

# ANNOUNCER

Adams Protestant Reformed Christian School

5539 Byron Center Avenue – Wyoming, Michigan 49519 – (616) 531-0748 – December, 2018  
adamschristianschool.org

## Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy!

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### Administration & Staff

#### Getting To Know Mr. Wigger

Mr. Rick Mingerink  
Administrator

I always enjoy reading interviews. Often, the people with household names are the ones we know the least about. Our children's teachers regularly fit this description. Because of this, I thought it would be of interest to peel a layer or two away. I hope to interview one or two teachers each year... starting with Mr. Wigger, one of our fourth grade teachers.

#### What part of your childhood do you cherish the most?

*Growing up and doing stuff with family. My dad took us fishing all the time. We did that often on Saturdays. Because of that, I have a deep love for fishing. I also cherished the times we were together camping*

*in Ludington. Our cousins would all be there, and we had a great time hiking the trails. For a State Park, Ludington probably has the best trails. I'm looking forward to the time when my own family can go camping there and create the same memories.*

#### You mentioned your father. How old were you when he passed away?

*I was going into 7<sup>th</sup> grade. I think I was 12 or 13 years old.*

#### What was your father's personality?

*He was an easy-going guy who laughed a lot. I remember when he and his twin brother, Ben, would get together and they would get each other laughing so hard. My dad's face would just turn beet red!*

#### What is a favorite memory you have of your father?

*It has to be wrestling with him. He would do this fake wrestling thing and he would bite his tongue and growl as he went. And of course, my mom would be in the other room saying "It's always fun and games until someone gets hurt!" But it was fun. We were just being boys.*

*I remember going on bike rides with him and all the fishing we would do. It's all really good stuff. But, it was all in God's perfect plan. I understand what it is like when children lose a father or mother or the emotions you feel when they remarry. God's plan is higher than ours. Did I want my Dad to die? Of course not, but I rest knowing that it is God's perfect plan.*

#### What prompted you to become a teacher?

*I had a lot of younger cousins that I spent time with in the summers. My grandma and I would plan crafts*

for them. I thought this was kind of fun. Later, when I was in college, I had opportunity to visit Ed Bos's classroom. He was very open to me observing him. I loved what I saw. I thought "I can do this!"

**Are there any teachers in your family?**

I am the only teacher. Well, technically, my older sister is a teacher, but she teaches at a college in New York.

**How long have you been teaching?**

I've been teaching 9 years. My first year at Adams was the 2010/2011 school year.

**Where did you go to school?**

Hope (K-9), CCHS (10-12), GVSU (Undergrad), Calvin (Masters)

**What moments bring you joy in the classroom?**

I love to sing so that is always a great part of the day. There is no better way to start the school day than singing. But besides that, it is always a joy when the struggling students who I've been working with finally understand a certain concept we've been working on. That is always a great moment. On the other side, it is always a joy when students think deeply and ask good questions. These moments always make my day.

**What do you find challenging in your work?**

Meeting all the needs of my students. There is such a wide range between all the students. Even with all the great help from other teachers in the building, it is still a challenge for the classroom teacher to determine how to meet the needs. It's a lot of work. Finding the balance is difficult. Sometimes we simply must move on and that isn't always easy to do.

**What is your favorite Psalter number? Hymn?**

That's hard to choose but I would have to say my favorite Psalter number is 1. My favorite hymn is In Christ Alone. That is a good one to sing out loud and I do enjoy singing. I may not always be on pitch (just ask my wife!), but I don't care; I really enjoy singing.

**What do you like to do when you are not teaching?**

Fishing, of course. Also watching sports with family and friends. These are definitely the top two.

**Are you a morning lark or a night owl?**

A morning lark for sure. I'm not one of those who can sleep in. I go to bed early and get up early.

**What time do you go to bed?** Oh, it's about 9p. We put Ryden to bed and then we do the same ourselves.

**Of the places you've travelled, which one stands out the most and why?**

I've gone to some interesting places. New York City stands out. It confirmed that I never want to live in the big city! Washington D.C. is good, too. There

are so many museums and places of historical significance.

But I still think Ludington is one of the great places. I just love going there. In part, that has to do with all the memories I have of the place as a kid with my family.

## Little Lessons from Beginner Books

Mrs. Nancy Decker  
Kindergarten

How thankful I am that teachers are a sharing group of people! Over the years, I have learned that my colleagues are so willing to share ideas, projects, lesson plans, school supplies - and yes, even books. This year I am using some new books in my curriculum, most of them suggested to me via school newsletters, a convention sectional, a Protestant Reformed magazine, or just in a good conversation with a fellow teacher. Nothing in my curriculum has changed drastically, but these little beginner books have made the new school year fresh, informative, and because we are in kindergarten, a little fun!

On the first day of school back in September, I asked the kindergarten students to tell me some of the things they knew about God. How amazing that little 5- and 6-year-olds could tell me that God made the earth, God is invisible, God is very great, God loves us, God watches over us, and God saves us from our sins. This is a testimony to the godly instruction of believing parents to their children starting at a very young age.

