



BRANCHES



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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....

Tim Bontkes

Spring is upon us and I am sure you all can feel the energy as we start to enjoy the sun again and as we take up all of our many tasks. As the students of CCES work through their last term for their school year, as the staff prepare for spring and year end activities and as parents balance all the competing needs of our busy lives, we should all reflect on God's abundant blessings that he continually provides for us. This is our first *Branches* following Easter and it would be remiss for us to not once again give thanks to God for the sacrifice of his Son for our salvation!

On the Board front, spring has been full of activities as well. With our ever increasing student population much time has been spent working through teaching scenarios for next year in an attempt to balance student and teacher needs as well as our budget for next year. This process involves an amazing amount of collaboration between teachers, administration,

the special education department, various subcommittees, the high school, and the CCSTA. We can be very thankful that we are equipped with very capable individuals as we work through various discussions and make decisions. This makes our jobs as Board members much easier. It's also yet another example of how much we rely on this cooperation throughout our own community and across the Fraser Valley to run our school. Thank you to all involved!

This is an exciting time of year for many of us as we prepare for events such as sports day, the Mother's Day Fair and the CCES Golf Tournament. As a parent and a Board member I look forward to the interactions these events offer us with the rest of our community. For all those who have so generously volunteered their time to organize events such as this, thank you. For those participating, stay safe and enjoy the events!

Calendar Update			
May	1	Opening Assembly	8:45 a.m. -gym
	5	Public Speaking Contest	7:30 pm -Willoughby
	9	Kindergarten Orientation Day	
	12	Sports Day	
	13	Mothers' Day Fair	CCHS
	18	Grade 8 Day	
	19	Pro-D Day	no school
	22	Victoria Day	no school
	25	Ascension Day -Assembly Gr 2, 3	2:00 -church
	31	School membership meeting	8 pm gym
June	3	Golf Tournament	
	5	Track & Field Day Gr. 6& 7	
	4	Pentecost	
	5	Opening Assembly	8:45 gym
	23	Last day of school, report cards, closing	11:00 church
	26	Grade 7 Grad	
	26-28	Administrative days	no school

From the Principal....

Otto Bouwman

The weather pundits inform us that this winter was one of the wettest and most overcast ones ever; that news didn't surprise most of us who remained in this vicinity for the past few months. While we look forward eagerly to regular sunshine, we rejoice in God's faithfulness as we transition from one season to the next. The blossoms on the trees and the growth in the grass remind us daily of God's continued and faithful care over each one of us. Jesus reminds us all that as God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and gone tomorrow, he will also continue to provide for us; we need not be anxious about his provision for us. What beautiful comfort as we continuing journeying through life's challenges and opportunities!

In the School

During the past few months, learning could continue throughout the school. As I was writing this report, a couple of fifth grade students excitedly came to my office to invite me to take a look at the pig's heart that they were looking at in their classroom. "Hands-on" was not good enough for these students; they showed me that they wanted to be "hands-in." What a wonderful opportunity!

When I make my regular rounds throughout and around the school and witness progress in the various classrooms, I see and hear all kinds of encouraging developments: there are children singing enthusiastically at the beginning of each day, Bible stories are being told, personal stories are being written, math lessons are being taught, children are learning a variety of skills including playing a musical instrument, jumping, listening, or articulating. It's no wonder that one of the highlights of the year for Board and Education Committee members is a visit into the Credo classrooms; such visits give abundant evidence that Credo is a beehive of activity. Our teachers do an excellent job ensuring that there will be productive learning opportunities for each student every day; please keep our teachers in your regular prayers, as teaching is a demanding activity

Alongside the teachers, our educational assistants play a critically important role in the delivery of

educational opportunities for our students. The commitment and professionalism of our EA staff members is great to see; it's usual to find an EA working with an individual or small group of students in the staff room or any other quiet place that can be found in the building.

This morning the building is busier than most times; about 35 three-year old children are in the school with parents in order to participate in the Ready, Set, Learn activity organized by our Vice-principal, Jennifer Onderwater. It's great to see such levels of interest for working here. Welcome to Credo, pre-schoolers! We're also excited about the opportunity to welcome next year's Kindergartners to their classroom on May 9!

This week our calendars again mark "Administrative Assistants' Day." It is difficult to envision how our school would function without Elma in the front office. She capably ensures that everything happens decently and in good order here; I am profoundly grateful for the work she cheerfully does! Also from here, Elma: thank you heartily for all you do!

