice at school and bring home to share with our family and friends. Our first few books are just pictures and we interpret our stories. Then we move on to sentences that are made up of simple words and pictures. Eventually our sentences are comprised of words only. In the last month, we have moved on to “chapter” decodable books. We are even reading our homework assignments by ourselves. We are taking turns reading the sentences on our assignments and filling in the missing blanks using the correct words.

The reason why this is my favorite time of the year is that the students have worked hard all year long to gain the skills and knowledge needed to begin reading. They have built confidence in themselves as they have progressed through the stages. They know that they can pick up a book, turn all of those letters into words, and learn something on each page. What an amazing gift of God! Reading about pigs and peaches may not reveal to us a great mystery of the world, but it is a beginning. In order to understand the truths God has given us in His Word, we must start somewhere, even if it is with a pig!

In years past, I have used the Spring *Highlights* articles to have the kids write a sentence about our marvelous Moms. This year, I made it a bit harder on them. I am taking some of their writing samples to complete my task. They were asked to write a few sentences about their family on one assignment. The other one asked the students to tell about their favorite weather and why it is their favorite. Enjoy!

## *Kindergarten Writing Samples:*

### **My Family**

- I have six in my family. We like to play with are chiks (chicks). – Nella Meulenberg
- I have 5 pepll (people) in my family. We like to go to gramas hows (Grandma's house). – Zoey Van Overloop
- I have 6 pepol in my family. We like to go owt for luht (lunch). – Anson Feenstra
- I have 6 in my family. We like to go swimming. – Emerson Veldman
- I have 7 in my family. We like to go to scoow and hoke (school and hockey). – Emma Koole
- I have 5 in my family. We like to wash basbal and hoke (watch baseball and hockey). – Oscar Peterson

### **The Weather**

- I like sune (sunny) days because sun makse me worm (warm). I play with mi sistr. – Savannah Veldman
- I like ranee (rainy) days because I get to splash in the pudls (puddles) and get wet. I play in my fort. – Rowan Wassink
- I like suny dase because it cebs (keeps) me worm (warm). Outside I plae on the tramp. – Ella Schipper
- I like sunny days because the sun is ot. It is worm (warm) otside. – Emily Tanis
- I like sunny days because we can swim. I like to play in the sun. – Nora DeVries
- I like rainy days because it helps the plants and we can jump in uddy (muddy) puddles. – Bethany Guichelaar
- I like sune (sunny) because it wrm (warm). I lik tu wot the clas (like to watch the clouds). – Brody Feenstra
- I like suny days because suny days cool me down. We plae frispe (play frisbee). – Charlotte Rutgers
- I like suny days because it is warm. I can play owt side with short sleev. – Zack Heyboer
- I like snny because it cebs (keeps) me worm (warm)! I like sunny because I can go to the bech (beach). – Michael Engelsma
- I like sune dse be cus (sunny days because) we play out side. – Tressa Mahtani

## TO MAGNIFY WITH MEEKNESS

Miss Suzanna Smit, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." We are all likely familiar with this verse from Proverbs 16:18. It was a verse that many of my former teachers and Sunday school leaders pointed to as we went through Bible stories and discussed man's sinfulness. From them I learned that pride was bad and would lead to bad consequences. As Rev. Eriks points out in his 2002 *Standard Bearer* article, pride is not merely the character flaw of overconfidence; rather, this sin leads to many other transgressions. Arrogance makes man big and God small. Jehovah's abhorrence of this transgression is seen throughout scripture. An earlier verse in Proverbs 16 states, "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord." As children of God, we must seek to erase pride from our lives. Yet, a lack of pride is not enough. The void must be filled with another attribute, that of humility. Proverbs 16:19, a verse much less familiar than the one it follows, reminds us of this positive calling for His people: "Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud."

What does humility look like? A humble man shows deference or submission. This can be applied in a variety of ways throughout the various spheres of life. We can show deference to our government's authority to make laws by paying our taxes or driving the speed limit. Submission to our parents may be revealed in cleaning our room or in a willing attitude when asked to do chores. In the sphere of the church, deference means seeking to understand and obey the guidelines set forth in the church order. As a teacher, this may mean acknowledging that a student knows more about WWII airplanes than I do. However, humility is only true when we realize that this deference is not ultimately to the powers and authorities on this earth, but to the Lord God who has created the heavens and earth and all things in them. He alone deserves our total deference and submission. Even with the limited understanding that we have, we know that we ought to prostrate ourselves before Him and His glory.

