



Inside this Issue:

Legacy	1
Mr. Brian Kuiper	
Salary Committee	2
Mr. Tom Holstege	
Education Committee	2
Mr. Marc Scholten	
Board Secretary Report..	3
Mr. Kevin Gritters	
Fundraiser's Report	5
Mrs. Julie Gritters	
God is a Rock	6
Miss Erin VanBaren	
Rearing Children	8
Mr. Jason Holstege	
Knowledge	9
Mrs. Mary VanOverloop	
In Loco Parentis.....	10
Mr. Josh Moelker	
Read Aloud?	11
Mrs. Brenda Pastoor	
Then Vs. Now	12
Mrs. Beth VanBaren	
Summer Reading	13
Miss Becca Gritters	
Sedatephobia	14
Mrs. Katie Baatenburg	
Wisdom.....	15
Mr. Brad Gritters	
Items to Note	16
2022-2023 Calendar	16
Fair Information	17
2021-2022 Supply List ..	18
Graduate Pictures	19

Legacy

Mr. B. Kuiper, Administrator

“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

Proverbs 11:14

As the end of the school year approaches, one reflection that is done by many regards *legacy*. Reflections on work done in the past include questions like: What important and invaluable things have I taught my students this year - or in the past 43 years? Did each lesson and unit equip students to better serve the mission to which Christ has called them? What have I left behind so that the Board is better equipped to serve now than it was 3 years ago when I was elected? My youngest is graduating HCS! What has my family contributed to the school that has made it a better place for Christ's sake? Has the curriculum work I helped with this year helped the school progress from simply recording WHAT we teach to something usable by future teachers because it includes specifics on HOW we teach as well as biblical and faith based integrations?

Regular reflection is of value to each of us. Not daily or weekly - but every so often asking the question, “How am I doing” and “What do I need to do to improve”? As the Apostle Paul reached the end of his life, he reflected as well. He was able to see and say that his life was a successful one, and the legacy that he left to others was that he *fought*, he *finished*, and he *kept*. That's a legacy worth telling.

Fight. Fight the old man and sin. Fight the devil and temptation. Fight as trained soldiers who are equipped with all of the tools necessary to win the fight. And, fight as an army - alongside brothers and sisters in the Lord. Not fighting each other but fighting along WITH each other.

Finish. We have all been told to not start something we could not finish. We've been taught to push to the end. Other such inspirational quotes might come to your mind. Paul finished his course. He was able to reflect and see that He served the Lord in all things that he did. We must be able to finish - a day, a week, a year, a lifetime knowing that we have a finish line that is determined by Him. And, our goal must be to continue toward that finish line.

Keep. Keep the faith. Keep the course map in view - the Word which leads at all times and in all journeys. Keep others in prayer. Keep fighting. Keep holding the light that lights your path. Keep moving towards the finish.

Know this as well. The work was not our work. We were used by God as means to His end. He blesses our efforts. What we must leave behind as a legacy is this. I'm tired from the fight. I've finished the work that I have been

called to do. God has kept me through it. Then the glory is His. Paul expressed that in another verse when he refers to God's grace as the reason that he fought, finished, and kept. "But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me" (1 Corinthians 15:10).

We express appreciation and bid farewell to those families whose youngest child is graduating. Our prayer is that the teachers and the school as an organization

have helped you as parents to fulfill the vows taken at baptism. These students and families include: Annikkah Brower (Brad and Ruth), Ellie Eriks (Rev. Garry and Jennifer), Jonathan Hoekstra (Josh and Sharla), Toby Holstege (Tom and Fiona), Lee Kamps (Les and Bev), David Langeland (Mike and Amy), Madison Lubbers (Scott and Marcy), Benjamin Overway (David and Rebecca), Jacob Penna (Geoff and Sherri), Allison VanDerMeulen (Ryan and Kelli), Brielle VanOverloop (Kevin and Leesa), and Caleb Vink (Dale and Vickie).

Salary Committee Report – Mr. Tom Holstege

We are very blessed because all of our other teaching positions for next year have been filled. We have a few new teachers coming in. I'll let you read who are in those positions in other reports.

Teaching contracts were handed out in the beginning of March. Salary increases were 6.5% for those with 13 or more years of experience. Teachers with fewer than 13 years of experience were given increases based on years of service. The committee used the Christian Schools International report as a guide to help make the decision of what increase our teachers would receive this coming year. This is common with other Protestant Reformed schools in the area and with other local Christian schools. The Board is thankful for the teachers we have who have taken the calling of teaching our covenant youth here at Heritage Christian School.

The school budget for next year was just recently approved at the Society meeting which resulted in a tuition increase of 7.0%. The budget is established such that the revenue equals the expenses, so there isn't a surplus of cash to pay the expenses when the revenue and specifically tuition doesn't come in as required. The Board encourages that you continue to 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 Salary Committee is thankful and we 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 2022/23 school year next fall.

Education Committee Report - Mr. Marc Scholten

In our mission statement our school's commitment was "in obedience to God's instruction that we teach our children the fear of the Lord." The goal of that education is that our children will view all of the subjects taught through the "spectacles" of the Holy Scriptures, and that through this instruction the students will increase in their knowledge of God. Through the Holy Spirit working in their lives, this knowledge of God will evidence itself in a living faith as our children learn to apply what they have learned to all of their lives in service to God. Our hope and prayer is that we assume that God given responsibility.

Another school year is coming to a close again. When we look back at the year that happened quickly, there are many things to be thankful for. I will name only a few. We have a school where we are able to send our children every day to be educated. This is more than an education. It is a Christian education, an extension of what we teach our children at home. This is a responsibility we have been given to prepare our children for life. The importance of our commitment is necessary as we see the world around us becoming more sinful. This year we were able to meet in person for

the full year. We have dedicated Christian teachers and staff that instruct our children every day.

At the end of this school year we will need to say farewell to a few of our teachers. Bill Joostens has faithfully served our school for the past 35 years and is now retiring. Lisa Potjer helped us this past year by teaching in our junior high part time. Kennedy Heneveld was one of our second grade teachers who will not be coming back next year. Josie Dykstra was one of our first grade teachers. Josie and Carter will be moving to Colorado where they will both be teaching in our school there. Our thanks goes to all of you for your hard work and service. We wish you God's blessings for the years to come.

We are thankful that all the teaching positions have been filled for the 2022/23 school year. In January at the beginning of our second semester, Mrs. Janet Doezeema joined us as an art teacher and will continue with us next year. Rochelle Heyboer was teaching in junior high part time and will now be full time. Jodee Van Overloop has received her teaching certificate and will now be teaching a second grade class. We also have a couple of new teachers joining us who have just completed their

schooling. Annika Brands is coming to us from Edgerton, Minnesota and will be teaching a first grade class. Elizabeth Ensink will also be joining us and will be a junior high teacher. Welcome to all of you! We look forward to having you join us next school year.

Sue Looyenga is doing a great job continuing with her labor of curriculum work to review and standardize teaching for each grade level. The Education Committee

is working with the Education Support Director looking at ways to improve how we are educating our children to challenge every level of ability.

A big THANK YOU to our administrator, teachers and staff for their hard work and labor of love for instructing our children and caring for them each day. God has blessed us with many willing hands. We need to keep them in our prayers.

Annual Secretary's Report to the Society – Mr. Kevin L. Gritters

[The following report is adapted slightly from the Board Secretary's report delivered at the annual Society Meeting in April.]

Dear Society of Heritage Christian School:

Welcome to the Annual Society Meeting for this the 37th year of covenantal education at Heritage Christian School. We are grateful to our heavenly Father for preserving us through another year. As we so often do near the end of an event or a season, we pause to reflect on God's gracious mercies in the year gone by, and we look forward to the year to come.

In early March, the School Board, teachers, staff, and spouses had the opportunity to meet for an enjoyable dinner and evening of fellowship at Georgetown PRC. Before the dinner, our Board President brought words of encouragement and thanks to the group. In those remarks, he used the term "cumulatively tired," which refers to the fatigue we experience after weeks, months, and sometimes even years of enduring a trial or affliction to which we are not accustomed. I thought this was an accurate descriptor of the way many of us have felt in the last year or two. In the past few years, God sovereignly has placed many trials on us, including loss of health, loss of many dear loved ones, controversy in the church, division in families, challenges in the workplace, and significant disruptions in our education system. Many of us are tired. Some are cumulatively tired after extended times of hardship. Yet through this all, we have seen that God is good. God is faithful and true to His promise that He will preserve us. Especially in the valleys through which we walk today, may we confess that we know God is good and that He works all things together for the good of those that love Him! And may we encourage each other in this and use even this short time we have together this evening to that end.

