

The Lynden LINK

~ Chairman Report ~

April 27, 2025 ~ Volume 23, Issue 5

Welcome to the April Link! As reported here in February, the board and principal are highly focused on planning for next year - primarily staffing and budgeting. As I mentioned in my recent email, we are in need of any leads you may be aware of! Our most pressing need is for full-time elementary teachers, but we also need part-time HS Spanish, part-time HS Math, and a part-time one-on-one educational support person.

The building expansion project is progressing well, thanks to the persistence and hard work of our building committee and the supporting volunteers. We are blessed with many willing folks with building and construction skills! At this point, it would be understandable to start experiencing some fatigue, but please continue to keep room in your schedule to help out. The end is in sight, and the additional space will be

fantastic!

The spring membership meeting is scheduled for May 12 at 8:00 PM in the church building. Please make it a priority to attend, as we need a quorum to approve the 2025-26 operating budget. We will also have an update from the building expansion committee as well as an update from the Cornerstone Foundation.



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Upcoming Dates

May 2 - PD Day
May 23 - Sports Day
May 26—Memorial Day
May 27 - Sports Day Backup
May 30 -Eighth Grade Grad
June 6 - Last Day of School
June 6 - Senior Graduation
June 11 - Report Card Dist.

Next LINK Submission
Due Date:
June 11, 2025

~ From The Treasurer ~

I'm going to keep this quite brief, as the Spring Membership Meeting is coming up in a couple weeks--there will be plenty of detail there. But at a very high level, variable income (everything besides tuition & dues) is coming in over budget and tracking at or under budget overall on the expense side. During the next week or so the Board will be making revisions to a draft of 2024/2025 remainder projections and the 2025/2026 operating budget in preparation for publishing to you.

As a Board, we have been working with the Building Committee while preparing this budget to determine where the line between operating budget and expansion costs belongs. Sometimes it can be a little blurred, such as when updating certain things in the "old" building to make them more consistent with the expansion. For now I'll leave the rest of the expansion material for others to present at the Membership Meeting.

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, Walk as children of light.



April 30, 2025
Parent Information Evening
7:30pm in the school

May 15
Volunteer Social
More info follow

~ From the Ed Comm ~

It's time again for another installment on behalf of the Education Committee. The Education Committee continues to meet once a month. In addition to providing a sounding board to the administration, the Ed Comm reviews curriculum, is part of a team that visits the school every other month, participates in interviewing prospective staff, and assists with senior project evaluations. We have lots to keep us busy and are privileged to get a close look at how things operate at Cornerstone.

This past year, the Ed Comm has been kept busy reviewing the school's History and Geography curriculum. Our review resulted in plans to purchase a new curriculum for 3rd through 6th grades for next year. We are hopeful that the new curriculum will provide an excellent tool for the teachers and will be enjoyed by the students.

Senior projects are another matter that occupies the Education Committee. This past March we were able to listen to three seniors present their projects. The projects were quite different from each other. One student shadowed a farrier and worked on training a young horse. Another senior shadowed civil engineers and the third worked with the CCS

Art teacher and taught a series of Art lessons. Listening to presentations given as a project is wrapped up is always a highlight for committee members and once again we are so thankful that community members are willing to assist and mentor our students.

Next up on the Education Committee's schedule is the Parent Information evening planned for Wednesday, April 30th at 7:30. We hope that all CCS parents (and parents of future CCS students) plan to attend. Our speaker is John Wynia, who is the League Coordinator for an organization called the League of Canadian Reformed School Societies (LCRSS) in Ontario, Canada. He will be speaking on the unity of purpose in Reformed education. God has given the educational task to parents and schools assist parents with this and it's important to get this coordinated task right. We look forward to seeing a good turnout as we discuss the important responsibility that God has given us with respect to our children.

Stephanie Bareman, for the Education Committee

~ From the Ladies Aid ~

Spring is in the air and the Plant Sale has completed its first week! If you would still like to help, please connect with Janice Dykstra to see if the Plant Sale committee could use your help. Come and stop by

the next 2 weeks (Friday or Saturday) to check out the amazing selection of plants!

On behalf of Ladies Aid,

~ From the IT Dept ~

IT Committee Update

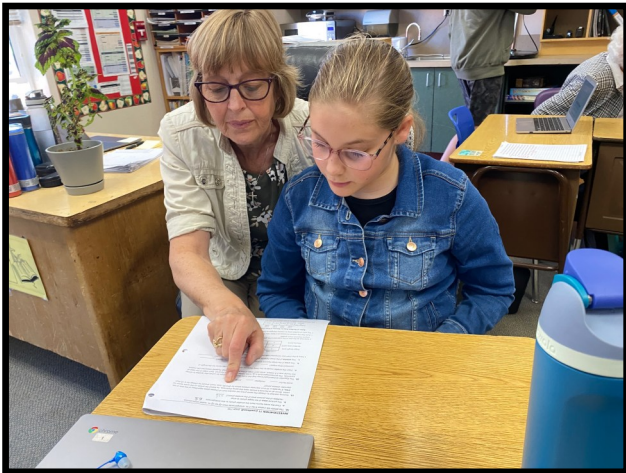
While the Committee continues to work on various behind-the-scenes IT goings-on at CCS, perhaps the most notable items on our radars include the following:

- Collaborating with the BEC, CBM, and IT consultant on expansion completion needs and the upcoming school year,
- Upgrading (replacing) existing Windows 10 computers since that technology is reaching its end-of-life this fall, and

- Overhauling the school website due to the host (Finalsite) sunsetting the existing platform later this year.

On the personnel side, we're pleased to welcome Johan Sterk as our newest addition. Welcome to the club, Johan! We'll be looking to fill an additional vacancy later this year. Curious about what that entails or know someone who might be a good fit? Please reach out to any of us for more information.

For the IT Comm. - Lance Visser



~ From the CBM ~

Lots of things are quickly happening with the school building. The CBM is focused on ensuring everything is operating as smoothly as possible, while also dealing with some items that come up with the new addition. We are currently working on investigating different avenues for furnishing the new part. We are also making choices for different fixtures such as faucets and dispensers to make them consistent throughout the building. There may be some changes in the older section to match the new building to make ongoing maintenance and cleaning more efficient.

Due to the amount of renovation work that will be happening over the summer months, the Inspire group will not be able to make use of the building. They have been planning on relocating for a while, and it looks like they may have found a more permanent solution.

The school will be using a new security provider after June. We will no longer be using Security Solutions since signing up with Guardian Security. We

will be transitioning to a wireless radio connection rather than the currently outdated landline. Most of the interface panels will remain, so not much will change in terms of entering the code to disarm and arm the school. There will also be additional cameras, but this will be taken care of by the IT department.

We hope to schedule the outdoor school cleanup toward the end of May. We've had to push it back a bit due to the amount of construction necessary. There will be plenty of pressure washing, so please let us know if you are able to bring one so we know we have enough. We will keep you updated when the cleanup will be happening with a post in the church bulletins, so please look out for that.

Lastly, we want to thank Josh Burger for his 3 years of service on the committee, and welcome Brian Kooiker as a new member. Thank you both for your willingness to serve!

- CBM

~ Not From the Principal ~

When asked about my profession, I often receive a warm smile when I reply, "I'm a teacher." It's a response that typically brings up thoughts of a rewarding career. However, when I clarify that I teach high school mathematics and science, the reaction often shifts—eyebrows raise, and I can almost hear the unspoken question: "Why would anyone choose to teach teenagers, let alone in subjects like math and science?" I go on to explain that mathematics is such a beautiful way to look at the world with logic and order. Working with teenagers is interesting as they grow in maturity and responsibility. In a recent conversation with a senior student, I told her how it was great to have taught her since she was in 7th grade. I've had the opportunity to watch her self-confidence grow and see her take on the responsibility for her own learning at school in preparation for college next year. Fortunately, I get to work with an amazing bunch of somewhat like-minded teachers at Cornerstone Christian School. We might prefer to work with different age groups or enjoy teaching a certain subject more than others, but we all share that love of exploring God's creation with the students and seeing their eyes light up with their latest discovery or understanding.