This is how we can be bold in our faith and still exhibit modesty and soberness of mind (I Thessalonians 2). Humility does not mean lying down and accepting everything that happens to us; humility is directing all focus and attention to God and His glory. Our boldness comes not from ourselves, but we are bold in Christ's name and for His sake. Christ is also the perfect example of humility and boldness. He looked not to His own things, but looked on the things of others, esteeming them better than Himself (Philippians 2). This was revealed in His willingness to endure that life of suffering ending in the cross of God's judgment and wrath. He accomplished these so that we may have eternal life, so that we will never have to experience that pain and suffering ourselves. Yet He also showed His boldness for the truth and for God's house when He scattered the animals and overturned the tables of those who were defiling the temple. So also for us, deference to God may mean taking up a leadership role and using it to serve His people while still being willing to accept correction and admit faults.

Let us therefore go to prayer, to ask for humility and boldness from our LORD from whom all blessings flow, who grants us the strength and grace necessary for each day. We must walk in humility for we know that our salvation and sanctification stems not from ourselves but Christ and His Spirit in us. We must walk in boldness, for we are called to shine forth in the knowledge of God and the truth in which we walk.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Samples:

### SOOMBA

By Lucy Schimmel

This invention is a water-proof robot that will pick up the trash in the ocean. It will have a waterproof coating on it and paddles underneath so it can move on the water. Inside of it will be a fire. When it picks up the trash, the robot will burn it. If it cannot be burned, such as plastic, then it will keep it in a separate spot so then later it can recycle it. How the robot will move different trash is it will have a treadmill in it so when trash goes in, the treadmill will move it into the fire. If it is plastic, a grabber will come to pick up the trash and move it into the plastic spot. The robot will know what is plastic and what is not by a little plastic detector. The plastic detector will send a signal to the grabbers to come and pick up the plastic. If too much water comes in, the robot will have a little hole where it can drain the water. Like a fish, it can "breathe underwater". It will be powered by solar light, so it will take the sun's energy to charge.



Why this invention is useful is because there is a lot of trash in the ocean. If we don't pick it up, then the whole ocean will be polluted. Pollution in the ocean is bad because aquatic life will die. The animals that eat animals in the water will die too, so humans will eventually die. This invention will help a lot to the earth.

### THE SHWING

By Caleb Schipper

Who wouldn't want to fly? Birds fly, airplanes fly, some squirrels fly, children and adults WANT to fly. Everyone wants to be places faster and now they can. All you have to do is purchase the latest and greatest invention called the Shwing! The Shwing is the best new way for humans to travel. Are you late? Use your Shwings! Want to escape traffic? Use your Shwings! Tired of walking? Use your Shwings!

Shwings are white tennis shoes that you put on just like your regular tennis shoes. The cool and unique part of Shwings are the wings on the sides. These wings allow you to float up into the air. Once you are above the ground and floating you can activate them by pushing a brown button on the side. This button kicks the wings into superspeed mode and you can zoom to your destination.

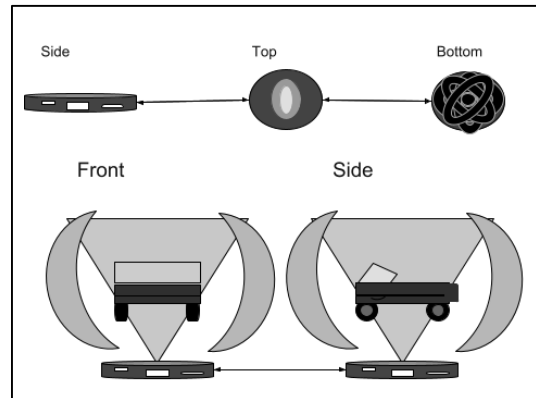
Shwings are the best! They can help you avoid traffic when you are running late. You can miss red lights on your way to work. Teachers love them because they keep you from getting tardies. You can arrive at your destination before anyone else because Shwings are faster than cars. Shwings help you conserve your energy and also keep your legs from getting tired. Everyone should have a pair of Shwings.

## MY INVENTION

By Jace Cammenga

My invention is a graphic disc in which you can display objects like a car design or something else that you are going to sell to a company or a different organization. This disc will have plenty of storage so you can bring any type of design with you anywhere you go. To transfer your design the disc will have a UPS, that can transfer your data to the disc so you can show it to a company to make money off of. Here is a diagram of what it looks like.

