

# The Lynden LINK

## ~ Chairman Report ~

October 22, 2023 ~ Volume 22, Issue 2

By the time you get this Link, you will have received the board meeting short report. As you can see in that report, the board has quite a bit on the go. You should have also seen the membership meeting agenda and materials, so you know what items we want to cover at the meeting on the 30th. So, rather than repeat information, I'd like to touch on something you haven't heard about recently: the CCS Strategic Plan.

Back in April 2017, the board received a report from a strategic planning committee. This was a committee of society members who conducted surveys of the membership and sub-groups within the membership. They sorted, categorized, and interpreted the responses in order to develop a strategic plan of action for CCS. This committee then documented their findings in a succinct but detailed report for the board. In the preface to this report, we find the following:

*[This report] includes a summary of the feedback we received from the membership, which has been categorized into a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). This feedback has been incorporated into 6 overarching goals, each with a distinct category and with specific action steps. You can see that it also describes what it will look like when we achieve that goal. These goals and this document have been established with a 5-year window in mind. This document and the goals associated with it will be reviewed by the board on a regular basis throughout the year, and is intended to provide a bit of a 'compass' in some areas. Every five years or so, this document can be re-evaluated to make sure that 'the compass' is still pointing in the right direction.*

Time flies, and we have arrived at that 5-year mark mentioned here. We are due for a re-evaluation of the strategic plan! As mentioned, the plan includes six goal areas: Governance and Administration, Infrastructure and Campus Resources, Membership and Community Engagement, Educational Program and Student Enrichment, Capable and Committed Staff, and Financial Stewardship. The point of the strategic plan is to identify action items (ideas) for improvement, along with those responsible for carrying out the actions.

Each goal area also includes a summary sentence of what it will look like to achieve the goal, along with a series of items describing "how this will look" when the goal is met. For example, for the goal area of Governance and Administration, the summary sentence is "Ensuring our mission is carried out; serving effectively and efficiently." The first "how this will look" item says: "The Board interacts with the Strategic Plan as a 'living' document and works to reach its recommended goals over the next 10 years to further CCS's mission."

Over the next series of Links, I plan to review each goal area. I'd like to highlight the items in the "how this will look" section, and discuss how the board and others have taken specific actions for improvement within the goal areas. At the same time, the board will continue to interact with the plan, but also re-evaluate, at this half-way mark, with a view to determining if "the compass

Living

In The

Spirit

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### Upcoming Dates

Oct. 27: PD Day  
Nov. 10 - Veteran's Day  
Nov. 14 - College & Careers Eve.  
Nov. 17 - HS 1st Qtr Reports  
Nov. 17 - Thanksgiving Program  
Nov. 20/21 - HS P/T Conferences  
Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving Day  
Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving Break  
Dec. 8 - Elem 1<sup>st</sup> Term Reports  
Dec.11 - Early Release -11:55am  
Dec.11,13- Elem P/T Conferences  
Dec.22- Last Day of 2023

Create in me a clean heart, O God - Psalm 51:10

is still pointing in the right direction.”

We look forward to meeting with you all on October 30 for the Fall membership meeting! Please make it a priority to attend as we have many important topics to vote on.

Thanks be to our Father in Heaven for His blessings

upon us each day, and in particular over the start of another school year. May CCS continue to fulfill its purpose – assisting the parents – with wisdom, joy, and proficiency!

Steve Hofford

## ~ From the Ed Comm ~

A new school year means a new season for the Education Committee. This fall, we are seeing a good number of seniors have already either completed their senior projects, or are well on their way to being done. We will be scheduling presentation nights very soon, and they'll continue throughout the year. This year we're looking forward to hearing from students who became Bible camp counselors, swimming instructors, built demolition derby cars, became hairdressers, and much more. As always, we are looking forward to participating in these evenings, as this aspect of the Ed Comm's duties is most enjoyable.

In regard to some of our other duties, we are reviewing both our Science and Music curriculum; and in particular, are examining not just the academic value of the material, but we are developing a concise metric for evaluating the apologetic quality/aspect of their implementation (e.g. how do we refute evolutionary biology? What is our Reformed Christian worldview as it relates to these subjects? How do we challenge students to defend and think critically about these matters?). It's a big task, but we're up for it!

We've received great feedback regarding last month's Parent Information Evening with Jonathon

Van Maren. We hope you appreciated it! Stay tuned as we plan the next event—the Ed Comm hopes to keep parents engaged with valuable presentations and great topics.

