

Vigorously Academic  $>\!\!\!>$  Beautifully Diverse  $>\!\!\!>$  Thoroughly Christian

Autumn 2021

# Excited About the Bible

by Bob Ippel, Executive Director

Reter Ippel, recently pulled an elementary student out of class for a discussion, but the student did not want to miss his Bible class. Peter also overheard a middle school student say that she never knew God was so amazing as they were learning in the Psalms. A high school sophomore commented, "I have really enjoyed how deep we are able to dig into the Bible. I have read most of these Bible stories before, but never have I gotten as deep as we have this year."

"It makes it so much more fun to get to mark what you are learning in your Bible by circling words, underlining, and drawing on the pages of your Bible."

-Noah Yazzie, 4th grade

Having adopted a new, literary approach to teaching the Bible this year, Rehoboth has noticed several key changes resulting in new-found passion for God's Word in our students. First, K-12 classes have shifted from learning about the Bible to spending more time in the Bible. K-8 students will read several books of the Bible each year, and high schoolers will read the whole Bible during their four years. Second, students are using Bibles that are accessible for p.2 »



Rehoboth Christian School has always taken its middle name seriously, and with the new narrative-driven approach and expanded Bible class time, a new energy has taken hold throughout the entire school. "I haven't been this excited about teaching Bible for many years," says high school Bible teacher Kevin Zwiers. "I see a new level of curiosity and engagement in my students that is thrilling."

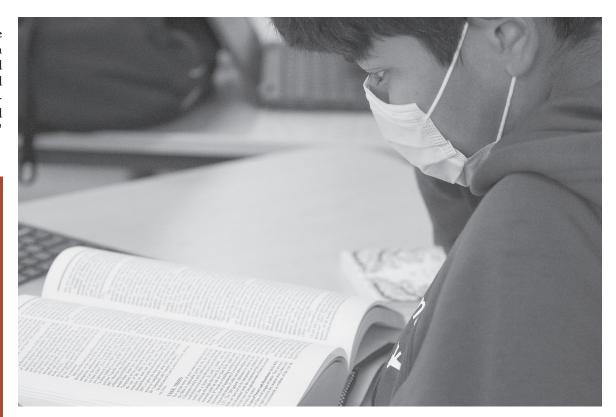
# Walls Come "Crumbling" Down

Third Grade students have been reading the book of Joshua, chapter by chapter each week. One of the most famous stories in Joshua is the story of Jericho, and it made quite an impression on our students! During indoor recess on a rainy day, a handful of the kids decided to build the walls of Jericho. Wooden blocks formed the city, and the students used dominoes as the Israelites marching around Jericho. They called Mrs. Yazzie over and said, "The walls are going to come crumbling down!" They moved the dominoes, and then they shouted and knocked down the walls. Later, they told Mrs. Yazzie that when they were cleaning up Jericho, they took some of the blocks (pretending they were the gold and silver) and put them in the ark for God.

Said Yazzie, "It was fun to see the kids remembering the story and recreating it during their recess break! It made me think that having them use blocks to build and knock the walls down would have been a great activity to do in class as well. We had drawn a picture in our journal and had discussions about what they had to destroy and what they gave to God."



Mrs. Yazzie with her third grade students



» p.1 their age. Younger children have Bibles with room to draw pictures and interact with the text. Older students use Reader Bibles that remove chapters, verses, and commentary—making it easier to read the text as one continuous narrative.

God's Word is powerful, generating wonder at every turn. Rehoboth Bible classes conduct discussions in which teachers encourage students to ask questions of the text. "What problems do you find in this story?" and "Where can we find connections to something we've read before?" are common prompts. Because they dive into the text daily, students can tackle big-picture questions like, "What is God like in the book of Joshua?" and support their answers with specific stories and events from the text they have read together. Finally, students are finding creative ways to memorize Scripture and respond to God's Word through projects.

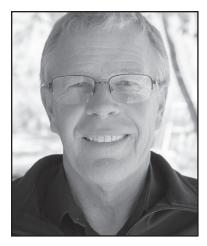
11th Grade Bible teacher, Pastor Daniel DeVries, reflected on his first semester teaching at Rehoboth. "What I love about the approach we are taking is having the Bible in an accessible format in the hands of each student and letting the story of the Bible lead the discussion. Confronted with real characters and experiences, we can appreciate the literary and narrative crafting of the text. Students notice when patterns emerge (the cycle of the Judges, for instance) or when one story clearly echoes an earlier story. This approach allows theological and Christian-living conversations to come directly from the stories in the Bible."