To continue that learning, I am using Marian M. Schoolland's book called Leading Little Ones to God in my morning devotions. Short chapters written in a sprightly conversational style have helped us begin our day learning about our God. We have learned that we cannot see God, but we can see His works. We have learned that God talks to us in His Word. We have learned that God is very great—He is a Spirit and He is everywhere, He knows all things, He is three persons, He is holy, almighty, faithful, He has many names, and that He is the creator of all things, made good and for His praise. As the year progresses this wonderful little devotion book will teach us about sin, God's law, Jesus' atoning work for His people, prayer, and living a life of thankfulness to God.

And as the school year continued and we learned our alphabet, little lessons about the people,

places, and things of the Reformation were gleaned from a book called Reformation ABCs. Selecting just a few chosen letters, the children learned that “B is for banana, ball, and the Bible.” Having so many Bibles in our homes, schools, and churches makes us forget this pivotal time in church history when people did not have the Bible and most people could not even read or write. We learned to be thankful for a man named Johannes Gutenberg who built a printing press. How exciting that the very first book that he printed was the Bible! “Letter M is for monkey, moon, and Martin the Monk.” With “whimsical illustrations and engaging storytelling,” the children learned about the great reformer Martin Luther who dared to post his Ninety-Five Theses to the church door at Wittenberg. This beginner book taught us little lessons from long ago.

The alphabet is very important in the kindergarten room and what better way to learn it than by tasting it! So...we are eating the alphabet using a book by Lois Elhert, a well-known children’s author. We know each letter has a name, a sound, and we certainly practice writing it properly in our fun Letterbooks, but using our sense of taste to help learn our letters is a whole new experience.

Candy is for birthdays, Zero the Hero treats, and an occasional reward or surprise from the teacher. This children’s author wants us to think healthy, so we are eating and learning about fruits and vegetables from A-Z. C is for carrots and cauliflower. We are eating the roots and the flower of a plant. O is for olives, certainly not a popular taste to kindergarteners. G is for the familiar grapes and not so familiar grapefruit. A is for apples. We tasted three kinds, graphed our favorite, and declared the yellow Delicious apple as the winner. D is for dates. We ate them as a snack and in a date nut bread and both received a thumbs up. Moving on to S we enjoyed a little leafy spinach, a seedy strawberry (something we learned from another book called A Fruit is a Suitcase for a Seed) and the very shapely star fruit. From lemons and limes to tangerines and turnips, from endive and eggplant to radishes and rutabaga, and from apples to zucchini we come and take a look, we are having fun eating our way through this alphabet book. As the author says, “How much of the alphabet can *you* eat?”

And how to do you say good bye to kindergarteners, but with a silly book of fun goodbyes called Gotta Go Buffalo written by Kevin and Haily Meyers. It’s a lift-the-flap book that excites the

kids as they plead with me to reveal yet another page. Nothing new here, many of the rhymes the kids already know, but what a fun way to end the day. As a class, we tried writing our own animal rhymes and instead of saying good bye, we used different ways to say “hello.” Could they find a rhyme from my list of animals? Well, I think Adams kindergarten class could make a book themselves.

How are you today, big blue jay?  
Good afternoon, silly raccoon.

What’s going on, graceful swan?  
What’s up, little pup?

Hi, fly.

Hey there, giant bear.

It’s nice to see you, kangaroo.

And so I’ll end my article by sharing this goodbye book with *you*, the reader: “See you later alligator. See you soon big baboon. Gotta go, buffalo. Toodle-oo, kangaroo. Take care, polar bear. Hit the road, yellow toad. Ciao now, brown cow. Can’t stay, blue jay. Wave goodbye, butterfly. When we part, you’re in my heart.”

## ***Our Favorite Psalms and Proverbs***

Miss Joanna Koerner

Second Grade

God gave the gift of writing plainly enough for a child to understand to Kings David and Solomon. Yet, the inspired words that these two men wrote give adults pause. Consider the following verses: “*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there by any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting,*” Psalm 139:23-24. One of my second graders will tell you that these words mean David is asking God to look at his heart, hear his thoughts, and figure out if David has any wickedness in him. Then, David prays that God lead him on the path of righteousness in this life – the path that leads to Jesus. But there is more to consider here. The more mature believer begins to wonder how David could have that confidence, to ask that God search him for these sins. We hide our sins so deep, we often fool ourselves with our supposed righteousness. We don’t want God to find these sins! We know we aren’t deserving of heaven by ourselves. David knew that it is only by the power of Christ’s blood that he could say these words. And we say them with him. This verse has both a surface meaning

and a deeper, more profound one. It is with maturity that a believer begins to see these deeper layers.

There is much to be learned from reading a Psalm or Proverb. Take the time to study these books and see the wisdom. In second grade Bible this year, we have been doing just that. Our curriculum begins with David being crowned king and continues through to the end of the Old Testament. So, we have been reading and studying some of the Psalms and Proverbs over the past few months. For a journal writing assignment, I asked my students to write about their favorite passage that we have studied so far. Here are their responses.