The Education Committee is thankful to the LORD for the start of another great year, and thankful as well for willing participants of this committee who lend their time and effort to “consider matters related to curriculum, instruction, policies, and staffing of the school and make recommendations concerning the same as mandated by the School Board; (and to) keep itself informed regarding the academic quality and Scriptural character of the instruction given, and make reports and recommendations concerning these and related matters to the School Board” (mandate). These are important tasks. Therefore, a big “thank-you” goes out to both Debby Lodder and Sharon Veldman who find themselves at the end of their term! Ladies, we appreciate your years of work and dedication! We need two replacements, so if you think you have what it takes to serve on Ed Comm, let a current member know. We'd appreciate it!

For the Ed Comm,  
E. Brown

## ~ College & Careers ~

Are you a high school student unsure about what you plan to do after graduation? Or maybe a parent who feels uninformed about the plethora of vocational and educational options available to your future graduate? Then the CCS College & Careers Info Evening is for you!

Come join us on **Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00 PM** in the **Cornerstone Christian School Gym** (8872

Northwood Rd) for an informative evening that will include a keynote speech on STEM, breakout sessions covering topics such as healthcare training and degrees, trades apprenticeships, and criminal justice courses of study, and a diverse panel that will almost certainly have an answer to any questions you might bring. We hope to see you there!

Gavin Willis

## ~ From the IT Committee ~

First of all, please note a change to the ITC roster. Matt Hoefakker's term has come to an end. Matt, thank you for your service over the past few years! We're pleased to announce that Caleb Bareman has filled the vacant position. Caleb, we've heard you're good with computers...we hope the rumors are true.

The first couple months of the school year are often busier on the technology front as equipment may have been moved around or replaced, as well as onboarding staff and students. This year has followed that pattern. So, there have been a number of permission issues, as well as peripherals and software odds and ends that we've been working through. Thanks, everyone, for your patience as we work on the issues you bring our way, or if we need to find other ways of doing things than in the past.

One bigger issue being given significant attention is internet connectivity/performance. Although our network should be able to handle the volume of devices, there are times when students and teachers were basically unable to do anything internet-wise.

A big thanks to Dustin for lots of time spent on the phone and scheduling with Comcast to get us upgraded to a faster connection. We are also reviewing configurations on our local network to get better performance out of our wi-fi connections. Thanks Eric, for all of the work reconfiguring the network side. (We're going to miss you when your term wraps up).

For the IT Committee, Ian Davis



## ~ From the Cornerstone Foundation ~

For this edition of the Link the Cornerstone Foundation Board has a very brief report.

We want to remind the membership that at the school society meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup> we will be voting to replace the two Board members whose terms are ending, Henry Klos and Derek Willis. We are thankful that Rick Faber, Darren Leyenhorst and Harvey Pelleboer were found willing to have their names placed on the ballot. Please be present to cast your votes, or vote early, just not often!!

Our financial position, as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, showed a net balance from all accounts of \$220,405.44. This total reflects an interest gain of \$1,424.00 since June 30<sup>th</sup> and an overall gain for the year of \$2,496.00 after expenses, substantial improvements for interest growth compared to prior years. Those of you with an eagle's eye, or attention to detail, may have noticed that the numbers reported here are significantly more than what appears on the CCS Statement of Financial Position, provided to the membership in advance of the upcoming society meeting. Please make note that the difference is due to the \$50,000 (and related interest) that we moved from our Money Market account to an investment with Ameriprise Financial in the Spring. We will

be working with the treasurer and bookkeeper to determine how to best present this information in future financial statements.

We are continuing with our plan of slowly moving monies out of our Money Market account into the Ameriprise investment account, something we put on hold for a few months while the School Board was waiting on pledges for the building expansion. We are also looking to lock some of Foundation's funds into a Certificate of Deposit, which will provide a guaranteed interest position for the next year and a blended approach to a moderate investment strategy.

The Board is scheduled to have its next meeting in November at which time we will transition responsibilities to the new members and review our current position and strategy.

As always, if you have any question about the work of the CF Board or need information on how to direct monies into our Endowment Fund, please do not hesitate to reach out to any one of the board members.

On behalf of the CF Board, Derek Willis



## ~ CBM Report ~

Fall is here and hopefully this means the bees are quietly at rest until next year! The CBM has been busy taking care of various items the last few weeks, not least of which include trying to keep the bees away from the school grounds. With a new flagpole truck, our flag should no longer be wrapping itself around the pole! The grass came back alive and our lawn maintenance crew kept the grass cut and looking great, including the large field around the pumpkin patch. Maintenance on the well head was done to keep the drinking water fresh and we continue to

pass the regular water testing. The firelane curb was painted red to bring attention to the parking reserved for fire trucks if they are called to the school. The storage mezzanine was also cleaned out by some very eager ladies. It looks amazing! Please make sure if you are using the storage in the school mezzanine that all items need to be kept in their proper storage areas. Signage will be added to aid in this. We hope it can stay this clean for a long while. Thanks ladies!!

