

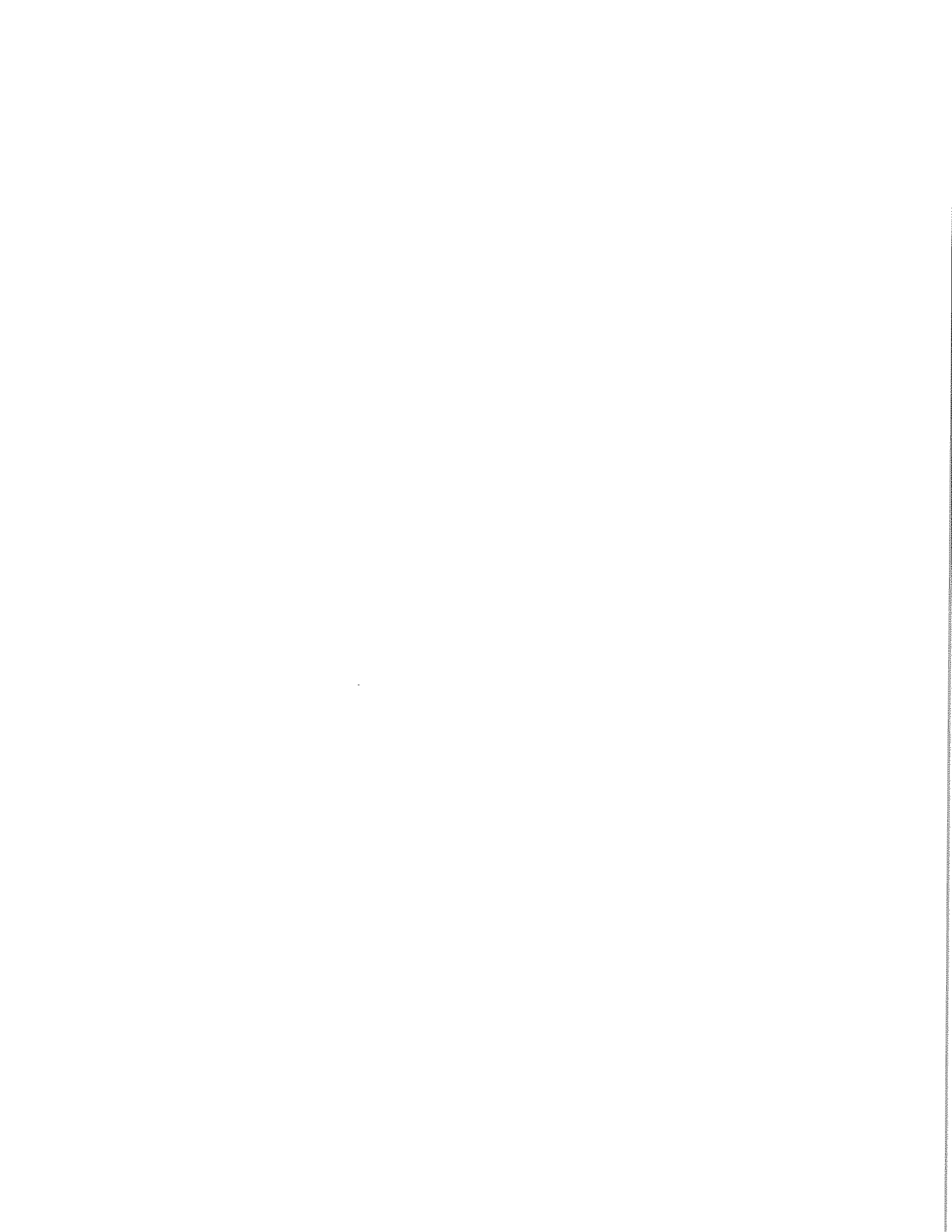


# POLARIS

Northwest Iowa Protestant Reformed School

January 2019





## An Encouragement to Godly Parents by Bethany Te Slaa

What is it with kids today? In the grocery store and the shopping malls, at sporting events and around tables at restaurants, kids are showing themselves to be badly behaved. Talking back is the norm and no longer a shocking exception. Disobedience and disrespect towards parents run rampant. It can be alarming and awkward for innocent bystanders to hear the way that children with sharp and sarcastic words chomp and gnash at the hands that feed them. But when I come to work at Northwest Iowa Protestant Reformed School and sit in the pews of the Protestant Reformed Church, I see that you, the godly parents of covenant seed, are raising a rare breed of young humans. In your work to raise God's children, you are to be encouraged.

