

ZUNI CHRISTIAN REFORMED MISSION



Torch

September
2016



Two scholars focus on the task of making paper airplanes.

FORGIVENESS • FIRST DAYS • NEWS UPDATE

Principal's Desk

Problem solving...fixing things. It's the heart of good education. Good teachers require students to fix things: Revise a draft. Substantiate a hypothesis. Re-calculate. Correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Read again. Identify assumptions. Support the statement. Surely it's true for academic learning.

But problem solving and fixing things is equally true as we teach children right and wrong and as we show them how to build and nourish relationships. Every day, we help students solve problems between each other. We walk them through the steps of fixing things between people. It's important work. It's good education.

Consider something that happened in the third and fourth grade classroom just days into the start of the school year. A new student found a broken crayon in her desk. Upset that someone would break something and then leave the mess in her desk, she complained to her teacher. After some sleuthing, the offending youngster owned up to the problem and had his consequence. The children were ready to reconcile. They stood quietly as their teacher guided them in asking for forgiveness and in receiving forgiveness.

"I'm sorry I broke the crayon and put it in your desk," the boy apologized.

"OK," responded the girl, "but don't let it happen again!"

"Saying 'OK' is enough," the teacher counseled.

Just like that, an eavesdropping classmate jumped in and added, "And the **teacher** says, 'Don't let it happen again.'"

It was the teacher's turn to be schooled—though the child did so unwittingly. This listening child knew for certain the roles in the forgiveness narrative: the wrong-doer seeks forgiveness; the wronged person offers forgiveness; but only the loving 'all-knowing' One (teacher in this case), concerned only and above all for the well-being of both offender and offended, has the wisdom and right to say what is required beyond the forgiveness conversation.

"Just so," thought the teacher. "Forgiveness is our part. Beyond-forgiveness is God's part. Perhaps knowing that God is in charge of the 'afterwards' is the reason that we can forgive at all." But there's another part to the lesson. It's a question to ponder: When God speaks in the 'afterwards', are we ready to listen to his wise and loving counsel, "Don't let it happen again."?

Many times in the school year ahead, we will build community in our little school by asking and receiving forgiveness from each other. Pray that we will be willing learners to go where God calls us in the 'afterwards'.

Classroom Corner

Students settle down for a new school year—friends & studies.



Mission Info



Construction Update

If you drive onto our campus now days, you will be hard pressed to remember the old campus with its mishmash of portable classrooms, the boxy cinderblock gym, the Big house, the modular homes, and the hodge-podge playground. The stuccoing of the new gym/ministry center and the completion of the parking lot this summer has given the campus its new permanent face—the one that generations ahead will think of as ‘the mission’. Pray for the Murphy crew as they press on toward the completion of the interior of the gym/ministry center.



Staff for the 16-17 School Year

ZCMS is blessed with an excellent staff. No new school year starts without immense gratitude to God for the people He has brought together to serve with us in Zuni. This year, Laura Van Someren (right) joined our teaching staff as the science/social studies teacher for the middle schoolers. Emily Veenstra (left) is the new teacher who is launching our first program innovation since the completion of our new school. She is teaching a self-contained fifth grade classroom. Interestingly, both women are from the little town of Baldwin, Wisconsin



and are members of the Baldwin Christian Reformed Church. Pray that the entire staff will have joy, wisdom and strength in the work they have been called to do.

And Students

We receive each student as a gift of God—there are 79 children from kindergarten through 8th grade. If you would consider participating in our student sponsorship program, please contact Kent Bosma. See contact information below.

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