

The RHCS Review

700 N. Fletcher Ave., Kalamazoo, 49006 269-383-0505



Summer 2011

The Principal's Desk

By Dave Vander Meer

TRUST

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6**



This year's senior class chose Proverbs 3:5-8 as their scripture passage; very appropriate verses for those who are closing one chapter of their life and opening a new one. Special events in life have a tendency to make us reflect on the past. Such reflection helps us give thanks to God for how He has brought us through to this point. These verses, however, seem to be pointing us forward.

Verse 1 of chapter 3 asks us to remember and take hold of the law and commands of God. We move from remembering the past and the lessons we have learned, to applying these laws and commands to our lives.

The above verses seem to be set up in four statements that build upon each other. They start with a command, then a warning, another command, and finishes with a promise. The first statement of trust is the hinge of the door that the rest of the statements swing on. If a hinge is broken, the rest of the door is useless. If there is no trust in God, the rest of the statements become meaningless to the reader.

Trusting can be a tough thing to do. It is an action that needs to take place in the mind and heart. Our sinful nature wants to fight the urge to trust and instead to be self-reliant. Another reason we find it hard to trust is because we may have been disappointed by someone in the past and we don't want

to open ourselves to that pain again. Someone has trampled on your trust. For example, in the political arena we have almost come to the point where we are more surprised when someone keeps a campaign promise than when he breaks one.

The world would have us place our trust in it. The world uses and abuses people for its own end and wants us to walk in its ways. Isaiah warns us against such trust by telling in Isaiah 5 of the dire consequences of Israel's following the way of the world: "Therefore my people have gone into captivity, Because they have no knowledge..... Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!" Isaiah 5:13a, 21-22 The warning is simple: do not trust the world or yourself!

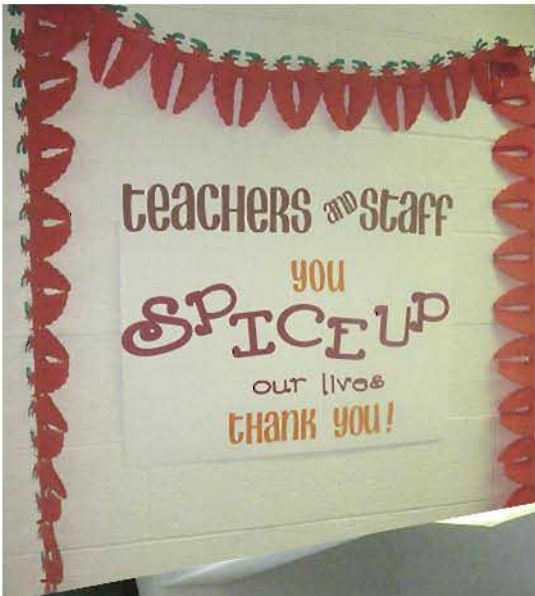
We can ask ourselves some very simple questions so we know whom to trust:

1. Who provides for your needs-- food, clothes, shelter, work etc.?
2. Who gave you the ability to learn?
3. Who first taught you about God and Jesus?
4. Who helps you with your daily activities?
5. Who gave you life?

The answer to each question is the Lord. He may have provided for you through people like parents, pastors, friends, relatives, and teachers but in the end it is the Lord who has provided them for you. He has provided for our seniors to come thus far with us at school, and now He will be with them as they each go the way of their calling.

When we trust in the Lord, we need to have child-like faith. How does a little child act when holding the hand of a parent? The child holds on firmly, lovingly, unwaveringly and exclusively. A little child will listen to the call of a parent and not to that of a stranger. The reason is that the child is in tune with the voice of the parent. The child knows that voice and trusts. The world will be saying many things to our graduates, to our children and to each of us; but we all need to be trained to follow and trust only one voice.

There is only one we can trust whole-heartedly -- that is the LORD! He never disappoints; He never leaves us nor forsakes us. He always keeps His promises; and for those who acknowledge and trust in Him, He will direct their paths.



Honoring our wonderful staff with a special lunch during teacher/staff appreciation week.

