

# ANNOUNCER

*Adams Protestant Reformed Christian School*

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5539 Byron Center Avenue – Wyoming, Michigan 49519 – (616) 531-0748 – June, 2022  
adamschristianschool.org

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## *Congratulations*

### *Class of 2022*

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Madison Renae Dykstra  
Ashlee Grace Feenstra  
Lauren Kate Flikkema  
Owen James Jabaay  
Logan James Kamps  
Landon Michael Kerkstra  
Nathan Michael Kerkstra  
Drew Timothy Kortering  
Jordan Alek Kuiper  
Oliver Reid Kuiper  
Caleb Randall Looyenga  
Ethan William Looyenga

Alayna Joy Lubbers  
Alicia Joy Lubbers  
Mekenzie Lynn Lubbers  
Colten Duane Mingerink  
Hailey Ann Mingerink  
Jake Thomas Mingerink  
Kaden Michael Mingerink  
Sophia Semahel Overbeek  
Blake Ryan Steenwyk  
Danae Lynn Van Baren  
Lucas Reis Van Baren  
Claire Elizabeth Van Dyke  
Cowen Joseph Van Overloop  
James Elliott Vander Kolk  
Grace Elaine Velthouse

### *Class Text*

*“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”*

*Romans 8:28*

**ADMINISTRATION & STAFF .....2**  
 Kingdom children: What are we to do with them? .....2  
 All Creatures Great and Small.....3  
 Pointed Posts .....5  
 Expecting Genuine Faith .....8  
 Final Thoughts.....9  
 What Happens in the IDEA Program at Adams Christian School? ..... 10  
**SCHOOL BOARD .....10**  
 Who does that? .....10  
 Thinking, Writing and Speaking in the Age of FWD: .....12  
 Consider Becoming a Teacher! .....13  
 Protect Young Eyes .....14  
 From the Building Committee.....14  
 Secretary Report .....15  
**OTHER NEWS .....16**  
 Mothers Club Report .....16

**Administration & Staff**

***Kingdom children: What are we to do with them?***

**Mr. Rick Mingerink  
 Administrator**

**I**t is estimated that 140,000,000 babies are born each year. Such a large number, isn't it? So many new humans taking their first breath of air. So many new citizens of the world's nations.

If we were to foolishly wonder how many of these new babies were God's children, we would have an impossible time determining that number. Yet, we know that God's church in the world is a remnant at any one time. Romans 11:5 teaches "*at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.*"

For illustration purposes, let's make this remnant a very small percentage of the total births... how does a quarter of one percent (0.25%) sound? That's a very small percentage. Indeed, that would certainly fit the definition of *remnant* which is defined as "a few or a remainder of the whole." A quarter of one percent (0.25%) of all the births each year is 350,000 children of God born each year.

"Oh... that certainly must be too big," we self-righteously say. The family of God certainly can't be that large! So, let's make that percentage much smaller. Let's make it a sixteenth of one percent (0.0625%). That sounds nice and small. That sounds a little cozier and not so broad. Certainly, that would qualify as a remnant. Well, that would be

87,500 births each year that are God's covenant children.

Each birth brings a national citizen into this world from Argentina to Zimbabwe. But more significantly for God's children is that in His eternal counsel they are all citizens of God's Kingdom. When they are regenerated, they are given a most outstanding citizenship in a most glorious Kingdom. A Kingdom that is unlike any earthly empire in this world.

What are parents of these Kingdom children to do with them? Seems like a reasonably good question to ask. What are parents of these Kingdom citizens to do with them? Do they throw a diaper on them, fill their belly with food, and when old enough send them out to live in the world with a lick and a promise?

What a stunning responsibility these parents have. Out of all the babies born each year in this world, a few parents have been given Kingdom children. Children of the King. And now they must do something with these children. They must do something that is worthy of their Kingdom citizenship.

We know what other parents do to help their children be citizens of their countries. They educate them. They send them to school to learn. They learn basic skills. Skills like reading and writing come to mind. They send them to school to see that their children learn how to be responsible citizens of their country.

That sounds important for these Kingdom children, too, but it doesn't sound nearly adequate. These children are citizens of a Kingdom whose King is Jehovah God! They need to be prepared for service to their King! They need to understand what this citizenship means for them because this Kingdom isn't a visible kingdom. It doesn't have its own language, yet it has its own Word. It doesn't have physical boundaries, yet it has a spiritual presence on this earth. It doesn't have companies and corporations to work for, yet it demands service of its citizens in every sphere of this world. It doesn't require a test of citizenship to qualify, yet it does require satisfaction of the King. A satisfaction that was achieved by the death of the King's own Son. This is a most remarkable Kingdom and its citizens need a remarkable preparation.

Their citizenship in God's Kingdom is not separated from their citizenship on this earth. They

don't live two lives: one life as a national citizen and another life as a Kingdom citizen. Rather, faithful service to Jehovah in His Kingdom means there will be honorable service as a citizen of a nation. Citizenship in God's Kingdom demands faithful service to the King as an office worker, or a business owner, or a tradesman. Children of the King don't shake off their earthly life in order to live in God's Kingdom, rather, they are living in God's Kingdom as they live their earthly life.

This means that preparing Kingdom children to live honorably and righteously in society is preparing them to live as faithful citizens of God's Kingdom. They must learn to read and write whatever language they will be most productive in. They need to learn how to count and how to socially navigate the culture of their community. But they must have all this training with an entirely different goal in mind. They must be prepared to live their entire lives in harmony with the precepts of their King and by realizing in their own lives the principles of the Kingdom in every area of life.

Knowing this, parents find joy in sending their Kingdom children to a Christian school. Kingdom schools. A school that is different from the schools of the world. They send them to the Christian school where these young citizens can be further equipped to be witnesses for the name of their King in every sphere of life. They carry the King's flag with them! These Kingdom children ought to be prepared to be witnesses when they are in their home, when they are at the store, when they are on the job, when they are in school, when they are playing music, when they are playing ball, when they are in church, when they date, and when they are on their death bed. In every sphere of life, with no sphere forbidden, the flag of their King must be seen on them. These Kingdom children are lights in a dark world. They are salt in bland earth. They are witnesses of a Kingdom that is more marvelous than the widest streets of the world's greatest empires.

Their preparation must not be too narrow, must not be ecclesiastical, must not be too broad, must not be man-centered, but it must include everything necessary to help them realize in their lives the principles of the Kingdom of God in every sphere of the world. They must be prepared to take their child-like hands and wrap them firmly around the staff of their King's flag and carry that flag wherever they are.

May we be a school fit for God's Kingdom children. God help us in this grand work.

Do you have a Kingdom child? What are we to do with such a child? Give him or her a rich and kingly preparation at home and in the school.

## **All Creatures Great and Small**

**Mrs. Annica Kuiper**  
Second Grade

Nobody loves the wild, weird, and wonderful of this world like wild, weird, and wonderful children. I think that's why my students are always fascinated by the animal kingdom. God has made some amazingly unique and strange creatures, and the second graders and I love learning more about them. After all, each animal is perfectly suited for their place in God's creation...and aren't we, too?

But when it comes to talking about animals, I'm out of my depth. Thanks to National Geographic Kids magazine, the *Who Would Win?* books, and something called "Wild Kratts," I don't stand a chance of being the animal authority in a room full of second graders. My students know facts and figures about creatures I've never even heard of. (And when I "google it" to check...they are right!) Despite being a frequent visitor of zoos and aquariums and having watched more than my fair share of *Planet Earth*, it was my students who taught me that the small, catlike "fossa" is actually pronounced "foosah," that the orange-bellied songbird on our classroom poster is not a robin, but an Eastern Bluebird, and that the biggest animal in the world is the *blue* whale, not the humpback whale.