As an example, DeVries offered up the story from I Samuel in which Eli's two sons carry God's ark into battle with the Philistines, assuming this will guarantee victory. These sons are not faithful to God, however; they see God only as an asset to be used to their advantage when trouble comes. The story led to a practical discussion of where/when/how we treat God like a good luck charm in times of need, while still neglecting Him in the wider scope of our lives. The students readily offered real-world examples.

Rehoboth is deeply thankful for the donations and support that allowed us to purchase the special Bibles for every student, train our teachers, and expand the number of Bible classes offered. To God be the Glory!

# School is Back!

by Bob Ippel, Executive Director



alking around Rehoboth's campus during any given school day is a great way for me to be reminded of the amazing work of our staff and students. The distant mountains and hills surround us, offering both the sense of community and boundary. Mountain bikers and runners dot the trails. Musical sounds float out of the band and choir rooms. Students huddle around microscopes or discuss books in literature circles. The walls and halls testify to the beauty of the Spanish and Navajo languages. Students race on the playground or file down to a meal at the Fellowship Hall. The back-up beeping of a bus carries through the air. A four wheeler brings volunteers or maintenance staff from one project to the next. Food service workers greet a delivery truck. A

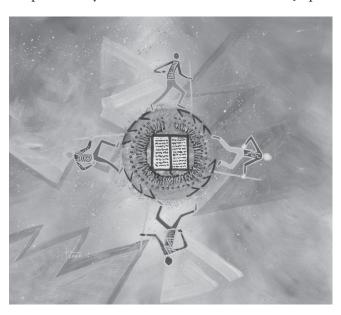
teacher or staff member meets one-on-one with a student who is sharing about a joy or challenge in their life. Walking around the campus lifts my soul! As I head back to the office, I join the Psalmist who says, "I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth."

Foundational to all of the activity that happens on the Rehoboth campus is a desire that students and staff understand the Good News that God's Kingdom has come! God's Story is revealed through study of the Bible, through every discipline, and through doing life together in community. Our goal is that students don't just know the Good News of God's story, but also put it into practice—actually walking it out. It is beautiful to see staff and students venture into the world, spreading seeds that result in life and flourishing!

May we all be Gospel Walkers!

Gospel Walkers: Jesus proclaimed the Good News that God's Kingdom is here! The Kingdom comes when and where people do the will of the King—bringing Shalom to Chaos. The artist's image evokes the whole world, with the seed of the Word of God at the center. People spread those seeds as they walk out the message and laws of the Lord, resulting in life and flourishing, represented by the growing grass.

See the video of the making of this painting: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UlCd9wlJ-qI



# Adrian Pete: True Gospel Walker

ehoboth Athletic Director, Adrian Pete, is a true Gospel Walker. Adrian and his wife met at Broken Arrow Bible Ranch where they served on staff together. Years later, Adrian started True Hoopsa basketball program which now introduces over 150 students every year to the fun of basketball and the joy of following Jesus. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Across Nations—a non-profit which supports a variety of Native ministries,

including Hilltop Christian School and a Christian Navajo radio station. If you have ever seen Adrian interact with visiting teams, coaches, or officials, you know he is a Gospel Walker.

It is not surprising that several years ago Adrian took advantage of a *Be the Match* bone marrow donation campaign held on the Rehoboth campus in honor of former Rehoboth staff member, Dirk Hollebeek, who needed a bone marrow transplant. Recently, Adrian received the

call that his marrow matched that of a 20-year-old living in Europe with Severe Acute Anemia. Adrian will be flown to San Diego for the transplant. His prayer is that the Lord will use his bone marrow to save the life of this young man just as Dirk benefited from a transplant.

At this fall's state Athletic Directors conference, Adrian also received the Paul LaPorte Award from the New Mexico Officials Association—an award honoring a high school Athletic Director for their service to student athletes in the state of New Mexico. Adrian was chosen for his recruitment of new soccer officials in NW New Mexico, an area that was considering the cancellation of games due to the lack of officials. Adrian recruited six new officials within one week, and soccer was able to continue—benefiting not only Rehoboth athletes but also players from many other high schools in the area. We are thankful for the heart of Adrian Pete, a true Gospel Walker.



