



SOUTH CHRISTIAN **HILITES**



Academics..... 4
 Arts 8
 Athletics..... 10
 Student Life 12
 Development 16
 Beacon 18

Excell

Committed to Excellence

Most everyone would claim that they strive for excellence. We strive to be an excellent school. However, we don't often pause to question what we mean by excellence. How do we know we are excellent? Are high test scores evidence of excellence? High GPAs? State Championships? High State Festival ratings for the band and choir? Entertaining drama productions? We strive to accomplish all of these, but they are not the measure of excellence.

Today, the education environment is very competitive. As a result we strive for our school to be an excellent school to remain competitive. We want to be better than other schools so that parents will choose to send their children to our school. We want to be better than other schools so our students have better opportunities. While this makes sense from a marketing perspective, it is not a helpful way to think about excellence. Competition, through comparison, helps us know whether or not we are better at something than others. It doesn't help us know whether we are excellent.

One of the most helpful definitions that I learned from a wise and seasoned school administrator is the following: "Excellence: the process of becoming better and doing better than last year." I like this definition because it is consistent with Biblical Truth. I found a very helpful article on this topic in a Christian business blog that outlined some characteristics of excellence. I used the list and adapted the descriptions for this article.

- Humility—Only if we are humble can we live in grace. And only knowing that we can do nothing without God's grace can we pursue excellence.
- Growing and learning—Always look back at last year, learn from it, and work toward doing better.
- Critical view—Not in a negative sense, but be on guard and test the spirits; make good decisions; choose what is good.
- Dedication—Excellence is not about being really good at one thing; it is an attitude about everything. It is a total commitment.



Cover: Concert Choir and Madrigals pose for an impromptu photo shoot with Governor Snyder on the State Capitol steps. Read the student reflections about the Choir trip on page 8.

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In Daniel 6:3 we read that "...Daniel became distinguished above all the other presidents and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom." Daniel wasn't necessarily the smartest, or strongest, or best among others at everything he did. His "excellent spirit" distinguished him. And so, it is my prayer that the entire SCHS community—students, parents, board members, staff, and administrators—will strive for excellence in humility, learning, testing the spirits, and dedication. If we do all of these, we will be an excellent school and community.

—George Guichelaar, Principal



Staff Retirements

Mrs. June Atsma

Mrs. Atsma began teaching at South Christian 17 years ago. In the classroom, June gained the respect of her students and colleagues as a very effective teacher. Not many years later, Mr. Guichelaar asked if she would be interested in being a part-time administrator. As an administrator, she became a tremendous asset to the school. She became a full-time Assistant Principal in 2010.

Loyalty, persistence, and "get it done" describe Mrs. Atsma's work at South Christian. She blessed the school with her tremendous love and compassion for students. At the same time, she could be the person who held students accountable and still be their number one advocate. She blessed South Christian with her communication skills, tirelessly communicating with parents the good news and sometimes the bad news. She blessed the school with a very strong reformed perspective that found its way into everything she did.

When asked about what she plans to do in her retirement, her response is, "I am looking forward to spending one day a week watching my grandsons and am waiting to see what else God has planned for me. I am thankful to our Heavenly Father that His plan for me was to be a part of this Christian community for 17 years. While I may not know what is next, I am confident that God has a plan. I am more than confident; I am excited!"

Mr. Bob Blacquiere

Mr. Blacquiere began coaching at South Christian in 1977 and teaching in 1987. His presence became part of South's DNA as a respected and loved coach and teacher. We celebrate his years at South Christian with a bit of sadness because he will be missed.

Mr. Blacquiere has intellect and a sharp wit and never takes himself too seriously. However, he takes his work seriously. An example of this was with retirement in view, he took on teaching the AP World History course and did a tremendous amount of work and achieved great results. The many students who were taught history by him learned to appreciate the complexity of human behavior in history. He did not encourage simple answers or simple solutions to complex problems.

Everything Mr. Blacquiere did for students and players was grounded in a perspective that was built on Biblical Truth. He taught in such a way that it wasn't just about the subject matter. The teaching process included modeling what a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ looks like. Mr. Blacquiere challenged students to expand their minds and hearts so they could be equipped to serve God.

Mr. Blacquiere's future plans include volunteering with the football program and perhaps travel.



Mr. and Mrs. Guichelaar at Comerica Park cheering on the SCHS choirs.



Mrs. Nieuwkoop celebrating with staff her 20 years of service.



20 Years of Faithful Service

Mr. George Guichelaar Principal

When Mr. Guichelaar started at South Christian 20 years ago, he was breaking ground. He was the first full-time Assistant Principal for South Christian.

Renaissance man, well-rounded, approachable, and jack of all trades are descriptions of Mr. Guichelaar from his fellow staff. These tie in with his love of learning new things, willingness to try new things, and not being afraid of change.

While Mr. Guichelaar has seen changes in education and changes in his roles over the years, one thing hasn't changed; he firmly believes in Christian education and teaching from a Reformed perspective. Mr. Guichelaar has never wavered or changed his mind about wanting every student to see Christ in this place and to get to know Him as their Lord and Savior.

