

# Herald



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**When Morning Lights... - Mr. B. Kuiper, Administrator**

“Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.” Psalm 143:8

The Psalmist and the songwriter who penned Psalter #391 direct our attention to the beginning of a new day as the sun arises in the east. Words like these bring to mind the start of a school year as well. The beginning of a school journey is much like the journey the sun takes across the sky daily. The words of the rest of the verse refer to the way in which we walk throughout each day. In the school year gone by we have walked in God’s way together.

This walk was filled with memories of successes and disappointments. Together we celebrated schools purchased, sold, and re-leased. Together we learned of creation and Creator. Together we mourned the loss of loved ones – including a husband and father so dearly beloved to some of us. Together we planned, and we carried out the plans according to and relying on God’s will. After all, that is the walk of the child of God – together with others of God’s children we walk.

The Heritage walk for some of us is over from a very outward and visible sense. Thanks to all parents and supporters for a wonderful year of education. Thanks especially to those who will no longer have a child enrolled at Heritage Christian School. We pray God’s blessing to each of you, and ask that you pray the same for Heritage Christian School, the staff, and the Board. While enrollment in Heritage may no longer be a reality for you as parents, the education of all of God’s children remains something we do together.

These families include: Doug and Sue Bleyenburgh (Caleb), Greg and Pamela Bos (Amber), Brent and Barb DeYoung (Katelyn), Randy and Sue Dykstra (Nicholas), Mike and Melanie Landheer (Alex), Gary and Jan Lubbers (Kara), Jeff and Pam Lubbers (Sam), David and Julie Miedema (Trenton), Bob and Gail Moelker (Rachel), Andy and Donna Peterson (Travis), Bill and Kathy Pols (Carlos), Kevin and Lisa Rowe (Leah), Doug and Shelley Start (Ike), Paul and Elizabeth Vink (Jordan), and Nick and Cindi Westra (Nikki). You have been a blessing to the Heritage community, and we pray that your continued way and walk may be blessed by God.

There are so many people to thank for a successful year. Thanks to all board members, teachers, aides, office staff members, bus drivers, janitors and janitor families, librarians, volunteers for testing or reading or recess or room mother. A special word of thanks this year goes to every volunteer who has contributed in some way to the improvements at the new campus. We still need help with the move and some building improvements. Wow, has there been a lot done!

We are looking forward to being together again this fall in more ways than one.

## **Education Committee Report – Mr. Dan VanBaren**

“The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.” Psalm 46:11

It has been a busy year for every member of the board. Each committee has much work and the Education Committee is no exception. The Education Committee is responsible for oversight and implementation of Board policy in regards to curriculum, students, teachers, and administrator.

The entire board assists in oversight of the teachers as a team of two board members visit 2-3 classrooms each month. The Education Committee is thankful to have received encouraging reports each month. The members of the committee also meet annually as a team of two members with each of our teachers at contract time. Each teacher is given feedback from the board including encouraging words. At the same time we solicit from the staff ideas to improve the process of educating our children. We are thankful for both the advice and also the encouraging words given again this year.

We also had the privilege of hiring two new teachers this year. We enjoyed spending a short time with a number of worthy candidates. Each candidate’s personal testimony of their calling as a teacher was joyfully heard. We were pleased to recommend the board hire Mrs. Rhonda Holstege to teach second grade, and Miss Emily Gritters to teach first grade. We are thankful for our new (and new again) staff members.

Every year we also look at the class sizes. The Education Committee has prioritized minimizing class sizes at the lower elementary grades. Next year we will again have 3 First and 3 Second grade classes. At third grade we will again combine down to 2 classes. This is likely the last year there will be two third grade classes. The Long Range Planning Committee has been tracking the increased number of baptisms through the past years. The Building Committee has prepared a facility with additional classrooms. The 2014-2015 first grade class size will likely overwhelm our ability to teach all the children for this class in two classrooms. We are

thankful for the dedication and hard work required of our third grade and higher classroom teachers who have made it work with larger class sizes than is ideal.

Our staff has embraced taking additional seminars and classes and learning new skills that are applied daily in the classrooms. We encourage teachers to share new ideas with each other. The state also requires continual learning as part of the licensing process. The budget provided by the board includes \$14,000 this year for continuing education by our staff. We are pleased to oversee the Teacher Educational Development fund which provides resources for professional growth outside the classroom.

The Curriculum Educational Development program allows our staff to propose projects to develop materials for classroom development. The Education Committee oversees another \$5000 annually to oversee in C.E.D. projects. These projects include studies provided by our own PR Teachers Convention held this past year at Covenant Christian High School.

The Education Committee wishes to especially thank Fundraisers and the Foundation for the grants that fund many of our board projects. The hours of volunteer labor in both organizations are reflected in lower tuition bills. Please continue to volunteer, and don’t forget the Foundation when you write your will.

The Education Committee added an online staff survey as part of our oversight of the school administration. We chose to seek staff feedback and suggestions that we will use to develop goals for our administrator for next year. This is the first year we did the online survey. Where we find opportunities we will provide the feedback both to the administrator and the board. The Education Committee has been tasked with annual reviews of the administrator and hope to use annual surveys for direction.

In all our planning and business God is our refuge and strength. As we plan for the future of Heritage Christian School, we know all things are in His hand.

## **Salary Committee Report – Mr. Eric Dykstra**

The Board of Heritage Christian School can report that our teaching staff is set for the next school year. For the majority of our teachers these contracts are renewals, but there is a change in the staff. Miss Emily Gritters, who student-taught with Mrs. Mary VanOverloop this year, will be teaching 1st grade in the fall replacing Mrs. Abby Thompson who is expecting her first child. Mrs. Rhonda Holstege, Greg’s wife, who taught 3rd grade here before, will be teaching 2nd grade in the fall replacing Miss Shari Faber who is getting married and moving out of the area. The Board is thankful for the fine quality teachers who had taken the calling of

teaching our covenant youth here at Heritage Christian School.