Adrian Pete, our Athletic Director, lives out his faith in a myriad of ways, the latest one being donating his bone marrow to someone with anemia. Adrian has the procedure in late October.

# Plants and Turquoise

#### Lessons on Suffering and Eternity in Mid School Science

ur students, like many people on this planet, experience a lot of hard things in their lives. Even as mere 13-yearolds, most of them will raise their hand if I ask, "Which of you have suffered in your life?" In the midst of suffering, we can feel like there will be no end to it. The Apostle Peter writes a letter to his friends, encouraging them that their suffering is shortlived compared to God's gift of love. In fact, Peter compares the length of our trials to the life of grass or flowers. We are learning about plants in 7th-8th Grade Science, so we tried to flesh out some of these comparisons in class.

How long do grass and flowers live? The students

classified Blue Grama Grass in August, and already the seeds have moved on to the next stage of their life cycle, drying out and curling into beautiful moon-shaped seed pods. One month ago, Scarlet Globemallow covered the space behind the classroom, and today I went out with a student to find only two of them! Grass and flowers are precious but frail, and so are

Peter writes that God's love is imperishable while we are perishable. Why in the world would God give an imperishable gift of love to perishable people? We got some help exploring real-life examples of these sorts of gifts from Mrs. Barker, our librarian. She had more than a few stories to share with us about imperishable gifts given to people in her family gifts that have lasted longer than the lives of the people that received them. It's deep love for each other that motivates us to give this special kind of gift. Mrs. Barker told the students about turquoise jewelry from her paternal grandmother and her parents that has been passed down for at least four generations. God's eternal love for us is more like that Squash Blossom Necklace and less like Scarlet Globemallow or Blue Grama Grass.

When we study science, we remind ourselves that God created science. He gave us the gift of wonder, along with plants to study and use.

In our class, we learned the Navajo names for plants, and the amazing beneficial uses Navajo people have discovered for each one. They were chemists and botanists without realizing it!

Juniper (Gad) Ash is a good source of dietary calcium and iron and a moderate source of magnesium. Navajo Tea (Ch'il Ahwéhé) is used as a refreshing drink and has medicinal properties. Interweaving learning from science, culture, and language enriches the lives of our children in a way unique to Rehoboth

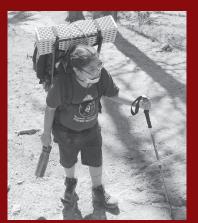


Science teacher Marie Ippel and a student classify local flora for Science class.

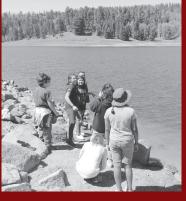
Christian School.

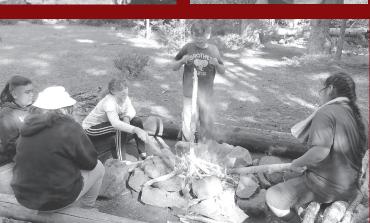
Our suffering is real. It is, indeed, hard; but Mrs. Barker's squash blossom necklace will last longer than our suffering. And in our recent set of lessons, she reminded us that an eternal life with a loving God will last even —Angela Barker longer.

& Marie Ippel











ne of the special things about Rehoboth Christian Middle School is its exploratory classes, which are meant to allow students to explore a new skill, hobby, or topic. One option for the first six-week exploratory term this year was Hiking and Outdoor Skills. In this class, students had the opportunity to explore the wonderful trail system on campus through short hikes. They also engaged in team building activities and practiced some basic outdoor skills like fire building and orienteering with a compass. The final event for the exploratory was an overnight backpacking trip to San Pedro Parks Wilderness, located up in the mountains about three hours from campus. Students got a chance to put their outdoor skills to the test as they set up tents, cooked food on a fire, and filtered their drinking water from a mountain stream. Overall, it was a great opportunity for students to experience God's beautiful creation, build relationships with one another, and explore something that for many of them may become a future hobby!