### **Psalms**

My favorite Psalm that we have studied is Psalm 1. Because it tells you to be a tree. This means we need to obey our parents and God. And not sin.

~Autumn Kamps

My favorite Psalm that we have studied in class is Psalm 19. This is because it shows us that God guides us. And he guides us to heaven. It also teaches us that God shapes everything, like dunes, mountains, and valleys.

~Noah Mingerink

My favorite Psalm is Psalm 23 because it talks a lot about the Lord's my shepherd. I really like that one. It makes me feel happy and gives me comfort.

~Chase Van Baren

My favorite Psalm is Psalm 23 because it talks about the Lord being David's shepherd. It reminds me of God being my shepherd. This means that the Lord comforts us and that the Lord saves us.

~Wyatt Van Donselaar

My favorite Psalm that we have studied in class is Psalm 121. This is because in verse 3 it says, "He will not suffer thy foot to be moved." It makes me know that I will always be in God's hands and that He's always watching me. God never sleeps. This is good because He always watches over us.

~Leah Elzinga

My favorite Psalm that we have learned in school is 150 because it is about praising the Lord. And my favorite verse in it is "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord." It is the last verse in 150. I like to praise the Lord, so that's why I like Psalm 150. We can praise Him everywhere, and with everything.

~Sailor Van Overloop

### **Proverbs**

My favorite Proverb that we have studied is Proverbs 6:6-8. This is because it was our memory verse. And because it is about an ant. And it teaches me not to be lazy.

Ants carry very heavy things, and they work really hard. This shows us that we shouldn't be lazy.

~Lance Buiter

My favorite Proverb that we have studied in class is Proverbs 6:6-8. This is because it teaches sluggards to work. Ants work even when there is no one telling them to. They gather food in the summer. When they do this, they get ready for winter, so they won't die. This teaches us to do the work of the Lord. It also teaches us when to work. Even when nobody tells us to, we should still work.

~Avery Medemblik

My favorite Proverb that we have studied in class is Proverbs 6:6-8. I like that ants do not have to be yelled at so that they work. Ants get their food in the harvest, before the winter comes. We learn from this that we should work harder.

~Tyce Vander Meulen

My favorite Proverb that we learned in class is Proverbs 6:6-8 because it was my memory verse. And it goes like this, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest." I learned that when you are lazy like a sluggard you should look at the ant. If you do, you'll see them working really hard. Then, you learn that you should work hard.

~Hannah Kamps

My favorite Proverb is Proverbs 6:6-8 because it is a good Proverb. Because the ant leads us into goodness. And the ant teaches a lesson. She gathers her food in the summer, so she's ready for winter. She works hard. So the lesson for us is to work hard.

~Madison Kooienga

My favorite Proverb is Proverbs 6:6-8 because it's talking about working hard. And you always should work hard. These verses give us an example. The ants are our example. They work hard. We should work hard because it says to in the Bible.

~Garret Van Dyke

My favorite Proverb is Proverbs 6:6-8. "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest." I have two reasons. First, I love animals, like the ant, and it tells us to work hard, ye lazy people. Don't lay around and watch TV or anything else like that. Work hard.

~Olivia Kamps

My favorite Proverb we have studied in class is Proverbs 6:6-8 because we learn not to be lazy. It gives us an example. It is that the ant never stops working.

~Justin Knott

My favorite Proverb that we have studied in class is Proverbs 6:6-8 because it teaches us to work hard and not to be a sluggard. It uses an ant, which works hard. Ants don't even have someone say, "you have to work," and they just work anyway. ~Eloise Mingerink

My favorite Proverb that we have studied in class is Proverbs 15:1 because it says we should be kind. And love each other. We should have a soft answer so that we don't hurt people's feelings. ~Ella Vander Kolk

My favorite Proverb that we have studied in class is Proverbs 15:1-3. "*A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness. The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*" I liked this Proverb because it reminds me of speaking good and not bad words. Wicked people pour out bad words from their mouths. Good people sometimes pour out better words. They should pour out good words. When we do say good words, other people feel happy. ~Annie Van Til

My favorite Proverb that we have studied in class is Proverbs 15:1-7. Because the first verse says, "*A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.*" I learned from this not to speak words of hate to my neighbor and friends and family. I like these verses because they help me know to love everyone.

~Finley Kuiper

## Magnificent Creatures

Mrs. Susan Van Koevinger  
Third Grade

It was a warm afternoon in September when the third graders gathered on the floor around me. Pressing closely together, they stretched their necks to get a better look at the illustrations in the picture book that I was about to read to them. The unsuspecting students listened carefully to the informative text about barn owls, oblivious that their next task was going to be dissecting barn owl pellets.

What's an owl pellet? God gave owls the unique ability to swallow their prey whole. After digesting what proteins and nutrients they need from the meal, owls cough up useless bones and fur in a neat little bundle that we call a pellet. This was intriguing new knowledge for the boys and girls, and after watching me demonstrate they gamely dove into the smelly chore of finding out what each pellet contained.