I stand corrected. Often. But humbling though it might be, learning from my students is one of the best parts of being a teacher.

I recently challenged the second graders to channel their inner zoologist and research and write about an animal of their choosing. To do this required practicing a number of skills. First, they had to navigate a Chromebook—a challenge in and of itself. Then they had to choose an animal and gather information from the wonderful, kid-friendly, "San Diego Zoo Wildlife Explorers" website. (We owe much of our knowledge to them!) Each student had to compile their information and craft a key word outline including a topic sentence, five or so details, and a clincher sentence. From their outline, they wrote their first draft paragraph and made sure to include strong

verbs and quality adjectives. After reviewing and editing, they painstakingly wrote their final draft and drew an accompanying illustration. What takes only minutes to read, took us days to write.

And now you, like me, have the opportunity to learn from a second grader! Some of these animals are old favorites, but I bet some will be brand new. Read on to learn more about the Gila monster—a thick-skinned, venomous lizard with a painful bite; the coati—a rainforest raccoon with the tail of a lemur; the dhole—a small, foxlike animal with a screaming howl; and so many more wild, weird, and wonderful creatures besides!

*All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures, great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful—  
The Lord God made them all!*

#### **Facts About Coatis**

God created an amazing mammal called the coati. This animal munches on plants, meat, and grubs. This fuzzy animal lives both in the rainforest and in grasslands. They can be found in Mexico and some even in the United States. Their length is 15-25 inches. Their tail is unique because it helps them quickly sprint around in the trees. The color of the coati's fur is brown, tan, and black. Coatis are amazing creatures! There aren't many coatis in the world, so if you see this fuzzy animal, you are lucky!

~ Everett Hall

#### **Animal Giants**

God created an amazing creature called the African Elephant. African elephants are mostly found in the grasslands of Africa. They devour grass, leaves, and bark. An African Elephant calf weighs 250 pounds at birth. Adult males can weigh as much as a school bus! These huge mammals are hunted by humans. Now you know of these amazing creatures.

~ Elijah Mingerink

#### **Cock-of-the-Rock**

Did you know about the bird called the cock-of-the-rock? They have bright red and orange feathers. It's about one foot long when it is fully grown. The cock-of-the-rock eats fruit and amazingly small animals. They are found in South American rainforests. The cock-of-the-rock male dances on a "lek," which is a clearing in a rainforest. The word "lek" comes from the Swedish word "play." I hope I will see a cock-of-the-rock.

~ Mary Schipper

#### **An Awesome Mammal**

God created this incredible animal called the giant panda. Giant pandas have white and black fur. This panda is two to three feet tall. This creature loves to chomp bamboo. Giant pandas start out small when they are babies. Baby pandas are only three ounces when they are born! This mammal has unusually thick and heavy bones. Now you know about this awesome mammal!

~ Selah Mingerink

#### **God's Little Reptile**

Did you know that there is a reptile called a Gila Monster? It has black and tan scales, which are interesting because they look like dots. This creepy reptile lives in the dry desert. There is a myth that it is accused of killing people! The Gila monster munches on tiny lizards and frogs. This animal is named for the quickly flowing Gila River in Arizona. This is the creature God created.

~ Liam Kooienga

#### **A Savanna Animal**

Do you know about an amazing animal called a giraffe? This interesting mammal lives in the beautiful African savanna. This creature, which gobbles acacia leaves, is covered in interesting spots. Giraffes can even have different spots! A giraffe's spots are brown, and its body color is yellow. Did you know that this savanna animal's feet are the size of a dinner plate 12 inches across? A giraffe is so tall that it could sneakily look into a second story window without standing on its tiptoes! Our wonderful and amazing Creator who is God created these massive and beautiful animals.

~ Connie Van Donselaar

#### **This Hopping Amphibian**

God created a frog called the Poison Dart Frog. The poison dart frog is only one inch tall. This hopping creature lives in the rainforest and eats insects. The golden poison frog makes enough poison to kill 10 humans! This deadly creature's poison is found in its skin. Now you know more about this amphibian.

~ Beckham Kortering

#### **The Awesome Echidna**

Have you heard of the echidna? It lives in Australian lands. This cute animal is covered in brown spines, so don't hug it! The mammal nibbles on termites, ants, and grubs. Echidnas are 14-24 inches long. A baby echidna weighs half the size of a mini marshmallow! The echidna amazingly uses its nose as a snorkel! Now you know that the echidna is an awesome animal.

~ Lachlan Dijkstra

#### **The Amazing "Anna's Hummingbird"**

Have you heard of the bird called "Anna's Hummingbird?" The Anna's hummingbird lives in North American woodlands. This amazing creature is covered with beautiful red, blue, and green feathers. This bird grows up to four inches tall. It slowly pecks at nectar, sap, and insects. The hummingbird's heart beats up to 1,260 beats per minute! Now you know about this quick, flying bird called the Anna's Hummingbird.

~ Isabel Velthouse

#### **This Amazing Creature**

God created a clever animal called an Arctic Fox. Did you know that Arctic foxes are 20-26 inches long and they are 10-16 inches tall? Did you know that this mammal quietly munches on rodents? In the summer, the arctic fox turns pale bluish in color. Some foxes are as small as a chihuahua or as big as a Jack Russell Terrier. God created this amazing mammal called an arctic fox!

~ Josie Koole

### **The Beautiful Fishing Cat**

God created an amazing animal called the fishing cat. It has gray, brown, and black stripes on its back. This creature eats crabs, crayfish, and frogs. The fishing cat is 22-45 inches long. Sometimes they even play with fish. Now you know about this beautifully designed animal.

~ *Derek Karsemeyer*

### **Amazing Lions**

Have you ever heard of a type of cat called a lion? The lion lives on hot, grassy grasslands. This mammal hungrily swallows juicy meat. The big cat's terrifying roar can be heard up to three miles away! The Tsavo male lions have no mane. The cat's predators are ranchers. Now you know about the amazing mammal that God created—the lion.

~ *Caleb Mingerink*

### **This Tree-Climbing Mammal**

Do you know about the amazing mammal called a "fossa"? You say its name: FOO-SAH. It lives in a tropical forest. The fossa can grow at least 72 inches long. The mammal gobbles mostly delicious lemurs. This forest animal can almost twist their flexible ankles backwards! The fossa can hang upside down from any tree in the forest. Now you know about this amazing mammal!

~ *Zac Hanko*

### **The Venomous Snake**

There are many types of snakes, but one is the rattlesnake. If you see a rattlesnake shake its tail, then it's warning you to go away. A snake locates prey by scent with the help of its tongue. The forked tongue flicks in and out to pick up smells. Then the snake lies in wait until its prey comes along. The snake lunges and strikes, injecting venom with its fangs. If you ever hear a "Ssssss," run away quickly!

~ *Max McKinney*

### **A Cheetah's World**

Did you know that there is a mammal called a cheetah? This creature lives in the African savanna. The cheetah has orange and black fur. The cheetah's length is 4-5 feet long. This mammal can sprint 70 miles per hour! Did you know that the cubs' fur is darker than the adults' fur? The cubs like to play happily. God created this fast and amazing animal.