Mr. Guichelaar is married to Karla who teaches at SCHS and they have three children. His hobbies include trying to take the do-it-yourself concept to its full extent, whether it's fixing things or doing projects around the house. He also enjoys reading, biking, and healthy eating (mostly)!

Mrs. Joan Nieuwkoop Study Instructor

Mrs. Nieuwkoop has been at SCHS for 20 years working in our Resource Room helping students who need academic support. Most of her work is helping 9th and 10th grade students get through courses that are difficult for them whether it is math and science or courses that require a lot of reading and writing. Mrs. Nieuwkoop could probably get an "A" on more exams than any other teacher in this school!

Mrs. Nieuwkoop has a no-nonsense quality about her that combines well with her big heart. Students know that if she is getting after them it is because she wants them to succeed. We thank Mrs. Nieuwkoop for the many years of caring, encouraging, and teaching during which she has blessed so many students.

She and her husband, Denny, have four children and six grandchildren. She loves being a grandparent and also has a passion for coaching basketball and playing softball.

Welcome

Jim Peterson Head of School

It is with excitement and a sense of opportunity that we announce to the community that Mr. Jim Peterson has accepted the position as Head of School of SCHS. Mr. Peterson has a rich background as an accomplished teacher and an expert in educational technology. He has demonstrated leadership skills in his position as Director of Secondary Instruction and Technology at Holland Christian Schools.

The addition of Mr. Peterson in this new administrative role creates various opportunities. His role will be to take on the executive responsibilities of leading the school. This will provide Mr. Guichelaar with the time to focus on the day-to-day operations of the school and to provide educational support for the teachers. This shift in our administrative structure addresses the changing administrative needs of schools today. More detailed information about our new structure will be sent out to the community at the beginning of next school year.

We believe this is a time for SCHS to stand on the shoulders of those in the past who have made the school what it is today and to move forward with strength, vision, and relevance bringing the light of God's Word to students seeking to find their place in God's World. We give thanks to God for blessing our search for a gifted person and we ask for your prayers for Mr. Peterson and his family during this time of change.



(left) 11th grader Brendan Huyser and (right) 9th grader Zea Bud using their Chromebooks.

Chromebooks and the 21st Century Classroom

Technology is becoming ubiquitous in our modern society. This fact is challenging schools to determine how best to use technology to enhance education. One purpose for using technology is to equip students with the skills and abilities to thrive in our modern work world. Another purpose of technology integration is to deepen and enhance the learning process. At South Christian, it is our hope that we can achieve both these objectives through our Chromebook and classroom technology initiatives.

Our knowledge-based economy requires individuals to perform tasks that are predominantly technology-centered. Some skills that are important for today's students are communication, collaboration, evaluation, and innovation. We believe that having technology in the hands of each student can aid in the enhancement of these skills. Chromebooks, with the use of Google Documents, have some of the tools needed to develop student abilities.

The classroom learning environment is changing even from just a few years ago. Classrooms have moved from the model where the teacher is the sole provider and deliverer of content predominantly through lecture and notes. Today's classrooms are much more interactive. Students can become involved in the teaching and learning process in ways that are relevant and interesting. A world of information is at students' fingertips. There are tools available that allow for varied delivery of information to students and allow teachers to demonstrate concepts with more depth. It is a challenge for teachers and students to use these tools in meaningful and beneficial ways.

Google has much to offer through its free products that are directly integrated into the Chromebooks. This gives teachers many of the tools they need to enhance teaching and learning. Teachers are using Google Documents for word processing, Presentation for slide shows and demonstrations, Spreadsheet for tracking and graphing data, Gmail for email, Chrome for Internet browsing and research, and various other Google and non-Google applications that work

well with Chromebooks. We are also using a free program called Edmodo for online classroom content management. Through this program, students and teachers communicate, take quizzes, get assignments, and collaborate.

Computers are used for both content consumption and content creation. The process of accumulating and compiling information is a major reason for using technology in education, but it is only part of the process. Students then need to compile the information and create unique ways of demonstrating their understanding of the material. In fact, over the next two years, standardized testing like the MEAP test will be transitioning to computer-based testing. A majority of this content creation is still done through typing on a keyboard. Chromebooks with their built-in keyboards, have this advantage over the devices like the iPad where content creation is done primarily through touching the screen.

Our technology initiative is still very much a work in progress. We are working on ways of improving our system and making it a valuable educational tool to prepare students for their future education and vocation. Overall, we have been very pleased with the implementation. Teachers and students are adapting to the positive and negative aspects that technology in the classroom has to offer.

We appreciate the overwhelming support that we have received from the many individuals that wish to help prepare SCHS students to thrive in the world and make a difference for Christ. Thank you for partnering with us in our commitment to excellence.

—Don Wubben, Family/Consumer Sciences,
Business Teacher



Congratulations to our Academic Leaders!

Two students have earned the top academic honors in the class of 2014. Because of the extra weight of grades in AP classes, both of them have cumulative grade point averages above 4.0.

Class of 2014 Valedictorian

Taylor Buist (above, left) is this year's Valedictorian, having maintained a perfect A average throughout high school. His 4.170 GPA is the highest in the senior class. Taylor is the son of Randy and Lynn Buist and he came to South after graduating from Dutton Christian. While at South, Taylor participated in Math, Debate and Rocket Clubs, Connections, and Soccer. One of Taylor's favorite activities in high school was the soccer team because of the friendships he enjoyed with his teammates, and being part of a State Championship team in 2012. Taylor also loved math tutoring because he is passionate about math and loves to see others succeed with his help. He received the Math Department award this year as best student and he is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist.