We were very thankful to be able to hold some of the annual events that had been paused through the pandemic: the Fall Family Supper, Teacher's Convention, All-School Program, Spelling Bee, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Band and Choir Programs, Grandparent's Day, and other events. Sometimes God shows us the value in certain things by removing them from us for a time. In this, we see that God is sovereign and good.

God has blessed our school with God-fearing, faithful teachers and staff. They have stood in our place each

day, for the sake of the covenant children with which God has blessed us. Each month, two Board members have opportunity to visit classrooms, and the reports are positive and encouraging. Our Administrator also conducts formal evaluations of teachers each year, and his reports have included the words "dedication, expertise, professionalism, and preparedness." Additionally, the Education Committee has opportunity to meet with all teachers in late winter at the time of contract renewals. We are thankful for the consistent, patient effort put forth by the teachers for the children, on our behalf, and for God's glory! In the provision of not just enough teachers, but highly qualified teachers, we see that God is faithful and good. A few examples:

- Josie Dykstra and Benji Kuiper experienced some of the typical, first-year-teacher challenges, but they have and are working through them, and with the generous support of fellow teachers, are now comfortable and doing very well.
- Rochelle Heyboer and Lisa Potjer teamed up and graciously gave of their energy and expertise to fill a need in our Junior High classrooms, and Janet Doezema began as art teacher in January.
- At least one teacher sends a weekly email to parents on Mondays. It always has a devotional and explains a spiritual topic that the class will focus on for the week. *Only after* the spiritual foundation has been set is the academic plan laid out for the week. How better can we educate our children than with effective communication, repetition, and consistency among school, home, and church!
- Many levels of academic support are available in our school for students that struggle in certain areas. We are so thankful for the Special Education program that continues to labor under our roof, for the Educational Support program, Discovery Center, and all the teachers, aides, and support staff for their work in this realm.
- Sue Looyenga has continued her labors in developing and standardizing our curriculum to ensure all subjects are covered and topics are not duplicated between grades.

- Jeremy Lubbers continues doing an excellent job as facilities manager and has gone above and beyond what was asked of him to improve efficiency, upgrade our facilities, and save money.
- Many teachers also extended their duties to the athletic field, court, or track, and to the robotics team. This is a great help to maintain the consistent approach and mission of the school – from the classroom and beyond.

A heartfelt thanks to all our teachers and staff!

Our administrator continued his consistent, dedicated leadership in the day-to-day goings-on of our school. Steady leadership and positive attitudes set the tone for each day, and that is reflected in the hallways and classrooms as teachers and students energetically go about their daily work. Brian makes it a practice to network regularly with area Christian School leaders regarding topics that are common to all our schools; this has been helpful and encouraging. In the provision of devoted leaders that provide great consistency and stability each year, and that – to most of us – make it seem that everything “just happens” so smoothly, we see that God, the perfect Shepherd, is good. Thank you, Brian, for your labors again this year.

The Board is thankful that all of you, the parents, are united in fulfilling our baptismal vows to see to it that our children are instructed in a distinctively Reformed, Christian school. We often talk of the three-legged stool of home, church, and school, and how each one is so important to supplement the other two. Loss of one significantly imbalances and destabilizes the other two. We recognize how fragile the unity of a body can be; it is our utmost prayer that we continue to be unified in the goal that Heritage has had since it began: that our children will receive a Christ-centered education of high academic quality based on the Holy Scriptures and the Reformed Confessions. We are thankful that God has given a unified desire among parents and teachers to strive daily for the growth of our covenant children. In this also, we see that God is good.

We are happy to report that most of our teachers and staff will be returning for the 2022-2023 school year. However, we must also say goodbye to some. Kennedy Heneveld has informed us she is not coming back next year. Josie Dykstra, after one short but good year, has informed us that she will be moving away. Josie and her husband Carter, who will be graduating soon from Hope College with a teaching degree, have decided to move to Loveland, CO, next year, where they both will take up their teaching careers in our Loveland PR School. Lisa Potjer, who generously covered half of a junior high classroom, has decided to step away from the classroom. And after nearly 14 years as our Business Manager, Sharon Kraker has decided to retire.

Lastly, after 35 years of teaching in Heritage Christian School, Mr. Bill Joostens has decided to retire at the end of this school year. Bill began teaching at Heritage in September 1987. This means that almost everyone who

has ever graduated from Heritage has gone through Mr. Joostens’ classroom. In addition to his decades of teaching, Mr. Joostens served the school as janitor and IT support for many years. We thank Kennedy, Josie, Lisa, Sharon, and Bill for their service to our school and our children.

These exits left us with gaps in both elementary and junior high classrooms that needed to be filled. With thanks to God, we are happy to report that Annika Brands, who grew up in and currently is a member of Edgerton PRC, will be graduating this spring from Dordt University and will be our newest 1st grade teacher. Jodee VanOverloop, who has been a teacher aide for HCS for 5 years and is a member of Holland PRC, went back to GVSU to get her teaching certification; Jodee also will be graduating this spring and will be a new 2nd grade teacher next year. Lastly, Elizabeth Ensink, a member of Trinity PRC, graduated in 2017 from Hope College, and plans to graduate this spring with a master’s degree from Western Governors University, will be our new Junior High teacher.

In our circles, we talk often about our great need for pastors. That great need also extends to teachers. Our PR schools across the country need teachers. We are very thankful to God for providing enough teachers for Heritage this year. Please pray for God’s continued provision of teachers, not only for Heritage but for all our schools. And please pray for our current teachers, talk to our children about being teachers, and encourage training in Christian education when you see a young person blessed with the gifts necessary for this great calling.

The School Board is divided into about a dozen active committees, with all Board members serving on 3 or 4 committees. It is at committee level that most of the heavy lifting is done, and this enables School Board meetings to proceed in an orderly and efficient manner. Thanks to the committee chairs and members for all the behind the scenes work. Following are a few highlights:

The Education Committee is working with the Educational Support Director to consider changes to improve methods and procedures in our education system to ensure that all children are supported and challenged. Considerable effort goes into giving teachers opportunities for professional development via seminars, conferences and other training, including working toward licensure, re-licensure, and additional certification and degrees. A Federation mentorship program is in place that pairs more experienced teachers with new teachers to help them through the challenging first years of teaching.

Security updates – if you have visited school lately, particularly during the school day, you know that we work very hard to keep our children safe. In light of the Oxford School shooting on Nov. 30, we took the time to think through our policies and procedures again. Our school security plan was reviewed with faculty, and considerable time was spent discussing and answering questions about the plan. Response procedures are

practiced in school, and an annual meeting and walk-through are held with the Ottawa County Sheriff to get recommendations on our current processes.

The Technology improvements we needed to make in the last two years have been shifted into daily practice in many classrooms. This has streamlined processes, made it easier to support students, and improved communication throughout the school.

The Building Committee continues to be hard at work to both maintain and improve the existing building and grounds. We continued the carpet replacement program, finished renovating the storage barn, added material to and re-graded the track around the soccer field, and are considering a parking lot improvements project in the next few years.

The Transportation Committee, transportation supervisor, and bus drivers work tirelessly to ensure the safety of our children on the road. Thanks again to our dedicated drivers and our transportation supervisor. Remember that we still have openings for bus drivers for next year, so please contact our transportation committee if you are or know of someone that may be interested.

Four board members are retiring again this year, and we now take a moment to thank them for their three years of hard work and countless hours of laboring for the cause of Christian education. Steve Bylsma served all three years on the Building Committee and chaired the committee this year; he also served on the Finance, Insurance, and Long-Range Planning Committees. Tom Holstege was the Board Treasurer and chaired the Finance and Salary Committee for all three years of his term. Mike Langeland served on the Transportation, Education, Enrollment, and Salary Committees, chaired

the COVID Committee, was Vice-President of the Board last year and led the Board as President this year. Lastly, I have had the opportunity to work on the Enrollment and Education Committees and serve as Board Secretary. Steve, Tom, and Mike *[we also add Kevin to the list of men receiving appreciation in this publication]*: thank you for your dedication to and zeal for Christian education; it has been an honor to labor together on behalf of this school.

I close the report tonight with another reflection. The Christian life often is compared to running a race. For some of us, the path has been relatively smooth and straight. For others, it has and continues to be narrow, winding, seemingly always uphill, and with many obstacles. Some of us may feel as some of the Hebrews did in Hebrews 12:12 with "hands which hang down and feeble knees." May we be comforted in the fact that God has designed the path for each of us, and God assures us that our work here for His cause will be blessed: "...he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:8-9). This is the Board's prayer for you, men. Be not discouraged, brothers. Be strong and courageous. Watch out for those in need and give help. Lift each other up. Be leaders, starting with your own lives. Be strong in prayer and devotions. And our good God, who strengthens us, uses us to lead our families founded firmly on God's Word. And strong, Christian families lead to healthy schools. Let us encourage each other to be these strong men. And may our good and faithful Father give us eyes of faith to see His perfect work in our lives.

