

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Mr. Pete Adams

Greetings,

I trust that this finds you enjoying the summer season that the Lord has given us. It is good for us teachers not only to enjoy, but to be busy in various ways preparing our rooms and our minds for the upcoming school year.

One of my projects during these months has been to prepare a presentation for the fall teacher's convention (October 24, 25). It has to do with the contrast between the Renaissance and the Reformation. Both of these historical movements have their roots starting from the beginning of time; right from the start of the mother promise of Genesis 3:15 which states the antithesis between the two seeds of mankind, to the synthesis of Genesis 6, where the sons of God were attracted to the daughters of men. As you are aware, the Renaissance is man-centered and the

Reformation is God-centered. The consequences of these two different approaches to life are fascinating to follow and are very relevant to today's world. I am trying to develop these thoughts not only for the presentation, but more importantly for use in the classes at Eastside. This is an example of what we want to accomplish in our teaching here. Our students should be prepared to understand the Lord's hand in all of past history and where He is directing this world today. This requires explanation, discussion, and processing by us in the classroom and beyond.

We look forward to the coming school year, building upon the tangible advances that we made in the past year (auxiliary math and reading skill opportunities, progress monitoring, Daily 5 reading programs, etc) and also advancing in our usefulness to you our Covenant families building upon the Rock which is higher than us all.

JOYFULLY UNITED

Mr. Bruce Miedema | School Board President

Eastside has begun another year of Christian education, this now the 17th year.

Each year the principal and staff develop a theme for the current school year. To determine the theme, the staff focuses on a part of the Eastside vision statement or a part of the even broader school mission statement. A scripture passage that fits with this theme is chosen. Teachers incorporate the theme into their lesson plans. Chapel speakers oftentimes refer to the theme in their presentations. Theme-based artwork is crafted in the various grades throughout the year. The artwork is displayed in the school and sometimes given as gifts to family and friends. The crafted items are cherished because of the deep meaning associated with the artwork. The annual theme creates a focus during the school year for both teachers and students.

Past themes notable to me are the Fruits of the Spirit and Growing Together in the Lord. These were themes while some of my children were at Eastside. We hope this year's theme is notable for you and/or your family. Other people who find an interest in Eastside can look for evidence of this year's theme when they visit,

view the school website, peruse the weekly note (which you can receive electronically) and quarterly newsletter (like this one), and at the variety of programs presented throughout the year.

This year's theme is Joyfully United. Joyful Unity is Eastside's purpose along with that of each child's home and church as we together train up godly children. Joyfully United is based on Phillipians 2: 1-4. Interestingly, unity is not commanded by God in this passage. Examples where God commands in the relational sphere are the imperative upon the husband to love his wife. Also, children are commanded to obey their parents. Unity is the by-product! Unity is on the effect side of the equation while the cause is "having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind (2:2) in the behalf of Christ (1:29)." The rest of these verses are worthy of your reading and memorizing. The heart of unity is a love for Jesus Christ.

In a very real way Joyfully United is Eastside. This should be true of every Christian School because the Christian School Association and its close friends are made up of people of one mind with the same love and pursuing a work in the behalf of Jesus Christ.

I am looking forward to this school year and the ways that we will see the evidence of joyful unity at Eastside Christian School.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER

Mrs. Becky Tubergen | CLC Network Teacher Consultant

I am delighted to once again partner with the staff, students, and parents at Eastside Christian School for the 2013- 2014 school year. This will be my third year working with Eastside Christian in the role of Teacher Consultant for the CLC Network.

My journey with the CLC Network (also known as the Christian Learning Center) began when I was in high school. However, the Lord had been preparing me well before that. I became familiar with the Christian Learning Center when I wrote a paper about inclusion for an Advanced Composition Class. I learned their approach centers on the belief that every child of God reflects God's image, has been placed in this world for His purpose, and deserves our best. What it meant to understand kids excellently and celebrate student's gifts, no matter their weaknesses intrigued me. I handed that paper in and set off for Calvin College to get my teaching degree with my sights set on working for the Christian Learning Center.

