

## Cornerstone Christian School

### ~ Chairman Report ~

It seems like we just celebrated Thanksgiving, and now Christmas is coming up quickly. It is good to reflect on physical blessings and provision in November, but in a way the remembrance in December is even more powerful, as we remember our source of eternal blessing.

In His mercy, God has given us another year in His service at home, church, work, and school. He has given us the freedom and ability to continue educating our children as we deem best, which is according to His revelation in creation and Word. May God give us courage as we continue to do this, even as the culture around us moves farther away from God's revelation. We are undoubtedly in the midst of a cultural shift, and our children may face more pressing moral challenges than their parents. We pray that God will bless the work done at CCS to prepare them well for this.

Hopefully many of you could meet Nathan Kok and his wife Luanne when they were here. It was a good visit for the board, as we were able to share detailed information with the Koks about where things stand in the immigration process. The uncertainty of the timing makes this a difficult situation for their family, but I think it was an encouragement to them to be here in person, as it was for us. The next major hurdle in the process is to get Nathan's approval to work from the US Department of Labor. That application has been made, and it is the first step in the process to gain permanent residency status. In the meantime, we discussed and we are pursuing other methods that could possibly get the Koks here more quickly, without jeopardizing the ability to get permanent residency.

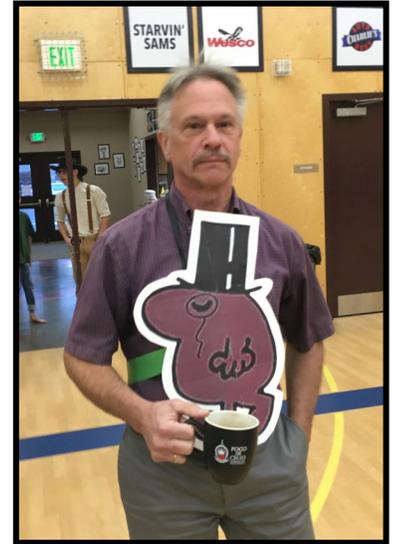
The board is working with the results of the building expansion survey. Thank you for your participation! We documented key conclusions, which will be passed along to you for your information by email. The survey had unanimous agreement on the need and desire to expand. Also, it's pretty easy to see a number of trends of thinking among us that will help guide our next steps. We are doing our best to keep this topic moving quickly.

High school basketball season has begun again under the oversight of the Athletic Committee, one of the committees established by the board. Here is an excerpt from the mandate of this committee:

*The athletic committee is composed of the CCS athletic director (which may or may not be the principal), one teaching staff member, one board member, and one school society member (if possible, this member is a league coach).*

*The purpose of the athletic committee is to provide for the good operation of the athletic leagues that are organized and managed by CCS staff and whose financial accounting is under the oversight of the CCS board. This includes ensuring that the leagues are operated within the guidelines established by the board, and that the existence of the leagues continues to serve the official objectives of the society.*

As mentioned in the mandate, we have an Athletic Director on staff, Gavin Willis, who is responsible for



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#### Upcoming Dates

- Dec. 20—Christmas Program
- Dec. 21—Last day of 2022
- Jan. 5—First Day of 2023
- Jan. 16—Martin Luther King
- Jan. 20—HS 2nd Qtr Reports
- Jan. 23/24—HS P/T Conferences
- Feb. 3—PD Day
- Feb. 22—Elem 2nd Term Reports
- Feb. 23-27—Mid Winter Break
- Feb. 27—Elem P/T Conferences

working with the Athletic Committee to manage our sports programs. One of the programs we run is the Northwest Youth Basketball League. Of course this league benefits our own high school with outside competition, but it can also further the cause of Christian education in the community, as we put our beliefs into practice. Here is one of the values from the Statement of Purpose of the league (found here: <https://nwyouthbb.com/wp/vision/>):

**Great sportsmanship:** *We are a recreational league and we wish to see all our players, regardless of skill, have an enjoyable experience. We can contribute to a positive sports environment by demonstrating:*

**love** – *for teammates, in self-sacrificial play (for the team's sake)*

**joy** – *of playing, and exulting in the body God gave us*

**peace** – *even in the midst of struggle*

**patience** – *in sitting the bench, or working on your shot*

**kindness** – *in thinking of opponents, not as enemies, but as fellow image bearers of God (Genesis 1:26-27)*

**goodness** – *in striving for excellence*  
**faithfulness** – *in being at each game and each practice, on time*

**gentleness** – *in understanding the difference between competitive and combative*

**self-control** – *in being a good sport even when your team is down (or way up) and even when an obvious foul call is missed*

What an opportunity for us, as those who have received God's grace, to be able to spread the good news of life in Christ in a somewhat different way!