I'd better take a moment now to apologize to all the moms out there who took one look at the mess of bones that their children took home and promptly told them to throw it in the trash. Rest assured that you are not alone, as more than one student reported that response the next day! Will it help your peace of mind to know that the Mothers Club purchased these *sterilized* owl pellets from an educational products company?

Well, the owl pellets certainly created a flurry of excitement about birds of prey which resulted in some of the paragraphs below. Later, we took a field trip to see live birds of prey and to learn about habitats and food webs. The paragraphs below about other assorted animals reflect some of what the students learned on their field trip. They gathered their information from a set of *ZooBooks* that the Mothers Club purchased for use in my classroom a few years ago. Many thanks to the mothers of students at Adams Christian School for supplying such worthwhile educational aids!

As you read through what the children wrote, take time to marvel with them at the variety of magnificent animals that our heavenly Father has created to show forth His praise. Thank Him for giving to these children the faith that prompts them to acknowledge our God as the almighty Creator that He is. But the best is yet to come. We look forward in hope to the full realization of Isaiah 11:6, when the wolf "shall dwell with the lamb...and a little child shall lead them." In that day there will be no more death or dying or sorrow or pain for any of His creatures. No more icky remains of dissected owl pellets. No predators, no prey, no more struggle of any kind. Lord hasten that day!

## BIRDS OF PREY

### Protected From Predators

The Eurasian eagle owl is one of the biggest owls. So are great horned owls, which live in North America. It is actually hard to recognize this type of owl. This type of owl has splendid hearing and can scoop up the things that it loves to devour. They are thickly covered with feathers. Sometimes the feathers protect them from their predators because they are so thick.

~Nick Dykstra

### **Lovely Birds**

Birds of prey are outstanding creatures which God made. You cannot forget owls because they devour their prey. The smallest owl of the bunch is the elf owl. Sometimes they even abandoned their homes because of other animals who are their mean enemies. The length of their breeding is from one to four eggs a season. Naturally, when the eggs are born the lovely birds are warm.

~Reid Engelsma

### **Home Sweet Home**

Owls are amazing creatures. Owls make a territory so they can hunt their food. Owls don't like intruders. Owls prey on squirrels and mice which they happily devour. Every wonderful owl has a home.

~Elaina Flikkema

### **Owls**

Owls are splendid birds that God made! The younger speckled owls are too small to easily fly. For most owls, it takes six months till they are as big as adults. They keep their beautiful white feathers. They can live in giant cactuses or burrow underground. The oldest owl is the strongest.

~Avery Hanko

### **Birds of Prey**

Bald eagles have heavy beaks. It is amazing how they devour their prey. Their eyes are protected by their eyelids. Eagles silently approach to their prey. They can grab their prey in the air.

~Jack Jabaay

### **Owls**

Owls are amazing. God made them like that. Their body wakes up at night. They're living creatures. Their vision is likely to see far away. It's the best! Their hearing is remarkable. You will not believe it! The owl can softly hear a mouse step on a twig. The owl can hear from 75 feet away. Owls have superb senses.

~Quinn Kerkstra

### **Crunching Dinner**

Owls have splendid claws that can be dangerous weapons. When they attack, they spread all their eight claws. They hunt silently and safely, then suddenly they swoop down and catch their prey. When it captures its prey, the owl swallows it whole. It has a very sharp beak to tear with. It crunches its prey, then spits the bones out again.

~Kendra Kuiper

### **Owls**

There are outstanding owls all around the great earth that our God wisely made! On every single continent there are fast owls, all but Antarctica. Owls live in lovely

places. Some live in warm and some live in cold climates. They also live in deserts, jungles, and plains. Some owls probably live by houses too. They sleep in the day. Owls devour food from trees. They can see colors better than we can.

~Brooke Lubbers

### **Balanced Creation**

Owls are mysterious creatures that crunch on prey. They are often called scary or even evil but they are magnificent. There are more than 100 species of owls. The elf owl is the smallest owl in the world. It's five inches long. Baby chicks actually stay with their mom for three months. When owls hunt mice they keep the natural balance of creation.

~Lucas Lubbers

### **Birds of Prey**

An owl is a kind of bird. They go in groups called categories. That cool fact means that there are different kinds of birds. Some birds hunt in the day while some birds munch their food by night. There are so many abilities that God gave to birds of prey.

~Sadie Mingerink

### **Young Owls**

The youngest chicks hatch, but the oldest are strongest. In six months, the baby chicks begin to grow feathers that are like adults. The mother teaches her chicks to fly. The chicks furiously flap their wings. Owls are fantastic at protecting their young.

~Laci Potjer

### **Lovely Owls**

Different kinds of owls make their homes all around the world. They are magnificent creatures that God made. Owls live on every continent except Antarctica. Owls live in cold climates and some live in warm climates. Some live in deserts and some live in jungles and plains, where they can devour their food. There are several different kinds of owls. Day by day they sleep in trees. Their colors make them terribly hard to see. Owls are lovely.

