

# Highland Park Review

Graduation

"GOD IS WITH US"



*"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Isaiah 41:10*

*Spring 2026*

**Hull Protestant Reformed Christian School**  
**Class of 2026**

**Eliza Danielle Andringa**  
**Kate Addison Blankespoor**  
**Dean Richard Bleyenbergh**  
**Braleigh Ann Brummel**  
**Faye Justine De Groot**  
**Jace Logan Hoksbergen**  
**Lily Ann Maassen**  
**Junior Lee Postma**  
**Janessa Lynn Van Bemmell**  
**Jenna Claire Van Der Zwaag**  
**Zeke Michael Van Engen**  
**Colby Jon Van Maanen**  
**Caden Henry Westra**  
**Makenzie Joy Westra**  
**Sophia Jean Wynia**

**Motto**

**“God Is With Us”**

**Text**

**Isaiah 41:10**

**Flower**

**Pink Cremon**

**Colors**

**Butter Yellow and Light Pink**

**Class Song**

**“Be Still My Soul”**

Dear Parents, Friends, and Supporters,

As this school year comes to a close, we see the gracious care our Heavenly Father has given to us throughout this past year. He continues to provide us with the means for the covenant education that takes place in this Christian school. Thanks be to God from whom all blessings flow.

The school board would like to thank everyone for the prayers and financial support given on behalf of our school this past year. We especially thank our teachers and administrator for the dedicated work on behalf of the students. A special note of thanks to Mrs. Sharon Keizer who is retiring after 39 years in Christian Education and 38 years at HPRCS. We wish her well in retirement!

We would also like to thank our janitors and maintenance personnel, school secretary, librarian, teacher assistants, substitute teachers, bus drivers, the Ladies Guild, which supports the school through their many fundraising projects and all who volunteer their time for the school.

The board would like to congratulate the graduating class of 2026. This year's graduating class marks 50 years of education at HPRCS. We hope to celebrate this milestone with a future program or event. Graduation is currently scheduled for Wednesday, May 20. Our prayers are with each of the graduates as they continue their education. We encourage them to hold fast to the instruction they have received.

Looking forward to the 2026-2027 school year, our faculty will be as follows:

Principal	Mr. Loren Gritters
8th Grade/Athletic Director	Mr. Torrey Heynen
7th Grade	Mrs. Jodi Baker
6th Grade	Mrs. Sheila Blankespoor
5th Grade	Mr. Loren Gritters/Mrs. Kandace Heynen
4th Grade	Mrs. Brenda Regnerus
3rd Grade	Mrs. Brenda Vande Kamp
2nd Grade	Mrs. Rachel Mooy
1st Grade	Mrs. Jacque Van Maanen
Kindergarten	TBD
Kindergarten Aide	Mrs. Candice Andringa
Music (K-5) / Choir	Mrs. Kelly Westra
Band (5th - 8th)	TBD
Resource / Discovery Room	Mrs. Nancy Gritters
Para-Professional	Ms. Joanna Brummel
Para-Professional	Ms. Maesa Cleveringa

Secretary	Mrs. Vi De Boer / Mrs. Tonia Westra
Librarian	Mrs. Lori Kooiker
Janitor	Mrs. Keisha Brummel
Maintenance	Mr. Ron Hoksbergen

The board is thankful for the dedicated staff which God has given to our school and we ask that you remember them in your prayers as they prepare for the coming year. We are excited to welcome two new para-professionals next year who will support students with extra needs and assist our teachers.

The school board continues to meet at least once a month and stays busy with the day to day operation of the school. Several committees also meet from time to time to make recommendations to the board. The annual school society meeting will be held on Thursday, June 25 at 7:30 p.m. at our school. All members and those wanting to join the society are encouraged to attend.

The board prays that God will continue to bless the school that He has graciously provided for the instruction of our children, and we covet your prayers that the decisions we make are in accordance with His will.

In Christ,



HPRCS Board

Evan Westra, Secretary

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”

For the past two years, I have been taking a course for teachers to instruct students in reading, spelling, and related language skills. While going through the course I often called this verse to mind. I was learning about the brain and how the brain works during the process of learning to read. It is beyond amazing how God has created our brains to learn to read. There is research that has taken place over the last 50 years that the education community has been applying to the teaching of reading. Part of the research involved scans of the brain to determine what is happening when we learn to read. Based upon these findings we can better direct our instruction when teaching students to read. There are many things that take place in the brain in order for anyone to be able to make meaning of written symbols.

Contrary to recent beliefs, learning to read is not a natural process. Learning to speak and understand spoken language are natural processes. The writing system we use today has only been standard for less than 200 of the 6,000 years man has been on the Earth. In order to read one must mentally link the alphabetic symbols with the single speech sounds that they represent. And that process is only one aspect of reading. According to some researchers, the two most important parts of learning to read are accurate and automatic word recognition and linguistic comprehension. Basically, this means that if a student cannot decode (sound out) printed English, they cannot comprehend it and vice versa. It takes a lot of hard work to learn how to read. Some students do seem to pick up on it very easily and that in itself is amazing.

So, what does the brain do while it is learning to read? First of all, there is the eye-movement. While reading our eyes do not make smooth, continuous movements. Instead, our eyes make jumps and brief pauses which take place extremely quickly. When we read, we do not skip over words or letters. It is actually a letter-by-letter processing of the word. This takes place in the orthographic processing system of the brain. On the left side of the brain there are also other processing systems that are extremely busy. They connect a huge system of white matter pathways that develop as reading is learned. For example, the part of the brain called the phonological processor connects speech sounds with the context and meanings processors in order to make meaning of speech sounds. When we have put everything together, we pronounce the written words. The pathways link the various systems together so that the stronger the signals across the pathways are the stronger the reader will be. One researcher, Stanislas Dehaene, put it this way, Together the processing systems and their connecting pathways form a “vast brain circuit” that is “transformed as we learn to read” and that supports our miraculous ability to translate print into speech with accuracy, fluency, and comprehension. All of this takes place at lightning speed! Realizing all that just leaves me speechless at the power and wisdom of God in creating us.

What does this all mean? It means we as teachers need to be explicit and direct in our instruction of reading, spelling, and other language skills especially for the

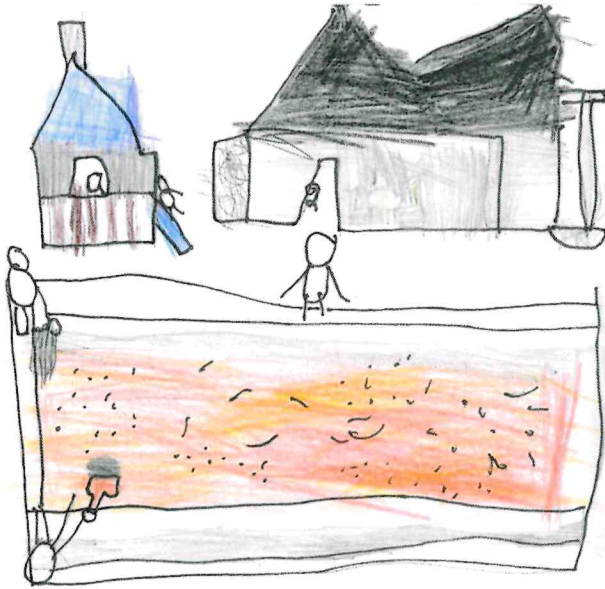
struggling reader. God has created each one of us in a unique way. Our students come to school with various abilities and learning styles. When we make plans to teach them to read, we take all of this into consideration. If a student is a struggling reader, this information helps us determine what they are struggling with, and what we can do to help them become stronger readers. Watching a child learn to read is such an awesome part of what I do. It makes me consider the how intricately God has made our brains. What a wonderful God we have.

**Mrs. Rachel Mooy**



**HPRCS Class of 2026**

In Kindergarten, we make huge strides in our learning throughout a school year. Some students come in not even being able to write their name. Now at the end of the year, we are up to writing and illustrating our very own story. The first page was to establish a setting. Take a look at some of the progress we have made.