~ *Malia Bleyenbergh*

### **The Dangerous Creature**

Did you know that tarantulas are arthropods? The tarantula lives in the rainforest. On its back there are black and orange hairs. It quickly devours spiders and lizards. This arthropod puts sticky webbing in its burrow where it lives. Stay away from this dangerous animal!

~ *William Langerak*

### **Fierce Polar Bears**

Polar bears are a fierce animal. A polar bear is covered with very white and warm fur. This mammal lives in the wintery arctic where it is very cold. When a polar bear is born, it is the size

of a stick of butter! It grows to be about 10 feet long. Polar bears have two layers of hair so they can run quickly without getting cold. If you see a polar bear, you better stay away from the fierce animal!

~ *Addison Dykstra*

### **All About the Harpy Eagle**

Have you ever heard of a type of bird called a harpy eagle? If you want to see one, go to a rainforest in Mexico or North Argentina. It swiftly snatches monkeys from trees. It also eats baby deer, snakes, iguanas, and more. This big bird's colors are light brown, black, and white. This egg-layer's size is 35-41 inches tall. One fun fact is that early South Americans named these great birds after "Harpija"--the half-woman, half-monster of Greek mythology! These are only five facts about harpy eagles, but there are many more.

~ *Cole Oosterbaan*

### **The Dhole Fox**

Did you know there is a mammal called a Dhole? It lives in forests and sometimes in the pointy mountains. It munches on meat, but its predators are people. When a dhole pup is old enough to join the pack in a hunt, they allow them to snack first. Dholes have high-pitched screams. They also mew, yip, and cluck like a chicken! A female could have a litter of up to 12 pups! Isn't that a big family? They are quick so when they see a predator, they quickly sprint away. Now you know more about the Dhole fox.

~ *Rose Brummel*

### **All About Flamingos**

Did you know there is a type of bird called a flamingo? It is covered with feathers, and it is pink. It can grow up to 2.4 feet tall! This bird nibbles on shrimp, mollusks, and flies. The American flamingo is the brightest flamingo. This lovely bird lives happily in the water. Flamingos are amazing birds.

~ *Kenna Dykshorn*

## **Pointed Posts**

**Mrs. Renae Baas  
Fifth Grade**

**H**erded into the largest room of the school at Adams, just a sparse few of God's little lambs gather nearly once a month and join together to worship Him. Like fencing and pointed posts at the edge of a pasture, school chapels rein us in, keep us safe, and direct the sheep to the green pasture. They give students and staff rest and refreshment. Over the past eight months, we have heard reproof and instruction from a variety of speakers. Cornerstones, angels, armor, rocks, and the purpose of education are just a few of the speech topics that caused us to pause and take note. In times past, our chapels have even revealed the activities of God's sheep in other lands. At other times, an entire chapel has been used to sing praises to our God, showing our

thanks for all His good gifts. This year, following our chapels, the fifth graders took time to reflect and record distinct points from each chapel. Below you will find short summaries of many of the chapels. The instruction is invaluable. God has refreshed us with His Word all through the year. May these pointed posts bring you joy and refreshment, too!

Angels September 17, 2021 Rick Mingerink

**Amazing Angels** by Tyce VanderMeulen

The angels are extraordinary, but they are also intelligent. Angels, who are fast, are not everywhere at one time. Angels are mighty and rapid flyers because God made them perfect except the fallen angels. What do angels look like? They're bright and powerful and are also beaming. One arch angel is called Michael because of his power by leading the angels to war. Graciously angels glorify God for eternity. Angels assist people and trust in God forever.

**God's Angels** by Ethan Ten Broeke

Angels are God's servants. Free to go wherever they want; the charming angels are not everywhere although they are swift. As the angels praise, they are also obedient. I like to say that angels are substantial! They are helpful! They astonish me! Angels are wisely made to not be omniscient, but they know a lot about God. Angels are spiritual beings. Angels are attendants of God's needy people.

Satan October 15, 2021 Rick Mingerink

**Ravishing And Exquisite Lucifer** by Annie VanTil

On October 15, 2021, Mr. Mingerink had a chapel on Satan, so we thank you for that. The most alluring creature in the chronicle of the world is Lucifer, who people usually know him as Satan, because he was exceedingly gorgeous he became very satisfied with himself and was yearning to be more advanced than our splendid, superb and stately Lord, Jesus Christ. When he was in heaven he was preserved by God. When he fell, he resolved in his heart to make us ponder him as the opposite of elaborate. Satan is very wicked and despicable so we should not be deceived by his looks or temptations.

**Sinful Satan** by Noah Mingerink

Behind the walls of our Christian school on October 15, 2022 my brilliant dad had an outstanding speech about Satan. Satan is deceiving but glorious and enjoys it when people assume that he is ugly. And we do that sometimes. My dad also brought up the Portrait of Dorian Gray which is about a foolish man who thought he was so brilliant that he needed a portrait of himself. It was so ugly that he stabbed it and died. Although Satan is tempting and terribly tricky, he has no power over God. Here's a story about a guilty man, a lawyer and a judge. The man was in court and the lawyer thought that the man was guilty, but the judge declared the man innocent. The man looked out the window and saw a man on a cross with all his guiltiness on him. Thankfully, we will soon be dressed in beauty that is not our own (Spurgeon) as that man noticed, too. Jesus took the ugly sin from us. Satan is tempting so when you get tempted and it looks so right, look to the cross.

The Rock October 29, 2021 Bruce Koole

**Look Toward The Rock** by Holly Doezema

With all we have, we should be cheerful and look toward the Rock. Fully and faithfully, we should know our sins and confess them to God. The Rock is Jesus Christ. This Rock, which is mighty and powerful, has water which comes from it. On Judgment Day, when God asks us why we are allowed in heaven, we will say, "Because of the Rock of Christ." We must always confess our sins to God. Look toward the Rock which is our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the Cornerstone December 22, 2021 Rev.

Rodney Kleyn

**Jesus is our Cornerstone** by Justin Knott

Jesus is our cornerstone. The Cornerstone which is Jesus holds up the building. Because the rock is Jesus, it is the living water. Rocks have three uses. They are so useful because you can build and you can use it as a defense or storage. There is no rock more precious than the Lord. The cornerstone commonly has the biggest volume and strength. That is Jesus for us!

**Jesus is our Cornerstone** by Owen Ten Broeke

Jesus is our Cornerstone. Shockingly, he was rejected as our Cornerstone. By the way, the rock has three urgent uses: building, defense, and strength. Since our Savior Jesus Christ is our living water, our firm structure, our protection, our might, he is our Rock. Jesus is our beloved Cornerstone.

Sound out the Word January 7, 2022 Rev. David

Noorman

**Sound Out The Word** by Garret VanDyke

We should be sounding out the Word in our daily life because it shows our love for our holy God. Talk about God and read the Word in your home even when people are rapidly abusing us. Tell the Word abroad and help the people who fall away from God. In the chapel speech Rev Noorman advised "We need to sound out the Word," just how someone could tell a rumor, the word would spread out very fast. Sound out the Word of God.

**Sound Out the Word** by Avery Medemblik

On the 7th of January, Rev. Noorman gifted us with a speech about sounding out the Word, which was also our Spring Program theme. Supposedly, long ago the Thessalonians graciously sounded out the Word with echoing. We, as Christians, should not be ashamed or keep quiet, when sounding out the Word. Although you can do lots of things to sound out the Word there are three important steps: listen and learn, discuss it, and state abroad. Catechism is a prized sign of reciting and echoing. Christians will eventually be persecuted, so from a young age we learn to sound out the Word and pray to our glorious and holy God. Two words caught my attention during the chapel: sound, which means echo, and ex (a Greek word), which means out! We thank Rev. Noorman for this inspiring chapel which kicked off our day with faith and hope in the Lord!

