

Reveal

Jenison Christian School Education Foundation Newsletter

Empowering God's Children for a Life of Service

by Liz Wiersema

"JENISON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IS COMMITTED TO EMBRACING OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST, FOSTERING ACADEMIC GROWTH THAT IS IMMERSSED IN CHRIST, AND EMPOWERING GOD'S CHILDREN FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE IN HIS KINGDOM."

This is the mission statement of JCS. In my 3.5 years of working in the office at school, 2020 was the year I saw this mission statement come to life for our JCS community. Most of what I do at school involves donations. Often, when I tell people I raise money for the school I am met with the response, "I would hate asking people for money. That's so uncomfortable." I think it would be easy to feel that way if I was simply asking for money. But when I ask our community to support a fundraiser or cause, I'm not just asking them for money; I am asking them to share in our mission and vision for God's work at JCS. With this mindset asking for money becomes an opportunity for relationship, blessing, and kingdom building. And you, JCS community, continue to build God's kingdom at JCS! You have faithfully glorified God over the past 91 years at JCS, and especially in 2020. In the midst

(Continued on page 3)



Liz Wiersema

Teaching Some of God's Littlest Children to Love Him, Love Each Other, and Love Learning!



At Jenison Christian Preschool, we provide a safe and developmentally appropriate environment for children to discover and explore the wonder of God and His world. Through play-based learning, children build their curiosity as they experiment, solve problems, ask questions and wonder more about God and His Creation.

3's Preschool Options

(9:00AM-11:30AM)

- Monday/Wednesday (\$815)
- Monday/Wednesday/Friday (\$1,175)
- Tuesday/Thursday (\$815)
- Tuesday/Thursday/Friday (\$1,175)

4's Preschool Options

(9:00AM-11:30AM)

- Monday/Wednesday (\$950)
- Monday/Wednesday/Friday (\$1,275)
- Tuesday/Thursday (\$950)
- Tuesday/Thursday/Friday (\$1,275)
- Monday-Thursday (\$1,575)

**Enroll by 2/14/2021 receive
\$100 off preschool tuition
for 2021/2022!**



February 2021

Empowering God's Children

*Teaching Some of God's Littlest
Children (Preschool Preview)*

*A Principal View
Shine Your Light*

*JCS Education Foundation
Virtual Fundraiser*

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..."

A Principal View SHINE YOUR LIGHT

Grace and Unity throughout JCS

by Tim Paauw

How does a Christian school community navigate a pandemic year?

Although I cannot answer that for every school, I can easily answer it for Jenison Christian School. The answer comes in two words: **GRACE and UNITY.**

Ever since the beginning of this pandemic, I have seen glimpses reflecting God's grace shine through the families, the staff, and the students at JCS. When someone shines the gift of grace to another, patience is naturally found in that moment – it is after all, a Fruit of God's Spirit. Since March, I have seen JCS community members: provide meals for someone who is sick or lost income, donate to help JCS meet financial obligations, share gift cards with others to assist with grocery needs, drop off financial support to help with someone's tuition payment, mail encouragement cards to someone having a rough day, and lift up prayers for the many who have been impacted by the employment closures, isolations, and quarantines. In each moment like this, our souls get to pause, taking a breath, and remember to "Be still and know" that God can do all things and is He is WITH US. In each act of Christ-like love at the center, we are able cast our cares to Him in faith. When even the tiniest act of faith is present, mountains can be moved – burdens can be removed. This a God sized truth that has been so visible throughout 2020 in this special Jenison Christian School community.

My old executive coach, Jack Postma, once highlighted for me that the word UNITY is found within the word commUNITY and that a community functions at its best when a group works together for a unified cause. Yes, Jack was the former principal for many years of Unity Christian High School so he was VERY proud of the fact that this was the first word in the school's name – rightfully so.

What has the UNITY of JCS look like tangibly this year? I have seen our teachers pouring in late night hours and Saturdays in their classrooms on behalf of their students as they adapt plans to help connect a student with their class and continue learning while they are in quarantine. I have seen John Kooyer and Kevin Grevengoed (JCS grandparents) so faithfully volunteer for countless hours each week mowing the JCS property and doing outdoor campus care to provide the best for our students. I have seen Jason Tuit (JCS parent and owner of Swept Away) volunteer to come in when COVID was at its worst to sanitize



Principal Tim Paauw

our school. I have seen Josh DeYoung work tirelessly to adapt our normal cleaning plan and building to a setup that has kept us on-site every day this school year. I have seen our Building and Grounds committee, our Parent Club, and many JCS families adapt their schedules to help keep spirits high for our students and staff in a year when our 'normal' has been shaken. The examples are endless when one looks around this school community for examples of the unified effort. The incredible spirit of this commUNITY willing to pitch in and volunteer on behalf of our students IS God at work through you and what makes this mighty mission of Christian education strong – even in the midst of a pandemic. To each of you, **THANK YOU JCS for SHINING YOUR LIGHT!**

Our four elementary bathrooms and new drop off loop were completed just in time for the start of school in August. Our outdoor education update was completed in those first few weeks of school, and the elementary roof was replaced over our fall break. We praise God for the extraordinary work put into each of these updates that were a true blessing for this school year, and will serve us well for many years to come!