Dahlia Koedam

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Maeva Maassen



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Leo Miersma



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Johnny Pollema



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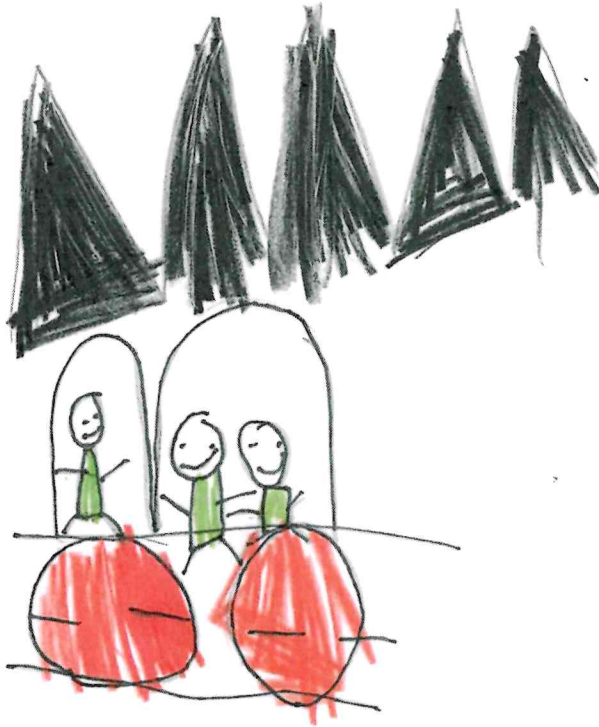
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the hot tub

Eli Van Beek



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Clayton Van Maanen



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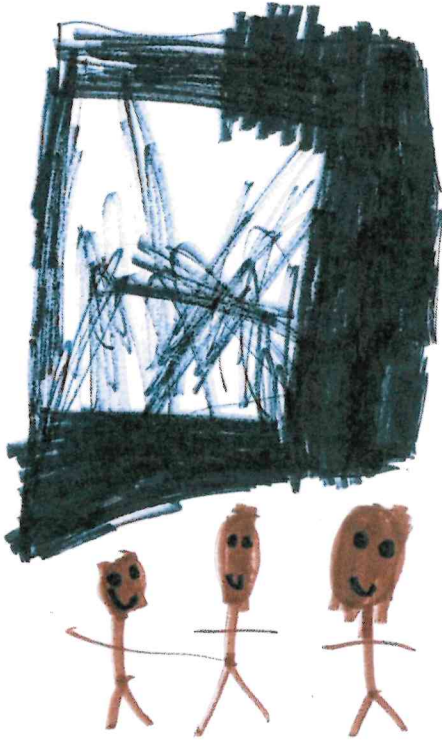
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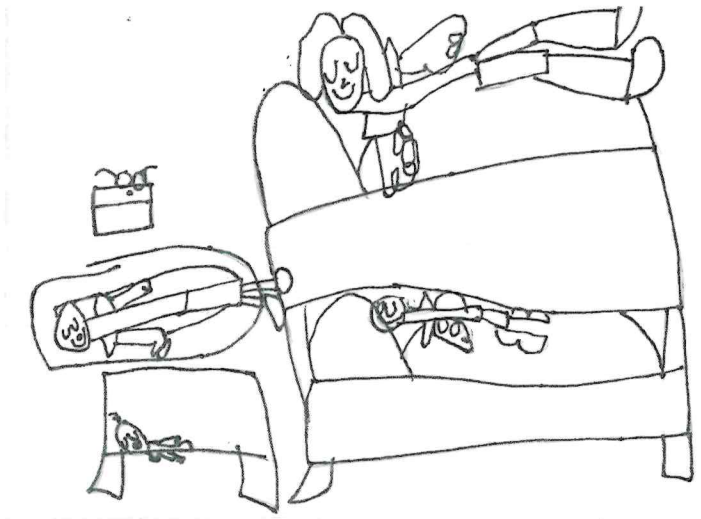
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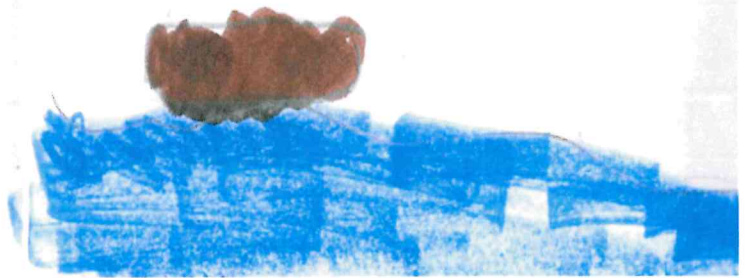
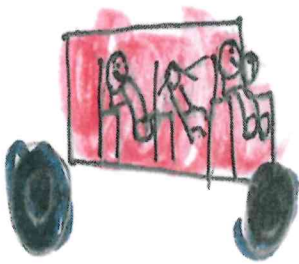
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Macy Warner



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Emma Zandstra



Wun I went to  
Lak Tomsum  
I went in a car.

We would love to share one of our animal reports we wrote for our chapel. Each first grader picked an animal of their choice and wrote 2 reports. The one we are sharing with you was more of an essay. We hope you enjoyed coming to our chapel and also seeing the animals the kids made with their parents! It was amazing! God has the most incredible creation!

Aubrey Westra- God made the wolf! A wolf family is called a pack. A big brother or sister play with the young pups. Pups practice hunting. Wolf packs work together.

Logan Van Maanen- God made the dolphin! Dolphins have lungs and breath air. They have soft smooth skin. A baby dolphin is called a calf. A dolphin school may have more than 1,000 animals. The Hector's dolphin usually stays close to land.

Mila Mantel- God made the octopus! Octopus live in a group called Cephalopods. The edges of an octopus suckers have microscopic grooves. In the wild, an octopus has the ability to fit into small spaces. God created them!

Gideon Lenting- God made the ant! Most ants build under the ground. Some ants do not live under ground. Ants dig tunnels. Worker ants collect food. Other ants guard the nest.

Naomi Bootsma- God made the butterfly! Butterflies drink nectar. Butterflies drink fresh nectar. Butterflies have six legs. Monarch butterflies are easy to see. They all have the same spots.

Hendrick Van Maanen- God made the sea otter! Sea otters eat their meals above the water. They groom themselves. Their fur has two layers. Sea otters hold hands. (well, paws)!

Everleigh Brummel- God made the Monarch! Monarchs rest in trees. Monarchs can fly over two thousand miles. Monarchs have two pair of wings and six legs.

Adam Van Der Brink- God made the dolphin! There are several small dolphin species. Some dolphins live near coasts. Baby dolphins live on their mother's milk at first. Dolphins also use sound to "see" things. Dolphins live in pods of 30 or more. The biggest dolphin is an Orca.

Jaren Westra- God made the shark! The weirdest shark is the Hammerhead Shark. The creepiest shark is the Great White shark. The smallest shark is the Spined Pygmy Shark. The fastest shark is the Mako Shark. Shark skin feels bumpy.

Lucas Andringa- God made the snake!!! Many snakes have more than 200 teeth. Snakes have more than 1,000 bones. Cobra vipers and pit vipers have big teeth called fangs. Most snakes eat 30 meals a year. Snakes can't blink.

Ellowyn Brummel- God made the flamingo! A flamingo is a picky bird. A flamingo lives in shallow water. A flamingo has long skinny legs. A flamingo eats in the water. They even lay their eggs in nests.

Liam Kookier- God made the owl! The owls eyes see better at night than any other bird. Owls do not chew their food. Their talons grab and hold their food. Owls can almost twist their heads upside down. Their beak is sharp and curved and can tear meat into bits.

