

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....

Chris Hoff

Welcome back - to an almost new school building!

Well, that was quite a summer. We left school last June with lofty plans to add two new rooms and renovate the playground. We knew that there was considerable work ahead of us - all to be completed in a short timeframe. And the end result is terrific! On September 2 school busses and cars, loaded with a swarm of sun-burned expectant kids, will roll up to a freshly painted and clad building, painted halls, brand new (and functional...) sports field, new rooms ... and much more.

Elsewhere in this edition of *Branches* is a more extensive write-up thanking the many people involved in delivering this on time, and for doing such a great job. So for here, I would just like to thank everyone involved - volunteers, donators, suppliers of equipment and materials - and more! Not to pre-empt the article from the Expansion Committee ... but they estimate that volunteer supervision, labour and donated materials saved over \$200,000 - but also enabled us to do additional projects such as painting the school! The entire project is a great expression of community and solidarity, and something to be proud of. We do not have the final tally on the project costs and budget yet, but hope to have more information for the October general meeting.

We also welcome a host of new Kindergarten kids this year - you can find a complete list elsewhere in *Branches*. This is a big step for them - for many it is their first real foray away from their parents, into an environment where they will need to balance a measure of increased independence with responsibility; and learn to temper their own impulses in a social and structured environment. This is all part of the overall responsibility that we have as parents to raise our children as His ambassadors. The beginning of the school year is a great time to reflect upon this blessing that we collectively have in this school as a partner in helping us raise our children - from the early steps in Kindergarten through various stages in personal growth to Grade 7. This is also reflected in the schools mission statement:

"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."

This is no small challenge, and we pray that the staff and students - hopefully refreshed after the summer holidays - will be supplied with much godly discernment, strength and wisdom.

Staff News

Speaking of staff, we welcome Mark Hoogerdijk to CCES! Mark and Linda and family moved from Perth Australia in July, and have recently purchased a home in the Abbotsford area. Mark - it is great to have you here and we

hope that your integration into our school will be as seamless as possible.

Changes in Families

We extend a hearty welcome several new families that will be sending their children to the newly renovated CCES this year. We hope that you and your families feel welcome in our midst: Doug and Karen Vandeburgt (Levi and Eden); Claudia Liu (Rina); the Lins (Dong and QiHang) and James and Jan Bredenhof (Katie, Jared and Hendrik).

We also welcome families who may have been members for some time, but are sending their first child to school. We invite you to become heavily involved in school activities (if you are not already), from volunteering in various capacities, to serving on the Board and its committees. Welcome to Natasha Fennema, John and Kathy Noort, Harry and Tessa TenHaaf, Rob and Allison Vandeburgt, Thomas and Suzanna Vanderhorst, Keith and Jessica Wildeboer, and William and Marcia Wildeboer.

We lost a few families and students over the summer as well. The Andrew and Dana Hansma as well as Mindert and Emily DeBoer families elected to homeschool their children. Micah Dykstra will also not return this year, and our prayers are with the Neil and Heather Dykstra family.

Changes in Program Delivery

Due to some of the changes in families over the summer, the number of students in Grade 1 fell from 28 to 25. Given this change, the Board and administration revisited program delivery for the upcoming school year and decided to combine Grade 1 into one grade, and split the large (32 students) Grade 5 class. As a result, Mary MacDougal will now teach the large Grade 1 class, Alyson Bosch will teach Grade 2, and Mark Hoogerdijk will teach Grade 5. This decision was made fairly late in the game, and we are grateful that teachers and educational assistants so graciously accepted the changes.

Other Board Matters

This promises to be another challenging year for the Board, with a number of important matters that demand diligence. The Board continues to monitor the direction of the other elementary schools in the valley, as their plans can be expected to have a direct influence on us as well. As a Board we continue to promote the vision of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee with the other schools. This could also be an important year for the future of the CCSTA. Other routine matters also demand attention and diligence. It is our prayer that the Lord will guide each of us, and grant us the wisdom to govern this school in a way that pleases Him.

From the Principal....

Heres Snijder

Skill Will Bring Success - (Eccl. 10:10)

A bigger, and completely renovated building!

The picture on the front cover of this Branches issue gives expression to the varied ways the *whole* community has contributed to making the expansion and renovation project such a success. Every time when a call for help was put out via e-mail, website and Facebook, volunteers of *any age* came out in droves to skillfully help move the big renovation and expansion project forward. So - kudos to young and old for getting involved in so many ways to help expand and rejuvenate the school building!