When Taylor was asked to comment about his Christian education, he replied, "A Christian school isn't just learning about God: it's being immersed in an environment where God is welcomed and celebrated. It affects your character, which is something that stays with you forever." Taylor's advice to underclassmen is, "Don't be afraid to fail; just don't make a habit of it." Taylor plans to major in Business and Computer Science at The University of Michigan where he is receiving the Regents Merit Scholarship.

Class of 2014 Salutatorian

Andrew Hoffman (right) earned the title of Salutatorian by achieving a 4.148 GPA, the second highest in the senior class. Andrew is the son of Tom and Cherie Hoffman and he is a graduate of Legacy Christian. Andrew's activities in high school include Debate and Rocket Clubs, Symphonic Band, and volunteering at The Dock. He especially enjoyed the Rocket Club, which he describes as being a "blast." He found it to be a good way to meet new people and it tied in with his love of physics. In Debate Club he loved to argue points that were often related to his interests. Andrew received the Social Studies Department Award this year.

Reflecting on his four years of high school, Andrew says, "Don't expect God's plan to be congruent with your plan. His plan is different but is way better than any plan you could come up with." His advice to share with underclassmen is, "Make the most of high school: make new friends, take hard or different classes, and be sure to take Physics as a senior." Andrew's plans for next year are to major in Engineering at The University of Michigan.

Class of 2014 Academic Top Ten

The Class of 2014 Academic Top Ten students had GPA's ranging from 4.075 to 4.170. They are: (front row, left to right) Ethan Clark, Andrew Hoffman, Taylor Buist, Jake Wolffis, Connor Dood, (back, left to right) Matt Genzink, Hannah VanDusen, Taylor Neuhaus, Jessica Brouwer, and Kade Hoeksema.

Eight other seniors have GPA's above 4.0: Lydia Dykhouse, Ashley Poolman, Jessica Shier, Megan Sloterbeek, Madeline VanderPloeg, Lucas VanLaar, Randall Warners, and Taylor Wierenga.



Congratulations to our Class of 2014 Graduates!

Class Verse

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.”

—Proverbs 16:3

Class Motto

“There is no passion to be found in settling for a life
that is less than the one you are capable of living.”

—Nelson Mandela





(above left) The choir being filmed while singing the national anthem; (above right) posing in front of Comerica Park; (below) being displayed on the big screen.

Choir Two-Day Tour

In April, the Concert Choir and Madrigals went on a two-day tour to our State Capitol, Ann Arbor, and Detroit. Their performances were both formal and impromptu. The two biggest highlights were seeing a production of *Les Miserables* on U of M's campus and then performing the National Anthem for a home Tigers game!

Some student reflections from the trip:

"The Choir trip to Detroit was the most unbelievable and fun time of my life. It was a great time of fellowship with friends and an awesome experience to share our Christian faith with others. It was a fabulous experience where we got to sing to tons of people sharing with our singing voices what God calls us to do in the Great Commission, 'Go out and make disciples of all nations.' We spread God's word with the songs that we sang and through how we acted. I was truly blessed and I'm sure many others were as well."

—Kevin Offringa, 11th Grade Student



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Concert Choir, Madrigals and Symphonic Band! All three groups qualified again for State Festival based on their outstanding District scores. Symphonic Band did continue on to the State Band Festival, and proceeded to achieve almost perfect scores! Both the Band and Orchestra programs are growing significantly! Thanks so much for your encouragement, prayers, and support of our Music Program!

—Doug Rosema,
Bands & Choirs Director

"The choir trip was fun. It was amazing to hear our sound resonate in the capitol rotunda and take a picture with the governor. Another fun thing we did was go to the Ford Rouge Factory to see how F-150s were made. After that we went to the Ford Museum and sang *Amazing Grace* in the food court. On Friday we praised God with the Detroit Mission guys and had a great time on Good Friday. Another amazing part of the trip for me was the Renaissance Center. I'm afraid of heights, but going up in the elevator to the top of the middle tower was amazing! It was spectacular to see what God has made laid out for miles and miles."

—Megan Dykstra, 12th Grade Student

(right) Oil painting by Casey VanderStel displayed at the Senior Art Show.





Behind the Scenes: *The King and I*

As I reflect on the past year and all of the good memories I have, I think about theater. I have been a part of the drama department in several ways over the past four years, and every time is a new experience. This year's performances, *Sherlock Holmes* and *The King and I*, brought new laughs and new challenges.

As I have learned, theater is hard work and is not just acting. This was especially clear in the making of *The King and I*. The work started in January when the cast was set and rehearsal began. The cast would rehearse every day for about two hours coached by the directors on blocking, choreography, lines, and music.

Meanwhile, the crews were also hard at work. As Student Artistic Director for the drama department, the sets were my main focus. *The King and I* presented a new challenge with the idea of making seven sets (compared to the four sets in *Sherlock Holmes*). With no extra time and big ideas, I, along with my fellow student workers, had to work even harder to create beautiful sets in time for the performance.