The Salary Committee would like to remind our families that it is important for the school tuition to be paid in a timely manner. The school budget is established such that the revenue equals the expenses, so there isn’t a surplus of cash to pay expenses when the revenue and specifically tuition doesn’t come in as required. The Board asks that you pay your tuition in a timely manner enabling the board to see to it that all the bills and salaries of the teachers are paid.

The Christian Schools International is an organization based in Grand Rapids which provides

recommendations on teacher's wages and benefits based upon studies in the industry, in similar professions and in other school systems. As in the past years, our teacher's salaries are based upon 94% of the pay scales provided by Christian Schools International. This year the organization's compensation committee recommended a 1.5% increase in the pay scale for the teachers and the Board has approved their recommendation. The Board has also continued to

contribute 3% of the teacher's salary to their retirement account.

The Salary Committee is thankful and praise God that He has provided for us very willing and extremely capable teachers to train our covenant youth. We pray that God continues to bless our teachers during the remainder of this school year and as they begin the 2015/2016 school year next fall.

### **Annual Secretary's Report to the Society - Presented at the meeting held in April, 2015**

Society and Supporters of Heritage Christian School,

Psalm 119:90: "[God's] faithfulness is unto all generations."

Lamentations 3:22b,23: "His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness."

God's faithfulness to this generation was certainly on vivid display this year.

What might first come to mind in looking at the 2014-2015 school year is that we outgrew our school building, moved Kindergarten, First, and Second grades to Beavertown, and purchased the building that previously supported Freedom Christian School. Amazing, isn't it, just to pause for a moment, perhaps with moving box in hand... or hanging a new ceiling tile... or turning into different driveways... to think about the history and memories that are being created right now!

And in the middle of all this change and busyness in the here and now, we think back to how we got here. 2015 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Heritage Christian School! Thirty years of God's amazing grace and mercy... praise be to Him! Thirty years of God's faithfulness through the blood, sweat, tears, and investment of our parents and grandparents, many of whom still faithfully and actively continue their prayers and support today. Thirty years of God's blessed faithfulness through teachers, staff, volunteers, administrators, and boards who love the Lord and give of their lives in support of our baptismal vows. Thirty years of God's enduring love to kindergarteners through ninth and eighth graders who eventually take their parents' place, support the same Christian education, and send *their* children to Heritage Christian School.

Neither did God's compassions fail this year; they were new every morning. Our 459 students, 28 teachers, 19 staff, 12 bus drivers, and hundreds of volunteers could list thousands of instances where a kind word, an open ear, a gentle hand, a needed friend, an extra minute... displayed God's goodness to us. We call out here only some of the more notable or public ways we see God's lasting faithfulness:

- We were able to lease Beavertown Christian School for our Kindergarten, First, and Second Grades. Seventy-five volunteers safely moved eight classrooms in two semi-loads, and on

September 2, 2014, nine teachers and eight staff began the Christian education of 181 students at "Heritage Christian School – West".

- Twenty-three new families were approved to send their children to Heritage.
- Between the Hudsonville Fair, SmartShop, and other events, Fundraisers did well.
  - They contributed \$40,000 to the purchase of two newer buses which served in the safe and efficient transport of some 46,000 Heritage student-rides this year.
  - They also contributed to the purchase of a new K-3 math curriculum, new carpet in junior high classrooms, and many other items.
- Old computers were replaced with 24 laptops on a cart which became the new mobile computer lab.
- Ruth Kraker and Linda VanUffelen joined the team to job-share a secretary position at Heritage West this year, and at our new facility next year.
- This Society voted to purchase the building and property at 6340 Autumn Drive, with 27 classrooms, 2 gyms, parking lot, and acreage to support our growing school. We thank the Board's Building Committee, Jim VanOverloop, dozens of others, and countless volunteers who made significant improvements to the school and are on track to support a move in early June and for the school year to begin on September 1, 2015, D.V.
- Hudsonville Public Schools purchased our current facility, and we were also able to be released from our lease arrangement with Beavertown.

And with our mission being to "teach our children the fear of the Lord", there is at least one thing that outshines even major real estate transactions.

Classroom visitation by the Board continues to reveal Godly instruction by capable teachers. For example, I had the privilege of returning some 20 years later to a Bible class. It was an unannounced visit, first thing in the morning, and they were up to a rather obscure part of I Kings. I was almost prepared to start a tally of how many kids fell asleep. Instead, 45 minutes seemed to last 10; the teacher made the history come alive, made numerous, valuable applications to 21<sup>st</sup> century children, and every student eagerly participated. I wished the class could have continued all day long! Teachers host classes like this every day in rooms up and down these halls. Fellow parents, grandparents: words fail to represent God's blessing to us in Christian education!

Teachers, thank you. We have hired you to help us fulfill our Biblical mandate and baptismal vows, and we thank you for being our mouth, hands, and heart for the better part of each year. We trust you recognize how influential you are in shaping this generation of Christ's church. A warm thanks to Shari Faber and Abby Thompson as they finish teaching at Heritage this year. Shari taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade for 15 years and is now planning for marriage. Abby taught 1<sup>st</sup> grade for 7 years and is anticipating the birth of her first child. May God richly bless their homes. We are also thankful for the rest of the teachers who have expressed their plans to teach for Heritage again this coming year. Additionally, the Board is pleased to announce the filling of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade openings. Emily Gritters, who student-taught with Mary VanOverloop this year, will be teaching 1<sup>st</sup> grade in the fall, the Lord willing. Emily hails from Iowa where she went to Hull Protestant Reformed Christian School, Western Christian High School, and Dordt College, and is a member of Hull PRC. Rhonda Holstege, wife of our 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Greg, taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade here before and will be teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in the fall, the Lord willing. We extend a cordial welcome to Emily and Rhonda as they begin this noble work.

We express our gratitude to janitors Doug & Beth DeBoer, Greg & Rhonda Holstege, and Bill & Alice Joostens for their years of service caring for our facilities. Thanks, also, to Marcia Zandstra for her many years of capable service in the classroom and library, and we welcome Pat Lanning to the Librarian role.

