




HIGHLIGHTS

~ Thanksgiving Issue ~
2023



*Rejoice evermore.
Pray without ceasing.
In every thing give thanks: for
this is the will of God in Christ
Jesus concerning you.
— I Thessalonians 5:16-18*



FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR



CHILD SAFETY

Mr. Ron Koole, Principal

The world we live in has become more and more safety conscious. Government agencies are passing regulation upon regulation in their attempt to increase the physical safety of its citizens. Think for example of the increased laws that regulate working conditions. Historically, many of these laws came as a result of the harsh and dangerous working conditions during the Industrial Revolution. Workers banded together to gain legislation that forced employers to be more concerned about the safety of their working employees. Today the federal regulatory agency called OSHA inspects and examines the workplace with so many regulations that it can even make it difficult to work efficiently. Think too of the increased safety regulations that have been passed to seek to insure the safety of drivers and passengers of vehicles on the roads and highways. These regulations include the mandatory use of seatbelts and child restraint seats, the use of cell phones while driving, and the passing of drivers training tests to obtain a driver's license. The area of recreation is not exempt from these increased government regulations either. There are increased hunting and use-of-gun regulations. There are boater safety laws, and the list could go on.

Even though we may sometimes think that our government oversteps its bounds on its attempts to keep the citizenry safe, we recognize that the government has not only the right to impose safety laws, but also the duty, according to Romans 13:4, "For he (higher power) is the minister of God to thee for good..." That "good" surely includes keeping the citizens safe. And we are called to obey those regulations "wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake" (vs 5).

It is increasingly obvious that our society is increasing in lawlessness, a clear sign of the times. The news is filled with increased crime, reporting especially violent crimes such as shootings and murders. Western Michigan used to be considered a very safe place to live, but that is changing rapidly. All this has had an effect on school safety. It used to be that the only safety "requirements" consisted of practicing fire drills and tornado drills. We still religiously practice those drills and the Walker Fire Department still makes its presentation on fire safety to the youngers students. But now in addition, we keep the doors of the school locked during the school day and practice lockdown drills. Teachers are asked to make quick judgments whether to flee the possible dangers (active shooters and the like) or to lock down the classrooms and arm the students with objects to throw while also building barricades to block doors. Quite the drama, and all necessary because we value the physical safety of the staff and students and realize that violent crimes could take place at any time in or around our school as well as the inner city locations.

But our concern for safety goes beyond the physical safety of the children here at school. We are responsible to care for the safety of their souls as well. The government was not ordained or equipped by God to care for souls. They are armed with the physical sword and they mind earthly things. But God has given us His Word and His law to teach the children. We show the children that they must put their firm trust in God for safety from their three-fold spiritual enemy. Psalm 119:116-117, "Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live:

and let me not be ashamed of my hope. Hold thou me up, and I shall be **safe**: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.” As the instruction in all areas of this creation and life is given in the light of God’s Word, the children are equipped to see that life is more than meat and the body than raiment. They learn spiritual wisdom and taste the sweetness of the ways of the Lord.

We monitor carefully the children’s behavior, directing them in the light of God’s Word to be obedient to the commandments of the Lord. We demand that they live in love and kindness toward their classmates and discipline them according to the biblical directives because we care for their souls. We seek to train up the children in the way they should go so that they live in covenant fellowship with God and their neighbor. Just as the need for constant vigilance to provide for physical safety, so too and even more, there is a need for spiritual vigilance. Spiritual enemies never cease to assault and we know how weak and sinful our flesh and the flesh of our children is. The enemy continues to change tactics and makes sin seem so alluring. There is a need then for continual drilling (turning to God’s Word). We know not where the next “fiery dart” will come from, but we know that the only safety is reliance upon God and His Word. Then we can have the confidence of the Psalmist in Psalm 4:8, “I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.”



FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Rich DeMeester, Chairman
Dan Kalsbeek, Scott Kooienga, Steve Langerak

The Education Committee is pleased to report that the school year is off to a smooth and pleasant start. It is hard to believe that we are already in the second marking period of the year and Thanksgiving break is almost upon us. Teachers and students alike have found their routine in the classroom and instruction is in full swing! Thanks be to God for His unfailing faithfulness to us as a school.