Teachers and students are looking forward to the upcoming Christmas break. We wish you a good time of refreshment and relaxation. May God bless the work that you have done thus far this year, and give you renewed energy and enthusiasm when you return.

~ Steve Hofford

## ~ Treasurer's Report ~

Thank you again to everyone for their financial support for Cornerstone. The Lord continues to maintain us financially and provides again and again.

Thanks to all for their continued progress on their pledge payments. Consistent payments on this helps with a healthy cash flow. We do remind the membership that any pledge payments, or donations wanting to be included in the 2022 tax year should be made by December 31 in order to be counted.

Please keep Cornerstone in your prayers that the Lord will continue to uphold us financially, especially as we look forward to a possible renovation and further financial duty on all our parts.

Thanks you all and Merry Christmas.  
Kolin Veldman

## ~ Ladies Aid Report ~

It's been rather quiet on the Ladies Aid front since the busy Fall fundraising events!

We wish everyone a good break and God's blessings this Christmas season.

On behalf of Ladies Aid, Ang Davis



## ~ Principal Report ~

Is it too much of a cliché to say that time has flown by? Truly, the weeks since our last Link have evaporated quickly. During that time we had our first sets of report cards and Thanksgiving, to name two events. Now we are on the cusp of Christmas break, with a concert to perform yet this week. We can also say we are nearing the end of the first half of the school year. But before we rush off to celebrate, let's take a moment to look back at the past two months.

### **School life**

The extra activities of the past weeks have been varied and abundant. One significant task from a teacher's perspective was report writing. November was a busy month in that regard. First, the high school finished up its first quarter with the elementary following two weeks later. A lot of thought and effort goes into producing these reports. Then came the interview nights.

It is greatly appreciated that you made the time and effort to come. Interviews are important. I came across one Christian school's website that described parent-teacher conferences as the eyes that allow teachers and parents to share the struggles and celebrations that they see. Interviews are the ears when we listen to each other to get a better understanding of what the teacher or parent sees and perceives at home. The interview is like a hand of partnership for after all, the school's mandate is to assist the parents. The interview is compared to feet, in that it helps to carry out the plan for the student's learning going forward. And finally, but certainly not least importantly, the interview is the heart. Both parties at the meeting have a heart full of love for the student. Both parties want what is best for the student academically and beyond. In addition, the student at home also receives an unspoken message that the communication between school and home is important, that what happens at school is important; important enough to take time out of a busy day to chat with the teacher for 6 or 8 minutes about what happens in the classroom. The attendance at Cornerstone interviews is high and it is encouraging! Thank you.

What about the fun things? In this case, the extra-curricular activities that build school spirit are meant. In most recent memory is Reading month which we enjoyed during November. Mrs. Kooiker and Miss Kingma took on the challenge of organizing this and did a fine job raising the joy of reading to our attention. A big highlight was the photo contest for the best reading spot. Apparently reading on the roof top, on a goat or amongst the cows are

the favorite places. Other options could be riding a moose, flying through the air or hanging upside down. Of course, another highlight was the book character pancake breakfast. It's hard not to smile while one has breakfast with Astrix and Obelisk walking by, or as Johnny Tremaine's boat sails by. Elephants, piggies, monkeys, chimney sweeps, and Little People (Staff members) all sat around tables together and enjoyed the work of some fantastic high school breakfast chefs. The pancakes, eggs and sausages were all delicious. Another reason to smile was the willingness and effort put in by many to make this happen. A big round of applause to our high school students. They did all the organizing, shopping, cooking, devotions and cleaning. Well done!