I was blessed to have student taught under the supervision of Greg Yoder (former teacher consultant at Eastside) and am now beginning my 16th year with the CLC Network. God has equipped me for this role in unique ways and I love sharing my "school story" with students whom I work with. One of the highlights of my job is coming alongside students to help figure out why school seems so hard at times. It makes a difference when children, as young as kindergarten, begin to understand the things they do well and the way they learn best.

I visit Eastside once a month and spend three hours doing a variety of things; there is never a dull moment. You may find me:

- * Meeting with a group of students to facilitate social skills or mentoring them on specific issues.
- * Meeting with individual students to work on study skills, learning strategies, or follow up on past discussions.
- * Evaluating students to learn more about their academic performance and learning styles.
- * Teaching a class "The Mind That's Mine" curriculum that is based on eight neurodevelopment constructs.
- * Collaborating with teachers about students, curriculum, assessment, and best practices in education.
- * Talking with parents to help meet individual academic or social needs of their children.
- * Leading professional development trainings.

My first visit of this school year will be the Fall Kick-off on September 11. During this time I will briefly explain "The Mind That's Mine," tell how parents can better understand their individual child's learning, and share ideas and strategies parents can do at home to supplement or complement their student(s) education.

If you see me around school please stop by to say "Hi" and introduce yourself. The start of the school year is always an exciting time and I look forward to spending time with you in September and working with you throughout the year.

BECKY TUBERGEN & FAMILY

Becky Tubergen & family:

"I am married to my high school sweetheart Brian and we have three children, Jacob (10th) Samuel (8th) and Breanna (3rd). "



CONGRATULATIONS TO AMY

Congratuatiions to Miss Amy Westing who was married to Ryan VanPutten this past August. Amy VanPutten will return to Eastside this fall as the Pre-K and Kindergarten teacher.



EDUCATING AND NURTURING COVENANT CHILDREN SO THAT THEY BY THE GRACE OF GOD REFLECT THE MIND OF CHRIST

Ms. Agatha Lubbers

1 Peter 3:15

The mission statement just stated [in the article title], adapted in 1997, is now beginning its seventeenth year. As Eastside begins the seventeenth year of her existence it is important to remember her development from the large tree of the Reformed and Christian school movement.

Beginning in June, 1997, I was contracted by the board as principal and was authorized by the board to be the one who would purchase and acquire all the basic instructional tools we needed to begin school in September in the lower level of First Protestant Reformed Church. These acquisitions included white boards, desks, books, shelves, additional dividers between classrooms, etc. With the help of Winifred Koole a small library was gathered and organized. The faculty - Vicki Block Dekryger, Kristin Brands Kleyn, Mark Ondersma, Pete Adams and Kristi Thompson worked with the principal and board in the establishment of the course of study and curriculum of the school. We started from scratch and with the experience of the workers in this new endeavor. In the fourth year, because of the generosity and forethought of supporters of Eastside, the school building was constructed. Since then the school has been able to hold classes in a lovely, expansive, and useful building without a dollar of indebtedness. What a blessing!

Eastside is one of the most newly founded Christian schools of those that are members of the Federation of the Protestant Reformed Christian Schools.

A Reformed Christian School had been founded years before in 1934 (a mere ten years after the establishment of the Protestant Reformed Churches denomination) by parents of the Redlands, California PR Church. During the 1940s and 1950s Hope PRC, Adams PRC and the Free Christian School in Edgerton, MN were founded. Since that time the number of schools founded by PR parents has risen to sixteen schools.

To understand and know the history of the PR Christian schools it is important that we look back to the education provided in Europe and especially in the Netherlands and brought to the USA. The notable Abraham Kuyper and Herman Bavinck were leaders in the

Netherlands during the 19th century in the development of schools that were free from the state church (and therefore free from the state) and were based on the sacred scriptures and the Reformed and Ecumenical Creeds.

Today those that establish and operate Christian schools who are members of the PR churches in America are the beneficiaries of the development of schools by parents and teachers. So important was the education of Christian students that an Article 21 was included in the Church Order of Dordt, 1916-1917. According to the original form of Article 21 consistories were to see to it that children were taught by good Christian school teachers, not merely in good Christian schools, although the latter was obviously implied. A school is good when her instructors are sound believers.