Unlike other summers, the Credo Elementary School campus has remained a constant hub of energy *every day* through the months of July and August. Roofers, landscapers, framers, drywall installers, electricians and painters came and went right up to the last week of August. The words of the simple and beautiful 'Servant Song' has been put into practice frequently, by numerous community members:

Brother, let me be your servant.

Let me be as Christ to you.

Pray that I might have the grace

To let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey.
We are brothers on the road.
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

We are grateful to start a new school year with new energy and sincere thanks for the kindness of God towards us in so many ways: helping hands, safety, beautiful weather, and willing hearts.

Changes in classroom locations, class composition and teaching assignments

"Change" has been the only constant during the last two months. The result of all this is that Grade 4 teachers have moved from intermediate to primary wing, Mr. Hoogerdijk will teach Grade 5B instead of Grade 2, Miss Bosch will be teaching Grade 2 instead of a parallel Grade 1, and Mrs. MacDougal - with the expert assistance of Mrs. Angela VanSpronsen will be teaching all Grade 1 students. These changes have been subject of much discussion and strategizing among board, staff and administration members. The willingness to be part of these changes, displayed by all involved is in itself reason for thankfulness. The final result, in chart form is as follows:

Staffing & Enrollment for 2014-2015		
Grade	# of students	Teacher
KA	13	Jennifer Onderwater
KB	12	Leslie Scholtens
1	25	Mary MacDougal
2	24	Allison Bosch
3	21	Stephen Chase
4A	16	Amy Vanderhoek
4B	17	Jerry Scholtens
5A	17	Linda Vanspronsen, Natasja VanRhee
5B	16	Mark Hoogerdijk
6	27	James Kanis
7	27	Rachel Vanderhorst
Principal, Music 4-7		Heres Snijder
Vice-principal		Jennifer Onderwater
SpEd Coordinator		Deborah Huttema
EA gr. 5, 2		Wilma DeLeeuw
EA 4		Kim Meints
EA gr. 6, 5		Katelyn Mostert
EA K		Jacqueline Spoor
EA gr. 4		Paige VanDelft
EA gr. 1, 2		Angela VanSpronsen

A New Grass Field

The grass field west of the school has never looked so good. It is level, it has no puddles, no holes, it's smooth and green like the nicest field you've EVER seen!

However: *the grass field cannot be used and will be off limits until further notice.* The grass seed along the edges of the new (!) sidewalks had a much later start. As a result, premature exposure to eager, trampling feet will render the edges sandy, muddy and raggedy for a long time to come. It will not be able to handle traffic for at least another week. For a most satisfying end result for the remainder of years to come, we will not have a problem whatsoever staying off the field: please inform your child about this before he/she is heading off to school on Tuesday the 2nd.

Expected Bus Behaviors

What follows below has just been received from the Combined Christian School Transportation Association with the request to pass it on to you before the first school bus trip of this year. Your involvement in this part of your child's school day remains as important as ever.

We ask that each family review the following guidelines for bus riders. It is expected that the guidelines will be understood and followed to provide safe bus transportation.

Riders:

1. Please obey the driver at all times.
2. Please do not use swear words; this includes a four-letter "s" word as some find this very offensive.
3. Please remain seated: grade 8 and older maximum 2 to a seat, grade 7 and younger maximum 3 to a seat.
4. Please keep all body parts inside the bus, including fingers.
5. Please do not throw anything out the windows of the bus.
6. Please use garbage cans for garbage. If this guideline is not adhered to, all the riders will lose eating and drinking privileges on the bus.
7. Please no horseplay on the bus or waiting to board the bus.
8. Please report problems to the bus driver, your parents or a teacher.
9. Bullying will not be tolerated.
10. Please do not in any way damage or destroy the seats or any part of the interior or exterior of the bus. If damage occurs, student involved will be charged.

If management hears of a problem it will be dealt with in the following way:

- First offense: talk to child/children involved and call parents.
- Second offense: talk to child/children involved, call parents and assign a seat.
- Third offense: talk to child/children involved; call parents and a suspension.

Management reserves the right to skip some of the above steps to deal with certain behaviours.

The CCES Parent Student Handbook

September is the right month to review the parent student handbook with your spouse and child/ren. It contains much valuable and common sense information about a myriad of topics ranging from the 'why' of Credo to the scope of homework practices and the 'how' of dealing with complaints. Some of these items will be highlighted during the opening assembly.

