



Volume 22 Issue 6
Apr. 21, 2011

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....

Chris Hoff

Well, March break has come and gone, the sun is occasionally appearing, the days are getting longer and, by the time you read this edition of *Branches* there will be just two months left in the school year. Over the last eight months God has blessed us with the financial resources, infrastructure and faithful staff that made it possible for us to sustain CCES, and we pray for His continued blessing as we close out the school year in June. We also wish the students all the best in their studies, with the hope that they can soon successfully complete another grade.

Over the last few issues of *Branches*, we have profiled a Committee that serves the CCES Board, and by extension God's covenant community which we represent. In the context of the Reformed Curriculum Development Committee (RCDC), it is good to be reminded of the famous declaration from Abraham Kuyper: "*Oh, no single piece of our mental world is to be hermetically sealed off from the rest, and there is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry "Mine!"*". The integration of Reformed worldviews and God's sovereignty over all into teaching at CCES is central to our identity as a school. It is also fitting that we, collectively with other Canadian Reformed Schools in British Columbia including Ebenezer Canadian Reformed School in Smithers, collaborate to promote and develop Reformed curriculum.

The RCDC is primarily a funding and administrative body. Projects approved by the RCDC are delegated to, and delivered by, the Curriculum Cooperative Committee. Since being established in 1989, nearly ten curriculums have been developed, with the latest being social studies/history in 2006, and K-10 science in 2009. We are grateful for the efforts of those involved, including many teachers who work on these curriculums in rare spare moments throughout the school year, and during the summer break.

A flagship of the RCDC efforts has been a church history curriculum named *The Flame of the Word*. The third and final volume has recently been completed, and the authors are presently completing the teacher's manual. The volumes narrate God's redemptive plan, starting from Biblical times, proceeding through major historical events, to present times. These volumes explicitly teach our children - and us - of our roots, and our place in God's progressive plan for reconciliation with His people. We extend special congratulations and thanks to Brs. Apko Nap and Piet Torenvliet (and many others who helped) for the great legacy they have left us. These books are highly recommended reading, not just for the students, but for all of us - and would also be a great resource for family Bible study. Personal copies can be purchased through the office, William of Orange, or at www.godutch.com.

As a Board, we remain very active with governing the school, and preparing for the 2011-2012 school year. There are a number of special items of note:

- Enrollment: the number of students is expected to increase from 184 students last September, to 187 students in September 2011. This represents a 45% increase from 129 students in 2006, or an annual compounded growth rate of almost 8%.
- High School General Meeting: The CCHS Spring General meeting is planned for May 18 2011. Elementary school members are also members of CCHS, and you are encouraged to attend!
- Maintenance Committee: We would like to extend thanks to Brad VanOene, a freshly minted member of the Maintenance Committee.

It is with regret that we announce that Michelle Rekers has decided not to return to CCES next year. While we will reserve formal farewells for later, we do wish to thank you for your service at CCES, and pray for God's blessing as you continue down the path He leads you. At the same time, it is with pleasure that we welcome Kim Gelderman to the staff for next year. By time of writing, Kim is likely just wrapping up the Special Education Assistant program at Kwantlen. Kim - we have every confidence that you will be a great addition to CCES, and we look forward to working with you in September.

As a Board, we have been busy planning for delivery of the CCES programs for the 2011-2012 school year. This is always a challenging process for the Board, as there are many ideas and plans that need to be balanced with staffing and budget realities. Earlier in the year the Board agreed to split the Grade 1 class next year, which is expected to have 29 students. While plans for Grade 1 are being finalized, we are thankful that Jennifer Onderwater has agreed to teach the split class Mondays through Thursdays. Mary McDougall is slated to teach the other Grade 1 class. We are also thankful that Leslie Scholtens is prepared to teach the Kindergarten class of 22 students, with the assistance of a full-time TA, Ang VanSpronsen. While this is a large class and may not be ideal, the Board is of the view that this is a responsible balance of Kindergarten delivery with budget realities, and ultimately member assessments.