Teachers and staff members of our Protestant Reformed Christian Schools know that they are secondary in the raising of the covenant seed that will be the future Church of Christ. We know that the responsibilities of training up children in the fear of the Lord lie first and foremost with the parents of those children. We know that we answer to parents, and that parents expect us to continue at school the spiritual training that has begun in the home.

When I speak with my friends who are young, godly mothers, I often sense the effects of our sinful society. These mothers struggle with the temptation to be "more" than "just" a mother. They struggle against the world's viewpoint that one who does not have a career or at least a money-earning side-business cannot possibly be a contribution to society. These mothers are tempted to lose sight of the priceless value of their most important work: teaching godly wisdom, the fear of the Lord and the beginning of knowledge, to children in their infancy and youth.

With this on my mind, I write an encouragement to the mothers and the fathers of the covenant children at Northwest Iowa Protestant Reformed School and to all faithful parents. The fear of the Lord is precious and priceless, and the teaching of it can be seen in the children of diligent, Godly parents. Godly training is obvious in their attitudes and behaviors when children walk through the doors of school in the morning, and Christian teachers only seek to reinforce and continue that godly training in their day-to-day work.

So, as parents, be encouraged in your work of training children in the fear of the Lord. Prepare them to live in a world where they will be a rare race among many wicked. Teach them to memorize songs and Bible verses, but what I mean is *so much more* than that! Teach them to love God first and foremost and to show love to their siblings every day. Teach them to honor and respect authority in the way that they speak to adults. Teach them to be cheerfully obedient to those who are godly authority figures. Teach them to value the wisdom and experiences of elderly members in the congregation. Teach them compassion for God's people who are hurting. Teach them humility in receiving instruction and confidence in the truth. Help them to know the difference between right and wrong, so that they can withstand sinful temptations from peers and sinful requests from wicked authority figures. Teach them to be problem solvers who use God's word as their guide and His glory as their goal in difficult situations. Teach them to self-reflect and to recognize sins of the heart. Teach them to be honest in *all* things by teaching them to be honest in *small* things. Teach them a love for reading so that they will better understand God's written revelation in His Holy Word. Mothers, teach diligently during the hours while Dad is at work. Fathers, hurry home to continue the instruction. There is so much to be taught! With such a task, it is never too early to begin! With such a task, who has time for anything else? With such a task, thank God for His grace, new every morning and sufficient in all circumstances!

By the grace of God, the fruits of this instruction will be abundant. Diligent training, begun in the home and continued in the Christian school will be blessed. Faithfully instructed covenant children will shine brightly in dark, future days as leaders in God's church.

## Lower Room Writing

*In the next two journal entries the students were assigned to retell a favorite book or story but make a few interesting changes while sticking to the basic plot.*

**More Monkey Bread I Say** by Charlotte Engelsma (based on **More Spaghetti, I Say**)

My characters are Cottontail and Flopsy. Flopsy loves monkey bread. Cottontail asked, "Will you play with me please?"

Flopsy shouted, "No! Can't you see that I am busy eating monkey bread? I have monkey bread in the oven."

"Oh no, can't you play with me?" begged Cottontail.

"I ate too much," murmured Flopsy.

"You look sick and green," Cottontail said in a worried voice.

"I do feel sick," mumbled Flopsy. "I am going to rest on the couch." Then Cottontail tries it and Cottontail likes the monkey bread!

Then Flopsy asked, "Can you play with me now?"

But Cottontail shouted, "No I am eating monkey bread!"

**Foxes Versus Bison** by Tyler Van Egdome (there is a whole series of these Who Will Win? books)

Who will win in foxes versus bison? I think that twelve foxes will win. I think that one bison will lose. Foxes have sharp claws and sharp teeth. Bison have hoofs to kick and they have horns. The foxes will kick and scratch and bite. The bison fights by charging and kicking and bucking with his horns. The foxes surrounded and were on top of the bison. The winner is the foxes.

