

The Lynden LINK

June 19, 2022
Volume 20, Issue 6

Cornerstone Christian School

~ Chairman Report ~

The 2021-2022 school year is in the books and so another academic year at Cornerstone comes to a close. At the end of this school year we have a lot to be thankful for and give thanks to God for all the teaching and learning that has taken place both in and outside of the classroom. We can give thanks for the talents and gifts that have been shared and the challenges that have been faced. We especially would like to congratulate the 2022 Seniors whose time as a student has come to a close at Cornerstone. We rejoice with each one of you on a job well done and pray that the Lord would continue to be with each one of you in this season of new beginnings. May you strive forward in purpose and faith and may you find fulfillment in all you do by doing God's will and continuing to rely on Him for all things. A big congrats to our eighth grade grads as well on reaching this milestone and we look forward to seeing you all in the high school wing next fall.

As we reflect on this past school year and some of the challenges faced we can be grateful for God's continued blessing and care. Our school theme this year was "Hope in God". Hope in God is the confident expectation of what God has promised and the strength in His faithfulness. We can also see the blessing of this at Cornerstone through the generations and along with the foundation and mission that our school is built on.

We are grateful for our faithful teachers and staff in their hard work through this past year. At the graduation ceremony we recognized two departing staff members. Our third grade teacher, Mackenzie Kanis and Sarah Beintema, one of our para-educators, will not be returning next year. They wish to spend more time with their families. We really appreciate the work that you both did at Cornerstone, and we wish you all the best!

The board recently received notice from Janet Faber that she wishes to retire from her duties in the Grade 1/2 language arts class. Janet has been with Cornerstone since our humble beginnings in Everson. Janet, you will be missed and we are grateful for your many years of service. We wish you all the best as you transition to life outside the classroom!

The board continues to work out the final staffing for the 22/23 school year. There are still a few holes that need to be filled. We are pleased to report that the board has hired Jordan Hicks as our new para-educator. Welcome aboard Jordan, we look forward to having you on the team! Debbie will continue as principal for the 22/23 school year, something the board is very thankful. We hope to be able to update you all soon on the remaining staffing line up for the 22/23 school year.

We are thankful to have the Inspire Group in our building for another summer. This program provides a daycare service to the local migrant farm worker community. If you are visiting the building while they are in operation, we ask that you be respectful of their operation. If you have a particular classroom or staff room to enter, we would encourage you to enter through the exterior door of that room. That way you do not need to travel through the corridors and cause a disruption.

As we wrap up this school year, I would like to thank my fellow board members, all committee members and volunteers for all the work that you have done behind the scenes. Thank you to our dedicated staff for another successful year! Special thank you to our principal Debbie Johnson. We really appreciate your dedication and git-er-done attitude! There were a few challenges along the way, but we really appreciated the 110% effort to overcome them! Well done! and Thank you!

On behalf of the board, I wish you all a wonderful summer and vacation time with your families filled with many blessings.



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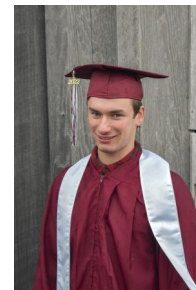
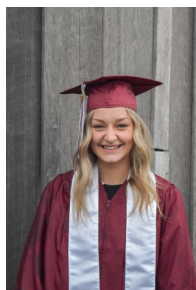
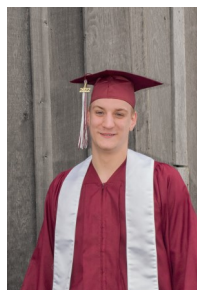
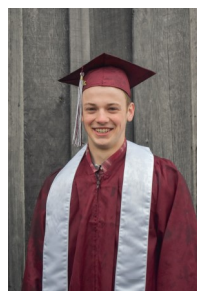
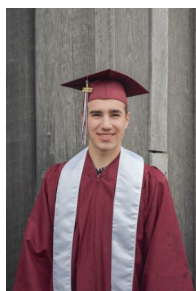
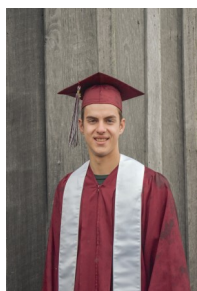
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Upcoming Dates

August 30 - First Day of School



Congratulations Class of 2022!!



