



Reflector

School News

Students, teachers, parents and friends of Heritage Christian High School/Protestant Reformed Christian School, the first quarter of the 2018/2019 school year has passed with an abundance of activity.

To the teachers and staff, thank you for your commitment each day to our students in assisting our parents in raising up the children in the fear of the Lord. To our students, it is our hope and prayer you are engaging diligently in your calling as student, endeavoring to use and build each day the skills God has given you. May you and we be reminded each day of the need to abide under the shadow of the Almighty and express our trust in Him, our refuge and fortress.

From the Fall Harvest Dinner to the Annual Marathon, the Board recognizes and appreciates the work of the Ladies Auxiliary for the schools and expresses thanks for your past and future efforts in this school year.

The Taste fundraiser was held on October 12 and was enjoyed by all who attended. A little over \$12,000 was raised for the Achieve program. Thanks to those that supported The Taste monetarily and with their special recipes. A lot of work goes into the evening and most of this is done by the committee consisting of Dewey and Erin VanDerNoord, Joel and Shanda Houck, Mark and Brenda Zandstra, Ryan and Marijo Van Overloop, Justin and Melissa Verburg, and Jessie and Lydia Lanting. A special thanks to the committee for a successful evening! Also, we are grateful for Annette Ophoff who has joined our Achieve staff.

On October 31, the grade school hosted "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made Day" with Professor Kuiper speaking to the students. Professor Kuiper also gave an introduction to the seminary speech to our high school. We also had a special chapel on November 5. Professor Camenga addressed the Kindergarten through 10th graders on his recent investigatory mission trip to Mexico. All speeches were well received and the students and staff are thankful for the labors of the speakers and the messages they brought.

The Endowment Fund Golf Outing occurred on September 22. Over \$20,000 was raised for the Endowment Fund – many thanks to the sponsors, golfers and committee for your efforts to make an enjoyable

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Special Points of Interest

- Plan to attend the PRCS Music Program on November 16 at 7 PM in the school gym.
- The HCHS Christmas Concert is scheduled for December 14 at 7 PM at Cornerstone PR Church.
- The PRCS Christmas Program is scheduled for December 20 at Crete Church.
- The 2019/2020 school calendar will be available on our school website soon!!

afternoon. The interest raised each year from the Endowment Fund is applied towards school operating costs to support school operations and alleviate tuition increases. This year, approximately \$25,000 will be applied to operating costs.

The Endowment Fund Committee again expresses their thanks to those who contributed to the Endowment Fund during the 2018 calendar year and encourages you to remember the fund as part of your annual year end giving. The current balance in the Endowment Fund is over \$900,000. The principal remains conservatively invested, including a loan which helped to fund the latest addition to the school building. The Committee requests that you consider including the endowment fund as part of your estate plan, such as by naming the Endowment Fund as a beneficiary under your will or trust. Your gifts will benefit our school, our parents and our children by helping to contribute to the costs of Christian education both now and in the future.

The Progress and Promotion Committee held the annual Board/Teacher/Staff Mixer in September, good fellowship and food were enjoyed by all. The Fall Promotion Dinner was held on November 2 at Crete Protestant Reformed Church – thanks to everyone who participated or contributed in any manner – the event raised \$67,925. The evening culminated in joyful worship and song with the Heritage Christian High School Alumni choir singing past favorites under the direction of former choir director, Bill Lenting. It brings great joy to our hearts to have seen so many alumni return to practice and fellowship together and sing praises to our God and support the schools in this way.

The Finance Committee would like to thank the Lord for your willingness to contribute to our school through this year. Our August 2018 – July 2019 budgeted amount to be collected from collections and envelopes is \$191,405. Through September, we have collected \$26,850 (14%) towards this goal. Year after year the Lord continues to provide for our school. We thank God for the financial upholding of our school.

The Education Committee amended the Read Program at the start of the year, to require each student to read at least two books per quarter from a supplemental reading list. Parents are encouraged to work alongside teachers to foster an appreciation in their children for good literature to develop in each child an aptitude and desire to read good books. The Education Committee has also approved recent field trips for students – Kindergartners to the Michigan City Zoo and the Seventh and Eighth Graders to visit the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

We encourage you to communicate with the teachers, administrators and board as we endeavor alongside you, the parents, in offering a rigorous and Reformed education. As we continue this year, we again covet your prayers and support. As a Board, we pray for wisdom to lead this school in a Godly manner as we seek to instruct our covenant youth. “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” (Psalm 91:1)

Yearbook Committee

The yearbook committee would like to thank everyone who has supported the 2018-2019 yearbook. For those who would like a yearbook and have not yet ordered, we would appreciate your order as soon as possible. Our goal is to get all the orders in by November 12. The cost of a yearbook is \$25.00; however, we also are still accepting business ads for \$45, \$75, \$150, and \$250. If you would like a business ad in the yearbook, please send the money and a business card to the office.

