



NACE Notes

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO LOVE, LEARN, AND LEAD TOGETHER IN GOD'S WORLD!

Inspiring

KEVIN HUININK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This issue of NACE Notes starts at the very beginning of our mission statement which outlines what we do. At NACE, we inspire students to love, learn, and lead together in God's world. When we think of being inspired, many things may come to mind. As you read through this issue, you will see many different ways in which our students are inspired, and inspiring! At our staff

retreat to kick off this academic year, we were reminded of this special and holy task to inspire our students. God, our ultimate teacher, inspires us daily, and we take up the challenge to continue that work in our relationships with one another as best we can. As you share in our experiences here, we pray that you, too, are inspired by God as he works in our midst!



Fall 2018

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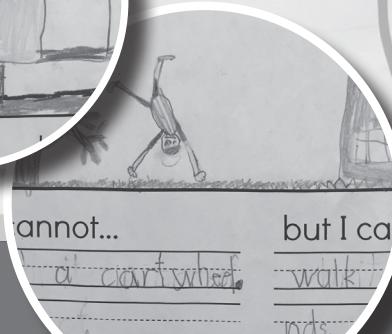
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Dancing Giraffes

BY ANDREA WIERSMA, GRADE 2/3 TEACHER (JKCS)

This Fall, the students in Gr. 2/3 began work on an art project based on the book, "Giraffes Can't Dance". In the story the main character (a giraffe) is laughed at and is told that he can't dance. With a little help from some special music and the encouragement of a friend the giraffe learns that he can in fact dance. He needed a different type of music and a little more practice.

In class we carried on the discussion about things we can't do YET. Students identified something they wanted to do, but couldn't. We encouraged each other to look for skills we already had that would help us accomplish the difficult task. "I can't skateboard yet, but I can ride a scooter." "I can't do a backflip yet, but I can do a handstand." "I can't read chapter books yet, but I can read a lot of words" We were both challenged and encouraged by all the things we could already do! Being part of a classroom community is an inspiring way to learn from others and encourage others to use the gifts that God has given us, but also to work at and develop those gifts into greater things.



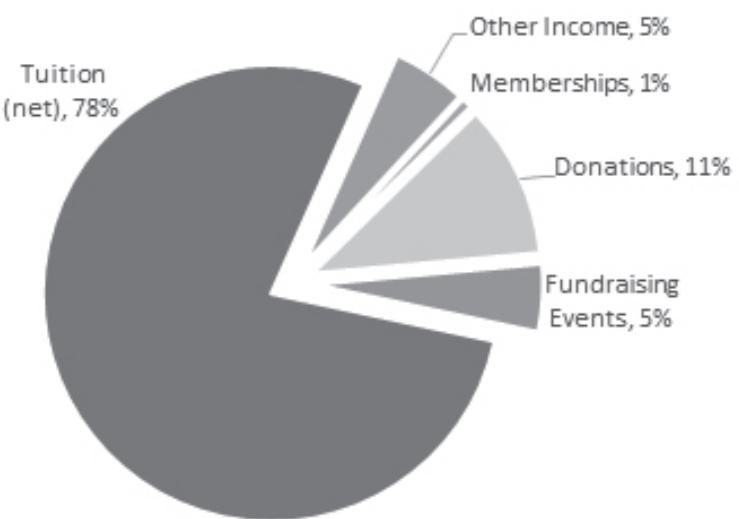
Giving Report

How your support is helping us to inspire.

This past year, NACE was able to celebrate the faithful giving of so many supporters through various fundraising events and through direct donations. Our total giving through various means totaled over \$326,000, and income through fundraising events came in at more than \$143,000!

Our operating budget each year counts on the majority of its revenue from tuition dollars from families who send their children to our schools. Other income, memberships, donations, and fundraising allow us to decrease tuition payable from the total cost of running the schools to under 80%. As you can see, NACE supporters make a BIG difference!

What do your donation dollars do? They allow us the confidence to equip and develop teachers to bring better educational practices to the classroom. They purchase needed technology and materials for students to use in their discovery of God's world. They help pay down debt. All of these are important things. Most importantly though, your donation dollars allow families to access Christian Education when they might otherwise not be able to.