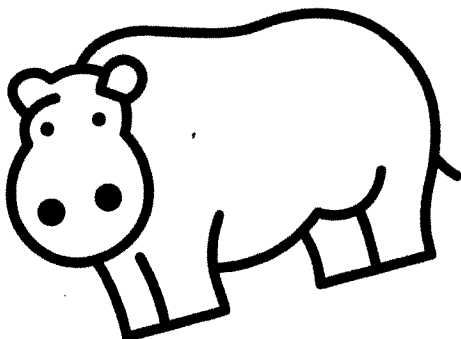
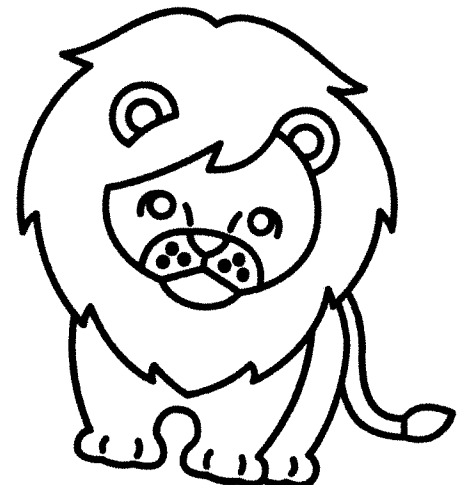
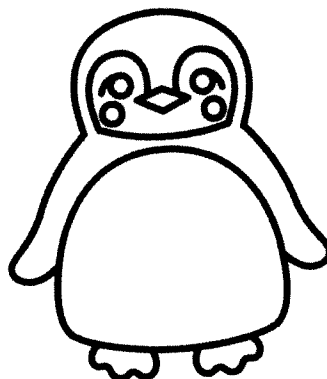
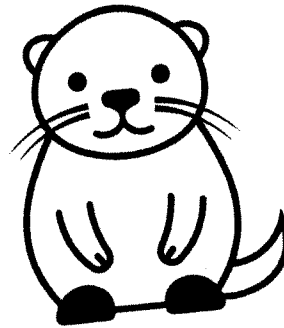
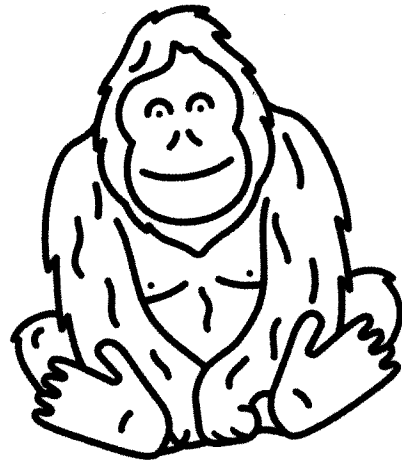
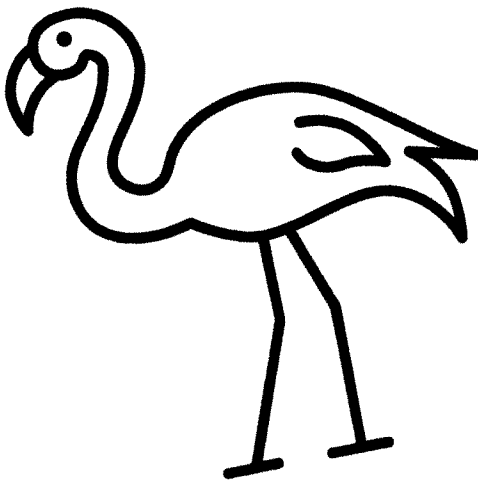
Savannah Hoesktra- God made the whale! Newborn whales weigh about 1 ton and are 13 feet long. Sperm whales dive deeper than any other whale. A sperm whales blowhole is in an S shape.

Cody De Roon- God made the gorilla! A baby gorilla grows bigger and they begin to play a lot. Gorillas live in an African rainforest. The father gorilla is called a silverback. Gorillas live in troops. The silverback leads the troop as they move through the forest.

Trevor Van Bommel- God made the tiger!! Tigers are carnivores. Their favorite foods are large, hooved animals. A hungry tiger can chow down 80 pounds of meat in one meal. That is about 320 hamburgers!

Sadie Kooima- God made the lion! Lions have a home range. Lions live in a group called a pride. Lions groom each other. Lions eat meat. Male lions guard the pride.

Esmae Evans- God made the zebra! The mother zebra grooms its baby. Now its hair is clean. No two zebras stripes are alike. The mother zebra calls to its baby.



The Second Graders would like to share some of their writing from their journals.

I like my Dad for buying a mini dirt bike for me. My Dad helps me clean my room.

We went on a Kroese vacation. We fished on a boat. We ate good food. We all swam. We took a family picture.

My Mom helps me with my homework. My Mom sits down on the couch. I am thankful to God for my Mom and for saving my brother.

Titus Maassen

God sent a strong wind. Then God sent an earthquake. God sent a fire. God came in a still, quiet voice.

On Monday my Mom and I played on the snow pile. Later my neighbor boys and their sister and Grandpa came to play.

My Mom likes tacos. We work at the greenhouse. My Mom makes the kind of tacos that I like with meat and cheese. I'm thankful for my Mom. I love my Mom.

Shyanne Tamminga

On Christmas I like to go sledding down big piles. It is so fun. I like going down big piles. At our house I help my Dad scoop snow and when we're finished we have a big snow pile.

My Mom helps me do my homework. She makes supper for my family. My Mom sits down to relax for a bit. I am thankful that God gave me my Mom. My Mom makes soup for my family sometimes. She cleans at the lumber yard. Sometimes I go to work with her. My Mom plays with me.

Desiree Mouw

I am thankful that God gave me a Dad. My Dad works at B and B. I get pop at B and B. I get to work at the hog barn. My Dad has a machine that makes metal. My Dad is a deacon.

Mom helps me do the chickens. She makes eggs for us to eat. Mom cleans my room. She works at a candy shop. It's fun to go there. I get to clean with her at the candy shop. I am thankful that God gave me a Mom.

Maddox Brummel

My Dad works on the farm. He feeds the pigs in the barn. He feeds the chickens. He gets the eggs in the barn. I work with him. My Dad and I work together. My brother and I play football with our Dad.

I love my Mom. My Mom does hair in the salon. My Mom makes cookies in the kitchen. My Mom makes my bed. My Mom plays with me. She makes meat for me.

Chase Van Beek

My Mom is a good Mom. She helps me with school. She makes good food for my family. She loves me. I am thankful for my Mom. God made my Mom. I draw pictures for my Mom. She loves my pictures. She makes chicken potpie. I love you, Mom!

I love my Dad. He makes eggs every Sunday. He helps me with my homework. My Dad works hard every day. He works at a steel shop. He made my sister a tiger. He likes strawberry pie. I am thankful to God because he made my Dad.

Kinley Villalobos

My Mom's cooking is the best! My Mom is a Grandma. My sister had a baby named Paisley Grace. Paisley was born on April 27, 2026. Mom helps me do homework. I am glad God made her. Mom does the cow and goat chores and the chicken chores. My Mom has eight children. My favorite food that she makes is meatballs. Mom's favorite color is purple.

My Dad's name is Timothy James Postma. He has a trucking business. My Dad is a Grandpa. He likes dogs a lot. We have five dogs at our house.

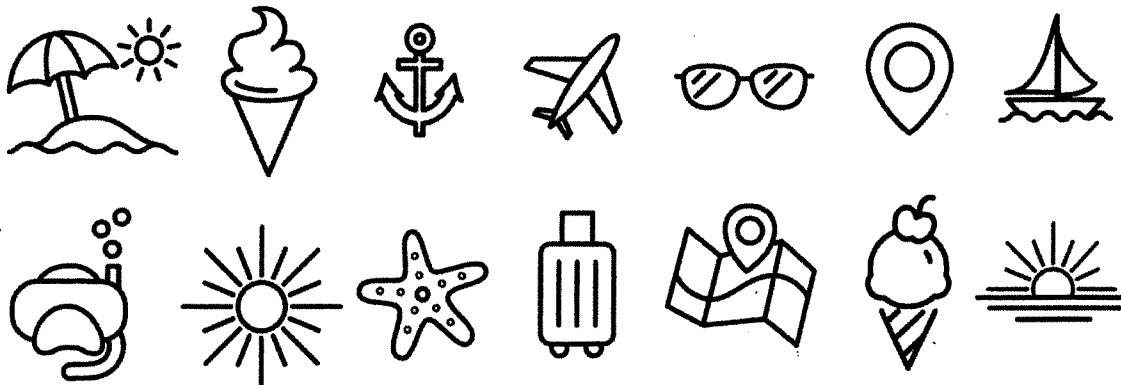
Autumn Postma

My Mom helps me with homework. She makes food for my family. My Mom is the best. She stays busy by talking to my Dad. She tries to relax by sleeping. My Mom is nice and kind. I love my Mom. My Mom makes homemade pizza.

