



# Torchlight

Spring 2021

*Sunnyside Christian School*

Providing a Christ-centered, Bible-based, quality education for distinctly Christian living.

## God's Truth



"What is truth?," the now infamous question that Pilate asked Jesus, the Son of the Most High God, has continued to resonate and demand an answer for every single individual and generation in human history. Ironically, Pilate looked the source of transcendent, absolute truth directly in the face but failed to recognize Christ's very essence, maybe because of apathy or inconvenience or misunderstanding but more likely because Pilate did not want to stand firmly rooted and administer Biblical justice in the face of tremendous peer pressure.

Nonetheless, Pilate's question should still echo in the ear of every person! What is the absolute source of truth and, therefore, what is truth? Our culture reels as it swipes and grasps attempting to locate a truth standard by only searching inside the materialistic box, today's conventional model of interpretation. Our country's majority has been educated for years that truth is now relative, that no one belongs to a larger story because that metanarrative does not exist, and that meaning comes only from what each individual derives to give preferential worth. Any wonder that ethics and righteousness are disappearing at warp speed!

But we need to pause, to reflect and refocus, and to return to the foundational meaning of truth, a meaning that stands the test of ALL time because it is grounded in a source outside the box, in the Source that created and sustains the universe. Therefore, truth defined is that which corresponds to God's perception of reality because God's perception of reality is never distorted or tainted because God is the source and fountainhead of all truth, and transcendent truth emanates from His very character and nature (Sproul, The Truth Project).

Without understanding and committing to follow God's truth-the only transcendent source of right/wrong-God's sovereignty, reality, standards, and presence will continue to be eclipsed, ignored by an increasingly secular culture that refuses to acknowledge man's sinful nature and instead worships at the feet of man-centered humanism.

Let us then, as Christ-followers, be committed to deeply knowing God and His absolute truth that He reveals in His special revelation, His Word. Let us grab that truth and infuse it into the foundations of every specific endeavor and area of Sunnyside Christian School. Let us visibly live out our need for redemption and then sanctification so that we can carry God's Spirit and truth into an unrooted culture to reclaim lost souls for God's Kingdom in God's World.

May we all daily walk with the guidance of The Holy Spirit in God's truth!

In Christ Jesus,  
Dean Wagenaar  
High School Principal



## New journeys for SCS staff members



We will be saying goodbye to our superintendent, Brad Van Beek, at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. He and his family moved to Sunnyside four years ago. Brad has led Sunnyside Christian School through many unprecedented events, and his leadership has been appreciated. No amount of education can prepare someone for running a school

through a pandemic, and during this last year of leadership, SCS remained in person with students while many other schools had to do distance learning. Brad also cared for students and teachers as building issues required classes to move to new rooms mid-year. His gifts have been a blessing to SCS; his fluency with speaking Spanish has helped immensely in reaching the community and his vision for the future has helped SCS move forward. His wife, Ruth, has been a help to the school by subbing, aiding in kindergarten, and teaching seventh grade Bible. His son, Alan, will graduate this year and his twin daughters are in sixth grade. We wish him and his family the best as they move to Michigan where they will be closer to family. Thank you for your service to SCS!



For the past five years, SCS has been blessed to have Mrs. Jessica Davies as our 5-8 math teacher. Some students know her better as Ms. Schrotenboer, while others experienced her as Mrs. Davies. We are grateful for her dedication to teaching math and the ways she made math fun for all of her students. When she first arrived at SCS, she brought her experience as an alumni as well as her experience as a teacher.

She helped students find fun ways to learn math, including annual Pi Day celebrations and Math Is Cool competitions. Mrs. Davies also used her Bible class to encourage students in their faith and spiritual walk. She was a willing participant in student council activities to encourage school spirit. We are thankful for the time she dedicated to SCS through teaching. She will be missed as she steps into her new role as mom. We wish her and her husband God's blessing as she focuses her attention on her family.