Although the activity of the Education Committee is relatively routine at this point, there are a lot of activities of the school to report on. One round of parent/teacher conferences has been held, providing an opportunity to speak with our children’s teachers on their performance as students and to address any areas where improvement is needed. It is also a wonderful time for our parents to encourage and thank our teachers for their work and also receive encouragement as parents. All but two families attended conferences this fall, which is a great turnout and an encouragement to the Board that our parents are eager to interact with the staff concerning their children. Let’s continue to take advantage of these conferences.

After much discussion between our administrator and our discovery staff, the Education Committee made a change to the assessment procedure that is used for our students. For years, we have been using the ITBS (Iowa Tests of Basic Skills). These tests were given every other year and gave results that compared our students to other schools nationwide; however, they did not do a very good job at diagnosing the specific areas in which students were lacking and

with testing only every other year didn't give the staff a lot of information to work with. We have decided to drop these tests and introduce MAP testing (Measures of Academic Progress). Grades 3-8 will be using this online program which will test three times a year three academic areas - math, reading, and language arts. This testing will give the staff a much more detailed assessment of the students' academic progress and will be used to pinpoint problem areas and track progress. The K-2nd grades will add a math assessment component to their assessments which the discovery staff will administer three times a year.

Another responsibility of the Education Committee is to see to it that our staff is informed and adheres to the abuse policy that we have recently adopted. We recognize a written policy is necessary and good, but needs to be not only implemented, but reviewed periodically and understood. To help accomplish this, three of our board members who worked to develop the policy visited the August teacher's meeting and presented it to the teachers. The teachers had already been given the policy a few months earlier and now had the opportunity to clarify any question they may have had. One aspect of the policy includes mandatory reporters. Our administrator and teachers legally fall under this category. This requirement can be hard for a mandatory reporter to understand at times. They may wonder what must be reported, who to notify, and what process to follow. For our teachers' benefit concerning this, we have arranged for the CAC (Child Advocacy Center) to meet with our teachers for about an hour in early November to make sure our staff is clear on these questions.

The Education Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank our many volunteers. It is amazing to see the support of our parents and grandparents in their helping out at school in many different capacities. We thank our librarians, Lorraine DeVries and Mary Kalsbeek, for their dedicated work of keeping the library fresh by providing good books for our students to read. The Motor Movement program is headed up by Sherry Koole with the help of Jori Kuiper, Kate VanUffelen, Becky Peterson, Dawn DeVries, Linda Kalsbeek, Amber Doezema, and Anna Heyboer. Gladys Koole leads the Reading Together program and is assisted by Linda Kalsbeek, Fred Engelsma, Phyllis King, Betty Peterson, Barb Huizinga and if needed as subs Karla Kamps, Barb Feenstra, and Brenda Engelsma. This program is designed for K-2 students who need a little boost in reading. And of course Deb Feenstra should be mentioned for her volunteer help to our secretary. Thanks to all these volunteers and to others who are not mentioned here.

Our robotics program is up and running with our very capable mentors, Matt Elzinga and Brad VanderVeen. New equipment has been obtained for this year, nine students are participating, and two teams have been formed. These teams are preparing for the RoBowl competition on Saturday, November 18 at 1 PM at Hope School. This competition will feature nine teams from four PR schools and is open to anyone interested!

Some of our other activities as a committee have included the approval of band and choir music selections, updating the Parent/Teacher and Board handbooks, and overseeing the purchase of new technology for our school.

On Thursday, October 5, PTA was held. Rev. Haak gave a speech on the topic of anxiety. These PTA meetings held twice a year are an important part of the life of the school where teachers and parents come together to learn about specific interesting subjects and have the opportunity to visit with each other. The School Board requires that teachers are in attendance at these meetings. Let's remember to show our support also as a School Board and parents by making our attendance at PTA a priority in our often busy schedules.

We covet your continued prayers as an Education Committee. We have a great responsibility in our decisions regarding the covenant instruction of our youth and are grateful for the opportunity to serve. At the same time, we confess that all of our work as a committee, a School Board and as parents is for naught apart from God's blessing upon it. God is faithful! Thanks be to Him!