In addition, we would love any sports’ pictures you may have of your children this year. Please send any pictures you may have to alyssa.devries@heritagechs.org.

Thanks again to all our supporters!

-ADV

Protestant Reformed Teachers' Institute

The 2018 PRTI Teachers' Convention was again a great experience. It was held on October 18 and 19 at Heritage Christian School in Hudsonville, MI. The theme of this year's convention was "Walking Circumspectly: Discernment in Teacher and Student Life." The theme was based on Ephesians 5:15-16. "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Rev. Haak gave the keynote address by explaining this passage and applying it to our life as teachers. His speech "A Wise Word to Wise Teachers" was very encouraging, motivating, and once again spurred us on in our callings as teachers. I thought this keynote could also be applied to all those whom are called to care for and instruct children. We all need to be wise and redeem the time. What follows is a summary of his keynote address.

Many claim to have wisdom or propret methods of becoming wise, but true wisdom can only be found in God's Word. Proverbs 8 says, "All the words of my mouth are righteousness ... Receive my instruction ... and knowledge... For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may desired are not to be compared to it." The world seeks wisdom in a myriad of ways but God's Word makes us wiser than all the world's philosophers. "Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies...I have more understanding than all my teachers ... I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts." (Psalm 119: 98-100) Humbly, we acknowledge that God and His Word alone makes us wise. This is in opposition to the world's so called "wisdom," pursuit of wisdom or lack thereof. "For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist." (Luke 21:15)

The Holy Spirit, in Ephesians 5, has already declared that we are children of the light. Verses 8 and 10 say, "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light...Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord." The beginning of Ephesians 5:15 says "See then." This can be interpreted "See to it then" that ye walk as the wise. This is our command. As children of the light, we are to walk according to true wisdom and knowledge.

Our walk is not just our outward appearance or deportment. It is not just how others see us conduct ourselves. Our walk isn't merely our outward mode of conduct. Instead, our walk is our life; the life that is lived from the heart. We are called then to walk and live our life from the heart (as Paul in Ephesians says) circumspectly, or accurately and carefully. In what way should this careful and circumspect way of life be walked? We are to walk not as though we are being looked at, not as though we are walking on pins and needles, but with much wisdom and discernment. Our walk is so very crucial and therefore, we must walk circumspectly.

Why? Because we are being watched by little eyes and listened to by little ears. We are dealing with children and teenagers who are very impressionable. In our classrooms we stand before and make impressions on covenant children, sinners and yet saints, who must also learn wisdom. Ephesians 5:1 says, "Be ye therefore followers of Christ, as dear children." Children follow. They imitate,

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mimic, and are very impressionable. Therefore, all the more urgent is our calling to walk circumspectly. Wherever we walk, we leave an impression as it were, an imprint in the soft clay of a child's mind.

We must see to it, then, that we walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. Two alternatives are given, those who are fools and those who are wise. These two alternatives are equivalent to darkness and light. The Holy Spirit commanded in Ephesians 4: 17 and 20 "that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind ... But ye have not so learned Christ." By God's grace, God has given us light. As those (parents and teachers) who have covenant youth entrusted to our care, we must walk in that wisdom circumspectly.

Being wise or having wisdom refers to the ability of a skillful craftsman. Take the example of Aholiab and Bezaleel, those who were called to build the tabernacle in the desert. They were given many various disjointed things from many different people to build and fashion the tabernacle, the wondrously glorious, intricately designed place where God dwelt. As those who have covenant youth coming before us, we need to take all the content from all the subjects and use them all to bring to the child's mind the excellency and glory of God's name.

When? NOW!! According to verse 16, we need to redeem the time. This time is now. Fools think they have all the time in the world. Time is wasted with many frivolous activities which have nothing to do with wisdom. However, we need to walk circumspectly as those who are wise because the time is short and the days are evil. We have less time with each passing day and with each passing day, evil grows and abounds. Wisdom sees the value of time and uses it in the service of the Master. Our time to influence, mold and skillfully teach children the wisdom of God is slipping away. As each day passes, time is fleeting and during the short time remaining sin and temptations are increasing.

