



Volume 20 Issue 6
Feb. 20, 2009

BRANCHES

The purpose of our parental Christian School is to educate our children to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for a life of responsible stewardship in God's Kingdom.

from the Chairman....



Mike Stam

There is not too much to report this month from the Board. January and February go by without much fanfare: no statutory holidays, no celebratory events. That does not mean that work is not being done! Rather, these months provide much education for our children with little distraction from the regular school work and regular routine. We have much to be thankful for in these "regular" months as well. Sometimes having little to report means everything is running smoothly!

We did have a few school events organized by various committees and we would like to acknowledge these efforts and say a few thank-yous. A big highlight in January for the students is the annual school skating. This is an event that is fully funded by Credo Aid; they pay for the rink rental as well as the Tidbits and hot chocolate. What a treat for the children! We thank the ladies who dedicate their time to being on the Credo Aid board and enjoy seeing the students participate in these little extras.

The Development committee was also busy recently with the organizing of the school bowling night. Despite a few last-minute calls for bowlers, it was a full house at Willowbrook lanes and a great time was had by all! The evening was fun for seeing old friends and getting to know other school families as well. From a participant's viewpoint, everything seemed to run very smoothly and we thank the Development committee for their efforts.

The last month seemed to have a few health challenges for the student body (and teachers) as a whole. Everyday there were new reports of students missing due to being sick at home...reports of students being sick at school. Not always a fun time for the teachers! We sincerely pray that the weeks ahead will find families in better health and that student attendance can be more consistent.

Lastly, you will have noticed by now that we are advertising for a kindergarten teacher for the year 2009-10. Next year's class is projected to be sufficiently large to require splitting into 2 divisions and so we would like to hire a second part-time teacher for this task. Please pray that someone will be found for this position.

That's all for this month! Please continue to keep CCES in your prayers: the students, the teachers, the administrators, the Board, the committees. We do all things in God's strength and continue to trust in Him to provide for us in the month ahead.

Principal's Report



John A. Roukema

We express gratitude to God for sustaining us also during this past month. We so often take for granted His providence and care over us. The creational patterns and rhythms are evident every day. He grants us rest through sleep, safe travels on our way to school and back, the energy and wisdom to do our work which He daily assigns to us, the answer to prayer that we may do our work with enthusiasm and diligence, the ability and opportunity to marvel at His creation and His wonderful works. Everything attests to His love for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. What a joy it must be to be busy in His garden! Certainly, nothing to sneeze at.

While the "flu bug" has not hit the CCES community very hard, some among us deserve mention of their ailments. Mrs. Deb Huttema experienced a bout of pneumonia this past month which necessitated a couple of days of rest for her. Her recuperation is well under way, but, as you can understand, such ailments take a lot of strength out of you. Last week, Mrs. Vanderboom underwent an MRI on the knee that has been troubling her for some time. It seems that the knee did not heal properly after the operation last year. We wish both Mrs. Huttema and Mrs. Vanderboom a quick recuperation so that they may do their work in good health.

Last Friday (Feb. 20), we were privileged to have an Open House for the parents and friends of the CCES community. At the time of this writing this event had not occurred. Perhaps I can say more about its "production" in the next issue. Suffice it to say that teachers and students were eager to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and attitudes for this event. Many thanks to the Credo Aid for supplying the coffee and other refreshments. Incidentally, Credo Aid has just recently purchased two new coffee makers for the staff room. Thanks!

Another activity that has attracted our attention and time this past month is the "Change for Change project: Bus for Brazil". On Monday, Feb 9 we had our kick-off assembly, featuring Sean Raap who provided us with information about the Escola Biblica Crista in Maragogi, Brazil. While the new bus is to cost about \$70,000, Mission Aid Brazil hopes to raise about half of that amount from all the schools of supporting congregations and various youth groups in the Fraser Valley. Here at CCES, we're looking to break the \$3,000 mark.

This past month also, the grade 4 & 7 students wrote the Foundation Skills Assessment tests. Results of these tests should be in by April of this year.