### **Fundraisers Year End Report – Mrs. Karen Korhorn, Retiring Secretary**

We are amazed at how quickly another school year has passed. We look back with thankfulness to God as we remember the 2014-2015 school year, and we continue to be thankful for the many hours of volunteer work by our parents, grandparents and friends of Heritage Christian School. There are still opportunities to serve as we finish the school year and move our school! God has been faithful in giving us work to do and in this work building our covenant community.

Fundraisers began summer of 2014 with numerous mothers and friends cleaning two schools and also participating in the Hudsonville Fair through the Hudsonville Fair Restaurant. What a neat opportunity

Mr. Brian Kuiper, Administrator, thank you for your tireless leadership. We did not place you over three campuses to test your capabilities, but it is clear God has equipped you well to be the president of this large, *Christ-centered* organization.

Office staff, assistants, and volunteers of all types: thank you for making every day run smoothly; we recognize how quickly things would fall apart without you.

Treasurer, Fundraisers, Foundation, and Capital Campaign Committee: thank you for your energy, and dealing with the stress that this year's opportunities brought. Your creativity, diligence, and stewardship have contributed to our school's financial health and reasonable tuition rates.

Donors and tuition-paying families: thank you for staying up to date on your tuition payments, for giving to the Fall and Spring Drives, and for making the Capital Campaign a success so far. May this level of support and commitment be shared by all of us and never fade.

Board members: thank you for your dedication to Christian education, and your trust and courage to take action with big opportunities. Thank you to retiring Board members Rick Elzinga (and wife Jill), Craig Kuiper (and wife Shar), Dale Vink (and wife Vickie), and Tom Pastoor (and wife Brenda for loaning Tom to us for *four* years).

Society of Heritage Christian School: thank you for your commitment to Christian education, and your volunteerism and financial support to make that possible. May this commitment and support only grow in God's wondrous grace.

"Great is Thy faithfulness, O God our Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not, as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. *Great* is Thy faithfulness, *GREAT* is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies we see; *all* we have needed, *Thy* hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, LORD, unto us!"

For God's covenant and kingdom,  
Curt Gritters, Secretary

that will continue this summer, and a wonderful witness to our children as grandparents, parents and friends of all ages worked together once again for not only a wonderful fundraiser but also to build our Christian community. Join us, Lord willing, this August for another special time at the Hudsonville Community Fair. Thanks also goes to those who willingly served in both the Spring and Fall Clothing sale and those who worked with the middle school students for the January Rock-a-thon. The students had a great time!

Many standing committees diligently worked throughout the school year. Many thanks to the TRIP committee (especially since they began online ordering), hot lunch,

room mothers, Key Card Committee, Box Tops and those who continue to serve in many ways.

January 2015 brought a new opportunity to Fundraisers with an energetic group of women willing to make quick work at short notice and begin contributing time and talents to Smartshop in Coopersville. Thank you to them and also the mothers and supporters of not only Heritage Christian School but also of our other Protestant Reformed Schools, who offer their time for this profitable fundraiser. May this continue to be a time of growth and fellowship that unites the Protestant Reformed Christian Schools but may we also pray that the Lord continues to lead the committee and Fundraisers at Heritage in this new fundraiser. At our April meeting, it was voted on that the monies raised from this fundraiser go directly to the school board.

What do all these funds raised go to? We have had the opportunity to do many things and we are THANKFUL! Monies are given to each teacher for their individual classrooms. Other funds provide an allowance for teacher birthdays/gifts, teacher's appreciation week and end of year luncheon, grandparent's day, field day and mini-olympics, and annual funding of both the library and updates in technology. In March 2015, \$55,000 was given to the school board for their annual budget request. In April 2015, \$51,500 was given to the school board for updates in the math curriculum, updates in technology, updates in signage, elementary lockers, and white boards for the classrooms as well as classroom

screens and monitors. Your donations have made a generous impact as we look forward to the opening of Heritage Christian School in the Fall of 2015. We are very thankful for the time and efforts by so many who have dedicated themselves for the covenant education of our children at Heritage Christian School. The Lord has blessed us with much.

We encourage all mothers to join Fundraisers and have been thankful for the overwhelming turn out at meeting times this school year. We meet regularly during the school year, but one can read the weekly newsletter and see many ways that we can help the whole school all year long. A special thank you goes to Jill Rus who volunteers her time each meeting as the nursery attendant.

Next year our officers will be: President—Rhonda Van Bommel, Vice President—Jennifer Eriks, Secretary—Sharla Hoekstra, Vice Secretary—Kelly Looyenga, Treasurer—Vickie Vink, Vice Treasurer—Tracy Dykstra. Thank you to the retiring officers, Sally Timmerman (President) and Kim Scholten (Treasurer) [the office adds our thanks to Karen Korhorn, retiring secretary], for their dedication and time spent for the Fundraisers. May God continue to bless our work for Heritage Christian School as He has blessed us in abundance. May we remember the promises of our Lord in Psalm 126 as He has done great things for us and in this we are glad. May the Lord's name be glorified in our work. THANK YOU!

Our Heritage Christian Foundation will be holding their  
**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Foundation Golf Outing**

on Saturday, July 25 with a shotgun start at 7 AM.

The outing will be held at The Meadows in Allendale.

To reserve a spot for your team, please call

Kevin Van Overloop at 616-662-4128.



## **Book Review of Boundaries With Kids by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend** **– Mrs. Brenda Pastoor**

I was introduced to this book by my sister-in-law, upon her recommendation of the original book, Boundaries by the same authors. Said sister-in-law mentioned the original book several years ago and it has been fumbling around in the back of my mind all these years. I was surprised for my birthday when the Boundaries With Kids book showed up on my door step! What a great treat! I immediately knew I would use it for my annual Herald article, so I began highlighting interesting and relevant passages. And continued to highlight. And drew smiley faces and question marks in the margins and then began wondering whom I would pass it on to first! I would strongly recommend every parent to read this book! Written from a Christian perspective and loaded with Biblical quotes and references, I wish I had read this book as a younger parent. There is still so much relevant information as well as guidelines for parents of teenagers, and so much insight for teachers, that I will never regret reading this book! Let me give you a little peek inside.