However, eye-catching sets required eye-catching actors. That was where the prop and costume crew came into play. As soon as the cast was set, the costume crew took measurements and found or made around 60-70 costumes to fit each actor no matter the role.

As the performance dates neared, the sound and stage crews began to work. The sound crew fit microphones to actors and made sure every technological detail was in place. Meanwhile, the Student Stage Director began to whip her student crew into shape. The stage crew drew up charts and practiced moving the heavy sets to make sure that come performance day, they would be able to move the sets quickly and effortlessly.

Come performance week, the hair and makeup crews began their work. They came hours before each performance to do the cast's hair and makeup.

On opening night, after each cast member was checked a final time, it was ShowTime! The musicians sat ready in the pit, waiting for the cue to begin playing, and after an opening prayer, the show began.

The making of *The King and I* required a lot of hard work and dedication from every single person involved, including myself. The most important thing I learned was that playing a role offstage was just as important as playing one onstage. The show would not have been successful without the actors, directors, and the crews who worked behind the scenes.

—Kayla Hey, 12th Grade Student

Case Closed!

The South Christian theater department closed the case of the fall production *Sherlock Holmes*, a theatrical production as complicated and mysterious as Moriarty (the villain) himself. The production was full of hidden meanings, and secret clues: prop items placed on stage that offered "clues" to the viewer that *Sherlock Holmes* has been a timeless character that relies on deduction, discernment, and wisdom.

Most of the "clues" were hidden in plain sight, and offered an opportunity for the audience to see the plot unfold as Sherlock did; with a careful eye on the details. Many of the most significant "clues" have been the students themselves working behind the scenes to craft a clever production that relied on mystery and misdirection.

The most overt "clue" from this production was that it has been God-glorifying from the start. As the Giver of wisdom, God has shown that through wisdom, discernment, and insight, all have been able to find the truth in every situation. Just as Sherlock peered through the vile plans and actions of Moriarty, we all have been able to discern right from wrong through the wisdom given by God.

—Ryan VandenHeuvel, English Teacher



Perseverance

As the school year comes to an end I think back on what a great year South Christian has had in the arena of sports. At the same time, I remember the emotions of defeat in a State Final versus the year before when we won the State Championship; tears of joy turned to tears of sorrow. I look at the pictures on the State Final plaque from last year to pictures on the plaque this year, what a difference! The plaques seem to represent a metaphor for life's ups and downs spiritually, physically, and emotionally. One thing that remains constant is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. That lesson is taught by all of our coaches as our true goal for each season. One story of this season sticks out in my mind above all the other memories; the testimony of Blake Brinks and his story of perseverance.

Two years ago Blake Brinks was a key part of our State Championship soccer team but not in a way he wanted to be. He was forced to sit the majority of the season because of a battle with Crohn's disease. This season Blake started on our State Finalist team at the beginning of the season before Crohn's disease forced him into the hospital and to "hang up his cleats" for part of the season. Our team played many of our games for Blake and it gave them perspective on what a gift it was to be able to enjoy the sport and to use the gifts God has given them.

Early in the season Blake scored the game winner against rival Unity Christian, but shortly after was back

in the hospital after the Crohn's flared back up. What a devastating blow for a young man who had been given a clean bill of health and was ready to actually play for an entire soccer and basketball season. It would have been very easy for him to quit the team and focus on his health, but Blake would have none of that. He spent numerous days in the hospital, and countless practices and games feeling miserable. When he was able to play again, it was only for a few minutes at a time. Through all of that suffering, no one ever heard him complain once.

After our Regional Championship, Blake mentioned he would like to share a few words with the team in the next game or two. On the day of State Finals we talked strategy, thankfulness for the opportunity at hand, and perseverance of great teams. This team bonded, battled, and had persevered through a lot. Blake talked about what the team and the community have meant to him the last two seasons and what a great opportunity they had that day to finish what they started together. Needless to say, there was not a dry eye in the room and the guys were ready to play their hearts out. I left that locker room feeling blessed just to have sat in the presence of those young men knowing how much they cared for each other and most importantly, that they put their trust in the Lord above all else.

The game itself went exactly how we hoped it would have gone. We con-

trolled the ball, the tempo, and had by far the most opportunities to finish the game off. We unfortunately couldn't finish and the game went into a penalty kick shootout. Each team had five opportunities and we were tied after five shooters. Sudden death shootout continued and we went 10 shooters deep before we lost the State Finals.

Blake may never fully understand why God has allowed him to endure this disease but his story has immensely touched 20 young men on how to persevere through one of life's valleys. This team observed a peer deal with a very difficult "valley" in life and how to do it in a way that Romans 5:3-4 clearly states: "And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." Blake and many others will continue to struggle and question, "Why, oh Lord?" as well as struggle to "glory" in our sufferings.