This Friday (27th), the CCES staff hopes to join other teachers across the Fraser Valley in Professional Development Day activities. The primary grades teachers (1-3) are scheduled to take in activities at the Surrey Christian School site; the intermediate teachers, at the Langley Christian Middle/High school site. Topics for the primary teachers deal with faith and learning, while those at the Langley site deal with apologetics. It's interesting to note that these two topics (no doubt, closely related) were the focus of attention at the last International Conference of Reformed Education (Sumas, WA).

The week following the PD day will be a very busy one for teachers: Report Cards will be issued on Friday, March 6. The following week will feature our annual Parent-Student Conferences: Thursday, March 12 (evening only) and Friday, March 13 (all day). A few explanatory notes on these types may be helpful.

What will the conference experience be like? As parents and their children enter their respective classrooms, they will notice that there will be at least two other conferences going on. The student will be conferring with her/his parents, explaining by means of materials in a portfolio what (s)he has learned, and giving them an assessment of the school year to date. While these conferences are going on, the teacher will take a backseat, so to speak; that is, he or she will be in the classroom (probably at her desk), ready to give support and encouragement, but not be actively involved in the conference. Parents wishing additional information may request that some time after the conferences. Should that be the case, please limit your Parent-Student conference to 20 minutes, so that the remaining 10 minutes could be used for the parent-teacher discussion. Depending on the nature or scope of additional information requested, some of that may be obtained while the conferences are in session.

To help parents along with these conferences we included in the Report Card envelope some materials for them to look over before attending the conference: Notice to Parents, Portfolio Presentation Prompts, and a Parent Response Form. Such interaction with your child will no doubt enhance the parents' understanding of their child's education and progress.

What's in it for the child, you may wonder? We think much is. A student-involved conference is a presentation of a student's work or learning to his/her parents. During the school year, students prepared for this conference by developing their portfolios, evaluating their work and setting personal goals for learning. Each student has

been building up a portfolio or scrapbook of his/her work. A portfolio or scrapbook is a collection of work done in the various subject areas and organized into a scrapbook or file folders of various shapes and sizes - much like we have been doing in the past years. The portfolio will also contain reflective writings by the student on his/her performance and on the achievement of goals. At the conference the child will explain to his/her parents the work done and expected and the goals achieved, and ask you to comment on his/her progress. By having students actively involved in the conference, they will:

- assume responsibility for reporting progress to their parents
- learn to collaboratively set goals with you and their teacher for further learning
- be accountable for the work they produce and the quality of that work
- develop good communication and leadership skills
- be able to show parents first hand some of the many learning activities they are involved in at school.

Some of you may be wondering what to do with those children in school not in conference with them. Rest assured that a babysitting service will be provided for those children in the gym, but only during the duration of your attendance for conferences. But be reminded that the baby-sit will be for school-children only; that is, no pre-school children.

One other reminder: While Friday, March 13 is considered an instructional day, students come to school ONLY for their respective conferences.



Kindergarten Registration: Registration information was forwarded to parents with children eligible to enrol in Kindergarten in September 2009. Please return these forms as soon as possible. If your child will be 5 this year and you did not receive a package, please contact the school.

Parent-Student Conferences: Please complete the form indicating your time preferences on our website: www.credoces.org

Short Report of Board Meeting

Short Report of the
Meeting of the Board of Directors of
Credo Christian Elementary School
Tuesday January 13, 2009

Opening: The chairman M. Stam opened the meeting with reading Ephesians 1: 3-14 and prayer. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting.

Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes and Short Report:
Motion: "to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2009 meeting with minor corrections" was made. Minutes and Short Report were approved.

Incoming Correspondence: A letter was received from Mr. E. Vanderboom (Acting Inspector of the Independent Schools Branch) regarding the monitoring inspection that occurred November 24, 2008. The ministry commended the two principals on their preparedness for the meeting, administrative and student safety procedures, educational programs and school facilities. We as board and membership have much to be thankful for by having two great administrators and a wonderful staff.

Principal's Report: The Principal's report, as received prior to the meeting, was discussed. An advertisement for an additional kindergarten teacher has been placed in Clarion and Church News. There is a National Principal's Conference scheduled for Monday September 28, 2009 in the Guelph, Ontario area. An international conference is being scheduled for May 10-14, 2010, in the Netherlands.