Spirit Week



Western Day



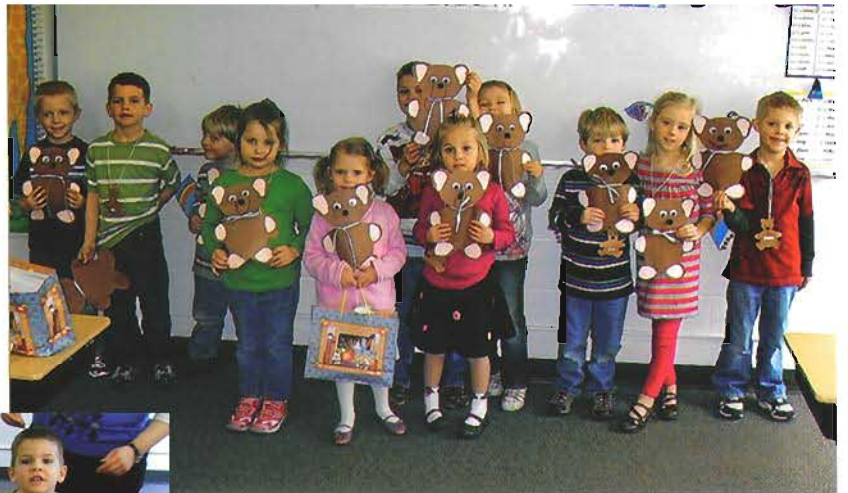
Sports Day

SPORTS



Girls Basketball

The 6th-8th grade girls had a fun season this year. They won an exciting game in overtime that put them in the tournaments. The team ended up in 4th place for the year! We are so proud of their hard work and their good sportsmanship this year. Congratulations Kayla Bil, Heather Kloosterman, Honnah Patnode, Kristen VanderBerg and Katie Vander Meer!



It was a busy morning at
Kindergarten Roundup!

Field Day Fun!



ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM
For New and Returning Members
2011-2012 School Year

[] We are, or wish to become full Association Members. The undersigned hereby state: 1) that we (I) have read and fully agree with Articles II and III of the Association's Bylaws; 2) that we are members in good standing of a church which formally holds to the Three Forms of Unity or the Westminster Standards; 3) that we are willing to pay the annual membership fee of \$25 per household; 4) that we agree to abide by the Bylaws, policies, and decisions of the Association; 5) that we agree to an interview with the Board, or a committee of it, regarding this application, if called for by the Board; and 6) that we understand that final approval of Association membership for new members shall be made by the Association.

Please do not write below this line

PRINTED NAMES: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street City Zip

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: _____

Nondiscrimination Policy: The Reformed Heritage Christian School Association shall admit students of any sex, race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It shall not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its education policies, admissions policies, and other school administered programs.

Rcvd:
Ck#:
CkDate:

Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, for they are the rejoicing of my heart.

Around the World... in One Night!

Visitors could sample a bit from several cultures on International Night at RHCS. The kindergarteners, Melanie and Victoria, told visitors about the animals, climate, food, and landmarks of Australia. Those who came learned about dingoes, mates, wallabies, and boomerangs.



The first and third graders presented Argentina. They had completed booklets about Argentina. Some of the students dressed as gauchos who work on the ranges of Argentina, herding the cattle. They learned about the dogeys. The first graders made stick horses and enjoyed riding them around the school. They handed out business cards that said, "Ask me about gauchos."

Grades four through six studied Russia. from World War 2 and other paraphernalia display. The students had made posters on let, and agriculture. A very large poster of a Kremlin which the students had colored was the presentation. Russian snack foods were served



Russian army hats from Russia were on Russian sports, ball-drawing of the centerpiece of the to the guests.

The junior high students created a fantastic water-fall display in their classroom to communicate the land of New Zealand to the visitors. There was even a model of a kiwi in her nest tucked alongside. Fruit was available to sample and information was neatly presented on posters.

Fund Raising



The Fundraising Committee is planning on selling Butter Braid Bread again in October/November (for Thanksgiving & Christmas). So stay tuned for this delicious fund raising event!