~Violet Schipper

### **Birds to Learn About**

Owls are amazing creatures. The largest owl is the Eurasian owl. They are in big danger. They only hunt for large prey like rabbits, duck, and snake. Another beautiful owl is called the spotted owl. It lives in the western United States. At night they wake up and are ready to hunt for mice, moths, and beetles to chow down. Owls are the most fascinating birds to learn about.

~Kaylee Zandstra

## ASSORTED ANIMALS

### Dolphins and Porpoises

To people it is not easy to tell a dolphin from a porpoise because they look alike. The dolphin's skin is smooth but firm and rubbery to touch. Although they have clear, jellylike eyes, they are terrific. If it finds a fish before it turns, that's good because then it will catch the fish and eat it head first. They gleefully found an easier way was to dart to a fishing boat and wait for people to dump fish out. Dolphins and porpoises are alike day and night.

~Dana Bleyenbergh

### Working Together

There are three amazing different kinds of bees in a colony, a drone, queen, and a worker bee. Because of the queen, all the bees have a job in the hive. The queen bee can lay about 1,500 eggs in just one day. The drone's only job is to mate with the queen. The busiest bee is a worker bee. She is a female, but surprisingly she does not lay any eggs. She darts through the air collecting the pollen. It is cool how God made all of the bees in a hive to work together.

~Addyson Baas

### Stick Together

Meerkats come in family packs. The mom has her babies in the spring. Some of the family pack hunts, but the mom normally keeps sight of her babies. Their homes are in burrows because they have fantastic hands to dig. They're quiet, smart creatures. They slurp water. Oh, and remember that meerkats stick together!

~Natalie Dykstra

### Penguins

Penguins slurp shrimp. Although penguins eat shrimp, sea lions eat penguins. Penguins are fine long distance swimmers. Amazingly their normal swimming speed is fifteen miles per hour. Because penguins live in the ocean it is still dangerous. Sea lion are looking for penguins.

~Greyson Flikkema

### Great Wolves

Wolves are found in North America. Wolves splendidly live in amazing groups. Wolves live in the forest around swamps and grasslands because God made them that way. The wolves have huge teeth to devour their prey. Grrr! Wolves have the small teeth in the front. Wolves have a thick coat of fur.

~Joshua Hekstra

### Deer

~Deer fight with horns. Deer travel 1,000 miles in one spring. They have to watch out for stuff that could kill and devour them. Elk usually stay in fine herds. Because deer run fast, they can run away from wolves.

~Caleb Kortering

### Baby Polar Bears

In the middle of the winter the baby polar bears are born. Imagine being born outside in the snow! We would die because it is too cold. The female polar bear is the only one to give birth since it is a girl. She has two cubs. Her babies are as big as two hands. The mom has to keep them warm. They stay with their mom for one year. Their mom diligently helps them learn to hunt.

~Courtney Kuiper

### God Made Whales

Whales live in the ocean like fish. They really love to paddle because they hunt around the ocean. They even digest big fish. But whales are not fish, they are mammals. Although whales and dolphins are warm-blooded, dolphins are not whales. It is pretty splendid how God made whales.

~Graylynn McKinney

### Pandas

What are in bamboo forests? Pandas wander to look for bamboo since they munch it all day. Bamboo grows where pandas live in a country called China. Sometimes scientists trap pandas because they need to help them. Pandas joyfully play in snow. Years ago there was a great bamboo forest but now there isn't. Pandas get blocks of ice in zoos.

~Carmen Velthouse

### Learning About Koalas

Koalas are very fantastic creatures that God made. Koalas' natural home is Australia. Their fur is wonderfully fuzzy like the eucalyptus leaves they chomp on. People are cutting eucalyptus trees because they need more land for the farmers' animals. A fully grown koala is only two or three feet tall. Koalas are not bears, but they are fun animals to learn about.

~Hailey Velthouse

## Abram, Lot, and a Love of Peace

Mr. Jon Mingerink  
Eighth Grade

In 8th grade Bible, we recently talked about the separation of Lot from his Uncle Abram as the story is found in Genesis 13. Abram and Lot have recently returned from the land of Egypt. They had gone there because there had been a famine in the land of Canaan and Abram thought he should wait the famine out in Egypt. While there, Abram and Sarai pretended to be brother and sister. Abram was afraid Pharaoh would kill him and take Sarai as his wife because she was beautiful. God used Pharaoh to chastise Abram for his lack of faith and sent him

back to Canaan where Abram never should have left.

Now they have returned to Canaan and soon problems arise. Abram and Lot have become very wealthy, so much so Genesis 13: 6 tells us that "the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together." Abram and Lot's herdsmen begin to fight over access to the land for grazing. Abram recommends they split up. Abram gives Lot first choice, and whatever direction he goes, Abram would go the opposite.

This is a striking thing for Abram to say. Remember God called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees to go to a land that God would show him. God promised the land of Canaan to Abram and his seed. By right, the land belonged to Abram. Yet here Abram is giving Lot first pick. Abram is not concerned about who is in the right or who is in the wrong. Their argument is not one of principle, where Abram would be required to take a stand. It is a disagreement about earthly riches. Abram's desire is to end their fighting as quickly as possible.