In the end, I pray and I find great comfort that these young men will persevere. "He energizes those who get tired, gives fresh strength to dropouts. For even young people tire and drop out, young folk in their prime stumble and fall. But those who wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, they run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind." Isaiah 40:29-31 *The Message*

—Jason Boersma, Coach



GIRLS BASKETBALL

A Season to Remember

The Girls' Varsity Basketball team had a season to remember. The squad consisted of seven seniors, three juniors, and three sophomores. We started the season with our non-league opponents and completed that with a record of 10-0. We then went on to our OK Gold conference season and made it through some tough opponents with an identical record of 10-0. We found out we had the determination to squeeze a few of the games with one point margins and we did it with great chemistry and senior leadership. This positive attitude carried on into the MHSAA State Tournament. We won our District and then had our Regional at home against some tough opponents—Holland Christian and Catholic Central. After being victorious by some close scores we went on to the Quarterfinals and “found a way” to beat Parchment. On to the State Finals in Lansing; a familiar place as we lost in the Semifinals last year. We won our first contest against Midland Bullock Creek. The next day we fought a hard battle in the Finals, but lost to a very good team, Eaton Rapids. All in all we grew together and became prayer partners throughout the season. Indeed, it was a very special year that provided great memories for the players both on and off the court with their teammates and their fans.

—Jim DeBruyn, Coach

#SCPride

The 2012-13 school year at South Christian High School saw the Sailors have unprecedented success by earning State Championships in Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, and Football. Needless to say the bar was set very high for the 2013-14 school year.

Even though the Sailors have not earned a State Championship in the 2013-14 campaign to this point, the student athletes at South Christian have not disappointed their faithful supporters.

During the fall season, the Sailors earned OK Gold Conference titles in Girls Golf, Boys Tennis, Girls Cross Country, Boys Soccer, and Football. The success carried into the post-season. District Championships were captured in Boys Soccer, Football, and Volleyball. After some early success in the tournament, Regional crowns were obtained in Girls Golf, Girls Cross Country, Boys Soccer, Football, and Volleyball. When it was all said and done, six South Christian teams competed in the MHSAA State Finals (Girls Golf, Boys Tennis, Girls Cross Country, Boys Soccer, Volleyball, and Football).

When the weather changed and we moved into the winter season, the success continued for the Sailors. The Boys Basketball team ended their season with a record of 19-2 and captured the OK Gold Championship. In the final regular season contest, longtime coach Ken Hiskes earned his 300th career victory! The Boys Bowling squad peaked at the right time in the season; earning a Regional title as well as finishing in the Final Four in the MHSAA Division 4 State Finals. The Girls Basketball squad continued their recent success by finishing the regular season with a 20-0 record and grasping the OK Gold title. The Lady Sailors then captured District and Regional titles on their way to advancing to the Breslin Center for the second straight season. Their season ended in the State Finals and a runner up finish in Class B.

As we wrap up the spring sports season, the Sailors are continuing their success and hope to make additional deep tournament runs in the month of June.

The student athletes of South Christian have done a tremendous job of representing their families and their school with class and dignity. More importantly, each student athlete sought to glorify God in their lives, which in the end is more important than any championship that was either won or lost this year.

—Curt Copeland, Athletic Director



Senior Faith Projects

Connor Dood playing with children in Ethiopia he brought toys to.



The Omega House is enjoying a new stained glass window crafted by Danielle Oostru for her Senior Faith Project.

AJ Rietberg

For my Senior Faith Project, I organized a dinner drive for a family who is very dear to me. Since fall of last year, their mom has been battling Central Nervous System Lymphoma brain cancer. Because of this, she has not been home much, or when she is, she is too weak to prepare meals.

So many things went amazing! I had so many people want to help out right from the start, to prepare a meal, and share it. When I first put together this project, my goal was to get two to three meals a week for a month or two. Right away, I got a full month, then before I knew it, a second month. I realized, as long as people want to keep volunteering, I'll be more than happy to keep planning dates for people. So it's actually still going!

This project was so much bigger than I expected, and has been a blessing and so heartwarming to me. It opened up my eyes and got me to see how truly amazing it is seeing God work and shine through people. This project has made me realize how a simple meal or card can bring so much warmth and joy to someone. It's made me appreciate the little things so much more.

I also learned that no matter where you are, or what your job is, God has placed you there for a reason. I may not realize it at a young age, but God is shaping me and putting things in my life that are preparing me for what He has planned for me to do in life. I may not understand the reasoning behind things now, but I will someday.

Connor Dood

Sometimes I'd like to ask God why He allows poverty, famine, and injustice in the world when He could do something about it. But then I realize that He could ask me the same question.

I love Ethiopia! I love the Ethiopian people and culture. My family adopted two boys from there and after traveling to Ethiopia, I've developed a heart for the poverty and orphan crisis.

My parents and I had a trip planned to Ethiopia last October through an organization called Children's Hope Chest. I thought that I should do something along with this trip for my Senior Faith Project. I was told from the organization that it would be helpful if I could collect donations of toys and arts and crafts for the kids of communities that were in need of sponsors yet. I collected donations from members of my church and also from the office supply company I work for in the summers.

We spent a few hours at five different communities and during that time we used the donated items I brought to play with the kids.

This project reminded me of how extremely blessed I am. However, to whom much is given, much is expected. Therefore, I'm excited to use my blessing to bless others in the future.



Kellie TerHaar's van brimming over with gifts she delivered to a family in need.