FEDERATION, PUBLICITY, CIRCLE CONTACT COMMITTEE

Dan Boeve, Chairman
Joel DeVries, Phil Kalsbeek

On October 5, our committee met with delegates from other Protestant Reformed Christian schools around North America for the annual Federation Association meeting. It was held at Covenant Christian's music room with delegates from each of the local schools attending in person and most of the other PR schools joining via Zoom. The business at hand was routine in that we voted for new Board members, heard the annual Executive Director's report, and approved the budget. Retiring this year is Marc Scholten, the current president, and Jon Drnek, both from Heritage Christian. New members to the Board this year are Joel Van Egdom from Doon and Ross Zuverink from Heritage. We also had some discussion about how the Federation can be utilized to assist the schools in areas such as common curriculum, mentoring, and remote teaching. It was wonderful to see men from many areas, that have a strong commitment to Christian education, come together to support the Federation which does so much for our schools.

Executive Director Kyle Bruinooge detailed much of the work being done by the Federation in his annual report to the committee. I would like to highlight a few of the things they have done or are working on. Teacher training is the primary focus of the Federation. They have developed a mentoring program which teams up experienced teachers with first year teachers. The mentor/mentee pairs continue this relationship for up to three years. This experience helps a new teacher gain confidence and knowledge, while the mentors also benefit in their own professional development and growth. A mentoring program for prospective teachers going through college is in development. The title of this tier is "Developing a Worldview Filter" which will prepare them to teach in Protestant Reformed schools. The Board has received many of the member schools' policies regarding sexual harassment and child safety and has created a shared folder for school boards to use as a central resource. Also, the History and Principles Course taught by Prof. Dykstra at the seminary last winter was put on by the Federation.

Our committee has the responsibility of updating and maintaining the content on the school website. Every summer we review the content and note changes that need to be made. Since our committee may not always have members that are tech savvy, we rely on our webmaster and school secretary, Laurel Lotterman, to make the actual updates. We would like to thank her for the work she did this summer on the website.

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 summer, the 3rd – 6th grade hallway received new carpet, and the lockers and walls were

repainted. The School Circle provided funds for this project, plus new desks for the 3rd grade room. 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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Josh Meulenberg, Chairman
Phil Kalsbeek, Kevin Koole

We are already four months into the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Time flies when you are having fun! With this issue of the *Highlights* the Finance Committee would like to provide a look at the financial status of Hope School. We are happy to report that many of the line items are right in line with our approved budget amounts. A brief review of the financial statement will show that on the income side we have a good margin over our expected target (40.3% vs 33.3%) and on the expense side we are tracking just below the expected target (32.7% vs 33.3%). Thanks to the parents for paying tuition on time, and to our supporters for their generous giving in church collections and in the fall drive this far.

Regarding the fall drive, you should have received the letter in your mailboxes. If you have not, please reach out and we will make sure you receive one. We are already well on our way to our goal. Lord willing, we can surpass the \$173,000 goal set for the fall and get a healthy jump on our \$346,000 target for the year. Please continue to support the drive as it is nearly 30% of our annual budget of just over 1.25 million dollars. The drive allows us to maintain reasonable tuition rates for families while giving opportunity for all supporters to assist in Christian education.

It's not too late to enroll in monthly tuition EFT if you are interested. There is only a simple form to fill out and the Finance Committee will set up an automatic monthly withdrawal around the 15th of each month. Contact a member of the Finance Committee if you are interested in setting this up.

Kaptein Dykstra & Company recently completed an annual review of our financial records and everything was found to be in good order. We are thankful for their services, and also for the diligent work of our financial bookkeeper, Mr. Larry Meulenberg. We also recently completed and submitted the necessary tax filings required by the IRS each year.

We thank God for providing the means to finance Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School. As a Finance Committee we marvel at God's bountiful care for us. Please continue to pray for God's blessing on all our Christian schools.