We read in Genesis 13 that Abram desires to end the argument as soon as possible for two reasons. One, he tells Lot that they are brethren. As spiritual brothers in Christ, they ought not be fighting. Abram desires peace between them. The other concern of Abram is that "the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land" (Genesis 13:7). Abram is concerned for God's glory. The world is watching, and what would they say if two believers are fighting? How is that a proper example? Abram wants to end the strife as soon as possible. Reverend Harbach in his book *Studies in the Book of Genesis* puts it this way:

To give up a point, to yield on a question, even when you know you are right; to yield your right when justice, and power to maintain it, are all in your favor, is a grace almost entirely unheard of today. Abram is a striking example of this spirit, of the love of peace, of the elder showing preference to the younger. One may win arguments by logic, but friends are won by love.

As Rev. Harbach says this is a mentality almost unheard of in his day, how much more is this not true over 30 years later. Abram demonstrates here a tremendous love for peace, especially as he and Lot are brethren. As I look back on my own life, I see so many times where I have fallen woefully short of the example of Abram here. To practice this is hard. It requires a tremendous amount of

meekness, humility, and faith in God. Faith that God is in control and will work all things for my good. May God work in us a greater love of peace.

## School Board

### *Moved with Fear*

**Mr. Dirk Westra**  
Board Secretary

*By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house (Hebrews 11:7a).*

What motivates you to support Christian education? Many things, probably. Maybe it's the quality of education that you, your children, or your grandchildren received in a Christian school. Perhaps it's the conviction that our covenant children need to be taught from a Reformed, Christian perspective, such that they are made wise unto the good, and simple concerning evil (Romans 16:17-19). But I pray that godly fear is the root of all our motivation.

The verse at the top of this article speaks of what motivated Noah's obedience in preparing an ark: he was moved with fear. God promised to save Noah's family by way of the ark. God could have intervened with supernatural means—a miracle to preserve Noah, his family, and the creatures. Instead He intervened with specific instructions to build an ark.

To Noah's neighbors, building the ark was puzzling, irrational, even laughable. Gen. 6:22 summarizes 120 years of Noah's life: "Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he." We don't know any details of the construction, but we can infer it was a very costly project. It required substantial material and much time. And from II Peter 2:5, which calls Noah a preacher of righteousness, we learn that Noah answered his neighbors' questions: there is a God, He is righteous, and He is coming in judgment. If Noah answered those questions with words, he also preached righteousness concretely with his persistent obedience: he continued to build the ark.

What did it cost Noah to build the ark? Everything. At least whatever he didn't commit to building the ark was swept away by the flood. Perhaps this question is more to the point: What would it have cost Noah NOT to build the ark? Everything.

That was in the days of Noah. Today you support Christian schools that invite the puzzlement, ridicule, and animosity of those around us. You commit much time and almost unthinkable amounts of money to secure Christian education for your family and other families of like faith. Sometimes we imagine our schools could peacefully coexist and even cooperate with the public schools around us. But the very existence of our schools is an offense to many. "What's wrong with our public schools? Why don't you send your children there?" they ask. We must give patient witness to the value we place on Christian education, answering not only with words, but also with our persistence in supporting our schools.

God has not given us direct, specific revelation to operate our Christian schools. We can't make a direct analogy between the ark and our Christian schools. But God has given us abundant instruction as to the raising of our children. And He has provided our Christian schools as one means of fulfilling the vow we made at the baptism of our children: that we would help or cause our children to be instructed in the doctrine of salvation, according to the truth of the Bible. Moved with fear, we persist in operating our Christian schools.

We can't afford not to.

### ***Thankful for all things***

**Mr. Tyler Pipe**

**Finance Committee**

*Ephesians 5:20 - Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**W**hat a wonderful time of the year to reflect on how blessed we are at Adams! Our covenant children are being taught according to Scriptures, they are kept safe, we have qualified and caring teachers, the school is running smoothly, the grounds and facilities are well organized and clean, buses are running, bills are being paid, an expansion is currently being planned, etc....Our heavenly Father has truly cared for our school.

In order for our school to run, the Lord also provides funding for these things to happen. As mentioned in previous articles, the two main revenue streams are tuition and the support drive.

We recently kicked off the Fall Support Drive at the end of October. The Finance Commit-

tee made our monthly tuition and drive count on November 5. We are happy to report that there was an outstanding response to this Drive request! Between receipts and pledges we have approximately \$233,000 of the \$275,000 total Drive. Thank you to those who have already given or pledged. If you have not yet contributed, we ask that you prayerfully consider supporting the school in this way.

Tuition continues to come in. Please keep in mind that tuition is due at the beginning of each month. The Finance Committee usually counts within the first two weeks of the month.

There is no doubt that things are going well at Adams. For that we must always be thankful. It is easy for us as sinful creatures to be thankful during such prosperous times. When times aren't as prosperous let us be reminded of the tremendous witness Job provided when Satan took away his flocks, servants and children in one day. He mourned and immediately declared "*the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD*" Job 1:21b.