We want to thank Julie Broersma for her 18 years of dedicated service to Sunnyside Christian School. As her four children progressed through SCS, Julie moved from supporting the school as a parent to becoming a staff member. She began her work at the high school and served in several capacities: administrative assistant, student council advisor, bus driver, and Home Ec teacher. After five years, she relocated to the elementary school where she has spent the past 13 years supervising the office. She has organized and produced weekly newsletters; scheduled Parent-Teacher Conferences; served as a "nurse," for injuries and sickness; monitored the phone; ordered yearly school supplies and curriculum for teachers; provided counseling and more. Mrs. Broersma efficiently attends to so many details that go unnoticed but keep the school operating smoothly. We will miss her and all that she has done for SCS! Thank you, Mrs. Broersma, for your years of service to SCS and, more importantly, to our Lord. May God bless you in the next chapter of service to Him.



**What year did you come to SCS?** August, 1977. And it was HOT that summer! I told Betty that we'd stay here two years. That's it. It's too hot here! It's been a l-o-n-g two years! **Tell us about your life and experience before 1977.**

After I graduated from Dordt College in 1973, I took a position in Kanawha, Iowa, to teach 5th & 6th grades. Our two oldest daughters, Tami and Kari, were born there. Since Betty and I are both native Washingtonians, we felt the pull to be closer to family. When I saw that there was a Jr. High position open in Sunnyside, WA, I applied, was hired and moved here with my little family of four. **What were you hired to teach?** Science, Bible and Geography. I was the Homeroom teacher for 8th grade. I love to sing, and Jr. High choir was also added to my schedule. Eventually the choir became the Son's Choraliers and 6th graders were added. Later 5th grade as well. When the high school was started, I also directed that choir for a few of the early years. **Do you know how many students you've taught over the years?** No. I have no idea. Well...I suppose we could do the math. Hmm... Let's see, probably an average of 20 new incoming 7th graders each year for 44 years. That's 880! Wow! Could be closer to 1,000, I'm guessing! **Coaching has also played a big role in your career at SCS. Tell us about that.** I started out coaching 5th & 6th grade basketball. Moved to Jr. High basketball took on Jr. High baseball. When High School sports got going, I asked if I could coach the girl's basketball team. That was a great experience. I loved coaching those girls. **Do you know how many administrators you've served under?** Let's see.....I can figure that out: Al Koster-he hired me. Dennis Kaptein, Vince Bonnema, and Del Dykstra. Gary Kamps was here for one year as an interim, and now Brad Van Beek. Six, and I've appreciated all of them. Each of them brought something different to the position. **Why did you want to become a teacher?** I like kids I like teaching them; I loved coaching them. The greatest joy is watching students mature, seeing them grow in their love for God, knowing that they *(continues on the next page)*



# Grandparents Day

On Thursday, April 1, Sunnyside Christian School celebrated Grandparents Day by having a special chapel outside. We had over 80 grandparents, parents, and other friends of the school attend. Pastor Bob North led us in singing and with a special Easter message of Hope. First grade and junior high students shared a special number. It was a remarkable time because this was the first time many of our grandparents and parents were able to come to school in over a year.



## Junior High Volleyball



**Back Row:**  
Ava Newhouse, Gabby Raines, Annemiek Prins, Leslie Jimenez, Violet Boyle, Jasel Gutierrez, Adalee Smeenk, Sydney Peters, Hailey Van Wieringen, Katelyn Driesen, Hannah Clapp, Vanessa Licon

**Front Row:**  
Ellie Roskamp, Thalia Tlatenchi, Izabella Carpenter, Makenna Thomas, Devan Harrington, Natalie De Boer, Emily Mendoza, Dahlia Wolters

*continued from page 2...*

serve in their churches and in their communities. I've loved coaching with former students. The key was getting to know them, to establishing a relationship with them. It's been great. **Teacher/Coach/Choir Director. But what other "hats" have you worn?** I've logged a lot of miles as a bus driver with the sports teams! I could tell you some harrowing stories about some of those trips! God was with us, that's for certain. And I've done my fair share of summer grounds maintenance with a smattering of building and painting projects over the years. Oh, and Jr. High Athletic Director. That's been both challenging and rewarding. **What has changed the most since you started teaching?** Everyone knows the answer to that question-technology! Recently, I asked one of my classes if they knew what a record player was. Some of them had no idea. Film strips, slide projector, manual typewriters? All dinosaurs of the past. Most of the technology has been wonderful. Cell phones? I'm not sure about that one. **So you have any goals for retirement?** I don't even like that word "retirement". Oh, I'll stay busy. We'll do more traveling. I'd like to find some volunteer opportunities. I'll be available to sub in the classroom. Putter in my yard. **Final Thoughts?** I came here as a young man with my wife and two little girls, wondering if I had made a wise choice by moving to Sunnyside. I did. Our third daughter, Jana, was born here. It's been a great place to raise our family. To that family we've added three sons-in-law and seven grandkids, and we'd like to see more of them. We shall always pray for Sunnyside Christian School. It's a great school, has a terrific staff, supportive parents and wonderful students. May God bless all of you and thanks for the 44 years.