While considerable progress has been made, we have yet to finalize the budget for the upcoming 2011/12 school year. We expect to publish a complete budget in the early May 2011 *Branches*, and ask that you please mark down May 25th for the spring General Membership Meeting. Lately we have had great attendance at these meetings and have been able to reach a quorum. Let's continue this trend!

We continue to request the membership's prayers as we move forward in this work. To all of you we wish a blessed Sunday!

Notification of Membership Meeting:
Wednesday, May 25th 2011 at 8 p.m.

The agenda will include the Budget for 2011/12. A complete agenda and budget will be forwarded to you in the next issue of *Branches*.

Principal's Report

Heres Snijder

*Growing up from the Get-Go in a Grace Based Learning Community.
Ready..... Set..... Learn!*

Looking back.

On April 8, Mrs. Onderwater and Ms. Tamara VanDyke (Occupational therapist) met with parents of the 2012 Kindergarten class. There was a fine turnout! While the (20) students listened to a story read by Mrs. Onderwater, Ms. VanDyke shared some valuable insights about a child's developmental milestones. It is time well spent to reflect on a child's fine motor skill development, observe normal development and pick up on possible early signals that may benefit from intervention. A child's early attempts at printing may show a natural posture, normal muscle tone and age appropriate sensory processing. It may also tell a bit about the degree of ability to move with precision, vary the strength of force and movement, etc. Ms. VanDyke ably shared additional insights about functional pencil grasp, bilateral hand use, visual-motor control and multisensory activities (visual, tactile, kinesthetic, auditory, olfactory, gustatory). The Ready, Set, Learn event was well planned, informative, and much appreciated. Thank you, Mrs. Onderwater and Ms. VanDyke.

Looking back, there are many memorable and mentionable events. Just before the Spring Break there was a flurry of activity surrounding the Student Led Conferences.

We came back to school to find a huge word search poster by the library, made by Jac Spoor. It includes the names of all students and teachers: "even though we are all individuals, we are all connected." It became focus of attention

for many days as all students went about finding their names.

There was an excellent Professional Development Meeting, led by Mrs. MacDougal, about strategies for teaching Math.

Several short assemblies have been led by the Grade 7 students to keep our attention focused on taking care of our environment responsibly.

The Change for Change fundraiser was concluded: the students collected \$980.- for the Wings to Work Mission Project. Thank you, students!

Taking a step in place: we must not coddle.

Maturing at any developmental stage comes with growing pains. It is part of life. Fortunately, where there is safety, love, mutual respect and recognition that we are all image bearers of the same Father (Psalm 8, 139), struggling and falling is not equal to failing. Child rearing is hard work, because part of bringing up is letting go. That's true when the child takes his first step, boards the bus the first day of school or graduates from Grade 7. Along the way, our hard work is to "ask" the essential questions that help nurture strong character in our children, questions that reveal motive and help the child see his/her responsibility for thoughts, words, gestures and attitudes.

Butterfly

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly.
One day a small opening appeared.
He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours
as it struggled to force its body through that little hole.

Then it seemed to stop making any progress.
It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could,
and it could go no further.
So to help the butterfly, he took a pair of scissors
and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon

The butterfly then emerged easily,
but it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.
The man continued to watch the butterfly
because he expected that, at any moment,
the wings would enlarge and expand to be able
to support the body, which would contract in time.