Fundraisers Year End Report – Mrs. Julie Gritters, Secretary

Another year at Heritage Christian school is quickly coming to an end! Looking back on the 2021-22 school year we can see that we have much to be thankful for. Last year we were unable to hold most fundraisers due to Covid, which makes us grateful for the opportunity to serve without any restrictions this year! We have been truly blessed with the willingness of so many mothers who volunteer their time and talents to help support our Christian school.

The work of the Fundraisers began last Spring with planning and preparation for our restaurant at the Hudsonville Fair in August. It was another great year for the Fair! A big thank you to the Fair committee, our generous sponsors, the many volunteer workers and all who came to eat at the restaurant. All of your support helped make this fundraiser a huge success! The Fall Family Supper was held in September. This was a great opportunity for parents to meet their children's teachers and fellowship with other families over dinner. Our Annual Fall and Spring Clothing Sales were held in October and March, respectively. In November, the 3

on 3 tournament was held and well attended. In January, Heritage hosted the PRTI meeting and Fundraisers supplied the snacks for this event. Fundraisers was also able to provide lunch for the workers at Fearfully and Wonderfully Made Day. Grandparents Day was held in April and was enjoyed by both the grandparents and students.

We also have many standing committees that keep us busy throughout the year. Some of these are TRIP, Hot lunch, Family Fare Direct Your Dollar and General Mills Box Tops. A special thanks goes to the Kitchen Committee who keeps our kitchen clean and up to code year-round.

Much of the money raised by Fundraisers was given back to the school in response to requests from our school board. These requests included money to offset budget expenses and money given to the athletics department.

In addition, Fundraisers also provides teachers with an allowance to help get their rooms ready each year. We also give funds to support a birthday party/gift for each

teacher, Teacher Appreciation Week and an end of the year luncheon for the teachers and staff to show our appreciation.

Fundraisers encourages every mother to get involved. Our purpose is to keep tuition cost down. We meet five times during the school year, but there are opportunities all year long to be part of Fundraisers. We would especially like to thank each of the committee members. The extra time and energy they give is very much appreciated!

The officers for next year are: President- Dena Dykstra, Vice President-Rosie Bylsma, Secretary-Sherry Pipe, Vice-Secretary-Becky VanderSchaaf, Treasurer- Cathie Koole, Vice-Treasurer-Kelly Looyenga.

Thanks to the retiring President, Lori VanOverloop and Treasurer, Tara Koole for their year of leadership and support. *[Additionally, we also take this opportunity to thank the retiring secretary, Julie Gritters, for her work this past year.]* May God continue to bless our labors that His name may be glorified at Heritage Christian School.

Congratulations and Thank You, Mr. Bill Joostens

Where were you in 1987? Mr. Joostens began teaching at Heritage that year, and has been a dependable part of the junior high teaching staff since then. That's a long time!

We appreciate his service, and are thankful with him that he finally has the opportunity to rest and visit his children without a school year schedule to follow!

We wish you the best, Bill, and may the Lord be with you and Alice in the days and years ahead.

God is a Rock – Miss Erin VanBaren

"I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in who I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies" (Psalm 18:1-3). Many times in the Bible, God is referred to as a rock. How often, though, do we truly consider the meaning of this? For science night, my class took a closer look at rocks and minerals. It's a topic that we cover in third grade, but it is also one full of rich meaning and truth.

Science, in general, is a topic where many truths can be learned about God. It is the study of His creation, and, through the creation, much can be learned about the Creator. I wanted my students to spend some time looking at what the Bible had to say about God as a rock. I compiled a list of passages for them, we read them together and discussed the meaning, and then they created an outline for their paragraph. We followed the patterns that we use in our writing curriculum. The underlined words in their writing are the required "dress ups" (things we add to make our writing more

interesting). What follows are the paragraphs that they wrote (and typed) independently.

Our Mighty Rock

Tabitha Bol

In the Bible it talks about God who is our mighty rock. He is mighty and powerfully shields us from all our enemies (Psalm 18:1-3, Sam. 22:2). Since we trust in him, He stands firm as a rock (Psalm 71:3). We have salvation from God in His safe place (Psalm 62:7-8). Fear nothing because God is always with us (Psalm 27:1). The Bible talks about God.

God Is a Rock

Myla Butler

The Bible talks about God who is a rock. Since we are His people, He is mighty and He powerfully shields us from our enemies (Ps. 18:1-3, 1 Sam. 22:2). We can trust Him because He is firm (Ps. 71:3). He is our salvation and our refuge (Ps. 62:7-8). We, as His people, should not fear (Ps. 27:1). There is nothing like God (1 Sam. 2:2, Is. 44:8). The Bible talks about God who is a rock.

GOD IS A ROCK

Samuel Byker

In the Bible it talks about God who is a rock. God is mighty, because he powerfully shields us (Ps. 18:1-3). Since God is firm, we can trust Him (Psalm 72:3). God is our salvation and refuge (Psalm 62:7-8). We don't have to fear (Psalm 27:1). God is a solid rock.

God Our Unchangeable Cornerstone

Cole Bylsma

The Bible talks about God who's a rock. Since we're His people, God mightily shields us from our enemies (Psalm 18:3). He's firm so we can trust Him (Psalm 71:3). He's our safe salvation (Psalm 62:7&8). We have nothing to fear (Psalm 27:1). God is our unchangeable cornerstone.

God is a Rock

Lillian Cnossen

In the Bible it talks about God who is a rock. He is mighty and powerfully shields us from enemies (Psalm 18:1-3, II Samuel 22:2). Since we can put our trust in him, He is firm (Psalm 71:3). He is our salvation and our safe place (Psalm 62:7-8). We must fear nothing (Psalm 27:1). In the Bible it talks about God who is a rock.

God Is a Rock

Ella DeGram

God is a rock, and the Bible tells us that. In these ways He is a rock: He is mighty and He shields us from our enemies powerfully (Psalm 18:1-3, II Samuel 22:2). He is firm. Since He is firm, we can trust in Him (Psalm 71:3). He is our salvation and our refuge (Psalm 62:7-8). We should fear nothing with Him as our rock (Psalm 27:1). God who is a rock, is powerful.

God Is a Strong Rock

Aubrey Dykstra

In the Bible it talks about God who is a rock. God is a rock; He is our mighty rock and He powerfully shields us from our enemies (Ps. 18:1-3, II Sam. 22:2). We can trust him so firmly, because He is our helper (Psalm 71:3). Since He is our salvation, we are in a safe place from sin (Psalm 62:7-8). We do not need to fear anything for God is with us (Psalm 27:7). There is no one so great that we can serve!

God Is a Rock

Cory Feenstra

In the Bible, it talks about God who is a rock. Since He is powerful, He can strongly shield us from our enemies (Psalm 18:1-3, II Samuel 22:2). We can trust that He is firm (Psalm 72:3). He is our salvation and refuge (Psalm 62:7-8). He is unchanging, perfect, and sinless (Deuteronomy 32:4). God is a rock.

God Is A Rock

Bristol Hassevoort

The Bible talks about God, who is a rock. God is mighty, who mightily shields us from our enemies, and is mighty (Ps. 18:1-8). Since God is firm, we can trust in Him

(Ps. 71:3). God is salvation, which is a safe place (Ps. 62:7-8). We don't have to fear because God is our rock (Ps. 27:1). The Bible talks about God who is a rock.

Our Mighty Rock

Isla Kamminga

God in the Bible says that He is our rock. God, who is mighty, shields us powerfully from our enemies (Ps. 18:1-3, 2 Sam. 22:2). Since we trust in God, He protects us like a rock (Ps. 71:3). God is unchanging, perfect, and sinless (I Samuel 2:2). There is no other God (Deut. 32:4, Isaiah 44:8). God is our mighty rock.

God Is Our Rock

Willem Kamps

God, who is our rock, is powerful. Since He is mighty, He powerfully shields us from enemies (Psalm 18:1-3). Trust God because He is our firm rock (Psalm 71:3). Fear nothing, for God is with you (Psalm 27:1). There is no one like Him. God is our mighty rock.

The Lord As a Rock

Jace Kooienga

The Lord is like a Rock. He is almighty and strong. If He did not care for us, we would not be comforted. God who loves us deeply, would not stop keeping us safe. EVER! In Psalm 71:3, it says, "Be thou my strong habitation where unto I may continually resort thou hast given commandment to save me for thou art my rock and my fortress." The Lord, who is my rock, is amazing!