The teaching team at Cornerstone has seen a few changes over the past few months. We congratulate both Mrs. Gonzalez and Mrs. Groves and their families with the arrival of their newborn daughters. We are thankful that all is well, and that Mrs. Gonzalez will be returning at the end of April. A big thank you as well, to the different people who have taken on extra teaching responsibilities to cover the maternity leave. Mrs. Naomi Bormuth has covered 11th and 12th grade Spanish, Mrs. Martin has taken on PE 1/2, Mrs. Kingma Science 1/2, Mr. Houweling Geography 3/4 and finally Mrs. Kleyn, Mrs. Klos and Mrs. Johnson have all taken a variety of the grade 3/4 classes. It's been a bit of a jigsaw, but we are thankful for all the pieces that have fit together to make the puzzle complete!

In addition to the regular teaching and learning there have been a few noteworthy events. The third & fourth grade class could enjoy swimming lessons for a few weeks, as a part of their regular PE classes. We are grateful for two generous donations from the local Kiwanis clubs that helped mitigate the cost of these lessons. High School students came back to school during spring break and decorated it with flowers, snow, fireworks, pumpkins and even a small kiddy pool in preparation for Spirit week, with the theme this year being 'Seasons'. We welcomed grandparents to school and enjoyed lunch with them, before performing our Easter program at

night. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped make these events happen! Attention now turns towards the end of year events, namely sports day, end of year class trips, the CCS speech contest and graduation evenings for the 8th grade class and the seniors.

Another upcoming event is the parent information evening on April the 30th. There is a lot of work that happens to make our school such a great school! I see and hear the evidence of that on an almost daily basis with the construction work happening for the new high school wing. In addition, there are a multitude of volunteers coming and going. Whether you volunteer as math markers, school cleaners, classroom helpers, librarians, writing contest judges, coaches, drivers, working in the greenhouse, or in a different way, we want you to know that you are truly appreciated! In connection with that, Ed Com has arranged a speaker, Mr. John Wynia, to help guide our thinking on how we, as a community together can help keep our school great. A question that we could ask ourselves is 'are we a consumer or a contributor to the education offered at Cornerstone?' How can school and home be more unified in our approach in providing Reformed Education for the children at Cornerstone? Join the discussion on April the 30th!

In the past couple of months, a new committee was formed to take on the responsibility for the fundraising for the DC trip in 2028. In the past, Mr. W. Chase has shouldered the responsibility for bringing the students together to raise the necessary funds. We thank him for his efforts over the many years and the countless long hours and days that he has put into this! Starting with the 2028 trip, a parent committee will now head up the fundraising efforts every two years. They will help guide the students and other parents through different events to raise the necessary funds. The 2028 committee was formed about a month ago and has hit the ground running and you may hear from them soon.

As the weather warms up and we look forward to summer, it can be difficult to stay focused on school work. We pray for and covet your prayers, that the students and all who are involved in the daily work at school may finish off the academic year well. We also pray that staff can be found as preparations for the next school year have already begun. It's hard to believe that we are at this time of the year and looking at course selection forms (high school), schedules and the like for 2025/2026. But time continues and we pray that God will provide with all things needed for this year and the next.

J. Janssen

CCS Education Scholarship - A Request for Funds

In 2015, the Board of the Cornerstone Christian School Society adopted the bylaws that established the CCS Education Scholarship Fund. A committee was appointed and given the mandate to promote the teaching profession among our graduates and alumni, with the long-term goal of ensuring qualified educators for our school.

We are thankful to report that we have a record number of applicants for the CCS Education Scholarship this year! In order to support these graduating seniors and alumni in their pursuit of a teaching degree, we are requesting our community members to contribute toward this worthy cause. Donations of any size are gratefully accepted.

Donations are tax deductible and can be made by check,
Payable to: **"Cornerstone Christian School Society"**
Memo line: **"CCS Education Scholarship Fund"**

Donations can be passed on to the CCS bookkeeper (Karla Leyenhorst), or a committee member.
Donations can also be mailed to:

Cornerstone Christian School
c/o Education Scholarship Committee
8872 Northwood Road
Lynden, WA 98264

Please forward donations by **Tuesday, June 3, 2025**. If you have any questions about making a donation to the CCS Education Scholarship, please get in touch with one of the committee members.

Thank you in advance for your support! Melanie Kottelenberg (janandmelanie@aol.com)
Stephanie Bareman (j-sbareman@comcast.net)

Cornerstone Foundation Update

With the hustle and bustle of regular life and the added attention to the school addition we would like to take the opportunity to again remind the membership of the continued work of the Cornerstone Foundation Board. We have met recently and have discussed various ways to grow the Foundations funds for the benefit of the future generations.

The Foundation continues to collect funds as they come in and regularly review investments to try to prudently maximize regular returns. The Cornerstone Foundation is also working regularly with the Foundation for Reformed Education (FFRE) to continue to solicit funds that could be available for our school from people outside of our country. With these efforts we see our funds continue to grow.

We are very thankful for those who remember the

foundation in their giving and are blessed to have people who consider us for regular or targeted giving.

The committee is also looking into different growth strategies to hopefully come up with a measurable plan to keep the funds growing. There have been some creative ideas brought forward that we will work with in efforts to push this forward. We look forward to some of the initiatives that we have coming – stay tuned for updates on this at the next school membership meeting and in the future...

If anyone has questions about the Foundation or its work – please reach out to one of the members of the board. We are more than willing to answer questions and to find ways to put donated money to good use!

On behalf of the Cornerstone Foundation Board,
Darren Leyenhorst

~ From the 7th & 8th Grade Classroom ~

Nurturing the covenant youth in Reformed Education is bound to be the chief joy of every teacher in our schools. It's a joy and delight to teach and "tell the generations to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done." Although done in much weakness, we strive to equip students for a life of sacrifice and service to our God and Father. What follows are some reflections of eighth grade students.

Grade 7/8 teacher
Stephen Houweling

Elementary Reflections

I am so grateful that I have been able to attend Cornerstone Christian School for the past 8 years. God has given me the privilege to be taught at a Christian school and to have a Christian education. Now that my elementary years are concluding, it is time for high school. .

In grades 1 and 2, I had 3 teachers. Mrs. Kruyswijk, Mrs. J. Faber, and Mr. Kleyn. We were taught many subjects, including bible, science, math, and P.E. Grades one and two were definitely very fun grades. We were taught in a way that was educational and fun. I have a special memory from first grade that will forever be with me. During a bible lesson, Mrs. Kruyswijk was explaining to the class how Moses struck the rock. She decided to act it out. She took a yardstick and struck the board. The yardstick snapped in half! We were all laughing so hard. That will forever be an awesome memory from first and second grade.

In third and fourth grade, my teachers were Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Tiemeyer, Mr. Kleyn, and, for a short time, Mrs. Kanis. These were all great teachers. They were all very kind and taught us well. I don't remember third grade too much, but I do know fourth grade. A lot of fourth grade was Covid. At first, I was excited to do online learning. After a week, I was already sick of it. I wasn't able to go anywhere or see my friends. Something that I'm sad about, is that we never got to go to swimming lessons. This is something that I was really looking forward to as a little fourth grader. I am very thankful to my fourth-grade teachers for having patience with our class, especially on Zoom. Also for math, we had Mr. Houweling. He was a great math teacher!

In 5th and 6th grade, I had three teachers. Mrs. Vanhofwegen, Mrs. Johnson, and Mr. Stromberg. Once again, these were all amazing teachers. Currently only one of these teachers teaches at our school. Mrs. Johnson. Mrs. Van was our main teacher, and Mrs. Johnson taught us art, and Mr. Stromberg taught us P.E. 5th and 6th grade will always be grades that will stick in my mind. I loved Mrs. Van, and how she taught us. She was an amazing teacher who was kind and caring. I also think that she prepared us well for seventh and eighth grade. It feels like yesterday I was in 6th grade, getting taught by her. Now I am almost graduated middle school, and she left. I am very grateful that my fifth and sixth grade experience was good. I think that if you have a bad experience in those grades, it can truly affect you.

Finally, there is 7th and 8th grade. I am currently in 8th grade. I am not lying when I say this, 7th and 8th grade have been amazing. They have definitely made me grow in my knowledge, faith, and also maturity. Responsibility plays a big role in seventh and eighth grade. You need to be responsible for your own homework, and show responsibility to get it done. I have learned that something that I can definitely struggle with is procrastination. I have learned throughout the past 2 years that the best strategy to get work done is to avoid procrastination. It can be hard at times.