Our STAMP team also organized some dress up days and a games afternoon this fall. The games afternoon is an opportunity for all the students to relax and have fun for the last hour of the day on a Friday. With several different activities during that time, all had a good time. This time it even ended with a fun treat as a prize for all the hard work done in fundraising for Mission month and surpassing our set goal.

These extra activities are fun for teachers, too, but so are PD days. I'd like to share a little summary of our latest PD days. In November after some in-house work, the teachers separated in their divisions of high school and elementary and went on an excursion. High school staff had the opportunity to visit Credo High and elementary staff went to John Calvin in Yarrow. In both cases staff could visit classrooms and interact with colleagues after school. For us, at Cornerstone the opportunity to connect with colleagues outside of our school had been greatly hampered in the last few years. We are thankful to these schools for opening up their doors to us. This was of great encouragement to us!

Another opportunity came up with the RCDC (Reformed Curriculum Development Committee) conference. The focus this year was "Indigenous Perspectives in Reformed Schools". In BC, there is a government mandate to teach a course on Indigenous Peoples, but the conference was attended by teachers across Canada, as well as myself and Mr. Chase. To engage in purposeful thinking on this topic, whether the government requires it, or not, was beneficial. America has a different history in regards to the Indigenous Peoples, but to consider how we, as Reformed Christians, should deal with our history is important.

## Educational Goal #7: Ensure parental involvement

### Educational Goals

It is good to take a moment in this Link to take a look at another Educational Goal. Goal Seven in the parent handbook states that the school will “Ensure parental involvement”. In reading the paragraph that fleshes out this goal two sentences stood out to me. “Parental responsibility and involvement are cornerstones to a relationship of mutual respect between teachers and parents.” and “Parents will want to be involved in their children’s schooling and

can be involved”. Does our school live up to this goal? When I look at the number of volunteers at the school and the number of hours that are accumulated by them all, then I am assured that we certainly do a good job of it. In the course of a week there are so many people that participate in the numerous activities of school life. Cornerstone is a parental-run school and the staff is hired to assist the parents in fulfilling their covenantal promise to instruct their children in God’s ways. Thankfully, with God’s blessings this work has been able to continue for 20 years.

### Conclusion

It is almost Christmas break and the next two weeks will be filled with a variety of different activities. May God keep us all safe. May the real reason behind our Christmas celebrations’ focus shine brightly in all the busyness of the season. The Lord Jesus Christ gave up everything, so we could receive the benefits of the eternal gift of salvation. May God bless you all!



## ~ College & Careers Report ~

Even though we are moving into the Christmas break, for many of our high school students they are still thinking about school. The College & Career Committee members have been meeting with junior and senior students to encourage them to think about (or act on) their post-high-school plans.

For seniors, many college application due dates have passed, and others are coming soon. Ideally the FAFSA has been completed already - although applications are accepted on a rolling basis, many funds are first-come-first-serve, so it behooves students to complete their FAFSA as soon as possible after the application opens in the beginning of October. Some of our senior students will be seeing acceptance letters in their mailbox soon; we wish them wisdom as they plan for their future.

For our juniors, now is the time to be thinking about their senior projects. If they have any potential college aspirations, we also encourage them to take the SAT at some point in spring of their junior year. Again, signing up earlier is beneficial.

If at any point students or parents have any questions, we would encourage you to reach out to any of the undersigned. We also have a handful of resources available on the “Academics” tab of the school website, under the “High School and Beyond” subheading.

In the meantime though, enjoy your Christmas break! The College & Careers Committee - Gavin Willis, Ryan VanDriel, Laura Faber, & Alyssa Brown

## ~ Education Committee Report ~

Greetings LINK readers! I'm going to be frank, and start this update by saying I don't have a lot of new material or subject matter to report on since your last update. However, don't fret—this by no means indicates the Education Committee is slacking-off; it simply means we're primarily busy on the same items we found ourselves busy with back in October, when you last held this blue paper in your hands!