First, what are the boundaries the title speaks of? "A boundary is a 'property line' that defines a person; it defines where one person ends and someone else begins. The essence of boundaries is self-control, responsibility, freedom, and love." We are raising our children to be responsible adults. When clear boundaries are set, children develop a sense of who they are and what they are responsible for. They develop the ability to choose and the understanding that if they choose well, things will go well, and if they choose poorly, they will suffer. Responsibility causes us to take ownership of the following things: feelings, attitudes, behaviors, choices, limits, talents, thoughts, desires, values and loves.

So, parents and teachers, how do we teach these boundaries? There are three avenues of influence: modeling, teaching and helping your child internalize learning, making it part of him/herself. Consider that the

first picture children have of the world and how it operates is at home. The home is where they form their concepts of reality, love, responsibility, choices and freedom. Children reflect our behaviors, habits, attitudes, and ways of seeing and negotiating life. To raise a child of good character, capable of respecting boundaries, we have to be parents of good character and we must respect boundaries. Therefore modeling is fundamental. Teaching boundaries has different meanings depending on the child's age/stage. First they learn love through mother's protection and care. Between one and three years of age they can understand the consequences of disobedience. During the period of three to five years of age they are able to understand the reasons for taking responsibility. Next the child will learn to balance school, activities, church and friends. In adolescence a child learns to develop one's identity as distinct from the parent. It is also the "period in which parents should begin 'de-parenting' - moving from a position of control to one of influence." (Ouch! That sounds easier said than done!) Finally, internalizing learning is making a fact an experienced reality. In short, as parents and teachers we must set boundaries, model them, teach them explicitly, require responsibility, and then let our children experience the actions and the consequences, whether good or bad. The key is to be loving throughout!

This is a very brief introduction and overview of the idea of boundaries with our children. It is important to keep in mind our end goal in child rearing and education. Our goal as parents and teachers is "to help our children develop the character that will lead them into the life that God created them to have." In short, we are raising our children to be loving, responsible, righteous adults leading a successful life unto God and others. As Proverbs 22:6 teaches, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

## **Advice for Future Fourth Graders – Mrs. Jane Woudenberg and her 4<sup>th</sup> graders**

Next year Miss VanDrunen and I are looking forward to another year of teaching fourth grade. The students in my class have some advice that they are passing on to next year's fourth graders. Their advice will reveal much about the day-to-day life in our classroom. The fourth graders were exceptionally well-behaved this year, and were a joy to teach. They have many valuable tips to share.

Sam Bergman: I recommend future fourth graders to always complete your homework. Remember that your reading log is part of your homework. When you are naughty beware: Mrs. Woudenberg makes you pick up garbage.

Samantha Brower: My advice for future fourth graders is to always be kind at recess. Ephesians 4:32 says,

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Raeanna Brummel: My advice for future fourth graders is to always sing on pitch because if you don't Mrs. Woudenberg will stop you and tell you to sing on pitch.

Tessa Byker: I advise you to always have your mom sign your assignment book. In gym class don't complain about running laps around the gym. If you do you will have to run even more laps.

Leah Dykstra: I advise future students to respect all in authority, and never be afraid to ask for help. Finish your homework or you will have to stay in for recess and do it.

Noah Dykstra: I recommend that the future fourth graders be helpful to Mrs. Woudenberg and respect the thoughts of others.

Garrett Eriks: I recommend that future fourth graders always write neatly and in cursive, and always have pencils in your desk.

Isaac Geerlings: I advise future fourth graders to have faith in the Lord in everything. Also, keep a book in your desk to read when you have free time.

Aubrey Hoekstra: I urge all future fourth graders to be kind to your fellow fourth graders, and be a godly example. Help students on the playground and encourage them.

Travis Holstege: I recommend that fourth graders sing well because you will sing every Tuesday and Thursday, and on Friday you have recorders.

Dana Kamps: If you don't understand something, always ask the teacher to explain it, and don't go on wondering about it. Always remember that fourth grade is hard, but that doesn't mean it isn't fun because it's very FUN!

Jonny Kuiper: I advise future fourth graders to keep your desk and locker neat and clean.

Calvin Looyenga: I recommend that future fourth graders study your multiplication math facts so that you can pass your time tests. Also, get your homework done on time, not at the last minute.

Carissa Looyenga: I advise future fourth graders to not be lazy. Also always hand in your homework on time. You should always try your hardest.

Max Holstege: I urge all fourth graders not to bully. If you are a bully, stop and say sorry and play nicely.

Cody Scholten: My advice for future fourth graders is to listen when Mrs. Woudenberg is reading the Bible so you know which verse to read when it's your turn.

Josie Timmerman: I advise future fourth graders to try your best. Good work pays off. In gym be a good sport, and don't say that you don't like a game because then you will have to sit out.

Zack VanBaren: I recommend future fourth graders not to talk out of turn because it's a distraction to the other people.

Riley VanDyk: I advise future fourth graders to try their best, and don't be afraid to struggle because that's how people learn.

Tony VanOverloop: I advise the future fourth graders to always obey your teacher because God requires it of you. Also, study hard so you get good grades on your tests.

Jackson VerStrate: My advice for future fourth graders is to pay attention when the teacher is talking and hand your homework in on time.

Mike Troost: I recommend that future fourth graders in Mrs. Woudenberg's class never touch Wally, her bird, unless she says you can.

Morgan VanderMeulen: I advise future fourth graders to always pay attention so you can get good grades and go on to college. Never be afraid to ask the teacher a question because the teacher is always happy to help.

Abigail Vink: I recommend that the future fourth graders have fun learning because you will be able to concentrate better if you are having fun. Also, don't forget to get all the things on the school supply list.