# State Irack Champio



Rehoboth Christian School has a long history of accomplished runners and last year, for the first time, the Girls track team won the team title at the State Track Meet. Competing at the track meet is remarkable and can be the highlight of any athlete's season. When a team can come together and all contribute to winning a team title, that is rare and takes a group of athletes who are prepared to push hard for each other. This last year was a strange season as a result of COVID affecting all sports seasons. By the time track was in full swing, it was nearly time to end the school year. The track athletes competed well into June and remained disciplined as they continued to grow together, every day.

-Collier Kempton, Track Coach

The Bread & Bike of Life

#### Bicycles Become an Integral Part of the Rehoboth Curriculum

f you're going to bake bread, you need four ingredients. You need flour, water, some kind of oven that gets to temperature and stays there, and you need a baker. Perhaps there are additional things you might want (like yeast, salt, or oil) but you don't need them. You make unleavened bread or fry bread, and it's still bread. In a similar way, there are certain things needed in order to make the bike part of one's life.

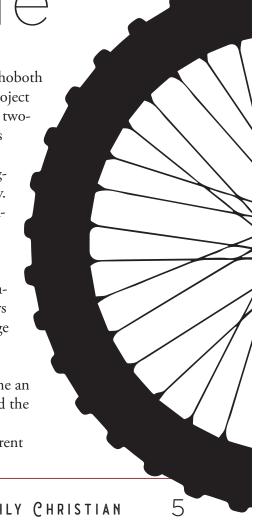
The first ingredient is the materials. In 2018, Rehoboth set out to become the first New Mexico school to receive and host an Outride (formerly known as the Specialized Foundation) "Riding 4 Focus" Grant to address the educational, social, and emotional well being of 6th-8th grade students. Outride provided the Rehoboth PE classes with 26 bikes, helmets, and a 12-lesson curriculum to gain knowledge, skills, and safety along with a common vocabulary for bikes. It very quickly became apparent to us that this new bike program was largely a social-emotional confidence-building experience, and the students made rapid progress every week.

The second need is education. Anyone who has a bike knows that bikes need a continual amount of care, and they do not simply fix themselves. Starting this school year, along

with the Piedra Vista High School in Farmington, Rehoboth is now one of two New Mexico schools to launch a Project Bike Tech (PBT) bicycle mechanic program. PBT is a twoyear, CTE-certified high school program that provides students with job skills to enter the workforce. It also offers college credits and provides a certificate of recognition that is honored throughout the bicycle industry.

Social experiences complete the ingredients of making bikes part of our lives. With the bicycles from the 2018 Outride Grant, we could also comfortably and confidently invite students to after-school rides at the local Gallup High Desert Trailhead. The first event featured four riders, and within a few weeks, the numbers reached double digits. Before we knew it, our challenge to get more kids on bikes became more about getting enough coaches on bikes to handle all the riders who were showing up. What a blessing to see biking become an integral part of Rehoboth, the Gallup community, and the Navajo Nation.

—Scott Nydam, Rehoboth Parent



# Welcome, New Staff!

#### **Anna Christensen**

Mrs. Christensen will be joining Mr. Bob Ippel in leading the choirs at Rehoboth. Anna has years of teaching experience and is excited to be able to share her love of vocal music and



theater with students. Anna has lived most recently in Gallup and Crownpoint NM for a total of 6 years.

#### **Daniel DeVries**

Daniel came to Gallup this year when he and his wife, Betsy, became the Co-Pastors of Bethany Christian Reformed Church. His Masters of Divinity and Masters of Theology from Calvin Seminary fit well into his work as the Junior Bible teacher. The DeVries family has two sons in school at Rehoboth: Leo (1st Grade) and Emmett (2nd Grade). Prior to Rehoboth, Daniel spent the last five years pastoring a church in Drayton, Ontario, Canada. "We love the beauty and wonder of the landscape here," says Daniel. "It broadens one's soul."



#### **Rudy Folkerts**

Rudy comes to Rehoboth as our new middle and high school art teacher, and he leads the high school yearbook class as well. After growing up in Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada, Rudy has spent his entire career in Christian education, and Rehoboth is his sixth school. Rudy's wife Shirley is an ordained pastor in the Reformed Church of America and a professor at Dordt University in Sioux Center, Iowa; they have two children—Wade (age 30) and Meika (age 29). Rudy was drawn to Rehoboth by the school's mission and ministry, and he is grateful for the



welcome he has received from staff and students alike. For the past 24 years, Rudy taught at Unity Christian High School in Orange City, IA.