A core memory I have from seventh grade was our class trip. Last year, our class and I went on a trip to Mt. St. Helens. During the trip, we visited the visitor center, were taught about the eruption, and explored the Ape Caves. It was amazing to see the caves. It showed what amazing things that God does with His creation!

Another memory I will always have in 7 & 8 is secret santa. I am a little bit sad that I will never do this again in school. It is something that you can look forward to, which gives you motivation to do your work.

In conclusion, these past 8 years have been a journey. I am so thankful to God for giving me strength and guidance throughout the years. I am also extremely grateful that I have a Christian Community, and school. I hope and pray that God will give me even more strength to complete the next four years of high school.

By Lucy Brown

Elementary Reflections

School has been the pinnacle of my life throughout my younger years. An incredible group of adults has guided me on the path of wisdom. The years I have spent in school have taught me countless life lessons, including math, Bible studies, and science. Numerous memories and friendships have been formed throughout my school years.

I will discuss how my school years have been divided. The main groups I will cover, include the early years, memories, and sports. These have been the primary aspects of my elementary school experience. They are what have brought me this far in my life and education.

In kindergarten, Justin, Lleyton, and I were the only boys. Our main teachers were Mrs. Bareman and Mrs. Faber, but Justin's mother, Mrs. Veldman, also helped out. We created many happy memories in that classroom. Next was 1st grade, which was a huge step up and a significant responsibility; we were now going to school five times a week! However, first grade flew by with the help of our awesome teacher, Mrs. Kruyswijk! This year, Jude joined our class and became our fourth boy. Second grade was as normal as first grade, except for a different group of first graders. This year also passed in a flash due to our incredible teachers.

Grade three arrived before we knew it. Mrs. Johnson was our new teacher, and we had to adjust to her. I loved the new responsibility that came with the latest subjects. We were now learning music, science, and history. There were many things to do for homework which caught me by surprise. The real surprise was 4th grade. We were now happy with Vincent joining us. We were also excited about a new kid from Alberta named Elijah. Elijah turned out to add a lot of character to our friend group.

Grade 5 caught up to us before we knew it. We were surprised by the sudden change from the teachers. We now had Mrs. Van, who trusted us with many responsibilities. We also had Mrs. Hensen as our art teacher. They taught us various skills, such as adding texture and depth to our art pieces. For P.E., I had Mr. Stromberg as a teacher. He was more energetic and lively than I had expected. We played many sports, including football, soccer, and even Ultimate Frisbee. Grade 6 went similarly, with changes in math and Bible. We were now reviewing 7th-grade math lessons. We also studied church history for Bible class. We were introduced to the new concept of writing Cornell notes for our Bible assignments.

Now in seventh grade, we were tasked with much harder math concepts. I was not prepared for this massive step in my education. I also loved my new teacher Mr. Houweling who entrusted to me and my peers many privileges. Somewhere the gym is recess and being able to talk with friends more freely for help in class. We did run into trouble sometimes with these benefits we were granted. Now in eighth grade, my peers and I are about to graduate from what felt like only a week of school. This 2024-2025 school year has zoomed right past me in only what felt like a weekend! There were so many awesome memories that formed throughout this school! I can be certain that there are even more to come in the future.

Now onto what memories my fellow peers and I experienced throughout these past eight years of school! There are countless situations that I can recite from memory such as our camping trip we had to Mount Saint Helens last year. That trip was an absolute blast with all of my friends and classmates. We had so much fun not only camping but also driving down past Seattle which took around five hours total. Throughout the last two years, my class has been having many grade parties which we all seem to love. These have been a highlight of being a part of such an awesome grade group. Throughout my elementary years, my class and I went on countless field trips. For example, in sixth grade, we went to the naval destroyer called the Turner Joy. This was an amazing experience to drive down to Seattle and get to explore a battleship!

Throughout seventh and eighth grade, sports was a huge part of my life. There was soccer, basketball, and even volleyball. I was so excited to play sports for the first time in seventh grade. This was a huge change to my education and motivated me to try to improve my grades. Along with sports comes a common rule which states that you cannot partake in any sporting activity if you have a current F in your grades. Thankfully this was enough to help me stay on top of my assignments and work. In the soccer season, our class team came in first with only one loss. Also in basketball, the team I was on came in first by losing only two games! Being involved in sports seemed to speed up the time spent in school and at home.

As I end this chapter of my school experiences I look forward to the upcoming challenges that high school has in store for me. Elementary taught me more than just reading, writing, and math, it taught me what a true friend and steward of God's creation is to be like. There have been many incredible older role models for me in these past years to thank for my success in heading to high school. I have to continue to remember that this is not the end but just the start of a new chapter of my education!

By Joshua Kobes

Elementary Reflections

As John Dewey once said, "Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself." Meaning, that education is not just an implementation that we learn at one point in our lives, education is an on-going process that never comes to a halt. Everyday we learn something new; either good or bad. Either something that will change our lives or something that will bring us down. 'Everyday is an opportunity to learn something new.' Donald Raab states that we should take everyday as a possibility to learn something new.

As elementary school comes to an end and high school comes to a beginning, I can reflect on so many different things these past years. From first grade all the way to eighth grade, it has been quite a journey.

Starting first grade was a big adjustment for me. From coming from kindergarten it became more of a serious concept. I was introduced to Mrs. Kruyswijk and Mrs. Faber who were teachers for grade 1 and 2. The one thing I really remember from grade 1 and 2 was when Mrs. Kruyswijk was teaching us about the Bible. She was talking about Moses striking the rock, and when she said, 'And Moses hit that rock hard!' she slammed a yardstick down on the board. Instead of focusing on the story of Moses, the loud crack of the yardstick became the highlight of the moment.

Entering grade 3 was another adventure. You were taken more seriously the tasks set upon yourself. As the school year progressed, Covid hit. A pandemic that affected the world and will be remembered throughout history. Instead of going to school, social distancing became active in our lives. A stay-at-home life was in action. Our lives were ruled by Covid. We would have to wear a mask everywhere we went, even at school!!! From spring break of third grade to the end of the school year we weren't allowed to go to school, cross borders, see friends, and travel. It was a nightmare that never stopped. As fourth grade approached, Covid was still around but it was easing off. We weren't required to wear a mask but you could if you wanted too. Since Covid hit, the third and fourth grades weren't too familiar. Some things I do vaguely remember, just like Mrs. Tiemeyer, whenever we got a question right, she'd say, 'Fireworks cheer!' It was her way of celebrating, and it always made us feel like we'd done something special.

Fifth and sixth grade came around fast. These grade levels were always the ones to look forward to because of Mrs. Van. Mrs. Van was such a joyous teacher, and always made us laugh. I will always remember her yoga (like most people do) how she always cherished her dog Susie, her children, and grandchildren. On Fridays we'd come line up and she'd shout "Happy Friday!" and we'd all shout back the same. During these grades, we went to two main field trips; the Seattle Aquarium in fifth grade and the Destroyer (AKA USS Turner Joy) in sixth grade. The Destroyer was especially a highlight for me because I got to see the ship from the Vietnam War. Many big assessments were assigned to us. Speeches were another big part in fifth and sixth grade. Consequently, I never made it to the speech competition. Instead, I watched my friends compete in the speech contest. As time ticks on, the 2022-2023 school year comes to an end.

Seventh grade, the grade that everyone fears. Not only was this a scary grade, but a hard one too. Mr. Houweling was our teacher in seventh and eighth grade. With more homework, you found yourself working tirelessly till 12 at night. I learned that you should not keep all your homework till the last minute but work on it throughout the week. Mr. Houweling always said that he was preparing us for highschool with all the work he gave us. I will always remember Mr. Houweling consistently spoke about how our work was to be "Thorough and Comprehensive." Our field trip for that year was Mt. St Helens. This was a highlight of my school year because we got to walk through the ape caves, play games, hangout around the fire, and just have a good time. My favorite memory from this grade will probably be when Mr. Houweling tripped and fell against the board and made us all laugh. Eighth grade was just around the corner, and we were all looking forward to it.