Finance Committee: The treasurer T. Bontkes reviewed the Ad-Hoc Salary Committee Report with the board. This report will be discussed at the Combined Boards meeting before a final decision will be made on teachers' salaries for the 2009/10 school year.

Development Committee: The minutes of the Development Committee as received prior to the meeting were discussed. The Legacy Fund Report was discussed. According to the report there is no need to create a separate fund for people donating estate monies or money for specific causes. People can earmark money (i.e capital projects), which would then go into a restricted fund until it is used for its intended purpose. The Development Committee plans to encourage people to do estate planning, and to consider the school when they do so.

Chairman's Report: The chairman's report as received prior to the meeting was discussed. The Ad-hoc Principal Search Committee had a meeting January 7, 2009.

Other Committee Reports (RCDC/CB's/CCP/RPDCS/FISA): The minutes of the combined board's meeting of October 7, 2008 were received and discussed.

Next Meeting: February 10, 2009

Thanksgiving and Prayer: T. Bontkes closed in prayer.

Adjournment: M. Stam adjourned the meeting.

Credo Aid Update



Credo Aid General Meeting: The next meeting is planned for Thursday, March 5, at 9:30am in the Langley Church building. There will be an opportunity to win a door prize for those who attend! There will also be a guest presenter to introduce a new fundraiser! Come out and join us, even if you've never attended before! Babysitting will be provided.

Scrapbooking/Cardmaking Nights! Got boxes of photos around the house? Like giving handmade cards but don't have the time to make them? Good news! We would like to start holding a scrapbooking and/or cardmaking evening once a month at the school. It will be a great opportunity to share supplies, use the school die-cuts (yes, they have them!), maybe learn some new techniques and enjoy an evening out with friends. Coffee and baking will be supplied. Cost will be only \$5/night (proceeds to Credo Aid). Mark your calendars: the first evening is planned for Monday, Feb 23. Doors open at 7:30pm. This will be a "bring your own project" evening. Please call or email Amy Rypstra (604.534.8786) if you think you will attend (so we have an idea of how many people to expect), or if you would like to help organize.

Certificates: November and December were excellent months: we had profits of \$2470 (Nov) and \$2800 (Dec)! Much of this profit came from some big orders from businesses - thank you very much for this support, and for the support of individuals in our community. Please contact Shauna Stam @ 604.514.9805 or fill in the form to order today if you are needing to restock, or if you would like to try this program. It's an easy way to raise money for the schools while doing your usual shopping! Reminder: grocery certificates are always in stock and are our best fundraisers!

Cookie Dough available: The freezer at the elementary school is now stocked with new delicious cookie dough! There are 49 cookies on each tray and they are \$12/tray. These are great

for unexpected guests and easy entertaining. Please submit payment in the envelopes in the Credo Aid mailbox. The following varieties are available:

- macadamia white chocolate chunk
- peanut butter reeces pieces
- oatmeal raisin
- oatmeal chocolate chip
- circus circus

Note about school booster seats: As you know, Credo Aid purchased many extra booster seats to be used for the primary grades' fieldtrips at Credo. If you would like to use these boosters for birthday parties, please contact Wenda Sikma @ 604.534.7875 to let her know how many you would like to borrow and when. The primary grades go on many field trips and so if they are not promptly returned (by the next school morning) the teachers could be left with too few seats. Contacting us before you borrow them will allow us to track down any missing seats. Your cooperation is much appreciated!

Please note: Payments for Credo Aid fundraisers are often left in the Credo Aid mailbox at the elementary school. However, sometimes we receive money in the mailbox with no explanation for what it is from - sometimes this is even cash and it makes it very tricky to try to figure it out! There are envelopes in the Credo Aid mailbox - please submit all cash/cheques in these envelopes, especially for miscellaneous freezer purchases so that we know who the money is from and what it is payment for. Thank you very much!

Your Credo Aid Board

School Calendar Update



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|------|-------|--|
| Feb. | 24 | Education Committee meeting |
| | 27 | Professional Development Day (no school) |
| Mar. | 5 | Reformed Curriculum Development Committee (RCDC) meeting |
| | 6 | Report Cards |
| | 12 | Parent-Student Conferences (evening) |
| | 13 | Parent-Student Conferences (all day) |
| | 16-27 | March Break |
| | 30 | first day back after March Break |

Peanuts and the School Bus



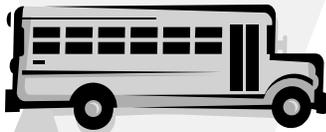
(Not a Charlie Brown and Snoopy story.....)

