



Torchlight

Spring 2020

Sunnyside Christian School

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

“God’s Promises”



For the past 47 years (17 years as a student, 30 years as an educator), the rhythm of the school year journeyed in a quite consistent and predictable manner. Enter this spring, the spring of year 48-what an unanticipated detour! As school closures were mandated and then extended because of COVID-19, the SCS staff/students adjusted, accepted the challenge, remained at home, dug in perched in front of a computer/packets and transitioned to both online and distance learning. However, no matter the number of challenges this pandemic marched in front of us, the SCS staff/constituency’s (as all fellow Christian believers) foundation, our Triune God and His sacred Scripture, has never wavered.

Therefore, we stand with fellow Christ-followers on God’s eternal promises knowing that His plans will be accomplished even through the tragedies, disruptions, and inconveniences. Max Lucado, Christian pastor and author, recently shared a prayer utilizing the acronym CALM to remind all of God’s promises especially during disrupted times. C = celebrate God’s goodness (Phil. 4:4; Ps. 121:1-2). Lift up your eyes to focus on God to realize both His sovereignty and care and rejoice in His blessings; A = ask God for help (Phil. 4:6; Ps. 50:15; Matt. 7:7; Matt. 6:11; Heb. 4:16). Jesus promises to listen to our petitions, and God is our Father who desires to hear our requests; L = leave your concerns with God (Phil. 4:7). Jesus stated that we should not worry about anything, but let our Heavenly Father handle our trials and tribulations; M = meditate on good things (Phil. 4:8). God calls us to meditate on the true, the noble, the just, the pure, the praiseworthy...all virtues which originate in the very character of Almighty God!

We continue to pray that God will bless us with knowledge and wisdom as we navigate through both the unknown and the challenges the pandemic presents. Instead of succumbing to anxiety and confusion, may we depend on God’s power, protection, and care for the present and into eternity! May the name of the Lord be praised!

In Christ Jesus,
Dean Wagenaar



Another Awesome Ag Class



Introduction to Agriculture once again has a new instructor; this year it is being co-taught by industry leader (probably) Trevor Wagenaar and teacher of the year candidate (hypothetically) Jeremy Van Dam. The two are combining their talents in order to bring unique instruction to this important class. Intro to Ag covers the basics of plant and animal science, while also introducing the topic of agricultural business. The dynamic duo plan to increase field trips and teach current agricultural

practices. In the past the class had contained many older videos that had some outdated information. The class began with a bang or more appropriately a moo. After studying dairies and dairy cows in class, the students had the opportunity to visit the Smeenk Dairy. They toured the milking barn, cow lots, and calf shed. The students really enjoyed the experience, especially the donuts and chocolate milk that were given.

The second field trip we attended was just as interesting for us but may have been a bit too technical for some of the students. The Ag class ventured to the lab, Ag Health Laboratories to be exact. Unfortunately, this was more of a hands-off type trip due to the expensive and precision lab equipment present. While at the lab, we did get to see milk samples being tested and bags of feed and poop being prepared for analysis.

When class resumes, we hope to continue to explore God's creation. Instead of analyzing animals, we will start digging in and exploring the world of plants!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Sunnyside Christian is very blessed with many caring people who volunteer their time! We have so many who help that it would be impossible to name each individually. We have parents who provide hot lunch to the elementary each month and the high school each week, those who help in classrooms, the library and running AR testing at the elementary campus. We have parents who clean, complete yardwork and projects, install playground equipment, and drive teams to sporting events. We have people who bless the teachers with gifts and items needed in the classroom. We have people who work tirelessly on committees, boards, and the booster auction. Thank you – two small words – which are filled with gratitude to all who help make SCS such a great school.

Third & Fourth Grade Combo Class



This year the 3rd and 4th graders have had a unique learning opportunity. The students spent their afternoons learning, creating, and exploring together in a multi-grade classroom. Bible, Science, Social Studies, Art, and PE were shared learning experiences. The students began the year by working through some team-building activities. These activities introduced students to their new afternoon classmates. This was just the beginning of newly forged relationships and friendships. All of the students have contributed to an atmosphere of sharing, helping, and celebrating learning successes both in the classroom and on the playground.

Congratulations on 40 years of driving bus!



Barb Thomas describes herself on Facebook as “Bus Driver for 39 years and holding at Sunnyside Christian School.” The Sunnyside Christian School community appreciates her 40 years of service! She has safely transported our students

for many miles and has been such a blessing to our school. THANK YOU, MRS. THOMAS; we love and appreciate you!