That being said, here are a couple updates regarding our dive into Cornerstone's Language Arts program: while we continue to evaluate our current offerings and test-drive new ones (which look very promising), a generous targeted donation was received for our LA curriculum. This helps us tremendously! Furthermore, we heard some valuable feedback from parents after the last LINK went out, regarding aspects of our Language Arts program we may be able to bolster. This input has been taken into consideration, and folded into our discussions going forward. So, thank you LINK readers for being engaged!

Last but not least, the Education Committee would like to note a staffing change: Jon Dykstra and Janice DeMooy have been found willing to fill our vacated spots, and put their talents to use in our committee. Thank you Jon and Janice! We look forward to working with you. With their addition comes

the departure of Stephanie Bareman and Lisa Pel-leboer. Stephanie and Lisa, thank you both for your dedication and hard work on our committee, and for serving Cornerstone in this capacity. Your work is very much appreciated! No doubt you'll now be enjoying absolutely limitless free time...right?!

For the Ed Comm,  
Eric B



## ~ Cornerstone Foundation ~

We are thankful for this time of the year to further reflect on the blessings we have received as we look back through 2022! The Lord is good and faithful as He continues to lead us on our journey together in His service.

In recent months, we have finalized the details for putting a Canadian Foundation in place that will accept donations and be able to provide tax receipts to Canadians! This foundation is called the Foundation for Reformed Education, or FFRE for short. We hope the letter of explanation you received will encourage you to share these details with family connections in Canada, both personally and for their businesses. Any one of our Board members will be happy to answer any questions you have regarding this development.

We continue to set annual contribution goals for the Cornerstone Foundation and keep the fund in your minds should anyone wish to make contributions through the year. The reasons we encourage each

other to support this effort is:

to enable long-term financial stability of CCS, supplement operating costs to keep tuition affordable, provide scholarships to grow local and global Christian leaders, offer professional development for staff members, and to invest in future capital projects.

We appreciate all these good reasons to keep the fund growing bit by bit and encourage you all to consider a small contribution this December! You can place a check in the mailbox of any of our CF Board members by the last Sunday of this month (Ian Davis, Henry Klos, Cason VanDriel, Derek Willis), or you can mail it to the Cornerstone Foundation at 8872 Northwood Rd, Lynden, WA 98264, or donate online at [www.ccsgive.org](http://www.ccsgive.org).

We wish the staff and students at CCS a blessed time through the holidays as we all prepare for a new year!

For the CF Board, Henry Klos

## ~ From the First & Second Grade Classroom ~

Below is a "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" acrostic poem that we wrote together as a class. We focused on names and attributes of Jesus in writing our Christmas poem.

