



BRANCHES

*May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.
Psalm 19:14*

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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....

Ron Scheper

Welcome!

I would like to start off by welcoming all the students, teachers, support staff, and administration back for another school year at CCES. A special welcome goes out to our newest Kindergarten members and to those new families which will be joining us this year. This welcome also extends to our new staff members, David Wu (Grade 5), Kendra Vandergaag (Secretary), Kim Groen (EA), and Evelyn Scheper (EA). On behalf of the Board I wish you all a smooth transition and that you start to feel at home in the CCES family as soon as possible!

To Him Be the Praise

Our school theme this year is based on Psalm 19:14, "**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer**".

This theme is fitting in our educational context since we as a community endeavor to help 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. May we successfully support and fulfill this mission while we are reminded daily that we still live in a broken and imperfect world; may all our efforts, support, encouragement, and feedback be acceptable to our Lord and Savior.

Summer Activities

Much has happened over the course of the summer. As you enter the school property and the

building itself you will notice that the maintenance committee and many community volunteers have spent quite a bit of time getting the grounds and the building cleaned up and looking sharp. Special thanks to the maintenance committee and community contractors for supporting and completing classroom renovations in the west wing of the school. They look great and enhance the utilization of classroom space. Thank you as well to many other volunteers who have been busy assisting in the preparation of the school year ahead of us. I encourage each one of you to get engaged and involved to really appreciate the abundance of blessings at CCES.

The board has also been in active review with CCSTA (Combined Christian Schools Transportation Association) to analyze options for bussing of students within the 3 km radius of CCES. Unfortunately, CCSTA is currently not in the position to add another bus for the 2019/20 school year. For additional context, CCSTA is currently on an aggressive bus replacement plan to revitalize its fleet and serve current loading.

Support

As Board we ask you to continue to pray for all those involved in the operation of the school. Please pray for us as Board members as we govern the school, pray for the teachers, support staff, and administration as they educate our children and operate the school, pray for the students as they continue in their education and pray for us as parents as we continue to raise up our children in the way of the Lord.

School Theme Text

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer".

Psalm 19:14

From the Principal....

Otto Bouwman

Here we are again at the cusp of another school year! After a summer full of interesting activities and challenges, we can all bow our heads together and ask the Lord to guide and bless us again in the coming school year. Last weekend the following notice was posted by my hometown's Chamber of Commerce; it's worth sharing here, as it articulates our dependence on God's blessing in our educational endeavors particularly well:

For those so inclined, would you be so kind to join us in a prayer for the students, school staff, parents, guardians and others involved in the education of the younger members of our community?

We humbly ask that all the students have open minds, prepared and ready to learn, and that they will always be receptive to and respectful of all those who will guide them on their educational journey. Keep them from harm, and grant them an extra portion of "wise choices" on this portion of life's journey.

We seek the blessing of patience for the bus drivers, office staff, teachers, food service staff, custodians, grounds workers and others who collectively provide the atmosphere in which our children learn. May they each feel the importance of their role in shaping our future, and mindful of the young eyes who watch them, and emulate their words and deeds.

Please be with the parents, as well as others who act in a guiding role in the home. Please grant them the skills necessary to deal with myriad of emotions that occur in our students, and give them the wisdom to know when a measure of grace is required, as well as to know when a firm stand is both appropriate, and necessary.

As a community, we ask that we be open and receptive to the needs of all involved in the education of our future. May we step forward when needed, and step back when it is wise. May we give generously of our treasure, but do so wisely and thoughtfully, as these, too are important lessons for life.

Finally, may we all share the love and

peace of the One above, to and with each other. In good times and bad, and when emotions run high, and depression and anger have raised their ugly heads, may we be granted the courage to say to those who need it most, "You are loved, for we all are loved".

We appreciate your time, and may the Lord continue to bless our community as we honor Him by honoring each other.