For the CBM, Andrew



## ~ Ladies Aid Report ~

We are thankful for a great start to the CCS school year and for several successful fundraisers! Michelle Veldman and Ang Davis' terms on the Ladies Aid Board have come to an end. Thank you for your time and dedication to serving on the board! Malorie Burger and Jessica Chase now join Bea Kleyn and Jolene Vreugdenhil on the board.

The final numbers came in from the Cornerstone Café and they were happy to report \$27,071 in profit. Amazing! Thanks to the committee members and to the many members of the community who worked shifts at the fair!

1,033 apple pies were recently made in the CCS kitchen. A big thank you to the committee and to all

those who helped sell pies, pick apples, mix the pie mixture, peel and cut apples, and then flute and package the pies!

The CCS Pumpkin Patch is now closed for business and earned \$2,385 this year! Thank you to the committee for their work of planting, weeding, setting up, and maintaining the stand.

There are also a few coupon books left at the front desk. They are \$10/each.

May God bless our endeavors in raising funds for our school!

On behalf of Ladies Aid, Jessica Chase





## ~ From the Principal ~

The rain is beating down hard on the school roof this morning as I sit down to scribe this message. I'm able to do some administration work upstairs in the mezzanine classroom, while I supervise the Spanish classes. Downstairs in the gym children are enjoying recess because of the aforementioned fall rain-storm. Having just come from downstairs I know the cleaning lady is in the janitor's room making sure all the equipment is ready for another week of cleaning, and the administrator is making sure this week's Contact is ready for the parents before she goes home for the day. A few volunteers and a few more staff members are moving through the halls making sure everything gets done as it should be. It's another typical Monday morning at Cornerstone.

It is now the 8th week of school, and everyone is into their routines. Students have adjusted to their new courses and for some, new teachers. Projects and art work are arrayed along the walls demonstrating accomplished learning. There is a lot of talent on display! You are more than welcome to stroll the halls and enjoy often changing exhibit of learning. In the spring there will be a full art display to share with you!

Before the next LINK arrives in December we will have seen the return of Mrs. Wendt. Lord willing, she will be leading the high school PE classes once again. Her cheerful demeanor and willingness to work with our high school athletes has been missed and we look forward to her return in mid-November. We are thankful for capable teachers to fill this role until her return. Mr. S. Chase has done well leading the students in both soccer and football, with the Skittles Bowl Championship football game to be held just before Mrs. Wendt returns. In addition, Mrs. K. DeMooy has been taking the PE 11 class on a variety of PE adventures, including swimming, hiking, pickleball and archery.

Mrs. Gonzalez will also be a part of the CCS staff beginning in November. In the first weeks of the month she will slowly transition to the various roles to which she has been assigned. This will include high school Spanish, and grade  $\frac{3}{4}$  Science and Music. We look forward to her arrival, but are also very thankful for Mrs. M. Kottelenberg who was able to very capably teach the courses in grade  $\frac{3}{4}$  for these past weeks. The High School Spanish course was done through an online course. Both grade 11 and 12 moved through the course quickly, with our 12th grade class having completed it already. Kudos go out to Mrs. VanStaaldin for giving our students such a great start to their Spanish language

learning so that they were able to move through this 12th grade course so quickly!

### Past Events

The first round of Aimsweb testing has been completed by all our students in grades 1-8. It can be a stressful time for students and teachers alike, but we do feel there is great benefit for our school to conduct these standardized tests. Students need to understand this is not for report card grades, but is a measuring tool to help guide instruction to aid them in their learning. For some students it reminds us to challenge them as they already have a good grasp on grade level material and need more to stretch their thinking. For others it can pin-point trouble areas that really need intervention to help this student get back on track. These tests also can highlight areas that need to be shored up in our teaching or curriculum. For example, a whole class could be weak in understanding the main idea of a piece of writing, or half the class could be weak in reading informational text. This will be a sign-post for the teacher to spend some extra time on these learning areas.

The assemblies and evening presentation of Mr. J. VanMaren were well received. The students commented positively about it as well. It certainly is a hard topic, but relevant, and the students shared appreciation about the willingness to discuss these hard things. Our sister schools in Canada had similar presentations in their schools and parent communities. It is our hope this has been of benefit and made way for discussions at home, too.