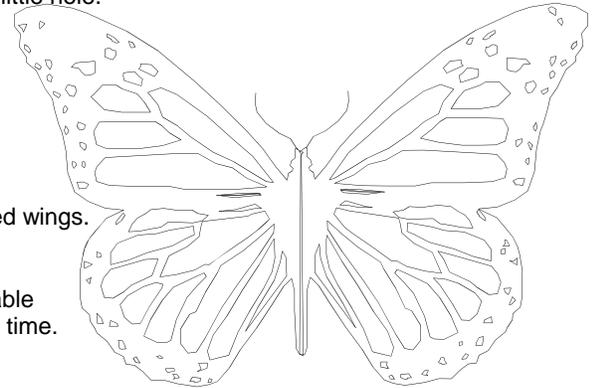
Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent
the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body
and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man, in his kindness and haste,
did not understand was that the restricting cocoon
and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through
the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid
from the body of the butterfly
into its wings so that it would be ready for
flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives.

If God allowed us to go through our lives
without any obstacles, it would cripple us.
We would not be as strong as what we could have been.

And our students could never fly!



Author Unknown

Looking ahead.

Next year's Kindergarten class will be taught by Mrs. Leslie Scholtens. She will receive full time assistance from Mrs. Angela VanSpronsen. Credo is blessed to have these two dedicated professionals on staff. They are both prepared and equipped to implement play-based learning with a biblical worldview. They will be able to engage students in socio-dramatic play, will be aware of what it takes for a 4 year old to transition from pre-school to kindergarten, alert to dynamics pertaining to self-regulation, and trained to make learning visible. Wow. Additionally, and most importantly, they are excited about working with K students in a Christian day school.

Mrs. MacDougal and Mrs. Onderwater will teach the two Grade one classes next year. 'Growing up from the get-go' in one 29-member class is far from ideal at this stage, since the time for daily teacher-student interaction would be severely compromised. With that essential component in mind, ample Teacher's Aid presence in the Grade two class of 24 students will also be ensured, in order to facilitate effective delivery of the Grade two program by Mrs. Vanderboom.

In Grade three, the newest member on staff will assist Mr. Boersema: Miss Kim Gelderman. Welcome aboard Kim! Currently, Kim is finishing her training for Special Education Assistant. Though we are very happy that Kim applied to

CCES and subsequently accepted the contract extended to her, we are sad that Mrs. Rekers will not return to CCES next year. Michelle has been immensely helpful in Grade one this year, and she will be sorely missed by Grade one students, teacher and colleagues alike.

In the intermediate grades, teachers remain where they are this year: Miss Rachel Vanderhorst in Grade 7, Miss Jessica Dokter in Grade 6, Mrs. Linda VanSpronsen and Mr. Heres Snijder in Grade 5 and Mr. Jerry Scholtens in Grade 4. While most SEA and part time arrangements are in place already - others still

need a little tweaking here and there. As it is, the presence of Mrs. Siebenga, Huttema, Spoor, DeGlint and Mrs. Leanne Hofsink add substantially to CCES!

Looking ahead to May and June:

As the number of remaining school days decreases, it looks as if the number of activities is on the increase!

Have a look below!

In the power of Easter,
Mr. Snijder

School Calendar Update

April

25	Easter Monday - no school
26	School Monitoring Visit
28	Gr.6 immunization shots
	Grade 5 & 7 field trip: Flip City

May

4 or 6	Grade 4 Field trip - Fort to Fort Trail.
6	Quad-school Speech Contest: Credo is hosting
18	Kindergarten Day
20	Grade 8 Day
23	Victoria Day - school is closed
25	Grade 7 TWU chemistry workshop
	School Spirit Day - (Athletes)
	School Membership Meeting
27	Sports Day

June

2	Ascension Day
6	Ascension/Pentecost Assembly (Grades K, 3)
12	Pentecost
24	Closing Assembly
	Report Cards issued.
	Grade 7 Graduation
	Kindergarten Graduation
	Last Day of School
27-29	Admin Days



Sophia Roukema, from Grade Two, decided on her own to write this kite poem after making and flying kites on Fun Friday.

My Kite

Flying kites
Flying kites
Up in the sky
Ever so high
Pretty tail
Will it fail?
There it goes
It blows
So fly over the country side!



Connecting Credo....Name Search!