**W**onderful Counselor - London

**E**verlasting Father - Heidi

**W**ord of God - Liam

**I**mmanuel – Isaac G.

**S**on of God - Tucker

**H**ope – Mrs. Kruyswijk

**Y**ou made us - Joel

**O**mega – beginning and end

**U**nderstands us - Everly

**A**ll of us love You - Elise

**M**ighty God - Noelle

**E**mmanuel – Mrs. Kooiker

**R**edeemer - Asher

**R**epent to You - Jasper

**Y**ou are the best - Mia

**C**hrist – Kai

**H**ero of every story is Jesus – Danny

**R**ighteous – Cruz

**I** love you, Jesus – Nolan

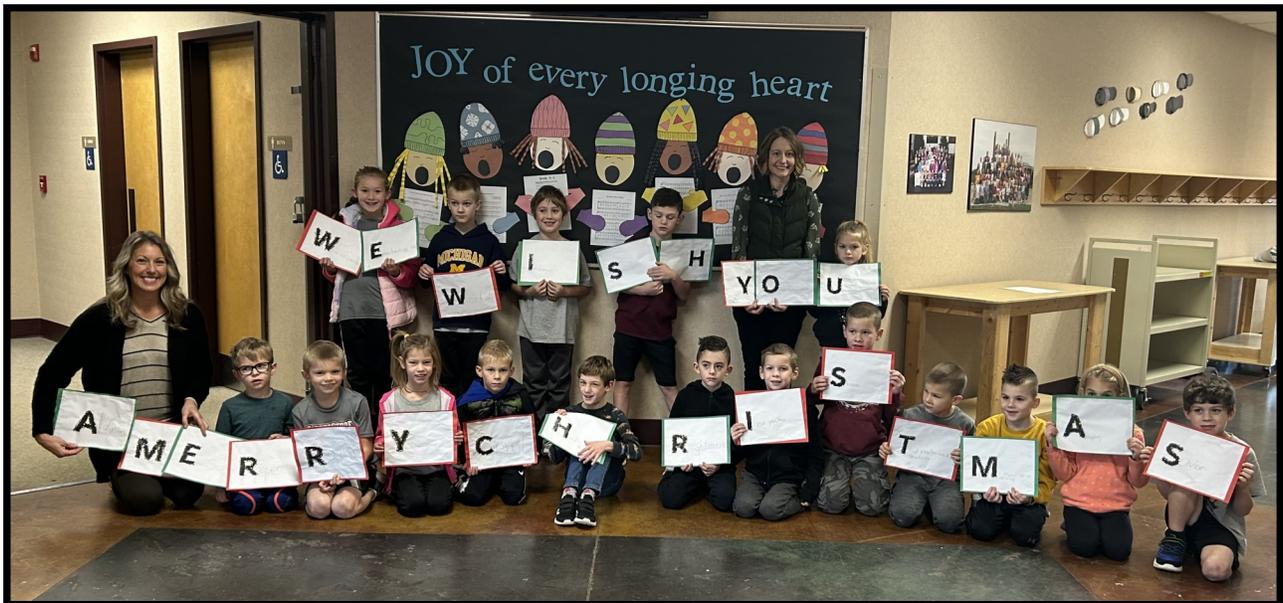
**S**hepherd – Wyatt

**T**hank you, Jesus, for dying for our sins.- Isaac F.

**M**ade the whole world - Bryson

**A**lmighty - Kierra

**S**avior - Ryan



Missing from the picture: London B, Joel P, Elise V, Noelle B

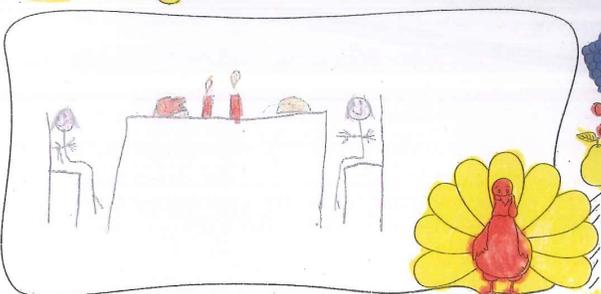
The following pages are writings from the first and second grade students about what they are thankful for.

Kai



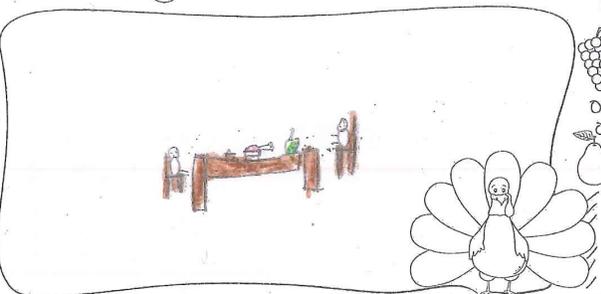
I love Thanksgiving because you read the Bible, and sing to God, I am thankful for food and thankful for Jesus and water. We love family and we love to celebrate to God. We love God and use the Bible. I am thankful for plants. I am thankful for my home.

Mia



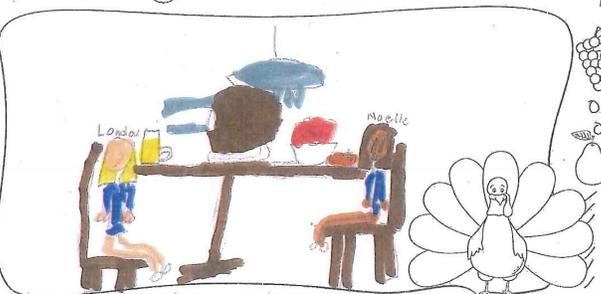
I love Thanksgiving because it's about celebrating everything God made. I am thankful for friends and family. I am thankful for teachers and class notes. I am thankful for food + drinks. I am thankful for butterflies and sunshine. I am thankful for flowers and books that we can read. I am thankful for houses. I am thankful for churches and Jesus dying on the cross for our sins. I thank God in prayer and singing and reading the Bible.