Currant Bread continues to be available at the school for \$7.00 per large loaf. Call 383-0505 to get more details.



Keep your scissors handy for cutting out Box Tops and Labels for Education! Every little bit helps in earning cash for our school!



Seniors Escape to Ohio!



The senior class had a fantastic time on their class trip this past spring. With our chaperones, Mr. and Mrs. Nagel, we piled into a van and drove down to the Cincinnati area to spend a few days. Our first stop on the road trip was the Cincinnati Aquarium, a place that boasted “a million gallons of fun.” We didn’t count, but we did have fun.

Our next (and most important) stop was another museum; the Creation Museum in Kentucky, where we wondered at the marvels of God’s creation. Our favorite room was the planetarium. When learning and fun are so closely tied together, you know that you have something good.

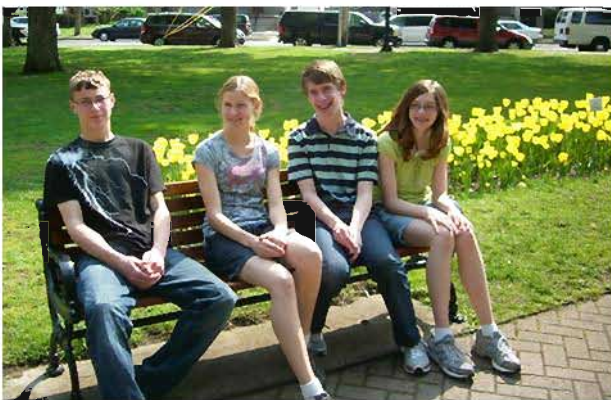
Our stops were not all at museums. On the second afternoon we took time to fire at each other with laser guns.

The main stop of our final day was a car museum a few hours south of Kalamazoo. The collection was impressive, and we were almost the only ones there and had loads of fun romping around the spacious building.



And that, in a nutshell, was our trip. Of course, I’m leaving out a lot of the little stories and events that really made our journey memorable. Whether it was the comically rude service-people, the hilarious waitress, or the insane running gags, there were many unforgettable things about this trip.

Marking the End of a Season



The 8th graders chose to go to the Holland Tulip Festival and Craig’s Cruisers in Grand Rapids this year for their annual class trip. At the Tulip Festival they watched a parade, visited an old Reformed Church and enjoyed lunch. After lunch they proceeded to Craig’s Cruisers and enjoyed a fun afternoon riding go carts, bumper boats and playing laser tag. After a

full day of fun and pizza they made their way safely home. Thank you to Mrs. Laura Moes and Mr. Dave Vander Meer for driving and spending the day with the class. A great time was had by all!



Reformed Heritage Christian School's Graduating Class of 2011



Sarah Kalkman

After graduation, Sarah began working at D & R Sports Center and is hoping to do some traveling this summer. She will be attending classes at Kalamazoo Valley Community College in the fall. Her main interest is in the area of photography.

Sarah loved her education at RHCS and is especially grateful to Mrs. Kuiper for all the extra help and patience she showed to Sarah.

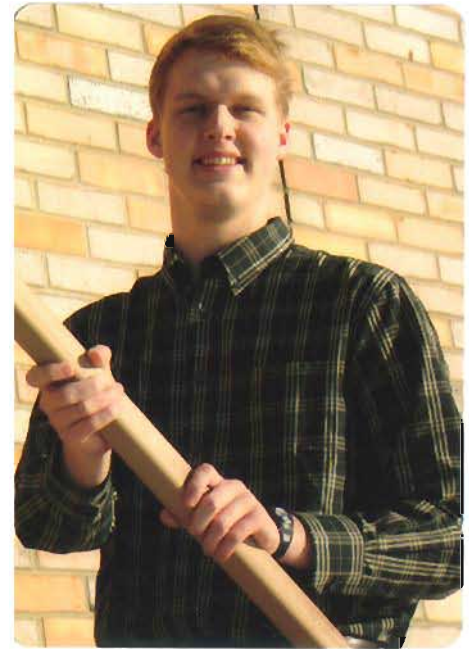
Sarah's favorite Bible verse is Matthew 6:33-34. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." It assures her that God will provide for her, no matter what!