The Body of Christ January 28, 2022 Rev. Jonathan Mahtani

**Consider One Another** by Sailor VanOverloop

Have you ever noticed that without one miniscule cell or one massive organ you just wouldn't be you? Throughout the church you might have noticed the same thing. Without one member of the church the church's beauty starts fading away because all the members are VERY necessary. The body, which is the church, needs all its parts. For example, without the eye we would be blinder than a blind mole. What about your nose? Well, you can't smell the strong scent of the outstanding outdoors without your noble nose. You can't treasure only one part of your body either. If your affection is exceedingly great on just your eye, ponder about how revoltingly ugly your appearance would be if your whole entire body was full of nonstop, blinking eyes! Everyone in the church is different, but everyone is necessary. (Psalm 139: 14) We all have different needs. We can't all be the same. Christians can't have identical personalities. (1 Corinthians 12: 12-13) All the members in the church help strengthen and purify it. Now, I can finally mention that this was the "Consider One Another Day" chapel spoken by Rev. Mahtani.

**Let's Consider One Another** by Myra Mahtani

*"I will praise Thee for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works and that my soul knoweth right well." Psalm 139:14*

Rev. Mahtani presented us a truthfully fascinating chapel on "Consider One Another Day." While we were sitting there, he taught us many things. He said that we are one body that equals the church. People assist other people to grow stronger. Graciously, special needs children will get a higher place in glory. And they help us love. Isn't that wonderful? We are all different people who love each other differently. Generously, God fulfilled all our many needs. So don't put down others! Let's consider one another!

Seminary Visit February 4, 2022 - - special class visit  
**The Comfort Of The Bible** by Wyatt VanDoneselaar

In the seminary the students study Greek and Hebrew. There is a desperate need for more men since there are but few who participate there. Young men should at least consider the need for ministers because God may cause them to have the gifts for this office. The sermons actually take a whole week of hard studying to prepare. As Christians we are called to never worship idols; we must only worship the one true God who reigns supreme in heaven. And when you are in the temptation of the love of money, what do you do? Serve God! Love him! Pray to him! At our age we must learn to read the Bible even more by ourselves. It must be important enough at our age that we show our love to God for mercifully offering His Son to die on the cross for us so that we could be forgiven. Next time when you are sad or tempted, read the Bible and it will comfort you. I'm very sure that in the seminary the seminarians read the Bible all the time. We must learn to do that too.

**Our Seminary Visit** by Finley Kuiper

On the warm, welcoming, and wonderful day of February 4, 2022, as a class, we dropped by the Seminary, which is a school for the young men who are training to be ministers. Prof. Cammenga led us around the incredibly built Seminary, because my

grandpa, Charles Terpstra, was in Florida at the time of the short field trip. When he was done showing us around, two seminarians named Mr. Aaron Van Dyke and Mr. Arend Haveman answered our questions, while the other three seminarians were in their classes. Aaron is in "first grade." Wait, I forgot about Mr. Haveman, he is in "second grade." The other three, Mr. Isaac Peters, Mr. Marcus Wee, and Mr. Matthew Koerner are in "third and fourth grade." Determinedly, the students learn two languages, Hebrew and Greek. They learn. They read. They eat. Well, obviously they eat. Okay, back to the languages. Did you know that the Hebrew Bible goes backward? Now you do. Professors and ministers may sound like they are a broken record, at least when they encourage you to become ministers. On February 4, 2022, we went to the Seminary to have fun and learn. We did just that, at least I think we did, because we had delicious cookies, crunchy crackers, and were able to meet the professors. One more thing, when we came out of that building, we knew twenty times more information than when we came into the building. If we did not, I would not have been able to write this two-page paragraph. Our Seminary visit was exemplary.

Friendship February 22 Prof. R. Dykstra

**Friendship** by Jadelyn Schipper

Proverbs 27:6 tells us "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; and kisses of the wicked are deceitful." Friends can be the closest things you have sometimes, and it hurts when your friends deny you and betray you. There are two kinds of friends: deceitful and faithful. Righteously, a faithful comrade considerately advises you when you're wrong and stays with you no matter what. He is one that you can trust and count on to do the right thing. Since deceitful friends, who are the opposite of faithful, are mean, they pretend they are your friend. They will be nice to you a little while and they'll talk behind your back, beguile you and lie to you. At other times, they won't even tell you when you're wrong! How cruel! How mean! And even humiliating! Stay away from deceitful and ungodly actions like these! Godly king David had a friend like this too, named Ahithophel, and he was sad later in his life because Ahithophel betrayed him. Be on guard and ask God to protect you from such people, and don't forget to be a good faithful friend yourself! Thank you, Prof. Dykstra, for preparing this chapel for us!

**Friend in Jesus** by Kayla VanDyke

Professor Dykstra was the prestigious speaker who spoke on friendship here at Adams Christian School. In the gym, Prof. Dykstra emphasized to us that a true friend stops us from stumbling into extremely heinous deeds. Kindly, they lead you away. If you or your friend strives to accomplish what is right, you will be an acceptable companion. A true friend will show you compassion when you are injurious, inferior, or in adversity. Have you ever helped a friend if they are in pain or adversity? Well, you should! The wicked could never be a true and thoughtful comrad. They are like quicksand trying to suck you under into their wickedness. It is not wrong to 'wound' a friend if they are behaving in sinful actions. They will help you. You will repent. And God will forgive. True companions will stick together. Even through persecution they will still be there for you. When Professor Dykstra informed us about friendship he

made me think of our everlasting Friend. We will forever be a companion in Jesus Christ.

Armor of God March 11, 2022 Rev. M. McGeown

**The Strong Armor Against Satan** by Ava Kalsbeek

The armor of God is something held dear unto us. We must not leave behind any of the brawny armor. Our jostling is not against people, but against a malicious and unkind devil. Did you know that outwardly Satan NEVER gives up? God, who tells us not to be foolish, makes us try to fight against the devil. Because Satan is our enemy, we must stand against him. Even without just one piece of this armor, we will be tempted by the devil. Even if we don't fight in the army, we fight against Satan who tempts us. Armor is strong and we must know that Satan will tempt us even when we don't know it.

**Put on the Armor of God** by Dominic Kooienga

Don your armor, the armor of God! The devil never takes a break; he toils twenty-four/seven. If you don't have any of the armor on you, you will be destroyed. Who admonished the students? Well, Rev. Martin McGeown. God made this armor. We aren't in the earthly army but we fight in God's army. Don't tussle with people! Keep fighting, Don't be foolish. Now, put on the Armor of God and use it!

**Place Your Trust in Him** by Gwen Kooienga

Put on the entire Armor of God and don't ever leave any part of it off. Place all of it on and don't forget a single piece. Take it all! Know the enemy. The devil and his temptations are strong against us, but because we find all our strength in our Lord, we shouldn't be discouraged or distressed. While the devil tempts all people, he especially targets you and me, because we are God's children. We learned from Rev. McGeown that the Armor of God is a gift so that we can live under God's sovereign control. We need to pray to him and put our total trust in him. Satan never takes a day off from tempting God's people. During the time that God has given you, stand strong in him. Interested in living to glorify him? Thankfully we can live with the whole Armor of God so that we can take every breath under his secure safety. Instead of placing our trust in the idols of this sinful earth, place your full trust in Him. God, who can keep us from all sin and evil, will deliver his people by putting on them the whole Armor of God. Place your full trust in Him.