At the end of September I was able to attend the National Principals' Conference in Hope, BC. Principals from across Canada, and some from Australia bringing the group to a total of 35 persons, attended. This was a three day conference with a focus on the culture in which we live and teach. Ray Pennings, a co-founder of CARDUS, a Canadian think tank, and John Wynia, the League Coordinator for the League of Canadian Reformed School Societies, were the main speakers. Mr. Pennings was able to show, with survey data that Canadian culture, and may we assume American culture is not much different, is not the same culture we entered when we graduated from high school. He presented the premise that we no longer live in a post-Christian society, but one that is post-post-Christian. This culture has not consciously rejected God, but rather has no concept of God. As administrators we were challenged to think about how this affects the training we give our students.

Are they prepared for a world that has a completely different paradigm than those who have graduated from a Christian school? Mr. Wynia was able to speak about the strong foundation we have in Reformed education that helps us to prepare our students. A model, called the "Hallmarks of Christian Education" has been reworked somewhat recently and was shared. There are four columns that should be considered. Reformed Education is Covenantally Founded (shaping our perspective), Confessionally Grounded (a distinct response), Enmity Surrounded (clarifies our vision, also a distinct reality), and Bound in Unity (highlights our community). Ray Pennings presented a second time with the title "Equipping Ambassadors". He brought as thesis the following: "Graduates of Reformed schools should be equipped to contribute to the contemporary public square with a sound theology, conscious of and answering the questions their neighbors are asking, living their lives with an ethic of integrity, and infused with an eschatological hope". It is an important task we have to reach such a goal! Alongside the speeches, we were blessed with encouraging devotionals, stirring singing, and a thoughtful, thankful conclusion. I think that all of us were recharged and encouraged for our tasks in our represented schools at the end of the conference.

### Upcoming events

This year we have decided to present a Thanksgiving concert on November 17th. It is a nice time of year to share a concert with the community, though it certainly made us have to get onto practicing right away in the school year. We look forward to another beautiful evening of praises to our God.

One of the considerations of having a Thanksgiving concert instead of an Easter concert, was that we hope to host a Fine Arts evening in the spring, and it would have been challenging to get both big events completed in the same time period. While the Fine Arts evening is a long ways off according to the calendar, some planning is already taking place. If you would like to showcase some of your art, there may be opportunity to do so at this evening, just please let us know.

Occasionally, families may opt for a family vacation while school is in session. We kindly request that

you inform the school at least a week in advance if your child or children will be absent for more than a day or two. While it is not mandatory for teachers to prepare assignments in advance, and it should not be an expectation, having prior knowledge of a student's absence could influence project and assessment planning. Naturally, we strongly encourage limiting extended vacation absences, as they can disrupt the learning process and place additional demands on our teachers.

### Conclusion

A LINK article from the principal's desk is one of reflection of what has gone on and anticipation for what is coming next. Students are learning. Teachers are busy with solid instruction. The Lord has blessed us beyond measure. The community is supportive! Parents are involved! Things are going well! However, perhaps sometimes there are things that concern you. Sometimes there are things that you may wonder about, or have an idea for. Could I ask that you please share? A question or a concern should be addressed. I'm never too busy to discuss a problem or concern or to listen to an idea. The door is always open for a chat. It is much more preferable to work on a concern together in the early stages, than for it come to my attention much later, when it has already become a bigger issue. Let us continue to work together with students, teachers, parents and the community at large to build on the good start that we have had to this school year.

## Severe NUT Allergy

A child in 1st grade has a life-threatening allergy to most nuts, with *walnuts and peanuts* very high on the list. In consultation with the parents we are expecting grade 1/2 to be NUT-FREE, and the rest of the school to be NUT-AWARE! Nut-aware means that students need to eat any food with nuts in their own classroom only and also NOT on the playground. All students must wash their hands after eating any food containing ANY nuts!

## From the 3rd Grade Students

### Summer

By Liam P

In my opinion, summer is the best season of the year. The first reason I think this is because we go to the beach. My birthday is also in the summer and I like soccer. I also go to my granny's cottage and to my Oma's house. Also, I get to go to vacation. For all these reasons, summer is the best season of the year.

### Winter

By Kai F

In my opinion, winter is the best season of the year. The first reason I think this is because you can make a fort and snow balls to play with. Second, I like winter because it has Christmas and you get presents. Third, I like winter because when you get in the house you get hot chocolate by a fire. For all these reasons, winter is the best season of the year.

### Spring

By Heidi V

In my opinion, spring is the best season of the year. The first reason I think this is because my birthday is in spring. Another reason is because it is still in school. Third, we can go outside and play. For all these reasons spring is the best season of the year.

### Summer

By Tucker H

Summer is the best season of the year. The first reason I think this is because we go to Montana in the summer. Another reason is because I go kneeboarding at the lake. Also, we get to put soap on the tramp. For all these reasons, summer is the best season of the year.

### Winter

By Isaac G

In my opinion winter is the best season in the year. First, there are no yellow jackets that sting me multiple times. Second, you can play in the snow with Tucker. Then, you come inside and drink hot chocolate. For all these reasons winter is the best season of the year.