My Dad works at Farmer's Lumber. My Dad is on the School Board. When we are on the lily pads my Dad goes under water. Then he goes under the lily pad and shakes it. My Dad is nice.

Alabama is my favorite vacation. I went with my family and cousins. I went ghost crab hunting. We went to the ice cream shop. We saw a dolphin.

Adalyn Bruinsma



My Mom helps me with my homework. She cooks good food for me. My favorite is baked potatoes. She makes my bed. I am thankful God made my Mom. She relaxes by reading a book. I love my Mom.

My Dad is a good Dad. He goes to work to get money for our family. He repairs the house. He helps Mom cook. I am glad God made my Dad.

My family and I went to Air Madness Trampoline Park. There was a big slide there. There was a climbing wall and big balls to play with.

Camden Heystek

*The Signmaker's Assistant* was a fun story to read. Norman was the signmaker's assistant. The signmaker had to go to a different town. While he was gone Norman started making signs like DON'T TAKE BATHS. When the signmaker got back angry people chased him into the woods.

My Mom helps me with my homework. I am thankful to God for my Mom. She makes pizza, KFC mix, and homemade shamrock shakes. My Mom is thirty-five years old..

I love my Dad. He is a teacher at Trinity. He tells me about history. I am thankful to God for my Dad.

Brennan Warner

**Mom/Dad**  
**Diamante Poems**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students**

Mom  
Timely, Unique  
Loving, Caring, Entertaining  
Computer Books, *Hospital, Fareway*  
*Laughing, Joking, Buying*  
*Funny Witty*  
*Dad*

**By Tessa Kooiman**

Mom  
Kind, Skilled  
Crafting, Cooking, Washing  
Home, Lumber yard, *Pahoja, Siouxlant Fab*  
*Fishing, Working, Helping*  
*Smart, Playful*  
*Dad*

**By Shaylee Mouw**

Mom  
Short, Gentle  
Cooking, Laughing, Cleaning  
Home, Barrett, *Family Farm, Tractors*  
*Reading, Working, Helping*  
*Tall, Funny*  
*Dad*

**By Noelle Van Maanen**

Dad  
Fast, Kind  
Working, Eating, Driving  
Works at home, Computers, *Pots and pans,*  
*Lives at home*  
*Walking, Playing, Reading*  
*Loving, Happy*  
*Mom*

**By Logan Westra**

Dad  
Tall, Funny  
Working, Talking, Sitting  
School Board, Interstates, *Home, Dordt*  
*College*  
*Cooking, Reading, Cleaning*  
*Short, Grateful*  
*Mom*

**By Colin Westra**

Most of these writings are taken from the “chapter” books that the fourth grade students authored. The students chose themes that were familiar to them and themes they enjoyed. Other wrote about our field trip to the dairy near Merrill, Iowa. We hope you will find enjoyment in reading them.

### “Trying to Escape” Chapter 2

Rusty, the giraffe, thought for a moment “Hmmm,” said Rusty. “Maybe when the zookeeper comes, I can steal the bananas and give them to the monkeys.” So that is what he did. Rusty worked for about a month.



“Wow! I did not know this was such hard work,” said Rusty. After the month was over Rusty again asked the monkeys if they could help him escape.

BUT they said “No! We want lots of bananas for another year.” That made Rusty, the giraffe very MAD. “Hmm,” he thought. “I need to think of a new way to get out of here.”

**Neava Andringa, 4<sup>th</sup> grade**

### World War 2 : “Trouble with Enemies”

The Japanese pilots would be suicide bombers. They would take their planes and literally crash into our battle ships! These pilots are called kamikazes.

Germany’s first operational jet fighter (Messerschmidt 262) threatened the U.S. and England’s fighter planes. It could go way faster. It could go about 100 mph faster than the Allies fastest fighter plane called the P-51 Mustang. The P-51 could go 500 mph but the 262 could go 600! The Allies managed to destroy all of Japan’s aircraft carriers; BUT Japan still had the biggest fleet of the war.

Germany had the biggest ship of the war, the Bismarck. Japan’s biggest ship of war was called the Yamato. But both of these big ships were destroyed. In fact, Bismarck was somehow destroyed by England only 5 hours into its first mission! And Yamato was destroyed by the U.S

**Jake Blankespoor,  
4<sup>th</sup> grade**



### The Fishermen’s Trip - “Late Night Fishing”

Late one afternoon my cousin Jaxton called. “Would you like to go fishing tonight?” he asked. “Sure,” I said, “I love to go fishing. “ A few hours later Jaxton came to my house on his four-wheeler. He brought his fishing poles and I brought my fishing gear. We walked to the bridge which is right by my house. My favorite fishing spot is under this bridge!

As we stood in the water we casted out our poles really far. We wanted to catch a big fish! At first, we didn’t even get a nibble or a bite. But after a while, my cousin caught a small gar. Jaxton threw the fish back in the river. Pretty soon he snagged another fish. It was a bit bigger. When we were just about finished fishing, we thought we heard a woman loudly screaming! It scared us! We went flying back to the house to tell my mom and dad. They thought it was probably a mountain lion! WOW! That was kind of scary but also kind of cool.

Jaxton and I had quite an adventure while we were fishing that night.

**Jude De Groot, 4<sup>th</sup> grade**

### Perry Creek Dairy

Today April 22 we went to the Perry Creek Dairy. Our instructor was Mr. Scott. We first went to the upstairs to a viewing window. We watched the cows for maybe 20 minutes as they went around on the carousel. Scott then started to talk about the medicine. They often need to stick it down their throat with a metal shover because the cows do not want to eat it. Then we looked at a model of the stomach system of the cow. These cows eat the food and then spit the food back up! Next, we went to a place where the milk enters into the pipes before it goes into the tanker truck. The milk comes out the cows at very hot- 104 °F but they have to cool the milk to 32°F .

After that we went to the pens. He told us that these cows do not moo because they are content with what they have. When the cows go to the carousel the workers clean their ‘room’ like a hotel. We kept on walking and we went outside and saw a HUGE

pile of hay that was covered with tarp and then big tires on it. Scott said that some groups would come and put tires on it. These groups would maybe work for about eight hours! That's almost half the day! Then we came back to the building and used the bathroom. After that we got a big box of prizes. Then it was time to go.

We got on the bus and drove down the road to go to the Cleveland Park. We first got our food for lunch and ate our lunch. When we were done eating, we played around the park. It was VERY fun. We played for about 40 minutes and then it was time to go. But we first went to Blue Bunny. We first had to walk but not that long and the room moms took a picture of us by the big ice cream cone. Inside the shop we watched a video about the history of Blue Bunny. After the video we ordered our ice cream. As we ate our ice cream we took a quiz on Blue Bunny.

Then it was time to head back to school. We sure enjoyed this field trip!

**Evie De Jager, 4<sup>th</sup> grade**

### **Into the Cave with Zack**

My other friend is Zack. He always wore a hat to cover his bald head. No matter the temperature, he would be sporting one. His favorite hat was blue, which had a great white shark on the bill. Fishing was a huge hobby of Zack – one of the things we bonded over. He had a record of catching over fifteen species of fish in just one hour! Zack didn't just fish, he caught!! Sorry, worms, that's bad news for you.

No matter the weather, Zack was on his dirt bike. He would even ride it out to the dock with his fishing poles. He was fast and never slowed down. He always had his trusty beagle, Charles, with him.

**Bode Van Maanen, 4<sup>th</sup> grade**

### **The Dairy**

On Wednesday, April 22, the fourth-grade class first did their spelling assignment, then we packed up. It was time to go to the Perry Creek Dairy in Merrill, IA. We loaded the bus. The boys sat in the back on the way to the dairy!

At the dairy we first ate a snack. Then the man Scott, led us into the building. We looked out a window at a carousel that had 80 cows going around on it. As they ride, the cows get milked.

This takes about five minutes to go around. The cows learn to be fast to get on and off by themselves.

Next, Scott showed us what the cows eat and what their medicine looks like. The cows eat corn, cotton seeds, one cup of water mixed with liquid vitamins, alfalfa, and silage. They drink a bathtub of water every day, and eat 147 pounds of food! They must have big stomachs!