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*Whenever we have a few vacation days from school, the journal assignment often is to tell about what you did during your break from school.*

**My Favorite Part of Teachers' Convention Break** by Ryan De Jong

My favorite part of teacher's convention break was when I made a 3 D Perler bead jet. There are squares, and you put the Perler beads on the squares and then iron them to make the pieces. When you are done ironing you put them together by sliding a piece into another piece's slot according to the instructions to form a jet. The colors I used were black, green and blue.

*The next writing is based on a wordless picture book. The assignment was to accurately tell the story that is being shown by the pictures in the book. The story was condensed for publication in the Polaris.*

**Museum Trip** by Emily Boon (a story based on the wordless picture book by B.Lehman)

Once there was a school. The students went to a museum. James had to tie his shoes. The class was looking at the picture of a flower. The students went on to look at other stuff. So James was left behind. He was looking right and left. But James couldn't find them anywhere. James found a secret door. James went in and found mazes. Then James shrunk. James went through doors to do the mazes. But he got stuck on one. He got to a light house and went in. Then he was big size again. James went out the door. There was his class.

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*These next two scary stories came from overnight sleepovers at a friend's house or from a camping outing with cousins. They have also been condensed for publication.*

**The Mansion** by Jacie Wynia

Once upon a time there were four girls named Charlotte the brave, Moriah the smart, Emily the little and Jacie the scared. They went down a path that led to a mansion. The four girls went into the mansion. Right when they sat down the mansion started to shake. They tried to get out but the door was locked. They had to play a game to get out. The game was to find the daughter that was dead. They went upstairs and found the daughter's bedroom. All they heard was a voice. So they went downstairs and saw a ghost . They figured that the daughter was dead. The four girls went upstairs again and looked for the daughter. They found the daughter. Then the doors unlocked.

**The Pants** by Moriah Van Egdome (as told to her by Jenna De Jong)

Once upon a time there was a girl named Jenna. She wanted a double deluxe Hershey's chocolate bar. It was at Walmart. She went to the garage and the car was gone. Somebody stole it. She had to walk to Walmart to get it. Two blocks later she saw her car moving with nobody in it. So she screamed and broke the door off the coffee shop. She went back out and she got to Walmart. She saw her car parked in the parking lot. She went inside to the candy aisle and saw a pants shopping. The pants had the double deluxe Hershey's chocolate bar. Jenna screamed and ran and got rotten broccoli. When she was in line, right in front of her was the pants. She screamed.....

## Middle Room Writing

The poems below are acrostic poems. Calvin didn't want to do a poem (I gave the choice) so he went with his Christmas break writing.

### Luke De Jong – Favorite Free Time

Free time is what I want to get,  
A lot of things that I would bet.  
Very fun things that we can do,  
Our hobbies and games, that's free time too!  
Reading is a great way to think.  
Imagine things, written down with ink.  
Taking time to spend outdoors,  
Everything from sports to s'mores!

Faking passes and running plays,  
Racking up runs so their team pays!  
Ending drawings of planes or mice.  
Energy to roll the winning dice

Time to take a tiny rest  
It's bad but it is still best  
My chores still aren't done,  
Every time they end the fun.

### Lanae Kuiper - Clueless

Cuz sometimes you don't know what to do  
Learning things, you just never knew  
Understanding nothing at all  
Even my brain feels so small  
Lost completely – teacher says that's fine  
Every skill comes in time  
Sometimes I just get so confused  
Sometimes everyone is amused

### Kate Van Egdom – Farmer

Feeds Goats, sheep, and cows  
Apples are collected  
Responsible to feed the animals  
Makes our food  
Eats some food  
Respectful to his wife

### Kara De Jong – Playing Piano

Pianists play your music  
Love it, learn it, use it!  
And then with notes so long,  
You can play and sing a song!  
In Iowa, our home so true,  
New songs here are great to do!  
G notes, A notes, have some fun! C notes D  
notes, we're not done!

Peering at your flats and sharps  
In this fun thing, you're working hard!  
Amazing! Wow, this is great! What a creation to be made!  
Now, my friends, sing a song.  
Or, now that you can, play along.

### **Michael Boon – Homework**

Has to be done after school  
Over the days it has to be done  
Moaning that you don't want to do it  
Eating it, never do that  
Working on it, sometimes gets done  
Opening it to the right page  
Respecting it never complain  
Kicking it, is not allowed.