Lydia



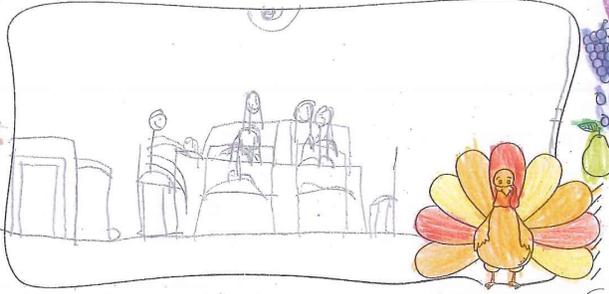
I love Thanksgiving because it's about celebrating everything God made. I am thankful for farming, Frans, and Jesus dying on the cross. I thank God in prayer and singing and reading the Bible.

Noelle



I am Thankful for animals friends and hugs. I am Thankful for food and God the earth. I am Thankful for Everett and Jaynie and cado and Babin and mom and Dad and Jesus dying on the cross. My pets and church and paintings my home and love, and books. And my teacher and things sunshine. I love Thanksgiving because it's about celebrating.

Thanksgiving



I am thankful for my  
 family, God, God pet, I thank  
 for my family, flowers, hugs, my  
 home, friends, and the earth.

Kierra

Thanksgiving



we begin our Thanksgiving with  
 prayer. Then we eat  
 then we read the Bible.  
 Then we pray after  
 we sing songs.



Thanksgiving



Thank you for the Bible.  
 Thank you for Jesus  
 dying on the cross.  
 Thank you for church.

Thanksgiving



I love Thanksgiving be-  
 cause it's about celebra-  
 ting everything God made.  
 I love it because I  
 get to spend time with  
 my family and friends and  
 cousins. I'm also thank-  
 ful for people in my  
 life that can take care  
 of me, and church  
 and everything God has  
 provided. What are you  
 thankful for?

by London

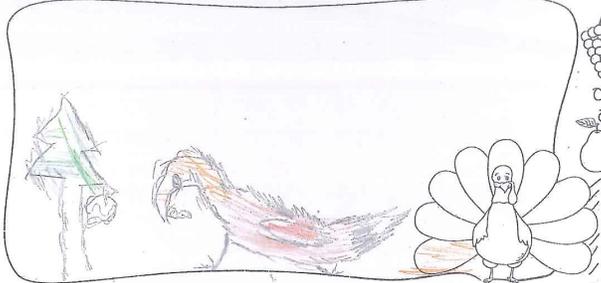
Isaac Faber



I am thankful  
for my family.  
I am thankful  
for my friends I am thankful  
The Holy Spirit and God the Son and  
Jesus the Son.  
I am thankful for food.  
I am thankful for my home.  
I am thankful for my heart.  
I am thankful for rainbows.

Isaac Faber

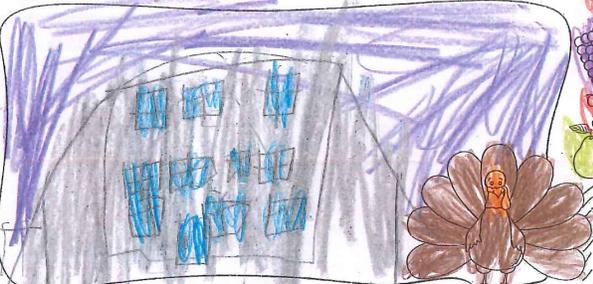
Joel



I am THANKFUL for the earth  
I am THANKFUL for my friends  
and family dog.  
I am THANKFUL for molly and  
the sun. I am THANKFUL  
for my id and food  
I am THANKFUL for my home  
and flowers. I am thankful for  
bugs and butterflies.

