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SCHOOL

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PERSPECTIVE SUMMER 2023

Congratulations

TO OUR 8TH GRADE CLASS OF 2023!

On the evening of June 1, parents, grandparents, and friends gathered to enjoy a graduation ceremony which included musical performances, student speakers, and teachers sharing about each graduate.

While there are many special moments for our students at BCCS, one highlight is their final cornerstone project. Prior to graduating, students spend time reflecting on the entirety of their learning and select faith-forming memories from a variety of

personal faith journey. Our middle school years help prepare students for the next step of high school, but our greatest desire is that their faith truly becomes their own as their relationship with Christ grows.

Graduation recognizes the accomplishments of our students, but more importantly, is a celebration of God's faithfulness and the work He is doing in their lives. It is a blessing to partner with parents during the formative years of their children's lives. As our



SEE THE STORY
Live the Story
Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

classes. The cornerstone project has a visual element where students design and create something that summarizes their learning, along with a written explanation. The students then share with small groups of classmates and their parents about their

mission states, our desire is to provide an excellent education, rooted in God's Word, so they are prepared for lifelong service in God's Kingdom. May God richly bless each of our graduates as they continue to See the Story and Live the Story.



CELEBRATING STORIES

Brief excerpts from several student biographies show evidence of God working through them and the people they interviewed:

This spring, the eighth graders were invited into a writing project that would highlight the image of God in all people and give value to their unique stories. Their biography unit presented a great opportunity to learn the elements of biography writing, while uncovering the beautiful stories of God's people. Each student selected one person from a previous generation who had a different cultural background than themselves. They interviewed neighbors, church members, coaches, and community members. The students crafted questions to uncover details, emotions, and events while focusing on learning targets such as "I can ask thoughtful, deep-digging questions that lead to constructive conversations and community building" and "I can actively listen to the stories of others with love, respect, and curiosity."

"His life is very inspiring and can show that **God uses all things for the good of His people.**"

Following their conversations, students gathered the information and used their writing skills to compose a biography that recognized the interviewee's role in God's Story. Finally, to express appreciation, the students gifted the biography to the interviewee along with a handwritten thank you card. The project challenged our learners to use their writing skills and reach beyond their inner circle to see how God orchestrates the lives of His beloved people.

Students interviewed people from all around the world, including countries such as South Africa, Scotland, Ireland, Cuba, Kenya, El Salvador, the Netherlands, Brazil, Spain, and many more. They highlighted themes of courage, perseverance, strength, trust, and faithfulness as they wrote about traveling across the world, working through challenges, building families, starting new careers, and finding faith.

"He has shown me that **anything is possible** if you pray and trust in God."

"His life wasn't spared so he could keep living, but for **God to work through him** and spread His word to other people."

"His story fascinated me and **helped me to grow spiritually.**"

"If I have learned anything, it's that **God's plan will always work out**, even if there are a few bumps along the way."

"His life shows that **God can change people** to serve his purpose..."

"What motivates me is how motivated she is toward **serving God in her family** and in her community and outside."

"She has truly shown how to handle the tough times, **how to depend on God** in them, and also how to celebrate and thank God for the daily blessings."

"Throughout it all, **God remains faithful...**"

We want our students to be excellent writers, but **our deeper hope is that our students have loving conversations, listen with respect, think curiously, and have a deep appreciation for individual stories within God's larger Story.** We are grateful we can do this work in every subject!

MUSIC, MARACAS, AND MOVEMENT

All learning at BCCS can point us toward finding roles in God's Story. Music class in elementary school is a great place to explore music, practice foundational skills, prepare for performances, and above all, worship. It is a place for meaningful learning!

This year, Mrs. Vieu's and Mrs. Visser's preschool classes were learning to be Earth Keepers by studying recycling and other ways to care for creation. To practice reusing and recycling, students created maracas out of recycled materials for music class and used them for movement stations in the classrooms.



At the same time, our kindergarten music classes were exploring solfege (do, re, mi, fa, sol, etc). The kindergarten classes decided to use this method to compose a song for younger learners. What topic would make for a fun and quirky preschool song? A song about litter, of course! Our kindergarten



music classes used their new knowledge of solfege to compose the melody for "The Litter Monster." A recording of the full song was created and shared with the preschoolers, who were able to play their maracas with their new song!

This partnership reinforced concepts from both the preschool unit on recycling and the kindergarten music unit.

Teachers at BCCS continuously collaborate to deepen learning, and learning is enriched when students have a chance to do meaningful work with newly-learned content. In this case, it was sharing and making music together!