This Past Summer

Much has happened in the school and our community since the last issue of Branches. Drop by the school and see the amazing transformation of the intermediate classrooms (as well as a few other rooms in the school) - they look great! Somehow the renovations resulted in classrooms that feel not only new and fresh, but also bigger and lighter. Thank you heartily to all those who ensured that the school would be ready for the teachers to return to! It's evident that a tremendous amount of work was done during the summer time, and I'm sure that staff and students will genuinely appreciate the work that was done. It was also heartwarming to see the turnout of volunteers at the summer work bee last weekend. It's inspiring to come to work to a nicely kept-up facility.

Our families could again experience the Lord's good care during this past summer. Some families could enjoy beautiful times and experiences together - praise the Lord for his care! Other families experienced much more vividly the brokenness of this world - perhaps because of illness or in other ways - but nonetheless could also experience Father's continued care - let's praise him also in these circumstances. May God's blessing rest on each of our families - also in the midst of each one's unique circumstances - and enable each of us to live to his glory.

Welcome Back

This year's theme text comes from Psalm 19:14. Psalm 19 speaks of the two ways in which we know our God: through his creation and through

his revealed Word. After articulating God's glory as it is revealed in his awesome creation, and after rejoicing in the perfection of God's law, the psalmist concludes with: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." A fitting conclusion to the Psalm - and a conclusion we hope to discuss regularly with our students throughout the school year.

This September the staff and student composition is just slightly different than it was in June; that happens every year. We said our farewells to some; we welcome others. On the student side, we currently anticipate 211 students, which is approximately what our student count has been for the past number of years. We hope and trust that returning and incoming students quickly consider CCES to be a safe, welcoming, and inspiring place to learn.

On the staff side, I recently added up all the mailboxes in the staff room: 28 of them! Many staff members are not full-time employees, and so that can be somewhat misleading - but 28 is a sizeable group! It's been a joy to welcome all staff members to Credo Elementary this past week. One of the realities that I'm really thankful for in CCES staff is everyone's flexibility and willingness to creatively work together with a solution-oriented mindset. As we embark on our tasks at the beginning of the year, that's a great culture for new staff members to be welcomed into. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to Reformed education, returning and new staff members!

Requests

I'd like to use this opportunity to share three requests with parents in our community:

1. The other day someone drew to my attention an article in a recent issue of Focus on the Family. This article encourages parents to push your children to help them identify areas in which they can develop personal competence. It might

be in the world of music. Perhaps sports. Maybe a school subject, or something involving animals. The article encourages parents to set the bar high and push children. "I'll never forget how my cruel, heartless parents pushed me into Little League baseball." © Many accomplished people look back and can describe how their mother or their father didn't let them quit..... and how later they looked back with gratitude because they had developed a remarkable competence and self-confidence in some area. The article encourages parents: "If your kid doesn't find an area of positive competence, I guarantee he'll find an area of negative competence." That's a pretty powerful motivator for us to work deliberately with our children! My request: Help your children develop their gifts by exposing them to different areas, and helping them develop "stick-to-itness" by not letting them quit.

2. Credo Christian Elementary School is a parental school. We love it when parents make themselves available as volunteers here. Would you be able to help out regularly? Perhaps in a classroom? As a monitor on the playground? As an assistant in some other capacity? If you might be able to help out here, please contact either one of the teachers or me. We would be happy to capitalize on your willingness to help out! I look forward to hearing back from you.
3. Our bus drivers deserve our prayerful support and encouragement. Though I appreciate that a bus ride is not many people's favorite part of the day, please encourage your children - and especially if they're a bit older - to help create a positive culture on the bus. At the end of this school year, wouldn't it be wonderful if I heard from our school bus drivers that Credo's kids were generally an exemplary group on the bus?

May God bless us all as we embark on a new school year. See you Tuesday morning at 10:00.

Credo Aid Update....

Welcome back to another year of fundraising to support our schools and students! For those new to the school, Credo Aid organizes fundraisers throughout the school year to raise funds that benefit our children in both the elementary and high school.

Hot lunches, fieldtrips, classroom resources, sports equipment, library books and more "extras" that benefit their learning environment that the tuition fees don't cover.