### **Alex – Reading**

Reading is good for your brain  
Even helps reading hard words  
A book can be very interesting  
Do you like to read?  
I've read this morning  
Now I like to read  
Going to read again.

### **Collin – Sledding Fun**

Sledding was really fun down the road  
Levi was sledding with me in ultimate drift mode  
Everything was exciting until...  
Downright we had a serious chill  
Drifting onto the side of the road  
I hit a gigantic pile of snow!  
Now I was in the air when suddenly... oh no!  
Glad I was to fall right behind Levi in his sled  
  
Frantically thinking I might fall on my head..  
Unhurt was I, yet cold and red...  
Now that's a record for a great fun sled!

### **Levi Van Egdome – Twins Baseball**

Twins Territory  
World Series Winners in 1991.  
In Minneapolis Minnesota  
Number 10 ranking last year  
Season starts in July  
  
Bear TC is the mascot  
At Target Fields  
Signing baseballs for fans  
Empty seats there never is  
Baseballs go in the stands  
American League  
Left the old baseball park the H. Humphrey Metrodome  
Lots of fun, now let's go!

### **Calvin Engelsma – What I did over Winter Break**

On Monday & Tuesday we just stayed home and played at home. On Wednesday we went to the Van Edom's house we ate something like pork BBQ. Thursday we went to the De Jong's house and we played Mario monopoly and this was my first time playing it but I won. Then we played another game. We had Pizza Ranch chicken, Pizza {beef, cheese, and pepperoni with stuffed crust} and we had baked fries/ potatoes bread sticks. YUM!!!!!!!!!! Then on Friday we went to Sioux Falls and we ate at Back yard BBQ. I had a burger with French fries and Sprite for supper.

## Upper Room Writing

The Upper Room students each chose an amazing man-made structure of the world to write about in poetry. They were also asked to view such man-made structures in comparison with the great and eternal characteristics of the Kingdom of Christ.

### **The Majestic Tower** by Wyatt Altena

In the city of Dubai,  
You can see a building  
Which stands very high,  
Two thousand feet from base to ceiling.

Burj Khalifa is this building,  
With its one hundred sixty-three floors,  
It has the very best engineering.  
This structure has many doors.

Made mostly out of steel,  
This building is very strong.  
This tower you may find ideal,  
For the top goes on and on.

In this tall steel tower  
Your eyes will not get sore.  
You will see works by a painter,  
For there is art from floor to floor.

From the bottom to the top of this tower,  
You will see five hundred pieces of art.  
You may see a picture of a flower,  
You won't even know where to start.

Though this tower is so grand and tall,  
And though it most likely will not fall,  
God is the Ruler over all.  
Compared to Him, this tower is very small.

### **An Amazing Asian Monument** by Evan De Jong

The faraway land of India  
Has a monument massive and grand.  
This great building is the Taj Mahal,  
Vast in stunning splendor it does stand.

Covered in marble of stunning white  
It is a quite magnificent place.  
Surrounded by a wall and great gardens  
With arches displayed on each face.

With tall minarets on each corner  
On a base standing twenty feet tall,  
A great dome tops off this great building  
To make over 200 feet in all!

This beautiful, majestic building  
Was the burial place of a king's wife.  
This ruler's name was Shah Jahan, he  
Was buried here at the end of his life.

With more than twenty thousand worker  
This great place took twenty years to build.  
The designer of this is unknown,  
Though he probably was very skilled.

Though some may say that this great building  
Shows man's power, and glory, and right,  
The glory for all must go to God  
Who is greater than all in His might.



## **The Long- Lasting Amphitheater** by Jacob Kuiper

The Colosseum is in Rome;  
It was like a roof-less dome.  
It wasn't anybody's home;  
Now tourists come here to roam.

In the past medieval times  
When warriors were sublime,  
Thousands of people come to see,  
If their favorites would succeed.

Don't fret about the burning sun,  
For awnings protect everyone.  
A great magnificent sight,  
With its great, stone walls of height.

The Colosseum is in ruin,  
But it is now open to walk in.  
Lost its magnificent sights,  
But its future is looking bright.

Even though it's broken down,  
The Colosseum, still around.  
Has stood for so many an age,  
Built by the wisest Roman sage.

God's wisdom, overall supreme,  
His mighty kingdom is esteemed.  
He rules everlasting on His throne,  
On the earth, His glory and might are shown.