### ***Hundreds of Moving Parts***

**Mr. Ron Schipper**

**Building Committee**

**A** bicycle is a fairly simple machine. It has a few moving parts, all of which are visible and understandable. A microwave oven is complex. There are a lot of things moving around in there. You can't see them and some of the parts are difficult to understand.

In terms of complexity, a building project lands somewhere in between a bicycle and a microwave, but closer to the microwave. From designing to planning to building, many entities are involved. Forty different trades or contractors are need for the expansion planned for next spring and summer. Virtually every one of these components affects all of the others. The architect's work affects the concrete contractor and he affects the electrician and so on down the line to the flooring installer who lays down the last square of carpet so that we can move in.

All of these moving parts need a coordinator. The Building Committee and the school owe a big "thank you" to Mr. Case Lubbers for keeping the machine in motion. Our expansion has an aggressive timeline in order to minimally disrupt the work of the school. That won't happen without a

very comprehensive plan. Mr. Lubbers has put together a very detailed plan.

Now we move forward to execution of the complex plan. Lord willing, we will break ground in late March and have a completed building in early August. We covet your prayers as we move on to this phase of the project.

## **Transportation Ruminations**

**Mr. Ed Ophoff II**

**Transportation Committee Chairman**

**W**hile some mysteries such as the whereabouts of DB Cooper or the shooter on the grassy knoll will remain, we are prepared today to answer the burning question on many people's minds, that being "Why do school buses not have seat belts?" Logic would dictate that in a world where seat belt use is law and violation thereof will net you an onerous ticket from the nanny state, seat belt usage in school buses would also be law. Parents already need graduated child restraint systems that are updated annually to stay in code, so why no seat belts in buses? Some fast factoids that are illuminating

-400,000 buses carry 25 million children to school each year

-only 10 children die annually in school bus accidents

-statistically, school bus usage is 40 times safer than the family car

So the answer to the question is ..... seat belts are not needed!

The thinking is that buses are large and heavy and the passengers ride high above the ground, making them quite safe. Also the seat backs themselves are heavily padded and designed to absorb the impact of small people's bodies. Of course the best safety device is a great driver, and we at Adams have only the best. Now that this question is out of the way, next time we'll discuss the relative merits of diesel vs. gas.

## **Other News**

### **Thankful**

**Mrs. Julie Kaiser**  
**Mothers Club President**

*I Chronicles 16:34 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.*

**T**his time of year we seem to express our thankfulness more than the rest of the year. So what are you thankful for?

I am thankful for my health and strength especially, having been laid low twice in the last 15 years. I know a young man who broke his neck in a diving accident five years ago. His parents spend two hours every morning getting him ready for the day, three hours every night getting him ready for bed, and turning him every two hours during the night. I am thankful that I can get myself out of bed, use the bathroom by myself, shower myself, dress myself, and go where I want, when I want.

I am thankful for all of my earthly needs being met. I have food and clothing in abundance and a home that is plenty adequate for our family. So many in this world do not have enough to meet their needs.

I am thankful for electricity and hot running water, especially when I take a shower.

I am thankful for the freedom that we have in this country. So many of our brothers and sisters in Christ in other lands do not have the freedom to worship together like we do.

I am thankful for our church, for the fellowship of believers of like faith, for the faithful preaching twice every Sunday, for Bible Studies to attend.

I am thankful for the forgiveness of my sins and the promise of eternal life.

I am thankful for the Christian schools that my children can and have attended, for the teachers who are willing and able to teach them their subjects and more about their God, and for the administrators and school boards that make the decisions.

I am thankful that I can be the President of Mothers' Club, to be a part of a group of women that work together for the good of our school.

I could go on and on because there are so many things that I am thankful for. So what are you thankful for?