#### **Emily Jeninga**

Emily is the K-8 SALT teacher at Rehoboth. She graduated from Calvin University with a BA in Special Education and Elementary Education and is also pursuing her masters degree in Assistive Technology. Emily grew up in Brookfield, WI and has been teaching K-5 Special Education at Indian Hills Elementary School in Gallup for the last few years. Emily loves taking advantage of all the outdoor trails around the Gallup area, and if you ever want a treat



with chocolate and peanut butter, she's always in the mood for baking. Emily has attended Rehoboth CRC while living in Gallup, and she loves being part of a community that cares for each other and works to improve education for all students.

#### Jessica Joe

Jessica is a third generation Rehoboth alum, and she attended Hope College after collecting her diploma here. She is serving as the mentor and supervisor for the high school students who help with custodial duties after school. In addition to working here, Jessica owns her own fashion design small business (Uncle Joe Designs) and works as a home health aide for her great-aunt. Maybe the only thing Jessica loves more than sports and her



creative pursuits is her family, and she knows that her late grandparents, Ben and Louis Musket, would love seeing her serving at the school that meant so much to them. Our students have already been blessed by Jessica's passion and mentorship.

#### Shirelle Joe

Shirelle is a Rehoboth graduate serving as a classroom assistant for 3rd Grade this year. Prior to aiding at Rehoboth, Shirelle was a classroom aide at Tohatchi Elementary School and a home health aide (which she still does). Those two roles play into her interests, and this year looks like a great opportunity for Shirelle, as she is trying to discern the best path forward for the next steps of her schooling and career: the field of



education or the field of medicine. When not in the classroom, you can find Shirelle pursuing her hobbies of volleyball, hiking, and reading.

#### **Amanda Larson**

Amanda comes to Rehoboth this year as the 1st Grade Educational Assistant. She lives in Thoreau NM with her husband and four children, where she spent the last 10 years as a preschool teacher at St. Bonaventure. Amanda loves the people of Rehoboth, and she is looking forward to helping out in any way she can. When not in the classroom, Amanda enjoys spending time with her family,



which is another great reason for her to stay living in the Southwest, where her extended family lives.

#### Kai Lucio

Kai is working for the Rehoboth kitchen staff this semester, and he plans to pursue a music career with further education in Salt Lake City during the second semester of the school year. Kai first got to know Rehoboth by doing little jobs for



RCS Athletic Director, Adrian Pete, whom he met at Grace Bible Church. He enjoys being around a school that shares his love of Native American culture; here in his hometown of Gallup, Kai loves the weather and proximity to his family that he gets to experience.

#### Marlinda Lytle

Marlinda is spending her 2021-22 school year as a teacher's assistant in our Grade 4/5 combo class. After



her husband retired from the US Marine Corps in Chicago, Marlinda returned to the Navajo Nation with her husband and two sons who are both Rehoboth students (Josh-8th Grade and Jacob-3rd Grade). As a

family whose faith is vital to them, the Lytles are thrilled that their boys will not only develop strong academic skills here, but they will also expand their knowledge of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. Her hobbies of Bible journaling and attending church help form Marlinda's strong faith, and as a part of the Rehoboth staff, she is looking forward to supporting all students in their academic learning and their faith.

#### Jasmin Newman

Jasmin is Rehoboth's new school nurse this year, having moved to campus from West Michigan, where she grew up in the city of Zeeland. At Northwestern College in Iowa, Jasmin earned her nursing degree, and she had been a private nurse in Michigan—taking care of children with



severe needs. Jasmin and her husband John share a young son Roland who is keeping them on their toes. The outdoors are wonderful for Jasmin, as she enjoys her long walks and hikes in the Southwestern sunshine. Living at Rehoboth, she is excited to meet new people and learn about Native American culture.

#### John Newman

John starts his time at Rehoboth in a newly created position—full-time high school SALT teacher. John grew up in West Michigan and taught most recently at Black River High School in Holland, MI. He is well-suited for his role here thanks to his training at Grand Valley State University where he earned endorse-



ments in Cognitive and Emotional Impairments, along with K-8 teaching as part of his Special Education degree. John's wife Jasmin and seven-month-old son Roland join him on their Rehoboth adventure. He uses his musical talents to help lead worship during chapel, and his love for video games has him coaching the Rehoboth eSports team.