### Summer

By Elise S

In my opinion summer is the best season of the year. The first reason I think this is because I can go on vacation with my family. Next, I can go swimming with Kaitlin, Ruben, Jenell, and Owen. Then, I can play in my yard because it is nice and hot so I do not have to stay inside. Finally, I can invite my friend Camryn over to go biking. For all these reasons, summer is the best season of the year.

### Winter

By Noelle B

In my opinion, winter is the best season of year. One reason I think this is because you can sit by the fire and drink hot chocolate. Second, it always snows and I love snow. Another reason is that my name means Christmas and we can go sledding and make snowballs. For all these reasons winter is the best season of the year.

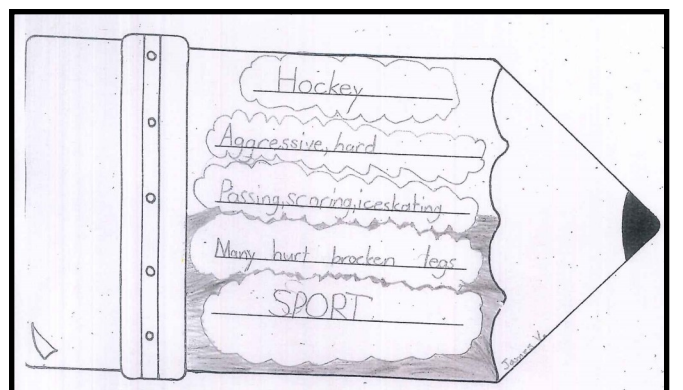
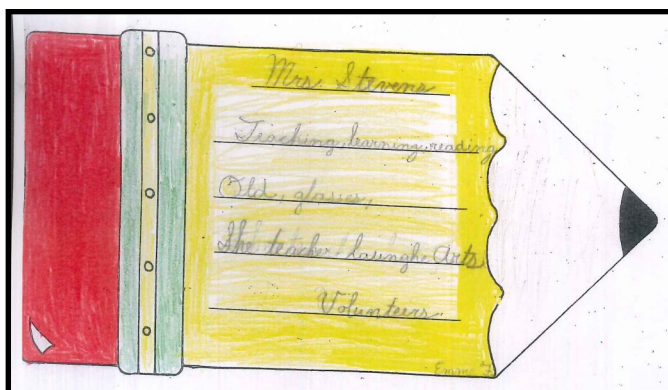
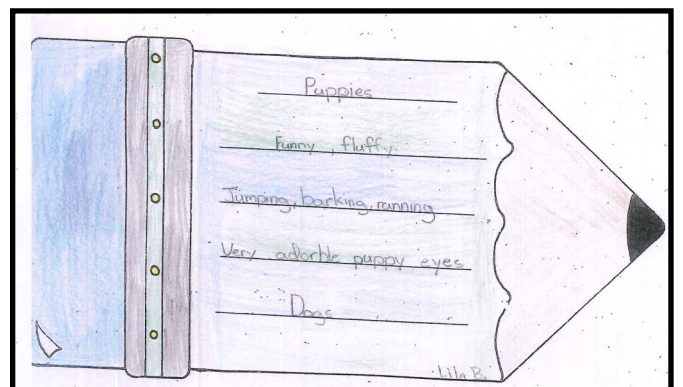
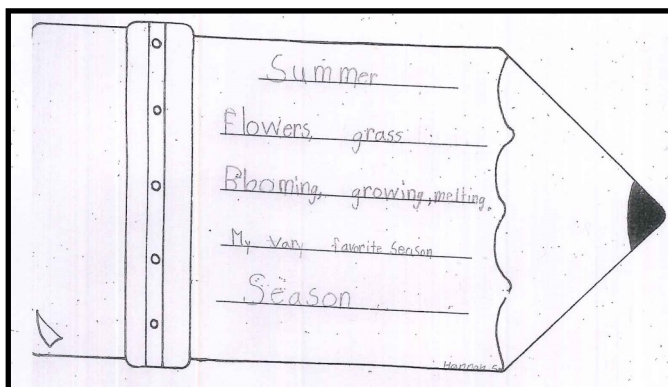
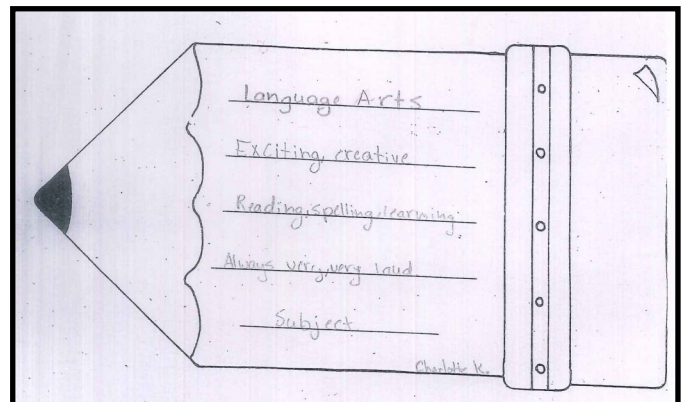
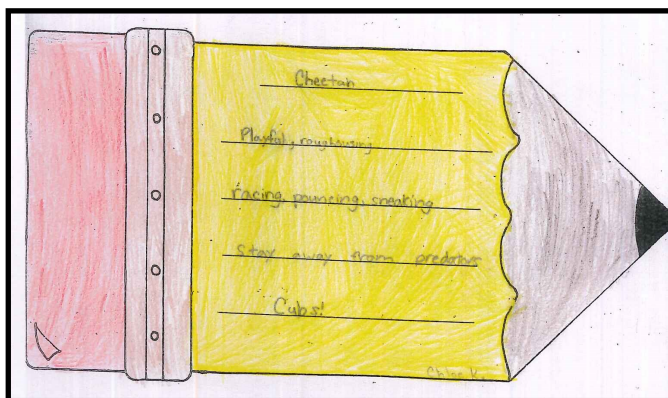
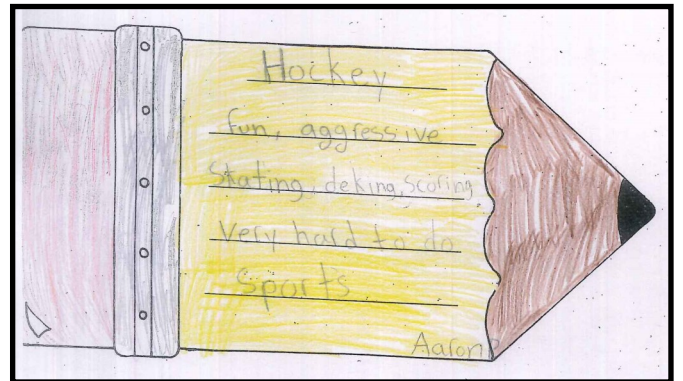
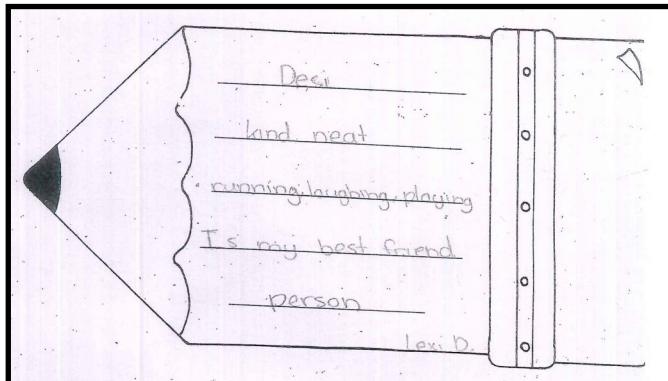
### Summer