God a Rock

Drew Koole

There are Bible passages that talk about God is a rock. Since God is a rock, He shields us mightily from enemies (Psalm 18:11). We can trust Him because He is a strong rock and is firm (II Samuel 22:2). He is our salvation and refuge (Psalm 62:7-8). You can fear nothing with Him. The Bible tells us who God is and how He is a rock.

God Is a Rock

Hudson Koole

In the Bible, God, who is a rock, is strong. Since He is powerful, He mightily shields us from our enemies (Psalm 18:1-3, 2 Samuel 22:2). We trust Him. He is a firm rock (Psalm 71:3). He is our salvation and our safe place (Psalm 62:7-8). Fear nothing (Psalm 27:1). God is a mighty rock.

God as a Rock

Amelia Kuiper

According to the Bible, God is a rock. He is very mighty and powerfully shields us from our enemies (Ps. 18:1-3, 2 Sam. 22:2). Since our God is so firm, we can trust in Him (Ps. 71:3). He is our salvation and our safe place (Ps. 62:7-8). We should not be afraid of Him because He is a strong rock (Ps. 27:1). God, who is our mighty rock, is very strong.

God as a Rock

Kyley Richards

God, who is good, loves us. Mighty is our God; He shields us (Ps. 18, II Sam. 27:2). Trust in God, for He strongly saves us (Ps. 62:7) Since we are safe in salvation, don't fear (Ps. 27, Ps. 71:3). He loves us!

God Is a Rock

Calvin Van Baren

The Bible Says that God is a rock. What? Yes. God is a rock. Since God is mighty, He quickly shields us from our enemies (Psalm 18:1-3, II Samuel 22:2). We should trust Him, and He is firm (Psalm 62:78). He is salvation; Jesus died in our place (Psalm 62:78). God is perfect and unchanging (Deut. 32:4). No one is like Him (I Samuel 12:2, Isaiah 49:8). He is a stumbling stone and shows our sins (I Peter 2:4). Who is a rock? God is a mighty, working rock.

Our God Is A Rock

Silas Van Overloop

The Bible tells us how God is a rock. Since our God is mighty, He enthusiastically shields us (Psalm 18:1-3). We should trust Jesus because it is He who is mighty

and who also is firm (2 Samuel 22:2). We should fear nothing (Psalm 27:1). Jesus is our rock and He is mighty.

God Who Is Our Rock

Brett Zandstra

Since God is mighty, He powerfully shields us from our enemies (Ps. 18:1-3). We should always trust in God (Psalm 71:3). The salvation of God is a safe place for us (Psalm 62:7-8). We should not fear anything (Psalm 27:1). God is unchanging and perfect and sinless (Deut. 32:4). No one is like God (I Sam. 2:2). When people fall into sin, it's like a rock stumbling down (I Peter 2:4). God is almighty.

God Is a Rock

Nolan Van Singel

The Bible talks about God who is a rock. Since God is mighty, He mightily shields us from our enemies (Ps. 18:1-3, II Sam. 22:2). Since God is firm, we trust in Him (Psalm 71:3). God is our salvation and a safe place for us (Ps. 62:7-8). We have to fear nothing (Psalm 27:1). God is our rock and our strength and we should not fear.

Rearing Covenant Children – Character-Building Opportunities – Mr. Jason Holstege

At some point in your youth, perhaps you heard - and dreaded - the words "character- building" because they seemed to be code for "Someone is forcing me to do a lot of unpleasant work around the house." Or perhaps you so thoroughly appreciated how that work turned you into the fine specimen of diligence that you are today that you regularly submit your own children to the rigors of household maintenance in the hopes that they also might have their character "built." For the purposes of this article, the definition of "character" that these images supply is a little too narrow, although the concepts of diligence and effort are certainly parts of it.

The character to which I refer is the quality of saying and doing that which is good, kind, and loving in every situation, no matter how one is being treated. And when we really think about it, many of the problems that arise in our children stem from character struggles as opposed to direct disobedience to authority. The fact that we have to deal with the covetous, malicious, envious, murderous, deceitful, backbiting, proud behavior of our children on a daily basis (see Romans 1 for a fuller list) reinforces the point that matters of character are a large part of our interactions with them throughout a day.

The way we are tempted to deal with these character struggles is often to ignore them in an Eli-like way since "kids will be kids." Or perhaps we hastily march into the room where the offense has taken place and tell the offenders exactly what we think of their lack of character and lay down the consequences for their behavior in a tone of voice that doesn't exactly reflect such great character ourselves. Often, we are irritated to anger at

our children's poor timing for their offense, having the nerve to act up right when we were in the midst of something important.

Which begs the question, what do you suppose our children think is important to us? Is it scrolling through our social media or news feeds? Is it ensuring that we get our me-time at the mall or the golf course? Or is it showing concern for our children's spiritual welfare to give some character-building instruction when the opportunity arises? This is the perspective Paul Tripp takes in his book, *Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family*, where he insists that parents need to be ready for the "opportunities" that our loving Father drops into our laps when our children's character struggles are brought to our attention. It is actually an amazing demonstration of God's love for them when He provides rescue for them through parents who apply scriptural truths in these situations.

Providing a scriptural foundation for us, Tripp also reminds us of the source of those character deficiencies from Romans 1 that are found in our children (and in parents, too, do not forget). Those deficiencies are the direct result of misplaced worship, as verse 25 points out that these flaws belong to those who worship and serve the creature more than the Creator. Character issues like envy and covetousness, for instance, result from hearts not satisfied with the material possessions given, making idols of those things by trusting that they, and not God, will bring them happiness or comfort. These unsatisfied hearts then do not respond to the people and

circumstances in their lives in the manner that befits a Christian.

Therefore if we have so experienced our Lord's love of us in His exposing of the idol-worship of our hearts, working repentance in our lives, and arming us with His Word in the daily battle against sin, then we will never resent or pass over those moments when our Father

calls us to do the same for our children in helping them to see what rules their hearts. So let us be encouraged to search out and use those opportunities for character building, "being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

The Beginning of Knowledge – Mrs. Mary VanOverloop

As this year draws to a close, I am looking back at how far another class of first graders has come in nine short months. It was not long ago that we were just a group of students and a teacher that did not really know each other. We have worked hard and learned so much in Bible, math, reading, spelling and more. To get to this point in our lessons and in our relationships, it has taken time and nurturing. It has taken love and kindness. It has taken occasional conflict and apologies. It has taken grace and patience. It has taken the work of God to make this happen.

In a Christian school there needs to be so much more than imparting facts and building classroom community. We need to learn the fear of the Lord and apply this to all our knowledge and to all our interactions together. Each year I enjoy picking a theme. But, more importantly, I want to tie the theme to Scripture. Last summer some cute clip art with owls caught my eye, and so began my theme. Since owls have the reputation of being smart and wise, the owl theme tied right with Proverbs 1:7a "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge."

And so "The fear of the Lord" was our first classroom devotion. Along with our devotions we spent time making rules that would lay the groundwork for our whole year. Every rule we made for our school or our classroom, ultimately was based on the summary of God's Law. Love God and love your neighbor. The most important goal in our classroom was to encourage and promote the love of God, even more than completing hundreds of worksheets. Whatever was taught and learned this year was impossible without the work of Jesus. Beginning everything with love God and referring back to it often made all things possible whether it involved academics or relationships.

What are some concrete ways that we worked on loving God in our classroom? First, by teaching the students about the attributes of God through our prayers. What makes God different from us? What makes God special? What makes God worthy of our praise? Many of these attributes the kids know, but the students enjoy repeating them along with learning new ones, often using the language from the Heidelberg Catechism. He is king. He is Lord. He is the one, true God. He is omnipotent. He is omnipresent. He is caring. He is holy. He alone is worthy of our praise. A strong foundation of a holy God is the only way a class can discuss problems and solutions to these problems. Secondly, out of this understanding of loving God flows our obedience to this God, and it includes obeying those

that God places in authority (see Heidelberg Catechism L.D. 39). The Word of God has one kind of obedience, it is the obedience from love. All of our lessons and relationships, and sin in relation to both of these, could only be taught, learned and resolved with the work of Christ in our hearts calling us to love and obey Him.

Once we have the groundwork of the command to love God, we need to work on loving our neighbor. To love our neighbor we first must know our classmates. With a school the size of Heritage, classes change every year. There are always kiddos who need to get to know "new" classmates that they really don't know very well. We started our year with a version of "Star Student". This means each student gets a turn to share his/her families, favorites and treasures. The other students quickly learn to ask this "star student" questions to learn more about this "star student". It means learning sometimes you make conversations with others that are promoting the interests of your friend and not promoting your own interests. It means fighting the sin of selfishness and self promoting which is the sin of pride that we must continually battle. Slowly we learn more about each other, but recess is where knowing others really becomes essential.