~Treasurer Report~

Dear Cornerstone Community:

Yet another school year has come to a close. We are very thankful to God for the year we could have. Financially Cornerstone is in a good position. The last of the pledges for the year 2021-22 are being collected and we are beginning the requests for pledges in the 2022/23 school year. Thank you to those who have already responded via the paper left in their mailbox. If you have not been contacted yet, be assured, you will be very shortly. Especially at this time in our culture we ask that you please prayerfully consider this pledge, and the Reformed Christian education it provides for our covenant children. We are very thankful for our communities' response to this over the years. It's always amazing to collaboratively come together to tackle this financial responsibility we share. Some years see our

pledged amounts add up to nearly the very figure needed, just in making one round of requests to the society! This is the Lord's work, and we are so thankful for his guidance. Yes, it may sometimes seem like a burden or, it might be difficult to decide on "if", or how much to give year after year, but this cumulative effort financially brings our society closer together. We are very thankful for the societies willingness to participate. A little bit by a lot of people goes a long way.

Wishing all students and teachers a well-deserved break and all families the Lord's blessing over the summer in whatever their plans may be. Looking forward to seeing you at the end of August, let me be the first to say it, "10 weeks till school starts"!! (Sorry, I couldn't resist :)

Calling all art enthusiasts!

The Northwest Washington Fair Art Department invites our students to enter their art or craft in the Hobbies Dept. at the NWWF. This department would like to see more Artists in Action during the Fair to encourage others in Art.

If you love building with Legos or other building stuff you are welcome to enter your display.

Any questions? Please call/email Peggy Deem - nwwfhobbies@gmail.com or 360-303-6818

They will accept demonstrations of all kinds.

~Education Committee Report~

It's time to write another scintillating update regarding the work that the Education Committee is doing. As reported in previous updates, you may remember that this past year we reviewed Cornerstone's Math program. Next year we will be having a look at the school's Language Arts program.

Another part of our Committee's work has been to attend presentations and give feedback on the senior projects. This past year, with fourteen seniors, there have been fourteen senior projects! That translated into five evenings, listening to presentations on a wide variety of topics ranging from digging deep into trucks and transmission rebuilds to publishing a cookbook, from remodels and construction projects to volunteering at a fire department, from childcare to job shadowing a certified nursing assistant, from business or law firm internships to advanced woodwork for non-profits – we were privileged to hear it all. It is wonderful to see how our seniors grow in knowledge and experience as they work through their senior projects. We are especially

grateful to all the mentors who willingly give their time to assist our students in reaching their goals. We look forward to hearing from next year's seniors about their plans and we're impressed that we've already heard from a few of them.

Finally, another delightful task we get to do is visit the school. This past May, a representative from the Board, along with an Ed Comm member, visited all the classrooms in session. It is always a most pleasant time and we come away so thankful for our caring, conscientious and professional teachers as well as our enthusiastic students. God has blessed us so richly in Cornerstone.

One more note – two of our Ed Comm members will be completing their terms at the end of this year. If serving in this capacity is something that interests you, please approach one of the current members. We'd love to hear from you.

For the Education Committee
Stephanie Bareman

~Cornerstone Foundation~

And so, another school year ends, capped with a wonderful graduation ceremony for the seniors who have completed their course of study at CCS. Although they might not want to admit to it, one could imagine that for some, graduation is bittersweet, the joy of completing years of study coupled with the uncertainty of what lies ahead – new adventures, a new calendar of study, greater independence, and self-accountability, maybe a move away from home and the challenge of making new friends or finding their place in a new congregation. There are several bible passages that remind us of the Lord's presence and his loving and caring hand, so may our graduates be steadfast and cling tightly to the promises we find in the canon of scripture like the words read in Joshua chapter one verse nine "... *Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*"

May we as members of the Cornerstone Christian School Society also put our trust in these words, and all of God's promises to His people, as we continue to support the education and upbringing of the Lord's covenant children for generations to come. The Cornerstone Foundation Board last met on May 17th. At this meeting we gave a hearty thanks to outgoing board members Brian Hendricks and Marvin Vreugdenhil for their years of service and contribution to the work of the Foundation Board. We also welcomed our newest members Ian Davis and Ca-son VanDriel, and without delay the board appointed

Ian Davis to the position of CF Board secretary. I can assure you that no arm twisting took place! It was noted with much thanks that the amended investment guidelines were approved, at the Spring Membership Meeting, which will now allow the board to work on a more detailed investment strategy moving forward. The treasurer reported that our total bank balance was \$203,700.62 with a couple of recent donations yet to be reconciled. This is truly a blessing and a testament to a supportive and loving community.