On the way to school in the mornings, my riders often open their lunches, compare what they have and sometimes even trade goodies (yes, they do, moms!). One morning they were looking, and several grade schoolers gasped as they saw the bar that one of their peers had. "That bar has PEANUTS in it!! You can't eat that at school! What are you going to do??" "Quickly, eat it now, on the BUS, BEFORE you get to school!" That was done, and the problem of the peanut-banned bar getting to school was solved, much to their collective relief. Phew!

The lessons of the peanut-free zone at Credo Elementary have obviously been taken seriously and learned well.

A Bus Driver

speaking of busses.....



Our Change for a Change fundraiser continues until March 6. Our goal is to raise funds towards a bus for Escola Biblica Crista in Maragogi. If anyone in the community would like to contribute, any student will gladly take your donation to school.



Credo Christian Elementary School
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Phone: 604-530-1131 Fax: 604 530-4268
e-mail cces@telus.net
web site: www.credoces.org

Board of Directors

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Mr. M. Stam (2010) | Chairman |
| Mr. E. Visscher (2010) | Vice Chair/CCSTA |
| Mr. T. Bontkes (2011) | Treasurer |
| Mr. Paul Sikma (2009) | Secretary/DevCom |
| Mr. R. Bredenhof (2011) | Maint./Finance |
| Mrs. J. Schouten (2011) | Ed. Com |
| Mrs. V. Sikkema (2011) | DevCom/SpEd |
| Mrs. R. Vandenberg (2009) | CCHS |

Education Committee

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Mrs. J. Schouten | Mrs. P. Hoff |
| Mrs. J. Onderwater | Mrs. C. Pol |
| Mrs. W. Sikma | Mrs. C. VanDelft |
| Mr. J. Roukema | Mrs. N. VanRhee |

Development Committee

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Mr. Paul Sikma | Mrs. V. Sikkema |
| Mr. D. Huttema | Mrs. F. Jansen |
| | Mrs. M. Scholtens |

Special Education Committee

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mrs. V. Sikkema | Mrs. D. Huttema |
| | Mr. J. Roukema |

Finance Committee

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Mr. T. Bontkes | Mr. R. Bredenhof |
| | Mrs. E. Kuntz |

Maintenance Committee

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. R. Bredenhof | Mr. R. Wiegers |
| Mr. J. Roukema | Mr. C. Vandergugten |
| Mr. D. MacKay | Mr. R. VanSpronsen |

Staff

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Mr. J. Roukema | Principal, Gr. 5 |
| Mrs. J. Onderwater | Kindergarten |
| Mrs. M. MacDougal | Grade 1 |
| Mrs. D. Vanderboom | Grade 2 |
| Mrs. K. Noort | Grade 3 |
| Mr. M. Van | Grade 4 |
| Mrs. L. Vanspronsen | Grade 5 |
| Mr. G. Scholtens | Grade 6 |
| Miss R. Vanderhorst | Grade 7 |
| Mrs. D. Huttema | SpEd, LA |
| Mrs. S. Allison | Grade 5,7 PE, SEA |
| Mrs. J. Deglint | Music |
| Mrs. A. Vandeburgt | SEA |
| Mr. D. Rolleman | SEA |
| Mrs. J. Spoor | TA |
| Miss E. Boot | TA |
| Mrs. E. Kuntz | Secretary |
| Mr. & Mrs. J. Dewit | Custodians |

Credo Aid

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Mrs. W. Sikma | Mrs. M. Ezinga |
| Mrs. H. Vandergugten | Mrs. L. Vanderven |
| Mrs. J. VanSpronsen | |

Fee Structure 2008-2009

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Membership | 100.00 |
| Kindergarten | 235.00 |
| Elementary (1-3) | 415.00 |
| Elementary (4-7) | 435.00 |
| Junior High | 560.00 |
| Senior High | 610.00 |

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| CCSTA office | 604-543-0890 |
| Dave Champ (cell) | 604-603-0890 |