

Reveal

Jenison Christian School Education Foundation Newsletter

JCS Education Foundation Celebrates 40 Years

God is faithful through the ages! Nearly 150 guests were in attendance on Thursday, October 6 at Sunnybrook Country Club to celebrate 40 years of the JCS Education Foundation.

Guest speaker Dan Seaborn spoke about the importance of Christian Education in today's world. He shared with guests about the Christian school influence within his own family. When one of his four children went wayward after high school, he prayed unceasingly with his wife, Jane, and their child ultimately returned home. Dan and Jane praised the teaching from their Christian School that invested in his children, now grown, and recalled Isaiah 55:11 – **'So is My word that goes out from my Mouth; it will not return to Me empty.'**



Dan also spoke to the teachers in the room to keep teaching truth, that it will not return void. The students will recall the biblical teaching in moments of need, just like the teenager in his own family. He recalled how influential teachers were in his own life saying, **"When teachers speak, the student acknowledges 'This is the person brought in to train me, guide me, and give me direction of the way I should go.'"** Teachers have an opportunity to promote individual worth in their students by reflecting each student as a unique creation of the Creator God.

Dan talked about the importance of Christian instruction, God created each of us in His image, and this truth matters. He asked the audience, "Do you know how important you are to the kingdom of God? Discover how much He loves you for being uniquely you. When your children discover this, it changes everything."

He stressed that **Christian instruction reinforces what parents teach at home.** Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Dan describes "old" as a life long enough to experience 'hard knocks.' Children may go wayward; having scripture written on their hearts helps them in tough situations.

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November 2022

JCS Foundation Celebrates 40 Years

*Something Extraordinary
Capital Campaign Update*

*5th and 6th Graders Taking
Care of God's World*

Spiritual Emphasis Week

Early Childhood Open House

Psalm 78:4, 6 "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done...so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born..."

Something Extraordinary Update: Immediate Need for Classrooms

When JCS launched its capital campaign, *Something Extraordinary*, we knew that this theme would allow us to share the *Extraordinary* story of what God is doing at Jenison Christian School and capture all that He would do in this effort.

In the past three years, we have updated many spaces in our facility and we will update the east wing this summer. All of this work has been done debt-free through the faithful support of our Jenison Christian School community, truly *Something Extraordinary*!

Now, we are seeing another *Extraordinary* story unfold at JCS: next year we will have two full classes in each grade level, kindergarten through 8th grade. In two years, JCS enrollment has grown by 100 NEW students! This growth is a tremendous blessing, and a reflection of the quality, Christ-centered education our school provides in the Jenison community.

We have an immediate need for space for our children to learn. **JCS needs TWO ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS to accommodate our growing classes.**

As a temporary solution, we will be turning our staff lounge into a classroom for the 2023-2024 school year to accommodate the two full 3rd and 4th grade classes. In doing so, we lose out on adequate space needed for staff development and community.



Growing enrollment is *Something Extraordinary*, but within that, we need to continue providing necessary resources for our students and staff to thrive.

The financial need to build the necessary space for our growing student body is \$2.5 million.

As you consider your year-end giving, or think about your giving plan for 2023, please consider a multi-year pledge or donation to the *Something Extraordinary* Capital Campaign. Your donation will help us build space for all of God's children to have a place at Jenison Christian School. JCS is equipped to receive donations of stock, real-estate, and other appreciated assets that may be tax-wise options for you to consider. Please contact Liz Wiersema, lwiersema@jenisonchristian.org or 616-457-3301 with any questions.

5th and 6th Graders Taking Care of God's World

If you are looking to spend some time in God's creation, be sure to visit to Grand River Park in Jenison, Michigan. When you walk around the small lake, just off trail marker #8, you'll step into a habitat full of life and beauty, under the care of the 5th and 6th grade students at JCS. Our 6th grade students traveled there this fall to clean up the space and do some planting for spring beauty. In the spring, our 5th graders do some weeding and more planting, as they learn about invasive species and ecosystems.

While this hands-on work provides a great opportunity for real life application of the classroom curriculum, there is a greater purpose here. Our staff is instilling the call for these kids to take ownership of God's world. When they understand that maintaining this way station (that is, a resting place with resources for sustenance and growth) for monarchs is important to the life cycle of the butterfly, then they can apply that to their lives too, recognizing the need for care, rest, and growth, as we move through the life God has given us.