The CF board is very much committed to formulating a solid plan and has decided at this time to not move any principal funds to a specific investment account. We want to be sure that we have a strategy that has been fully vetted and we are also exercising a certain level of caution due to the current economic uncertainty. We will be revisiting this decision at our next meeting in September. Meanwhile the treasurer and board chair will continue to consult with an investment planner to make sure "all of our ducks are in a row."

And I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to encourage all members and their extended family to consider the CF Foundation as part of their giving plan, in the short term or for the future, and ask for your prayers for the continued growth of the CF Foundation funds and the ongoing stability of Cornerstone Christian School.

Until next time, on behalf of the CF Board,
Derek Willis

Congratulations 8th Grade Grads! All the best in High School!



~ Principal Report ~

By the grace of God, another school year has been completed! When the planning for this just completed school year began, our prayer was that God would give what was needed, and that He would bless our efforts. Our God is faithful and good. He did not disappoint us. Some days there were things that were challenging and difficult, and decisions needed to be made that required wisdom and discernment, and so we continued to seek strength from above. While we know there were shortcomings and failings, many tasks were completed and many goals were reached, and learning could take place. Many thanks to our Heavenly Father for all He has done and given this past year.

As I've written the past LINK articles, I have looked at one of the school aims listed in the Parent Handbook. We have now made it to the fourth one on the list. "Implement a curriculum to meet the needs of American students." Let's take a moment to look at this aim a bit deeper. First of all, it is not at first read, a strikingly Christian aim. The first three aims speak of a Scriptural framework, covenantal children and a communion of saints, and discernment between good and evil. This one is about America! And yet, this plays an important part in our view of Reformed education at Cornerstone.

Seeking to instruct covenant children in His ways covers a plethora of areas. As already promised at baptism, parents seek to teach their children in the truths of Scripture, the doctrine of the Old and New Testament, and the summary of the creeds and confessions. But how does American curriculum content fit into that? While we may sometimes glibly say, "America is God's country", just saying it doesn't give the statement credence.

However, God has placed us here. The United States of America is our home. Washington State is our home. Whatcom County is our home. It is where God has placed us. The Parent Handbook develops the aim further, as well. It states "We believe that the education of the covenant youth should reflect the particular cultural, societal, and historical context in which God has placed them." (page 3, Aug 2021 edition).

Looking to Scripture for examples of this, my mind goes to Daniel and other exiles in Babylon. These men became deeply involved in the workings of this new country in which they were placed. Or thinking of New Testament times with Paul and the other apostles who were very aware of the surrounding culture as they preached.

Now there is not a direct correlation between those times and ours, but it certainly shows the importance of being involved in one's culture.

So how does Cornerstone incorporate this aim in the curriculum? In the primary grades, among other American topics, a local history of the Lynden area is covered. The first white settlers, and the Native people who assisted them are learned about. In the middle grades the 13 colonies are studied, as well as major historical events and figures. In our Language programs we also seek to choose books that fit in the American context. Then, in High School, a whole course is devoted to American Government. In many ways the culmination of our American studies comes in the form of the trip to the East Coast!

School Aim #4:

Implement a curriculum to meet the need of American students

Thank You!

This section could easily become long with so many thank yous that could be said! Taking on the role of principal was a big step for me, and my family. I'm very thankful for their support, patience and encouragement along the way. However, the family here is bigger than our five! The prayers of the community, your tangible assistance and words of encouragement were an essential part of my ability to take on the principal role this past year. And now it is apparent God has called me to continue this task a little longer. I'm confident that, as He has called me to this task, He will grant what is needed again for each day.

Thank you to the staff, for it was this team that enabled the teaching goals of this past year to be reached. Throughout the course of the year, our team of teachers and educators changed. A transition took place in January, and again in the spring, but the learning continued. And next year, the team will look different again. Thank you to each and everyone who played a part in the educational work of this past school year.

We will be welcoming Jordan Hicks to the EdSupport team next year. She comes with an enthusiasm that we are sure to see much benefit from, without entirely losing the experience of our departing Mrs. Beintema, who has promised to be as helpful as she can from home.

Our thanks for that, as well as the expertise and knowledge you shared with us this past year. It made a difference!

With Mrs. Kanis' plan to be at home with her young family, more staffing changes were needed. Once the Board has solidified these plans, we can share them with the community, but from here our thanks go to Mrs. Kanis for her diligent efforts with her students over the past two years. We are thankful for the expertise and care you displayed and shared at Cornerstone.