Credo Aid Update

SPEECH CONTEST: We are still in need of volunteers to organize the coffee and baking for the speech contest. The current date for this is May 6 in Langley. If you are able to help please contact Ang de Boer at bandadeboer@shaw.ca or 857-0524.

CERTIFICATES: It was great to hear out profits on average have gone up to \$1300/month! Thanks to everyone who helped make that possible. If you would love to try out post dated cheques please don't hesitate to ask Shauna Stam or Ang de Boer how it works. If you need to renew your post dated cheques please do so as well! The next deadline for miscellaneous certificates is April 28th.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: It's time to round up some great volunteers to help out at our annual Mother's Day Pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 7th! We still need lots of help in all areas at this point: kitchen help ...flippers ...cashiers ...sellers...cleaner uppers ...and more! Please call Shauna at 604.514.9805 or email msstam@shaw.ca if you can spare some time that morning. We are also in need of baking for our bake sale table - something you can do even if you can't make it that morning. Thank you!



the school. All donations should be in by Friday, May 6th to allow time for pricing (feel free to suggest a price) and table set-up. Thank you for your support!

FRIDGE CALENDARS FOR SALE!! We have a new fundraiser starting up... a great Family Activity Organizer is available. The design of these fridge/wall calendar is fantastic for keeping track of each family member's events throughout the week. To see what it looks like, have a look at the bulletin board by the photocopy room in the school. Stop by and have a peek! They are \$15 each, very comparable to the prices of the ones at Costco & Superstore! To order, please call or email Esther Vandergugten at 604-510-0534, mikesthervdg@gmail.com. To get a good idea of what these calendars look like, simply go to this link:
http://www.theecoedge.com/family_activity_organizer.php

BABYSITTING COURSE: Here are the details! Space is limited... so hurry to sign up! The date is Saturday, May 28th from 9:00AM to 3:00PM at Credo Elementary School. Cost is \$40 with all proceeds going to Credo Aid. The course is for girls and boys 11 years old and over. Call or email Marnie VanEgmond at robve@telus.net or 604-514-1350.

CRAFT SALE: Jac Spoor will be taking care of craft sales at the breakfast this year. We would love to have a fun, fully-stocked table with many crafts to sell - such as cards, baby items, frames, magnets, and Mother's Day items. It's always nice to have some little things that the children can afford to buy for their moms, too! Feel free to also ask crafty friends or grandparents if they would like to donate some items. Please contact Jac Spoor @ dspoor@shaw.ca to arrange a drop-off time at

INK CARTRIDGES: There is a box in the school kitchen that is filling up with recyclable materials... thank you for your contributions! Did you know there are other items that can be placed in the box, too? Not only can we raise money with any-sized used ink cartridges, we also accept cameras, i-pods and cell phones! Please bring them to the school kitchen!



"...tell the next generation..."

PSALM 78:4

With spring comes the unfolding of new life and a change of season. Warm, radiating rays draw out new growth and spawns renewed energy and excitement. This excitement reverberates also within the walls of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College...and with good reason! It goes without saying that the very name the college carries brings up images of promise and life and the past thirty years have been a living testimony of His faithfulness. He is our King, and He LIVES! In His life, we have life...a life with a very special purpose.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. – 1 Peter 2:9

At times, we may feel intimidated or even discouraged by the magnitude of the work we are called to do; but when we look back we see the evidence of how our faithful God not only helps us; He directs our work so that it will fulfill His purpose!

At CCRTC, we are also at work with this calling, dealing with matters of Reformed education locally in our school communities, and in order to serve these communities beyond the walls of our Reformed school and into the world of formal academic education; quite a daunting task for ordinary people! But then we look at the text penned by Christ's faithful servant and we grasp the claim that Peter lays upon us...not just Peter, but our King of kings! What a privilege to be busy with such a royal task in confidence.