The marking some of them have is P2=pregnant. But there's no babies at this dairy. When they do have babies, in one day they are 'taken' away and bottle fed for a while. The boy cows are brought to Texas, and the girls go to Kansas. These girls cows will come back to be dairy cows. The milk from the cows enters a truck. One half goes to the cheese factory in Hull and the other half goes to Blue Bunny for ice cream.

Then we rode in the bus to Cleveland Park where we ate our lunch and played for a while. Then later we went to Blue Bunny and got ice cream and did a treasure hunt.

Finally, it was time to return to school. The girls got to sit in the back of the bus now. We had a great day!

**Alayna Van Maanen, 4<sup>th</sup> grade**

### **A Trip to Perry Creek Dairy Farm**

On Wednesday, April 22 the fourth grade went to Perry Creek Farm. First, we saw 80 cows on a carousel. When they are done, the Holstein cows kick the milker off. They're best cow produces 174lbs. of milk. There are about 15,000 cows on the farm. The place where the cows stay is called the "Taj Mahal." There they eat a mixture of food. The food is silage, crushed corn, cottonseed, alfalfa, water, and vitamins. When the cows leave their "Taj Mahal", the workers clean their pens. The cows sleep on sand beds. The cows produce 22 million gallons of milk a year.

After the dairy we rode the school bus to the park. We also ate lunch at the park. On the way back to school we first stopped to get ice cream from Blue Bunny. We had a quiz to complete on how ice cream is made.

Then we drove back to school. This was a fun field trip to the dairy.

**Austin Van Der Brink, 4<sup>th</sup> grade**



## 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FIELD TRIP TO THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Our Oak Grove field trip was so fun.  
Unable to shoot a bow and arrow.  
Tubs we used in the water Olympic challenge.  
Dandelions were on the ground.  
Outstanding the warmth of the air felt.  
Over the trail we were on was so steep.  
Riding the bus was so loud and crazy.

Clips were at the Olympics and we were trying to float them on the top of the cup.

Lunch was the best because we got to sit down.  
Animals were in the hunting section on turkeys.  
Skulls were so interesting to listen to.  
Solomon's seal was a kind of plant we saw.  
Riding the bus with the six graders.  
On the bus we were talking.  
On the trail we saw many plants.  
Maybe I want to go again.

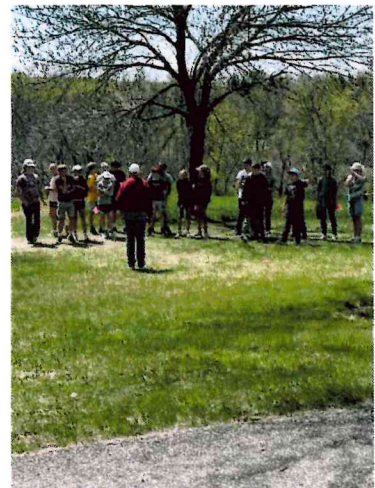
**By Raeya Brummel**



Outside is where it was.  
Underneath a lot of trees hiked at the station called woodland plants.  
Trees were a class we took.  
Driving to Oak Grove was loud with the 6th graders.  
Oak grove is where it is.  
Oak trees are all over.  
Racing to answer a question by getting rings was a game we played at the tree station.

Cool things were at every station.  
Lots of fun games were played at stations.  
Archery is a class we did. We learned about a bow and arrow and about turkey calls.  
Skulls is a class we did. We learned about teeth and carnivores and herbivores.  
School buses were all over because there were all kinds of kids there.  
Really cool things at each station were taught to us.  
Outstanding view shows us God's creation at bird watching and other places there.  
On a big hill for bird watching we used binoculars.  
Many different stations were there.

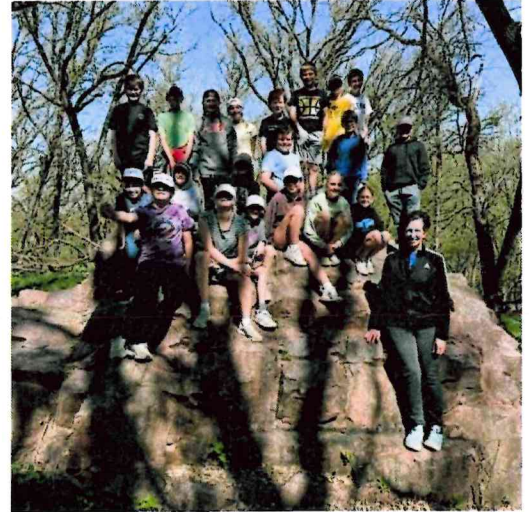
**By Trevor De Jong**



Oak Grove was very fun.  
Under the trees we hiked.  
The woodland plants were very exciting.  
Dandelions were on the ground.  
Outside it was very hot.  
Outstanding facts were learned about wetlands.  
Riding the bus was very chaotic.

Clever birds were flying around.  
Last we did a tree game with groups.  
Almost touching poison ivy made me scared.  
Slow walks between stations were enjoyable.  
Starting with the water Olympics, we dropped water on a penny.  
Running around the grass was fantastic.  
Oak trees are all over.  
Out of the building we went bird watching.  
Many schools were there.

**By Nora Koedam**



On the bus, I played rock, paper, scissors with Megan.  
Under the trees, we played games.  
Trees are very interesting lifeforms to learn about.  
Down in the wetlands, there are over 60 species of creatures to learn about.  
Outstanding creatures are everywhere!  
Observatories are places where you can watch birds.  
Resign yourself to being a good kid.

Conserve Jehovah's beautiful creation.  
Learn lots by going outside into God's creation.  
A turkey's beard can tell us how old the turkey is.  
Solomon's seal is called Solomon's seal because the plant signifies peace, and Solomon had peace.  
Some animals like to come out at night, and sleep during the day.  
Recycle your trash to keep the environment clean.  
Over in other parts of the world, new animals that have never been discovered, could be discovered by you.  
Oak Grove is where it took place.  
Mothers from other families prepared us snacks.

**By Melody Kooiman**



Oak Grove was very fun.  
Up the giant hill we walked.  
Terrific view of the trees!  
Driving there took 30 minutes.  
Outside. That's where we were almost the entire time.  
Outstanding facts were learned!  
Returning to school was sad.

Classes were over when we got back.  
Lighthouses were not there.  
Archery was disappointing.  
Still super cool.  
School seemed dull compared to Oak Grove.  
Ripples in the water were really cool.  
Outdoor Classes were really fun.  
Ouch! I tripped on the path.  
My mind was blown!

**By Reuben Meyer**



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Oak Grove had a lot of stations there.  
Unique stations were there.  
The games were really fun.  
Doing the games is pretty long.  
Over the hill we saw a few birds.  
Other classes from other schools were there.  
Right after the flowers we went to the guy that had the turkeys and deer  
and arrows and a bow.

Center of the place was a building.  
Lots of different flowers were there.  
All the other classes were eating.  
Skulls had a lot of different teeth.  
Some classes were big.  
Right at noon we ate.  
Our class was amazed.  
Our classes played a lot of games there.  
My class had a great time.

**By Owen Van Beek**



Oak Grove was very exciting.  
Using a turkey call was very cool.  
Trees was a game we played and when you got a question right you got a point.  
Different kinds of plants like: bloodroot, violets, bedstraw, poison ivy- three leaves let it be are things we learned.  
Outside most of the day- it was a beautiful day.  
On the way to Oak Grove we chatted and sang a little bit.  
Rode the bus there and back.

Competed in bingo against each other then we had a blackout.  
Learned about the wetlands and also played bingo.  
Ate deer meat, chips, and fruit for lunch.  
Skulls were very interesting and fun - some were huge and others were very little.  
Saw different kinds of birds like a yellow gold finch and a cardinal.  
Ran to some stations so we could get a little workout in.  
Outstanding view when looking for birds.  
Other schools were there that we saw doing some of the same activities.  
My favorite was water Olympics because we had to see how many drops of water we could get on a penny.

**By Bree Van Donge**



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Outdoors is where it was.  
Underneath the trees in a state park.  
Tiny drops of water in tubs.  
Delightful.  
Outstanding were the fossils.  
Oak Grove is where we went.  
Rivers were there.