#### Francine Salazar

Francine is another Rehoboth alum who attended the University of New Mexico before returning at her alma mater this year as the educational assistant for the K-8 SALT program. Before this assignment, Francine spent 12 years working in the Gallup Public School District. She loves advocating for students and enjoys



sharing the joy of the outdoors and a good meal with her husband and two sons.

#### **Nick Salazar**

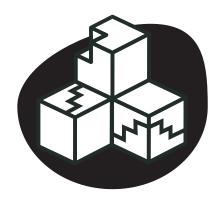
Nick is a graduate of Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ, where he earned his BA degree in Biblical Studies. Rehoboth is the first place he has worked since graduating college, and he is filling the role of Middle School Assistant. Nick marvels at the way the Lord used family and friends to point him to Rehoboth as he was looking for a job in ministry or education. When he's not busy with students in the classroom, Nick plays music and creates his own art and jewelry. He also works at Broken Arrow Bible Camp during the summer.



#### **Duane Yazzie**

Duane Yazzie is the Educational Assistant in 2nd Grade this year, working with Lorrinda Horace. His own academic achievements include earning two different master's degrees from the University of Arizona and a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Northern Arizona University. Before arriving at Rehoboth, Duane worked in a variety of elementary-age settings, but he feels blessed to be working with the students here in response to the Lord's call. You'll have to think hard to come up with a hobby or activity that Duane doesn't enjoy; writing, creating poetry, watercolor painting, running, and volleyball to name a few.





# SALT Launches

#### First Year of Special Ed Program in Full Swing

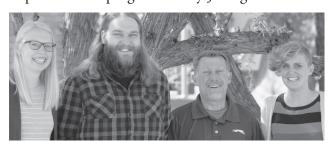
By John Newman

here once was a very smart lady named Barb Newman, my mother. She pioneered inclusive education for people with disabilities in schools and churches, and she often spoke about how everyone has green and pink puzzle pieces inside of them—with green representing areas of strength and pink representing areas of struggle. Thankfully, no one is all green or all pink. God crafted each of us exactly as He wanted us to be, as we are reminded in the Psalms: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." (Psalm 139: 13-14).

Everyone's puzzle pieces are unique, and we need every single piece present and placed correctly if we want to appreciate the finished puzzle. If one piece is missing or lost, the final image is incomplete. Rehoboth's puzzle is filled with teachers and students who are strong in many areas: reading, writing, math, sports, organization, speaking, and so on. At the same time, we have a significant number of children and adults who struggle with those same things. This is where Rehoboth's new SALT Team hopes to help.

SALT stands for Students All Learning Together and is equivalent to the Special Education staff in a public school. Our goal is to support students in their areas of struggle. We work with students on reading, writing, math, social skills, organization, and the mastery of many more miscellaneous skills. We also help students understand themselves and remind them that their struggles do not define them. The goal of the SALT Program is that all students are included and supported in their general education classes as often as possible.

The SALT Team is made up of passionate, amazing people like Kelly Arendsen—our enthusiastic, encouraging SALT Team Director who has worked at Rehoboth for seven years. She loves these students, and her vision helped create and implement this program. Emily Jeninga is our fear-



Some of the SALT Staff. From Left: Emily Jeninga, John Newman, Scott MacClaren, Jamie Frederiksen

less Elementary and Middle School SALT Teacher and comes to us from Indian Hills Elementary School, where she taught for four and a half years. John Newman—that's me—is our fiercely devoted High School SALT Teacher. I worked at Black River Public School inHolland, Michigan for six years prior to coming to Rehoboth. Jamie Frederiksen, a Rehoboth alum, is in her second year of teaching Elementary Title 1 Reading. Scott MacLaren teaches Title 1 Math in elementary, a role he has held for five years. Most important of all is Francine Salazar, the SALT Assistant in the Elementary and Middle School.