## ***Expecting Genuine Faith***

**Mr. David Mahtani**  
**Sixth Grade**

**I**s sixth grade too early for that? Is it too early to push twelve-year-olds to consider their own personal faith in Jesus Christ? Is it even a teacher's responsibility? Sixth grade is already a challenging year. The students are transitioning into junior high, they have a social life to navigate, and they already have plenty of other complex content to learn. However, our curriculum, the fearful hearts of our students, and our behavior expectations present prime

opportunities for teachers to teach the concept of genuine faith urgently and explicitly.

The Bible curriculum at Adams Christian School is set up so that sixth graders study the life of Christ. Throughout the miracles, parables, and other teachings of Jesus, faith is often emphasized. We are regularly confronted with the fact that Jesus often required that the sick had faith at the time of their healing (Mark 9:23-27 & Matthew 9:28-29). Therefore, we logically apply it to ourselves: For spiritual healing from sin, we too need faith. Students hear very clearly that they, and not just their parents, must have faith to be saved.

Then the question arises: What is this faith? Repeatedly, we discuss how faith is not only knowing about Jesus but actually trusting him to save us from sin and hell. We compare faith to a child's trust in his father or mother to care for him and to save him from harm. We discuss how Nicodemus had a lot of knowledge about the Messiah but did not have real faith until he had a relationship with Jesus and trusted Jesus to save him from perishing. We even discuss how the devil knows a lot about Jesus but, of course, does not really have faith because he does not put his trust in Jesus. The curriculum compels each of us to deeply consider our own faith.

The topic of genuine faith surfaces in the fearful hearts of students outside of Bible class as well. Many students fear death. When my sixth graders confessed that to me, I almost dismissed it as a fear of pain or the process of dying that they dreaded. However, many admitted that they were actually scared that they might go to hell instead of heaven! Sixth graders need to hear that they can be 100% sure that they can trust Jesus to save them from the punishment they deserve. They need this gospel! Their fearful hearts require us to immediately direct them to a genuine faith in Christ's accomplishment.

Finally, teachers expect good behavior and must therefore expect the preceding faith. Teachers often find themselves encouraging kindness, respect, and other good works in the classroom. They want to see faithful, godly behavior. However, it is a biblical fact that God-ward behavior won't happen without a genuine faith. As I John emphasizes, those who do not keep God's commandments do not actually know God by a true faith. Good works begin only after faith. Therefore, it warms a teacher's heart to see students living out their faith by choosing what is right, and it discourages them to see a student who doesn't.



Christian teachers and parents need to get at the heart of the matter with students who are regularly misbehaving. They need to lead those students to recognize their sin, but they also need to lead them to a faith in Jesus's substitutionary atonement. Often, the necessary fruits of that faith also need to be discussed. Those fruits will come only from truly believing hearts.

Isn't it too early for that though? And aren't we supposed to treat them all as covenant children? What if they start doubting their faith at such a young age? These questions may prevent us from discussing and expecting genuine faith in our children, but they ought not to. It is true that our children may begin questioning their faith, but don't we want them to do that *now*, while they're actually listening to our answers? Don't we want them to sincerely trust Jesus to take hell for them? Don't we want them to take their faith seriously and consider whether they now live changed lives as a result? It's simply sharing the gospel with them! It's where their godly life begins. We greatly desire that they seek God's will in their lives above their own, but we can't expect this of them without first expecting a genuine faith in the Savior. Let's be quick to share the gospel with them. Let's be willing to talk with them about their faith. Let's even discuss the preceding miracle of their regeneration.

## ***Final Thoughts***

**Mr. Scott Mingerink**  
**Resource Room**

*"It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat."*

*Theodore Roosevelt*  
*April 23, 1920*

**E**ight-years is not a long time spent teaching. In fact, it hardly makes one feel adequate to write such a reflection piece. However, I have learned a

lesson or two from students and teachers. As I reflect, the word I constantly come back to is PERSEVERANCE. It is persistence in doing something despite a struggle.

As a specialist in the field of learning disabilities, I can attest to witnessing the quality of perseverance in a few of my students. I have watched students come in and out of my room needing academic support, and at times I am simply in awe of them. Some have been blessed (whether it is the culture in the home or a God-given gift) with perseverance. The student shows up each day for work, in a job they struggle with, in a job that God has called them to do. Despite the struggle, they persevere! They refuse to be defined by their struggle. Day in and day out they give it their all without an ounce of complaining. Their perseverance strikes a chord with me.

Their perseverance is an example to me that in my struggles, by God's grace, I, too, can persevere. We all will meet struggles along life's path; that is a guarantee in life. But how do we react when those struggles come? By God's grace I pray we persevere. I pray we do not throw our hands up the second we meet struggle and give up. When those struggles come, we dig deeper, work harder, and understand that all things are working for our good.

We live in an age of instant gratification, and there are many times when a "supposed" struggle comes, that the student simply gives up. I am not sure if there is a better tool we can equip our children with than PERSEVERANCE.

I do not write to offer advice on what to do next, but I write to make the reader reflect and ask oneself if they are instilling a culture of perseverance in their homes or in their classrooms. Nothing delights me more when a student brings me their math homework and I am presented with a page littered with scribbles and scratch outs and maybe even a torn paper from the eraser wearing through the paper. I am staring at the paper of a student who persevered, refused to quit, and after exhausting all options has determined they now need help. As Thomas Edison once said, "I have not failed. I have just found 10,000 ways that won't work." As parents and as teachers, let us together by God's grace, instill in the hearts of our children the ability to persevere.

God has blessed me during my time at Adams. To labor alongside the staff at Adams has been an incredible blessing. The Lord has blessed Adams Christian School as evidenced by His constant

faithfulness and love for the school. Thank you staff for also working beside me in the service of Christ's kingdom. Thank you, parents, for the love and support you have shown me. Your support of us as teachers does not go unnoticed. Continue to pray for them and support them. May God continue to bless Adams Christian School.

## **What Happens in the IDEA Program at Adams Christian School?**

**Mr. David Harbach**  
IDEA coordinator

An important part of our work is to evaluate the progress of each student in the IDEA Program. Dawn Feenstra and I send math and reading progress information to the parents and teacher of each student periodically throughout the school year. For the teacher, the progress information is usually, but not limited to, a letter grade. Our parents of IDEA students receive progress information which includes what their children are learning in math and/or reading. IDEA teacher-to-teacher interaction and IDEA teacher-to-parent interaction are an important part of communicating the progress of each student. Dawn and I are thankful for the encouraging words and suggestions we receive from parents and teachers.

During the school year we evaluate the attitude each IDEA student has towards his or her learning. An enthusiastic, positive attitude is an indication the student is eager to learn math and reading. The assignments in the IDEA program are challenging. Math in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades includes challenging projects for each chapter. When IDEA students struggle with assignments, they are benefitted. IDEA students need challenges which teach them to be patient, take the time to think logically, and produce quality results. The students in the IDEA program are responsible for the classroom assignments plus the IDEA room assignments.

The A in IDEA stands for Act. IDEA students, as well as classroom students, understand they are to serve God and one another. The IDEA program expects IDEA students to be helpful to the classroom teacher and classmates in reading and in math. Classroom teachers know they can use IDEA students to help in the classroom. In this way, IDEA students grow confident and use what God has given them to serve Him and to help others.