On one of the sides there will be a turn on button, a UPS port, and a charging port. When it is turned on you will have to choose which design you want to show through any device that you connected to it. When the image pops up there will be tools on each side of your image, you can interact with these projected images and fix errors or things that you don't want on your image. You can turn the image in any direction that you want to show different parts of your design.



This invention is most useful for selling to customers and companies and if your disc gets stolen you can access your disc and take all of the information off of it. There will also be a GPS on it so you can locate your disc, there will be a code only for the people who can access it.

## PIG TRAINER

By Kara Bleyenbergh

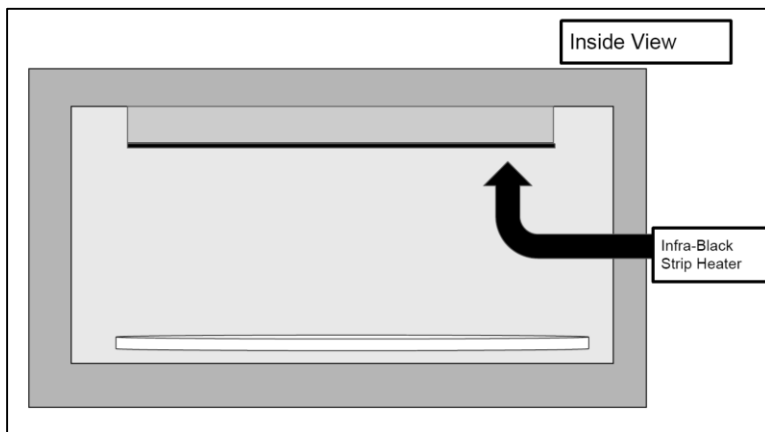
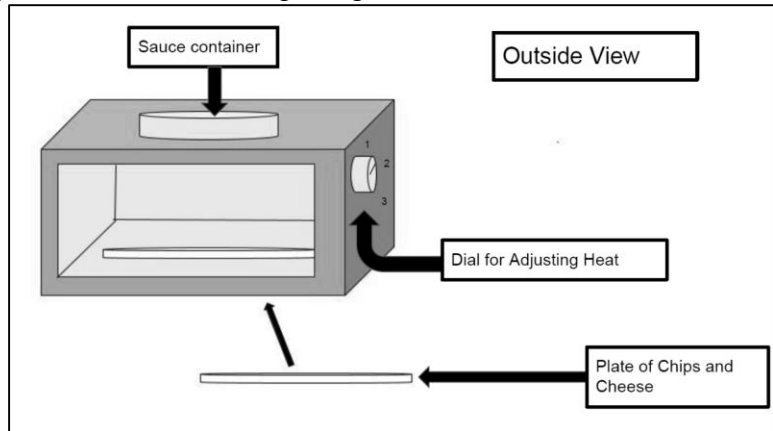
The pig trainer is a robot figure of a person that will train, clean, and wash your pig to get it ready for showing at the county fair. It is a battery powered robot, but once it runs out of battery, you can control it with a controller. The controller can make the robot walk, run, whip, and wash the pig. It will be able to find all the equipment needed to work with the pig (whip, soap, brush, spray bottles, water, etc.) Because the robot may not be able to move its arm fast enough, it has an automatic trigger to make the arm move quickly.

The robot that is specially trained for working pigs is useful, because you can start the robot at any moment of time using the remote. When you are at school or work, you can press the start button on the remote to make the robot go. The remote control is very small and portable. If you would like, you can make your robot talk by speaking any word into the remote; whatever word you say the robot will say the same word. You can customize your robot into something that looks exactly like you so that the pig will recognize you and won't be scared when you show the pig. You can get an app on any electronic device that has the remote on it just in case you lose the remote. Because the robot may not be able to move its arm fast enough, it has an automatic trigger to make the arm move quickly.