Actual to Budget. YTD October	Actual	Budgeted	%
<u>Income</u>			
Church Collections	12,987.19	46,000.00	28.2%
Gifts and Pledges	154,508.26	346,000.00	44.7%
Gym Rental	2,500.00	5,000.00	50.0%
Hope Foundation	25,000.00	50,000.00	50.0%
Miscellaneous			
School Circle Gifts	0.00		
Special Ed Society	3,018.47	14,794.00	20.4%
Tuition	300,248.83	780,000.00	38.5%
Z - Bus Fees	9,935.40	20,550.00	48.3%
Total Income	508,198.15	1,262,344.00	40.3%
<u>Expenses</u>			
Accounting Fees	1,300.00	6,750.00	19.3%
Band Expenses	2,000.00	3,000.00	66.7%
Building and Grounds - Y/E	19,738.12	43,000.00	45.9%
Class Trip Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00	100.0%
Educational Supplies and Books	20,000.00	35,000.00	57.1%
Federation Dues	0.00	5,136.00	0.0%
Insurance, General	7,393.00	14,762.00	50.1%
Insurance, Group	37,047.98	84,000.00	44.1%
Insurance, HRA - Y/E	39.40	4,000.00	1.0%
Insurance, Workers Comp	1,306.58	2,564.00	51.0%
Janitors Supplies	936.69	4,500.00	20.8%
Library Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00	100.0%
Long Range Building Fund Trans	7,500.00	22,500.00	33.3%
Miscellaneous Expense	522.78	2,500.00	20.9%
Office Equipment - Y/E	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%
Office Supplies	339.20	1,000.00	33.9%
Payroll - Band / Choir	7,178.88	24,000.00	29.9%
Payroll - Building Maintenance	777.00	2,500.00	31.1%
Payroll - Discovery Room	22,712.16	90,143.00	25.2%
Payroll - Janitor	11,667.20	35,000.00	33.3%
Payroll - Lawn Maintenance	1,449.00	4,200.00	34.5%
Payroll - Librarian	900.00	5,250.00	17.1%
Payroll - Office	9,875.25	36,575.00	27.0%
Payroll - Substitute Teachers	250.00	1,000.00	25.0%
Payroll - Teachers	197,981.32	603,589.00	32.8%
Payroll - Teachers Aids	6,943.25	21,546.00	32.2%

Payroll - Technolgy Maintenance	120.00	3,000.00	4.0%
Payroll Taxes	18,101.51	63,518.00	28.5%
Phys Ed Uniforms	713.30	1,000.00	71.3%
Repairs and Maintenance	5,722.33	9,000.00	63.6%
Retirement Plan	5,227.73	19,693.00	26.5%
Snow Removal	0.00	3,500.00	0.0%
Teacher Classroom	700.00	1,700.00	41.2%
Teacher Development - Y/E	1,220.58	4,000.00	30.5%
Technology Supplies	7,100.00	14,000.00	50.7%
Utilities, Electric	5,071.32	23,000.00	22.0%
Utilities, Gas	609.56	12,000.00	5.1%
Utilities, Internet & Phone	1,489.22	4,400.00	33.8%
Utilities, Trash	624.97	1,900.00	32.9%
Utilities, Water & Sewer	654.56	1,300.00	50.4%
Z. Bus Expenses			
Bus Depreciation Fund Trans	2,916.68	8,750.00	33.3%
Bus Driver Cost Subsidy	450.00	1,000.00	45.0%
Bus Driver Payroll	4,525.00	22,918.00	19.7%
Bus Driver Payroll Taxes	484.47	1,700.00	28.5%
Bus Driver Workers Compensation	509.58	1,000.00	51.0%
Bus Insurance	1,077.00	2,100.00	51.3%
Bus Repair	-4,696.19	7,000.00	-67.1%
Gas and Oil	2,398.07	12,500.00	19.2%
Transportation Supervisor	750.00	1,250.00	60.0%
Total Z. Bus Expenses	8,414.61	58,218.00	14.5%
Total Expenses	417,627.50	1,278,244.00	32.7%

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, December 14	Band/Choir Concert – 7PM
Friday, December 22	Christmas Assembly – 1:15PM
Friday, January 19	End of 1 st Semester (1/2 day)
Saturday, January 20	Family Fun Night
Friday, January 26	Fearfully & Wonderfully Made Day
Thursday, February 8	PTA
February 15-16	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Friday, March 15	Grandparents' Day
April 1-5	Spring Break
Thursday, April 18	Elementary Music Program
Wednesday, April 24	Kindergarten Program

STAFF & STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS IN WISCONSIN

Mr. Dan Hanko, 4th Grade

Sunshine, spectacular fall colors, and fields of corn ready for harvest was the scene in central Wisconsin, on Wednesday evening, October 20. Randolph was the site of the 2023 Protestant Reformed Teachers' Convention. Nearly thirty years have passed since the opening of Faith Christian School, the welcoming host of our teacher gathering. The former two classroom school building that held twenty students first through eighth grade has been replaced with a beautiful K-12 eight-classroom facility serving around seventy students, with a kitchen and "commons" area for larger gatherings. God continues to bless the new generation with Godly instruction.