Credo Aid warmly welcomes Allison Vandeburgt and Marcia Wildeboer to our team. We thank them for their willingness to serve. A big thank you to Leona Huttema and Audrey Leyenhorst for their great leadership the last 3 years. We of course thank everyone in our school community, volunteers and organizers for their support in making it a successful fundraising year. A special thanks to the Golf, Gala Dinner & Auction organizers in June. This event brought in just over \$20,000 for Credo Aid!

This past year we could also support the completion of the Kodiak Cage at the high school with a \$10,000 donation.

Details on the donation towards the high school & elementary wish list will follow soon.

NEUFELD - order forms coming home soon!
Organizer: Katie Vandergaag

The Credo Aid board is meeting this week and will plan the Annual General Meeting date for mid September. Follow on our Credo Aid Facebook page "CREDO-AID" and leaflets for the date and news throughout the year! We encourage you to come out and hear all about what's planned for this year. This is a great way to show your support and be part of the discussion.

BOARD

Pearl Hoff	cphoff98@outlook.com
Tanya Scholtens	scholtensat@gmail.com
Danielle Stiksma	jdstiksma@hotmail.com
Allison Vandeburgt	allison_dekker@hotmail.com
Marcia Wildeboer	marcia.will@hotmail.com

School Bus Behaviour Policy

For the Combined Christian School Transportation Association (CCSTA)

Starting in September 2019 we are implementing a more stringent behaviour policy on our school buses to ensure the safety of all students. One of the biggest challenges school bus companies face is students who do not remain in their seats but try to switch seats when the driver is not looking. If the bus had to brake suddenly, students may be thrown forward and become injured. We may consider designating seats to all elementary aged children, and high school students will be seated at the back of the bus. Please see the information flyer which will be distributed on the first day of school.

Behavioural issues may cause a distraction to the driver and jeopardize the safety of our students therefore the following will apply:

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The driver is responsible to maintain order on the

bus according to school bus rules. If management hears of a problem, it will be handled as follows:

1. **First offense:** Speak with the child/children involved and call parents.
2. **Second offense:** Speak with the child/children involved, call parents and the school, and assign a seat.
3. **Third offense:** Speak with child/children involved and the school; call parents and impose a suspension (duration to be determined at the discretion of CCSTA.)

If parents are made aware of a problem on the school bus, they may follow these steps:

1. Speak with the bus driver.
2. Call CCSTA management to discuss the situation.
3. If not resolved, speak with someone in the school office and arrange a meeting with CCSTA and a school representative.

CCES SCHOOL CALENDAR 2019-2020

September	3	First day of school, Opening Assembly	10 am -church
	11	School photos	
October	3	Thanksgiving Assembly gr. 2/4	2 pm -church
	11	ProD Day	no school
	14	Thanksgiving Day	no school
	22	Awareness Raiser -Centerpoint	8:45 -gym
	28	Reformation Assembly gr. 3/6	2 pm -church
	30	School membership meeting	
November	4	Remembrance Day Assembly	8:45 -gym
	7, 8	Teachers' Convention	no school
	11	Remembrance Day holiday	no school
December	6	Report Cards	
	10, 12	Parent-Teacher Conferences	
	18	Christmas Program	7 pm -church
	20	Last day before Christmas Break	
	23–Jan 3	Christmas Vacation	no school
January	6	School reopens	
	13	Awareness Raiser -EduDeo	8:45 -gym
February	3	Opening Assembly	8:45 -gym
	14	ProD Day	no school
	17	Family Day	no school
March	2	Opening Assembly	8:45 -gym
	10	Report Cards	
	12	Student-Led Conferences	
	13	Student-Led Conferences	no school
	16-27	March Break	no school
	30	School reopens	
April	9	Easter Assembly gr. K/7	2 pm -church
	10	Good Friday	no school
	12	Easter Sunday	
	13	Easter Monday	no school
	20	Awareness Raiser -Musawekosi School	8:45 -gym
May	4	Opening Assembly	8:45 -gym
		Public Speaking Contest	
		Sports Day	
		Kindergarten Orientation Day	
	14	Grade 8 Day	
	15	ProD Day	no school
	18	Victoria Day	no school
	27	School membership meeting	
	29	Ascension/Pentecost Assembly	2 pm -church
June	1	Track & Field Day Gr. 6 & 7	
	19	Last day, Report Cards, Closing Assembly gr.1/5	11 am -church
	22	Gr. 7 grad	7:30 pm -church
	22-24	Administrative days	no school