During this school year, God has added one more math student and six reading students. Five math students and 15 reading students keep Dawn and I busy throughout the week. Math can be three to four periods a week. Reading is one period a week. We are thankful to our classroom teachers for making our IDEA schedule fuse perfectly with their classroom schedules. Teamwork is a beautiful action.

One reading student, Logan Kamps, and one math and reading student, Lucas Van Baren will be graduating and moving on to Covenant Christian High School. We will miss them but know God will be pleased to use them to help others at Covenant Christian.

*Hebrews 12:28 "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:"*

## **School Board**

### **Who does that?**

**Mr. Joe Kuiper**  
Chairman, Finance Committee

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16*

There is a question I've heard many times. I've also thought it myself. Likely said it, too. The question is "who *does* that?"

This question normally involves something that one experiences or witnesses at the hands or lips of another. Something that is not expected, out of the ordinary, and is maybe surprising. So notable, that when one sees someone do or say it, they ask themselves, "Who *does* that?!"

My memory of this question in my own mind and for most of my life involves the question being asked in a negative context. "Who *does* that?" was not a flattering question. It was something I asked myself when I witnessed something that was unpleasant. Someone else did or said something that I saw as not good, and I asked myself "Who *does* that?" Sadly, I'm quite confident others have at times asked themselves this question about me.

But God has a way of changing one's view of something. Even one's view of the question "who

does that?" Normally I would not use names of people in an article I write. But this time I have decided to.

I have many wonderful aunts (and uncles for that matter). Recently, God decided that the earthly life of one of my aunts was done. So, He took her home to be with Him in Heaven. Her name is Deb Kuiper. She was a daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, and...an aunt (among other things). And a good one. She gave much to others in her life. I can speak of this from my own personal experience. When I was off at college, Aunt Deb would send me little care packages. She knew of my great appreciation for candy and chocolate. So, out of the blue, at random and unexpected times, I would look in my mailbox, and there would be a small package with candy and a short note from Aunt Deb. I don't remember what the notes said, but I do remember that they meant a lot. I'm sure she knew that I could buy my own candy. I'm also sure she knew that I could not write myself an encouraging note. And for some reason, she apparently knew that I needed notes of encouragement. And so, she gave of herself, for me.

After her life on this earth was done, I heard some other stories about her. I heard from other family members that she would make care packages for her young nephews and niece who lived many hours away so they could be occupied during their long drives back and forth to Michigan. So much, that she would read books and record her reading of them, so that her nephews and niece would have books to listen to in the car, with Aunt Deb as the reader. I asked my uncle Steve (her husband) about this. His response to me was "Yeah, who *does* that? Even for their *own* kids?" And just like that, God gave me a new perspective on this question. Using this question to react to negative events has little to no benefit. But in a positive light? A mountain of benefit. In the past few months, I've found myself asking this question over and over again, and positively. When I see the good that so many do, and how they sacrifice for others. And these things are so amazing that one would ask themselves "who *does* that?"

And then there is Adams Christian School. How many times could I ask myself this question relating to ACS? Awful things being said about ACS and the supporters of ACS? One might ask themselves that question. But for what? What about all

the wonderful things at ACS that deserve this question? The focus belongs there.

And again, I will use names (though the list is so long I can't possibly cover it, I'll give a few examples).

What about these moms? Over the past nearly three years on school board, I've so often been impressed by the amount of effort by the moms to support this school. Endless amounts of effort. Field day, school auction, Mothers' Club, room moms, driving kids around to all kinds of sporting events, reading grandmas, and on and on and on.

And what about this hot lunch deal? A ton of work (which in my opinion, the average man could not accomplish). I watch my wife loading her van full of hundreds of pounds of juice boxes and dragging them into school. I hear of moms driving all over town because Doritos are on sale at this store or that store, and we can save the school a few bucks. What about Rachel Feenstra? How many times have we seen her showing up at school late at night as we leave a meeting, getting ready for the next day's hot lunch? Extra effort to see that things go smoothly (which is not an easy task). And what about Tami Boorsma, who I hear spent nearly all day at school on hot lunch day to see that the hot dogs were just right. They just keep on quietly giving. Over, and over, and over again.

And what about Gary Bylsma? He has been ACS' business manager probably longer than I've been out of diapers. He gives, and gives, and gives. When the delinquent treasurer (me) forgets to email him the information for the month, he calls for the information, not upset (though the average person would be), not frustrated, but calls to say hello, reminds me he needs the information, and sparks up a pleasant conversation, full of encouragement to the school and the school board, and reminds me that if we need anything at all, he's willing to help. He's happy to advise on the budget. He's happy to advise on special situations. He's happy to drive around getting signatures for that last minute document that is due. He doesn't have to. But he does. And he does it for little. Because he loves God, and loves ACS, and loves our children, many of whom he has never met.

And what about these teachers? Day after day after day, teaching and caring for our children. Teaching them about this, that, and the other, always with its focus on Christ.

And what about Judy and Tressa? Many times over the past few years, the school board and finance committee have needed help. Probably more than normal. Additional letters regarding the drive. Additional communication regarding school decisions. Sports schedules, sick kids, “my kid’s not riding the bus home today.” Words of encouragement to the board. Never, and I mean never, have they responded to any request of mine, as last minute and time consuming as it may have been, with anything other than “send it over and we are happy to help.” And then they kindly point out any error in what I’ve done and tell me they’ve fixed it already and it’s in the mail.

I could go on and on. When I think of all these examples, I simply ask “Who *does* that?”

I don’t know the answer exactly. I know the people I’ve mentioned do these things. Certainly, it is God’s people that do. Simply because they are God’s people, and He works these things in and through them. And for this, we give thanks to God. Thanks to God for ACS. Thanks to God for a desire to support ACS, in all the ways that so many do.

*“Give thanks to God, for good is He, His grace abideth ever; To Him all praise and glory be....” (Psalter 378:1)*

## **Thinking, Writing and Speaking in the Age of FWD:**

**Mr. Ron Schipper**  
Education Committee

*“[A] quotation is a handy thing to have about, saving one the trouble of thinking for oneself, always a laborious business.”*

*~ A A Milne*

I forward this quote to you. I could quite easily write this article using nothing but quotes. We are very deep into an era in which quotes are readily available. I am by no means tech savvy, but I have Google on my phone. If I want to know what a particular person thinks about something, it isn’t hard to find. We are in an information age whether we like it or not.

Some things go away as the result of technology. Handwriting is becoming an unfortunate victim. I cannot help but think that the postal service will likely be outmoded sometime in the near future. It’s a changing world. It is imperative, however, that we

don’t allow independent thought, distinctive writing and clear speech to fall victim to the age. The temptation is here and the technology encourages us and our children to just stop thinking, writing and speaking. FWD: instead. The church and the school haven’t been unaffected. When asked what we believe on a particular matter, it has become commonplace to respond with a forwarded message from someone else. “I believe what this magazine says. Just read that for my answer.” “Let me forward you a sermon. That will tell you what I believe.” “I believe what this person blogged. I’ll just forward it to you.” Plagiarism has always been a temptation as a way to get out of doing real work. Now, thinking itself is in the crosshairs of social media and people eager to post. But we are Christians, and our school is a Christian school. We don’t encourage independent thought like the rest of the world. We aren’t proponents of philosophies of secular epistemology. We are proponents of sanctified independent thought. Knowledge of our justification in Christ alone should pervade our thought processes. We need to guide and encourage that in our children as well.