The Teachers' Convention for the 150+ teachers began with registration at Faith Christian School from 8:15-8:45 on Thursday morning. A keynote address was given by Rev. S. Regnerus at Randolph Protestant Reformed Church, a short walk from the school. "Teachers as Guides" was the theme of his speech, based on Psalm 25. Rev. Regnerus spoke of the obstacles we face as teachers; modeling the perfect standard, God, who leads and guides; and an encouragement for us as we put our confidence in God to teach His covenant children.

The remainder of the day was spent listening to and participating in three, hour long sectionals presented by educators. Each hour time block had six choices of sectionals with topics in different subject areas for various grade level groups. Twenty to thirty teachers gathered in a room to glean information, take part in activities, discuss ideas and strategies, and hear how to apply God's Word in the classroom. A great lunch buffet and numerous snacks were prepared by the ladies of the Randolph congregation throughout the day. By three o'clock in the afternoon devotions were held to end the first day. After a few hours of visiting and relaxation away from school in the afternoon, teachers and visitors once again gathered at the school "commons" area to be treated with a fish fry and pulled pork dinner. Food and fellowship lasted for hours until people returned to their sleeping accommodations for the night.

On Friday morning teachers gathered at the school for morning devotions and a business meeting. Coffee and snacks were provided once again. Reports were given, announcements were made, and some questions and ideas were discussed. Two more "time blocks" of sectionals were on the schedule for Friday morning. Once again lectures were given, lively discussions were had, and ideas and activities were introduced. At noon the Teachers' Convention ended with devotions and prayer for safe travels.

As I reflect on the school here in Randolph, I am reminded of Psalm 74 and the words of verse four: "We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done." The students I taught in Randolph decades ago now have their own children attending. Enthusiasm is still strong with teachers, parents, and grandparents devoted to God-centered covenantal instruction. What a blessing for that congregation! May God provide teachers for that school and continue to bless Faith Christian School with parents who have the same zeal for the Word as their grandfathers and grandmothers who humbly looked to the Lord many years ago when the school had its beginning.

My Friend Barbara

By Remi Pipe

My friend Barbara is very cool.
Always loves going to a pool.
And she is very kind.
Also has a good mind.
Loves her neighbor's bunny.
And she is very funny.
She is a good girl.
Sometimes likes to twirl.

Lovely Lucy Vu

By Lucy VanDenTop

Lucy is a girl above girls
She really likes wearing pearls
She always acts like a clown
And never tears people down
A red or arctic fox she likes
And really enjoys riding bikes
The games she likes are pretend
I'm glad she is my Godly friend!

My Friend Rielle

By Brynlee VanOostenbrugge

I've got a friend that is very tall
She likes football and volleyball
She has pretty short hair
And she also really cares
She moves to the beat
When it's time to eat
She has to smile
Once in a while

Seadon

By Beckett Veldman

My good ole friend is rather tall
His favorite sport is basketball
Seadon likes a lot of sports
He also likes to wear shorts
His favorite color is blue
This boy likes to use glue
Fish he likes to find
Seadon is very kind.

Jolee

By Ruby Wassink

Jolee is pretty daring
You can tell she is caring
Thanksgiving is her time of year
She really does not have much fear
Her favorite season is summer
As for school, it's quite a bummer
Teal or cyan are the colors for her
Watermelon she does prefer

The Outdoor Discovery Center

By John Kalsbeek

The trails that we hiked at the Outdoor Discovery Center on our fourth grade class trip were amazing! We saw a wood turtle and a few box turtles. We also saw an opossum and a porcupine, and next to it, a skunk! Some other things we saw were: a snow owl, a red fox, and a red tailed hawk. All these animals were in cages. As we walked down the trail, we chewed on sassafras sticks which tasted like root beer! We saw a few white pine trees which had needles which we also chewed on, but those tasted like mint! We smelled some sunflowers which smelled like tootsie rolls! We saw willow trees and went to a pond with tons of frogs and toads in it. We even saw a muskrat swimming around! When we look at all these amazing things, we must remember that our amazing God made them all!