In addition to the SALT Team, everyone at Rehoboth Christian School plays a part in students all learning together. To that end, the SALT Team works with our general education teachers on how to best meet the unique needs of all students. We are excited about what God has planned for Rehoboth's SALT Program, and we anticipate a long, exciting, sometimes difficult journey. Your continued prayers for energy, creativity, open minds, and open hearts will give us the strength we need to keep pursuing this important work.



by Elmer Yazzie

# Christmas Cards Available!

Pack of 12 for \$20.00

To Order:

Call: 505-863-4412 Email: cippel@rcsnm.org

Or Order Online:

www.rcsnm.org/advancement/ volunteer/onlinestore.cfm

#### THE '21-22 SCHOOL THEME

In the center, the open mouth of the shepherd calls out to his sheep. The sheep follow the path of the trinity from all directions. Trusting God comes in all forms of life as our Creator designs His masterpiece. A certain maturity of trust develops it's own journey for each Masterpiece. There is spiritual power for us and those in our world who become blessed by the trust story. Our prayer is that our students will trust God more and more as they get to know His amazing character. —Elmer Yazzie



# Coming Full Circle Volunteer Spotlight: Roger and Jan Boyd

hen Roger and Jan Boyd came to volunteer at Rehoboth for four weeks this fall, it was a matter of coming full circle in several ways. For Roger, it felt like a return to his emotional home. He was born in the original Rehoboth Hospital on campus in the summer of 1949 while his parents, David and Ann Boyd, were serving a five-year stint as missionaries in Teec Nos Pos, AZ. After moving to Holland, Michigan, then to Albuquerque, and back to Holland, Roger's mother moved to Rehoboth to work as the school secretary from 1967 to 1986. After getting his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology Roger was lured to Rehoboth and worked for nine years with the Christian physician group who staffed the former Rehoboth Christian Hospital. He came with his wife Jan who was an R.N. and worked at the hospital for those same nine years, mostly in obstetrics. They raised their three children here, and all of them attended Rehoboth Christian School during that time. Roger and Jan have long thought about extended volunteer service after they retired, and Rehoboth was always one of their top options. This September they were finally able to come. So what was it like for them, and how did volunteering impact them?

**Roger:** We were eager to come to serve. God has blessed us greatly in our lifetime, and we know we have been blessed to be a blessing to others. The previous high school counselor left at the end of last year, so I was asked to support the three people currently covering those responsibilities. They had set a goal of meeting with each high school student to quickly assess the impact of last year's online schooling and find out how each one was doing now. It was such a privilege to hear the stories of over 50 students and learn more about how the past 18 months of isolation, sickness, and death have impacted them.

Many of the stories carried great sadness, grief, and loss; but many also displayed the amazing resilience of students and their families. With some students I was able to have more extended conversations about how all this had impacted their faith in God—with some having doubts and questions and others experiencing God's nearness and comfort. I was also impressed again and again with stories of the caring shown by teachers and friends. I also felt very useful in caring for the outside landscape around the campus, which for me had a strong spiritual sense of caring for my emotional home. Given the lack of volunteers over the last 18 months, there was a lot of catch-up to do.

Jan: I was able to help in the dining hall preparing and serving food for around 425 children each day. What a joy it was to work with the dedicated people in the dining hall and to hear their stories and testimonies of God's faithfulness during challenging times. Each day after lunch, I spent an hour with the kindergarten class. They were a great joy with their warm welcomes, both in the serving line and the classroom. We enjoyed renewing old friendships from our time of living here and meeting new friends. And we loved revisiting some of God's creative beauty in places that were well-loved by our family.

#### **Long Term**

Norma Tsosie Lauren Heredia Lois Harvey Deborah Yellowhorse Wes Brower Paul Brink Jack and Cindy Ippel

#### **Individual Volunteers**

Frances Champassak
Uko and Jane Zylstra
Gary and Marcia Van Ee
Roger and Jan Boyd
Ron and Judie Zwiers
Paul and Trudi Ippel
John and Jo Van't Land

#### Volunteer Groups

Taylor University

# Thank you Volunteers!



Jan and Roger Boyd enjoyed attending Rehoboth sporting events during their time of volunteering at the school. After growing up here, it was a homecoming for Roger to be able to return and serve as a counselor to students who suffered through the pandemic. Jan loved working in the dining hall and with the kindergarten class.