Kellie TerHaar

For my senior project, my family and I helped bring Christmas joy to a family from my work. I first met Tia and Reggie's family almost two years ago when I began working at Mr. Burger. From the moment we met, Tia and I became great friends, and she began to share some of her story with me. Tia and Reggie have a three year old daughter, and recently had found out that they were expecting another baby. This was very exciting, but another baby would bring a lot of bills. Their family survived on Tia's paycheck every week, and with her gone on maternity leave there would be very little money for food or bills, and certainly nothing extra for Christmas presents. I felt called by God to use my gifts and talents to help out their family. My family and I bought toys, clothing, pillows, blankets, winter jackets and boots, gift cards to places such as Meijer and Aldi, and other necessary items that we usually take for granted. I also baked cookies and other holiday goodies for them, and then we delivered the gifts to their home on Christmas Eve. Words cannot describe the joy on their faces when they saw all of the gifts that were now theirs. As we were leaving their house, Tia hugged me while crying and said, "You saved our Christmas."



(above) Ash Wednesday Chapel; (below) Faith Celebration Chapel

A Network of Believers

Our chapel theme for this school year was *The Faith Network*. Each month, we've focused on a certain TV show and applied specific messages to each of them. October's theme was *Duck Dynasty*, in which we focused on the importance of family and prayer. In February, we talked about *Friends* and how they can make or break us. In May, we've discussed *The Amazing Race* we run as Christians, relying on God to help us face the "roadblocks" along the way.

The Christian Ministries team has seen a lot of amazing things happen in chapel this year. Faith Celebration Day in March was an amazing opportunity for the students to grow and challenge their faith. We held our first Ash Wednesday service in March as well. We've also had the blessing of having several seniors share their stories in front of chapel. The student body, in turn, has blessed us in so many ways. In a recent chapel we recognized the National Day of Prayer. All the students were silent as they spent time with God in prayer and meditation. We were all deeply moved when we saw several students stand up and raise their hands during the last song, *From the Inside Out*.

At South Christian, we are our own faith "network:" a community of believers who rally around each other in good times and bad; a body of Christ that comes together in fellowship. What "network" are you part of?

—Audrey Wierenga, 12th Grade Student, Christian Ministries Team





Connections Banquet

(left) 12th grader Sarah Peterson and 11th grader Olivia Langworthy posing at the banquet; (right) "Decades" costume contestants at the banquet.

The Connections Banquet is my favorite event that happens during the school year. It is a memorable evening planned specifically for individuals with special needs and their friends. It allows for so many opportunities to meet new people and to make new friends. We planned the event with NorthPointe Christian and Calvin Christian so it is also a great opportunity to connect with people from other schools. This year, we switched to a new location, the Pinnacle Center in Hudsonville. Our theme for the banquet was "The Decades." We talked about how God's love goes on and on throughout the

years. We sang our way through songs that were popular during the different decades, played games for door prizes and had a "Decades" costume contest. We also had Mrs. Schreur come and help us do some very fun dances that were popular back then, such as "Twist and Shout" and "Rockin' Robin."

I came to the banquet with the mindset that I really wanted to help and bless other people. When I arrived and started helping people find their seats, I met Karen who wanted to have her picture taken with someone. I volunteered to take a picture with

her and we stood in line and began talking. After having our picture taken together, throughout the night she kept coming back to me to say hello. As the night progressed, I realized that she was blessing me with her friendship more than anything I could have done.

Connections is a great way to make new friends and to be a blessing to others, but in reality we receive just as much of a blessing. We hope that you'll join in the fun next year!

—Lydia Dykhouse
12th Grade Student



Homecoming Crew '14

Congratulations to the following seniors who were recognized at our Homecoming ceremonies for their involvement and contributions to student life at South Christian:

Saydee Bouman	Peter Oostema
Zach Brinkert	Kristena Poll
Jessica Brouwer	Ashley Poolman
Sam DeVries	Deandra Pope
Lydia Dykhouse	Jessica Shier
Connor Dood	Megan Sloterbeek
Grace Elenbaas	Leslie Tanis
Katie Haagsma	Casey VanderStel
Kayla Hey	Hannah VanDusen
Kade Hoeksema	Cassidy Vredevoogd
Jonathan Krul	Kendra Walters
Brie Oetman	Audrey Wierenga



The Oscars Junior/Senior Prom

We rolled out the red carpet and shined our Sunday shoes because the Oscars came to prom, South Christian style! The junior and senior classes celebrated in style by attending a dinner, awards show, and dance at the Grand Volute Ballroom in Lowell.





12th grader Saydee Bouman sewing on a new donated machine.

We Are “Sew” Thankful

In the fall issue of the *HiLites* we shared the need for new sewing machines. We are excited to report 18 new digital sewing machines and two new sergers have been purchased and are being used daily. Sew...what happened to our old machines?

Thanks to a board member our old machines will have a new home at The Academies For Excellence, Inc. in Malumghat, Bangladesh where they will be used to help teach women a skill that enables them to provide for their families.

Prior to donating the sewing machines, we felt it was important to have the machines tuned up. That tune up was not in the budget; however, God provided the funding in a very unique way. Four times a year, South Christian

students have the opportunity to give the gift of life by donating blood. Each unit of blood a student donates has the potential to help three people. Many students overcome their issues with needles and donate regularly. Their dedication is greatly appreciated.