My Trip To The Outdoor Discovery
By Cienna Jordan

On September 26, my fourth grade class went to the Outdoor Discovery Center. There was a visitor center there. We went inside and saw real life reptiles inside tanks. Then we had a scavenger hunt. We had to find an animal that is extinct in Michigan. We also had to find the difference between a horn and an antler. We had to find all the different types of bears. After that, we got in a circle and Miss Andrea told us what to do when she brought out the animals. Miss Andrea brought out a bunny named Maple. Then she showed us a snake, a frog, and a turtle. What an amazing time I had at the Outdoor Discovery Center with my friends! I had a good time looking at God's creation.

Inside With The Animals
By Jolee Schimmel

My class went on a very fun trip to the Outdoor Discovery Center! We spent some of our time in the visitor center. First, we saw a rabbit. It shed a lot of hair, but it was still cute and soft. We also saw a snake and held it. It felt like a dragon. The frog we saw was all slimy and wet. It was cute but gross. The turtle was so cute! It was climbing on Barbara. It was so funny! We saw shells of a turtle; one was big, one was small. We saw stuffed animals. Some were cute; some were really soft. Some were cool. There were animal skins. They were cool, but it was also sad because they are dead animal skins. The trip was still pretty awesome!

MAKING COMPARISONS
Miss Suzanna Smit, 7th Grade

In life, we often fall into the habit of using comparisons to draw conclusions or make decisions. In some cases, this is completely acceptable. What is wrong with liking teal better than brown? Or describing one salsa as spicier than another? Using comparative and superlative words is sometimes necessary when describing what we see and identifying differences in the world around us. However, there are times these should not be used when talking to or about people or things. Sometimes, we ought not do so because it is not kind, even if it may be true. For example, emphasizing the fact that I am taller than my older sisters is indeed true, even if it is not always appreciated by them. A truly unkind way of using comparative words would be to describe someone as fatter or rounder than another. Again, while this may be true, it is not kind, and it goes against our calling as Christians to love one another, build each other up, and avoid gossip and slander. In many areas of Christian life, using comparative words (such as 'better') is not founded on Biblical principles. Truly, we ought to focus on becoming more and more Christ-like rather than how far distanced we are from the trends and actions of the world.

One example, a dangerous path that I fear many walk down, is in the realm of modesty. How easy is it to say, "I am dressed modestly because my shorts are always two inches *longer* than hers"? We ought not define modesty as being dressed in a more conservative manner than a portion or the majority of those around us. Rather we ought to go to scripture and passages such as I Corinthians 6:19-20 for our ideas and definition of modesty which states

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.” A person may be considered to be dressed modestly by others after using either of these ‘scales,’ but only one of these scales has any proper foundation in God’s Word and will not change based on the whims of worldly fashion or popular opinion.

Comparison or relativity can be misapplied to other areas of our spiritual lives as well, especially in regards to a life of sanctification and the reflection of the characteristics of God in our heart and walk. For instance, we in our lives are called to have patience. As a teacher, I have recognized again and again the great need for patience in the classroom. In a classroom of fifteen to twenty students, it is very possible that one student will get distracted while I am giving directions and that I will probably have to repeat at least part of those directions at some point. An initial and sinful first *impatient* response is “If you had been listening, you would have known the answer to that.” A second, more patient response must be to answer their question and then remind them, firmly but directly, of the necessity of listening. However, I realize that I have but a “small beginning of obedience,” in my calling as a child of God to be patient. I ought not compare myself to another person or teacher and think, “Oh, I am good at being patient because I am doing better than he or she.” We are also called to not ‘rest on our laurels’ and convince ourselves that we are doing okay at being patient because we are more patient than we were three months ago or a year ago. A Biblical foundation or principle for this life would be to dedicate our entire lives as set apart and holy unto the Lord (Romans 6). Furthermore, there is always room to grow in patience. As we deal with new difficulties and trials in life, our patience is tried in different ways. We are all familiar with the phrase “having the patience of Job” because his patience was revealed by his endurance of many trials and losses in his life. Yet, our ultimate goal should not be to become more patient than Job. First of all, we only see the outward realization of the patience of Job. That is, our journey towards patience does not end when we are consistently outwardly patient. We cannot max out our patience points in this game of life. Rather, we must realize that we are and will constantly be fighting the impatience of the old man of sin in our hearts and that this fight will continue until we are made incorruptible.