As eighth grade came around, we were again familiarized with the tasks that were taught in the previous year. More responsibilities came upon me and as the first term, second term and now third term came around the work gradually became heavier. We read the novel Cue for Treason and also did an assignment on this book. Many reflections were brought forth, mostly at the end of each trimester. More effort

was put into and expected in grade eight. I am looking forward to our class trip to Warm Beach where we will experience the mud-flats, and spending quality time with our fellow peers. I will always remember Mr. Houweling's rabbit trails on politics in Bible, the desk goals, and most importantly Mr. Houweling's sardines.

To wrap things up, God gave us education to use it for a good purpose in our lives. As stewards of Christ we should be thankful for the learning opportunities we have in this world. As graduation comes around the corner we should be prepared for the coming years of highschool. With the final home-stretch of the year, the work becomes more and when the work becomes more we procrastinate. This leads us to asking help from God to give us the strength we need. Ephesians 3: 16, "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man."

By Kiersten VanDelft

Elementary Reflections

Elementary started with Cornerstone Christian School. This school was the foundation of Christian teaching and learning, an introduction for young kids to have the opportunity to talk and learn about a Christian perspective on what they know. A school that is formed on the foundations of God's Word. For my first year of school, I had a whole new perspective on my life than the usual part of my day of staying home.

One unusual day, I woke up thinking that it was one of those days, staying home and watching TV. But suddenly my mom approached me, surprising me with a statement that would change my life. "You have school! First day of first grade! Get ready, we're leaving in a few minutes!" I was hit with a wave of surprise, suddenly being filled with a nervous feeling that loomed over my shoulder. I had to go to school, which consisted of 6 hours that took up the better part of the day! I sadly got up and put on my backpack that my mom got for me, and sat in the car wishing that this day was a joke, a massive trick, but it wasn't. I was thinking of everything we have to do, the difference from kindergarten to what I'm about to experience. This was longer than the usual kindergarten days and I had to get used to it. To make things worse, we had to go every day! As my mom approached the school building, I got out of the car and opened the school door.

When I got inside, I was taken to my classroom, which was similar to the kindergarten classroom, with the same decorations and the same classmates, but a different teacher. Her name was Mrs. Kruyswijk and she greeted herself in our class when we all sat down. She looked very nice, and how right I was. She would always take time with our math and assignments, showing compassion when we needed help. It was a great first day, but more days were coming. As the year went on in first and second grade, the more I was taught the more I knew. The most memorable moment in first and second grade was when Mrs. Kruyswijk was telling a story about Moses in the desert and the rock that gushes out water for the Israelites. To help us understand, she drew a rock on the whiteboard and held a yardstick, imitating the rock in the desert and Moses' staff. Now, Mrs. Kruyswijk is very expressive about her bible stories, copying the emotions that the people felt in the story. So when she drew the rock and held the "staff," her attitude was filled with rage, and her face was red like Moses' in the story. She then said, "And Moses hit that rock!" Imitating Moses by hitting the rock on the whiteboard with her staff, only to find that she hit the rock a bit too hard and broke the yardstick. Everybody burst out laughing, making it the best moment in first and second grade.

Before I knew it, I graduated from first and second grade. I thought I was done with school, but my enjoyment was short-lived when I realized that I had to go to third and fourth grade. This was NOT the same as first and second grade because there was a bigger room, new decorations, new subjects with new learning opportunities, and a new teacher. I was so nervous to meet my new teacher, Mrs. Johnson. She looked nice, but not as great as Mrs. Kruyswijk. Not saying that she wasn't nice, but no one can be as good as Mrs. Kruyswijk. But still, I had a new opportunity to learn new things and meet new people. Mrs. Johnson taught many subjects and was a nice teacher who would help you if you needed it, but not as much as Mrs. Kruyswijk did. I heard that the higher the grade, the harder it is going to be, and they were very correct. Third and fourth grade seemed impossible, especially math, where we had to learn multiplication and division. When I was in third, this new concept seemed impossible, but when I finished fourth grade, I knew this concept like the back of my hand.

After fourth grade, I was exhausted and so tired of school. And for my reward for being in school this long, I got to do more school, fifth and sixth grade. And I was greeted with the same thing when I was introduced to a new classroom. Different rooms, different decorations, and a different teacher. This teacher was named Mrs. Van Hofwegen, who looked very lively and energetic. She, like every teacher on the

on the first day, introduced herself to the class and showed the class where everything is. She had a habit of talking to the class about how she went to her yoga class, and to make things worse, we had to do the stretches that Mrs. Van. did at the yoga place. She also talked about her family, either the funny moment their family had or a sad one. She talked about her husband and her dog Susie, who sadly, when I was in sixth grade, passed away when I was about to graduate. Her stories lasted about ten minutes, mentioning every detail that she experienced and wanted to share with the class. In every subject, she was a great teacher and was very friendly, helping those who needed it. She explained everything very carefully, helping us understand what she was talking about. And when our class had to move on to seventh grade, she gave a long speech about how she loved us and that we were one of the best classes she had ever had. We were all touched by the speech, but things were lying ahead, more school.

Things were different now, we were going to the big leagues, seventh and eighth grade. Once again, a new classroom, new decorations, and a new teacher: Mr. Houweling. He was different from the rest, he was between nice and being a normal teacher. He had compassion on us: if we handed anything in late, we would get a few more days to work on it. It was easy in seventh grade for me, but eighth grade was a whole new level. We had to do so many assignments, and when I finally finished one, my reward was a new assignment. It was tough, but I managed to get through the year. But little did I know that high school is going to be tougher than eighth grade.

To reflect, I think math, science, and history were the most important things I learned because it would benefit me when I get older. When I get an equation I will know what it is thanks to math. If someone is talking about what happened in history, I will know thanks to my history class. If I become a scientist one day, I will know what to do thanks to my science class. And I can put those learnings to the test through high school.

High School seems like a tougher year than middle school, but I'm not that nervous for High School, the only thing I fear is lockers. Not the locker in general, but the actual lock. I know it's a weird fear, but it is the only thing that is making me nervous for high school. I know I will get around this fear someday. And when I get a real fear, like too many assignments piled around me, I will always have God and my class of 2029 around me to help me.

By Justin Veldman

Elementary Reflections

The first day of school is one I'll always remember. It wasn't really like school—more like a big playdate where everyone was just figuring things out.

In second grade, I wasn't at my regular school. Instead, I went to Bernie's Vossbeck Elementary to get more help with reading and writing. The reason for that is because I have dyslexia. That means sometimes words get mixed up in my brain. For example, I might try to read the word "word," but I'll see it as "rowld." This makes reading and writing much harder, and it slows me down a lot.

In third grade, I had Ms. Johnson as my teacher. She taught me for both third and fourth grade, and she was one of my favorite teachers. Ms. Johnson was so understanding. Whenever I asked for help, she was right there, explaining things in a way that made sense to me. With her help, I started to get more answers right and feel more confident.

Fifth grade was a big leap—it really stretched my brain to learn more. I had Mrs. VanHofwagen for both fifth and sixth grade. She was a good teacher, but I remember one especially sad moment. Partway through the year, her dog passed away, and it hit her hard. She was so heartbroken she could barely speak about it. That day stuck with me for a long time.

Then came the daunting seventh and eighth grades—the ones everyone warns you about. They really are tough, and they're a big transition before high school. But even though they're challenging, they help shape you.

Now, I'm here, continuing my education in a way that honors God. I'm learning not just to be smarter, but to be a good steward of what God has given me.

By Jude Pelleboer

Elementary Reflections

Grades one through eight have come and gone like the four seasons of the year. There have been ups and downs, highs and lows, just like the changing weather throughout each season. My elementary years have been filled with learning about God's word, along with the foundational skills of English, mathematics, science, and history. I'm incredibly thankful that our school is grounded in God's word. It's a privilege and a blessing to be part of a covenant community where we grow in our faith and deepen our understanding of God every day.