Recess time can be the best and the worst of times depending on each child. Such a socially intricate time where many hurt feelings, arguments, heart ache and isolation happen. Recess can be dealt with as an opportunity to teach and resolve some of the social challenges. So many kids need a helping hand finding a new friend or resolving a minor conflict. Early in the year, we joined up recess buddies for the short recess so students can meet and play with new friends. Along with this activity comes up the conversation of deciding what to play and maybe compromising on activities. Learning to play what someone else has in mind and waiting to play your own game is part of being a friend. Cooperation and compromise become part of the conversation along with learning to stick with your buddy rather than running off when you don't like something. Loving your neighbor is learning how to play with old and new friends.

Rainy day recess is another opportunity to cooperate and play together. Playing games and creating things together really gives students opportunities to interact with each other. Early in the year this can be difficult, but by the end of the school year it is wonderful to watch students play cooperatively. However, loving your neighbor in play is just the beginning.

Along with playing together comes classroom responsibilities as part of loving your neighbor. Cleaning up and helping your neighbor even when the mess is not “yours” is important. Manners and learning how to be part of a group are essential. Knowing how to work alone without bothering the neighbor, and knowing how to work together without being bossy helps us all get our work done both independently and as a group. Kindness, patience and selflessness are part of loving your neighbor.

Creating a safe environment is another part of loving your neighbor. Our class can laugh and have fun together, but we never laugh at others’ answers. We even are careful not to brag that work is “easy”, because it may not be “easy” for the neighbor. Every student is a child of God who needs to know he/she can take risks by answering questions and know he/she will not be mocked. Along with this comes listening and respecting others’ turn. Reminding students to respect others’ turn even when it seems the wait is long, helps them realize

their friends listened to them, so they can be patient and listen too. Learning to share space and time is all part of our school year. Loving your neighbor is work, but it is rewarding working together. By the end of the year I am proud of how far we have come academically, but also how we have grown in our love for each other.

Now we get back to my classroom theme of Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” Everything learned in first grade, whether it is reading or math or social skills, the most important knowledge is the knowledge of God. All must be taught based on this: knowledge of our sin, knowledge of the gift of faith, knowledge of Christ as Savior, knowledge of the work of the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts. “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3). What greater reward can there be than seeing this work of God in the hearts of children as they work and play together in the classroom, in the hallways and on the playground.

In Loco Parentis – Mr. Josh Moelker

Over the past several years the sinful nature of the world around us has been on full display. Several years ago it seemed as though half of the country banded together to loot and riot in defiance of and in opposition to the powers that were placed over them by God. Recently we have seen the wicked literally rage at the possibility of Roe v. Wade being overturned by the Supreme Court and limiting their ability to murder the unborn across the country. One of the most noticeable, and perhaps the most consistent, is the increase in sins of the world related to sex and gender. This trend seems to have been especially embraced in our nation’s public schools.

One does not need to look far to find stories that demonstrate this. Teachers inviting drag queens to speak at school events, students being allowed to use the bathroom or locker room of their choice depending on their gender that day, teachers discussing their sexuality with their students, and school staff hiding a student’s desire to transition genders from his or her parents. It is no surprise that many parents have begun to speak up about these issues, run for school board, and even pull their children out of the public school system to homeschool them or place them in private schools. All of this is done to take back some ownership of the rearing of their children that was surrendered to the state schools.

These situations are unthinkable in our Reformed, Christian schools because of their very nature. By God’s grace, our schools belong to the parents. They were established by covenant parents to rear their covenant children and they are maintained by generations of covenant parents. It is a society formed by parents that comes together to elect a school board to govern their school by hiring teachers and maintaining the school building. Through and through, the school belongs to the

parents and the school is an extension of the covenant home.

Because the school belongs to the parents, it is important to note that the school is not run by the teachers. Although the teachers are important, they are important only because they stand in the place of the parents who run the school. This is the meaning of in loco parentis. While at school, teachers who stand in the place of parents teach covenant children “the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments” (Deut. 6:20) of God that believing parents would teach their children at home. In his book, *Reformed Education* (an essential and easy read for anyone with children in school), Professor Engelsma points out several implications of the fact that teachers stand in the place of parents.

Because teachers stand in the place of parents, they are the servants of the parents. It is because they are the servants of parents that teachers must respect the home, work with and alongside parents, and never undercut the home. As servants, they have a calling that is both humble and lowly, but as Professor Engelsma points out, “exactly in this lowliness they are very great” (pg. 65).

Professor Engelsma also warns against parents who openly disrespect their children’s teachers or who look the other way when their own children disrespect their teachers. When parents do so they “assist in making rebels whom God will cut off from the land” and “cut their own throats” (pg. 62). In doing this, parents work to undermine their own authority. Christian teachers have many faults and infirmities in their position of authority, but we are encouraged with the words of the Heidelberg Catechism to “patiently bear with their weaknesses and infirmities, since it pleases God to govern us by their hand” (Q. 104).

We must thank God daily for the means to raise covenant children and pray for more teachers to stand in

the place of parents for generations to come!

Does Reading Aloud to Your Child Really Matter? – Mrs. Brenda Pastoor

YES! Over the past year I've been collecting quotes and graphics from educators, child development professionals and authors about the importance of reading aloud to your children. I trust you all read to your children, but do you read aloud to them consistently? I will take this information to heart myself, as a teacher, because sometimes it seems like the day is getting away from me and we *really* need to get such and such done, so maybe I can skip a story today. On those (hopefully) rare occasions, I will confess that my Kindergartners will ask and even beg for a story! When you consider the following implications of reading to your child, you'll recognize that reading to them is so important and shouldn't be put off.

Reading aloud to a child accomplishes the following goals.

- 1) It builds a strong relationship between you and your child. It will become a nurturing activity that will bring you closer.
- 2) It increases your child's aptitude for learning.
- 3) It increases language and enunciation skills.
- 4) It teaches a child HOW to read a book.
- 5) It promotes logical thinking.
- 6) It enhances concentration and discipline.
- 7) It increases creativity and imagination.
- 8) It aids in acclimating them to new experiences. (Pinnacle Health)

GlobalOwls.com lists these benefits of reading every day (whether to a child or for yourself!)

- 1) Improved focus and concentration
- 2) Stronger analytical thinking skills
- 3) Stress reduction
- 4) Memory improvement
- 5) Better writing skills
- 6) Mental stimulation
- 7) Knowledge
- 8) Vocabulary expansion
- 9) It's FREE entertainment!

ReadAloud.org suggests that reading aloud to a child has the following benefits.

- 1) Language development. The number of words a child knows on entering kindergarten is a key predictor of his or her future success.
- 2) Instill a love of reading. Your example demonstrates that reading is important, pleasurable and valued.
- 3) Knowledge gained and shared. Books are a pleasure, yes, and they are also informative. You and your child can learn something new as you read aloud.
- 4) Literacy skill building. Vocabulary, phonics, familiarity with the printed word, storytelling,

comprehension, ... Reading aloud builds literacy skills.

- 5) Brain development. From birth to age 3 are critical years in the development of language skills.
- 6) Bonding. Is anything better than sharing a good book?

The CrazyBookLady says reading aloud to kids:

- 1) Builds empathy
- 2) Creates a lifelong love of reading
- 3) Improves language and listening skills
- 4) Facilitates important and/or difficult conversations
- 5) Activates and empowers imagination
- 6) IS FUN!!!!!!

How often and for how long should I read aloud to my child? Well someone did the math for me and said that by reading just one book a day to your child, he or she will have been read 1825 books by their 5th birthday!! (If you miss a day, think of all the days you read more than one!) If you read to your child for just 15 minutes a day, every day, for five years, you'll have read to your child for 27,375 minutes, or 456.25 hours! What an accomplishment! And what a sweet time you will have spent with your child!

But my child is too old for reading aloud to him or her.... Never! "We never age out of read alouds. (If we did, the audiobook industry would not be thriving)." - Donalyn Miller. Also, consider reading aloud to your child his or her assigned books. It will help those who find the actual reading overwhelming or difficult and also offer a fresh perspective for those who have read it independently.

Are you wondering WHAT to read to your child? Here are some suggestions from my Kindergartners.

Aiden likes "I Spy" books.

Ainsley likes Togo (a story about the lead sled dog in Alaska).

Anderson likes "Dogman."

Annalise like any story about people helping animals.

Blake likes "Thomas the Tank Engine" stories.

Brecken likes the "Who Would Win" series.

Deacon likes "Pete the Cat."

Easton also likes the "Who Would Win" series.

Henry likes all animal books.

Joel likes "Bird and Squirrel" books.

Kalya likes Yogi Bear and the Baby Skunk by Horace J. Elias.

Kate likes "Caticorn and Unicorn" books.