However, this does not mean that we cannot look up to others in the church as role models and examples to emulate, but that it should not be the only reason to walk the way we do. This then is a reminder to all of us, that the call to antithetical living is not distancing ourselves a certain measure away from the world, by making sure we are better than them to this degree or that part. More truly, antithetical living is searching the Bible to find the principles of life and the calling of God to us, as His Beloved children and living out that calling in thankfulness and praise for what He has granted us. And finally, we are reminded to look to Christ’s return when we no longer will live as a church militant but triumphant, as an elect people made perfect in the blood of our Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus.

LIFE IN COLONIAL AMERICA

Work in colonial America was different from work today. There was not the same mechanization of processes, meaning most tasks were done by hand. The students of 7th grade took a closer look at some of the common jobs during this time period.

Tanner - Katelyn DeVries

Tanners were very important to culture in the early colonies because they made leather and cloth. Tanners were usually very poor and lived in the outskirts of town. They prepared animal skins using tannin. Tannin is another word for tree bark powder. Their workshop was called a tannery and had terrible odors from the tannin, which is why tannery was considered an “odoriferous trade”. Tanners mostly made their leather from sheepskin and cattle hides, but occasionally they used walrus, moose, deer, seal, or bear. The leather made from these animals was very tough, so it was often used to make shoes, boots, books, and harnesses. Tanners, although poor, were very helpful.

The process of tanning consists of several crucial steps which will make fine leather. The first step is to soak the animal hide to remove dirt. Next, the tanner has to lime it. Liming splits the fiber bundles, which removes hair. Then, he has to delime the hide to remove the lime. This is done by using organic acids and acid-salts. The next step is bating, which relaxes and flattens the hide. After the hide is bated, it must be pickled. Pickling adds acids to the hide to slacken the pelt. Lastly, the skin is tanned, or altered into leather. This tanning process provides a similar type of leather that we have today.

Cabinetmaker - Chase DeVries

Though the name suggests making cabinets, cabinet makers actually made many different kinds of furniture. Some types of furniture they made were beds, chairs, tables, mirror and picture frames, and as it says cabinets. Some tools cabinet makers used to make these pieces of furniture were saws, planes, drills, spokeshaves, drawknives, and chisels. Hand drills were held in one hand and turned with the other hand and used for the same purposes as modern drills. Planes were used to shave things down by pushing. A small blade was attached to the bottom to cut into the wood. Spokeshaves were used to shave round surfaces. Drawknives were used to cut large chunks of wood away. Colonial cabinet makers were in the middle class also called the working class. Most colonial cabinet makers were of either British or Irish descent.

Apothecary - Lillian Rutgers

The apothecary showed they were very useful in the colonial times. The apothecary usually cared for the sick and sold and mixed medicine in his shop. They would also put leeches on the patients to stop the pain and swelling. Even more, was that they would train apprentices and perform surgeries on other people. They were very busy with everything around them.

Some of the tools that the apothecary used were weights, scales, mortar, pastel sets,

and apothecary jars. Weights and scales were used for measuring and weighing doses for each patient. These were the most used tools by the apothecary. Mortar and pestle sets were used to grind herbs into powder which they could use for pills and ointments. The apothecary jars were used for keeping herbs fresh.

The apothecary was in the middle class because they were not educated as much as the surgeon or doctor. They were paid a lot less so that was another reason they were included in this class. Also, they were used more by the people. The apothecaries tended and cared for people more and more. This could make them extremely busy in their day.