Chatting with friends about fossils.  
Long was the day.  
At the state park we learned new things.  
Some things were very interesting.  
Started with the water Olympics.  
Running around was fun.  
Oak trees were everywhere we looked.  
Outdoors is where we bird-watched.  
Many people were there.

**By Alec Van Maanen**



Oak Grove, where we learned about new plants.  
Unbelievable skulls that a man found.  
The teeth, if the bottom of it is flat, it eats plants and vegetables, but if it has sharp teeth it eats meat.  
Didn't get to shoot the bow at the archery station.  
Outstanding plants we saw at Oak Grove.  
On the way there it was a bumpy ride.  
Right after bird watching we ate lunch.

Classes were everywhere.  
Loved the skull station, we got to touch all the skulls the man had discovered.  
At archery, we got to try out two turkey calls.  
Super tall trees in Oak Grove.  
Skulls were my favorite station.  
Really cool birds were at the bird watching!  
On a TV, he showed us a picture of the dinosaur that he found a tooth of.  
Oak trees were everywhere.  
Many skulls were on a table.

**By Joseph Westra**



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Oak Grove is where the field trip took place.  
Underfoot we trampled grass and other plants.  
The water Olympics were first.  
Droppers were used to form meniscuses on the pennies.  
Outside was where most of our stations were.  
Our class listened carefully.  
Riding the bus, we were with the 6th graders.

Classes from all over Northwest Iowa were there.  
Listening to bird calls was great.  
Animals were loud if you listened carefully.  
Snakes were seen, but not part of our group.  
Sixth graders went to different stations than us.  
Room moms provided snacks and drinks for us.  
On the trails, we learned about plants such as poison ivy.  
One of my favorites was learning about skulls.  
Many field trips were great, but this one was the most interesting.

**By Sadie Wynia**



15- Minute Expert: The 6th graders were challenged to research and memorize as much research on an assigned topic as possible in 15 minutes. Then they were to recall that information and write a paragraph explaining the topic as clearly as possible. In the age of googling, plagiarism, and AI; it is fundamental for students to be able to write without copying and pasting information. They did such a fantastic job “teaching” about their topics.

#### How do airplanes fly?

Why do airplanes stay in the air? Airplanes stay in the air because of one simple fact: there is no net force on them. That doesn't mean there are no forces on them. Gravity is pushing down on all the people and their luggage. Air particles are pushing up on them. Those particles are a crucial part of flying. The airplanes were designed so the more air is on the bottom and less on the top so basically this makes it so that the gravity force pushing on the people, their luggage, and all the airplane's parts is less than the upward force that makes the airplane fly. Now all this crashing into air particles slows the plane down, but the engine helps with that. Engines push air too or in this case backwards like a propeller pushes air. By: Elsa Andringa

#### South African History

In the 17th century the Dutch and English decided to follow the wake of the Portuguese and go to the rugged plains of South Africa. The white population was significantly higher in the community and in the city than the black population. The native people of South Africa lived their whole lives traveling the dusty and rugged plains called savanas of South Africa. Then these peoples realized they could settle down and do other things like farming and raising cattle. Later after people grew tired of farming they started panning or digging for diamonds or gold. The first ever diamond found in Africa was found in the Yellow River. The blank of Natal was one of the smallest blanks of South Africa. There was a war in 1793 where both sides started fighting because they wanted control of a cape in Africa for better sea routes. There was one civilization that we know almost nothing about. That civilization called Australopithecines left absolutely no remains of them being there at all.

By: Khloe Schiermeyer

### What are Social Media Algorithms?

Social Media Algorithms are sort of a filter and a recommendation process. Here's an example: you go on youtube and on the screen at the top of the video there is a line of videos from the channels that you watch all the time.

How do Social Media Algorithms work? Social Media Algorithms work by searching your history and favorites, then finding recommended videos. There are two different kinds. One just looks at your recent search history like videos and the other one looks at your video, finds a person that searched the same thing and looks at another one of the other searches and recommends that. For example, if you searched funny cat videos yesterday, today another one may pop up as recommended which is called "funny animal videos." The other person searches for funny animal videos and it pops up on your screen as recommended. Algorithms also can lock content and control all the content. There are millions and millions of shorts on youtube but sometimes you see the same thing so that the one you have done before makes it so that you can watch it again. You can also make it so that you can make an algorithm that blocks social media things. You can make it so no bad words and other things are shown. By: Ethan Westra

### Ancient Egypt

Ancient Egypt is a civilization in northeastern Africa. Serious crime punishments for tomb robbery and murder were drowning, execution, and being impaled. Egypt had a system of mathematics and an effective system of medicine. They were able to build temples, pyramids, and obelisks. Its arts and architecture were copied and other real arts were brought all over the world to be admired and studied. Egypt was next to the Nile River. They were able to predict flooding, and to control irrigation. They invented an old irrigation method to fill reservoirs. They would use shadoofs. They had reservoirs to store extra water in. The shadoofs would scoop up the water. They would use that water to water their plants and their livestock. It was very moist next to the Nile River so the land was very fertile. They could grow good crops. Lower and Upper Egypt were combined by the Menes. Foreign countries that they would fight were Hyksos, Kushites, Romans, Greeks, Assyrians, and Persians. Egyptians had a system of writing called hieroglyphics. The Rosetta Stone was written in hieroglyphics. Egyptians had gods. One god was Ramon, the sun god. By: Lexi Van Der Brink

**Following are essays that some of the seventh grade students wrote. Enjoy!**

The Crash  
Caleb Boonstra

Ella and I were on a four wheeler, then crashed it into an oak tree. We were riding around our acreage. The four wheeler flip over. She was in the front and I was on the back of the four wheeler. Then she got stuck in the mud. She said, "It was my fault." Then she said "My arm feels like I broke it." "She said, "Head to the house. You are fine." She said" OWWWWWWWWWWWWWW." We both headed to the house together.

Play Volleyball  
Aria Brummel

I love volleyball! Volleyball is one of my favorite sports. I think everyone should play volleyball. It is not just a fun sport, but is also a way to get good exercise and have fun with your teammates, and friends. Volleyball has a bunch of things you can do on and off the court, like bumping, setting, spiking, and serving. Spiking and serving are my favorite things to do in a volleyball game and practice. When you start playing volleyball, you will probably be in 5th grade. At that age they will not teach you how to spike, because it is very hard. If you ever worry about not knowing how to do something in volleyball, then ask your coach. That is what they are for. They can teach you all the basics and skills of volleyball: anything you want to know about it. Volleyball is not just about passing the ball around, it is a team sport. If you don't have a good attitude or don't get along with your teammates, then the volleyball game won't go very well. In volleyball you have to work as a team. You lose as a team and you win as a team. Help them out and they will help you. You also can only have 6 people on the court at a time and the minimum of 5. So when you play volleyball you can connect with one another. If you get the chance to play volleyball, do it. I love volleyball and so should you. So I think everyone should play volleyball.

When I Broke My Finger  
Dylan Moss

"Amen." The preacher said, signifying the end of the sermon. Some people started crying; others didn't react. It was our preacher's farewell sermon; he would be moving to Michigan to preach there. A lot of people were feeling emotional. After a while everybody left the sanctuary. There were so many people talking to our preacher. "Thank you," one person said. "It's been nice having you as a minister," another said. I decided to drift off to the back of the church and try to find some friends to talk to. After a little bit of talking I decided to go mess around with some younger kids. I noticed that one of our church troublemakers, Isaac, found his way into the storage closet. So, I went over to try to get him out. I went into the storage room and placed my right hand on the door frame and leaned in to talk to Isaac. "Hey, why don't... AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH." I screamed as the room turned dark and my right ring finger started burning with pain and agony. Someone had shut the door while my finger was still in it. The worst part was that the door had fully shut, meaning who knew how flatly my finger was smushed. Then someone opened the door. "Dylan, are you okay?" my older brother said. Apparently my older brother Blake thought that I was going in the storage closet for no reason, so he decided to teach me a lesson by shutting the door on me. Unfortunately, my finger was in the way. Fortunately my 160-pound brother had no problem shutting the door on my poor little finger. Anyway, my brother opened the door and took me to lead me through the crowd to my mom. Even though I was in excruciating pain, I could hear comments about my finger. "Oh my," someone said. "What happened?" asked another. After weaving through the crowds of people, we made it to our mom, who was initially shocked, but that soon turned into "How did you hurt yourself this time?" After what felt like an eternity we got out of church and headed to the E.R. The doctor numbed my finger and stitched me right up. Now any time the story comes up, I get the honor of making them disgusted by telling them that the doctors had to remove my fingernail to stitch my wound. After four months of wearing a funky brace I now am the proud owner of a disfigured finger and this terrible memory.