In this light, another academic school year is drawing to a close. Final examinations have been written and aspiring teachers are eagerly applying the knowledge and skills they have acquired in classrooms across the provinces. We are especially grateful for the willing associate teachers and school principals, who have agreed to support the training of our students. We could not do it without their help, advice, and co-operation. It is especially in their 'fields' that our students are able to plant little seeds of education efforts and watch them grow with hopeful anticipation. Of these student teachers, we are happy to share with you that eleven students hope to graduate this May. Many of them have already received an appointment for the upcoming school year and their excitement and eagerness encourages us to keep up that good fight and to continue our walk in the light knowing that we have such wonderful things to share...every season again.

On this note, we invite you to come and share our joy as we once again may have the honour to present eleven graduands with a Diploma in Teaching/Education. We hope to celebrate this wonderful occasion on Friday, May 27, 2011 at 8:15 in the Cornerstone Canadian Reformed Church in Hamilton and look forward to sharing this evening with you.

Also in this season, we may eagerly look forward to the next when we will open the doors in September for another year of study. Looking ahead to the needs of the school community we serve and the students we instruct, we recognize that an additional instructor is needed and seek after a willing and suitable candidate. At this time, it does not appear likely that we will be able to fill this position in 2011 with a full-time faculty member and we have broadened our search to include the possibility of meeting the needs at CCRTC with sessional instructors. You may have seen our advertisements in magazines and bulletins and we long for your prayers for the Lord's blessings in these efforts.

Without a doubt, teaching future teachers is an exciting and stimulating challenge with many fruitful rewards. Our brother and colleague, Mr. Bill Horsman can certainly attest to this after faithfully standing in the classrooms of CCRTC for thirty years. His efforts and personal style have contributed much to the college and the work within our schools and we are especially grateful to our God for what He has given us in him. Five years ago, we said good-bye to Bill and we extended our best wishes to him in his retirement; however, this retirement was but a very short period and he soon was lured back into the halls of CCRTC. However, he has now truly reached the time to close the doors and say his farewell to us at Covenant College. We wish both Bill and his wife, Evelyn, who together with him as custodian ensured that the students and staff could work in a clean and fresh environment, a blessed and happy retirement as you also in this season live in His wonderful light.

The physical building of Covenant College serves many purposes and has done so for a good number of years. In order to function properly, continuous improvements are necessary both within and without. We have in the past year, through the diligent efforts of our W.A.T.C.H. committees in the church communities, been able to update our technological abilities and so better serve the students and the faculty, as well as any others who use our college building. Many thanks to our faithful women of W.A.T.C.H.!

On the outside of our building, we will be installing a new roof on the building this summer. We have been anticipating this update for some time now and it will be very helpful in keeping out pesky rodents, wintry blasts of cold air, and steamy temperatures of hot summer days.

During these hot days of summer, dedicated teachers will once again be digging into the treasures of God's story of redemption developing lesson templates for the Bible curriculum project of CARE and the League of Canadian Reformed School Societies. This work does not fall directly under the jurisdiction of CCRTC, but we are very happy to extend our help to these efforts through the use of our building and the access of the library at CCRTC. This is just one of the ways that CCRTC may serve our communities and promote reformed education. Reformed education is a response in living together in the light of our King, who fills our heart and mouth with declarations of His praise.

In His Service,
The Board of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College

Seal beach
Find Joe Seal!
He has glasses,
a baseball cap,
clothes and
whiskers. He
is also eating
a Hot dog
also find his
aunt, uncle
and nephew.
Pictures on the back

- also find:
- 5 beach balls
 - 3 radios
 - 2 frisbees
 - 1 sandcastle
 - 3 pizzas
 - 3 water guns
 - 2 towels
 - 3 shovels
 - 3 buckets

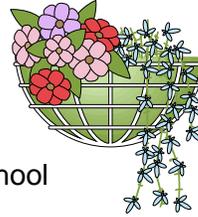
Elmerade 54

also find
Joe's
Luggage.
Pictures
on the
back.