Now comes a huge thank you to Mrs. Faber. While her decision to retire came a little later in the school year, and the decision to do so was hard, abundant gratitude is expressed for all she has given and accomplished. From the beginning of Cornerstone, Mrs. Faber was a constant. Our words of thanks here don't do justice to everything she has given to the school. Her love for her students is legendary, and things just won't be the same without her. We do pray that the shift to other things may be smooth, and that with the Lord's leading, your love for others may find new avenues

to receive the blessing of your gifts. We wish all of the departing staff, God's blessings.

Now it is summer break. No longer do we need to constantly check the time so we aren't late to school, or late for pick up. No longer do we need to check schedules for driving, or cleaning. No longer do we need to assist with homework or see that it is completed. Those can be the tiring parts from which we all enjoy the break. However, the learning and training of our children will continue. Jobs, home chores, outdoor adventures and travel all give opportunity for learning and growth as well. Regular reading and perhaps some Math review are great summer activities. We may not be on a school schedule anymore, but God still calls us to use our talents and time to His Glory.

May you all experience a wonderful summer. May we all be refreshed and recharged to take up our callings at, or with Cornerstone on August 30th, when our opening assembly will be the start of a new school year!

May God bless all our efforts.

~ Ladies Aid Report ~

Hello from Ladies Aid! We have wrapped up another school year and are thankful for the fundraisers that could be completed these last few months.

Coupon books: Thank you to all who made the effort to sell the books! A combined total of 605 books have been sold which means we are past the break even point! We have just over 140 books left which will be available for purchase at the school and at the Green Barn. Any books sold now are pure profit!

Plant Sale: All praise and thanks to God for another successful plant sale. He graciously (and very generously) gifted us with rain to water the plants, and just enough sunshine to promote a little growth. Thanks to all those who gave of their time and muscle and support to help the committee in many ways. We're thankful to report that we made a profit of just over \$14,500, and that we had fun doing it. It's so exciting to support our school via this fundraiser.

As we are in the gardening season right now, please take stock of the perennials that you have in your garden beds and make a mental (or written note) of plants that will be shareable next spring. Sometimes it's hard to remember what's lurking under the soil in March, when we start asking for perennial donations.

Lastly, if you have any empty hanging baskets in the fall, please consider saving them (along with their hangers) and donating them to next year's plant sale. Thank-you!

Cornerstone Cafe: Yes, the Cafe is on and we are so excited for another successful fundraiser! We can't do it without you... if you are interested in joining the Cafe Committee, now's the time! Please contact Michelle Veldman or Janice DeMooy if you'd like to know more! To ensure the longevity of this fundraiser, we really need people from our community to step up.

Are you a morning person? Cafe committee member Debby Lodder would love to hear from you. Do you love data entry? Then fellow Cafe committee member Irene Hicks is the one to talk to. This is the year to shadow a committee member, and put your talents to good use both this year and in future years! The success of this fundraiser is dependent upon you... we'd love to have you join us!

Pumpkin patch: Seeds have been planted and pumpkin plants are out of the ground! We are hoping for an abundant crop of pumpkins. Stay tuned for your opportunity to help in the fall.

Wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer!

On behalf of Ladies Aid,
Ang Davis

~ From our Freshman/Sophomore Class ~

In the last 5 weeks of the school year, the grade 9/10 class completed an apologetics unit on Evolution. In this unit, they studied first the theory of evolution, including the big bang theory, the geological time scale, and the evolution of species. Once we completed that section, we then watched some lectures (mainly by Dr. Ken Ham) that were produced by Answers in Genesis. For their final assessment, students had to write a paper summarizing the two world views surrounding evolution.

All the students did a fantastic job with their final essays, and all of them could have been included in this Link edition. However, I chose the two that I felt gave an understandable and good comprehensive overview of the two world views. Happy reading!

Mica Lodder

Defending the Biblical Worldview on the Origins of Life

As Christians in a sinful world, it is so important to be able to defend our knowledge of the origins of species. The world believes that millions of years ago a big bang happened to occur by chance. We know that our world was created in six, real days by our faithful, Heavenly Father who still upholds and governs this world.