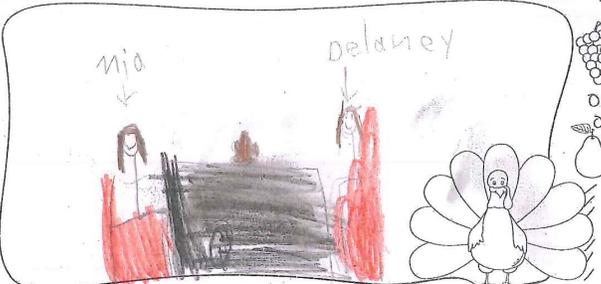
JOEL

Fale



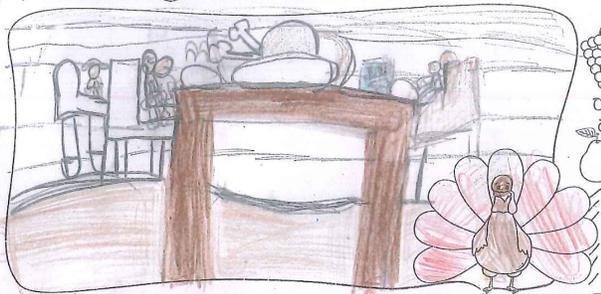
I am thankful for  
God and I am thankful  
for my family  
and pets.  
I am thankful for home  
and food  
and Jesus  
and books and my cats  
and Christmas  
and the sun  
and flowers and  
and Jesus and the earth

Fale



I love thanksgiving cuz  
my best friend is turkey.  
I am thankful for my  
family and friends and class-mates  
and my dad and my mom  
and my home and food. I  
love you God. I love  
you so so so so much  
God!!

Mia



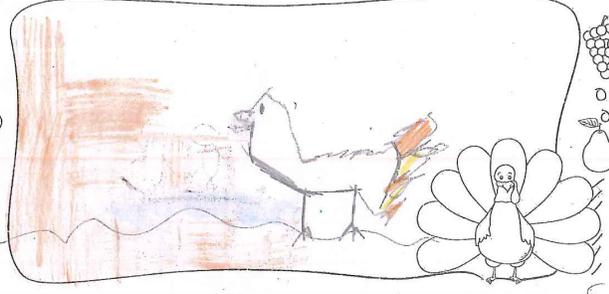
I am thankful for Jesus.  
 I am thankful for the church.  
 and I am thankful for my family.  
 and I am thankful for everything  
 and I am thankful for Jesus' time  
 on the cross for all of our  
 sins and I am thankful for my class.  
 and I am thankful for the Holy Spirit  
 and God the father, Jesus the son,  
 and I am thankful for food.

Name Cruz



I am thankful  
 for God and Jesus.  
 I am also thankful  
 for church and the  
 Bible.

Name Nolan Ezra Lodge



I am thankful for Thanksgiving  
 and my pets, and butterflies,  
 and my family, and food, my  
 friends and flowers, and the earth,  
 and rainbows, and my home, and  
 sunshine, my teacher, and Jesus,  
 animals, and church.

Ryan



I am thankful for hugs  
 I am thankful for my home  
 I am thankful for  
 my family.  
 I am thankful for Dad  
 rainbows

EVERY

ele <sup>ELISE</sup>

I am thankful for my family and turkey that we could have and it's a great holy day because you can eat turkey.

Elise

ele

I am thankful for God and the earth and friends and Jesus is strong. I am thankful for everything you have provided for us and I am thankful for thanksgiving. I am thankful for love. I am thankful for the sun!

Wyatt

ele

I am thankful for world.  
 I am thankful for families.  
 I am thankful for God.  
 I am thankful for flowers.  
 I am thankful for friends.  
 I am thankful for families.  
 I am thankful for home.  
 I am thankful for food.  
 I am thankful for love.

Asher

ele <sup>Jasper</sup>

I am thankful for God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit and the church. Thanksgiving and turkey day my cats and my kitten!

Jasper



Please join us for our Christmas Concert!

# “Joy of every Longing Heart”

When: Tuesday, December 20th

Time: 7:30pm

Where: American Reformed church building.