Kinley likes Uni the Unicorn by Amy Rosenthal.

Lawson likes the "Who Would Win" series.

Liam likes books about polar bears.

Madison likes The Runaway Dinner by Allan Ahlberg.

Maggie likes The Mummy with No Name by Elisabetta Dami (and other mysteries!)

Makenzie likes Pinkalicious by Victoria Kann.

Mia likes books about mermaids.

Shiloh likes Fox in Socks by Dr Seuss and the Pigeon books by Mo Willems.

Tannor likes The Pigeon HAS to go to School by Mo Willems.

I'll leave you with a few more quotes.

"Start a bedtime story routine at birth and continue for as long as they'll let you. It's never too early and they're never too old." (raisingreaders.org)

"Children are made readers in the laps of their parents." (Emilie Buchwald)

"When I say to a parent, 'read to a child' I don't want it to sound like medicine. I want it to sound like chocolate." (Mem Fox)

And for me (or substitute parent for teacher), "When a teacher reads aloud, it is the bonding between the teacher, the children, the books, and the act of reading." (Lester L. Laminack)

"We have an obligation to read aloud to our children. To read them things they enjoy. To read to them stories we are already tired of. To do the voices, to make it interesting, and not to stop reading to them just because they learn to read themselves." (Neil Gaiman)

And one final quote from Dr Seuss, "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child."

Then Vs. Now – Mrs. Beth VanBaren

I have many fond memories of sitting at the table and talking with my grandmother. One of the things I found fascinating was when she would reminisce about what it was like when she was a young girl. My grandma was born in 1903, just after the turn of the twentieth century. She lived on a farm, and helped her dad with the outside farm chores because she did not have a brother yet. Grandma especially loved to read, and thoroughly enjoyed school. She attended Baxter Street Christian School. At the time she was enrolled, there were only a couple of rooms for all of the students in the school. It was one of her jobs to carefully carry the tuition for herself and her siblings to school each week. This was a great responsibility because tuition money was dear, and not something that could be easily replaced if it was lost. She graduated from grade eight and had no opportunity to continue her education. My grandma often commented about how thankful she and my grandfather had been to be able to send their children to Adams Christian School when it began, and what a blessing it was to have our own, good, christian schools.

I thought it might be interesting to find out what my fourth graders thought it was like when their grandparents went to school compared to now. This is what they had to say.

When my grandpa was little, school was probably a lot different from now. They would have one grade come up at a time and learn their lesson while the others did their homework. It was also a one room school named Bistet 36. There were 30 people in the whole school.

Isabelle VB

I think when my Grandma Holstege went to school she did not have desks because they just moved from row to row. I think they did not have whiteboards because markers were not invented. I think she also had a smaller school because not everyone could go. I think when she went to school they had wooden bats because they did not have metal.

Justin H.

I think when my grandma went to school it was probably a lot like now, or maybe a little different from now, because she told me she only had one little gym. When she was in school she had a choice for hot lunch of BBQ or hotdogs, and her friends from school are still her friends today. Instead of marker boards they had chalkboards. At my grandma's school they only had one or two teachers per grade!

Lyla D.

I think when my grandma was in school it was pretty similar to our school right now. There were bathrooms, enough teachers to teach, and they had quite a bit of people in their classes. A few of the things that I think were different about when she went to school, were probably the way we learn from the way they did back then, and the clothes they wore to school. Also, if they disobeyed they would get punished better. Otherwise, that's all.

Lily L.

When my grandma went to school it was probably a lot like the schools today because they might have played soccer. I know they had 30 people in each classroom. They also had one teacher per grade. They might have had hot lunch too.

Ian K.

I think when my grandma went to school it was a lot different than now because her school was a one-room building. They might have played kickball and softball. People that were 27 were in her school! My grandma had only nine people in her class. They probably had chalkboards instead of markerboards.

Libby D.

I think that when my grandma went to school it was very different from now. The classrooms and school were probably smaller than now. She probably had no gym, they played outside in the summer. I think there were fewer grades. They had chalkboards instead of whiteboards too.

Melise T.

My Oma's school was a three school room kind. It was probably a lot different from our schools, because they didn't have a lot of rooms or kids. I'm not sure about this, but I imagine five rows of long, wooden desks with slates on them. There were less kids for sure. The school was made of wood, and I know that because when she was in first grade her room caught on fire!

Paige K.

I think when my grandma was in school she was in one room with twenty students. I think it was like now because she had the same subjects and she had recess. I think it might have been different because she had twenty kids of all different ages and grades. I also think they used slates and chalk instead of expo markers, and a chalkboard instead of a whiteboard. I think my great grandma had a lot of differences because of the technology we have today.

Addalyn D.

I think when my grandma went to school it was probably a lot different from now because they were learning the things I'm learning now, but they were in High School. Their teachers acted differently too. They also used chalkboards.

Makayla B.

I think when my grandma went to school it was a lot different from now because they had larger classes than us. They did not have review sheets for tests. She had a lot of people in her class, and they played different games than we do.

Aleta B.

I think when my grandma went to school it was probably a lot different from now because they didn't have as many students. They also probably had smaller schools. I think it would be more simple to pass a grade.

Josh B.

I think it was different when my grandpa went to school because the classrooms were bigger. Another difference was that his chores were different. They had different gym games than we do too.

Noah K.

I think that when my grandma went to school it was a lot different from now because they did not have the same games. They also had a very small school, they probably had one class. They did not have a nice school.

Nash H.

I think when my grandpa went to school it was a lot different from now because not all christians could afford to go to school, so there were less children in a class. They also had a big gym. They probably did not have as much homework as we do now. They may have had chalkboards and not whiteboards in their classrooms.

Kurtis M.

I think when my grandma went to school it was a lot different from now because they had harder tests. They also had smaller classes and classrooms than we do now.

Liam K.

I think that when my grandma went to school it was probably a lot different from now because school is harder now. It used to be easy. There are a lot more people in the grades now too.

Teagen VB

I think school is a lot different now. A lot, because their school was small. Really small.

Shaun DB

I think, when my grandma was in school, it was different. Her school was in the basement of her church. She had about six kids in her school and multi-grade classrooms.

Will L.

I think when my grandpa and grandma went to school it was a lot like now or a lot different because it probably had one bathroom. It probably went only from K-sixth grade and had a small playground. I'm not sure there were any games to play either.

Maci VO

Encouraging Summer Reading – Miss Becca Gritters

The countdown to summer vacation has begun! In my class, we count down by keeping track of how many tests we have left for the year, and we celebrate each one we complete. Conversations in the classroom are filled with talk of vacations, swimming, playdates, parks, and baseball. For students, the next school year is far from their minds, but every year I have at least one parent ask me this question: How do I get my child to keep reading this summer so they do not lose the progress they made this year?

I appreciate the question because it shows the involvement and commitment that parents have in their child's education, and yet, the question is always a difficult one for me to answer. In the past, I have given out work packets, book lists, and summer reading

challenges. All of these take time and effort on both the part of the student and the parent, but they can be useful and effective resources. However, I also want to say that even without these resources, you are doing better than you think! Here are three tips/tricks for encouraging literacy in your child over the summer without feeling overwhelmed:

1. Devotions, Bible Reading, and Sunday School: I put this at the top of my list because this is the most important reading that your child can do! Each year in my class we discuss why it is important that we learn how to read. We read I Timothy 2:15 together ("Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of

truth.”), and we discuss the calling God's children have to be in His Word and to know His Word. As the year continues, no matter what book or series is most interesting to each student, we make sure that the Bible is the one we open the most. When your child reads their devotions or Sunday school paper, they are improving their literacy. Even following along as a mom or dad reads exposes your child to literacy-rich texts. If you think about how much time in your day is spent in morning, noon, and evening devotions, I hope you are encouraged with how much reading your child is already doing in a day!

2. Writing Letters: Summer is a great time to encourage your child to write letters to friends, out-of-state family members, and fellow church members. Writing is a part of literacy that can often be forgotten, but it is just as important as reading. Writing letters can help children with spelling, letter formation, sentence structure, and forming paragraphs. It is fun to write to those you love in hopes of brightening their day and receiving a response! Written letters are also a great way to remember all the best moments of summer.

3. Book Swaps: Although libraries seem like a convenient enough resource, it can be a daunting task to keep track of library books with due dates. It is also unfortunately true that not every book in a public library is one that we want in the hands of our children. One way to find new reading materials for your child is to swap a book that they have read with a new book from a friend or cousin. Receiving a book from a peer is the best recommendation a child can get, and it will be a lot more convincing than any recommendation given to them by an adult. You can swap the books for good or you can decide to switch back the next time you see each other.