Since 1924, when the first issue of the *Standard Bearer* was published, 400 articles on many topics relating to instruction in the Christian schools have appeared in print. In one of the early sermons of Herman Hoeksema, preached in the 14th Street CRC in Holland, MI as early as 1915, H. Hoeksema stated that education should be viewed as one of the most important tasks of believing parents (Cf. Deuteronomy 6:7). Hoeksema was walking in the footsteps of Luther, Calvin, and many other reformers and Christian leaders.

In 1931-32, a mere ten years after the inauguration of the PR churches, H. Hoeksema wrote ten articles on Christian education in the form of a critique and in the tenth and last article of the series he developed six fundamental principles for Christian education. They were the following:

1. The Bible, as the written and authoritative Word of God, is the basis for all administration, instruction, and discipline. (Cf. II Timothy 3:15-16)
2. Our sovereign God chose a people to stand in a covenant relationship of friendship with Him in Christ Jesus their Lord, and students should walk in all good works that He had ordained for them. (Hebrews 13:20)
3. From a fallen and totally depraved human race, and from a crooked and perverse generation God saves those whom He has chosen and causes them to live in every sphere of life from the principle of regeneration, that they through faith should show God's praises and walk as children of the light. (II Timothy 2:21)

... continued on page 4

4. In every sphere of life - individual, family, social, business political, ecclesiastical - the students must be prepared for an all-sided Christian walk in the world. A world view should direct all that is being taught so that a course can be constructed that is adapted to this purpose. (Ephesians 2:10, II Timothy 3:17)

5. The objective of the Christian school is to equip the pupils with knowledge and wisdom so they can walk in the world as believing Christians putting on the mind of Christ. This is the mission statement of Eastside. (Titus 2:7)

6. Thoroughly prepared teachers who reflect the mind of Christ must accept the task of developing a Reformed Christian approach in teaching the determined course of study that will help accomplish the main purpose of such Christian education. (I Peter 4:15)

Living as transformed Christians who are isolated somewhat by the school from some of the worldly influences, students who are disciples of Christ and are disciplined and taught in conformity with these principles gained from the Holy Scriptures must be taught by word and deed so they do not have cause to conform to

the world except from their own evil nature and the seductions of Satan.

They must think and act not as if they can transform the world; this is the work of the Holy Spirit. They must be in the world and shine as lights in the world. The apostle Paul says for all, "That then with the mind we will serve the law of God; and with the flesh the law of sin." (Romans 7:15 and Philippians 2:15)

The apostle Paul says again: "That their hearts might be knit together in love to the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God and the Father, and the Lord Christ; in who are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:2-3)

"And He (Christ) is before all things and by Him all things cohere." (Colossians 1:17)

"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

THOUGHTS FROM A SUMMER CLASS

Mr. Dave Mahtani | 4th-6th Teacher

I am truly grateful for the willingness of Eastside's school board to support its teachers in their professional development. It is encouraging to have a board that promotes our growth and exciting to be able to continue learning. This summer, I was able to attend The Great Lakes Conference, which was a week-long workshop for teachers. Five speakers presented ideas, strategies, and resources for us to use in the classroom. What follows is a brief summary as well as some of my thoughts on their presentations.

The first speaker was an art teacher who, besides encouraging us to help students find what they're passionate about, presented to us many online resources and encouraged us to get connected to a network of teachers, especially through Twitter. One point he made that struck me was that a self-contained teacher, no matter how

smart and creative he may be, has a limited amount of resources, while a networked one has so much more. I look forward to using today's technology to draw ideas from more experienced multi-grade teachers in the nation. Fellow teachers should also check out his website, kevinhoneycutt.org, which has a host of resources.

Furthermore, I appreciated the first speaker's remarks about the power but also danger of the internet. He spent a good portion of his time expressing that parents and teachers need to teach children about the dangers and disadvantages of the internet, instead of giving them the "freedom" to find out for themselves. As Christians, we need to be vigilant in guiding and monitoring even our most well-behaved children to make wise decisions with this powerful and easily accessible tool.

