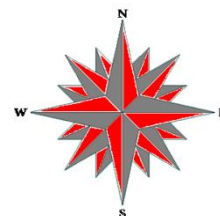


BEVERDAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CARDINAL POINTS



January/February 2009 – Vol. 2 No. 3

“The Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.”

I John 4:4b

On December 22, 2008, Beaverdam Christian School lost one of its most cherished teachers and friends when Mrs. Shari Buursma went home to our Heavenly Father after a long and brave battle against cancer.

Beaverdam Christian School was blessed to have had Shari teaching our children for more than 30 years. Please remember her husband Ron and their family, and Beaverdam Christian School as we all grieve this loss.

Shari Kay Buursma

Obituary: *Shari Kay Buursma, age 57, of Zeeland went to be with her Lord and Savior on Monday December 22, 2008.*

Shari was a member of Haven Christian Reformed Church of Zeeland where she especially loved working in the children’s programs. She was a teacher at Beaverdam Christian Schools for 33 years where she was passionate about spreading the Love of Christ through education to all her students, whose lives she left a lasting impact. Shari also loved to travel across the world, enjoying the Lord’s beautiful creation.

Shari was preceded in death by her father, Raymond Raak and her parent in-laws, Henry and Mattie (Brondyke) Buursma.

She will be greatly missed by her best friend and husband of 33 years, Ron Buursma. Shari was not only a wonderful wife, but a devoted Christian mother to Emilee and Michael Lubbers of Zeeland and Meredith and Joe Geurink of Hamilton. In addition to her husband and children Shari leaves behind two grandchildren, Gavin Lubbers and Layla Geurink; mother, Hermina Raak of Holland; sister, Linda and John Van Ingen of Holland; brother in-law, Tom and Vanna Buursma of Holland; and nieces and nephews, Debbi and Dominic Poest of Florida, Mandi and Brian Grunst of Hamilton, Bob and Carissa Buursma of Holland, Jeff and Kristin Buursma of Grand Rapids, Tom and Kristin Buursma of the Philippines and their families.

Some Memories of Shari

My memories are of a friendly, smiling Christian who cared very much about her family and her students. She was very professional, very organized and always on

top of things. You couldn't help but like her and appreciate her as a fellow teacher. I always enjoyed seeing her and Jan Wolterink at CEA Conventions to get my update about Beaverdam Christian after I moved.

Walt VanWyngarden
Former Beaverdam Teacher

I had Mrs. Buursma for kindergarten which, at the time, met in the “trailer” that sat behind the old Beaverdam Christian School. She introduced me to the Letter People. I remember her hiding a large-sized “Mr. M” card (with his mnunching mouth) and having us kindergarteners (4 or 5 of us, I think) try to find him. We found him tucked in with the record albums that were stored in the crate on which the record player sat.

I also remember our kindergarten field trip to the Tulip Time parade. Mrs. Buursma drove us in her own car—you could do that with small classes back in those days. It was a big deal because that meant we stayed for the afternoon when, typically, we were done at lunch time.

We also got to go to Mr. and Mrs. Buursma’s house for supper one time. We went in pairs and got to pick what we wanted to eat for supper. I don’t remember who I went with, but I do remember that it was a warm sunny day, that we ate spaghetti, and that we went to play down in the gravel pits in the big culverts behind her house. It was a great time.

When I was older, I remember grading papers for Mrs. Buursma after school while I waited for the bus to come. I loved helping Mrs. Buursma and wanted to be teacher when I grew up too.

Mrs. Buursma was a kind, nurturing, devoted teacher who was always upbeat and liked to have fun. I was blessed to have her as a teacher and to have contact with her again over the last few years. I know that God welcomed her into her eternal home with great joy after a life well-lived here among us.

Linda (Palmbos) Hoekwater
Former Beaverdam student

I had the privilege of working with Shari as a fellow teacher and as her principal. During all those years, Shari always reflected a “Can Do” attitude in everything that she attempted! Her positive demeanor, professional focus and love for her students and Beaverdam Christian School was evident in her daily work. I always remember the time that I ended up having to teach an advanced Algebra class during my tenure at Beaverdam....not being the Math wiz on the staff, I found myself seated next to Shari, having her give me a refresher course on Advanced

Algebra!!! She was an excellent teacher. I should have had her teach it! I think of all the students and families that Shari touched as a teacher and I know that their lives are richer and blessed from this experience! I am grateful for the opportunity I had to work with her as a colleague during my years at Beaverdam Christian School.

Kim Blaszk
Former Beaverdam Principal and Teacher

From the Buursma family

The family has really appreciated all the loving acts of *kindness shown to Shari and for the numerous prayers* throughout the years.

If you would like to subscribe to the Beaverdam Christian School Cardinal Points, please send your e-mail information or mailing address to BCScardinalpoints@charter.net or look for the Cardinal Points in your church information tables or mailboxes.

I would like to financially support Beaverdam Christian School. Please use my gift as indicated below.

One time donation of \$ _____

Recurring pledge of \$ _____

- Weekly Pledge
- Monthly Pledge
- Annual Pledge

Please use this donation for:

- Beaverdam Christian General Fund
- Maintenance Fund
- Beaverdam Education Foundation
- Beaverdam Christian School Promotions
- Other: _____

Thank you for your donation; please send your donation and this coupon to:

Beaverdam Christian School
5181 64th Avenue
Hudsonville, MI 49426

All monetary donations to Beaverdam Christian School are tax deductible. Please supply your name and address so we can provide a receipt for tax purposes:

Name: _____

Address: _____