## ***Our Unity Expressing***

**Mr. Joel Bodbyl**

**Federation Committee**

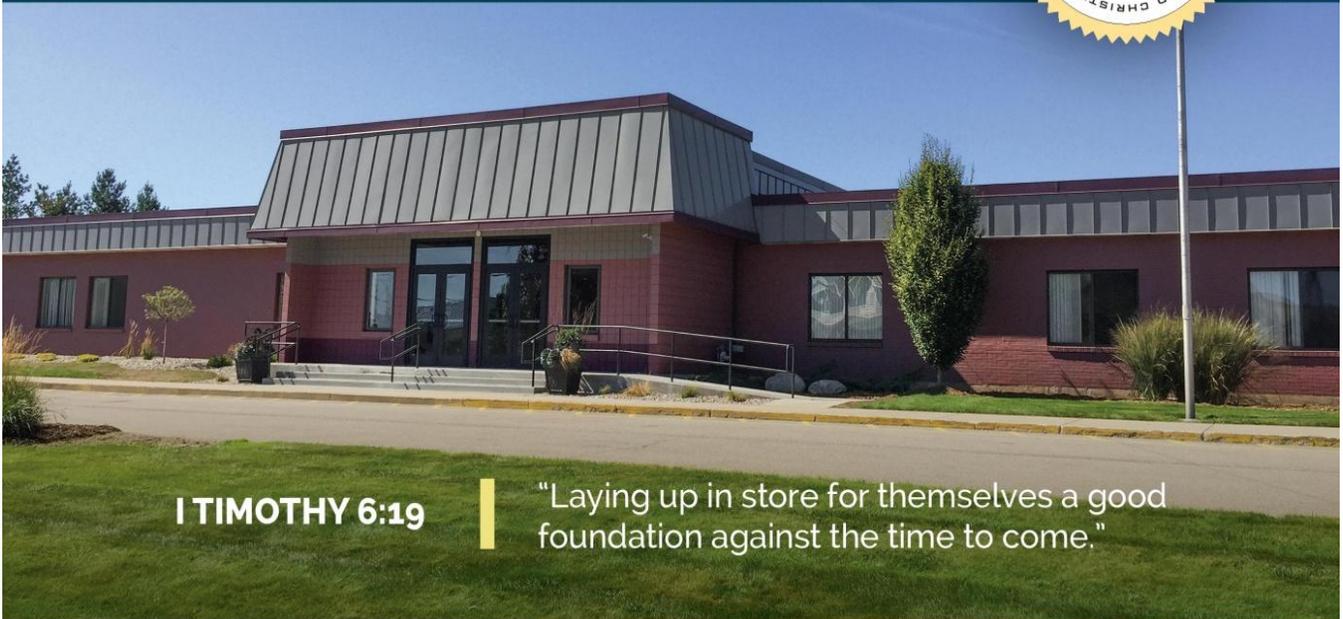
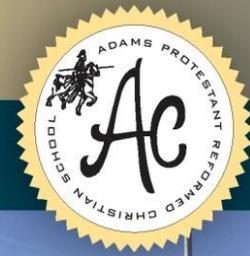
**W**hat a blessing it is when believers unite to serve our King. Within the past month our schools had opportunity to do so. Delegates of the Federation of Protestant Reformed Schools met at Adams Christian School to carry out the business of the Federation and to express our unity in the goal of continued Christian education for the Lord's children.

The work of this Federation, in recent years, has been focused squarely on the need for covenant teachers. This need unites us. Each school, whether from the west or east, has this present and urgent need. The Federation continues to work to gain teachers into the field but also to keep the teachers that already are here. Too often we can pray to the Lord of the harvest for more teachers but we do well to remember the ones He has already graciously supplied.

The Federation has a committee to help accomplish these goals. The TED Committee (TED) has been busy of late working on promoting teaching so that our young people can see the rewards of being a teacher. "Why Teach?" is the first video they have released and can be viewed on the [www.prcs.com](http://www.prcs.com) website. More videos in the future months will also be released so please go to this website to view them. They are professionally done and truly inspiring! The Federation also approved the TED's request to host a summer seminar, the first such since 2012. God willing, in 2019 our teachers will hear instruction on the topic, "When Your Student is Hurting: Biblical and Reformed Counseling."

May we as covenantal schools continue to work together in this critical aspect of Christ's kingdom and not forget the words of Psalm 133 verse 1, "*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*" Our Christian schools are an expression of that mind!

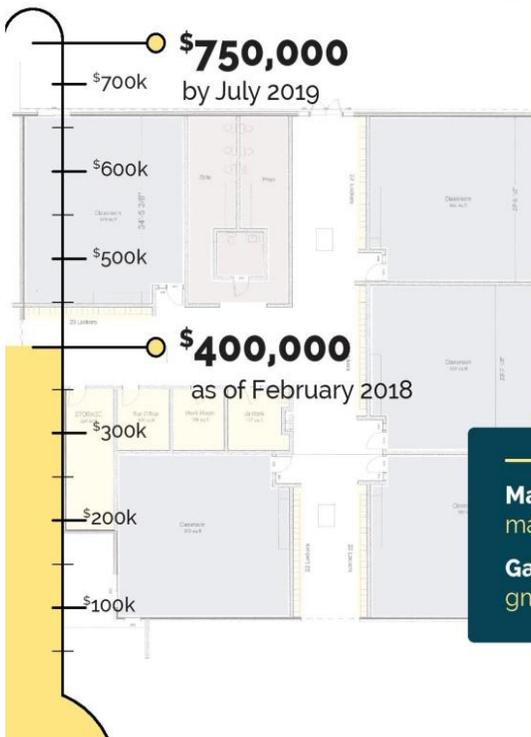
# Building *for* Generations 2.0



**1 TIMOTHY 6:19**

“Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come.”

## GOAL



By God's grace, we have been able to raise \$400,000 to date for our building project. Our goal is still to reach \$750,000 by July of 2019. To that end, we ask that you remember the Building for Generations campaign with your givings. Whether a one time gift or a pledge to give over the next 12-15 months, every amount helps us reach that goal.

**Please mail your gift or pledge to Adams Christian school or contact one of the members of the capital campaign committee.**

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