By London B

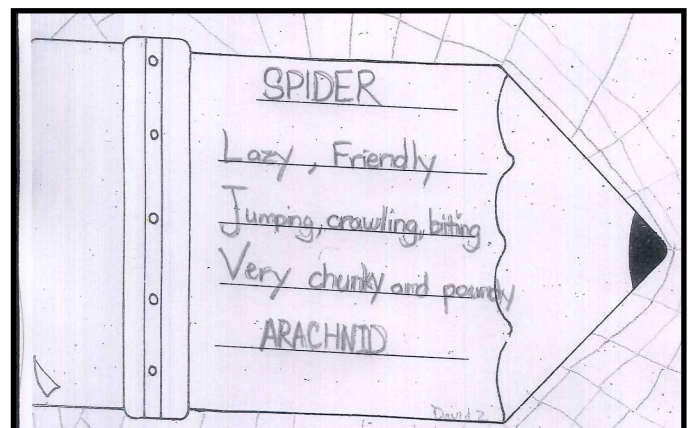
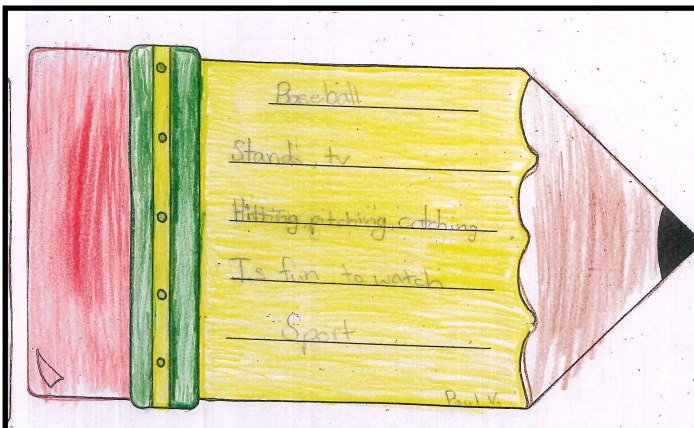
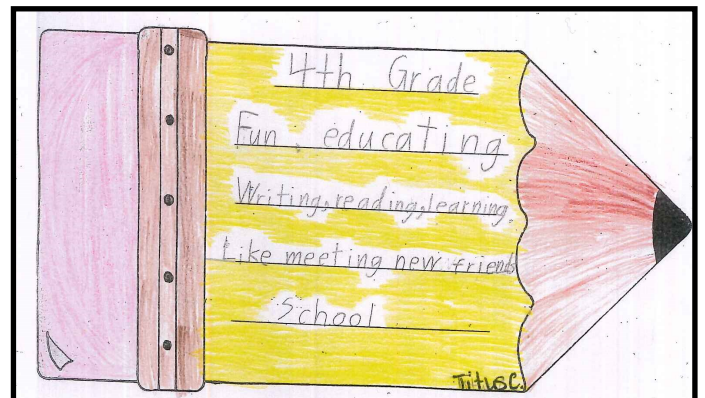
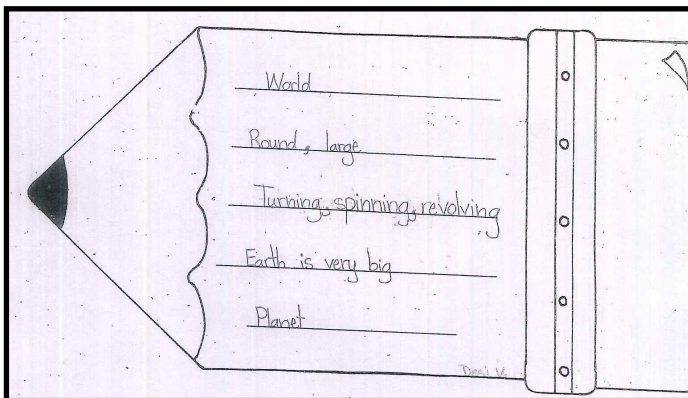
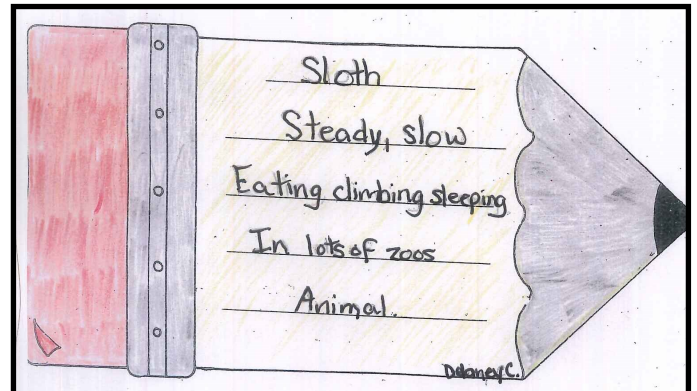
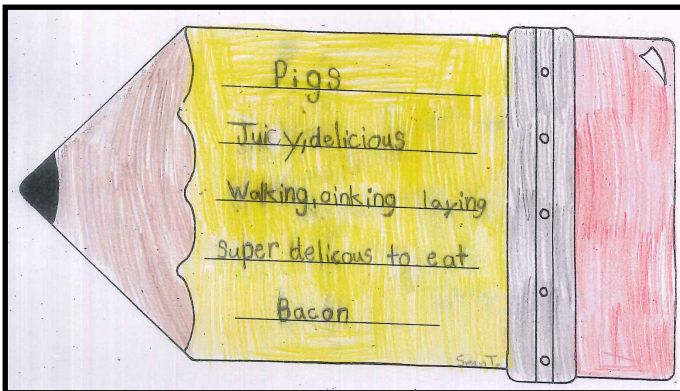
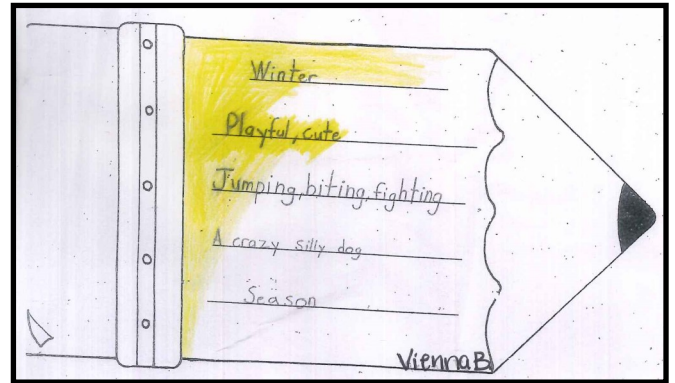
I love all the seasons equally but since I have to pick one I will say that I think summer is the best. The first reason I think this is because it is hot. Next, I like summer because I can swim in my aunt's pool with my friends. Another reason is that the fair is fun and I get to get ride bracelets. For all these reasons, summer is the best season of the year.