In grade one, we learned the basics of Bible, math, science, English, and history. Our teachers, Mrs. S. Kruyswijk and Mrs. J. Faber, taught us so many useful things that I still remember and use today. One memory that stands out is from a Bible lesson with Mrs. Kruyswijk. She was telling the story of Moses striking the rock to bring water for the Israelites and used a yardstick to demonstrate. Then—CRACK!—the yardstick snapped in half and fell to the ground. It was one of the best moments of grade 1 and something I'll never forget.

In grade two, we continued to build on our knowledge, especially in math and language arts. We tackled more advanced addition and subtraction, and towards the end of the year, Mrs. Kruyswijk even introduced us to multiplication. In Bible class, we studied the second part of the Old Testament, and in Science Class, we learned all about plants. I remember feeling excited and ready for the transition into grade three. Grade three was a big step forward in every subject. We even started playing the recorder in music class! In history, we studied Ancient Egypt and the mythology of the Greeks and Romans. By grade four, we moved on to textbook math, read novels, and continued learning about the Bible. Our teachers during grades three and four were Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kanis, and Mrs. Tiemeyer. We read through stories like *Number the Stars*, *Nobody's Boy*, and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Watching the movie version of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* was especially exciting since it was our first in-school movie. Grades three and four were definitely memorable and fun.

In grades five and six, Mrs. Vanhofwegen was our main teacher, with music and P.E. taught by Mrs. Kottelenberg and Mr. Stromberg. Each morning after devotions, we would stretch as a class, and the week before Christmas break was filled with fun activities like making gingerbread houses and doing Secret Santa. During these years, we began learning more advanced concepts that would prepare us for seventh grade. These lessons were both practical and meaningful, and I know I'll carry them with me going forward.

Grade seven was a significant shift from grade six. Math became more complex, Bible lessons went deeper, and history classes were taught in lectures. We were also given more responsibility in our daily routines. Grade eight has been very similar in structure to grade seven, but the pace has definitely increased. Our math lessons move quickly, and each subject introduces new and interesting topics. Mr. Houweling is our main teacher, while Ms. Janssen teaches science and Mr. Chase teaches history and P.E.

Throughout grades seven and eight, we've completed a variety of fun and challenging projects. In grade seven, we did three projects centered around JFK's space speech, worked on assignments related to *I Am David* (including creating an iMovie), and tackled many other engaging tasks. In grade eight, we read *Cue for Treason*, completed projects on the novel, participated in the science fair, and took on more academic challenges.

As I prepare to move into high school, I know the transition from grade eight to nine will be a big one, but probably not as big as the jump from grade six to seven. It might take some time to adjust, but I trust that, with the Lord's help, I'll be ready for it.

I'm excited to begin the upcoming school year. And now, as eighth grade graduation approaches, I'm preparing myself for what is ahead, high school and beyond.

By Emma Davis



Elementary Reflections

As we begin to come closer to the end of eighth grade, we have this assignment to reflect on our former years of school. It feels kind of crazy how time has gone by. Just as the grass withers and the flower fades, (Isaiah 40:8) our time passes like light years in God's eyes. I may not remember many things from the younger grades, but I can tell how fast the time has disappeared. I feel I've come a long way from these elementary years.

I have learned a lot- and not just things in school; Subjects like Math and Science, History and Spelling. I have also gone through tough things, especially through eighth grade itself, as we are going through the "Bottleneck" of school. Pushing through challenging situations, making new friends, understanding to be more confident in what I do. Standing up for myself and my fellow friends is another. Obstacles that were hard to overcome are now coming to pass. I am thankful that I held my ground and didn't give up.

There were fun times as well.

Starting with first grade, I was one of many to enter into the classroom scared and afraid. At this period of time, I was not in Cornerstone, as I was still living in Barrhead, Alberta. As first grade progressed, we endured what seemed like hard work in the alphabet and numbers that we learned. It was absolutely crazy. We even knew how to count!

Second grade is another that I actually can't remember squat from. Honestly! I can't even recall who my second grade teacher was! I am guessing we learned how to read and form words, including figuring out how to add and subtract.

Third grade! I can recollect some of the memories from you! Our teacher in third grade was a very nice lady named Mrs. Bysterveld. Our families were neighbors and friends. She was a great teacher, easily one of my favorite teachers. Third grade taught us how to multiply as well as proper language. We began to work in groups, teaching us to help others as we do our own work.

To enter fourth grade, we were apt and ready, but also kind of scared for the school year. That same year, I was told we were moving from the only place I had ever lived, leaving behind the friends I had known, to a faraway land called America. At the time, I was overwhelmed — sad, angry, and filled with a bundle of emotions. It was terrible! I was a mess. Saying goodbye six months later was extremely hard, but we did it. We moved 16 hours away from Barrhead to a small town called Sumas, Washington.

Second part of fourth grade.

I came to check out the school right after the day had ended, which meant that all of my future classmates were mingling outside before parents came to pick them up. It felt really awkward walking past them into the building to meet my new teacher, Mrs. Johnson, and look at my classroom that was soon to be mine. I ended up finishing that year feeling a little less frightened for what I thought it would be, but it still wasn't easy. I didn't know anyone, but I tried to make friends and turn myself into a part of this class. By the end of the year, I had made friends and connections and felt like I belonged. Even though at first I was nervous for the new school and missed the old, it wasn't so bad after all.

Fifth and sixth grade flew by like an airplane, but they were some of my better years academic-wise. We had a very nice teacher, Mrs. Vanhofwegen. This was the year we started speeches and doing devotions in front of the whole class, so my nervousness was level ten. We started writing stories and poems, having harder mathematical questions, and starting algebra. We even had a Spelling Bee!

Finally, Seven Eight. This has been a rollercoaster ride for the centuries! We started seven eight, thinking we were the top guns of elementary. We had finished with the elementary things like music and singing in the concerts for school. We began to go ahead with writing essays and reflections, doing book selling presentations! This was at first overwhelming, but in the end, we had completed these with a sigh of relief. In Eighth grade, we had gone through all the motions of this year in the past year, and it is way easier knowing what you will be going through. Other than challenges with others, this year has been my favorite.

To cap things off, even though eighth grade had a lot of hard stuff, I'm actually glad I went through most of it. Lots of things: not so much. But, it helped me grow—not just in school, but in how I deal with people and how I see myself. I feel like I've learned a lot about standing up for what's right, being confident, and not giving up when things get tough.

Now that we're heading into high school, I have a feeling it will be the tiniest bit like walking into fourth grade. I've done new things before, like moving and starting at a new school, and it turned out okay. I know high school will have its own challenges, but I think I'm ready for them. And I know God is with me through it all, just like He always has been.

I'm thankful for all the memories from these past years—fun times, hard times, all of it. Even though this chapter is closing, I know it's not the end of the book. It's just the start of something new.

By Elijah Vanderlinde

Elementary Reflections

We start as tiny kindergarten students, enthusiastically excited for school, and end up tall eighth graders graduating from elementary school. Our school life as kids is a crucial part of our journey because it shapes and molds our future. This is why we are so blessed to receive a Christian education, where we are taught in the way of the Lord. At this young age, it is important to learn that we need God in everything we do—because we can't do it alone.

I remember my first day of school as a first-grade student. I was super excited and very nervous at the same time because I was going to school every day. We all met inside the church for an assembly before heading to our classrooms. After hearing the principal speak and singing the national anthem, I walked to my new classroom and was introduced to Mrs. Kruyswijk and Mrs. Faber. They were (and still are) amazing teachers who taught me how to read and write.

I continued on to higher grades, learning more and more each year about science, Bible, geography, history, mathematics, and more. Then, in third grade, COVID-19 hit the world. Sadly, we were affected by it and had to transition to long-distance learning from home. That meant livestreams, tons of videos, and not seeing friends or family. This at-home school really tested my independence and my ability to work without a teacher present most of the time. Finally, after COVID was no longer such a threat, we all returned to school. It was a blessing to see my teachers, Mrs. Tiemeyer and Mrs. Johnson, again after being separated for so long.

In fourth grade, two new boys, Elijah and Vincent, joined our class. Vincent was already from Lynden, but his family felt that Cornerstone was a better choice than other schools. Elijah was from Barrhead, Alberta, and his dad was Nooksack Valley's church minister. They brought a lot of life and enthusiasm to our grade. Afterward, I moved on to fifth grade, where I had Mrs. Vanhofwegen, an amazing teacher. She showed impeccable kindness to her students and her grandchildren, which made learning so much better. I was lucky to have her for two years, as she moved to Seattle a year after I finished sixth grade.