Natural selection is the process through which populations of living organisms adapt and change. Because of this, some individuals have traits better suited to their environment. Individuals with favorable characteristics would survive and reproduce and those with unfavorable characteristics would not. The environment determines whether a trait is beneficial or not. Because species reproduce at a faster rate than food supplies, there is competition between species. These traits are passed on to the next generation. These variations accumulate over long periods of time and may result in a new species. Dr. Ham, CEO of the Answers in Genesis organization, points out the plain reading of scripture that 'kinds' of animals were created and from these kinds came many species that evolved over time. Dr. Ham gives a biblical definition of natural selection. He says that we start with the original pool of animals created by God in the beginning. As these animals dispersed after the flood, they continued to reproduce. This is not adding any brand-new genes. It is separating and losing information, not adding any information. We have never observed new generations gaining new information which is what evolution is based on. It has only been noticed that info is lost from generation to generation. We believe this because sin is an intrusion; it was not meant to be there. Human life is constantly deteriorating because of the effects of sin. God created animals without any sin. They were not designed to rip each other apart.

Humans used to live for hundreds of years and were created to live eternally, but after the fall into sin, we have bad mutations which have lowered our life expectancy.

Evolutionists reject the notion of Intelligent Design or a Divine being creating the universe. They explain the origin of the world with the 'Big Bang Theory'. They believe that the formation of the earth took billions of years and it took billions of more years before life appeared. This theory starts with the entire universe being contained in a point. This point then rapidly expands like a balloon. The energy becomes matter (hydrogen and helium). The matter condenses into stars and galaxies by quantum fluctuation. The stars make heavier elements that become dust and when the dust condenses it forms planets. On the planets, chemicals happen to form life. This life evolves into you. They represent the evolutionary history of the earth using the geological time scale. They believe there were four eras; the Precambrian, Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic eras. There are many different periods throughout each era. The law of superposition states that the bottom layer is the oldest and the top layer is the newest. They believe that these layers formed over time. They use relative dating to date the fossils in rock layers. The assumption they make when using this method is that where the fossil is, is where it died and was dated. The assumption may lead to inaccurate dating because other species may be wrong. The older layer is below the younger layer but there could have been earthquakes or some rocks being pushed up. They believe that the history of life on earth takes place over 4.6 billion years. As Christians, we know that God created the earth in six days. Genesis 1.31 says, "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day." In six days, God created the earth and the stars, the fish and the trees, the birds and dinosaurs, and all animals and man by his divine word and power. God called everything into existence. The earth is only thousands of years old, not the billions of years that evolutionists believe. God created the world in six days, it did not take billions of years to form. Evolutionists tend to reject the Living God. They tell us that we need to trust science. They argue that their position is based on facts and evidence. Their theory is simply a theory based on many assumptions not based on actual observation. No human witnessed the Big Bang so to believe this theory takes faith. They simply choose to trust the god of science.

Evolutionists have five main pieces of evidence for evolution: Homologous body structure, similarities in microbiology (bacteria), similarities in

embryology, the geographic distribution of living species, and the fossil record. When comparing species they see very similar body structures and skeletal structures. They believe that these similar features originated in a shared ancestor and that these animals are derived from the same structures in the embryo. In the early stages, different vertebrate embryos are similar to each other. There are also similarities in RNA and DNA from one organism to another. In responding to the environment, different unrelated species have changed to look similar to each other. For example, the wombat and koala have similar facial features. The fossil record shows us that the lowest stratum is the oldest, and the top stratum is the newest. This is the law of superposition. Successive layers of rock and soil were deposited on top of each other by wind or water. The fossil record shows when a species appeared, how long it survived, and if and when it went extinct. Evolutionists use this to show where mass extinctions happen. They determine that these happened by drastic changes in the environment, volcanic activity, and collisions with asteroids (many believe this is how the dinosaurs went extinct). All of this so-called 'evidence' for evolution can be traced back to our Creator. Everything is made by the one true Creator so it seems only fitting that there are many similarities between species. The fossil record can all be explained by the global flood. These rock layers confirm catastrophic events. The volcanic eruption of Mt. St. Helens demonstrated how a major event has caused mass and instant death to different species and has created fossils similar to what we would expect to see with a global flood as explained in the Bible.

Many men went before Darwin and expressed the ideas of evolution. Erasmus Darwin, Charles Darwin's grandfather, contributed to the theory by expressing his evolutionary ideas in poetry and reports. He commented on inheritance and laid the groundwork for natural selection. He said that the dominant male will beat the female and the strongest male will be the one who passes on the strongest genes. Jean Baptiste Lamarck is the first person to try and explain the evolutionary process. He is the first to recognize the importance between organisms and the environment in the evolutionary process. He believed in the inheritance of acquired characteristics. Georges Cuvier opposed Lamarck. He introduced the concept of extinction to explain the disappearance of animals by fossils. He insisted on the fixity of species (species back then are the same that we have now). He believed that catastrophic events made life forms extinct. Alfred Wallace worked side by side with Charles Darwin. They both wrote papers describing evolution as a process driven by competition and natural selection.