Time is often wasted. Consider the following statistics from 2007 on time spent in a person's life. In a life time, an average person spends 6 months waiting at a stop light, 3 years waiting in line, 20 years watching TV, and one year trying to find something we misplaced. Time is slipping away. Not to mention the time lost on all the new technology devices which the world is madly promoting. How much time is left for learning wisdom? Satan says if you don't use the time, I'll fill the void. He knows his time is short. "The devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." (Revelation 12:12) In this the children of wrath are wiser than the children of the light because they use their time in total dedication of their evil agenda. Therefore, we as educators, need to redeem the time, now, and walk circumspectly as those who are wise.

This time is not a calendar time, or an hour/minute time, but it refers to an opportunity, a season, a window of time in which a certain thing can be accomplished. It refers to the time given when a situation is right, when an opportunity arises which cannot be wasted. Students will only be impressionable kindergartners once. The students are only spontaneous fun-loving 3rd graders once. Impressionable teenagers are only teenagers once. That's the time. Right now. They will not be kindergartners, 3rd graders or teenagers ever again. Redeem the time. The time is NOW. Walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. The time for teachers is always a time of harvest. Do it now. Redeem the time. Buy it at the price of your convenience and at the price of yourself. The time is now. Walk circumspectly, as those who are wise and redeem the time for the days are evil.

Ecclesiastes 3 refers to different times for different things. God has divinely appointed all times in our lives. These times are His. We work on God's time. God is sovereign over all this time. As teachers, there are times to teach, other times to observe, there are times to discipline and reprimand,

other times are times to lead by example, there are times we must get directly involved, at other times we must lead from the sidelines, there are times to scold, other times we must encourage. In all these times, there are no mulligans, no redoes. Redeem the time. Use the wisdom of God's word. Walk circumspectly and wake up to every opportunity God gives you. Walk with wisdom.

-RVO

Upcoming 2018/2019 School Dates

November 16	PRCS Music Concert at school; 7 PM.
November 21-23	Thanksgiving Vacation; dismissal at 11:30 on the November 21.
December 14	HCHS Music Concert at 7 PM at Cornerstone Church
December 20	PRCS Christmas Program at Crete Church.
December 21	Half day of school; dismissal at 11:30.
December 24 - January 4	Christmas Vacation
January 18	HCHS 1st semester ends; PRCS 2nd quarter ends
January 21	Records' Day; No school.
January 25	Beanbag Tournament; 8th grade fundraiser
February 7, 11	Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 15	Ladies Auxiliary Family Dinner
February 18	Presidents' Day; No school
March 8	School Board Spring Promotional Dinner
March 20	Beginners' Day for incoming Kindergartners
March 22	PRCS 3rd quarter ends/HCHS Midterms
April 1-5	Spring Break
April 26	Ladies Auxiliary School Auction
April 30	PRCS Open House
May 10	Kindergarten Program
May 23	HCHS Music Concert at 7 PM.
May 27	Memorial Day; No school
May 31	Last day of school; dismissal at 11:30; Graduation at 7 PM

Emergency School Closings

Inclement weather can happen at any time. Especially during the winter season, the administrators keep an eye on the weather forecast. If school were to close due to safety concerns with transportation to/from school, the administrators will relay this information in two ways. First, the administrators submit our school closing information to the Emergency Closing Center. Parents can search for our facility by going to www.emergencyclosingcenter.com. This website is used by local TV and radio stations who then also publicize our schools' names regarding the closing. Secondly, we also use Ren-Web to send an email to all parents in our database regarding the school closing. Parents can use either of these two ways to determine whether or not our school is closed on any particular day.

Beanbag Tournament

The 8th grade class will again host a beanbag tournament as their class fundraiser. The tournament will take place on Friday, January 25 at the school gym. We are planning on splitting the teams into a ladies' and men's division. Registration forms will be available shortly and can be found attached to the school's *Home School Announcer*. They will also be made available on our website. Mark your calendars!! Spectators, high school age and older, are also welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!!

Team registration forms will be due by December 21 so don't delay to sign up a team once the registration forms become available.

Thank you for your support.

All Purpose Room Mural

The school thanks Faith Bauer, from the HCHS graduating class of 2018, for her gift to the school. She requested from the school board that she be allowed to paint a mural on a wall in the all purpose room. The mural looks great and we thank her for her gift.