So, what do we do with all the information? All of the articles, sermons and blogposts? Using sanctified judgement, read them. Using discernment and proper caution, let our children read them. The next step is critical, however. Don’t FWD them. Stop. Think it through using the lens of scripture and the confessions. Write down your own thoughts. Prepare to defend your own positions orally.

As a school, we are working in this direction with our IEW writing program. We’ll continue by God’s grace to encourage sanctified independent thought. In the end, the goal of the school is to prepare our children for further education and the rest of the world. That means preparing them to defend their faith. Please pray for our children and teachers as we navigate through opinions and information. I’ll end with one more quote, but from the source which we should always be ready to forward.

*“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” 1 Peter 3:15*

## **Consider Becoming a Teacher!**

**Todd Kooienga  
Board Member**

The constitution for Adams Christian School states that “[t]he purpose of this association is to provide primary education within the educational institution known as Adams Street Protestant Reformed Christian School.” This purpose is obvious to us. And it is just as obvious that for ACS to fulfill its purpose of education, there is a fundamental need for educators at ACS. What is not always so obvious is how we can maintain a complete staff of educators when the pool of available teachers is often smaller than the number of open positions in our Protestant Reformed schools.

And here is the third obvious fact in this article: the reason for the limited pool of teachers available is that ACS requires its teachers to be a member of a Protestant Reformed church. We are very accustomed to this reality. But this requirement of ACS and other PR schools is fairly unique among Christian schools. Even some very conservative local Christian schools are unable to limit employment of teachers to only those from the denomination(s) with which they are affiliated. We are very thankful that this is not the case for ACS. We can be assured that the doctrines and teachings that our children receive at ACS are the same as those preached from our pulpits and taught in our homes.

And we are thankful for the love our teachers have for our children. This love is evident in the fact that many of our teachers have continued teaching long past the ‘typical’ retirement age. Several others have willingly come out of retirement (even multiple times) to provide when there was a need for teachers. And there are many others who willing sacrifice their time on a regular basis to substitute when our full-time teachers are not able to teach.

Yet the fact remains that the pool of available teachers is very limited. At ACS we are extremely thankful that for the coming school year, we have excellent teachers under contract to fill all the teaching positions. Yet some of our other PR schools have not just one opening, or a few openings, but several unfilled teaching positions for the coming school year.

Looking forward, it is very encouraging to see the list from the Protestant Reformed Teachers Institute that shows a good number of students expected to graduate with teaching degrees in the next few years. There may be a tendency to think that

there will be enough teachers available for several years. However, we do not know what the Lord holds in His perfect plan for us. Remember how just a few short years ago there were seven men who graduated from the PR seminary, with more to follow in the coming years. I think that I was not alone when I wondered if there would even be enough vacancies for them to fill. And now there are several vacancies in our churches and not enough students in the seminary to fill them all. How quickly things can change.

Why do I show at length the obvious need we have for teachers? To encourage us to consider what things that we, as parents, grandparents, and supporters of our PR schools, can do to help provide for this need. One thing we can do is to encourage our children and grandchildren to consider whether they are called by God to serve Him as a PR school teacher. This can be difficult for a parent. We know that the calling of a Christian school teacher is very demanding and financially difficult. Most other occupations would allow our adult children to better provide financially for their families and allow more time to spend in fellowship with their families. However, ask any of our PR school teachers and they will readily inform you that the reward they receive from this work far outweighs the difficulties and demands that come with it. So, when we see our child excel under the good influence of his or her teacher, encourage that child to consider whether he or she might also be a good influence on future children as a Christian school teacher. Or, when we see that our child or grandchild has gifts that would make them a good Christian school teacher, encourage them to consider whether the Lord is calling them to this worthy occupation.

Another area where we can help provide for the need for teachers is in our own church. We can and should thank our ministers when they publicly pray for the Lord to provide for the need for teachers. And we can encourage our elders to actively promote our good Christian schools in accordance with Article 21 of the Church Order. Ask your elders to encourage our young people during family visitation to consider the calling of being a Christian school teacher, in addition to encouraging young men to consider the ministry.

And most importantly, pray. Continue to ask our heavenly Father to provide for our need for good Christian school teachers. Pray for teachers who are diligent and love His lambs. Pray for teachers who

are worthy to stand in our place to educate our children in the fear of His name. And pray, giving thanks to our Father that, once again this year, He has provided ACS with a complete staff of teachers who do all this, for the glory of His name and the good of His church.

## Protect Young Eyes

Mr. Tyler Pipe

Technology Committee

**P**rotect Young Eyes (PYE) is a team of digital experts who give technology presentations all around the country to schools, churches and nonprofits. Their purpose is to increase the digital IQ of staff, students, and families. PYE was founded by Chris McKenna. Chris was a CPA at Ernst and Young from 2009-2016. In 2014 he began working with a West Michigan church in starting a small Facebook group that shared internet information and dangers. This garnered local attention in 2015 when a young girl was nearly abducted through a digital relationship on an app. Churches and schools began reaching out for help to further understand the dangers of the internet. Chris then formed PYE in 2015.

*"I began Protect Young Eyes five years ago because the internet is complex and even diligent parents are overwhelmed by the digital choices their children are facing. Through thousands of hours of research, hundreds of presentations at schools around the country, and dozens of articles examining digital trends, we have witnessed both the wonderful potential and the troubling and pervasive darkness that exists in the pockets of millions of young people today."*

*\*Testimony of Christopher (Chris) McKenna at the 7/9/19 Senate Judiciary Committee titled "Protecting Innocence in a Digital World"*

On 3/17/22, Dave Thompson from Protect Young Eyes (PYE) gave two speeches at Adams. The first speech was given to the 6th-8th grade classes during the school day. In the evening he gave a speech to parents. The evening speech was geared toward grownups that included shocking information:

- Suicide was up 66% from 1998 to 2018. The majority were women ages 10-14 & 15-24.
- 20% of 3rd grade students have experienced pornographic content.

- 90% of high school age students have experienced pornographic content. This content can even come across on a Bible App.
- People can be stalked via Snapchat where the predator knows their exact location.

The digital world can be daunting to many of us. Once you figure out how a new app works there is another new one that your child is now using. This must not make us passive, willfully ignorant or apathetic. Delay giving a smartphone to your child as long as possible and build digital trust (5 ways):

**Be like me:** Don't sit on your phone and then tell them not to be. Parent smartphone use is today's secondhand smoke. They watch us!!

**Coplay:** open up bridges of conversation and connection on the apps they are using. If they are using Instagram then make sure you use it with them.

**Curiosity:** It's not IF they will get in trouble, it's WHEN they will get in trouble on the internet. Your children will not talk with you about something bad if they think the phone or internet will be taken away. Tell them that if they see something bad on the internet to put it down and tell someone.

**Conversation:** talk to your children because if you don't, TikTok & YouTube will. Converse about what is good and bad about the internet.

**Coaching:** not Parental Controls, but caring parents. Kids will always outsmart us if we just set rules and roadblocks. It must be a combined effort. Show them how to succeed.

*Proverbs 22:5,6 "Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward; he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them. Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

## From the Building Committee

Mr. Tim Van Til

Building Committee

**S**oon the school bell will ring for the last time this year, and we give thanks to God for His continuing faithfulness to His children throughout this past year.

After 35 years of faithful service, Don and Mary Kamphuis will be retiring as the janitors of school. We are so thankful for the amazing job they have done to keep the building clean every day. They continued to keep up with the growing building and went above and beyond in their work, especially during Covid. Thank you for your years of service to our school. We also want to thank Nate Van Overloop for the work he has done in taking care of the maintenance

issues in the building for the last number of years. Both these positions often go unnoticed but are a key instrument in the running the of the school.