## The Gallon Jug of Milk

Grayden Westra

In the summer of 2023 I had my most embarrassing moment.

In Walmart, I was shopping with my mom and my sister because we needed milk. I was walking to the cart with a gallon jug of milk, and boom! Everybody was looking at me. I just ran away and got another gallon of milk, and brought it to my Mom.

My mom asked me "Did you hear that loud noise?"

I said, "Mom, I spilled that jug of milk." She was fired up... We had to pay for the gallon of milk, and pay for another gallon of milk. When that thing exploded I was getting stared at by everybody.

My sister Whitney said, "Hahahaha, you have to pick that up!"

I said, "Whitney, be quiet."

I picked that whole gallon of milk up. My mom was still very mad when we got home. After I put all of the groceries away, by myself, she sent me outside right away.

I said to my mom, "It is just a gallon of milk."

"I do not care," My mom replied.

With Whitney still putting the shame on me, and me not really caring anymore I got sent outside. I was very chill about it because I dropped it. I went swimming because I did not care anymore.

## New School

By Grace Wynia

I vividly remember visiting my class the day before their school year ended. I remember wearing purple shorts, a blue t-shirt, and I had tan camouflage glasses. Every day leading up to then, I was excited. But when we got there, I was terrified. I remember, as a little ten-year-old, standing in front of the glass doors and feeling terrified. But, as soon as I entered the doors, I knew that there was no turning back now.

As I followed my sister, Sophie, into the commons, I tried not to throw up. My concentration was broken by Mr. Gritters, who said, "Good Morning, Grace." I followed him to the classroom.

The fifth-grade classroom was filled with flying paper airplanes when we walked in. Having been in this class for one-and-a-half years, I'm used to things like that. The room went silent -mostly- when I walked in. The girls greeted me with "Hi's!" and waving, which I returned.

I walked over to an empty desk between Sadie and Maeva. Maeva had glasses then, and I remember her telling me, "I have glasses now, but I'm going to get contacts."

Time passed quickly, and I tried to remember everyone's names, and I succeeded (mostly). At first recess, Sadie asked me what I wanted to play. I said, "I like four-square." Then we went outside and played for a while until the bell rang. The time until lunch passed quickly, and soon it was time for lunch. Afterwards, the whole class played basketball.

On the ride home, my mom asked me, "How was your day? Do you like your class?"

I replied, "It was great, and my class is nice." Even though I was still a little scared, I was excited for school to start.

## Grandpa Breath

Cole Van Donge

One time when I was watching my brother Tate show his pigs at Clay County Fair. I was saying, "Let's go Tate ." I was standing by the back pens and an old guy came and just stood behind me.

I heard him say, "Man, that's a beauty of a pig." I was already kind of weirded out because his big belly was pretty much touching my back, so then I was like, "What is this guy doing?" So then I tried to move but I couldn't because there were two more massive guys on the side of me. So I just had to sit there till the show was over or until they moved, but they didn't look like they were headed anywhere for a while.

"Rats!" I said.

When the show was over I said sarcastically, "Finally it's over. I can get out of here!" But then, the guys didn't move and the guy behind me coughed right on my head, so then I was very sick of this guy so I said, "Get out of my way!" I barged right through those obese guys and ran to our tack pen.

"What were you doing, I couldn't find you anywhere, Cole," my dad said. So then I said, "I was stuck in the middle of these fat guys and they were coughing on me and I couldn't get out." Later that day my dad kept calling me Grandpa Breath, all because that old guy coughed on me.

"Come help me load the pigs," my dad said; so then I went to help him and we could just not get the pig to get on the trailer.

"Come on you fat sow," my brother said. Finally we got that pig on the trailer and the rest of the pigs and that was the end of a weird day.

## One of My Embarrassing Moments

Sadie Blankespoor

One time, when I was younger, maybe four or five years old, our Aunt Stephanie was taking us to one of our favorite places at that age. It was Fall, and we were going to Pumpkin Land. We used to always go there as kids, but the place closed a few years back. This place was basically a way better version of Fields of Fun.

Pumpkin Land had horse swings hung on a tree to jump and swing on. We would always pretend they were our pet horses. There was also a big, red barn with animals you could pet. There were goats, calves, ponies, and chickens roaming around. They had a little ring where you could ride ponies in a circle. They also, of course, had a huge pumpkin field, which you could pick pumpkins from. Tons of beautiful rows of orange pumpkins. They would give you a knife, and you would cut the perfect, plump pumpkin to take home. We also loved to go in the cornmaze and find all the little signs to punch our cards.

On our way to the farm, my sister Kate kept saying, "Stephanie, are we there yet?"

That was so annoying.

I said, "Kate, quit asking."

"But Sadie, I'm just so excited to be there."

Kate and I kept talking about how excited we were to get there.

I said, "Kate, I want to ride the ponies."

When we got to Pumpkin Land, Stephanie said, "Everyone put your jackets on," "It's a little chilly."

I quickly answered her, "Steph, I don't want to put a jacket on."

"You have to, whether you like it or not," replied Stephanie.

When we stepped out of the car, there was another family coming out of their car. For some reason, my silly, little mind told me that the kid in their family was my cousin Bode.

I yelled, "Bode!" and ran over to give him a hug.

Kate quickly ran over, and said in a hushed voice, "Sadie, that is not Bode!"

I looked back at the family, and noticed I had made a stupid mistake. My cheeks turned very red as I walked back to Stephanie.

That was one very embarrassing moment that happened in my life. I now have learned my lesson to look closely before I say, or do something.

## Following are some of the eighth grade students' reflections on their graduation text.

Isaiah 41:10

Dean Bleyenbergh

This passage means God is at your side but the devil will always try to get you to do something not to glorify God. We have to do things to the best of our ability and work for the rest of our lives. Don't let fear stop you from serving Him.

God will help us if we are in need and if we are going the wrong way. He will help us through the hardest time when someone gets hurt. He will strengthen us and lead us through the trial and temptations and lead us where we have to go. And when we are in the middle of nowhere he will be there and keep us safe.

At the end we are going to slow down and our body is to die and when we die he will take our soul to heaven and all fear is gone.

Isaiah 41:10  
Braleigh Brummel

I will be writing an essay on how the bible verse my class and I chose is meaningful to me.

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; ye I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

I find our graduation passage meaningful, because it talks about that God is always with us and always watches over us. To fear not, and to be dismayed, for He is our God.

Also that if we are going through hard times you can come to this verse and read it, because it's such a meaningful verse. It talks about how God will strengthen us, and will help in times of need.

“I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” This also teaches us to never be scared, and if you are just go to God in prayer, and even read over this verse.

This is also one of my favorite verses of the Bible because it teaches us so much. To love the Lord, and that He's always at your side, and he will strengthen us in times that we need, which is sometimes a lot.

This is how I think Isaiah 41:10 is meaningful to me. So you never can forget that God is always with you, and by your side. Fear not for he is with us, and that He will always strengthen us in our times of need. Never forget to go to God in your struggles. Go to this Bible verse, and pray to God.

Graduation Passage  
Eliza Andringa

Our eighth grade class chose Isaiah 41:10 for our class verse, and for the theme, God is with us. I love this verse and it is one of my favorite bible verses. This verse is very comforting to know that God is with us at all times. In verse ten it talks about some very comforting things, for example that God will strengthen us, he will hold us in his right hand, he will help us, and God will be with us always because he is our God.

Isaiah 41 has very good verses, but I think that this is my favorite verse out of all of them. In part of verse ten it talks about how God will strengthen us. God has strengthened us through all of these years of grade school. We have grown so much together and we strengthened our trust and friendship together. It also says in verse ten that God will help us. There were many times in our grade school year, and God has helped us throughout all of these years with many things. He has also strengthened and helped us to know our school work, and to be able to work on it to the best of our ability. In this verse it says Fear not; for I am with thee. God is always with us, so we have no reason to fear. He will always uphold us with his right hand. In verse thirteen of this chapter it talks about how we do not have to fear because God is right here with us holding our right hand.