In short, your donation dollars help transform lives.

Our annual fall drive is just around the corner, and we will be asking you to take part in our mission to inspire students to love, learn, and lead together in God's world.

We want you to be a part of our story!!

Look for our appeal to you, our supporters, and for stories of the simple and profound ways that God is working through you in the lives of our students.

WE ARE THANKFUL





Strategic Planning

BY KEVIN HUININK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What does God have in store for NACE in the next five years?

Over the past year, a core group of supporters selected by the NACE Board of Directors spent some dedicated time analyzing NACE. The process they engaged in was inspiring in a number of ways, but one of the most invigorating ways was the way they bonded in both prayer and praise. Each of our study sessions together began by reminding ourselves that NACE is not ours. Our schools and association belong to God, and His plans are far greater than our own could ever be. This acknowledgement of our start and our end set the tone for a rich conversation around who we are, our history, our current state, and our context socially, politically, and economically.

After a deep dive into what NACE's strengths, opportunities, weaknesses, and threats were, we broke into smaller sub-groups to identify ways forward. Brainstorming and dreaming gave us plenty of ideas to test and mull over until we finally re-grouped and shared what we believe God has in

store for our schools in the next few years.

In four distinct areas, the group generated 32 different initiatives to accomplish. Like any good plan, there is plenty of time and room for monitoring progress along the way. At this point, we hope that most will be completed or be on their way to completion in three years when we will repeat the planning process over again.

In the very near future, you will begin to hear about specific action being taken to a) Build Clarity, b) Grow Deeper, c) Grow Further, and d) Equip our teachers, families, and schools to inspire students to love, learn, and lead together in God's world.

Our vision is to become the leaders in education by inspiring students to love, learn, and lead with God's grace, bringing Christ's love to the world.

As a Director, the vision and leadership displayed by this task force and by the Board of Directors is truly inspiring. I can't wait to see how God will work through this and show us even more how He is at work in our schools!

Outdoor Education

BY ADRIANNA KONING, SK TEACHER (JKCS)

Outdoor education is such a wonderful opportunity for students to spend time in God's creation, improve their gross motor skills and foster their creative minds.

This year at JKCS, our Junior and Senior Kindergarten classrooms have had the wonderful opportunity of bringing their learning outside the walls of the school. We always start by reading a story and introducing a learning target, and then

set off on an exploration around the school property. The inquiries we have made so far are finding shapes in creation, making shapes using objects in creation & searching for signs of fall. It's amazing to see the learning that can happen when you allow children to freely move their bodies and explore the world around them!

Our students are inspiring one another in their work, drawing directly on their inspiration from their surroundings. God is speaking to and through them each day!



Growth Mindset Inspires

BY LAUREN ZANDSTRA, GRADE 1 TEACHER (CCS)

'Inspiring' is the theme of this month's N.A.C.E Notes. In Grade 1 at CCS, we are talking about growth mindset and how we may not be able to do certain things yet. We are talking about how we need to work at them and find good strategies from others so we can learn how to do them well.

My students inspired me with their attitude while doing this activity. It was so easy for them to talk about things they couldn't do last year that now they can do and connect that to the hard work they had to put in. I asked them to think of examples of things they couldn't do last year that they can do and all of their hands shot up with at least one thing they have learned how to do in the last year. We celebrated these accomplishments by writing them in the "I can" section.