Sunnyside Christian Thrift Store

Abby Bravo – SC Thrift Shop

Student Staff



I am Abby Bravo, and this is a bit of my story. My brother and I transferred to Sunnyside Christian School because my parents wanted us to receive the best education possible while growing stronger in our faith with God.

My experience at Sunnyside Christian helped me attain these goals because the staff truly cared for my well-being and future. Whether academically or spiritually, having an amazing support system to push me to do my best and believe in me when I did not, truly taught me to never give up even when things became difficult. The staff enabled me to learn organizational skills and discipline, to develop a good work ethic, and manage my time well, all valuable skills that I have

needed to flourish as a freshmen in college while pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Heritage University.

Working at the Thrift Shop has prepared me for future jobs by presenting the opportunity to learn various skills: relating to customers; developing the ability to be considerate because a person does not always know people's backgrounds or stories; learning friendliness which can brighten and make a person's day; and enhancing my technical skills, which will be beneficial in the future.

My favorite aspect of employment at the Thrift Shop has been working alongside strong, resilient, God-fearing women. To share openly the same beliefs, views, and ideals is a blessing not many experience every day they work. I have been blessed to work at an organization where the staff prays for my well-being and future whether I ask them to or not. Having a loving family that looks out for me at all times is a blessing that makes working at the Thrift Shop not feel like a job at all!

I have also witnessed many God-inspired moments while working at the Thrift Shop that have awed me. In particular the music on Christian radio has impacted my attitude in a significant manner. I think of times when I am dealing with struggles, stress, insecurities, and life circumstances that I do not like to talk about or share with anyone. However, God always finds a way to speak to me whether I am intentionally listening or not. He uses the lyrics to counsel even when I do not want to listen. On occasion a certain song immediately grabs my attention. As I start to carefully listen, I realize that what I am experiencing will pass because I have God on my side. I just need to trust His timing, not mine. God assures me even when I think I am walking through the valley of the shadow of death. I know I should fear no evil because His rod and staff comfort me. This promise in Scripture will forever lead and guide me.

High School Online Learning "TEAMS"

Mrs. Haak:

When it was announced that schools would be closed due to COVID concerns, the high school staff immediately decided that we wanted to do our best to continue serving and educating our students by taking our classrooms online. I cannot stress enough how quickly and eagerly the teachers prepared to make this change. Emails were sent to parents. Staff members scrambled to find resources and solutions for everyone. I held a training session for teachers on setting up a classroom in Microsoft Teams and made a tutorial for students. Teachers quickly learned to produce videos and post assignments. These teachers did an amazing amount of work; just one week after the closure they were already teaching exclusively online.

Mr. Westerhoff:

When we began teaching online, I started to use my video production background to create videos for my students. I began by having my webcam record my face in the top right corner of the screen. In the main frame of the video appeared the PowerPoint presentation that I would use on a normal day of school. I would teach my lesson as usual, and save my work as a video to share with my students. The students would then complete homework I assigned based on the video and textbook readings. Finally, they would turn in their assignments online through Microsoft Teams. The students can communicate with me with any questions they have through the Team's platform.

Elementary & Junior High Distance Learning



The elementary campus staff and teachers decided to organize packets of work for students. We had a packet pick-up on Thursday, March 19 where students received books and work needed.

Teachers have been emailing, calling, and texting with families and continue to send learning opportunities to families. Some classes "meet" occasionally through video platforms to visit and check in. One thing is for sure – we miss our students!





ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND



The elementary campus has a new look! We are so blessed by many volunteers. The old playground set was replaced with a new one this year. The students watched the process as the old wooden set was taken down and a new one installed. We are so grateful to the many who made this possible. The process caused several students and alumni to reminisce

about the many memories made through activities on the wooden system. We look forward to making many more.

Pi Day



On Friday, March 13 Miss Schrottenboer's 5th - 8th classes had fun celebrating Pi Day during math time. They spent the class period learning about this interesting mathematical constant while eating their favorite flavors

of pie! Each class also crowned a king or queen for the day based on who could memorize the most digits of pi. This year's pi day royalty were: Taylor Roedel, a 5th grader, who memorized 33 digits of pi; Brett Andringa, a 6th grader, who memorized 15 digits of pi; Tony Licon, a 7th grader, who memorized 67 digits of pi; and Buddy Smeenck, an 8th grader, who memorized 11 digits of pi. The day was an entertaining adventure in math class!