# From the Fourth Grade Students







# 2023/2024 School Calendar

## August

29- First Day of School

## September

4- Labor Day

13- Student Picture Day

## October

6- PD Day

9- Columbus Day

27- PD Day

## November

10- Veteran's Day

14 - College & Careers Evening

17- HS 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr report Cards

17 - Thanksgiving Program

20,21- High School P/T Conferences

23- Thanksgiving Day

24- Thanksgiving Break

## December

8- Elem 1<sup>st</sup> Term Report cards

11- Early Release -11:55am

11,13- Elem P/T Conferences

22- Last Day of 2023

25- Jan 5 – Christmas Break

## January

8- First Day of 2024

15 - Martin Luther King Day

## February

1- HS 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr Reports

5,6- HS P/T Conferences

16- PD Day

19 -President's Day

29- Mid Winter Break

## March

1- Mid Winter Break

15- PD Day

22- 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Elem Report Cards

25- Early Release (11:55am) P/T Prep

25/27- Elem P/T Conferences

29- Good Friday

## April

1-5- Spring Break

12- HS 3rd Qtr Reports

18- Grandparents Day

## May

3- PD Day

9- Ascension Day

24- Sports Day

27- Memorial Day

28- Sports Day Backup

## June

7- Eighth Grade Graduation

14- Last Day of School

14- Senior Graduation

## Board

Chairman:	Steve Hofford
Vice-Chairman:	Ray Buitenbos
Secretary:	Ray Buitenbos
Treasurer:	Kolin Veldman
Ed Comm Liaison:	Eric Brown
Staff & Membership Admin	Jan Kottelenberg
Building Liaison:	Dave Hofford

## Building/Maintenance Committee

Joshua Burger	Nathan Chase
Andrew DeMooy	Dave Hofford
Jon Kruyswijk	Terry VanDiest

## Education Committee

Eric Brown	Janice DeMooy
Jon Dykstra	Debbie Johnson
Debby Lodder	Sharon Veldman

## IT Committee

Caleb Bareman	Eric Brown
Ian Davis	Dustin Wielenga

## Finance Committee

Janice DeMooy	Brian Hendricks
Harvey Pelleboer	Kolin Veldman
Gavin Willis	

## Athletic Committee

Katrina Lodder	Stephen Chase
Harvey Pelleboer	Kolin Veldman
Gavin Willis	

## Ladies Aid Committee

Pres - Bea Kleyn	VP - Malorie Burger
Sec - Jessica Chase	Treas -Jolene Vreugdenhil

## Staff

### Office Administration:

Debbie Johnson - Principal  
Kari VanDiest- Secretary  
Karla Leyenhorst - Bookkeeper

### Full Time:

Jeanette Janssen - Science 7-12, Math 9-12  
Jolene Groves— PE, Bible, Hist. 3/4, L.A., Math 3, PE, Science Gr.1/2  
Lynette Van Hofwegen - Gr. 5/6  
Stephen Chase - PE 5-8, HS Eng & Hist, His. 7-8, Per Fin 9  
Stephen Houweling - Math 4, Gr.7/8  
Wayne Chase - HS: Bible, Math, English, History

### Part Time:

Christine Hofford - Ed Support  
Janice Dykstra - Ed Support Director  
Jolene Vreugdenhil - Culinary Arts 11/12  
Julie Thompson - Ed Support  
Karen DeMooy - Art 3/4  
Kathleen Stevens— Yearbook, L.A 4  
Katrina Lodder - Ed Support  
Kaylene Hofford - Ed Support  
Kristina Wendt - PE HS  
Melanie Kottelenberg - Music 5/6  
Shari Kruyswijk - Gr.1/2 Bible, Math, Music, Art, History  
Sharon Veldman - Culinary Arts 11/12  
Tessa Kooiker - L.A. 1/2

### 1st Quarter Course Coverage

Debbie Johnson—Spanish 11/12  
Stephen Chase—PE 9/10, Pers Finance 10  
Melanie Kottelenberg—Science, Music, Geography 3/4