The apothecary had many interesting things about them such as they were dated from 2000 to 3000 B.C. in China because herbs were valued. Also, the first apothecaries were monks, medicine men, and some priests. Soon after, a charter was made so that they were able to make and sell medicines. Later on, the first American apothecary shop was started in 1780. Finally, in the 1960's there were about 100 apothecaries in America. The apothecary, in many ways, provided care for many people when they needed treatment.

Printer - Brooklyn Huizinga

Colonial printers made books, newspapers, pamphlets, and other publications. Their shops sometimes even served as mail centers. Those who printed newspapers bought their paper from a paper mill and made the ink in their own shops. Paper was made from linen cloth and ink was made from tannin, iron sulfate, and water.

Some tools of colonial printers were an inking pad or "beater". This was used to spread the ink over the type. A type is a single piece of metal with a letter, number, or point of punctuation. The type would be arranged and held with an apparatus called a composing stick. The stone was a large flat surface that held the work to be printed, and the press was the machine that transferred the arranged lettering to a page. The printing press was a machine by which a text or image was transferred from a type to a paper.

Weaver - Mayla Mahtani

Weaving was a very important job in the colonial days when England stopped giving textiles to the colonies. The weavers would make fabrics and clothes using tools. The tools that they used were spinning wheels and looms. Weavers used two different types of spinning wheels: the walking wheel used for cotton and the Saxony wheel used for hemp and wool. They also used two different types of looms to weave: the cantilever loom and the four-post box loom. The weavers were very busy working with the loom and the spinning wheel every day to earn money.

There are many other interesting facts about weaving. Men did the weaving mostly, and were trained through apprenticeship. The weavers were from the middle class. They were not owned by anyone or poor but neither were they very wealthy. To weave using the loom they would stretch out the threads parallel on the loom. Then the weaver would put another thread over the other piece of thread and do that over and over again until it made fabric. The walking wheel was used to make fabrics by walking forward and backward to make cotton twist. The Saxony wheel sped up the process of weaving. It soon overcame the process of the loom because it was so much faster. Weaving was very important to the people to make cloth and fabrics.

ASSESSMENTS IN STUDENT AND SPIRITUAL LEARNING

Mrs. Jill Reitsma, Discovery Center

The topic of assessment in education is complicated. Assessments may have gotten a bad rap over the years- perhaps for good reason, perhaps not. Assessments can play a crucial and positive role in supporting successful learning.

What exactly is assessment of student learning? Assessment is more than grading, it's about measuring the progress of student learning. Thus, assessment is defined as a process of gathering data to better understand the strengths and weaknesses of student learning. They tell us what the students learned, how well they learned it, and where they struggled. Assessment then becomes a lens for understanding, identifying barriers and helping us to improve our teaching approaches.

Assessments can (but not limited to) do four things:

1. **Improve long-term recall;** retrieval practice over periods of time can lead you to more likely remember information later and be able to use and apply it in new situations.
2. **Can be informal;** a verbal question and answer session with students can serve as a meaningful way to understand what students know, what they can do and what they still need to learn.
3. **Provide evidence of learning;** evidence from assessments can be directly beneficial to both teachers and students. Teachers can use the results to help students understand what they already know and what they need to still work on.
4. **Lower test anxiety and help students master content;** practice testing is one way to lower test anxiety, using similar formats and questions can be instrumental in making students feel more comfortable when they are in a formal setting. This also does more than just teach test taking skills or calm nerves. In class practice can help students understand their mastery of the content, which in turn, can help reduce test anxiety.

There are a variety of measures that can be used to gather data for each content area of study. Assessments can be a central element for any teacher and should be implemented regularly. They search, try, know and lead both students and teachers to a better understanding, which leads me to Psalm 139 verse 23-24 *"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.* The psalmist asks God to search his heart (the condition of it) and test it. Is it true and pure? This will expose our weaknesses and sin. The knowing of sin is connected to the searching and trying, it opens up the desire of God. It roots out our sin, leading us to correction and growth. The seeing is illustrated in the trying and knowing, that leads us in the right way (our inner thoughts), not our outward examination. This leads us to cling to the gospel and an everlasting life with Christ. God uses His Word to search us out and gives us an answer. It may not always be the answer we were looking for or wanting, but God is good ALL the time! He will reveal to us what we need to know.