Looking forward

Staff and administration is looking forward to making the best of every teachable moment and situation to benefit and bless your child. We recognize that with ability, opportunity and desire to teach we are privileged to serve you and your child in the good work of education, which God prepared beforehand for us, (Eph. 2:10). We request your prayerful and practical support as we come alongside covenant children who, "having life in Christ, may have it even more abundantly" (John 10:10) as they grow in knowledge, skills and attitudes suitable for service in the kingdom of God.

Come, praise the LORD! his might acclaim!
Let all his servants praise his name;
both now and evermore adore him.
From where the sun begins to rise
to where it sets in western skies,
let all with praises come before him.
Psalm 113:3

An unchanging focus

Even though we experience numerous changes, the school's mission remains the same: to deliver Christ centered education oriented towards the kingdom. Psalm 113: 3 has been selected as the school's year theme for the 2014-15 schoolyear.

Please plan to attend the opening assembly on Tuesday September 2, during which more will be shared about how this theme will assist us in staying true to the school's mission. The assembly will start at 10:00 - in the Langley Canadian Reformed Church building.

Credo Aid Update....

And so another school year begins! We hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday. May the Lord guide and keep us as we take up our regular tasks again and may he once again also bless the efforts of our fundraising for CCES.

Some changes are in the air for Credo Aid this year! To start them off we say goodbye to Evelyn Scheper, who has completed her term on the board, and we welcome Susan Stam as the new board president. We also welcome a brand new member to the board, Jen Sikma! Thank you for committing yourself to this new role of service.

General Meeting

While there hasn't been a date set at the time of writing, our annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held sometime in the first two weeks of school. Please make an effort to attend! Last year attendance was poor; hopefully this year we can see more of the community support at the meeting. We have some big changes to discuss and will be looking for your input. Stay tuned to the Leaflets for the date!

Entertainment Books:

Yes, once again these books will be coming home with your child(ren) on the first day of school. They are selling for only \$30 and are filled with many valuable coupons. Encourage your children to sell 5 and receive your book for free! Call Ang VanSpronsen for more details.

Gift Certificates:

You've heard it before but we'll say it again: the gift certificate program is a highly profitable way of earning the school money without spending anything extra. Simply buy the gift cards to places you normally shop at, use them to purchase your groceries etc. and the stores will give a percentage of the sale back to Credo. Make it even easier by writing out 12 monthly post-dated cheques and get your

gift cards delivered to you without even having to think about it!

And to encourage a timely start to the post-dated cheque system we are offering a small incentive:

- **Give 12 post-dated cheques in the amount of \$300 or more (to the store(s) of your choice) by Sept.30 and receive a \$10 to Starbucks or Tim Hortons for FREE!**

Currently the money from the gift certificate program is going towards the expansion. Please consider this as a way you can help raise funds for Credo. While the desire to collect points on your credit card may understandably be holding you back, please keep in mind that the percentage donated from outside sources to our school, per dollar spent, is MUCH higher than you would receive as points or dollars back on your personal credit card.

Over \$18,000 given to Credo in a year, none of it out of our own pockets, and with only 25-30% of the community participating - think how much we could raise if everyone participated! This is truly a great program!

Please contact one of our gift certificate reps for further info: Ang DeBoer, Shauna Stam or Marcia Wildeboer.

Looking forward to a great year!

- Susan Stam - President - 604-427-4400
- Cindy Luiten - Vice President - 604-514-0345
- Leanne Leyenhorst - Secretary - 604-625-5558
- Ang VanSpronsen - Treasurer - 604-604-530-0008
- Loretta Saide - 604-626-4160
- Jen Sikma - 604-533-7536

Welcome to new students at CCES

Kindergarten 2014-2015

- Benjamin Bisschop
- Sebastian Body
- Meagan Hansma
- Liam Hoff
- Jude Hofsink
- Jesse Hoogstra
- Taron Kang
- Judah Leyenhorst



- Mattias Louwerse
- Jason Luiten
- Kaiah Noort
- Leena Scheper
- Kyle Scholtens
- Liam Schouten
- Hailey Stam
- Carson Stiksma
- Addysen Vandeburgt
- Ben Vanderhorst
- Samuel Vanderhorst
- Sydney Vandyke
- Grace Vantil

- Chelsea Wildeboer
- Heidi Wildeboer
- Hendrik Bredenhof (3)
- Jared Bredenhof (5)
- Katie Bredenhof (7)
- Dong Lin (4)
- Qi Hang Lin (1)
- Rina Liu (5)
- Nadia Meier (4)
- Eden Vandeburgt (2)
- Levi Vandeburgt (6)