Spiritual Emphasis Week

All childcare, preschool, and PK-8th grade students participated in our annual SEW week at JCS at the end of September. Students and staff dove into this year's theme, The Way, and participated in activities that make God's word come to life and bind them to their hearts.

A highlight of the week was our community service day. Students, staff, and parents spread out across Ottawa and Kent counties to volunteer at different organizations. This service day is a great reminder of our call to be in God's world, loving and serving our neighbors. All who participated were blessed!



JCS Foundation Celebrates...

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The world now is telling kids they have minimal value and this life is frivolous and hopeless. Jenison Christian School teaches otherwise. Every day is a blessing to teach students that God has a specific plan for them, designed by a Creator who made them and loves them. Dan encouraged those in attendance to seek guiding wisdom through God's word in education and at home. Kids are looking for truth and life. Hebrews 4:12 states 'For the word of God is living and active.'

"I challenge you to be a school that carries the name of Jesus forward, boldly."

Dan Seaborn

The world now is "tasty", as Dan says. It has so much to offer young kids – freedom, independence, self, self and more

self. But it doesn't satisfy. The foundation of a Scripture-led life, with parental boundaries, provides fulfillment. "We are broken people raising more broken people, and without the hope of Jesus, without the hope of what this school teaches, students are lost.... I'm challenging you to teach it in a fresh way, a fresh fire. I'm praying for renewal and revival over the generation coming through JCS right now."

Dan's challenge to us is pointed. "We aren't in heaven yet; there are future wayward children in our classrooms right now. **The teaching and the training of the Word of God can have the capability to wake up wayward kids to the reality of sin, and help them see there is a better purpose for each life than how it's currently being wasted.**

God can renew that and bring hearts back to Him and make a difference for Jesus Christ the way God wanted. It's up to us to do it. I challenge you to be a school that seeks God Almighty for guidance. Don't just build it to build it. Don't just grow to grow; grow to bring glory to the name of Jesus Christ. He honors obedience of His people. **Let JCS be a light on a hill where people say 'something's different there'."**

He continued, "Teach them to focus on God's word. So when that day comes, they will be difference makers for the Kingdom of God. Let's invest in them now so the name of Jesus Christ will be carried forth in the Jenison area and beyond. My wife and I are testimony to thankfulness for the investment teachers made in our kids' lives. I challenge you to be a school that carries the name of Jesus forward, boldly."



The JCS Praise Team led the guests in worship to close the evening.

Connect with JCS!

Follow Jenison Christian School on Facebook and Instagram to see what's happening at school! You can also learn about the various ways to support JCS at www.jenisonchristian.org/support.

Upcoming Events

December 8	Middle School Christmas Concert JCS Gym, 7 p.m.
December 12 & 13	Preschool Christmas Programs Baldwin Street CRC, 6:30 p.m.
December 14	Elementary Christmas Program Fairhaven Church, 7 p.m.
December 21	Christmas Chapel JCS Gym, 10 a.m.
January 12	Early Childhood Open House
March 11	JCS Auction
April 21	PK-8 Grandparents' Day

Early Childhood Open House

Save the Date! The JCS Early Childhood Open House will be Thursday, January 12, 2023. This is an event you won't want to miss if you're looking for a Christ-centered, family-friendly program for your child. Meet our preschool-1st grade teachers and see what makes the JCS Early Childhood program so special!

Spots in our preschool program fill up quickly! Registration for all preschool classes opens to the public on Friday, January 13 at 8 AM. Families with students enrolled at JCS in this school year will be able to register for preschool prior to the open house.



Families can also fill out a "letter of intent" for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes on Friday, January 13 at 8 AM. When PK-8th grade registration opens in April, priority will be given to those who complete this form.

Any questions about our on-site childcare (6 weeks-age 12), student support services and other programs can also be answered at the open house. See you there!

3's Preschool Options

(9:00AM-11:30AM)

- Monday/Wednesday (\$860)
- Monday/Wednesday/Friday (\$1,230)
- Tuesday/Thursday (\$860)
- Tuesday/Thursday/Friday (\$1,230)

4's Preschool Options

(9:00AM-11:30AM)

- Monday/Wednesday (\$1,000)
- Monday/Wednesday/Friday (\$1,335)
- Tuesday/Thursday (\$1,000)
- Tuesday/Thursday/Friday (\$1,335)
- Monday-Thursday (\$1,645)