We hope to see you there!



The staff and K-6 students of Cornerstone Christian

Jordan Hicks

~~Johnnie Kingma~~

Karen Dohay

Jolene Kingma

Melba Dier

Mikayla Vandenburg

Christine Stoffel

Jenny Tiemeyer

Waerne Chase

Karla Lepkowski

May the true spirit of Christmas fill your heart and home with joy today and into the new year!

Melanie Kottelenberg

Shari Kruijwijk

Rebecca Kistewens

Janice Oykstra

Janette Janssen

Jynette Van Hefwegen

~~Janette Janssen~~

Darlene Van Straalman

Happy Holidays!  
The Staff of  
Cornerstone Christian School

# 2022/2023 School Calendar

## August

30- First Day of School

## September

5- Labor Day

## October

7- PD Day

10- Columbus Day

28- PD Day

## November

4- 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr report Cards HS

7,8- High School P/T Conferences

11- Veteran's Day

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

21- Early Release -11:55am

21,22- Elem P/T Conferences

24- Thanksgiving Day

25- Thanksgiving Break

## December

20 - Christmas Program

21- Last Day of 2022

22- Jan 4 – Christmas Break

## January

5- First Day of 2023

16 - Martin Luther King Day

20- High School 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr Reports

23, 24- HS P/T Conferences

## February

3- PD Day

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

23, 24,27- Mid Winter Break

27- Elem P/T Conferences

## March

1- Elem P/T Conferences

17- PD Day

31- HS Third Qtr Report Cards

## April

3-7- Spring Break

7- Good Friday

## May

5- PD Day

18- Ascension Day

26- Sports Day

29- Memorial Day

## June

2- Eighth Grade Graduation

9 - Last Day of School

9- Senior Graduation

## Board

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

## Building/Maintenance Committee

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

## Education Committee

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Stephanie Bareman | Eric Brown     |
| Debbie Johnson    | Debby Lodder   |
| Lisa Pelleboer    | Sharon Veldman |

## IT Committee

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Eric Brown     | Ian Davis       |
| Matt Hoefakker | Dustin Wielenga |

## Finance Committee

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Janice DeMooy    | Brian Hendricks |
| Harvey Pelleboer | Kolin Veldman   |
| Gavin Willis     |                 |

## Athletic Committee

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Harvey Pelleboer | John-Mark Stromberg |
| Kolin Veldman    | Gavin Willis        |

## Ladies Aid Committee

|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pres - Michelle Veldman | VP - Bea Kleyn            |
| Sec - Ang Davis         | Treas - Jolene Vreudenhil |

## Staff

### Office Administration:

Debbie Johnson - Principal  
Gavin Willis - Athletic Director  
Kari VanDiest- Secretary  
Karla Leyenhorst - Bookkeeper

### Full Time:

Debbie Johnson - Geo, Sci, Music 3/4, Art 7-10  
Jeanette Janssen - Science 7-12, Math 9-12  
John-Mark Stromberg - PE 5-8, His.7/8, Eng,& His. 9-12  
Lynette Van Hofwegen - Gr. 5/6  
Stephen Houweling - Math 4, Gr.7/8  
Wayne Chase - HS: Bible, Math, English, History

### Part Time:

Christine Hofford- Ed Support  
Darlene VanStaalduinen - Spanish 11/12  
Janice Dykstra - Ed Support Coor.  
Jenny Tiemeyer - LA 4  
Jolene Kingma - L.A.3, Math 3, Bible, His.,PE 1-4,Sc. 1/2  
Jolene Vreugdenhil - Culinary Arts 11/12  
Jordan Hicks- Ed Support  
Karen DeMooy - Art 3/4  
Kathleen Stevens- Yearbook, Geometry 2  
Kristina Wendt - PE HS  
Melanie Kottelenberg - Music 5/6  
Mikayla VandeBurgt- Ed Support  
Shari Kruyswijk - Gr.1/2 Ref. Studies, Math, Music, Art, History  
Sharon Veldman - Culinary Arts 11/12  
Tessa Kooiker - L.A. 1/2