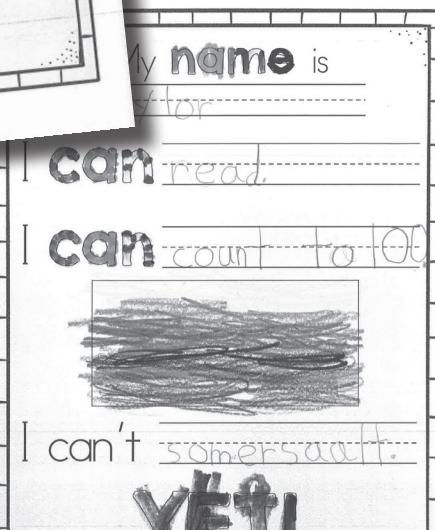
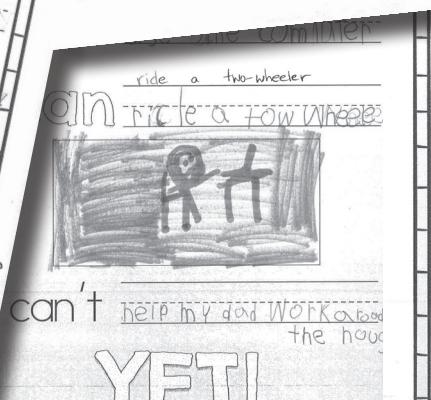
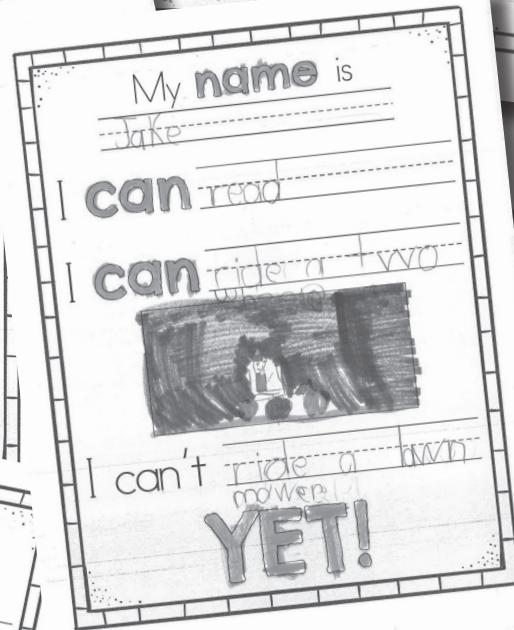
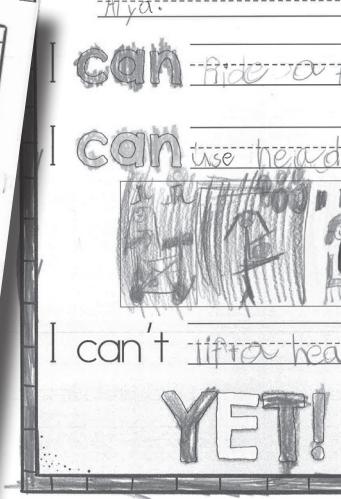
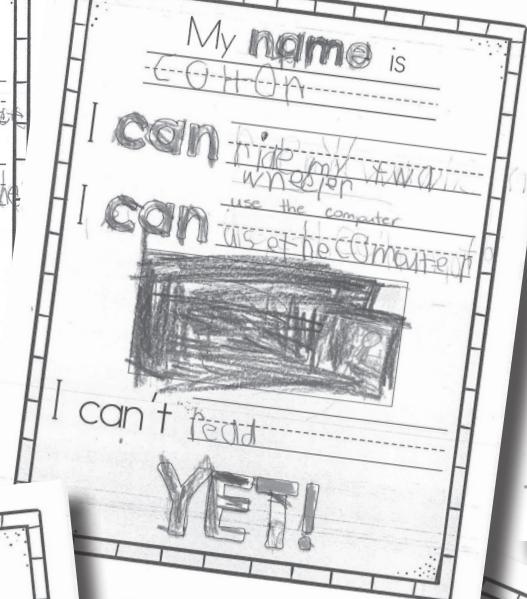
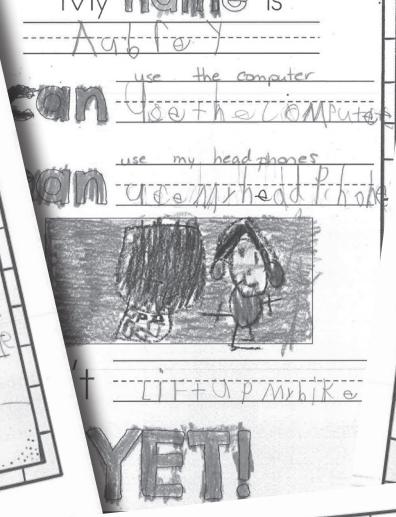
When talking about things we couldn't do yet but hoped to do in the future, all of the students thought of something they would like to be able to do and we

talked about how we might make that happen. They are aware that it will take hard work and learning new strategies for them to be able to learn how to do these things.