This past January students were provided with an additional incentive to donate because Michigan Blood offered \$10 for everyone who signed in to donate blood. The money earned when students donated was used to refurbish the sewing machines. This means when the students gave blood, they gave both locally and globally.

Wishes Do Come True

Thanks to several donors, the following wish list items were able to be purchased. Students and staff are benefitting from using these practical items in the classroom daily and are very grateful.

A lab pump for the Science department; 18 sewing machines, 2 sergers, an iron and ironing boards, 2 Baby Think-it-Overs, a microwave and 5-quart Dutch oven for Family and Consumer Sciences; a router table and CAD plotter for Industrial Technology; a Dr. Beat DB-90 metronome and composing software for the Music department; a laptop for Educational Support Services; an iPod for Spanish; and countertops/tabletops for the Art room.

WISH LIST

Area	Department	Approx. Cost	If you are considering a gift to SCHS for any of the needs listed and have questions, please contact Sandy Dobbs, Development Director, at 616-455-3210, ext. 110 or sdobbs@schs.org .
Rocker/glider (2)	Educational Support Services	\$1,000 each	
Copy machine	Educational Support Services	\$400	
Weight room equipment	Physical Education	\$30,000	
Step-aerobic equipment	Physical Education	\$2,500	
Grizzly combination sander	Industrial Technology	\$560	
Planer	Industrial Technology	\$1,600	
Jointer	Industrial Technology	\$800	
Desk Chair (2)	Counseling	\$300 each	
Microphone for iPad	Religion	\$80	
Videos/DVDs	Science	\$300	
Printer (2)	Office	\$1,500 each	



What's Being Transformed This Summer?

In the last *HiLites* we announced the Anchored, Committed, and Called Capital Campaign to transform our facility into a modern 21st century learning environment. As funds are being raised, some improvements have taken place. Last summer, four classrooms were transformed with interior renovations, new furniture, and new technology. This summer, three additional classrooms will be transformed. Other items slated for this summer are asbestos abatement, upgrade of electrical and plumbing infrastructure, and exterior landscape and signage along 68th Street.

As a school and community we are committed to excellence. With the transformation of our facility we are fulfilling the “committed to excellence” portion of our mission. Improved classroom spaces and technology accommodate different learning styles. Frontless classrooms with flexible furniture place the teacher and the students at the center of the learning process. Enhanced technology encourages collaboration and problem solving. Auditorium improvements will enhance the chapel worship, the theatrical, and the production experience. Open spaces will serve as social areas, flexible learning areas, and quiet study areas. A 21st century facility will prepare our students for the next phase of life—continuing their education, learning a trade, or entering the work force.

As campaign fundraising continues, your help is needed. Each and every gift received, whether large or small, has a positive impact on the campaign and students of future generations. Each of us has an opportunity to tangibly demonstrate our commitment to excellence and Christian education through a gift to the Capital Campaign.

Would you please consider your level of financial involvement? Contributions can be made online by clicking the “Support SCHS” tab on our website (schs.org). Monthly recurring gifts can be conveniently and securely set up at the “Support SCHS” web portal. Your commitment can be in the form of cash, check, credit card, appreciated assets, real estate, and securities. Contributions can be sent to the attention of the SCHS Development Dept., 160 - 68th Street SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49548.

For more information about the Capital Campaign or to arrange a tour of the facility, please contact me at sdobbs@schs.org or (616) 455-3210, ext. 110. Please join us in our commitment to excellence and transformation of our facility.

—Sandy Dobbs, Development Director

(back, left) Margene (Pott, '83) Brewer; Cathy (Pott, '81) Peless; Jack Pott ('89); Jerry Pott ('76); (front) Melinda (Pott, '77) DeJong

Recently, the Pott siblings visited SCHS to check out the new sewing machines that were purchased by donations made in memory of their mother, an avid sewer. They also toured the building and reminisced of their high school years.

“Thank you so much for your hospitality last week as we toured the school. The plaques looked great on the machines, and we enjoyed seeing the young women in action. It was also great to make some new connections, renew some old friendships, and dust off some memories.”
—Jerry Pott

Memorial Contributions

2013-2014 School Year

In Memory of:

- William Dekker
- Larry Franken
- Don Geelhoed
- Edwin Gortsema
- James Hennip
- Pam Kleinheksel
- Luke Kuperus
- Helen Lynema
- Luke Magers
- Thomas Walma

THE BEACON

SOUTH CHRISTIAN

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni Profile

Stan DeJager, Class of '61 and Wanda (Stapert) DeJager, Class of '62

Stan and Wanda DeJager are familiar faces around the SCHS and Cutlerville communities. After graduating from Calvin in 1965, Stan began his teaching career at Byron Center Christian where he taught mostly science for 26 years. Following that he taught math at SCHS for 15 years. Stan has served on Cutlerville Christian and SCHS School Boards and on First Cutlerville CRC Council.

Remember Cutlerville Floral right on the corner of 68th and Division? Wanda ran that business with her sister-in-law from 1966 to 1976. Following a time at Eastern Floral, she took a position as an administrative assistant at SCHS where she worked for 24 years.