In all of this, it is important to be realistic with your summer reading goals and to remember that you know your child best. There are children who love to read and will choose to do so independently and even daily. There are also those children who have been counting down to the days when they do not have to open a book again. When getting them to read has been a struggle all year long, everyone is ready for a break and reading is not the activity of choice in the summer. I hope you are encouraged to read with your child while also giving them the break that they need. Have fun reading this summer!

Sedatephobia: The Fear of Silence – Mrs. Katie Baatenburg

Readers, I live a quiet and peaceable life; it's the way God has ordained for my family. I dwell with two humans and two hamsters. The one human is forty-five years old and loves nothing better than to be in bed by 7:45. The second human is eleven and needs to be in bed by 8:11 due to waking up early every morning. The hamsters, Gerbils and Jerry, though plump and a tinge on the hyper side, aren't vocal creatures. Yes, there is the running on the wheel from midnight till about 4:00 a.m. but overall peacefulness abounds in my home.

Thus when I come back to school after the weekend, there is always an adjustment to the amount and volume of noise that is produced by students. It is at school that I also encounter students who suffer from sedatephobia.

Sedatephobia is a “condition” that can affect students and is characterized by a fear of silence. With this condition can come a love also for the sound of one's voice. Oftentimes someone who suffers from sedatephobia takes it upon themselves, though nobody has told them it is necessary, to fill all voids of silence with vibrations from their vocal cords. Sedatephobia can increase as the weather becomes warmer or before the school year draws to a conclusion.

In the end, we live in a society that promotes sedatephobia. Students are encouraged to express themselves, to let us know what they are thinking and vocalize their opinions. Let's be honest, society has

come a long way from the days of *Farmer Boy* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. I vividly remember reading that book to Mila when she was little. We got to the part that talks about how Almanzo wasn't allowed to speak at the dinner table. Mila was so taken aback by this, she stopped me and asked me if that was legal for his parents to do this. My nine year old daughter couldn't imagine a world where children were not encouraged to speak but silence was the expected way.

The Bible gives the believer a more profitable method, a better way than the way of the world. The method laid out in the Bible is conducive to the life of the child of God; it's the way of silence.

The Bible has much to say about the words that come out of our mouths and being silent. Proverbs 29:11 states, “A fool uttereth all his mind, but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.” God's Word calls someone who is constantly being vocal a fool. This is a person that before he has completed the thought process, the words are already being verbalized; it's like a constant flowing stream of water. This person is always talking but never saying anything. His or her voice becomes a clanging symbol that only a mother could love. Notice the word fool isn't sugar coated. The Bible doesn't say that they might be a fool or that he or she is a kind fool. The language used is one that even a small child can comprehend.

Students must also be taught that there is a time to speak and a time to be silent. Psalter Number 104 (Psalm 39), "With firm resolve I held my peace and spake not either bad or good. Lest I should utter sinful thoughts." The Psalmist could have spoken all the good in the world or all the bad, but he pursued the path of silence so that he wouldn't fall into sin. As teachers and adults, it is important to spiritually guide our children in this good practice. As a teacher I can report that it doesn't come naturally to students. How important it is that they observe from us that we too know when to be

silent and when to speak. Being the adults in the situation, we can testify to our children that this is a life long struggle; but not a hopeless battle.

What I love about these verses is that they truly speak to the fact of how well God knows us. Our heavenly Father knows our needs and guides us with His Word. The biblical way of silence takes spiritual maturity and discernment. Let us then wrestle with God on behalf of our children that God would bestow upon them the ability to exercise the gift of silence as they walk upon the path of life.

The Wisdom of the Ant, Cony, Locust, and Spider – Mr. Brad Gritters

The following is a message I used for Monday morning devotions for 5th through 8th grade. A message that might be beneficial to all ages. I used Proverbs 30:24-28 to bring out one of the main themes of the book: wisdom. The passage uses four insignificant creatures to teach us how God's people might live their lives wisely. Verse 24 says, "There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise." Even the wisest of us all can learn from the four animals described in Proverbs 30. The creatures of the passage are: ants, conies, locusts, and spiders. Four animals that many people would not describe as wise, yet God created even these creatures to be an example of wisdom!

The Ant - Preparation (Proverbs 30:25)

"The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer." The ant conveys wisdom by spending spring and summer gathering food to prepare for the winter. To the ant, the food that it collects is an essential treasure! Our life is a life of preparation. What treasures do you store in your life? Matthew 6:19-21 says, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." The world tells us that the treasures we should store are earthly pleasures. It tells us to eat, drink, and be merry, because tomorrow we will die. To store earthly treasures in our lives is the opposite of wisdom. The child of God shows wisdom when the treasure he stores are heavenly/spiritual treasures. The Word of God, prayer, praise, worship, and fellowship with our friends and family ought to be the treasures we store. When these are our priorities in life, then we are being wise.

The Cony - Protection (Proverbs 30:26)

"The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks." The cony expresses wisdom in their lifestyle: they hide in the cracks in the rocks. Conies are a small rabbit like animal that have no defenses. When a predator comes by, the cony seeks protection in

the rocks. We are just like the conies. We are defenseless to sin and Satan. Our protection lies alone in Christ. We hide in God's word. We as God's people show wisdom when we find protection in our Rock. God's people ought to find comfort with this truth because our Protector never sleeps! "Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep." (Psalm 121:4)

The Locust - Partnership (Proverbs 30:27)

"The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands." The locust exhibits wisdom in how they travel in groups. The locusts have their strength in numbers. God's people show wisdom by choosing friends who are of like faith. Our schools are an amazing blessing by the fact that students are able to make friends with classmates that have been brought up in the fear and knowledge of God. Thanks be to God, that He has chosen us to be his friend servants! We have Christ to turn to during any trials or tribulations in our lives. He is our friend!

The Spider - Position (Proverbs 30:28)

"The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces." The spider expresses wisdom by where it chooses to make its home. God allowed the spider to make its home in the king's palace. The spider doesn't deserve to live in the king's palace. Our home is not here on earth, but in heaven. Like the spider, this is a place that we do not deserve. But we are adopted in Christ, so that we can say with confidence that our home is in heaven, the King's Palace! With that in mind, we live our lives in thankfulness and gratitude to God for giving us, who are undeserving sinners, an everlasting home in His palace. This is true wisdom!

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7). This is a very high calling laid before us by God, but He doesn't command us to get wisdom without showing us how the little creatures can be a very good example in our lives. Pray for wisdom.

~ PARENTS – Some items to take note of ~

- **Report card pick up dates** are **June 14 – 16** here at school, between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM. All items will be near the main entrance of school.
- **2022-2023 class lists** will be emailed out the day after the August *Herald* is distributed. The email will be sent to the 1st of the two email addresses supplied to us on your enrollment forms.
- **TRIP summer dates** are (from 9-10:30 AM): June 14 and 28, July 12 and 26, and August 9 and 23. Regular TRIP hours will resume on August 30.
- **Room Moms sign-ups** will happen in the fall (after you are aware which class your children are in). Watch the first memo of the school year for information.

Grab your golf clubs!!

Our Heritage Christian Foundation will be holding their Heritage Foundation Golf Outing on Saturday, July 16 with a shotgun start at 7 AM.

*The outing will once again be held at The Meadows in Allendale.
To reserve a spot for your team, please call Scott Koole at 616-293-1624.
Cost is \$500 per team. **Please call soon as spots fill up quickly!***

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

August 29, 2022 - School begins
September 2 & 5, 2022 - Labor Day Break
September 7 & 8, 2022 – School Pictures
September 12-16, 2022 – MAP Testing, grades 3-8
September 15, 2022 – Fall Family Supper
October 1, 2022 – Fall Clothing & Toy Sale
October 20 & 21, 2022 - Teachers' Convention
October 28, 2022 – Grandparents Day
November 2 & 3, 2022 – Parent Teacher Conferences
November 5, 2022 – 3 on 3 Tournament
November 17, 2022 – All School Program
November 24 & 25, 2022 - Thanksgiving Break
December 23 - January 2, 2023 - Christmas Break
January 16-20, 2023 - MAP Testing, grades 3-8
February 1 & 2, 2023 - Parent Teacher Conferences
February 17, 2023 - Mid-Winter Break
March 31 – April 7, 2023 - Spring Break
May 8-12, 2023 - MAP Testing, grades 3-8
May 29, 2023 – Memorial Day Break
May 31, 2023 - Graduation

2022 HERITAGE FAIR RESTAURANT and GRANDSTAND FOOD BOOTH at the Hudsonville Fairgrounds

We are looking forward to another great week of raising money for our school. In the past years, this fundraiser has averaged around \$65,000. With the addition of the grandstand food booth, as well as expanded dining room seating, we anticipate an increased amount of funds made for Heritage, which is super exciting!