The building committee has been in the process of merging the janitorial position with the maintenance of the building. We are excited to announce that Zach Poortinga has been hired as the new full time maintenance manager. He is a member of Southwest PRC and He and his wife Jodi have three children. His job will entail the cleaning of school as well as fixing any issues that arise in the school building. This position has been in the works for many years and is finally being implemented. Zach will be present during school hours, which will alleviate the extra work on the administrator, as well as the teachers. Because this is a new position, we will be working closely with Zach to fine-tune this position.

Hopefully, by now many of you have been able to utilize the new parking lot by Bethany URC and have found it helpful. The project will be moving forward this summer. Dan Schimmel has been scheduled for the end of June to refinish the old parking lot as well as stripe the new parking lot. A new concrete sidewalk will be installed along the new parking lot and tie into the existing sidewalk by the playground. Ryan Kregel has been hired to repair the grass, underground sprinkling, and planting of new trees. A big thank you to Ryan for his help on this project. By the end of summer, the parking lot project should be complete.

As a building committee we give you all thanks for your continued support on these projects. Above all we stand in awe and give thanks to our heavenly Father who has blessed this good Christian school each day with far more than its daily needs.

*“Every good gift and perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”*

## **Secretary Report**

**Mr. Jed Pipe**

**Board Secretary**

**W**e are the Association for Christian Education, and our purpose is to provide primary education with the educational institution known as Adams Street Protestant Reformed Christian School. Our goal is to teach our children to glorify God, to write His Word upon their hearts, to instruct them in living lives of thankfulness through prayer, and guide them to becoming faithful servants of God throughout their lives. At the time of writing this report, we have 202 members in our association, with 32 members joining at our

meeting last year. This year ACS has 271 students from 117 families, and next year we plan to have 268 students from 116 families. As an association, the following are some things we have done over the past year to fulfill our purpose.

One of the essential requirements for educating our children is a facility. Along with general maintenance, last year we began the work of expanding our north parking lot to adjoin with Bethany URC. This project took a little longer than expected due to delays with permits, but we expect it to be completed this spring/summer. Don and Mary Kamphuis, who have faithfully served as janitors for 35 years, will be retiring at the end of the school year. They will be replaced by a maintenance manager who will be responsible for the janitorial work, general maintenance of the building, snow shoveling, and will be on site during school hours. Having a maintenance manager available during school hours will help alleviate this work from Rick's plate and give him more time to focus on his work as administrator.

Within our facility we have a need for dedicated teachers. This past year we welcomed Heidi Gritters as a 2nd grade teacher, and we welcomed back Mary Brummel as a 4th grade teacher. After Christmas break Marissa Holstege joined us to begin her student teaching with Karen Ensink in 1st grade. Next school year will bring several staff changes as Mary Brummel plans to retire again, and Dave Mahtani and Scott Mingerink will not be returning to ACS. As a Board, we were concerned with filling these open positions, especially with the many openings throughout the PR schools. With gratitude to God all the open positions have been filled. Marissa Holstege and Brianna Meulenbergh have been hired for classroom teachers and Tara Flikkema has been hired as the resource room teacher. We strive to provide new teachers with the resources and training to teach each of their classes from a Christ-centered perspective. One way this is done is through the mentoring program offered by the Federation of PR Schools Society. We currently have two teachers in this program. Heidi is being mentored by Mike Feenstra in Tier 2, and Lynnae Miedema by Susan VanKoevinger in Tier 3.

In order to teach effectively, our teachers need to have the proper resources. Our curriculum is improved regularly to ensure that our teachers have relevant, up-to-date material for teaching. This past summer, the IDEA program improved their reading curriculum to include more Christian sources, and adapted current sources to include a Christian perspective. A handbook was developed for the resource room in order

to provide more structure and a transparent communication process between the parents and the school. Rick has received feedback for some areas of improvement within our composition instruction. As a result, the upper-grade level teachers will be spending more time with our older students to develop their skills in research and essay writing. Having an up-to-date, documented, and well-mapped curriculum is very valuable for the teachers. It provides a clear picture of what is to be taught, and offers a source of accountability for administration and teachers. With the help of a curriculum mapping software, we will be moving our curriculum documentation from an inconvenient 3-ring binder, to an organized online database.

The dedication of our staff is apparent through their continued development. Our administrator, Rick, is working towards finishing his doctorate in about four years. He is currently in a dissertation preparation course and intends to research the role school leadership has in keeping a school true to its mission and purpose while mitigating against the many internal and external pressures that can lead to mission drift. In October, several teachers worked with our IEW writing coach. Due to the specificity of this curriculum, having an instructional coach is highly valued. In February, our teachers had an Inservice day. The K-5 teachers received instruction on our new math curriculum, and the 6-8 teachers worked as a group researching and reflecting on proper homework practices. Jon Mingerink and Ryan Kregel attended a 2-day Christian Worldview conference. They both came back encouraged and motivated to continue the necessary work of imparting a biblical perspective in all areas of teaching.

There is an abundance of work and support needed for this school to function properly, but there is much joy when we are able to witness the fruits of these labors in our children. On Grandparents' Day we witness the faithfulness of God from one generation to the next. Excitement fills the halls as children can share part of their school day with their grandparents. On Field Day we see the students developing the heart of a servant as they help and encourage each other through the team activities. Consider One Another Day teaches our children how each of us are fearfully and wonderfully made according to God's perfect plan. At the Spring program we see how God's Word is being written upon the hearts of our youth as they join together in singing. What profound joy this brings to each of us as parents and grandparents! Aside from the "special" school days, each day is filled with the desire to glorify, praise, and thank God through the gifts He has given. We give thanks to God that each day we are able to

send our children to this Christian school where they are nurtured and instructed in the fear of the Lord.

## Other News

### Mothers Club Report

Mrs. Ruth Baas  
Retiring Secretary

As we end the school year, we are very thankful for the many blessings God has given to us as a school. God has once again given us willing and able mothers to dedicate their time to help support the school. We have 81 mothers in our group, and each contributes in her own special way- whether it be serving on a committee, working at our fundraisers, being a room mom, helping with baking when needed, serving hot lunch, and the list goes on! Every time the call for help goes out, there are many willing hands and for that we give thanks to God who gives us the ability and desire to serve!

On behalf of Mothers' Club, I also want to especially thank our president, Renae VanderKolk, who very capably led our group this year. Thank you to Michelle Bodbyl, too, for working hard as our treasurer! We appreciate all the work you have done. Next year's officers are: Kelly Dykstra as president, Julie Flikkema as treasurer and Rachel Feenstra as secretary.

Our fundraisers this year were the following:

Walkathon	\$11,612.04
Sub Sale	\$5,613.00
Soup Supper	\$5,449.33
Byron Meat Sale	\$2,268.00
Pizza Friday	\$4,000.00
TRIP	\$4,777.71
Spartan Direct Your Dollars	\$1,000.00
Box Tops	\$157.70
Adams Apparel	\$43.56
Coca-Cola Give	\$37.39
CD sales	\$28.00

With the money raised, we were able to fill all the teacher Wish-lists, and fill our Standard Wishlist which pays for things like class trips, new Bibles and Psalters, Teachers' Supply money, Staff birthday gift cards, etc. We also were able to give \$28,000 to Long Range Planning. Our prayer is that we continue to use our God-given talents and abilities to work together on behalf of our school. To God be the glory!