Meanwhile, two houses down from the SCHS parking lot, they raised their three children, Julie (DeJager '84) Ellens, Jill (DeJager '88) Haan, and Russ DeJager ('91). They have also been blessed with seven grandchildren.

Following retirement in 2007, both Stan and Wanda continued to use their gifts by beginning new careers as volunteers in Young Life. They work at Timberwolf Lake Young Life Camp as volunteer coordinators from April thru October, then take their RV to Florida and work at Southwind Young Life Camp several weeks in November and again in January and February. Keep in mind that they are always looking for new volunteers to join them at either camp!

This summer, Stan and Wanda celebrate 50 years of marriage. They feel God has richly blessed them in many ways.



UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS

New address? Please help us update your records by filling out the Alumni Information Form to ensure you receive your reunion invitations.

1959

55th class reunion will be held at First Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church on Friday, September 19, 2014. Contact person: Duard Warsen (e-mail: duard101@att.net)

1964

50th class reunion will be held at Friendship Christian Reformed Church (190 100th Street SE, Byron Center) on Friday, October 3, 2014. More details will be in your invitation.

1974

40th class reunion will be held at Brann's Banquet facility on South Division on Saturday, September 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. Contact person: Denise Dieleman (e-mail: denisedieleman@gmail.com)

2004

10th class reunion is being planned. Date to be determined. Contact person: Catherine Arp (e-mail: veltemac@gmail.com)

ALUMNI UPDATES

1957

Marcia (Strick, '57) Bartman passed away on 12/23/13. She was married to Virgil Bartman since 1958 and worked at the Children's Retreat after graduation and then became a homemaker.

1959

Bob Lindhout ('59) passed away on 10/30/13. He was married to Sharon (Oeverman, '60) for 52 years and spent 45 years as a self-employed painter.

1978

Carol (DeHaan, '78) Pollock passed away on 5/5/13 from cancer. Her husband, Gordon Pollock, also passed away on 1/9/13.

1990

Craig Newhouse ('90) married SCHS sweetheart, Melody (Buit, '90) in 1994. They have 3 kids at Legacy Christian School: Brenna, Evan, and Tanner. Craig works full-time as a Landscape Architect at RJM Design Inc. in Grand Rapids since 2008, and is also a remote-controlled aerial photographer for Hovercams, LLC, a company he started in 2012. Melody works part-time as the T.R.I.P. coordinator at Legacy Christian Middle School.

1993

Dan VanderMolen ('93) and Kim Flierman were married on 6/7/97. They have two children: Easton Antonio (born 10/14/04, adopted 6/14/05 from Guatemala) and Ainsley Grace (3/22/13).

Katiana Arlyn Wilson (10th) was born to Jill (Moes, '93) and Pete Wilson on 12/09/13.

1994

Eric Michael (4th) was born to Mike and Vickie (Verduin, '94) Nordyke on 9/3/13.

1997

Sydnee Marya Carrasco (1st) was born to Melanie (Baas, '97) and Manuel Carrasco on 9/23/13. They reside in Chandler, AZ.

1998

Robert Shefferly and Kim Brummel ('98) were married on 7/27/13.

1999

Charles Fisher (2nd) was born to Joshua and Jane (Heerema, '99) Novak on 10/28/13.

2001

Ezekiel Aaron (4th) was born to Noah ('01) and Sherri (Kuipers, '04) Mensch on 8/15/12.

Ethan James (3rd) was born to Joe ('01) and Holli VanderMolen on 12/13/13.

2004

Jill (Hendricks, '04) and Joe Sietsema were married on 4/12/13.

2005

Anna Charis (1st) was born to Case and Megan (Schripsema, '05) Visser on 9/30/13.

Zack Youngsma ('05) and Megan Cummings were married in Kansas City, MO on 6/8/13. Zack is a captain in the United States Army and is stationed in Fort Hood, Texas. He completed the captains' career course for the Military Police and received his MA degree in Business Information and Security Management in February 2014.



Anna Poll ('05) is finishing her fifth year of teaching 7th and 8th grade in the south suburbs of Chicago. She teaches Reading/Language Arts and Spanish.

2006

Aubrey Jayne (1st) was born to Andrew and Holly (Monsma, '06) Osenfort on 6/27/13.

2008

Prescott Holbrook ('08) and Jessica Wilbur were wed on 8/3/13.

2009

Michael Fennema ('09) and Grace Bootsma ('09) were wed on 10/18/13.

Alumni Information

We are continually updating our records to make sure the information we have is correct. Please email us address changes, births, marriages, deaths, or tidbits for *The Beacon!* Provide your full name, including maiden name (if applicable) and graduation year(s). For births, please indicate the birthdate, name of child, and birth order. Send your updates to alumni@schs.org or 160 - 68th Street SW Grand Rapids, MI 49548.

Name: _____ Graduating Year Him: _____ Her: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Maiden Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Birth Information (date of birth, full name, birth order): _____

Wedding Information: _____

Death Information: _____

Employment Information: _____



South Christian High School
160 - 68th Street SW
Grand Rapids MI 49548

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Homecoming

During Homecoming week, students enjoyed Dress Up Days, which included PJ Day, Mismatch Day, Color Day, Character Day, and Spirit Day.