YEARS OF SERVICE

15 YEARS



Tim Konynenbelt



Linda VanKooten

10 YEARS



Lori Gortsema



Glenna Miedema



Missy Sculley

5 YEARS



Emily Morehouse



Andrew Reidsma



Sarah Teitsma



Kori VanderKooi



Julie Veenstra

FAREWELL

*Sharon Baker
Colleen Campbell*

*Barb Franken
Laurie Guikema*

*Beth Kiekintveld
Emily LaRue*

*Melissa Postma
Jan Reidsma
Lindsey Rines*

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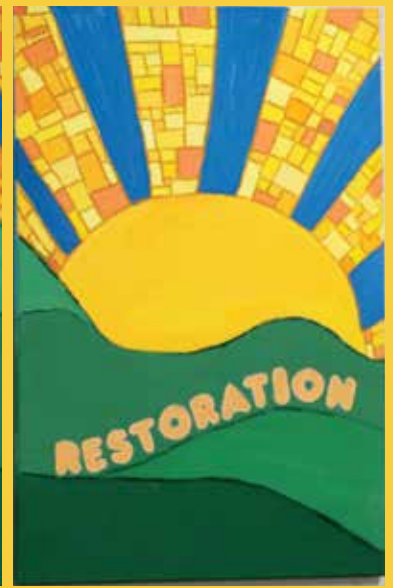
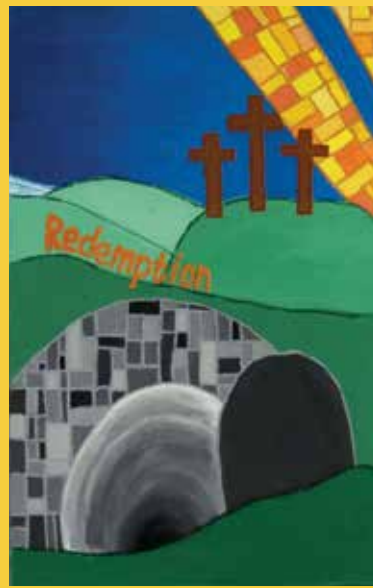
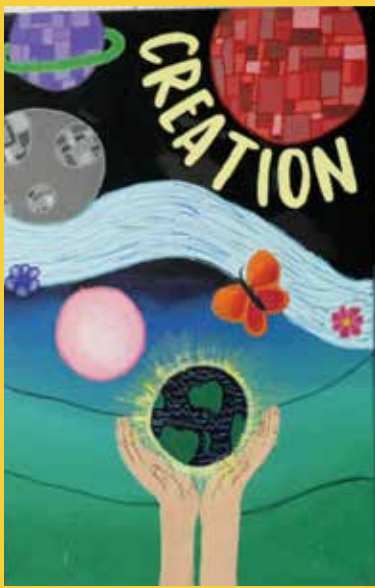
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VISUALIZING THE STORY

What does Byron Center Christian School do with empty wall space, creative students and teachers, and a call to See the Story and Live the Story? We invite our middle school art classes to engage in some creative work! Our campus needed a way to visually share God's Story and beautify the hallway space. A four-piece canvas set would be the perfect way to do it!

Our students interact with the grand narrative of God's Story (Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration) all throughout their elementary years, so our middle school learners had the necessary background understanding for this artistic endeavor. The challenge was to find a way to show the four elements of God's Story in a way that was beautiful, intentional, and connected.

In order to gather all unique student voices, our art teachers invited every middle school student to sketch one element of their choice. From there, the teachers took bits and pieces of those designs to create the four-canvas series. For example, Molly created the galaxy, Kennedy drew the creation hands, Greydon sketched the snake, and Masynn painted the trumpet. The goal was to allow students to practice true collaboration. Masynn commented, "God made us to have different ideas, and we had to talk together so that everyone was able to use their different ideas."

This project allowed our students to draft and refine based on feedback. The hands, lightning, and tomb

are the end products of multiple tries. In addition to practicing artistic skills, these lessons also led to important reflections about God's Story. For example, how can we use lines or patterns to show this story in a connected way? Does the Fall canvas have to be dark? How does Redemption look visually? What colors should we use for the tomb to show victory over death?



"Sometimes it's hard to understand God's Story, but IT'S EASIER WHEN YOU SEE IT IN PICTURES."

-Molly

Multiple sets of colorful canvases now hang in our hallways. They serve as a reminder of the story that unites us here at Byron Center Christian School. God has written a beautiful story, and we each have a unique role to play in it. Art class can be a great way for us to create beauty so it is shared!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING BCCS!



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The mission of Byron Center Christian School is to provide for children of the Christian community
AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION, ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD, preparing them FOR LIFELONG SERVICE in God's Kingdom.



BCCS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

We have entered into an exciting next chapter in our campus planning! Through consistent growth in the surrounding community and focused energies toward promoting the school's preschool and kindergarten programs, enrollment has increased by over 150 students over the last 5 years. Therefore, we are renovating and expanding our preschool and kindergarten campus!

Visit us online at www.bccs.org/withfaith to learn all about this exciting project!

FEEL FREE TO EMAIL RON FLES AT FLES@BCCS.ORG TO LEARN MORE.

KEEP UP WITH BCCS!



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