8th Grade Graduating Class



- Isaac Jimenez*
- Ethan Rocha*
- Buddy Smeenck*
- Gerson Jimenez*
- Jayce Thomas*
- Luke Kinter*
- Mia Dang*
- Katie Bosma*
- Madelinn Fultz*
- Taylor Andringa*
- Claire Twigg*
- Addison Hester*
- Dixie Liefke*
- Jenna Jech*
- Sadie Alseth*
- Zoe Prins*
- Piper Clapp*
- Isabella Zecchino*



Junior High Basketball



Back Row

Jasel Gutierrez, Katelyn Driesen, Hailey Van Wieringen
Taylor Andringa, Zoe Prins, Jayleen Gutierrez,
Sydney Peters

Middle Row

Hannah Clapp, Sadie Alseth, Jenna Jech, Devan
Harrington, Vanesa Licona

Front Row

Thalia Tlatenchi, Makenna Thomas, Piper Clapp,
Gabby Raines, Natalie De Boer

NED

The elementary and junior high students welcomed Mr. Evan Michael in March for a NED presentation of "mindset mission." Through storytelling and yo-yo tricks, Evan encouraged students to "Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best." The presentation explained the power of "yet", sparking courage in others, and activating a go brain. The students had the opportunity to purchase yo-yos to try to perfect the tricks taught to them. The entertaining show helped everyone remember the keys to doing our best at everything.



Worship Symposium at Calvin College



Through a generous grant from Calvin, Brea Rip, Henrietta Prins and Matt Beltman (for the third time) were granted a unique opportunity to travel to the Calvin Symposium on Worship at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Michelle De Boer chaperoned and partook in the experience. The four were hosted by their SCHS instructor, Nicky De Boer.

They spent three days on Calvin's campus immersed in the surprisingly wide topic of worship. Each day began with what Henrietta loved—the large group formal worship in either contemporary or traditional styles. Although they expressed it in their own way, it was unanimous that the overall highlight was experiencing unity in worshipping one God through all the participants' diversity.



Following worship, the participants had a wide selection of classes they pre-registered for based on their interests. Options included worship & musical composition, discovering the Bible as if for the first time, the purpose of story-telling in worship, loving our neighbors and worshipping in a multicultural setting. Brea Rip raved, "I experienced scripture in a new eye-opening way that directly applied to my life and made my faith stronger."

The breaks were enriched by displays set up by universities, book publishers, and other Christian organizations to peruse between classes. Between classes and late each night the four opened up to each other and shared what they learned and what touched each of them.



Michelle De Boer loved the quality time with the students and the opportunity to see their fires for God grow. The three students had their eyes opened to a broad array of experiences. They were all very grateful to have had this opportunity.



SCS Foundation 25th Annual Dinner

The Sunnyside Christian School Foundation's 25th Annual Dinner was scheduled for the evening of March 17, 2020. We were looking forward to a delicious dinner provided by Close Up 2020, the amazing talent of the Beckman Family Bluegrass Band and a presentation from Travis Morrow of the Barnabas Foundation. The plans were made and the decorations were ready, but unfortunately due to the uncertainty of the circumstances surrounding the coronavirus the dinner was cancelled.

Due to the 25th Annual Dinner being cancelled 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 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 2019 -2020 school year:

- Cash Gift to the General Fund: \$73,588**
- Scholarship Funds for Tuition Aid: \$34,170**
- SCS Special Projects: \$80,000**
- Total 2019-2020 Donations: \$187,758**



The SCS Foundation gratefully acknowledges memorial gifts given in memory of:
Lucille Apol, Henrietta Elbers, Bernie Haak and Rena VanOostrum.

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

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.

