

Perspective

Excellent. Rooted. Prepared. Summer 2019



Byron Center Christian School

CONGRATS CLASS OF 2019



Congratulations to our 8th grade class of 2019! Our community celebrated this wonderful group of students on June 6, 2019. Every year, it is our hope that our students are prepared for high school and beyond. This obviously includes academic preparation, but we also desire to help graduates grow emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Each year, 8th grade students participate and present a Good Samaritan Project (showing how they are impacting this world) and also a Coernstorn Project. The Cornerstone Project is a summary of each student's time at BCCS and is very

personal for students as they present it to a small group of peers and one teacher. Listening to them share about how their time at BCCS has impacted them is moving. They all tell a different story, but it clear their years here have changed them.

Along with academic preparations, our hope is that, together with parents, our students have a foundation that will last a lifetime. We pray that what was started at BCCS can continue in high school and prepare them for a life of serving Christ.



RETIRING STAFF

John Kramer (5 years)
Marc Wiltzer (29 years)
Jim Hop (32 years)



YEARS OF SERVICE

5 Years: Heather Dood, John Kramer, Chris Sievers
10 Years: Marci Boomsma, Judi VanSolkema
15 Years: Deb DeVries
20 Years: Sharon Baker, Jennifer Bergsma
25 Years: Jill Battjes, Joel DeVries
30 Years: Cindy Coffee



FAREWELL

Ruth Holtrop-Preschool
Chris Sievers-4th Grade
Jenna Vermeer-1st Grade
Jessica Setsma-Academically Talented

"EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE
WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE
RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS
FAITH STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE
IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS"
1 PETER 4:10 NIV

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TRUE Light

As some may know, Byron Center Christian School partners with a school, Victorious Primary School (VPS), in Uganda. BCCS students have prayer partners/pen pals, learn about Ugandan culture, and help support VPS through prayer and fundraisers. This spring, two teachers and two students had the opportunity to visit VPS and help train their staff on how to provide excellent Christian education. Clay Lubbers (Middle School Science) shares the following:

"Our arrival was overwhelming. Imagine being greeted by over 400 students who have come in to school on a Saturday to meet you. We were welcomed by them singing "Victory, we have victory in Jesus" while they waved branches. Tears began to fill my eyes -- never had I expected such a greeting. As we stepped off the bus to walk a quarter-mile to the school, the students surrounded us, waved branches, and sang.

WHEN THE LIGHT
COMES IN ,
DARKNESS MUST
LEAVE

Much of my time with the teachers at VPS was spent discussing the integration of our Christian perspective in our teaching and how to teach using hands-on activities.

Uganda follows a very "English" style of teaching -- the teacher writes on the board (which is actual rough slate) and explains, and the students sit in their seats and learn the material using rote-memorization. Teaching by having students do something was very foreign to them.

As BCCS has come alongside of VPS, one act of partnership I have seen is fundraisers in order to help their school. The big one that stuck out to me was a few years ago when we raised money for water filtration. I can be pretty competitive, so when it was announced we were going to have a contest, I simply told my homeroom that if we were going to participate and be serious, we needed to be dedicated to winning -- and we did. Then we arrived at VPS this spring, and I realized in a real way that clean water at the school has not only changed the community, it has literally saved lives. Kids don't get sick nearly as much, so the parents don't take them to a witch doctor for healing (where they get abused, bled, and marked). Now, the community starts coming to the school for clean water, and since the school is also a church, they begin to hear about Christ. The witch doctors lose power on all levels; they lose influence, income, prestige. In Uganda, every building needs to be blessed by the witch doctors to survive. When VPS doesn't do that and not only survives, but THRIVES, it sends a message to the community.



The message of truth VPS continues to reveal is, that when the light of Christ comes in, the darkness MUST leave. It made me realize how small our fundraising contest really was, but God, through BCCS, changed the community of Tata. I am now a witness to the fact that it's WAY more than a fundraiser -- it's literally saving lives and bringing a community to God. It's restoring a very fallen and dark place and bringing light.

This visit will impact our school, and is impacting our school. The things we saw, the knowledge we gained, the relationships we built -- this is what being a community is all about. It is more than just being "Rescued," it is about being "Rescuers" along with Ugandan Christians in a part of the world that needs it. It is about BCCS walking alongside another school, being a light in the darkness, and helping each other become stronger in bringing Reformed Christian Education to the world. It is about being used by God in expanding His kingdom."



**VICTORIOUS PRIMARY
SCHOOL TATA**
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BY HON. MANDELA AMOS MP KOOKI



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THANK YOU!

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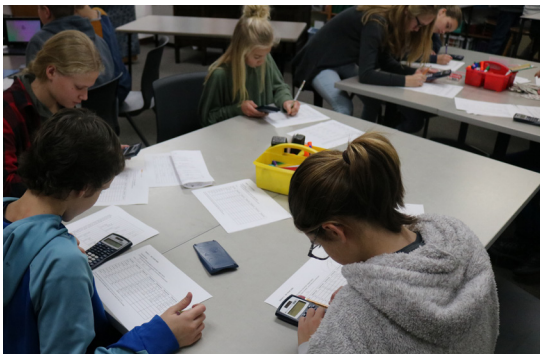
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BCCS gratefully received
memorial gifts in honor of the
following individuals:

John Bantjes
Henry Bouma
Grace Morren
Don VanOverloop
Bryle (Bugs) VanSolkema
Jean Wiers



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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.

IMPORTANT DATES

-6th-8th First Day of School

Monday, August 26

-JK-5th First Day of School:

Wednesday, August 28

-No School-Labor Day:

Monday, September 2

-Preschool First Day:

Monday, September 9

-No School-Teacher Convention:

October 23-25

-SOS Day:

Friday, October 4

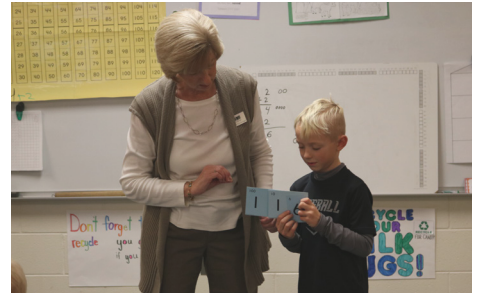
Field Day Festivities!






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


EPHESIANS 2:10




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