## **The Tower in the Sky** By Kyle Wynia

In the desert a huge tower stands,  
Which is being built with many hands.  
Jeddah Tower is what it is named,  
To be completed in 2020 they claim.

Jeddah Tower will be over 3,000 feet tall.  
It will include hotels, offices, and shopping malls.  
1.4 billion dollars is the amount it will cost.  
A gigantic city in the sky it will not be lost.

Saudi Arabia wants to show their power,  
To knock Dubai off its iconic tower.  
If you come next year you may never want to leave.  
Your family may visit and play so do not grieve.

Could building Jeddah Tower cause pride?  
If they say no, that would be a lie.  
We remember the tower of Babel,  
What happened to those people is no fable.

Who can build a more magnificent tower?  
There is only one with all of His power,  
God is the One and the only Builder and Maker,  
Who has more power than any earthquaker.

Let us remember where our glory is.  
The worldly earth is not the place for this.  
Let us look in God's Holy Word,  
Where His truth and glory is heard.

## **A Tourist Attraction and a Defense System**

**by Jenna Mantel**

To see a great wall stretching mile after mile,  
Come visit modern China and stay for a while.  
China's Great Wall is a tourist's first destination,  
If I were you, I would start planning a vacation.

Built as a defense system to guard foes surrounding,  
It has held up through the years, which is quite astounding.  
The wall's best preserved piece stretches five thousand miles,  
And along the way has suffered through many trials.

To the people of China a symbolic meaning,  
Though the Great Wall of China has now started leaning.  
It was built solid and compact of dirt, stone, and brick,  
While building the wall the workers made it look quite slick.

The wall's height in some areas is thirty feet tall,  
The thirteen-foot walkway lies on top of the wall.  
In some places the wall was made twenty-five feet thick,  
To keep out China's enemies, it should do the trick.

South Mongolia, to North China the great wall spans,  
This great wall has held up against many foreign lands.  
This great wall was built by several hundred thousand men,  
It was built so long ago that not many know when.

The people of China felt safest inside the Wall,  
But when enemies attack, it could crumble and fall,  
Our only true protection is our Lord God above,  
Who will keep his people safe in His mercy and love.

**Ba Na Pedestrian Walkway:  
A Golden Bridge with Hands  
by Matth ew Boon**

This bridge is held with giant hands.  
Think how high this walkway stands!

In Vietnam, this bridge is made.  
Think how much the owner paid!

Think of where they put this bridge,  
What about a very high ridge.

This bridge is five hundred feet long,  
Maybe something might go wrong.

These hands are made of rock.  
I hope they don't get too much shock!

All the tourists have been amazed.  
This is what the hands have craved.

This bridge is in a mountain.  
Be sure to find a drinking fountain.

They feel like walking on a cloud.  
All the people are very loud.

This bridge is over the treetops,  
Even over the clifftops!

God's kingdom is eternal,  
This you can write in a journal.

God's kingdom is made of gold,  
This bridge is too, but it is cold!

**The Body of a Lion and a Pharaoh's Head  
by Katelyn Zevenbergen**

The Great Sphinx is extremely stunning.  
This monster sculpture looks very cunning.  
With its lions body and Pharaohs head,  
This creature is one of a kind it's said.

By the Pyramids of Giza it stands out.  
It looks over the Nile watching the trout.  
Two hundred and forty feet long it shades,  
And sixty-six feet high in Egypt all days.

Can it be preserved with its crumbling form?  
With its nose cut off and huge sandstorm.  
Five thousand five hundred years it's survived,  
Three years to sculpt, will it be revived?

This mysterious design brings questions.  
You can go in many odd directions.  
Who is the builder of this Great Sphinx?  
A guy or a girl a professor thinks.

This thing is amazing; wow, it's so big!  
But in the end it's as good as a twig,  
For nothing compares to God almighty.  
The glory of the Lord shines out brightly.

It will not be long before we will die,  
And all earthly treasures will go bye, bye.  
But for even a short life on this earth,  
We must thank God for His marvelous worth.

## **Board Secretary's Report**

It is hard to believe how fast the time has gone by; here we are halfway through another year of covenant education. Hello to all on behalf of this year's school board members. I am the brand new member of the board for this school year, joined by Ken Vink who is returning to the board after a short break to be our Vice President. The other members of the board include Dennis Altena who is our president, Kyle Van Den Top who is our Building Committee Chair, Dean Brummel who is our Treasurer, and Richard Van Den Top who is our Building Fund Treasurer.