CCES SCHOOL CALENDAR 2014-2015

August	25-29	Staff Orientation/Prep Week	
September	2	First day of school	
	9	School photos Kindergarten B	
	10	School photos	
October	9 & 10	CTA Convention	no school
	13	Thanksgiving Day	no school
	29	School membership meeting	
November	11	Remembrance Day holiday	no school
	28	Pro-D Day	no school
December	1	Report Cards	
	2 & 4	Parent-Teacher Conferences	
	19	Last day before Christmas Break	
	22–Jan 2	Christmas Vacation	no school
January	5	School reopens	
February	6	Combined Pro-D Day	no school
	9	Family Day	no school
March	10	Report Cards	
	12 & 13	Student-Led Conferences	
	16-27	March Break	no school
	30	School reopens	
April	3	Good Friday	no school
	5	Easter Sunday	
	6	Easter Monday	no school
May	1	Public Speaking Contest	
	14	Ascension Day	
	14	Grade 8 Day	
	15	Pro-D Day	no school
	18	Victoria Day	no school
	24	Pentecost	
	27	School membership meeting	
June	1	Track & Field Day Gr. 6& 7	
	5	Sports Day	
	23	Last day, report cards, Gr. 7 grad	
	24 & 25	Administrative days	no school

Days off for Gr. 1 students:
 Sep. 11, 18, 25; Oct. 23; Nov. 6, 20; Dec. 4

From the Treasurer *Oliver Hansma*

Fees for the 2014-2015 school-year are as follows:

Kindergarten	285.00	Junior High (8-10)	660.00
Elementary (1-3)	495.00	Senior High (11-12)	710.00
Elementary (4-7)	515.00	Membership	125.00

Please note:

- Pre-Authorized Debits (PAD) will be adjusted to the new rates as of September 2014.
- If you have not signed up for this option, please complete the form and return it to the elementary school as soon as possible with a void cheque. If you need a form it is available on the CCES website via the link on the home page www.credoces.org or under Publications.
- For those not wishing to use PAD, the board-approved payment policy requiring tuition-paying members to forward postdated cheques made out to "CCES" in September of each year, will remain in effect.

Primary Supply List	K	gr.1-3	
Indoor shoes (NO LACES) (These are also your gym shoes and should stay firmly on your feet)	✓	✓	
Head phones for netbooks	✓	✓	
Towel or blanket (no larger than a beach towel)	✓		
Box of tissues	✓	✓	
White board markers		✓	
Intermediate Supply List	gr.4	gr.5	gr. 6&7
Good quality 3 ring binder 1 1/2"	1	2	2
looseleaf paper	✓	✓	✓
binder dividers (pkgs)	✓	2	2
HB pencils	✓	✓	✓
pencil sharpener, scissors, whiteout		✓	
erasers	✓	✓	✓
pencil crayons	✓	✓	✓
blue or black pens, red pen	✓	✓	✓
highlighter		2	
pencil case -no magnetic pencil holders	✓	✓	✓
Math notebooks/quad ruled/spiral back • larger than .5 cm squares preferred	✓	✓	✓
basic calculator			✓
metric ruler	✓	✓	✓

Join the Open House at CCES!

You are invited to an **Open House at Credo Christian Elementary School**. The whole community is welcome: the supporters; the trades and volunteers; parents and grandparents; aunts and uncles; students and siblings; and the curious. We want to celebrate its completion and say thank you to all those who contributed to the renovation project. Come out on **Saturday, September 6 from 1 to 3 PM**, rain or shine, to join the celebration and to explore the renovations.

CCES Expansion

Many of you will be in for a big surprise on the first day of school on Tuesday. You will be greeted with what looks like a new Credo Christian Elementary School in quite a number of ways.

God has blessed us in countless ways! As they drive up the teachers, students and parents will be greeted with a freshly painted school with a bright and shiny new roof. Surrounding the building they will see new beautiful landscaping and gleaming new concrete sidewalks. As they venture behind the building they will be met with a well-drained, level, freshly irrigated thick green grass playing field. One of the main concerns with adding new classroom space was that we would lose valuable outdoor play space. By adding retaining walls throughout the property, all the previously sloped areas have been converted to usable space, making the yard feel much larger than before.