Then I moved on to seventh grade, which I was told would be the biggest jump in elementary school. Let me just say—I was more nervous than I had ever been about coming to school. I received advice from many people who had already gone through seventh and eighth grade, which was extremely helpful and comforting. I entered the school year with nerves, but I ended up doing fairly well. There were many ups and downs, but with God's strong hand, I was able to overcome everything—only through His orchestration. Eighth grade, I found, was almost the same as seventh, except that the math got harder. Yes, there were challenges, like how the homework really escalated in third grade.

One of the worst parts of my younger school years was the homework. Oh, how I did not—and still do not—like homework. The countless hours of studying for tests, math corrections, dictations, reflections for Mr. Houweling, and Church History assignments made me groan and dislike school. The late nights, early mornings, and nervous jitters walking into school because of tests and assignments were not the best feelings—but I've found that if you study a bunch, you'll do just fine.

I loved school in my younger years because of the actual learning. Now, I find myself going mainly because I get to see my friends every day and play sports. Well, and also because I am required to. In other words, I have no other choice.

When I walk out of eighth grade, I will always remember when Mrs. Kruyswijk was teaching us a Bible lesson about Moses striking the rock. To demonstrate her story, she drew a rock on the board and, using a yardstick, said, "And Moses hit that rock...!" She smacked the whiteboard so hard that the yardstick broke. The class erupted with laughter as Mrs. Kruyswijk blushed bright red. In grades three and four, Mrs. Tiemeyer would always reward our correct answers with a fun "fireworks" cheer.

In grades five and six, Mrs. Van would go around the classroom asking how our weekends were. I would often find her cheerful and joyful, enjoying our answers. On Fridays, after the bell rang, she would open the door and shout, "HAPPY FRIDAY!" In grade seven, "Isolate the variable!" became a familiar refrain from Mr. Houweling in math class. There are many things I remember from him because he is the last teacher I will have before high school. He would say things like: "Be thorough and comprehensive," "Tell them what you're going to tell them, tell them, tell them what you told them," and more.

The most important things I've learned in my elementary years come from the Bible, especially the two key themes that run through it: God's covenant and the antithesis. I also think Church History is important, as it shows us the events that led to the doctrines we believe and the foundation of our learning today. The teachers I've had over the years have guided and instructed me in the way of the Lord, which is both a blessing and a privilege—because of them, I don't have to attend a public school. I thank my parents for sending me to this school for all these reasons.

As I think about the upcoming school year, I'm super excited to graduate and move on to high school. As of today, there are 45 days until I graduate from elementary school. At the same time, I'm a bit anxious—because high school is preparing me for life in the outside world. It's crazy to think that in four years, I'll be almost ready to graduate high school. Keeping that in mind, it's good for me to prepare myself and start thinking about what I want to do someday.

As I graduate and leave for high school, I will reflect on my growth and what I still have to learn. I will be excited and joyful for the years to come. And most importantly, I look forward to my graduation in 2029!

By Cassie DeMooy

Elementary Reflections

In first grade, I went to the public school in Lynden called Bernice Vossbeck Elementary, but we just called it BVE.

In first grade, I had my favorite teacher ever in all my days in elementary school, her name was Mrs. VanBerkum. She was very good at teaching math, and when we had math tests, she would give us gum to chew so we could have our brain juices flowing. We also had these tri-fold folders to put around our test so no one could cheat. Also, Kaitlyn Kleyn was in my first-grade class.

In second grade, I had my least favorite teacher, Mrs. Voight. She disliked me. I don't remember anything from this grade except for crying. [Jude Pelleboer](#) also joined my school, but we were in separate classes.

In third grade, I had a fun teacher, her name was Mrs. Hollander. She was energetic, funny, and loved her job. In third grade, we had to go home because of COVID-19, which was not fun because they slammed us with homework so that we could end the year early. Doing school from home was not fun at all!

In fourth grade, I moved to Cornerstone Christian School and had Mrs Johnson as my teacher, along with Mr. Houweling for math. In 4th grade, we read Charlotte's Web. Far into the year, we had to be at home to do school because of COVID-19. Also, Elijah Vanderlinde joined our school.

In 5th and 6th grade, I had Mrs. Vanhofwagen for everything except PE because we had Mr. Stromberg. In 5th grade, we learned a lot and also read a lot. My favorite book was 21 Balloons.

In 7th and 8th grade, my teachers were Mr. Houweling-English and Bible, Miss. Janssen-Science, Mrs. Johnson-Art, and Mr. Chase-History.

In 7th grade, we learned how to use our time wisely from Mr Houweling putting rocks into a plastic tub. After that, we made our first-term goal. Secret Santa was in our second term of grade 7, where we exchanged gifts. Term 3 was the best because we got to go to Mount Saint Helens, which was a lot of fun, along with the end of school about to happen, where we could leave school after 180 days of learning.

In 8th grade, we read Cue for Treason which was a really good book, NOT!!! But besides that, we also did Secret Santa. In Science, we did a project where we had to study an animal and make a speech about it. In History, we made a trifold with Canva about historic places in the state of Washington.

In conclusion, my elementary school experience has had its ups and downs. There were times when things were hard and times when they were fun. I've learned a lot, made friends, and had experiences that helped me grow and prepare for the future.

By Vincent Klos

Elementary Reflections

Elementary is coming to a screeching halt—the final bell is ready to ring, echoing through the halls one last time. Ahead, the doors of the high school creak open slowly, inviting but unknown. With the excitement of a new chapter comes a quiet sorrow, as I prepare to leave behind the teachers and memories that helped shape who I am today.

I am so thankful the foundation of my education has been built on God's Word. Our school has never just been about reading, writing, and arithmetic. It has been about growing as covenant children, surrounded by people who care about our faith and future. I am thankful for the prayers before class, the Bible stories that came alive, and the way God's truth was woven into every subject. What a privilege to be part of a school where we don't just learn about the world, but learn how to see it through the lens of God's Word.

The memories started when I moved here at just two years old. I soon found friends and a sense of belonging. Those born in 2010 and 2011 have brought me to this point. Behind it all were the teachers who helped shape not only my education but also my character: Mrs. Kruyswijk, Mrs. Faber, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Vanhofwegen, Mr. Houweling, Miss Janssen, Mr. Chase.

In first and second grade, Mrs. Kruyswijk taught us Math, Art, and Bible. A Bible lesson that still makes me smile was about Moses striking the rock. She drew a rock on the board, grabbed a yardstick to act as Moses' staff, and then dramatically struck the board. Suddenly, the yardstick broke in two! With a stunned face, she said, "Moses' staff did not break!" We all burst out laughing, and that moment has stuck with me ever since. She made learning unforgettable—whether it was Bible Baseball games before a test, or creative math with even Stephen and odd Todd. Mrs. Faber brought reading and science to life. I remember the reading agendas we had to get signed, and how much I enjoyed the book she read us: *Gooseberry Park*.

Before science lessons, Eddie would often come in with a cheerful song request: Hymn 1. Once that was sung, we dove into experiments like making elephant toothpaste and learning about plants and the human body.

Third and fourth grades were a blur, primarily due to COVID-19. Mrs. Johnson made cursive writing and reading exciting for us. We practiced cursive with our special books and blue pens. After completing a book, we would watch movies like *The Chronicles of Narnia and Shiloh*. Even though I don't particularly love reading, I enjoyed it when she read to us, sharing stories like James and the Giant Peach and Nobody's Boy. During the quarantine, she went above and beyond by dropping off homework, hosting video calls, and even interviewing us about our daily routines.

Fifth and sixth grade felt like a big leap from those "lowly fourth graders" we once were. Each morning, Mrs. Vanhogwegen led us in yoga to help us start the day. She balanced fun and discipline perfectly, managing our energy and guiding us with patience. While some students left for math extensions on Fridays, I stayed behind and played games with her, especially Yahtzee. I quickly learned that Mrs. Van was very competitive! I made many memories with her that I will always treasure. Her kind and caring nature shone through in the stories she shared about her family and grandchildren.

Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Hensen also taught us art. One of the most memorable projects was learning macramé. I still have the jar I decorated during that lesson—something small that holds big memories from fifth and sixth grade.

After fifth and sixth grade comes middle school, which can seem daunting to a sixth grader. Seventh grade arrived, and we felt like big kids. Mr. Houweling taught us about responsibility and how to manage it. He often talked about his funnel analogy; once we squeezed through that bottleneck, we had greater workloads and responsibilities to carry. We had Mr. Houweling for our main subjects, Miss Janssen for Science, Mr. Chase for History and Physical Education, and Mrs. Johnson with Mrs. Hensen for Art.

Mr. Houweling has been an exceptional teacher and a dad. He has presented valuable lessons in Bible studies and 'gramma'. He encourages us to take charge, such as managing the gym during recess, utilizing laptops for our assignments, and collaborating in groups. He constantly reminds us to stay "Thora" before tackling our assignments. One of my favorite memories from seventh and eighth grade is when my dad unexpectedly tripped over a container and fell backward against the board—his expression was priceless!

Mr. Chase, our history teacher, had an incredible way of making history come alive. His passion for the subject was remarkable, and though some lectures were boring, I found the projects most enjoyable. I loved doing the North Pacific tribes when we had to make a trifold and make a model.

Miss Janssen was our science teacher. Her classroom was always filled with colorful posters of the solar system, scientific facts, and science puns. One of my favorite memories was when she brought in real frogs for us to dissect along with other animals; it made us realize the intricate design God has made to create these amazing creatures.

As I stand on the verge of high school, I am filled with gratitude for the years spent in elementary school. The laughter, lessons, and love from teachers have laid a strong groundwork for my future. This place has not only equipped me with knowledge but has also nurtured my character and faith, something I will carry with me as I step into the unknown of high school. Goodbye, Elementary.

By Taleesha Houweling

Elementary Reflections

In grades 1-8 I have learned how amazing it is to have a Christian education. It is a privilege to have an education to honor our Father. I am very thankful to have a school like this and classmates that believe in God.

In first grade I went to Bernice Vossbeck. My teacher's name was Mrs. VanBerkum. One thing Mrs. VanBerkum taught me that every day we would recite the numbers 1-10 in Spanish. I still know how to recite the numbers 1-10 in Spanish. On the first day at school I got to eat lunch with the principal. I remember we were allowed to have gum in math.

In second grade, I went back to Cornerstone Christian School. Mrs. Kruyswijk and Mrs. Faber was my teacher. One of the fun things in second grade was that Mrs. Kruyswijk was my aunt. I remember we would always get a special Gel pen in cursive writing when our handwriting was really neat.

In third grade I had Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kanis, and Mrs. Tiemeyer. Mrs. Kanis had us for art and P.E. A favorite memory from grade 3 was when Mrs. Johnson organized Greek and Roman day. We got to dress up and have real Greek and Roman food. We also got to play different games and be on teams. Mrs. Tiemeyer taught us history. In fourth grade, my classmates and I had Mr. Houweling for math and Mrs. Johnson again for language arts. Fourth grade math was a little different to first grade through third grade. The math in Grades 1-3 was more teacher directed. But when we were in fourth grade, we had to be more independent.

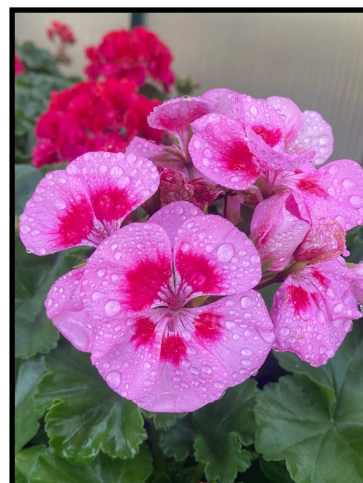
In fifth and sixth grade I had Mrs. Van Hofwegen and Mrs. Kottelenberg. Mrs. Kottelenberg was our music teacher. We learned how to play the recorder. We learned how to read the music notes and played some songs with the recorder. I remember Mrs. Van Hofwegen kept us in shape by doing yoga every morning. We got to make a play for the younger kids. Mrs. Van Hofwegen brought us to the destroyer. The ride there and the fairy was really fun, but the destroyer was really cool to explore.

In seventh and eighth grade, we had goals to have on our desk every term. It really helped me to focus on the goals that we had. My classmates and I went to Mount Saint Helens for a camping trip. We got to learn all about Mt. Saint Helens.

I am excited and nervous to go to highschool. I am excited for the highschool sports and having a locker. I am also excited for the renovations on the school. High School is going to have many challenges, but I am ready to face them.

In conclusion, grades 1 through 8 have played a big role in preparing me for high school. I am excited to see how God is going to guide me in the coming years. I need to trust in God, especially when things get difficult.

By Kaitlyn Kleyn



Elementary Reflections

It has already been 8 years since I started school, and I am almost finished with elementary school. I have learned so much and I am blessed to have a Christian school to attend. There was lots that I have learned over the years, and I am excited to continue in high school.

In the beginning, when I came to first and second grade, I learned the basics and learned how to do the easier concepts- which weren't so easy back then. These included learning to read, write, do math, and work with my peers. The most important area I started to learn better was Bible, where I learned about God creating the earth and the most important Bible stories. I started building friendships and learned how to be a good classmate to help others

As I made it to the third and fourth grade classroom, COVID was spreading all over the world, and we had to learn from home for a while. This made it harder to learn because we always had to learn over zoom calls. Even through this, we built on the basics we learned in the first two grades.

These concepts were harder and we had to learn to problem solve, because when we did work and had a problem, there was no teacher to help us. In fourth grade, we had less time off from school and we could learn normally again. Things got more complicated in the subjects, especially math was getting harder with the different way we did math in the different work books.

Fifth and sixth grade brought its own challenges. These included learning to speak in front of the class, harder math concepts, and more complicated work in general. Sixth grade was a lot of review of fifth grade, which made it one of the relatively easier grades that I have been through so far. Even though it was an easier grade, I knew it was an important grade, because it was getting me ready for seventh and eighth grade, which I knew would be harder. Overall, fifth and sixth grade were a big help in my understanding of most concepts, learning new things.

Time flew by, and seventh grade was coming right up. I knew it would be harder and I would have a bigger workload. For the first part, I started to settle in and learn how the routine would go for the next two school years. We started to ease forward and the work kept getting slowly harder. I started to realize that it would keep getting harder until the third term, when it reached a peak. I started to figure out what type of things I am good at, and what things I am not so good at. Eighth grade has been a lot of the same things, but definitely harder. I saw that more responsibility comes with the new grade level. I learned that more is expected in my work, and that I am expected to know what to do with my work. Seventh and eighth grade also helped me learn to be helpful and be a great classmate to others.

In the end, elementary school has flown by, and when I think back, I realize how much I have learned. I have grown so much in my faith and love for the Lord. I wanted to thank all my teachers for helping me in my education because they have been a big part of my life. I hope to continue working my hardest in high school to the best of my ability.

By Lleyton Lodder

Elementary Reflections

Transitioning from 3 days a week to 5 days a week. It went from my small grade to a large 2-grade class with 24 people. I was so excited to get started with my brand new teachers, especially having my aunt as a teacher. I was very excited to finally be able to take out more than one book from the library.

Every day we started with a bible story that Mrs. Kruywijk taught, and sometimes included crafts and bible questions to answer. And every once in a while, we would color pictures.

In math, we sometimes tried multiplication and division, and I got so excited that I figured out how to multiply by 2 and 5. Lucy was in the newspaper picture because they were taking pictures of our school, and we ended up on the front cover. We also learned grammar with Mrs. Faber, and that is when I learned to do full sentence answers.

Second grade came around the corner, and I finally got to be in the older class. We got to meet the younger class, and we had a class of around 21. One day, we were having bible class, and we were going over when Moses hit the rock, and Mrs. Kruyswijk got really into the story and hit her yardstick against the whiteboard, and the yardstick snapped in half. And ever since she came with a new stick every once in a while, finding better and better ones in her yard! With Mrs. Faber, we got her for more time to spend more time on grammar, English, and reading.