In conclusion, this verse is very comforting, and it is a very good verse to come to if you need to be comforted. We all have to fear not and know that God is with us, strengthening us, helping us, and holding our right hand through all of our trials every day.

Graduation Passage  
Kate Blankespoor

Our Bible verse for our 8th graduation is Isaiah 41:10. We found this verse and loved how it showed how far our lives have come in the last nine years, and how excited we are to start this new chapter in our lives.

God is with us. That is one of the most comforting things to be told as Christians. In this wicked world with so many cruel people and trials, sometimes we simply want to go and hide. But knowing that God is by our side and cares for us throughout our sinful lives on this earth reminds us to rewind and pray to him.

We chose this passage because many people go through so much, including the trials of those we will never know. I personally have had many scary times in my life, but one sticks out. While I was younger, we found that my Grandpa Blankespoor needed to get surgery on his back and neck. After the surgery, we went to see him, and that was the first time I had ever seen my dad cry. My grandpa went through many surgeries in his life, and every time I get more and more worried. But even though life will never be perfect, God is caring for all his people.

This verse is also very fitting concerning the new path ahead. After our graduation, new students will come to our high school, giving us a bigger class than we are used to. High school will be very different than grade school, but I think my classmates are excited.

We will also start jobs and think about college, and these topics can be scary to think about. Also, starting jobs and having more responsibilities can be a lot. But when life gets hard, we need to pray and remember that God is with us.

In the end, all things that will happen in our lives are in God's plan, and no one can take us away from him. When times get hard, and they certainly will, pray to God and he will hear your prayers.

God Is With Us  
Faye De Groot

I am part of the class of 2026. This year for our Bible verse we choose Isaiah 41:10, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." For this passage we choose our theme to be, "God is With Us".

When we were choosing our passage, I wanted it to be comforting to us as we go on to a new chapter in our lives. I think this theme is very important to remember because as we move on, it may be hard and bad things will happen. As these things happen we need to remember that God is with us. When we move on most of us will get new privileges. Some of these include having a phone, driving a car, playing more sports, and having more freedom. We need to realize that these are privileges and our parents trusted us with these. We need to use them in ways that will glorify God, not dishonor him. When we do new things like driving we need to remember God is with us and he will take care of us.

This Bible passage and theme means a lot to me and I think it is very important to remember that God will be with us. When we go into this new chapter of our lives we need to stick together and help each other up, not break each other down. High school can be hard, but if we stick together and keep a close relationship with God we will make it through even the bad things. There may be times when we think God isn't with us, but he is always there and we need to continue to remember that.

Graduation Verse  
Jace Hoksbergen

We picked Isaiah 41:10 for our graduation verse. It is a good verse on how God is always with us through adversity, and there is no need for us to be afraid. He will strengthen us and help us in all things.

We picked this verse and theme because it is a good reminder not to rely on ourselves through adversity. Far too often, we rely on ourselves when things get hard. We don't look to God for guidance, and this is a mistake this verse corrects.

We also picked this verse because it is very comforting. It is good to know that no matter what happens, God is always with us. He is always alongside us to strengthen and protect. His right hand of righteousness will be there to uphold us forever.

This verse also holds special significance for graduation. Graduation can be a time of uncertainty. We do not exactly know what will happen. We'll go to high school, but will we like it? Will it be easy or hard? What if it's too hard? There are a lot of things that could be worrying about going to high school; these are just a few. Isaiah 41:10 assures us through this uncertain time and keeps us connected to God.

And even though the verse doesn't directly say it, it shows that all praise goes to God for his work to uphold and protect us. We must give thanks to him in all things, even trials.

In conclusion, we picked this verse for a couple of reasons. We picked it to show us to rely on God in tough times and through great adversity. We picked it to comfort us and show that he is with us even through those tough times. And we picked it because of the guidance it provides through the uncertainty of the future. We hope that we can continue to rely on God in our future, both near and far.

Graduation Essay  
Junior Postma

My name is Junior Postma. I am graduating eighth grade from Hull Protestant Reformed Christian School. I am graduating May 20, 2026. The theme my class picked out was God is With Us. My eighth grade class verse for our graduation is Isaiah 40:10.

Isaiah 40:10 says, "Behold, the Lord God will come with a strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him." I share this passage with you because it says the Lord will come with a strong hand and will rule over us. This tells us God will be with us throughout our lives. For example my family lives in Rock Valley, Iowa and in June of 2024 the town was flooded from the Rock River. Our house was flooded up to the second floor and after the river settled the house was muddy and sandy. God sent that flood to test us if we trust in him to guide us to know that he governs all things, even the waters and weather. Sometimes we may not know what is going to happen in the next minute, hour, day, week, month, and year, so we need to know that God will guide us throughout the rest of our lives and through many trials. Sometimes it also shows that the devil can sometimes over take us and we need to ask God for help and forgiveness.

So know that God is with you wherever you are and wherever you go. He will guide you and me through many trials. Whenever you go through a hard trial know that God is with you and he governs all things by his strong hand. This is comforting to know that he is by our side and will always help us throughout our daily lives.

Isaiah 41:10  
Caden Westra

In this paper, I will be talking about our graduation verse, Isaiah 41:10. It says Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. I will explain why we chose this verse and what this verse means to us.

We chose this verse because it fits our theme, God is With Us. We also chose this verse because it matched our second-favorite theme, "Fear thou not." We are supposed to not be afraid in trials and difficulties because God is with us. He will strengthen us throughout all our trials because He is with us. Jesus is our Savior, and he will keep us in the palm of His hand. Jesus is our Savior, and nothing can remove or change that. God will be with us forever and ever. He is Everlasting, so we will never lose God in our lives. When the end draws near, we may be persecuted, but we must remember that God is and will always be right next to us.

In the following verses, it talks more about not to fear God in anything. It also talks about how "Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: and we will thresh the mountain and beat them small and shalt make the hills as chaff." That is talking about how we will always be stronger than the wicked, as He says "...I will strengthen thee..." He will help us with our weaknesses. The Lord's prayer is Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory from now and forevermore. Amen. We must not be afraid that God will not give us all those things or that he won't forgive us. He will forgive us because He is with us in every trial and difficulty we faced and are yet to face.

This verse is also important for our class. Makenzie has had a concussion trial for two years, and Zeke has had health issues for three years. Believing that God is with us is why we chose this verse and how it applies to our lives. Thank you for reading.

Graduation Passage  
Zeke Van Engen

For our graduation we picked a verse which I believe was very relevant and applicable to the current time of our lives, which is Isaiah 41:10. Here are some of the ways that I think this verse relates to graduation and what it means for us.

First off, this verse offers us a lot of comfort in uncertain times. This is exactly what we need, as we are heading into a new period of our lives. We will be leaving this school behind, we will start many new things, we will start to take on more responsibilities than we have previously known. It tells us that God is with us, no matter what happens, or how afraid we are, He will always be there to comfort us.

The verse also says, "I will strengthen thee." It is very comforting for us to know that God will give us strength to overcome whatever we come across. "Yea, I will help thee." This confirms that God will always be there for us. If we go to him in prayer, He will be there for us. If we are facing something new, and we are overwhelmed with all of the new trials that God has placed for us, we can always count on going to Him in prayer to give us strength and understanding.

Finally, God also promises through this verse that He will uphold us. Through God we can deal with problems no matter how big they may seem. God will never forget us, and we must strive to remember that. This is why this verse fits well for our graduation.

Isaiah 41:10  
Jenna C. Van Der Zwaag

This is how I think Isaiah 41:10 is a good graduation passage, and how it applies to the days ahead.

Isaiah 41:10 - Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

This passage talks about how we are to fear not, for he is with us. In this case he is meaning God. We are not to fear because God is with us. This passage also says that God holds us in his right hand. He also says that he will help us which is very comforting because it means that he will help us and will strengthen us in the days ahead as the school year draws to a close.

This was what I thought this passage was talking about. It was very comforting to know "God is With Us".