... continued on page 5

SCHOOL CALENDAR

First day of school | Tuesday, September 3

Picnic on the Patio | Thursday, September 5 at 6 PM

Bike Hike | Friday, September 13

Fall Kick-Off Meeting with parents, staff, and board

Wednesday, September 11 | 7 PM

Becky Tubergen from the Christian Learning Center will be a featured presenter.

THOUGHTS FROM A SUMMER CLASS cont...

The second speaker spoke about how fear negatively affects students in the classroom. Her claim was that a lot of negative behavior results from fear of inadequacy or rejection. For example, someone who cheats in order to win, acts apathetically about an enjoyable activity, or gets angry at his poor performance manifests these behaviors because he fears that people will see him as inadequate. Besides behavior, she pointed out that this fear and stress affect proper brain functions.

This speaker presented some insightful thoughts about the effects of fear. She also presented some ideas on how to make students feel more adequate and accepted, which I do think is important. We do need to help students value their gifts and talents and help them feel safe and accepted in the classroom despite their weaknesses and imperfections. But ultimately, I think that the root of the problem is having a fear of man instead of the fear of God. Even we adults strive to feel adequate and accepted by our peers, even though we ought to do all things for the service and glory of our Lord instead. Hopefully, this speaker's presentation will help me recognize the fears of my students and direct them more and more to a God-glorifying instead of a self-honoring perspective.

The third speaker provided us with some information on brain-powered strategies. Here are the keys to memory retention which she presented, which I think are useful for parents and teachers to keep in mind during the school year: repetition, emotion, pattern/organization, personal connection, link with prior knowledge, music, movement, and sensory activity. Most of her examples promoted movement to increase memory retention. For example, she promoted brain breaks, which are physical activities that can be done in a few minutes as a break from seatwork. Another example was something called the kinesthetic web, where students have to walk around and classify information by getting into proper groups. I plan to use these and other of her ideas this year, thus incorporating some classroom exercise as well.

She also emphasized that stress inhibits learning. It seems our frontal lobes (which control decision making, complex thoughts and actions, and memory) begin shutting down when under stress. As a result, there is a real disconnection in the brain. Under continual stress, studies have also shown that our neurons do not grow as they should. I need to keep all this in mind for myself as well during the school year.

The fourth speaker gave us a host of research-based strategies to use in the classroom. She focused much of her time on something called mental models, which are drawings, analogies, and stories that translate ideas into sensory representations or experiences that help students make sense of information and increase memory of the information. In other words, when students take down information in a format that makes sense to them, they understand and retain it better. This means that notes that my students copy down in outline form may not stick in their memory as well as if they understand a concept and then draw their own diagram or picture of that concept.

The fifth speaker tried to give us some advice on juggling all the work that teachers have. His presentation (and book called *Juggling Elephants*) compared a teacher to a ringmaster of a circus and sought to draw insight out of the analogy. Ideas included getting rid of activities that are not necessary, taking breaks, directing attention to the right thing at the right time, realizing you have limited resources, and giving proper attention to work, self, and relationships. I won't tell you that I learned much from this speaker. I did come up with my own solution though: organization.

Again, I am thankful for the opportunity I had to take a class this summer. I enjoyed and benefited from it and hope you too profited a little bit from reading this article.

REVISED TUITION COSTS

The Eastside Christian School Foundation recently implemented a Tuition Reduction Program for Eastside Christian Students for the coming years, beginning this fall with the 2013-2014 school year. With this generous financial gift to the school and particularly its families, the Board is pleased to announce that all families will receive an annual \$1,000 credit toward the tuition of each student enrolled, and Pre-School education is free. (See chart on right for details.) We give thanks to our Heavenly Father for His financial blessings, and for this opportunity to reduce the tuition obligations of our families.