Dr. Ham summarized this Creation teaching in the seven C's of History. The first one is Creation. We believe that God made the heavens and the

earth and everything in between in six days. Some argue that these six days were figurative in an attempt to merge evolutionary science with the Scripture. The book of Genesis is written in a historical narrative. We need to take God at his word. Since God's word is the starting point we shouldn't try to fit science in our understanding. Then there was corruption. Adam and Eve sinned and the result was sin and death for all of the human race. Sin is an intrusion into our lives. A great catastrophe happened; a global flood. The confusion came upon the earth. At the Tower of Babel, God gave different languages and created different cultures. God sent Christ, his only Son, to this world to pay the penalty for our sin. He died on the cross for our sins. He took away our sins and because of this God looks at us as white as snow. We now await the consummation. The new heaven and the new earth. We wait for Christ to return and take us to the new world. Our current world is groaning because of sin.

There are many different races and people groups around the world. If we believe in the survival of the fittest then there would be superior races evolving. This tendency, over time, does cause racism. Evolution then promotes racism over the years. The Creation view looks at each creature being created in the image of God. Everyone from the Tower of Babel moved away, each with their people groups. They spread across and lived with those who had the same culture and language. This created the different cultures that we live in. Even in our own country, we have different cultures in regions of the country. Genesis 11:9, "Therefore its name was called Babel because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth." Some evolutionary ideas fueled racism. The sin in this world makes people think of some races as animals, not humans. Blacks were considered to be lower and some said if they will accept blacks then they also are accepting apes or gorillas. We know that the inside is the part that matters. "Man looks outside, God looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7. We are all created in God's image. Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." We are actually one race because we are all descendants of Adam and Eve. Although some have darker skin it just means that they have more melanin in their skin. There is no such thing as black and white, but just different shades of brown. Evolutionists believe that they are defined by their physical features so we as human beings have been programmed to see different races. We should be saying that there are different groups of people who are defined by the culture they live in. We are defined by who we are in God. God looks at our heart when man looks at the physical appearance. This is why it is so important to shine our lights as temples of God.

We know and await the coming judgment and restoration. There is hope for our future. Christ has defeated death. We share in Christ's resurrection and look forward to the day when our resurrected bodies and souls will be united to Christ in glory. We know where we are going. It is so hopeless and disheartening to hold the belief that our future ultimately results in death. When talking about our position on the origins of life, we need to include the Bible. If you give up God's Word you only have man's word. If you give up the Bible, you have lost the conversation. There is no neutral position; it is either starting with God's Word or the fleeting word of man. Many have been giving up the use of the Bible in their arguments because the world doesn't believe it so they say that you cannot involve the Bible in it. We need to honor God as our sovereign Lord. We need to stand up, unashamedly using God's Word to fight the sin of this world. We need to return to the authority of the Word. As Christians, we believe the Bible is our starting point so we need to stand by it boldly.

Grace Stevens

A Defense Against Evolution

There are only two views about the start of the world: a Biblical view and a non-Biblical view. Some people might argue that there are several more ideas, but the instant that the Bible is tossed out of the argument, the view is non-Biblical.

As Christians, to properly defend against the ideas and theories of evolution, we must first understand it. One theory that contributes to evolution is the Big Bang Theory. It begins with the idea that the whole universe is within a single point. This point expands rapidly like a balloon being pumped with air. Energy that was contained in that point becomes the most basic elements: hydrogen and helium. These elements are matter. The matter that is formed by the energy condenses into stars and galaxies. The stars make heavier elements which turn into dust. The dust collects until it forms planets. On one of these planets, known as Earth, chemicals happened to be able to create life. Eventually, after billions of years, life evolved into humans. The timeline of the evolution of all life begins in what evolutionist scientists call the Precambrian Era. This era spans around 4,059 billion years. It began with the formation of the Earth and ended with the appearance of multicellular algae. After the Precambrian comes the Paleozoic Era. At the dawn of the Paleozoic Era are the first invertebrates, while at the close is the rise of dominance in gymnosperms. In the Paleozoic there are the first primitive fish and land plants, as well as the emergence of seed plants and reptiles in amniote eggs. The rise of the Mesozoic Era brought with it the first dinosaurs, mammals, birds, and angiosperms. At the end of the Mesozoic Era angiosperms are the dominant plant and there is

a mass extinction that wipes out half of all life, plant or animal. This is what causes the eradication of the dinosaurs. In the final period of time, which is called the Cenozoic Era, there are the first placental mammals. Ice Ages take place during this time. Mammoths and mastodons roamed the Earth before dying off when the Ice Ages ended. Humans or *Homo sapiens* appear and evolve to what we know today.