## CHIPS AND CHEESE HEATER

By Daniel Langerak

The purpose of this invention is to keep chips and cheese from getting cold. This invention will look very similar to a microwave but won't have a door or buttons that control the amount of time that it heats food. This invention will also operate very differently from a microwave. It will have a bowl shaped container on the top which can be used to hold a dipping sauce for your chips and cheese. Inside of my invention will be a infra-black strip heater which is excellent for heating food close to it. The strip heater will be made specially to fit the invention and will be mounted on the roof in its inside. This strip heater will be the heating method my invention will use to keep your chips and cheese from getting cold. On the invention's side, there will be a dial which can be turned to adjust the amount of heat that is being used to heat your food. The strip heater will be raised or lowered depending on which number the dial is turned to. The higher the number, the lower the strip heater will be. The closer the strip heater is to your food, the more heat your food will receive. The invention will plug into the wall.



This invention will be very useful because nobody likes cold chips and cheese. Chips and cheese get cold very quickly, so this invention will keep that from happening.

An invention that is similar to this one would be heating lamps. They can heat food just like strip heaters. Another similar invention is the oven. Some ovens have a warming drawer that keeps

your food warm. However, this wouldn't let you quickly take your chips and cheese out, eat some, and then put them back into the heater.

## THE STUDIER PRO

By Jacob DeBoer

My invention is the *Studier Pro*. This is a trapezoid-shaped object that can help you study. It has a built-in computer called a *Studier Pro Laptop* that is pretty much like a Chromebook. This has zero ads, unlike chromebooks, and does not have Google. Instead, it has *Studier Pro Search*. It also has *Studier Pro Documents*, *Studier Pro Slideshows*, *Studier Pro Sketch*, and *Studier Pro Sheets*. These are like Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Drawings, and Google Sheets. It also has a tablet called *Studier Pro Tablet*. It is kind of like the Samsung

Galaxy Tab A 8.0. Like this, the *Studier Pro Tablet* has a long-lasting battery. Unlike this, it is a little bigger and only has *Studier Pro Tester*. This is something like a Quizlet that helps you study. This has flashcards, quizzes and tests, and a few fun games to help you study. You do not have to make this. You put your notebook in the top slot, and the machine copies it. This copier is the *Studier Pro T-Cam*, a type of telephoto camera. To light up the papers, there would be fluorescent light bulbs. The machine then sends it to the tablet, which takes a look at the notes and makes up different questions. You can also put in your past quizzes in it if you are studying for a test and your past tests if you are studying for an exam. This will show the machine which concepts that you struggle with the most. Also, it can see what the teacher makes the tests and quizzes like. You can also print from the laptop and tablet. There is a *Studier Pro Printer* on the top which can print pretend pop quizzes, tests, and exams. This is kind of like the HP OfficeJet 200 Mobile Printer. It is small, prints quietly and in color, and has a long lasting battery.

Inside the top compartment, where the notebook is copied, and the bottom compartment, where the quizzes and tests are copied, there is a robotic hand, called the *Studier Pro 2-Axis RoboArm*. This is like the Meca500, the smallest type of six-axis robotic arm. On this would be a TacTip-GR2 placed on a GR2 gripper. This has sensors that would be able to take the pages of the notebook and grip them, and then the robotic arm would flip them. This robotic arm would be a little different from the Meca500 because it would only have one-third of the amount of axes to make it smaller in order to fit it inside the *Studier Pro*. The normal Meca500, even though it is the smallest robotic arm, is still a foot. Taking some of the axes away would make it about four inches. The first of the two axes would let the robotic arm twist around, and the second of the two would let the robotic arm swing around freely. There would also be a *Studier Pro 2-Axis RoboArm* in the lower compartment where you put tests and quizzes so that it can flip over the tests if they are more than one page long.

The front of the *Studier Pro* also has a small screen on it to tell the robot how many pages that it needs to flip in the notebook and which page to start on. This also is where you put the password in to use the *Studier Pro*. On the back of the *Studier Pro* are two buttons that say 'ON' and 'OFF'. Pushing the 'ON' button turns on the front screen, and when you put in the password, the rest of the machine turns on and unlocks. There is a padlock on the front screen that you need to open with a key since it does not lock like the other compartments. This is because it is needed in order to unlock the other compartments.

All the cords from the robotic arms, printer, tablet, and laptop connect to one big cord. This is in the back of the *Studier Pro* in a small compartment. You can take this out and plug it into an outlet to charge the thing. The various objects inside the *Studier Pro* will, like normal devices, stop charging when they reach 100%. The *Studier Pro* is useful because it is just putting the laptop, tablet, printer, the robotic arms and camera in the compartments, and the screen needed to tell the robotic arms what to do all together in one thing, and they are all connected together in one cord.