Even during this activity I was inspired. Many of the students had to rewrite their answers several times (yes this was a three-draft process) and I was surprised to find little evidence tiring of it or wanting to give up. They continued to have a positive attitude that they could get it right if they kept on trying.

These students really get it – they understand that it can be hard to learn to do new things and that it is going to take work. They can look at concrete examples from their lives and see how their hard work has paid off and it inspires them to make a new goal and keep on trying. I am so inspired by their hard working, never-giving up attitude that they demonstrate every day that it causes me to also catch their attitude and I find myself also developing a better growth mindset.

My name is



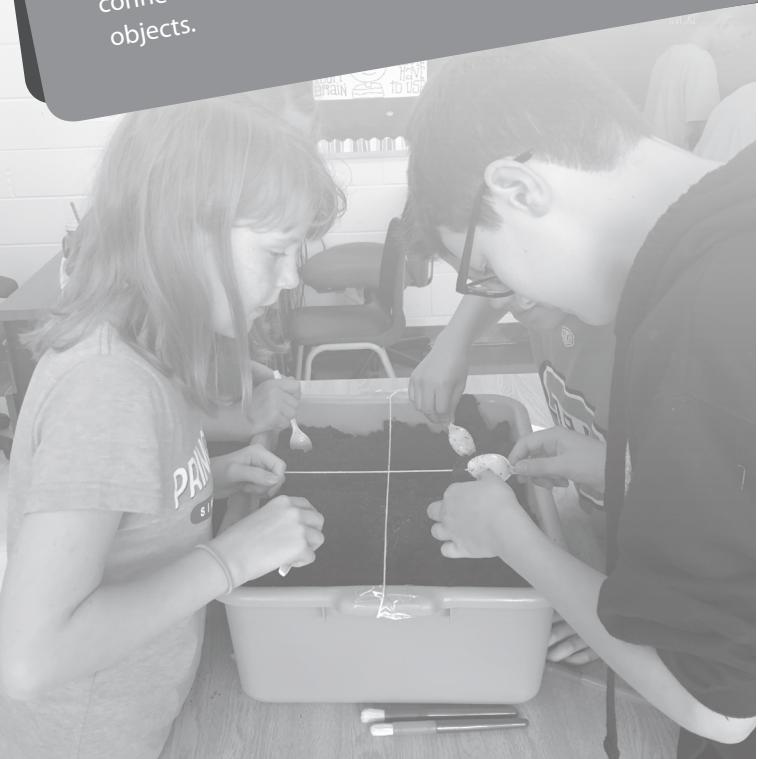
Archaeological Dig

BY JANELLE MULDER, GRADE 6/7 TEACHER, JKCS

To begin our study of Ancient Greece, students in Grade 6/7 participated in an "archaeological dig." Students worked carefully to extract, clean, and piece together artifacts buried in different layers of dirt.

Upon close inspection of the unearthed pieces, students discovered that the symbols they had drawn to represent themselves were actually inscribed on the remnants they found. Students worked diligently to connect the symbols and recreate the fragmented objects.

As a class, we reflected on how historical artifacts can provide a window into the lives of the people to whom they belonged: They can tell us about the beliefs and values of different cultures. We learned that we share a common goal of pursuing truth and seeking justice with the people of Ancient Greece. And finally, we considered how we can stand apart as a people that love and serve our Heavenly Father. That is how we want to be remembered hundreds of years from now!





Family Funfest!

*You're invited to our annual Family Funfest
on November 10, 2018.*

This exciting event will take place at **Smithville Christian High School**. Don't miss out on some amazing food!

- 7:30-9:30** Get Started with Breakfast
- 9:00-2:00** Feature Rooms Open:
Silent auction, penny sale, marketplace, home decor, baking, milkshakes, kids' games, prizes, bouncy castle and much more!
- 11:30-1:30** Fuel up with a hearty Lunch
- 2:00-6:00** Clean up and set up for Auction
- 6:00** Snack Shack open, Auction preview
- 7:00pm** Live Auction!





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We want students to see that life has meaning, that they have an important role to play in this world, and that they have been given gifts and abilities by God so that they can be agents of love and reconciliation in His world.

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