Then, finally, it's 3rd grade, there's not much to say here, we got an extra-long summer, just not as fun, we couldn't see anyone. We had to go home for 6 weeks, but that turned into the rest of the year. We live-streamed most of the classes, and every once in a while, Mrs. Johnson would help me through my math lessons.

In 4th grade, we got to go back to school and start with Saxon math! We got introduced to Mr. Houweling, and he taught us math. And we got introduced to many new math equations, and we learned how to divide and multiply with bigger numbers. With Mrs. Johnson, we got to do novels, owls in the family being my favorite, because we got to look at owl pellets. I also remember The Lion Witch, and the Wardrobe, and we got to watch a movie with snacks and popcorn. Vicent joined our class, and Elijah joined later on. In this class, we had to wear masks, but that was shortly cancelled. We didn't have to do that at the end of the year. Mrs. Johnson also got to teach us recorder, and we learned all the new notes, and we could play many songs by the end of the year.

In fifth grade, we were introduced to a brand new teacher. We already knew her and heard she was very kind. We also had to do yoga. She was the teacher everybody looked forward to. I'll always remember jumping on our chairs and acting like we were surfing on the floor. She taught us every subject except PE and music. Mr. Kleyn taught us in all the previous PE classes, but he went to teach at a different school, so Mr. Stromberg came to teach us PE. Mrs. Kottlenberg taught us recorder, she went more into detail about the notes. And how to get a feel for the beat of the music.

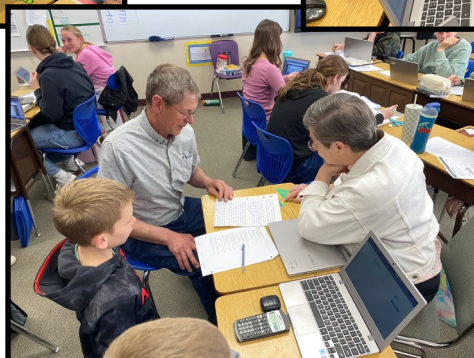
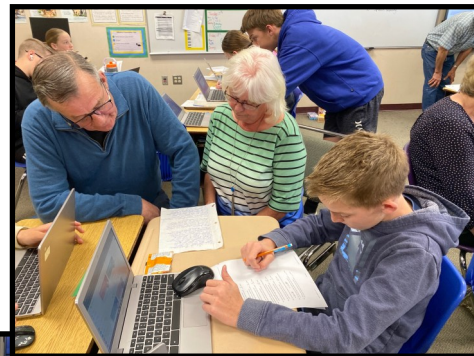
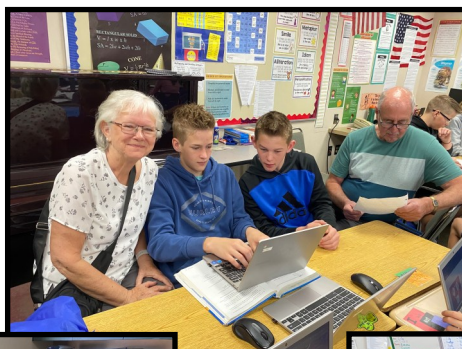
Sixth grade was about the same, we had the same PE teacher and the same teacher for everything else. But then, at the end of the year, we heard the devastating news of Mrs. Van leaving. On the last day of school, we had an assembly and said goodbye to Mrs. Van.

Finally, into middle school! In the seventh grade, we again had Mr. Houweling, but he taught English, bible, church history, and math. We got introduced to brand new assignments, including bible essays, reflections, spelling packets, dictation, and having to lead bible discussions in 8th grade. And ACC. And we continued doing novels, we did a lot of novels in seventh grade, and we were introduced to many genres. My favorite book we read in 7th grade was I am David. We also got introduced to more teachers, Mr. Chase, and Miss. Janssen. Mr. Chase taught us History and PE. And Miss. Janssen taught us science.

Then, now, in 8th grade. This year was very similar to last year except for harder math and more hard things than 7th graders. Like in 8th grade, we had to lead in bible discussions, we just called on people and took control over the class. This year, we stopped doing ACC because the computer stopped working, and we had a mountain-high pile of homework. I had all the same teachers. We did gold mining in history, and science, we did dissections, and my frog had beetles in its stomach, like it just had lunch! That's not all we did, those are just the highlights *so far*.

In conclusion, throughout all of elementary I enjoyed all my teachers. I am excited to see what God has set for me in the future.

By Lily DeBoer



2024/2025 School Calendar

August

27- First Day of School

September

2- Labor Day

11- Student Picture Day

October

11- PD Day

14- Columbus Day

November

7- HS 1st Qtr report Cards

8 - PD Day

11- Veteran's Day

12,13 - High School P/T Conferences

27- Elem Report Cards Term 1

28- Thanksgiving Day

29- Thanksgiving Break

December

2 & 4- Elem P/T Conferences

20- Last Day of 2024

23-Jan 3 – Christmas Break

January

6- First Day of 2025

20- Martin Luther King Day

24- HS 2nd Qtr Reports

27 & 28- HS P/T Conferences

February

14- PD Day

17- President's Day

27& 28- Mid Winter Break

March

13- Elem Report Cards Term 2

14- PD Day

17 & 19- Elem P/T Conferences

April

4- HS 3rd Qtr Reports

7-11Spring Break

17- Grandparents Day

17- Easter Concert

18- Good Friday

May

2 - PD Day

23 - Sports Day

26 - Memorial Day

27- Sports Day Backup

30- Eighth Grade Graduation

June

6- Last Day of School

6- Senior Graduation

9-11-Teacher Work Days

11 - Report Card Distribution

Board

Chairman:	Steve Hofford
Vice-Chairman:	Jan Kottelenberg
Secretary:	Stephanie Bareman
Treasurer:	Ian Davis
Ed Comm Liaison:	Stephanie Bareman
Staff & Membership Admin	Jan Kottelenberg
Building Liaison:	Harvey Pelleboer
IT Liaison:	Lance Visser

Building/Maintenance Committee

Rick DeMooy	Will Kingma
Brian Kooiker	Jon Kruyswijk
Harvey Pelleboer	John Vreugdenhil

Education Committee

Debbie Johnson	Janice DeMooy
Jeanette Janssen	Jon Dykstra
Rianne Kruyswijk	Ryan VanDriel
Stephanie Bareman	

IT Committee

Caleb Bareman	Johan Sterk
Lance Visser	Dustin Wielenga

Finance Committee

Brian Hendricks	Harvey Pelleboer
Kolin Veldman	Gavin Willis

Athletic Committee

Katrina Lodder	Stephen Chase
Harvey Pelleboer	Kolin Veldman
Gavin Willis	

Ladies Aid Committee

Pres - Malorie Burger	VP - Lisa Pelleboer
Sec - Jessica Chase	Treas -Leanne Veldman

Staff

Office Administration:

Debbie Johnson - Principal
Kari VanDiest- Secretary
Karla Leyenhorst - Bookkeeper

Full Time:

Debbie Johnson - Grade 3/4, Art 5-10
Jeanette Janssen -Science 7-12, Math 9-12, Comp-Program 10
Paige Kooiman - Gr. 5/6
Stephen Chase - PE 5-10, HS Eng & Hist, His. 7-8, Per Fin 9
Stephen Houweling - Math 4, Gr.7/8, Comp Progr. 9
Wayne Chase - HS: Bible, Math, English, History

Part Time:

Bea Kleyn - Grade 3/4
Bea Sterk - Art 3/4, Math 5/6
Christine Hofford - Ed Support
Corrie Klos - Grade 3/4
Hannah Gonzalez - Spanish 11/12, Gr. 1/2- PE & Science
Janice Dykstra - Ed Support Director
Jolene Vreugdenhil - Culinary Arts 11/12
Julie Thompson - Ed Support
Kathleen Stevens– Yearbook, L.A 4
Katrina Lodder - Athletic Director, Ed Support
Kaylene Hofford - Ed Support
Kristina Wendt - PE 11
Melanie Kottelenberg - Music 3-6
Ranelle Faber - Gr.1/2 Friday, History
Shari Kruyswijk - Gr.1/2 Bible, Math, Music, Art,
Sharon Veldman - Culinary Arts 11/12
Stephanie Bareman - Gr.5/6 Math
Tessa Kooiker - L.A. 1/2