DANI SHLIDES

By Dani Bylsma

Dani Shlides is an invention of dude shoes that can turn into slides, and I am the inventor. This invention may not sound all great but this incredible invention is really one of the best. For instance, say your car is getting fixed and you obviously wear your dude shoes.



Well, since you have a lot of time until your car is fixed you decide to go mini-golfing. After you finish the game you still have time until you can go get your car, so you decide to go for a walk on the beach pier. You don't want to wreck your brand new dude shoes, what do you do? Here's where I come in. All you need to do is click a little almost invisible button on the back of your shoe and voila you have slides and you can enjoy your walk. This button will be concealed in between the tongue of your shoe and under the flap. I suppose you can have it on a regular shoe but you will have to pay me more money for those. These fabulous Shlides can be found in any color. Don't try to buy them anywhere else because I am the only one with them. They are not out in stores but in a secret compartment in my room. There is such a thing as a dude shoe that can get wet but nothing like this new invention. There might be dude shoes and slides but there is no such thing as Dani Shlides, so be one of the first to have them.



## COSMIC FINDINGS

Mr. Nate DeVries, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Predictably, recent discoveries in space have begun changing ideas of the evolutionary timeframe of the cosmos. The use of technology has increasingly unveiled amazing findings in many different areas of science, possibly most notable in the area of deep space. A new technique called gravitational lensing and a new space telescope, the James Webb, have revealed two different phenomena that have created great interest in those who study space while raising questions within the context of evolutionary timeframes. The first discovery is an immensely large black hole, identified with the use of gravitational lensing and confirmed by the Hubble telescope. This black hole is calculated at being 30 billion times larger than the sun. This in itself is quite a discovery; however, more notable to a Christian is the reaction of the scientists themselves. According to Dr. James Nightingale, "[This] pushes our understanding of astronomy to the limits. How do you form a black hole this big in just 13 billions years of the universe's existence?"<sup>1</sup> In addition to the black hole discovery, the new James Webb telescope also revealed something equally stunning, again forcing evolutionary scientists to reconsider their current age of the universe. Intending to observe "young" galaxies (supposedly existing only 500-700 million years after the big bang) for a better understanding of the early days of the universe, scientists instead found six huge galaxies that pose massive problems for the current understanding of how galaxies, and ultimately the universe, formed. However, what the data shows is that these six galaxies are as large as so-called current, mature galaxies and actually "conflict with 99% of models representing early galaxies in the universe." An interesting and telling quote from one of the authors of the study shows the true folly of the current theory of evolution. "These objects are way more massive than anyone expected. We expected only to find tiny, young, baby galaxies at this point in time, but we've discovered galaxies as mature as our own in what was previously understood to be the dawn of the universe. It calls the whole picture of early galaxy formation into question."<sup>2</sup> While these two discoveries, which will undoubtedly be followed with even more astounding revelations, have impressed scientists and

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<sup>1</sup> [www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-65109663](http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-65109663)

<sup>2</sup> [www.cnn.com/2023/02/22/world/webb-telescope-massive-early-galaxies-scn/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2023/02/22/world/webb-telescope-massive-early-galaxies-scn/index.html)

called into question current theories of the origin and development of the universe, the response shows that the unashamed denial of God and the despising of the revelation of Him in the most elegant book of creation will continue unabated in the world. Each time worldly scientists come to a new conclusion of the age of the universe another discovery is made that proves the previous "truth" to be false. In the meantime, we are all instructed to "believe the science," that evolution is fact, and that denying evolution as truth is, in fact, a denial of the clear, scientific evidence surrounding us. Thankfully, we as Christians believe by faith that God is creator and all else is creature. Also by faith we confess that the supposed evidence proving evolution is false, and we hold to the truth of the Bible, needing no evidence (even though multitudes of such evidence exists) found in the creation to give support to the scriptures. As more beautiful things of the creation are revealed in the future, we thank God for showing us more of His marvelous works and more clear evidence of an almighty God.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Writings:

#### ATOMS: INSIGNIFICANT, YET VITAL

By Lydia Minderhoud

Essential to each and every part of our lives here on earth are tiny atoms, seemingly insignificant but extremely vital for creatures. Being the smallest building blocks of matter, atoms make up literally everything that exists, intricately and perfectly created by God. Without them, nothing we know and love would be here any longer. God created atoms very complex while also orderly; therefore, at an atom's center is the nucleus which contains two different kinds of particles, one being positively charged protons and the other being neutrons which have neither a positive nor negative charge. Additionally, besides protons and neutrons, electrons, having negative charges, go on to prove how miniscule and complex an atom is since they, being 1,840 times smaller than protons, circle the nucleus in what are called "shells". God displays His great power and majesty in His creation of atoms, and He also provides us with unlimited comfort and confidence in knowing our God upholds and governs every individual thing on this earth, including us, beginning with the tiniest, most minute parts of His creation. Finally, just as atoms seem too small to be of any importance but indeed are the opposite, those in the church who seem to be feeble and of no value are truly of great worth; accordingly, we must deem them as those whom God sees precious. Overall, we see that God has created everything from atoms to remind us of both His power to preserve us and his unending love for us and for those who seem weak in the church.

#### ROCKS AND THEIR REVELATION OF GOD

By Alanna Kalsbeek

Rocks come in many colors, shapes, and sizes, but they are classified into three main categories based on what they are made of. Igneous rocks, for example, including granite, basalt, andesite, rhyolite, and obsidian, were formed from hardened lava or magma. Sedimentary rocks, which include conglomerate, sandstone, siltstone, shale, chalk, and limestone, were formed from compressed sediments and usually feel sandy or gritty and have fossils. The third main group of rocks is metamorphic rocks, rocks that were originally igneous or sedimentary, but changed chemically or physically over time. Possibly crushed by overlying rocks, metamorphic rocks, including marble, quartzite, metaconglomerate, and gneiss, may

appear to be banded. These, igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic, are the primary divisions of rocks.

In the Bible, God reveals Himself by comparing Himself to rocks. One characteristic of rocks is that they are not easily broken or changed. God is unchanging, and His covenant faithfulness to us unfaithful sinners will never change, as proved by Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Also, in Ephesians 2:20, Jesus is shown to be "the chief cornerstone". He is our firm foundation, and we are called to lean on Him like the man in Matthew 7 built his house on the rock. A third way God compares Himself to rocks is by creating them as heavy and hard to move; God, similarly, is immovable, and with Him on our side, we "shall not be greatly moved" (Psalm 62:2). In studying rocks, God's people are comforted by rocks' revelation of God.

### THE CONVERSION OF OUR ENERGY

By Brice Feenstra

Cellular respiration is the process which gives you most of your energy. The goal of cellular respiration is to convert glucose into a usable energy form. This energy form is called ATP. There are three stages to cellular respiration. The first is glycolysis. Glycolysis takes place in the cytoplasm of the cell. In glycolysis glucose is converted to two pyruvates, two ATP, and Acetyl CoA, which is an enzyme that goes to the next stage. The pyruvates turn into carbon dioxide and NADHs, or electron carriers. The second stage is the Krebs Cycle, also known as the Citric Acid Cycle. This takes place in the matrix of the mitochondria of the cell. In the Krebs Cycle, two ATP, carbon dioxide, and more electron carriers are made. The third stage is the Electron Transport Chain. The electron carriers deposit their electrons at the start of the chain, and then run off to be reused. The electrons move down the chain, pumping protons (H<sup>+</sup>) to the other sides of the membrane, out of the matrix. This creates a concentration gradient, as there are a lot of protons on one side of the membrane, and not many on the other side. The protons flow down their gradient, through a protein called the ATP synthase. This flow spins a rotor in the synthase which converts uncharged molecules into ATP. Since these protons are really hydrogen, after the protons make it through the synthase they bond with oxygen to make water. If the oxygen isn't there, the chain will shut down and not make energy. This is why we need to breathe oxygen. Cellular respiration is needed in our bodies because our body cannot make enough energy without it to live.

### THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE ATMOSPHERE

By Sara DeVries

With all its layers and protections, the atmosphere shows the glory and care of God in creating. An envelope of gas surrounding the earth, the atmosphere is split into multiple layers. First, it is divided mainly into two very large layers, the homosphere and the heterosphere. In fact, the homosphere, which are the layers closest to earth, and the heterosphere are each broken down into smaller layers. The layer closest to earth, the troposphere, reaches up to 7 miles high. This layer is where weather goes on, and smaller planes fly in the upper troposphere area. Further, the second layer, which is still in the homosphere, is the stratosphere, 31 miles high. Although it is right next to the troposphere, the stratosphere has no weather, which is where some aircraft fly to avoid turbulence caused by the weather. Next, a very important layer, the mesosphere, is the last in the homosphere which reaches to 50 miles high. Also known as shooting stars,