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joe & Jan Albrecht | Dan & Carolyn De Groot | Jelmer & Diane | John Perez & Miriam | Hank & Johanna |
| Andy & Grace Andringa | Matt & Janessa De Groot | Groenewold | Zuniga | Timmermans |
| In Memory of Lucille Apol | Tim & Julie De Groot | Henry & Karen Haak | Arthur & Laura Pittillo | Don & Terry Tolman |
| Mark & Beth Apol | John & Ellen Dekker | Jordan & Lissa Haak | Ron & Judy Polinder | Chris & Sheryl Van Belle |
| Raleigh & Chris Apol | Andy & Robin den Hoed | Matt & Michelle Haak | Jason Raines | Robert & Mary |
| Stan & Kathy Bos | Archie & Mari den Hoed | Melinda Haak | Pyt Reitsma | Van de Graaf |
| Hank & Henrietta Bosma | Arthur & Ruth den Hoed | Rosie Haak | Jim & Judy Rip | Bill & Remi Van Slageren |
| Henry & Stacy Bosma | Henry & Deanna Driesen | Duane & Kelly Harrington | Jesse & Danette Rocha | Dirk & Carol Van Slageren |
| John Bosma | Robert & Kristi De Torres | Tony & Sandy Harris | Ron & Sue Schauer | Dave & Janie |
| In Memory of | Marie Duim | John & Diana Heffron | Andy & Karen Schilperoort | Van Wieringen |
| Donna Bosma | Dolores Durbin | Jim & Jerri Honeyford | Jessica Schrotenboer | Arie & Agnes |
| Robert & Kathy Brandom | In Memory of Bill Durbin | Gary & Marlene Hughes | Roger & Deb | Van Wingerden |
| Marten Bron | James & Sandra Elenbaas | Jim & Marcia Jansen | Schrotenboer | Harry Visser |
| Chris & Melinda Brown | George & Jo Faber | Lauren Johnson | Thelma Schrotenboer | Jennie Visser |
| Paul & Doris Burma | Rob & Sonya Faber | Phyllis Kaiser | Beverly Sevigny | Linda Visser |
| Jim & Nanci Campbell | Duane & Cheryl Friend | Dennis & Brenda Kaptein | Paul & Jane Slager | Jerry & Marj Vrieling |
| In Memory of | John & Karen Friend | Pete & Marjean | Jake & Lori Slegers | Bill & Laurie Wavrin |
| Norma Friend | Joyce Friend | Laverman | Al & Betty Smeenk | Ed & Mary Werkhoven |
| David & Kelley Charvet | Betty Grenz | Arnold Martin | Dillon & Alyssa Struikmans | Robert Westerhoff & |
| Chris & Jessica Clapp | Bob & Hester Groeneweg | Sybren & Michelle | Nick & Janie Struikmans | Jenny Vanderlaan |
| Ted & Sue Clapp | Paul & Eileen Groeneweg | Mensonides | Wayne & Trudy Sylling | Larry & Phyllis Wheeler |
| Larry & Marilyn Cleveringa | Pete & Karon | Marvin & Marilyn Meyer | Karen Tade | Lenore Wierenga |
| BC & Kristy Cumings | Groeneweg | Brian & Suzanne Moore | Steve & Kathy Thonney | Walt & Linda Wierenga |
| David De Boer | | Dan & Sylvia Murray | | Ed Wolters |



JUNIOR HIGH TCAL



For years, our senior class has participated in TCAL – Towards Christian Adult Living, where they examine issues from a Christian perspective. When an opportunity opened for a 7th grade course, we added TCAL Jr. High to the schedule. The 7th graders meet once a week with Ms. Slager and Ms. Clark to discuss issues pertinent to junior high and how to view them from a Christian perspective. Students give input into what they would like to discuss. Some topics include learning styles, perspective, goal setting, sportsmanship, music, encouragement, relationships, and integrity. We are blessed to have Life Options come in for four weeks to present a Christian perspective of abstinence, integrity, and relationships.

SCS FALL DRIVE

Thank You - Thank You - Thank You
 We want to thank all of our donors who blessed SCS this fall during our annual Fall Drive. Sunnyside Christian School could not survive without the incredible support of our community. We had an amazing Fall Drive. We set a lofty goal of \$95,000. Through God's faithfulness and the obedience of His children, we exceeded our goal! Thank you for your generosity!



LEARNING DAY CAMP

The beginning of March started off great with a forecast of children filling the pre-K and toddler rooms to a maximum capacity on most days. During the first week of March we had a sudden change in teachers. Dalia, in the toddler room, left, but we were blessed to hire a replacement immediately and welcome Rocio to our staff. She has her required initial certificate and many years' experience working with all ages including school-age children. The transition went smoothly. Rocio not only keeps the toddlers engaged with activities, but she follows through with the curriculum and gives structure by following a daily scheduled routine.



We are thankful for a bright atmosphere.

After the COVID-19 orders started, we were very busy with phone calls and multiple contract changes. The first day of the Stay at Home Order, we only had one child. The numbers gradually grew once we promoted the Learning Day Camp, even though only one child signed up. The most we've had in attendance is nine children. The staff stays tuned to the Washington State Department of Youth and Families for their Covid-19 guidance recommendations. They have made major adjustments that support providers to stay in business.