School board members have visited the classrooms three times already this school year, and we plan to visit at least 3 more times before the school year comes to a close. We are happy to report that we have seen many good things from both the students and teachers. It is a blessing from our Heavenly Father that we have this school to teach our children what we believe. It is a very positive thing to observe respectful students who are willing and eager to learn every day.

Our staff remains familiar to anyone who stops by to visit school. Ms. Vink, Ms. De Jong, Mrs. Van Egdom, and Mrs. Te Slaa returned for the 2018-2019 school year. Mrs. Van Egdom has now transitioned from Upper Room, to Middle Room, to currently Lower Room. Mr. Potjer is technically our new teacher for this year, but he comes to school a familiar face having sub taught at school during the final months of our last school year.

We are also happy to report to you that all our teachers are properly licensed with the state and teaching again in their classrooms. While it took much extra effort on behalf of our staff, we were pleased with how willing the staff and substitute teachers were to be flexible with the classes they taught at the end of last semester. It was no doubt of great benefit to our students that education could continue with familiar faces remaining in the classroom.

If you have visited school this year, you may have noticed the work of the Building Committee in installing security cameras both inside and outside. These cameras were not installed as a response to any past event that has happened, but rather the recognizing of the value that recorded footage could have for future events. If you ever hear of anything where recorded footage may be important, please contact a board member as soon as possible so we can review the footage and take appropriate steps.

Another large project that you cannot miss if you visit school is the newly replaced flooring in the classrooms and office. It was a large project, but the end results have greatly updated our classrooms and also made the work of our janitors easier. Lord willing and pending Society approval, the plan is that the hallways and library will also get updated carpet in the near future.

The board would like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time to help our school. This includes but is by no means limited to those who helped install carpet, those who help with technology, those who help clean, those who serve food, those who help with field trips and transporting students, and those who have helped our school by continued prayer and financial support. It is our prayer often that the Lord will guide the decisions we make to be for the glory of His name.

*Ryan Buiter, NWIPRS Board Secretary*

## **From the Ladies' Circle:**

It's hard to believe that it is 2019! Happy New Year from the Ladies' Circle! We hope that all of our supporters were blessed and felt Christ's presence during this holiday season. We also hope that all of the teachers, students, and their families were able to rest and recharge over the holidays and are now ready to resume their work and callings at school in this new year.

The Ladies' Circle has been hard at work during the last few months since our last report. We have planned several events in support of our school; the Doon Day's Pizza Booth, the Kickball Fun Night and the Fall Fest Bake Sale just to name a few! We encourage you to watch the bulletin and the News & Views for more details about our upcoming events, such as the Visitors' Day in January and our annual Soup Supper on February 4. We are also looking forward to the annual Winter Pool Party at the All Seasons Center, the date to be announced soon. We plan to have a bake sale booth once again at the Doon Spring Fling, a pizza booth at the park for Doon Days in July, and our Annual School Kickoff Campout picnic at Newton Hills in August.

We thank all those who have remembered to bring their box tops, Wagon Wheels, pop cans, and used print cartridges to school. Also, a thank you for using your Amazon Smile account for all your Christmas shopping. Every little donation helps to support our school!

The money donated at Ladies' Circle activities and raised through fundraising programs enables the Ladies' Circle to purchase many items that benefit our teachers and students. The donations are used to cover field trip expenses, activities and prizes for the Read-a-Million-Minutes program, new engraved Psalters for incoming Kindergarteners, the annual School Board/Teacher supper, track entrance fees, new books for the teachers, the Birthday/Anniversary Calendar and Torch Yearbook. Additionally, with the donations from the past year, the Ladies' Circle helped to fund the purchase of new computers and two new smooth top tables for the school.

We would like to thank each of you for the various ways that you have supported our school this year. A special thank you is extended to our teachers for their daily labors of educating our covenant students, and to our school board and Rev. Engelsma for their labors, wisdom, and guidance.

Praise and thanks be to God for His many blessings. We pray that He will continue to bless our school in the new year.

*Ladies' Circle Secretary,  
Joanna Van Den Top*