meteors burn up in this layer and are stopped from hitting the earth. Finally, there are two layers of the heterosphere, the thermosphere and the exosphere. Home of the International Space Station, the thermosphere reaches 186 miles high while the exosphere, the outermost layer of the atmosphere, gradually fades into outer space. In the layers of the atmosphere, we can see God's majesty and glory in the creation of this world. God created an atmosphere around us, and we can be assured of His protection over us, for without an atmosphere there would be no life. One layer on top of the other protects this earth from all the harmful objects and rays from outer space. God cares for his creation, and we can see Him showing us to trust in Him through the perfect atmosphere. "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Rev. 4:11). Clearly showing the care of God for us and the creation, the atmosphere is an important part of this creation.

### GOD'S MARVELOUS ATMOSPHERE

By Shane Mahtani

God uses the many amazing characteristics of the levels of Earth's atmosphere as a way to protect his people. Earth's atmosphere is made up of many different gasses including mostly nitrogen as well as oxygen, helium, argon, and carbon dioxide. The atmosphere is a transparent envelopment of gasses that reaches far from earth and surrounds it. Our atmosphere consists of five different layers each with their own characteristics. The troposphere where we live is where God created weather. No other part of the atmosphere has any weather, but it is all very cold. As you get higher into the troposphere, however, it gets colder and colder. When one reaches the end of the troposphere, he reaches the stratosphere which has no weather at all. The stratosphere is home to the ozone layer which blocks and absorbs UV light from hurting living things on this earth. Unlike the troposphere, it is only cold at this level, and no clouds or dust can be seen. After the stratosphere comes the mesosphere which is home to the coldest place on earth. The coldest place is called the mesopause which is the top of this level of the atmosphere. The mesosphere is also used by God to block the earth from meteorites that are from space. The thermosphere has very thin air and a high temperature unlike the mesosphere. In the thermosphere are the northern lights or the aurora borealis which we can see today. The final layer of the atmosphere is the exosphere which is the border to space. The many pieces of the atmosphere are perfectly created to protect us from the harmful light of the sun. We must thank God for this fascinating atmosphere which he uses to protect us. David says in Psalm 19, "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork". God uses this atmosphere to show his glory and to cause us to praise him for his marvelous works. Overall, the many characteristics of the five layers of earth's atmosphere show us God's amazing way of protecting his people.

### CATASTROPHIC PLATE TECTONICS

By Leah Kalsbeek

Plate tectonics, the study of tectonic plates, helps us understand the events that took place during and after the Flood. The lithosphere of the Earth is divided into plates, which are further divided into oceanic and continental plates. At mid-ocean ridges, which are divergent boundaries in the ocean where magma comes up through cracks in the crust called rifts, new crust is formed and forces the lithosphere to move away to make room. When they are forced away by newly formed crust, older parts of the lithosphere are recycled back into the mantle at

convergent boundaries where they are forced back under a continental plate. This whole process is called sea-floor spreading. Creationist scientists believe that during the Flood sea-floor spreading happened very quickly, generating intense heat at subduction zones where the oceanic plates were sliding under continental plates. This theory is named catastrophic plate tectonics. Because of this heat, the oceans would have been warmed, although the continents would be very cold. A lot of rainfall would have occurred after the waters receded and Noah exited the Ark with his family, causing the poles to become very cold and experience a mini ice age. Most creationist scientists accept the idea of one mini ice age occurring soon after the Flood. Because God likely used plate tectonics to reform the world dramatically during the Flood, it is beneficial for Christians to study and understand.

### EVOLUTION VS CREATION

By Simon Windemuller

There has been a strong debate of who or what created the earth in the beginning. First, evolutionists believe that there is no God but instead believe that there was some force that created the earth. We as Christians, however, believe that there was one God that in the beginning created heaven and the earth. Secondly, evolutionists also deny the first eleven chapters of Genesis one through two which is the creation, because science always conflicts with creation. Thirdly, the evolutionists use science to interpret the Bible, but the creationist may not ever interpret the Bible through science, rationally, nor emotionally. Thirdly, the Bible is not a textbook. We must not think that the Bible is a textbook, but instead we must base all science on the authority of scripture because the Bible records facts and is accurate. We must maintain the Bible at all costs. We also believe that science is the knowledge of God. The conservation of matter and energy, a law of nature, denies the evolutionists by saying that matter can't be made from nothing. Although the evolutionist's end goal is to deny God and say that there is no God, we must come to the conclusion that there is indeed a God, and he is our heavenly father who hath made heaven and earth.