### **Heritage Christian School Bands – Mr. Andy Kamper**

It has been a great year for our bands! The students have worked very hard and played really well all year. Parents, family, and friends hear us at the concerts, but what is actually being taught in the rehearsals?

I teach band every day based on five major elements that will help the students be successful: tone, intonation, rhythm, technique, and interpretation.

- **Tone** - Good tone is accomplished by pushing plenty of air through the instrument with as much speed as possible. We work on this at the beginning of every class, often blowing up balloons as an enjoyable way to practice.
- **Intonation** – Intonation is the ability to hear how a player's pitch matches the other band members' pitches. Tones can be raised or lowered by changing the length of the instrument, the speed of the air, or the embouchure (mouth).
- **Rhythm** – Rhythm is playing the notes at the exact time as the others on the correct beat. Students must learn to watch the director's baton carefully, count the beats as they play, and listen closely to the other players.

- **Technique** – Technique has to do with any physical motion made when playing an instrument. We work on this all of the time as the students need to develop their eye-hand coordination. This is the main reason band students need to practice their instruments at home regularly
- **Interpretation** – Interpretation is playing the music with feeling and making it interesting to listeners and performers. Dynamic contrast, identifying and shaping phrases, and playing the notes with the correct style are the main ingredients of interpretation.

All of this requires band members to listen carefully and constantly to one another as they play. We work on our listening skills all of the time. In order to focus on listening, band students must be able to play their own music well, thus practicing at home on a regular basis by every band member is essential for our bands to be successful in praising God to the best of our ability with our music.

## **Brain-based Learning: It Just Makes Sense - Mr. Dan VanDyke**

Buzzwords – hot topics – They flit in and out and through every sphere of culture: business, politics, technology, or education. Most of them last at most for a year or two and then are gone. Do you remember Y2K? But every once in a while, a “new” thing becomes a normal thing, and before we know it, the buzzword has become a staple of our vocabulary. In education, for example, we’ve seen the latest and greatest educational strategies come and go with varying degrees of lasting influence. One such buzzword, I believe, is here to stay. “Brain-based education” uses solid scientific research on the brain to inform educational practices. I believe it’s the best foundation from which to evaluate all of our teaching strategies.

For the past few summers, several of us Heritage teachers have been attending the Midwest Brain and Learning Institute in Holland, MI. Having attended more than a few seminars and graduate-level classes, I can honestly say that none of them have impacted me as much as this Institute. Many of us are finding this research most exciting. The main beauty of what we are learning about the brain and education is that we are now finding scientific evidence about how the brain works that confirms many of the common-sense educational practices that we’ve been using for years. For example, we’ve all known intuitively that a nervous or unhappy child isn’t learning well. It’s why we all strive to teach our children with at least an external patience and a calming, encouraging attitude. We’ve experienced how a child “shuts down” when he or she is berated or belittled. Well, now we have scientific evidence which shows clearly how the brain literally “shuts down” or closes neurological pathways through which any instructional input must pass when a child is emotionally upset or depressed. MRI scans show in vivid color how brain activity dwindles dramatically in these cases. One researcher at the Institute stated bluntly that if we speak harsh and bitter words with our child on the way to school, we might as well keep them home because they will likely learn almost nothing in school that day. And his conclusion isn’t psycho-babble mumbo-jumbo; it’s solid science. This is only one brief example of our

educational intuition as mature Christian parents and teachers being validated by solid brain research.

Another wonderful result of the Institute is that it has revealed and sometimes reminded us of our poor educational practices. We all know intuitively, for example, that children are much more interested in doing any work if they feel they have some choices or control in that work. Brain research shows us with unmistakable clarity why this is true (I won’t bore you with the details). Too often as teachers we assign every child the exact same task to be done in the exact same way, and then we expect the exact same results from all even though we know these children are infinitely diverse. Furthermore, this diversity impacts every aspect of their school life: their listening, their processing, their understanding of concepts, their retrieval of facts, their fluency of written and spoken expression, their confidence, their interpretation of social dynamics, and the list could go on and on.

In this area especially, we are trying in English class to provide freedom to improve the students’ writing skills with a variety of writing assignments and projects. Do they all have to read the same book about the Civil War to learn the lifelong skill of evaluating historical fiction? No. Do they all have to write the same length of essay in order to demonstrate that they can write well? No. Do they all have to do the same type of writing project to improve in their use of figurative language? No. And the really exciting thing is that with increased freedom in assessment choices, I am witnessing an engaged excitement over writing assignments like never before. Now the students - yes, even 8<sup>th</sup> graders – are asking, “Can we do Writer’s Notebooks today?” More and more classroom instruction truly looks like lifelong learning. More and more we are giving your children instruction not only in the facts of life but in the process and joy of learning. More and more your children are learning like adults learn regularly, engaging in authentic problems which require real and creative problem solving techniques. Encourage your children to be these creative problem solvers as often as you can. Also, remain aware of this buzzword – it’s here to stay.

## **Non-Medicinal Ways to Treat ADHD – Mrs. Deb Altena**

No one wants to put their child on medicine. Even when the child has a legitimate illness, we hesitate and ask the doctor about potential side effects. The trick is to balance the benefits of the treatment against the risks. It is common to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder with medicine. It’s a proven method of reducing symptoms in a child who appears to have this disorder. Yet some children have more difficulty with the side effects than others.

To be clear before we begin to explore non-medicinal methods of treatment, we must understand what exactly ADHD is. It has four main symptoms, the first of which is hyperactivity. The child seems to have almost

boundless energy and simply seems unable to just sit quietly. Most likely some part of his/her body is always moving. The second symptom is distractibility. The child has difficulty filtering out normal distractions and increasing his/her focus on what is important at the particular time. Thirdly, the child is very impulsive with little attention to detail, making hasty, careless decisions. The final symptom is indecisiveness, in that the child can be “spacey,” forgetful, and emotionally upset by changes in plans or expectations. He/she often needs assistance in getting started with school work, chores, or even play. Another type of ADHD that isn’t as noticeable is the Inattentive type in which the child is not hyperactive.