There were several people before the renowned Charles Darwin, who helped to form the ideas that are generally accepted as truth today. Carolus Linnaeus is known as the Father of Taxonomy. He included humans in his classification as *Homo sapiens*. This was controversial since this insinuated that humans were part of the animal kingdom. Comte de Buffon recognized the relationship between the flora and fauna and the environment they inhabited. This would later contribute to the theory that animals who lived in different areas evolved to better survive there. Jean Baptiste Pierre Antoine de Monet Chevalier de Lamarck was the first person who tried to explain the evolutionary process. He formulated the idea of inherited acquired characteristics. This is the idea that animals altered themselves to fit their environment and passed these acquired characteristics to their offspring. For example, the giraffe grew its neck to reach higher food sources. Lamarck was the first to understand the importance of the interactions between organisms and the environment. Additionally, he realized that there was a need for a scientific branch that specifically deals with living organisms. Lamarck was the one who coined the term biology. Georges Cuvier was another scientist who opposed Lamarck. He introduced the concept of extinction to explain the disappearance of animals represented by fossils. Cuvier did not make connections between fossils and living species, which is important because it shows he did not think that species evolved. Charles Lyell is known for founding modern geology. He was a friend and mentor to Darwin. He believed that the Earth must be much older than people had previously thought. The time frame that he believed allowed for the possibility of evolutionary change. Thomas Malthus was an inspiration for future evolutionists like Darwin and Alfred Wallace. He theorized the idea of a population being able to increase at a faster rate than food supplies. Malthus also realized that there was a constant competition for food and resources within an environment which would result in survival of the fittest. All of these people paved the way with their ideas for Charles Darwin to form his theory of evolution.

After Charles Darwin graduated from college, he was invited to travel on a voyage around the world. This sea voyage lasted nearly 5 years and forever altered the course of biological science.

On the Galapagos Islands, Darwin noticed that there were similarities between the organisms of South America and the Galapagos Islands. He collected 13 species of finches from the Galapagos. These birds shared structural similarities and were closely associated. Another observation he had was that the finches had different traits, for example, the size and shape of the beaks. Darwin compared the Galapagos finches to a group in South America. After these studies, he realized that the finches must have descended from a common ancestor. Based on the writings of Lamarck, Darwin believed the finches had acquired different characteristics in response to the different habitats and food sources. Darwin was the main scientist who developed the ideas of natural selection. While living in England, he borrowed from the practices of animal breeders who select the traits that they want to emphasize in the new generation. He applied his newfound knowledge of domesticated species to naturally occurring species. Later, he read Malthus' written works and applied the fact that populations increase at a faster rate than resources to what he was theorizing. This realization led to Darwin's theory of natural selection. More offspring were being born than were surviving to adulthood, which meant that competition for resources would result in survival of the fittest.

Over the past 3 paragraphs, I have explained the basics of the theory of evolution. Now I will explain from a Biblical perspective, why it is wrong and the true origin of the world. When looking at history and the origin of the world, everyone is looking at the same world and the same facts. What makes the worldviews different is the interpretation. The simple foundation for a Biblical interpretation is the first verse of the Bible: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." The Bible is widely considered to be a valuable resource of information as it has always been historically correct. It is not just a religious textbook it is a vast compendium of knowledge. Why should it be any different concerning the origin of the world and species? Evolutionists believe that we started with a minuscule gene pool that somehow grew to the vast differences we see today. When looking at it from a Creationist's perspective, the first dogs had the largest gene pool. They would pass down different traits to each of their offspring. As the new generation would multiply, eventually some would move. If short-haired and long-haired dogs moved to an extremely cold place, only the long-haired canines would survive. In a hot place, it would be vice versa. This is how the gene pool was separated and how Darwin noticed that the Galapagos finches were designed better for the Galapagos than the South American finches were. Christians do agree with some parts of natural selection. For example, we agree that only long-haired dogs would survive in

cold climates as opposed to short-haired ones. However, while evolutionists think we started with a tiny gene pool, we believe we started with the whole gene pool.