Thank you, Mr. Smeenk, for 44 years of dedication to Sunnyside Christian School. Your influence has been far-reaching for two generations of students. May God bless you and your family richly as you find new opportunities to serve Him.

### Memorials

*We gratefully acknowledge these memorial gifts. Thank you to all who remembered loved ones this way.*

**Jeanne Pickel**

**Trey Den Boer**

**Albert Don**

**Frank East**



## 8th Grade Class of 2021



Natalie De Boer, Katelyn Driesen,  
 Emanuel Garibay, Ajit Gill, Phelycia Gonzalez,  
 Jayleen Gutierrez, Joel Jimenez, Leslie Jimenez,  
 Daya Jones, Tony Licon, Emily Mendoza,  
 Ava Newhouse, Sydney Peters, Annemiek Prins,  
 Gabby Raines, Blake Riel, Angel Rosas,  
 Emmett Roskamp, Adalee Smeenk,  
 Cody Van Beek, Hailey Van Wieringen

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## BOOSTER CLUB

With current restrictions in place due to COVID-19, the SCS Booster Committee elected to hold the annual auction online from April 20-23. While this was uncharted territory, it gave the auction a unique opportunity to be shared with an even larger community of participants from the comfort of their homes. The Sophomore class was able to hold a dinner “to-go” or “picnic style” mid-week which also allowed items to be previewed. While overall donated items were down from previous years, an increase of bidders helped make this auction successful. To date, the auction has generated income of \$107,000 before expenses, and includes \$8,000 raised for the purchase of new Chromebooks. God’s promise to be faithful was evident from the beginning to the end of the auction. A special “thank you” to the procurement team, donors, bidders, classroom project coordinators, and raffle sponsors.

## 7th & 6th Grade Class Projects



The seventh grade students built roller coasters in Mr. Smeenk’s science class. They were learning about energy and motion. The coasters were examples of kinetic and potential energy. It was a fun way to learn about different forms of energy.

This year, the sixth grade students worked in groups to plan, develop, and build castles. Mr. DeGroot’s students did a wonderful job.

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## THANK YOU!!

Over the course of the year, SCS has been blessed by the willing volunteers that help during the year. This year, with COVID guidelines, classes had to be split and moved. We want to thank a few people for helping fill in the gaps when needed. Candace Bosma and Carol Van Slageren helped with teaching in first grade with our new teacher, Katie Dykstra. This allowed for the larger class to be split. Like the first grade, kindergarten also needed to be split to maintain 6 feet distance. Ruth Van Beek and Anita Van de Graaf have helped Lauren Johnson this year. Many others have helped in variety of ways, but we want to thank these ladies for helping with teaching the younger kids this year.



# Sunnyside Christian Childcare Center



## “He is Risen!”

Having been open throughout the pandemic, we are so thankful that our classrooms are once again bursting at the seams! This month’s activities have led us on Jesus’ journey to the cross and His resurrection. We used palm branches, flannel boards, resurrection eggs, sticker books, and a variety of children’s Bibles to teach the true meaning of Easter to our little ones. The most precious was our lesson on Jesus’ washing the disciples’ feet. We also just finished a fundraiser for new playground equipment. Our families worked together to sell 658 Mom’s Candy Apples and raised over \$2,000! Currently we are working with parents on potty training several of our preschoolers. Carpet shampoo is our new best friend! Pray for us as we continue to plant seeds of God’s Word in the hearts of these precious children so that during their life they can claim, “He is risen indeed!”

SCCC Info

**Website**  
www.scchildcarecenter.com

**Director:**  
Michelle Ramirez

**Address:**  
700 North 16th Street

**Phone:**  
(509) 831-1509

**Email:**  
scchildcarecenter@gmail.com

## 2021 SCHS Football



**Back Row:**

Coach Thomas, Cade Kinter, Jordan Lemon, Cole Wagenaar, Dash Bosma, Carson Duim, Asst. Coach Van Dam.