<b><i>2023-24 School Calendar</i></b>	
August 28	First Day of School
September 1-4	Labor Day Break
October 5	PTA
October 12-13	Parent/Teacher Conferences
October 18	½ day (TC travel time - WI)
October 19-20	Teachers' Convention
November 23-24	Thanksgiving Break
December 25-Jan 2	Christmas Break
January 19	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester
February 8	PTA
February 15-16	Parent/Teacher Conferences
April 1-5	Spring Break
May 27	Memorial Day – No School
May 31	Last Day of School
June 3	Graduation



Graham DeMeester



Anna DeVries



Jenna DeVries



Sara DeVries



Brice Feenstra



Kohen Hanko



Alanna Kalsbeek



Leah Kalsbeek



Evan Kleyn



Chase Kooienga



Micah Kuiper



Jadon Langerak



Shane Mahtani



Ely Miersma



Lydia Minderhoud



Malea Moelker



# *Congratulations, Class of 2023!*

Class Text: Isaiah 41:10

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”



Xander Peterson



Jakob Rutgers



Maci TenBrock



Olivia VanDenTop



Cory VanOostenbrugge



Wyatt Wassink



Simon Windemuller



# SUPPLY LISTS

## Kindergarten

Backpack	Pillow (15'' x 15'' max)
Folder w/ pockets	Gym shoes - velcro style
Scissors	2-3 large glue sticks
Crayons (24)	Eraser
Pencil box/holder	Colored Pencils (optional)
Journal Pictures	

\*Please label all items  
\*We provide "fat" Tri-Write pencils



## 1st Grade

KJV Bible (2 <sup>nd</sup> semester)	Scissors
Pencil box	Folder (2 pocket)
12 pencils	1 large eraser
Gym shoes (labeled)	Washable markers
Colored Pencils	16-24 crayons
2 glue sticks	

## 2nd Grade

KJV Bible – large print if possible	
Pencil box	Gym shoes (labeled)
12 Pencils (#2)	2 large erasers
2 solid glue sticks	1 Spiral notebook
16-24 crayons	Scissors
Colored pencils	Old sock for whiteboards
Washable markers	(2) 2-pocket folders

## 3rd Grade

KJV Bible	12 pencils (#2)
2 Glue sticks	2 large erasers
Colored pencils	Scissors
Washable Markers	Gym shoes
Crayons (optional)	Paint Shirt (labeled)
Pencil box	
(3) 2-pocket folders	
2 red pens	
1 spiral notebook	
3 (100 ct) packages sticky notes	
Old sock for whiteboards	



## 4th Grade

KJV Bible	Scissors
Pencils/Erasers	Notebook paper
2 red pens	3-ring binder
Colored pencils	Binder dividers with 5 tabs
Glue stick or Elmer's glue	Gym shoes (labeled)
Ruler w/ inches & cm	



## 5th Grade

KJV Bible	Pencils/Eraser
Crayons	Scissors
Pencil sharpener	Notebook paper
3-ring binder	Gym Shoes
Glue stick or rubber cement	
Binder dividers with 5 tabs	

## 6th Grade

KJV Bible	Pencil Sharpener
Psalter	3 ring binder w/ 6 folders
Notebook paper	Scissors (good)
Gym shoes (labeled)	Colored pencils
Eraser	Ruler
Pens	Black felt tip pen
Highlighter	Dry erase marker
1 - 5 subject notebook	Old sock for whiteboards
Basic calculator	Rubber cement
Protractor (3.75 inch)	Glue stick
Pencils	

\*\* All 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be issued a free assignment book



## 7th & 8th Grades

KJV Bible w/ references, concordance, and maps
Blue/black pens
Several red pens
Colored pencils
Highlighter
Dry erase marker
Pencils
Eraser
Scissors
Something in which to carry above items
Notebook paper
Binder w/ folders
5 subject notebook
Ruler
Protractor & compass
Scientific calculator - TI-30XIIS (available at school for \$14)
Gym clothes – labeled
Gym Shoes
Single subject notebook (8 <sup>th</sup> only)

## PARENTS:

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