In the midst of all this, we are happy we have new enrollment. A mother enrolled her 10-month-old infant. She is a teacher and although she won't bring him until she goes back to work, it is a positive note. We have five consistent families who don't plan to withdraw their children.

Even though we are all experiencing uncertainty with all that is happening, we are certain that God is in control. Together, we make a good team, and together, we will walk through these challenges.



HIGH SCHOOL DRAFTING CLASS

This year the students at SCHS got the opportunity to use a new design tool - a 3D printer. 3D printing uses a special plastic-like polymer called PLA which heats up and is squeezed through a nozzle, printing numerous thin layers on top of each other to build a 3D object.



Sophomores spent time in Drafting and Design class learning to use 3D design and sculpting software as well as find and modify design files from the Internet. Once a design was ready, it was sent to

the 3D printer and took anywhere from 20 minutes to several hours to print, depending on size and complexity. After that, their designs were theirs to keep. Sophomores were not the only ones to use the 3D printers this year! The Freshmen also did some digital sculpting and designed their own "monsters." The 6th grade class drew silhouette shapes on note cards that were then converted to digital shapes and printed as small keychains. Overall the 3D printers have been very popular with the students and teachers and a great addition to the computer and art programs at our school!

Memorials

We gratefully acknowledge memorial gifts. Thank you to all who remember loved ones in this manner!

- Bernie Haak**
- Lou Apol**
- Clara Weinbender**
- Rena Van Oostrum**
- Leitha Bol**

SCS Bookfair



In February we hosted our first fundraising Scholastic Book Fair in over 20 years. We had a coin drive to raise money for our school's book fund prior to the fair. The highest student average per classroom was awarded donuts, and our

3rd & 5th grade classes won the prize. The grand total for the coin drive was \$950.00.

The students visited with their class and previewed the fair while making their wish lists for their parents. The excitement of the students during the book fair was a rewarding experience for the staff and volunteers.

It was a success! Our teachers were also gifted books from their wish lists from parents. In all our book fair raised (with the coin drive) \$2,301.00. We look forward to hosting another one in the next school year.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL SCOREBOARD



Even though spring sports have been cancelled and the brand new softball scoreboard could not be officially utilized, we are still very excited to have the scoreboard installed ready to be used. We thank Jason Tolman, who donated half of the installation labor; the Heather Smith Memorial Fund which funded another segment of the cost; the Foundation who also donated additional money to complete the project; and to Pepsi who donated the scoreboard. Thank you all very much for your generous contributions!



JUNIOR HIGH MATH IS COOL



On February 7 our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Math is Cool teams competed in Richland against other area schools. They participated in various math contests which included individual tests, team tests, relays, and college bowl. It was a great experience for all the students, and they did a great job representing our school!

6th Grade: Aiden Andringa, Brett Andringa, Jack Bosma, Hannah Clapp, Angel Lugo, Tucker Twigg

7th Grade: Natalie De Boer, Joel Jimenez, Daya Jones, Annemiek Prins, Gabbi Raines, Emmett Roskamp

8th Grade: Mia Dang, Addi Hester, Jenna Jech, Gerson Jimenez, Zoe Prins, Isabella Zecchino

HIGH SCHOOL WOODSHOP CLASS PROJECTS

This year 20 students have been enrolled in Beginning and Advanced Shop classes. Students have learned to plan/design and build a large variety of projects. In the metals area students have fabricated large workbenches for their home shops along with a variety of other smaller metal projects. All of the advanced students also learned to present a unit to their peers on one of 12 different pieces of equipment. The beginning class built many pieces of furniture, kitchen utensils, closet organizers, utility boxes and all students learned to turn a bowl on the wood lathe. The classes have been taught by Leroy Werkhoven, Ed Werkhoven and Dave Charvet.



Brea Rip - Closet Organizer



Will Bosma - Bench Seat

Students of the Month



February:
Jessica Sheeres
Senior



March:
Victoria Velazquez
Freshman



Second Quarter
Most Improved:
Will Bosma
Senior



Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 4

Elementary School

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811 North Ave
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Graduating Class of 2020



Marika Van Slageren
Grace Van Belle
Matthew Beltman
Madison Candanoza
Arie Prins
AJ Garcia
Sophie Halma
Jessica Sheeres
Blaze Bosma
Austin Prins
Anthony Mendoza
Levi Newhouse
Brooklon Struikmans
Bode Jansen
Marty Fultz
Annalies Roskamp
Simon Prins
Taylor Wolfe
Will Bosma