# Gifts Given in Memory & Honor

#### In memory of Edna Katje

Mr. Orlin Hogan

Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Judith Hagey

Ms. Kathyrn Noteboom

Mr. and Mrs. Bert and Kristine Reinders

Mr. and Mrs. Andy and Joan Miedema

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Miss Beth A. DeLeeuw

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Mr. and Mrs. Ronald and Norma Groot

#### In honor of Don and Joyce Braschler's birthdays

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce and Elizabeth Matthews

#### In honor of Elmer Yazzie

Dr. Rahla H. Frohlich

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Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Laura Milligan

#### In honor of John and Jo Van't Land's 50th wedding anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. James and Cheryl Scott

#### In honor of Christopher Kacos

Ms. Betty J. Kacos

#### In honor of our friend, John Philen's college graduation

Mr. Thomas H. Reilly and Mrs. Meina Hsieh

#### In honor of our friend, Erin Philen's college graduation

Mr. Thomas H. Reilly and Mrs. Meina Hsieh

#### In honor of John Spyker Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark and Nancy Spyker

### **Advancement Needs**

#### **Tuition Assistance for 2021**

Through October 1, we have received \$455,852 toward our tuition assistance needs of \$1.85 million for this school year. On average, Rehoboth provides \$3,750 in tuition assistance support for 82% of our students, based on family income. Families needing additional support can apply for our LYNX Scholarships, provided through distributions from our family-endowed scholarship funds. We are thankful for the many different ways supporters provide for the needs of our school and ministry!



#### **SALT Program Update**

We are grateful for the overwhelming support to help fund our SALT (Students All Learning Together) program for the 2021-2022 school year. We look forward to sharing the different ways the SALT program uses the \$269,565 to help expand our student support services throughout the school year. You'll find an introduction from high school SALT teacher, John Newman, on page 8. Thanks again for this encouragement and support!



#### **Bible Curriculum Project**

Our Bible Curriculum Project has been fully funded for this school year. We will continue to share the financial needs for this ongoing program and hope you were able to learn about the impact that is taking place in our students' faith journeys (see page 1).



#### **Campus Planning**

In mid-September the Rehoboth staff, school board, and student council gathered to share ideas, dreams, fears, and hopes during campus master planning sessions. We are thankful for the help of AMDG Architects and LAM

Corporation to guide our leadership team and school board through this process. The needs and concerns of student safety, improving traffic flow, air conditioning, solar energy, consolidating the campus, and expansion of classrooms due to enrollment were all common themes; but the greatest hope of "Sharing the love of Jesus to all, through His word and our actions with the hope of transformed lives" helped to shape the direction of many valuable conversations. We look forward to sharing more about this process and outcomes in the future.



Teachers Leanne Gillson and Dan Arendsen contribute their input for the campus master plan.

# **Questions? Concerns?** Want to Help Out?

#### **Donations and Advancement**

Ken Zylstra, Director of Advancement kzylstra@rcsnm.org (505) 488-3900

Dave Sytsma, Advancement Officer dsytsma@rcsnm.org (616) 283-4495

#### Campus Hostess, Volunteer Coodinator, **Sponsorship Program**

Deanna Benson dbenson@rcsnm.org (505) 726-9603



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THOROUGHLY CHRISTIAN



We are so excited about our new Bible curriculum, and it's exciting our students "Blood Path covenant." Some students were so moved that they committed their life as well. Mr Zwiers and Mr. Meester teach the Biblical context of the Abrahamic

# lmagination

which we see come true in the death and resurrection of Jesus 2,000 years won't bear the penalty of death. Instead, the Lord will pay that price for him being one big narrative of grace," said Meester. "Already in the Old Testathe Blood Path covenant that the Lord made with Abraham in Genesis 15. ing. Heading outside of the classroom, the teachers set up a visual replica of took the opportunity to combine their classes for a bit of experiential learnment, God demonstrates that even though Abraham can't live blamelessly, he "The great thing about that story is that it's such clear evidence of the Bible s our high school Bible classes were going through the life of Abraham ir

teach the Bible this way," said Meester. "I can't wait to see how the Lord God's story in the Bible is our story too, and we can trust it the same way with some of the same images and experiences. "We talk a lot about how wanted to commit their lives to Christ. lesson, several students stuck around to ask more questions, and two of them Noah, Abraham, and the Patriarchs did," said Zwiers. After the Blood Path better readers of the Bible, and they often find their own stories are filled "Experiences like that warm our hearts and make us glad we chose to Gaining the cultural context of the Ancient Near East makes our students

moves in the years ahead."