**Middle Row:**

Buddy Smeenk, James Householder, Alan Van Beek, Kolby Thomas, Luke Kinter.

**Front Row:**

Emmett Roskamp, Isaac Jimenez.

## 2021 SCHS Volleyball



**Varsity**

Breya Faber, Sydney Banks, Jenna Andringa, Taylor Andringa, Violet Bosma, Kelli Candanoza, Ella Alseth, MacKenzie Evans, Henrietta Prins.



**Junior Varsity**

JoJo Van Slageren, Kierstin Thomas, Taylor Andringa, Zoe Prins, Maddie Fultz, Piper Clapp, Sadie Alseth, Jenna Jech, Henrietta Prins.



# SCS Foundation 2021 Annual Dinner Fundraiser

It has been a year since the SCS Foundation had to cancel the 2020 Annual Dinner and unfortunately due to the continued circumstances surrounding Covid-19 we were unable to hold the 2021 Annual Dinner. However, throughout the past year of uncertainty the SCS Foundation has been extremely blessed by the continued generosity of our supporters. Thank you for continuing to bless the SCS Foundation through your gifts. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Dinner in March 2022.

Since we did not hold the 2021 Annual Dinner we are asking that you prayerfully consider making a donation at this time. To donate you can mail a check to the SCS Foundation, PO Box 667, Sunnyside or visit [www.scsfoundation.com](http://www.scsfoundation.com) and click on the donate button.

Thanks to the continued generosity of our donors, the SCS Foundation was able to make the following donations to Sunnyside Christian School for the 2020 -2021 school year:

- Cash Gift to the General Fund: \$84,855**
- Scholarship Funds for Tuition Aid: \$38,854**
- Total 2020-2021 Donations: \$123,709**



The SCS Foundation gratefully acknowledges a memorial gift given in memory of:

Frank East

# SCS Foundation Events & Fundraisers

- Alumni Bears**
- Annual Dinner**
- Barnabas Appointments**
- Bazaar**
- Golf Tournament**
- Legacy Group**
- Memorials**
- Paver Plaza**
- Thanks A Brunch**

For More Information Contact:

The SCS Foundation Office

PO Box 667

Sunnyside WA 98944

509-837-2050

[sonya.faber@sunnysidechristianschool.org](mailto:sonya.faber@sunnysidechristianschool.org)

## Thank You SCS Foundation Legacy Group Members

Members of the SCS Foundation Legacy Group pledge to donate \$100 per year for couples and \$50 per year for individuals to aid in growing the SCS Foundation Endowment Fund.