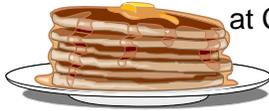
Michael



MOTHERS' DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Time : 8:00 - 10:00 am
 Date: Saturday, May 7th
 at Credo Christian Elementary School



Featuring: Breakfast at a reasonable price, Credo Aid crafts and home baking, kids craft and games, plant sale, Dutch goodies table.

Treat the family to a breakfast out...buy a last-minute gift for mom...meet other families in the CCES community...pick up Sunday baking...entertain the kids...support Credo Aid's fundraising efforts!!

The annual GOLF-A-THON is planned for June 18 2011.
 Please mark this date in your calendars and stay tuned for more information!

Legend for Joe Seal Search

By Michael Jacob

<p>Joe seal</p>  <p>Joe seal's aunt</p> 	<p>Joe seal's uncle</p>  <p>Joe seal's nephew</p> 
--	--

240 seals

Joe seal's Luggage:

camera	binoculars	book	key	Phone	sunglasses
					



Credo Christian Elementary School
 21919 52 Ave. Langley BC V2Y 2M7
 Phone: 604-530-1131 Fax: 604 530-4268
 e-mail cces@telus.net
 web site: www.credoces.org

Board of Directors

Mr. C. Hoff (2012)	Chairman
Mr. W. Bulthuis (2013)	Vice Chair/Ed. Com
Mr. T. Bontkes (2011)	Treasurer
Mr. E. Visscher (2013)	Secretary
Mr. R. Bredenhof (2011)	Maintenance
Mr. J. Lof (2013)	Finance
Mrs. V. Sikkema (2011)	CCHS/SpEd
Mr. S. Pol (2012)	Development

Education Committee

Mr. W. Bulthuis	Mrs. P. Hoff
Miss. J. Dokter	Mrs. C. Pol
Mrs. L. Huttema	Mr. R. Jacobi
Mr. H. Snijder	Mrs. C. Visscher

Development Committee

Mr. S. Pol	Mrs. C. Stel
Mr. W. VanOene	Mr. B. Deboer
	Mrs. J. VanVliet

Special Education Committee

Mrs. V. Sikkema	Mrs. D. Huttema
	Mr. H. Snijder

Finance Committee

Mr. T. Bontkes	Mr. J. Lof
	Mrs. E. Kuntz

Maintenance Committee

Mr. R. Bredenhof	Mr. H. Snijder
Mr. M. Homan	Mr. C. Vandergugten
R. VanSpronsen	Mr. R. Wiegens

Staff

Mr. H. Snijder	Principal, Gr. 5
Ms. L. Scholtens	Kindergarten 1
Mrs. J. Onderwater	Kindergarten 2
Mrs. M. MacDougall	Grade 1
Mrs. D. Vanderboom	Grade 2
Mr. N. Boersema	Grade 3
Mr. J. Scholtens	Grade 4
Mrs. L. Vanspronsen	Grade 5
Miss J. Dokter	Grade 6
Miss R. Vanderhorst	Grade 7
Mrs. D. Huttema	SpEd, LA
Mrs. L. Hofsink	Grade 5,7 PE
Mrs. J. Deglint	Music, SEA
Miss T. Heetebrij	SEA
Mrs. J. Spoor	SEA
Mrs. M. Rekers	TA
Mrs. A. VanSpronsen	TA
Mrs. E. Kuntz	Secretary
Mr. & Mrs. J. Dewit	Custodians

Credo Aid

Mrs. A. Deboer (chair)	Mrs. L. Vanderven
Mrs. E. Vandergugten (secr.)	Mrs. M. Vantil
Mrs. A. VanSpronsen (treasurer)	

Fee Structure 2010-2011

Membership	100.00
Kindergarten	245.00
Elementary (1-3)	440.00
Elementary (4-7)	460.00
Junior High	590.00
Senior High	640.00

CCSTA office 604-856-0806
 Rick Ostermeier: email: CCSTA@shaw.ca