When entering the school building they will be greeted with newly finished and brightly painted hallways and doors. And now, for the real reason for this project; two new classrooms. The new Kindergarten and Multi-purpose rooms are amazing. With tasteful colors and lots of natural light, these rooms are extremely inviting and feel as if they were meant to be there from the start. With the continually growing population of Credo, these rooms couldn't have been available soon enough!

There are simply too many people to acknowledge and thank when it comes to this project. Right from the beginning it was the Expansion Committee's goal not to just expand and renovate the school, but to also build ownership in its members and to continue to grow the strong sense of community that we already have.

A huge thank you goes to the Board for providing their leadership in this process, to the Expansion Committee that was put together to guide the project through from start to finish, to the many people who shared their financial gifts in support of the project and to those who supplied their own time and/or materials for the project. The participation in the many work bees was amazing. Not only did all this volunteer labour assist with meeting the budget for the project but it also created an amazing feeling of community for all those involved. There are a number of specific individuals who should be acknowledged for their tremendous commitment to the project and its successful completion. The Expansion Committee members, those who helped with organizing the dinner Gala event and those who helped with the fundraising drive.

Also a special thank you to those individuals who supervised various portions of the project. This task was split between a number of individuals and was accomplished on time, on budget and as a team. Thank you to all of you who took time from their own jobs to work on the project free of charge or at reduced rates and to those who continually showed up to help at the various work bees. Through all of this volunteer supervision, labour and donated materials it is estimated that over \$200,000 was saved on the project!

Come check out what has been accomplished. There is an **Open House** planned for **Saturday September 6th at 1:00 pm** at the school. This will be an opportunity for the community to check things out. Please come on by!

On behalf of the Expansion Committee,
Tim Bontkes



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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. C. Hoff (2015)	Chairman
Mr. W. Bulthuis (2014)	Vice Chair/Ed. Com
Mr. W. VanOene (2016)	Secretary/IT Com
Mr. O. Hansma (2015)	Treasurer/Expansion
Mr. T. Bontkes (2014)	Expansion/Maintenance
Mrs. F. Jansen (2016)	CCHS/SpEd
Mr. A. Leyenhorst (2016)	Maintenance/CCSTA
Mr. R. Scheper (2014)	Development/Finance

Education Committee

Mr. W. Bulthuis	Mrs. Y. Hoogstra
Mr. R. Roukema	Mrs. W. Sikma
Mrs. J. VanOene	Mrs. L. VanDyke
Mr. H. Snijder	Mrs. J. Onderwater

Development Committee

Mr. R. Scheper	Mrs. M. Vanderhorst
Mrs. D. VanDyke	Mr. M. VanWoudenberg

Special Education Committee

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	Mrs. E. Kuntz

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Mr. T. Bontkes	Mr. M. Homan
Mr. C. Vandergugten	Mr. B. VanOene
Mr. R. VanSpronsen	Mr. R. Wiegers

Staff

Mr. H. Snijder	Principal, Music 4-7
Mrs. J. Onderwater	VP, Kindergarten A
Ms. L. Scholtens	Kindergarten B
Mrs. M. MacDougal	Grade 1
Miss A. Bosch	Grade 2
Mr. S. Chase	Grade 3
Miss A. Vanderhoek	Grade 4A
Mr. J. Scholtens	Grade 4B
Mrs. L. Vanspronsen	Grade 5A
Mrs. N. VanRhee	Grade 5A
Mr. M. Hoogerdijk	Grade 5B
Mr. J. Kanis	Grade 6
Miss R. Vanderhorst	Grade 7
Mrs. D. Huttema	SpEd, LA
Mrs. W. Deleeuw	Educational Ass't
Mrs. K. Meints	Educational Ass't
Miss K. Mostert	Educational Ass't
Mrs. J. Spoor	Educational Ass't
Miss P. VanDelft	Educational Ass't
Mrs. A. VanSpronsen	Educational Ass't
Mrs. E. Kuntz	Office Administrator

Credo Aid

Mrs. S. Stam	Mrs. C. Luiten
Mrs. L. Leyenhorst	Mrs. A. VanSpronsen
Mrs. L. Saide	Mrs. J. Sikma

Fee Structure 2014-2015

Membership	125.00	Kindergarten	285.00
Elem. (1-3)	495.00	Elem (4-7)	515.00
Junior High	660.00	Senior High	710.00

CCSTA office	778-395-1706
Doug Deboer	email: doug@ccsta.net

You are cordially invited to join us for our

Opening Assembly

Tuesday, September 3, 2013 10:00 a.m.
in the Langley Canadian Reformed Church