JCS Education Foundation Virtual Fundraiser

On Sunday, March 7, 2021 JCSEF will be conducting a virtual fundraiser before the tip-off of the men's basketball game. We want to have some fun seeing who our JCS community cheers for, and supporting our JCSEF at the same time!

So let's see which fan club is the loudest in raising money for JCS!

All donations that are raised now until tip-off on Sunday, March 7, 2021 will be counted in the competition. We will announce the winner – via email & social media – on Wednesday, March 10, 2021. Please use the enclosed envelope and postmark by March 6 to send in your gift. Be sure to mark the memo line of your check with MSU or U of M. You can also make a donation on our website - <https://www.jenisonchristian.org/support/giveonline.cfm>. Enter your donation on either the 'MSU for JCSEF' or 'UofM for



**If you are a
Spartan fan,
Let's hear it!!!**

**"Go Green,
Go White!"**

**If you are a
Wolverine fan,
Let's hear it!!!**

**"Hail to the
Victors!"**

JCSEF' line. Thank you for participating and supporting the JCS Education Foundation!

Disclaimer: teams will not win based on your giving, but it is a fun way to anticipate the game!

Empowering God's Children...

(Continued from page 1)

of a pandemic inciting fear, uncertainty, and loss, JCS was blessed with overwhelming support for our students and staff.

This past spring the annual Eagle Walk went virtual. We saw our families walk in their neighborhoods, sporting their JCS gear and colors proudly. The JCS community exceeded our goal, and raised \$28,787.50! This was a record amount raised in our Eagle Walk, and a blessing for our parent club and the students at JCS.

This past summer we were able to host our JCS golf outing in person. In 18 years of hosting this annual event, we had a record number of golfers (112) and raised \$37,610 for our transportation and other needs at the school! JCS was able to buy a new bus this year using our golf outing revenue, another need being met with your support.

When students arrived to JCS in August, we asked for chairs for outdoor learning in middle school. Almost immediately we had chairs for each 5th-8th grader at JCS. Wow!

In October 2020, the JCS Education Foundation hosted a benefit concert that was postponed from April 2020. The concert took place in the small window of which performance venues were open at 20%, the exact number of tickets we had sold at that time for the space we rented. The timing and capacity was orchestrated in a way that could only be God. Almost all of those who attended the concert were fans of our band, Glenn Bulthuis and the Tonedeads, and became JCS supporters with the purchase of their ticket, and further gifts that were given at the event. We praise God for new givers!

Two other parent club fundraisers that happened this fall brought opportunities to give. Our annual auction was postponed from March, and went virtual in September. Our JCS community, after giving so much already in 2020, showed up with their support! The students sold baked goods in November. The sale was extremely successful and once again showed us that the JCS community is ready to support in any way they can.

At year-end we asked the community to give toward the annual fund, to match a \$25,000 gift we'd been given. With your gifts of support, JCS met the match, as well as the entire annual fund needs (\$145,000) for 2020-2021, wrapping up our Passing on the Faith drive which began in August. This fund is vital in supporting needs for each student at JCS, and keeping tuition costs low for all. Thank you for helping us meet this need each year!

With each fundraiser, each gift of support that came into JCS this year (there are so many who also supported tuition assistance, special projects, and classroom wish lists), the mission statement of JCS came to life. With your gift, our JCS student and staff community truly experienced the love of Christ. With your gift, students at JCS thrived in their learning (even at home with the laptops and iPads available for each student). With your gift, you empowered the students at JCS to live a life of kingdom service; our students have a heavenward focus because of their firm foundation in Christ, no matter our circumstances of today. We are incredibly grateful to all of you for your support in providing Christian education at JCS! If you would like to be a gift giver to JCS, please contact me. I'd love to meet you and discuss how you could bless JCS today, and for generations to come. 616-457-3301 or lwiersema@jenisonchristian.org.



**“In the same way, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
Matthew 5:16**

Annual Fund

Thank you, JCS Community, for helping us reach our \$25,000 annual fund matching gift! Through your 2020 gifts we have met the annual fund goal, \$145,000, and provided support to every student at JCS this school year!

Just a Note

If you are looking for past copies of Reveal, please look on our JCS website under the Support Heading, JCS Foundation on the right side.

<https://www.jenisonchristian.org/support/foundation>

Upcoming Events

Mar. 7 JCS Virtual Fundraiser
Saturday

April 23 & 24 Auction
Friday & Saturday

May 7 Parent Club Flower Sale for Mother's Day
Saturday

May 14 Eagle Walk - Friday

Aug 9 Golf Outing - Monday noon start



New Drop off Loop at JCS