

Creative Writing Class Connects to 5th Graders Through Stories

Writing for a real audience can be a great way to improve story-writing skills, so the Creative Writing class from Western Christian High School recently included fifth graders from Hull Christian in their Choose Your Own Adventure story-writing unit.

The experience started out with interviews between the high school writers and their fifth grade adventure experts. After lots of advice and input was freely given, the high school writers each composed an adventure story with eight different possible endings, dependent upon the choices made in the story by the reader. On May 17, the finished stories were taken to Hull Christian and shared with the fifth graders.

This story-time included lots of curiosity, delight, laughter, surprised expressions, and requests to "read it one more time." This continues to be a great story experience for all the students involved! We thank all our adventure experts in Hull Christian's 5th grade!



Seniors Give Last Chapel of the Year



For the final chapel of the school year, senior Jordin Altena challenged and encouraged her classmates by pairing biblical principles with Dr. Seuss's *Oh, The Places You'll Go* book.

Thank you, Jordin, for reminding us all about the potential we have in Christ and our responsibility to do something with the gifts we've been given!

Child Development Class Observes Kids

On a sunny day this month, Western looked a little more like a daycare than a high school. Students in Mrs. Reitsma's Child Development class each took along a child to school in the morning and spent a class period observing them and playing with them in the park across the street from school.

Mrs. Reitsma says this activity is not only fun for the high school students and little kids, but it also helps her students observe the different stages of physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and spiritual development that they have been discussing throughout the year. Students write an observation of what they see in the child and how it compares to "typical" development for a child's age.

Overall, they had a great time learning and playing!



Western Community Raises Money to Help Former Student



On Friday, May 6, Western held a bake sale to help raise money for a wheelchair-accessible van for former student Archie Eekhoff (right). Thanks to a matching donation from an anonymous donor, we were able to contribute \$6,212 toward the \$50,000 goal!

Archie and his younger brother Michael both attended Western in the late 90s and early 2000s. In 2004, they were in a car accident that altered the course of their lives. Michael tells the story on Archie's GoFundMe Site (<https://www.gofundme.com/goteamwheels>):

"On July 18, 2004 Archie's life was changed forever. That morning Archie and I were on our way to our grandmother's house when Archie fell asleep at the wheel. We went into the ditch, hit a culvert, and flipped onto the driver's side. Fortunately I was able to exit the car and walked away without a scratch. But for Archie it wasn't that easy. He was pinned in the crushed vehicle and would never walk again."

After 10 years of adjusting to life in a wheelchair, Archie recently became motivated to go back to school and finish his college degree. In order to make that happen, the brothers are trying to raise the money needed for a wheelchair-accessible van that Archie can drive himself, making it much easier for him to get to classes and also be an active member of his community.

Thank you to our students, parents, and other donors who helped encourage this family with support and prayers. We can't wait for him to reach his goal!