These children can be irritable, indecisive, distractible and sad or depressed when they are having a flare-up of symptoms.

Several Heritage teachers were recently able to attend a workshop that addressed ADHD and other disorders. We were intrigued by the multiple treatment approaches that can be used. What can we as parents do to help our child with ADHD succeed in school? One important way is to provide structure for the child to complete homework. The child feels chaotic inside so is almost always helped by constancy on the outside. Set up a specific time for homework (summer work!) and stick to it. Give breaks and help the child see that there will be time for relaxation, too, in the schedule.

Another key component is to make sure your child is getting enough sleep. Lack of sleep increases forgetfulness, mistakes, and moodiness. Emotional control and concentration is reduced when the child is not getting enough sleep. Establish a regular and reasonable bedtime. Aim for 9-10 hours of sleep a night. Often children with ADHD have sensory disorders also so make the bedroom and the bedding as comfortable as possible. Avoid exercise for the final hour before bedtime. Serve a protein rich snack about 30 minutes before bedtime.

We can control our child's nutrition to decrease ADHD symptoms. "The brain is a 'protein factory' with a constant need for amino acids." (John Taylor, Autism, Asperger's, SPD & ADHD seminar) Serve protein-rich snacks between meals and always include protein in each meal.

All vitamins and minerals are needed by the brain. The common deficiencies that make symptoms worse are magnesium, zinc, calcium and iron. A multi vitamin is a good way to ensure your child is receiving a large quantity of necessary vitamins and minerals.

Try to have your child drink a glass of water about every two hours during the day. Diluted fruit juices, watermelon, herbal teas and vegetable juices are good alternatives if your child won't drink enough water.

Our bodies also need natural fats and oils which are easily found in plant sources that are raw so salads, fruits, vegetables, and nuts are good snack choices. Fish oil is also a good source of these "essential fatty acids." A guideline is 1000 mg daily before puberty and 2000 mg daily after puberty.

Increase glucose, the fuel the brain runs on, by increasing protein, not by sugar!

Of course our brains need oxygen so regular exercise is crucial. Before homework, have your child do four minutes of mild exercise like jumping jacks or running in place. Exercising before coming to school will get the brain "fired-up" and ready to learn. Consider a longer period, like 15 minutes, before getting on the bus/getting in the car.

Fortunately, there are alternatives other than medicine to treat your child who struggles with ADHD symptoms. Perhaps your child needs more of one particular area of treatment than another. That means you as the parent need to be the "captain" of your child's treatment plan. Medicine is a safe and proven method to treat ADHD but if you choose not to give your child medicine then research the alternatives. Try multiple approaches when addressing his/her symptoms. Discuss these things also with your doctor and find out what has worked for other parents who have children with ADHD. Above all, keep the well-being of your child foremost in your heart and mind, for he is God's "workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that **we** should walk in them." Ephesians 2: 10

### **A Curious Classroom - Miss Liz VanDrunen**

Research states that the average mom gets asked 288 questions a day. I'm no mom, but I definitely notice that during my day at school, I get asked a lot of questions. If this 288 questions a day statistic is true, I figure that I could potentially receive 6,624 questions every school day! I love questions and I am continually amazed at the different types of questions that come my way. Although I'd like to say I always know the answers to all of their questions, I admit that I consult my knowledgeable friend Google occasionally.

Curiosity is defined as the strong desire to know or learn something. God created us to be inquisitively curious people. This year, I decided to implement a project that allowed my students to build off of their curiosity. For the past five weeks, my students have been faithfully working on their own curiosity projects. The goal of this project is to provide modeling, structure, and practice

that supports students so that they can learn how to become intellectually curious learners. This project invites students to not only ask questions, but learn how to find answers. The project began by each student choosing a topic that they are curious about. After the topics were chosen, students asked questions, planned their focus topics, gathered information, and began creating a project to share what they learned. All of their hard work will be revealed in the Curiosity Showcase we are hosting at the end of the year. So, if you would like to learn about tulips, the harmful effects of soda, the Bermuda Triangle, Leonardo Da Vinci, Michigan basketball, chemicals, the Paradise Tanager, swords, candy canes, cold-blooded reptiles, Australia, binding books, or many other interesting topics, please stop by our classroom for some well-informed answers that don't require a search on Google.

## **Striving for Distinction – Mr. Jason Holstege**

The word “distinction” gets a lot of good press at this time of the year as graduations abound and certain students and athletes are singled out for the exceptional work they have done. So we have come to understand that the word “distinctive” refers to a certain characteristic that makes a person or thing able to be recognized and set apart from others.

But have you ever asked yourself what makes our school distinctive? After all, we are putting an enormous amount of time, effort, and money into maintaining this school, so there ought to be something about it that sets it apart from other schools. Maybe you haven’t thought about it much because that’s just how it has always been; “I went there, so my children will go there.” Or perhaps you say, “Oh, that is an easy one! We are a Christian school, so we are distinct in how we think about \_\_\_\_.” You fill in the blank: the subject matter, the nature of children, etc.

But that doesn’t answer the question: why attend this Christian school and not another? This is an essential question, one that we would all do well to consider and evaluate ourselves on often, if not daily. This is one question I have tried to focus on for myself all year, because I know that often the temptation is for teachers merely to ask themselves, “Did the students understand the material?” or “Were they obedient today?” or perhaps some other similarly important question, all the while forgetting the distinctiveness that should characterize our instruction.

This is what makes our annual Teachers’ Convention so great: teachers get to talk over important questions like whether our Protestant Reformed schools are distinctive, what makes them distinctive, and on what principles we should (or shouldn’t) construct our schools. At this past convention in his sectional “Protestant Reformed Schools: Examining our *raison d’etre*” (which is French for “reason for existence”), Adams Christian School administrator Rick Mingerink made some important points, such as:

- We might be tempted to say that our distinctiveness arises from our knowledge of and application of the covenant of grace, but others outside our circles set forth that principle back in 1929, which therefore would NOT make us that distinctive from other Christian schools.
- Our distinctiveness arises from our stand nearly 100 years ago against common grace, and so our belief in God’s providence and the antiithesis help us to teach discernment to our students about the world’s products and our use of those

products.