Neil Kloosterman

Neil is following his brother and sister's path to Grove City College in Pennsylvania, now that he has completed high school. There, he is planning to study electrical engineering. Neil was awarded several scholarships; among them are the Buick Achievers Scholarship, Perrigo Scholarship, GCC-Leo Stevenson Scholarship and he was a Remynse Scholarship Finalist. For the summer, he hopes to get some work through OnStaff.

Science and literature were Neil's favorite subjects but he also learned a lot about how to behave in class from Mrs. Hoeksema. His favorite Bible verse is 2 Timothy 4:18 which says, "And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!" This verse encourages Neil to be unashamed of his faith.



Michelle Nagel



Michelle is heading to Sioux Center, Iowa to Dordt College this fall. She is going to major in Agriculture Business. But first, a full summer is planned, including working on the farm, attending the Reformed Youth Services Convention at the end of July, and visiting her brother and sister-in-law in Alberta.

Michelle feels very prepared as she heads to college because of the education she received at RHCS. She values all of the teachers that she had, from kindergarten on through high school.

And she appreciates the sound academic and solidly Reformed education she received from these excellent teachers. She is the recipient of the Dordt Presidential Scholarship and the Excellence in Education Award.

A favorite Bible verse is 2 Corinthians 5:21. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." Michelle writes, "It reminds me of Christ's sacrifice. He who was perfect and without sin left the glory of heaven so that we might be saved and be freed from sin. It reminds me that through Christ, we are restored into a right relationship with God. We are now perfect in the sight of the Lord through Christ."

Commencement Night

On the first night of June, RHCS friends, families, and supporters gathered at Covenant United Reformed Church to celebrate the accomplishments of three senior high school graduates and four junior high graduates. We also celebrated the blessings of God on each student at RHCS at the completion of the year.

Mrs. Kuiper played the prelude and processional on the organ, and the whole student body sang "Cast Your Burden On the Lord." Each of the eighth graders had studied a Bible text which was meaningful to them and one by one they spoke about these verses to those gathered. The junior and high school choir sang "When Trials Come." Then the seniors each related the events, teachers, and classes which were meaningful during their years at RHCS. They gave thanks for parents, family, teachers, friends, and their education as a whole. They gave testimony to the grace of God in each of their lives.



Eighth Grade Graduates (l to r): Jacob Riedstra, Heather Kloosterman, Katie VanderMeer, and Nathan Pryor.

"In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths."
Proverbs 3:6

Finally the diplomas and gifts were presented to the graduates by Mr. VanderMeer and Mr. D. Kloosterman. Mr. Kloosterman then took the opportunity to thank the teachers for their efforts for the past year. The parents were also thanked for their contributions of time and commitment. After the graduating classes were presented, all enjoyed a time of visiting and refreshments in the church gymnasium.

When the commencement speaker, Rev. R. VanManen, began his talk, he complimented the graduates for their fine speeches and said that much of what he wanted to say to the audience had already been said. He read from Proverbs 3 which exhorts us to not forsake mercy and truth, but bind them around our necks.

Rev. VanManen also brought clearly to mind the picture of road crews working to create a new road. They fill in the valleys and level the hills so that the road is level and smooth and easy to travel. This is how we should picture the road we walk on our journey through life. God makes our way easy to travel if we follow his directives.



High School Graduates (l to r): Sarah Kalkman, Neil Kloosterman, and Michelle Nagel.



Calendar of Events

July

22 **Summer Get-Together
(at Tim Kloosterman's place - 6pm)**

August

25 **School Potluck Dinner**
31 **First Day of School (1/2 day)**

September

1 **First Full Day of School (incl. kindergarten)**
9 **Chapel - 8:10am**
16 **Picture Day**

October

7 **Chapel - 8:10am**
27 **Fall Program**
28 **Reformation Chapel - 8:10am**

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