The Biblical worldview has a purpose and meaning. The Big Bang theory does not. An atheist who believes in the Big Bang theory cannot account for the laws of nature or logic. If the world was the result of random processes, there should be no logic. There are also many scientific problems with the Big Bang. If the density of the Earth had been slightly more or less than what it supposedly began as our universe would be curved instead of flat. There is also a light-travel time problem. If the world is as old as evolutionists say it is, there would not be enough time for the light of some stars to reach us. One more problem to discuss is the existence of distant mature galaxies. The existence of fully formed galaxies is a surprise to scientists who believe in the big bang theory. An important scientific issue is the big bang could not produce any elements heavier than lithium. Therefore, it would not be possible for the oldest known stars to have heavier elements than lithium. However, all known stars do have heavier elements.

The origin of the world according to the Bible is simple: God. In an earlier quotation, the Bible states, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." The Bible has an explanation for everything. It explains the creation of the world by God. It shows how man became corrupt and fell into sin. It even shows how it is possible for there to be fossils without millions and billions of years. In the Flood, the conditions would have made it possible for all the animals that were not on the ark to be fossilized. The Bible elucidates how the people of the earth were separated and their languages formed. This happened at the tower of the Babel. Some people with some genes and a specific language would make a tribe somewhere, isolating the genes in that area. Therefore, some nations look much different from others. Since we believe the Bible we must believe all of it. In the Bible, it shows how man has fallen and is sinful and we still see that today. Why should we trust man's word (e.g. Big Bang theory, evolution, etc.) when we have the infallible and omniscient God's Word.

All in all, there is a myriad of reasons why the theories of man do not make sense. When we trust some of God's Word, we trust all of it. Science disproves man's word time and time again, while it has never invalidated the Bible.

2022-2023 School Calendar

August

30- First Day of School

September

5- Labor Day

October

7- PD Day

10- Columbus Day

28- PD Day

November

4- 1st Qtr report Cards HS

7,8- High School P/T Conferences

11- Veteran's Day

18- Elem 1st Term Report cards

21- Early Release -11:55am

21,22- Elem P/T Conferences

24- Thanksgiving Day

25- Thanksgiving Break

December

16- Christmas Program

21- Last Day of 2022

22- Jan 3 – Christmas Break

January

4- First Day of 2023

16- Martin Luther King Day

20- High School 2nd Qtr Reports

23, 24- HS P/T Conferences

February

3- PD Day

22- 2nd Term Elem Report Cards

23, 24,27- Mid Winter Break

27- Elem P/T Conferences

March

1- Elem P/T Conferences

17- PD Day

31- HS Third Qtr Report Cards

April

3-7- Spring Break

7- Good Friday

May

5- Public Speaking Contest

5- PD Day

18- Ascension Day

26- Sports Day

29- Memorial Day

June

2- Eighth Grade Graduation

9- Senior Graduation

Board

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Vice-Chairman:	Ray Buitenbos
Secretary:	Ray Buitenbos
Treasurer:	Kolin Veldman
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Staff & Membership Admin	Clarence Kobes
Building Liaison:	Dave Hofford
Bookkeeper	Karla Leyenhorst

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Nathan Chase	Dave Hofford
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Sec - Ang Davis	Treas - Kelli Kobes

Staff

Office Administration:

Debbie Johnson - Principal
Gavin Willis - Athletic Director
Kari VanDiest- Secretary

Full Time:

Debbie Johnson - Geo, Music 3/4, Web De. 9/10, Art 7-10
Jeanette Janssen - Science 7-12, Math 9-12
John-Mark Stromberg - PE 5-8, His. 7/8, Eng.& His. 9-12
Lynette Van Hofwegen - Gr. 5/6
Stephen Houweling - Math 4, Gr.7/8
Wayne Chase - HS: Bible, Math, English, History

Part Time:

Christine Hofford- Ed Support
Darlene VanStaalduinen - Spanish 11/12
Heather Johnson - Horticulture 11/12
Janet Faber - L.A. 1/2
Janice Dykstra - Ed Support Coord.
Jolene Kingma - L.A.4, Bible, His 3/4., PE & Sc.1-4
Jolene Vreugdenhil - Culinary Arts 11/12
Karen DeMooy - Art 3/4
Kristina Wendt - PE HS
Mackenzie Kanis - Math 3, LA 3
Melanie Kottelenberg - Music 5/6
Mikayla Willis- Ed Support
SarahBeintema- Ed Support
Shari Kruyswijk - Gr.1/2 Bible, Math, Music, Art
Sharon Veldman - Culinary Arts 11/12