Please contact School Board President Bruce Miedema by phone (616-293-1491) or email (bmiedema@miedemaconcrete.com) with questions or to request enrollment information.

| | Current Tuition Schedule | Foundation Tuition Supplement | Total Tuition Cost |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Pre-K: | \$960 | \$1,000 | \$0 |
| Kindergarten: | \$3,687 | \$1,000 | \$2,687 |
| One child in 1st-8th: | \$5,707 | \$1,000 | \$4,707 |
| Two children in K-8th: | \$7,575 | \$2,000 | \$5,575 |
| Three children in K-8th: | \$8,989 | \$3,000 | \$5,989 |
| Four+ children in K-8th: | \$10,403 | \$4,000 | \$6,403 |

A PROMISE OF EXCITEMENT, JOY, AND HOPE

Mrs. Kristi Thompson | 2nd-3rd Grade Teacher

We're back! Well, nearly back. 'So close you can taste it' back. Really. If you are feeling like I am right now, you have a mixture of emotions churning inside: disbelief that the summer break is ending, disappointment when you realize that the summer break is really ending, eagerness for the start of a new school year, a bit of trepidation about how things will go, a pinch of anxiety about how prepared you feel (or don't feel), and a good amount of excitement and joy and hope! Yes, that's right - excitement! I am so excited about the school year! This coming year promises to be full of wonderful and amazing things to discover and explore together. If I may quote Dr. Seuss, "Oh, the places we'll go!"

And yes, joy! Our school theme this year, "Joyfully United" fits so well with who we are at Eastside. We may be small, but the heart of our school is big, and it is filled with joy. God has richly blessed Eastside Christian School with dedicated, diligent, Christ-centered teachers, parents, school board members, and supporters who are united in purpose. And that purpose, that goal is to nurture these children to be strong image-bearers of Christ, joyfully walking in the fear of the Lord. Together in God's strength, we can accomplish our purpose, and do it with joy!

That doesn't mean it will always be easy. We will face hard things, both collectively and personally. Do I sense your excitement and joy fading a bit? They shouldn't. We have a sure and steadfast hope, an anchor, that will hold us fast to our Savior whether our worries and trials are big or small. Our 2nd and 3rd grade classroom text is Hebrews 6:19-20. In the verses preceding our text, Paul tells us that God, who cannot lie, promises us a place of refuge where we will always be safe. Then, to ensure for us how unchangeable this promise is, He confirmed it with an oath. In verses 19 and 20, Paul gives us a wonderful picture of what this hope is - "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec." The picture here is that

we are in this world as ships in the sea. There is cargo in the ship that holds our comforts, our expectations, and our happiness. We are headed to the harbor, which is heaven. But along the way we experience all kinds of weather. Sometimes the weather is calm, and we sail along peacefully, perhaps even forgetting our need of an anchor. Yet on this journey, we often experience strong winds and waves and sometimes even great storms that beat against us leaving us battered and torn (i.e. temptations, persecutions, afflictions). The comforts of this world, the "precious" cargo within the ship, cannot sustain us, cannot keep us from drifting and perhaps even sinking. But we have hope, an anchor that is sure in its very nature. It is a good hope through grace, the true work of God. Not only is the anchor sure, but it is steadfast. It is an anchor that has taken good hold and is cast upon not just any rock, but the Rock of ages. Christ is the anchor-hold of our hope. Then in verse 20, Paul brings it all home. He tells us that there is a "forerunner, even Jesus," who has entered "within the veil" (ahead of us). Through His death Christ entered into the Holy of Holies and spread His blood upon the altar, making payment once and for all for our sins. He is there, as our eternal High Priest, preparing for us a place with Him to assure us that we shall follow Him. It is certain! It is unchangeable! We are God's children now and forever! What an amazing God! What an awesome promise! What a great comfort in life's storms!

And so I can say with confidence that this year at Eastside Christian School promises to be filled with wonderful opportunities and challenges for learning and growing as image-bearers of Christ, joyfully working together in the knowledge that our unchangeable God is with us and holding us on a steady course through it all. God bless and keep you all this school year!

May you have fair winds and following seas,
Mrs. Thompson

PICNIC ON THE PATIO

Join family and friends at our annual "Picnic on the Patio" on **Thursday, September 5**, as we celebrate a new school year and praise God for His faithfulness and provisions. Enjoy supper and fellowship on the patio at First PRC in Grand Rapids, compliments of our Eastside Christian School Foundation. There will be fresh salads, hamburgs and hot dogs grilled by our school board members between 6PM & 7PM. Eric and Crista Phelps will accompany our psalms of praise before our students and teachers welcome us to tour their classrooms.