Welcome to CCES

Kindergarten

Devon Aikema
Ryley Beukema
Sadie DeBoer
Silas Denhollander
Kenzie Dewit
Charlotte Hansman
Caleb Hoff
Kiera Hollaar
Ezekiel Meints
Jesse Mostert

Brielle Scheper
Emily Vandeburgt
Lucas Vandergaag
Micah Vanderriendt
Kara VanderHorst
Peyton Vanderhorst
Lindsay Vanderpol
Markus VanDyke
Lincoln VanOene
Ellie Welfing



Grade 3

Emma Breukelman
Kristen Lengkeek

Grade 5

Jonathan Breukelman



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

Ron Scheper (2019)	Chairman/Fin./CCSTA
Will VanOene (2019)	Secretary/IT
Ian Moes (2021)	Treasurer
Erica Feunekes (2019)	CCHS/SpEd/PR
Roger Aikema (2021)	Membership/Fundrasing
Deanna VanDyke (2020)	Education
Richard Welfing (2021)	Maintenance

Education Committee

Deanna VanDyke	Pearl Hoff
Yvonne Jacobi	Jacoba Leyenhorst
Brad VanOene	Kelly VanSeters
Otto Bouwman	Jennifer Onderwater

Membership Committee

Roger Aikema	Shelley Sikma
Karin Louwerse	Ryan Sikma
Rob VanDelft	

Special Education Committee

Erica Feunekes	Deborah Huttema
	Otto Bouwman

Finance Committee

Ian Moes	Ron Scheper
	Elma Kuntz

Maintenance Committee

Richard Welfing	Rob Bisschop
Darryl Hofsink	Ivan Scheper
Dave Vandeburgt	James Vandeburgt

Staff

Otto Bouwman	Principal
Jennifer Onderwater	VP, Grade 1 & 2
Leslie Scholtens	Kindergarten
Mary MacDougal	Grade 1
Heather Dykstra	Grade 1 & 2
Jessica deBoer	Grade 2
Stephen Chase	Grade 3
Debora Minderhoud	Grade 2 & 3
Nadine Krikke	Grade 4
Jerry Scholtens	Grade 5
Linda VanSpronsen	Grade 5
David Wu	Grade 6
Diana Nobel	Grade 7
Deborah Huttema	SpEd, LA
Yvonne Jacobi	Music 4,5
Mekayla Knol	Music 6,7
Wilma Deleeuw	Educational Ass't
Lisa Devries	Educational Ass't
Kim Groen	Educational Ass't
Yolanda Hoogstra	Educational Ass't
Katelyn Mostert	Educational Ass't
Evelynn Scheper	Educational Ass't
Jacqueline Spoor	Educational Ass't
Lisa Vanderven	Educational Ass't
Joy VanVliet	Educational Ass't
Alice Wu	Educational Ass't
Jackie VanOene	Librarian
Elma Kuntz	Bookkeeper
Kendra Vandergaag	Office Administrator

Credo Aid

Pearl Hoff	Danielle Stikma
Tanya Scholtens	Allison Vandeburgt
Audrey Leyenhorst	Marcia Wildeboer

Fee Structure 2019-2020

Membership	125.00	Kindergarten	320.00
Elem. (1-3)	530.00	Elem (4-7)	550.00
Junior High	695.00	Senior High	745.00



You are cordially invited to join us for our

Opening Assembly

Tuesday, September 3

at 10:00 a.m.

In the Langley Canadian Reformed Church