- While the ungodly might speak of reality and things that are true, they cannot uncover Truth as we can, which then ought to motivate us to use the products of the world to the glory of God.

Teachers who understand this distinctiveness will be motivated to emphasize that...

- Christ (and by extension, the Word of God) is the Supreme Authority.
- Because of this, discernment must be taught as an activity and a worldview.
- Teachers ought to desire to develop a godly culture in their students. (And to further this, Rick suggested every teacher ought to read *Knowing God and Man* by Rev. Hoeksema and *The Reformed Worldview on Behalf of a Godly Culture* by Prof. Engelsma.)

Therefore teachers themselves ought to take some time to...

- Ask, “Where is Christ absent from my instruction?”
- Realize facts are not independent; there is never a separation between the natural and spiritual.
- Seek the “hidden curriculum” in their instruction and discipline procedures. Is it thoroughly biblical and antithetical? (We are affected by worldly philosophies more than we think.)
- Set goals that are antithetically conscious for each class.
- Stay sharp personally. Read good theological works and discuss with other staff members. School business is spiritual business.

What do you think? Do you agree? Does this kind of distinctiveness matter to you? And if so, what does all this mean for us as parents and supporters of our schools? As our school year ends, let’s remember to take the time to evaluate our performance in these areas, and then let’s encourage each other to strive after the goal of schools and homes that are distinctive in their pursuit of the glory of God in all things, remembering Deuteronomy 6:7: “And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

## **Farewell, Miss Faber!! - Miss Faber’s second graders**

The students in Miss Faber’s 2nd Grade class had a special assignment this spring. In April they had a party to celebrate her upcoming wedding to Mr. David Kruyswijk. This special assignment was to create a book for the party that was written and made especially

for her! This book included a photo of each child, a hand-drawn portrait of each of her students drawn by the student themselves, a kind note for Miss Faber from each student, and some wise words for her marriage.

Below you will read some of their special notes for her to remember them by:

Troy DeBoer: My favorite thing about Miss Faber is that she is a good gym teacher and talks nice.

Buckery Machiele: Say Thank you for all your presents at the wedding!

Luke Fisher: Make good dinners.

Dylan Engelsma: Treat your spouse better than yourself.

Noah DeBoode: Love the Lord with all your heart.

Jonas Velte: Make good food and lots of cakes. (also a note for Mr. Kruyswijk) Get guard dogs to protect her and her ring. Take lots of vacations.

Matt Moelker: Don't smash cake in your husband's face at your wedding!

Tessa Bergman: Miss Faber is so kind. She has a beautiful voice!

Laura Geerlings: I hope you have fun in Washington and I hope you love another even Mr. Kruyswijk. ♥♥

Taylor Barnhill: She is good at telling Bible Stories!

Britney Bleyenberg: Always kiss good night! ♥

Brooke Bleyenberg: I like Miss Faber because she is a good listener when someone is talking.

Katelyn VanUffelen: Dear Mr. and Mrs. Kruyswijk, Please remember to have dinner together; read the bible, and say I love you. Try to make his favorite meal and let him take you out to dinner every once in a while.

Reid VanBaren: Be happy.

Clay Wassink: Have a lot of love in your family!

Ryan Drnek: I am glad that right now Miss Faber has an easy name to spell.

Simon Brummel: My favorite thing about Miss Faber is she picks good games at gym. She teaches us about God. I also like how she plays the piano.

Zach Looyenga: Make a cake for the wedding, don't stop dating.

### **2015-2016 School Year Calendar**

**September 1, 2015** – School begins

**September 1, 2015** – Open House from 6-7:30 PM

**September 4 and 7, 2015** – No school (Labor Day)

**September 9 and 10, 2015** – School Pictures

**October 3, 2015** – Fall Children's Clothing and Toy Sale

**October 15-16, 2015** – No school (Teachers Convention)

**October 28 and 29, 2015** – Parent Teacher Conferences

**October 31, 2015** – 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

**November 12, 2015** – All school program

**November 20, 2015** – Grandparents Day

**November 26-27, 2015** – Thanksgiving Break

**December 24, 2015 – January 1, 2016** – Christmas Break

**February 3 and 11, 2016** – Parent Teacher Conferences

**February 19, 2016** – Mid-winter Break

**February 25, 2016** – Math Night

**April 1-8, 2016** – Spring Break

**May 30, 2016** – No school (Memorial Day)

**May 31, 2016** – Last day of school and graduation

# Heritage Christian School Openhouse

When: September 1, 2015  
from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Where: 6340 Autumn Dr.  
Hudsonville

**Come tour our new building, meet  
your child's teacher & enjoy some  
snacks**



## *~ Items to take note of ~*

### TRIP news:

All TRIP transactions will take place at the new HCS campus (6340 Autumn Drive). The TRIP ladies will have their tables set up in the lobby by the larger gym. Please enter the building through the north doors to order your TRIP. Summer TRIP dates are (**from 9-10:30 AM**): June 9, June 23, July 7, July 21, August 4, and August 18.

TRIP will be sold on the first day of the next school year, September 1.

At the April 27, 2015 meeting of the Heritage Christian School Society, Tom Schimmel's name was accidentally read as someone requesting to be removed from membership. Tom is indeed an active member of the society and the Board apologizes for this mistake.

Watch closely for information in the August Herald regarding public school bus rider transfers, especially the students busing in from the north on public busses. We currently know that the transfers for the north public busses will take place at Hudsonville Chr. Elementary (a location which is different from this year's location), but there will be other details to take note of as well! Thank you –

Special thanks go out to all of our 2014-2015 volunteers. Your willingness to help is not unnoticed by us here at Heritage. We had over 150 volunteers this year ranging in age from young (teenagers) to ... older folks!! The volunteer hours are such an important part of the students' education here, and we appreciate it immensely. Keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities in your enrollment packets. There are many, many different time slots open every year. Grandparents – we ALWAYS love our grandpa and grandma volunteers, so please call Karen at school if you are interested in helping next year!