Joe & Jan Albrecht	Tim & Julie De Groot	John & Diana Heffron	Brad & Beth Rip	Alan & Norma Van Beek
Andy & Grace Andringa	John & Ellen Dekker	Jay & Tiffanie Hester	Jim & Judy Rip	Ryan Van Beek
Dave & Jody Andringa	Arlin & Vicki Delp	Jim & Jerri Honeyford	Jesse & Danette Rocha	Chris & Sheryl Van Belle
Mark & Beth Apol	Chad & Erika Den Boer	Gary & Marlene Hughes	Ron & Sue Schauer	Robert & Mary
Raleigh & Chris Apol	Larry & Joan Den Boer	Ramon & Veronica Islas	Andy & Karen Schilperoord	Van de Graaf
George & Charlene	Archie & Mari den Hoed	Jim & Marcia Jansen	Roger & Deb	Dirk & Carol Van Slageren
Barker	Arthur & Ruth den Hoed	Lauren Johnson	Schrotenboer	Dave & Janie
Jill Bos	Henry & Deanna Driesen	Phyllis Kaiser	Thelma Schrotenboer	Van Wieringen
Stan & Kathy Bos	Marie Duim	Dennis & Brenda Kaptein	Fred & Hazel Schutt	Arie & Agnes
Hank & Henrietta Bosma	Dolores Durbin	Pete & Marjean	Beverly Sevigny	Van Wingerden
John Bosma	James & Sandra Elenbaas	Laverman	Paul & Jane Slager	Harry Visser
Steve & Julie Bosma	George & Jo Faber	Judy Marti	Jake & Lori Slegers	Jennie Visser
Robert & Kathy Brandom	Rob & Sonya Faber	Arnold Martin	Al & Betty Smeenk	Linda Visser
Marten Bron	Duane & Cheryl Friend	Sybre & Michelle	Carolyn Smith	Bill & Laurie Wavrin
Chris & Melinda Brown	John & Karen Friend	Mensonides	Louis & Ilene Sparre	Chad & Linda
Paul & Doris Burma	Joyce Friend	Marvin & Marilyn Meyer	Aaron & Sarah	Werkhoven
Hiram & Maribel Cantu	Betty Grenz	Brian & Suzanne Moore	Aaron & Sarah	Ed & Mary Werkhoven
David & Kelley Charvet	Paul & Eileen Groeneweg	Dan & Sylvia Murray	Stonemetz	Robert Westerhoff &
Chris & Jessica Clapp	Jelmer & Diane	Ron & Sue Newhouse	Dillon & Alyssa Struikmans	Jenny Vanderlaan
Ted & Sue Clapp	Groenewold	John Perez & Miriam	Wayne & Trudy Sylling	Lenore Wierenga
Larry & Marilyn Cleveringa	Jordan & Lissa Haak	Zuniga	Karen Tade	Walt & Linda Wierenga
Janice Cook	Matt & Michelle Haak	Howard & Bettie Lou	Sharon te Velde	Ed Walters
Jonah & Jessica Davies	Melinda Haak	Pickel	Steve & Kathy Thonney	
David De Boer	Rosie Haak	Ron & Judy Polinder	Hank & Johanna	
Dan & Carolyn De Groot	Harlan & Pat Halma	Jason Raines	Timmermans	
Matt & Janessa De Groot	Duane & Kelly Harrington	Pyt Reitsma	Don & Terry Tolman	





# SCHS STUDENT OF THE MONTH



*February:*  
**Breya Faber**  
Sophomore



*May:*  
**Zoe Prins**  
Freshman



*March:*  
**Henrietta Prins**  
Sophomore



*Second Quarter*  
*Most Improved:*  
**Kierstin Thomas**  
Sophomore



*April:*  
**Alan Van Beek**  
Senior



*Third Quarter*  
*Most Improved:*  
**Lizzy Brandom**  
Junior

## 2021 SCHS BASEBALL



**Back Row:**  
Coach Alseth, Nate Moore, Justin Van Wieringen,  
Matt Roedel, Cole Wagenaar, Tyler Groeneweg,  
Coach Sarmiento  
**Middle Row:**  
Buddy Smeenk, Cody Van Beek, Dash Bosma,  
Blake Riel, Isaac De Boer  
**Front Row:**  
Tony Licona, Emanuel Garibay, Sawyer Jansen

## 2021 SCHS SOFTBALL



**Back Row:**  
Maddie Fultz, Zoe Prins, Taylor Andringa,  
Sydney Banks, Haylie Wolters, Coach Alseth  
**Middle Row:**  
Ella Alseth, MacKenzie Evans, JoJo Van Slageren,  
Breya Faber, Kelli Candanoza  
**Front Row:**  
Sadie Alseth, Piper Clapp



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**Elementary School**

Grades PreK - 8  
811 North Ave  
Sunnyside, WA 98944  
(509)837-3044  
julie.broersma@sunnysidechristianschool.org

**High School**

Grades 9-12  
1820 Sheller Rd  
Sunnyside, WA 98944  
(509)837-8995  
deanna.driesen@sunnysidechristianschool.org

**Sunnyside Christian School Foundation**

P.O. Box 667  
Sunnyside, WA 98944  
(509)837-2050  
sonya.faber@sunnysidechristianschool.org  
  
[www.sunnysidechristianschool.org](http://www.sunnysidechristianschool.org)  
[www.scsfoundation.com](http://www.scsfoundation.com)

## ***The Graduating Class of 2021***

### *The Elite 8*

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**Jenna Andringa**  
**Sydney Banks**  
**MacKenzie Evans**  
**Tyler Groeneweg**  
**Moises Jimenez**  
**Nate Moore**  
**Miguel Tlatenchi**  
**Alan Van Beek**