Shifts: We have around 80% of our shifts filled! We couldn't make this fundraiser work without the support of our wonderful Heritage families. Of the 236 Heritage families, half of our families are represented. We would appreciate it if the remaining families would help out, if able, and any other wonderful supporter is certainly welcome! There's a nice variety of spots to choose from yet: breakfast, lunch, dinner, takeout runner, servers, pie person, and kitchen help are all available. Go to www.signupgenius.com and click on the search icon in the upper right-hand corner. Type heritagehudfair@gmail.com in the email address field. Don't worry if you've never worked in a restaurant in your life - we'd love to train you. All you need is a good attitude, and you'll have fun!

Gift Card/Cash Donations: In order to offset food and paper product expenses, please consider donating Gordon Food Service, Costco or Meijer Gift Cards or cash. We welcome any amount of financial aid to make this fundraiser even more of a success! Please place in Fair mail slot in main office.

Pie Helpers: We are looking for a few more pie assistants to help wash and cut fruit. Please contact Megan Dykstra (616-821-4340), if interested.

Ice Cream Pails: Please send in empty ice cream pails/lids to the school kitchen.

Thank You So Much!

2022 Fair Committee ~ Sara Byker, Lori Duthler, Megan Dykstra, Carli Engelsma, Danae Karsemeyer, Sherry Pipe and Ronda Van Bommel

SAC – Mrs. Sue Bleyenburg

Did you know about the SAC Committee at Heritage Christian? SAC stands for Staff Activities Committee. The committee consists of four to five teachers. This past year's committee was Randy Kuiper, Jordan Pettit, Brenda Pastoor and Erin VanBaren.

SAC plans a luncheon once a month for the teachers and support staff. It's usually held in the gym or in the teacher's lounge. Some of our luncheons have included smoked brisket or pork, grilled burgers, brats or hot dogs, Chinese, subs, and Signatures. This year we've also had a chili/soup cook-off, a baked potato bar, breakfast luncheon and hot chocolate bar with all the sides.

These luncheons take place during noon hour and the playground supervision is covered by our volunteers and mothers. We are thankful for your help with supervising the students.

Our SAC lunches are wonderful times of fellowship with all of the staff and teachers coming together for a short time. Another fun thing about luncheon days is the fact that we are permitted to wear jeans and our staff shirts those days.

One thing you should know is that if you bring in food...teachers will come and find it! Thank you for the occasional treats that get delivered to us!

2022-2023 School Supplies

Kindergarten Supplies - all labeled

Backpack
Lg size Pencil Box (> 4" high)
2 Large Erasers
2 Large Solid Glue Sticks
Thick 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
Picture of your kindergartener

1st Grade Supplies – all labeled

Pencil Box
10 Pencils sharpened
1 yellow highlighter
1 Large Eraser
3 Large Glue Sticks
24 Crayola Crayons
Colored Pencils
12 Thick Washable Markers
6 Dry erase markers
Scissors
1 **wide** ruled spiral notebook
Paint Shirt
Gym Shoes
2 Strong, Durable Pocket Folders
Headphones with cord (not ear buds)

2nd Grade Supplies - all labeled

KJV Bible
Psalter
12 **Sharp** Pencils
24 Crayons
24 Colored Pencils
10 thick washable markers – standard colors
1 Yellow Highlighter
2 Dry Erase Markers – black or blue
1 pink eraser
Large Plastic Pencil Box (w/ Snap Lid)
Fiskars Scissors
2 Large Glue Sticks
2 Hard Covered Composition Notebooks
2 Strong, durable Folders
Earbuds in a labeled bag/pouch
Art Shirt
Gym Shoes & Extra Pair of Socks

3rd Grade Supplies

KJV Bible
12 - #2 Pencils
Earbuds in a small bag/pouch
Fiskar Scissors
2 Red Pens
4 dry-erase markers
2 Glue Sticks. 1 Glue Bottle
Art Shirt
Small Pencil Box
12" Ruler w/Inches & Centimeters
2 Blue or Black Erasable Pens
1 yellow highlighter

3rd Grade Supplies, continued

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 Sharpie markers (1 fine and 1 ultra-fine)
Thin washable markers
24 pack of colored pencils
10 sharpened #2 Pencils
2 large glue sticks
Yellow highlighter
Large Eraser
12" ruler with metric and customary measurements
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)
Earbuds
2 dry erase markers

5th Grade Supplies

KJV Bible and a 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
Ruler (w/Standard & Metric)
Pointed Scissors
Calculator
Gym Shoes
1 Large Glue Stick
2 fine tipped Black Sharpies
Choir "uniform" – black bottom, white shirt, dark shoes

6th Grade Supplies

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

6th Grade Supplies, continued

Pens: Red for Correcting
Black Thin Tip Marker
Colored Pencils
Markers
Highlighting Markers
5 spiral notebooks (70-100 pgs)
Calculator
Gym Shoes
Ruler with inches AND centimeters
Glue Stick
Scissors
Zippered 3-Ring Binder/Trapper
5 Folders w/Pockets
200 pg. loose-leaf paper
Choir "uniform" – black bottom, white shirt, dark shoes

Junior High Supplies

KJV Bible and a Psalter
Multiple Pencils and Pens
Pencil/pen case
Colored Pencils
1 good eraser
Rubber cement x2 or 2 Glue Sticks
White-out
Scissors
5 3-Ring Binders (1" rings) with dividers
Three Spiral Notebooks
5 Folders w/Pockets
Folder for Art
Loose Leaf Notebook Paper (400 pages)
Ruler with Inches & Centimeters
Compass
Protractor
TI-83 or 84 Scientific Calculator
(required for 8th, can be used for 7th, & will be used through high school)
7th and 8th DC Math - TI-30XIIS calculator minimum (7th math CAN use this one, or the TI-83 or 84)
Highlighter (optional)
Choir "uniform" – black bottom, white shirt (boys must be a white dress shirt worn with a school supplied tie), dark shoes
For Art:
- Prismacolor Brand colored pencils, 24 ct. (Crayola will work if needed)
- 2 Fine Point Black Sharpies

Heritage Christian School
Class of 2022
Congratulations, graduates!

*it wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles;
they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*

Isaiah 40:31



*Annikkah Ruth
Brower*



*Kenton James
Butler*



*Jack Alan
Byker*



*Paige Elizabeth
Decker*



*Luke Andrew
Deemter*



*Amber Lorraine
DeVries*



*Alivia Mae
Doezema*



*Addison Michele
Drnek*



*Samuel Bruce
Duthler*



*Carmen Leanne
Dykstra*



*Quinton Jared
Dykstra*



*Ellie Grace
Eriks*



*Cody Richard
Feesntra*



*Camden Ben
Gritters*



*Hayley Nicole
Gritters*



*Tyler Logan
Gritters*



*Jonathan Ian
Hoekstra*



*Ayla Nicole
Holstege*



*Toby Sebastian
Holstege*



*Ainsley Reese
Jurgens*



*Braelen David
Kalsbeek*



*Everett John
Kalsbeek*



*Jacoba Cathleen
Kalsbeek*



*Jordyn Paige
Kalsbeek*



*Everett Leon
Kamps*



*Lee John
Kamps*



*Micah Seth
King*



20

*Hannah Liz
Kleyn*



*Madison Kate
Kooienga*



*Landon Kenneth
Koole*



*Samantha Lynn
Koole*



*Amber Joy
Kuiper*



*Mara Joy
Kuiper*



*David Michael
Langeland*



*Tressa May
Lenting*



*Madison Kaye
Lubbers*



*Grady Lee
Machiele*



*Anthony Ryan
Mowery*



*Kinsley Lin
Mowery*



*Allyson Sue
Nead*



*Avery Dale
Noorman*



*Benjamin Elliot
Overway*



*Andrew Robert
Pastoor*



*Jacob Steven
Penna*



*Blake Austin
Pipe*



*Isabella Ruth
Potjer*



*Lyla Charity
Rus*



*Jacob Christien
Scholten*



*Cristina Renae
Spronk*



*Lawrence John
Steenwyk*



*Laelle Brynn
Terpstra*



*Calvin Henry
Timmerman*



*Alaina Joy
Vittenbogaard*



*Aiden Ty
VanBaren*



*Treyton Michael
VanBaren*



*Allison Nicole
VanDerMeulen*



*Morgan Grace
VanDerSchaaf*



*Charlotte Grace
VanderWaal*



*Brielle Joy
VanOverloop*



*Joel Levi
VanOverloop*



*Marisa Joy
VanOverloop*



*Conner Steven
VanSingel*



*Caleb James
Vink*



*Megan Lynn
Visser*



*Jayden Joy
Westra*



*Troy Daniel
Zandstra*



*Avery Len
Zuverink*



*Levi Michael
Zuverink*