Working Together

As I reflect on the myriad things that go on in the school every day, it's evident that the school is a busy place. It's good to remind myself - and all parents - that the school functions primarily in an assisting role to your homes. Teachers understand that parents have the primary responsibility to care for and raise the children God has entrusted to you; parents have collaborated together and established this school in order to help you fulfill your responsibilities. The collaboration that evidently needs to happen between home and school helps our students achieve optimal levels of academic development. The recent round of report cards and conferences gave good evidence of such collaboration, for which the school is very grateful. There was over 95% participation, which is great to see!

Parents, please continue to create an educational-rich environment for your children. Keep encouraging your children to learn to read, to learn to

write, and to develop all the skills that they need to learn to function successfully in our society. Reinforce the skills taught at school. Reinforce the Bible stories they cover. Show interest in the work that they take home. Hold up the teachers in high regard to your children, so that they see your respect and appreciation for the work done at the school. Though it might be considered self-evident: one of the best ways in which you can create a home environment that is conducive to child happiness and optimal Christian character development is to cultivate a happy marriage relationship. And evidently, none of the above can be done without deliberate dependence on our heavenly Father who provides for us; continue to bring your needs in prayer to him.

Ministry Funding

A topic that has received a good bit of attention at the board and administrative levels has been Ministry funding for next year, as there has been some uncertainty about what exact levels of funding we can expect for next year. It appears that the timing of the election is a somewhat complicating reality, so we will have to patiently wait for official funding announcements. Having said that, we did have good news a month or so ago, when we received word from the Ministry that a Student Learning Grant would be given to us. That funding totaled \$28.00 per student, and is intended to be spent on learning resources, supplies, and equipment to help ensure that classrooms are well-resourced and students are

well-supported through the implementation of the new curriculum and other learning innovations across the K-12 education system. One of the requirements associated with this grant was that we need to report to our school community how these funds have been allocated. At CCES, these funds will be allocated on the 2017/18 budget towards the update of the Computers on Wheels (COW).

With a couple more weeks before the provincial election, there is still a bit of uncertainty about Ministry matters moving forward. We pray for continued good levels of funding from the Ministry, trusting that our future is in our Father's hands.

The Final Push

With the arrival of warmer weather and longer evening light, parents, please ensure your child continues to get the necessary amounts of sleep and rest. A well-rested child is more likely to be happy and successful in school than one who is sleep-deprived.

May the Lord give all of us all that is necessary as we enter the final phase of the school year. We look forward to the many activities associated with the latter months of the year, including a Sports Day, numerous field trips, a camping trip, and all the excitement around graduation.

Stay strong, and finish well!

Short Reports of Board Meetings

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School
February 7th, 2017

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Tim Bontkes, opened the meeting by reading from 1 Thessalonians 5 and prayer. He welcomed all the Directors and Principal Otto Bouwman to the meeting.
- **Agenda Approval:** The agenda for the regular board meeting was approved.
- **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Report of the January 9, 2017 Board meeting were adopted.
- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** Email was received from James Kanis outlining his

decision to accept the position of Principal at WO for the 2017/18 school year. One incoming letter was received from the CCRTC providing an update on the accreditation process. An outgoing letter was sent to a member.

- **Principal's Report:** Otto Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for February 2017 and provided updates on program delivery scenarios for the primary grades, and administrative needs for the 2017/18 school year. An update was provided on the work of the interview committee. A new Water Quality Testing Policy and a revised School Visitor Policy were adopted.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for February 2017 was received for information. Tim Bontkes reported on his activities as chairman.

- **General Business:** A number of matters were discussed including the recent Combined Boards meeting, and arrangements for upcoming board staff visits. The mandate and press release of the Valley Wide High School Planning Committee were reviewed.
- **Membership Committee:** Neil Dykstra provided updates on the membership committee. The committee will be updating the enrollment forms in the admissions package. A capacity analysis report was reviewed in the context of allowing membership enrollment from outside of the CanRC and URC churches.
- **Education Committee:** Education Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed. Tim Bontkes provided a positive report on a recent school visit.
- **Finance Committee:** The income statement for January 31, 2017 was submitted and reviewed. Oliver Hansma reported on the activities of the Finance Committee and provided updates on 5-year plan fundraising progress and budget planning for 2017/18.
- **Maintenance Committee:** Ron Scheper reported on the activities of the Maintenance Committee and provided updates on plans to start work for the HVAC and electrical upgrade to the school during spring break.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for March 6, 2017.
- **Closing:** Neil Dykstra offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Tim Bontkes closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.



Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School
March 6th, 2017

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Tim Bontkes, opened the meeting by reading from Galatians 3 and prayer. He welcomed all the Directors and Principal Otto Bouwman to the meeting. Oliver Hansma was absent with notification.
- **Agenda Approval:** The agenda for the regular board meeting was approved.
- **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Report of the February 7, 2017 Board meeting were adopted.
- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** One incoming letter was received from a staff member providing notification of resignation at the end of this school year.
- **Principal's Report:** Otto Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for March 2017 and provided updates on program delivery scenarios for Grades 2 to 4, staffing requirements and graduation ceremony planning. Revisions to the school's Rental Policy were adopted.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for March 2017 was received for information. Tim Bontkes reported on his activities as chairman.
- **General Business:** A number of matters were discussed including the recent Board/Staff visits, a proposed conflict resolution policy, and the school's music program. Tim Bontkes gave an updated on the work of the Valley Wide High School Planning Committee.
- **Membership Committee:** Neil Dykstra provided updates on the membership committee and reported that the golf tournament is scheduled for June 3rd and the course has been booked.
- **Maintenance Committee:** Ron Scheper reported on the activities of the Maintenance Committee and provided updates on the HVAC system upgrade plan.
- **Finance Committee:** The income statement for February 28, 2017 and the minutes of a recent Finance Committee meeting were submitted and reviewed. The preliminary budget for the 2017/18 school year was reviewed.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for April 10, 2017.
- **Closing:** Tim Rook offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Tim Bontkes closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

K'nex Club

Lisa Vanderven

Following a generous donation of seven "Space Exploration" educational kits full of K'nex building pieces, intermediate students were invited to join "K'nex Club" every Tuesday at lunchtime for the past 6 months. The purpose of K'nex Club was to promote creativity, fine motor skills and team-work in a relaxed and fun environment. Students in grades four and seven met together for the first 6 weeks of the school year, followed by grades five and six during the following weeks, and then they alternated every month.

The first K'nex creations were space-themed, and students were guided with instructions that came with the kits. They created various space exploration vehicles. After completing at least one guided challenge, students were allowed to create something from their own imaginations. The following photos showcase the results of their efforts!



Mother's Day Fair

Date: May 13

Time: 8am-12pm

Breakfast: 8am - 10:30

Games: 8:30-12:00

Location: Credo Christian High School

Featuring:

- Pancake Breakfast
- Silent Auction
- Bouncy Castle
- Bungee Run
- Vendors
- Carnival Games
- Contests
- Mechanical Bull
- Target Shooting
- Car Wash
- Haircuts
- And more!!

We promise it to be another fantastic event with something for everyone, so please do come on out to join the fun and to support Credo Aid's major fundraising event of the year!!

Mother's Day Fair

A couple weeks ago you received a letter requesting your support through Sponsorship donations or Silent Auction contributions. We are thankful to have received a few responses, but would like to give further opportunities for your participation!

Sponsorship

Within the next week or so, we hope to finalize the events and activities that will be available at the fair. As of now, there are still items available for sponsorship! Please email credofair@gmail.com or contact either Evelyn Scheper or Esther Vandergugten if you are able to support the event in this way.

Silent Auction

Volunteers have been busy behind the scenes collecting some great auction items- Sports Replay, House of James, Pacific Theatre.. all new to us this year! Also included in the auction is horseback riding, golfing, rock climbing, tickets to theatre and sporting events, and much, much more!

If you have something to add to auction, please contact Vanessa at 604.626.0439 or vanessarook@hotmail.com with questions or donation ideas. We look forward to sharing more collected donations with you as we get closer to the Fair!

Volunteering

Yes, we need your help! A complete schedule can be found at <https://signup.zone/mothers-day-fair> Please take a look and sign up for a shift (or two!) that works for you! Your help is so appreciated - thank you!

Lego Contest

Calling all Lego lovers! Get creative and design a transportation themed creation! Remember...it has to be your own creation, not a pre-designed Lego set. We will have a winner chosen from primary and intermediate. Happy building!! Stay tuned for drop off details!

Contact credofair@gmail.com or call one of the Event Coordinators below if you have any questions.

Petra Bontkes - (778) 278.3520 • Evelyn Scheper - (604) 857.1347 • Esther Vandergugten - (604) 510-0534

BROUGHT TO YOU BY CREDO AID

THE MOTHER'S DAY

FAIR

SATURDAY MAY 13TH 2017
BREAKFAST 8:00 - 10:30
GAMES & EVENTS 8:30-12:00
CREDO CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

LOTS OF GAMES

CONTESTS

LEGO CONTEST | **BOUNCY CASTLE** | KIDS' CRAFT
BUNGEE RUN | **SNACK SHACK**
MECHANICAL BULL | **VENDORS**
SILENT AUCTION
CAR WASH | **HAIR CUTS** | DEMOS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

👉 GRILLS GO UNTIL 10:30 👈

MORE GAMES MORE SURPRISES
MORE FAMILY FUN

CONTACT US AT: CREDOFAIR@GMAIL.COM