## 2015-2016 School Supplies

### Kindergarten Supplies - all labeled

Backpack  
Lg size Pencil Box (> 4" high)  
2 Large Erasers  
2 Large Solid Glue Sticks  
Medium point Washable Markers  
Crayons (24 or less)  
Good Quality Scissors (round-tips)  
1 Sturdy Folder with Inside Pocket  
Gym Shoes (Velcro or Slip-on)  
Art Shirt  
Small Pillow (14" or smaller)  
One pair socks  
Green Health Form for Office  
Picture of your kindergartener

### 1st Grade Supplies – all labeled

School Box – Large Size  
10 Pencils  
1 yellow highlighter  
1 Large Eraser ("Pink Pearl")  
3 Large Glue Sticks  
Elmers White Glue  
24 Crayola Crayons  
Colored Pencils  
12 Thick Washable Markers  
2 Dry erase markers  
Fiskar Scissors  
1 **wide** ruled spiral notebook  
Paint Shirt  
Gym Shoes  
2 Strong, Durable Pocket Folders  
\$1.00 for Classroom Supplies

### 2nd Grade Supplies - all labeled

KJV Bible  
Psalter  
24 **Sharp** Pencils  
24 Crayons  
12 Colored Pencils  
8-12 Thick Markers - not neon  
1 Yellow Highlighter  
2 Dry Erase Markers - not neon  
1 Large Eraser  
Large Plastic Pencil Box (w/ Snap Lid)  
Fiskars **Sharp-Point** Scissors  
4 Large Glue Sticks  
1 Wide Ruled Notebook  
1 Hard Covered Composition Notebook  
2 Sturdy Folders  
Art Shirt  
Gym Shoes & Extra Pair of Socks  
\$2.00 for Classroom Supplies

### 3rd Grade Supplies

KJV Bible  
12 - #2 Pencils  
Fiskar Scissors  
2 Red Pens  
2 dry-erase markers  
2 Glue Sticks. 1 Glue Bottle  
Art Shirt

### 3rd Grade Supplies, continued

Small Pencil Box  
12" Ruler w/Inches & Centimeters  
2 Blue or Black Erasable Pens  
Small Notebook for assignments  
2 Black Flair pens (Papermate brand fine point, non-permanent markers)  
1 Black Sharpie marker  
Crayons (~48)  
Markers, Colored Pencils  
3 Wide Ruled Spiral Notebooks  
3 Single Pocket Folders – incl blue  
Loose Leaf Paper –Wide Ruled  
Psalter  
Large Eraser  
Gym Shoes

### 4th Grade Supplies

KJV Bible  
Psalter – in Good Condition  
Crayons  
Red pen  
2 Black Flair pens (Papermate brand fine point, non-permanent markers)  
1 Black Sharpie marker  
Thin washable markers  
24 pack of colored pencils  
10 sharpened #2 Pencils  
2 large glue sticks  
Yellow highlighter  
Large Eraser  
12" ruler with centimeters and inches clearly marked  
Pointed scissors  
Zippered 3 Ring Binder/Trapper  
Wide ruled loose Leaf Paper  
Gym Shoes  
1 wide ruled 1 subject spiral Notebook  
6 2-Pocket PLASTIC folders (w/ holes)

### 5th Grade Supplies

KJV Bible and Psalter  
Zippered 3-Ring Binder/Trapper  
6 Folders  
Colored Pencils  
Markers  
#2 Pencils  
2 Red Pens  
Blue or Black Erasable Pen  
1 Yellow Highlighter  
Large Eraser  
Loose Leaf Notebook Paper  
5 wide ruled spiral notebooks (for DDB)  
**OR** 1 5 subject spiral notebook (for RG)  
Ruler (w/Standard & Metric)  
Pointed Scissors  
Gym Shoes  
Calculator  
1 Large Glue Stick

### 6th Grade Supplies

KJV Bible and Psalter  
Pencils and Eraser  
Pens: Blue/Black for Work  
Pens: Red for Correcting

### 6th Grade Supplies, continued

Black Thin Tip Marker  
Colored Pencils  
Markers (Optional)  
Highlighting Markers (optional)  
6 wide ruled spiral notebooks  
Calculator  
Gym Shoes  
Ruler  
Glue Stick  
Scissors  
Zippered 3-Ring Binder/Trapper  
For K. Dykstra only: 6 Dividers (for inside the Trapper)  
For G. Holstege only: 6 Pocket Folders (for inside the Trapper)  
200 pg. loose-leaf paper  
2-4 Gb Flash Drive

### 7th Grade Supplies

KJV Bible and Psalter  
Pencils and Pens  
Colored Pencils  
5 3-Ring Binders (1" rings) for core courses  
5 Spiral Notebooks for core courses  
Spiral Bound sketch book (30+ pages)  
5 Folders w/Pockets  
Folder for Art  
Loose Leaf Notebook Paper (200 pages)  
Ruler with Inches & Centimeters  
Compass  
Protractor  
Scientific Calculator (TI-83 or 84 recommended but not required)  
Flash Drive  
Access to Word Processing, Spreadsheet, and Presentation software such as MS Office, or Google-docs or Open Office (the latter 2 are free programs)

### 8th Grade Supplies

KJV Bible and Psalter  
Pencils and Pens  
Colored Pencils  
5 3-Ring Binders (1" rings) for core courses  
5 Spiral Notebooks for core courses  
1 pkg. 3x5 note cards  
5 Folders w/Pockets  
Folder for Art  
Loose Leaf Notebook Paper (200 pages)  
Ruler with Inches & Centimeters  
Compass  
Protractor  
Calculator (TI-83 or 84 required)  
Flash Drive  
Access to Word Processing, Spreadsheet, and Presentation software such as MS Office, or Google-docs or Open Office (free programs)