



Volume 23

Issue 2

Oct. 14, 2011

# BRANCHES

The purpose of our parent 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

Thanksgiving is cause for reflecting upon the Lord's blessing in our lives. The greatest blessing of all is unity that believers have with Christ, and the peace that comes from placing our aspirations, troubles and joys in His hands. It is good to reflect on our many material blessings as well, all of which are not given idly - but for us to use consciously and intentionally in His service. Among these blessings is the continued operation of Credo. It is good to thank God for this, and pray for its success in helping grow our covenant children.

Speaking of children, we welcome Tony and Geri VanOene, and their children Sarah, Logan and Courtney as well as Ken and Jen Schouten, and their children Gage and Tom. Both families are late arrivals for this school year, and we trust that they feel welcome among us. We also extend a hearty welcome back to Emily Boot, who has returned this year as Educational Assistant. We are grateful that you were available, and trust that your presence will be a blessing to students and staff.

Our Fall General Meeting is planned for October 26, 2011 at 8:00 PM. We hope that all membership families will be represented. Elsewhere in this edition of *Branches* you will find the meeting agenda as well as brief biographies of candidates who have let their name stand for the Board of Directors. The three year terms for Tim Bontkes, Richard Bredenhof and Valerie Sikkema expire this year. We thank Tim and Valerie for agreeing to stand for a second term on the Board; and thank Brad DeBoer, Mindert DeBoer, Ron Scheper and Aren VanDyke for also agreeing to stand. The membership is also reminded that the Board accepts nominations up to 15 minutes before the beginning of the AGM meeting.

This edition of *Branches* also includes financial statements for the school year 2010-2011. We have once again been blessed with the ability to meet our financial obligations. Thanks again to Tim Bontkes and the Finance committee for their hard work. It is also not a bad time to remind members to keep their school payments up to date. There are many financial obligations to be met throughout the year, all of which depends on timely payment of tuition.

The ad-hoc Strategic Planning Committee has been struck, and met for the first time on October 11. The committee is chaired by Mike Stam, and other members are Tim Bontkes, Mary MacDougal, Heres Snijder, Caroline Visscher and Chris Hoff. The committee also benefited from a valley-wide meeting with Alwyn Terpstra, who described the school system and governance related to our sister churches around Perth, Australia. The work ahead will be challenging and exciting. Please pray for the work of this committee, that we may be given the insights and wisdom we need.

It is also good to remember the service of Ed Vanderboom to Canadian Reformed Schools as Principal of Credo High; and to independent schools in general in his most recent capacity as Inspector of Independent Schools with the Ministry of Education. Ed - indeed you have been a blessing to us collectively, and we thank you for your faithful service.

As a Board, regular committees are again meeting, and the work of the school year has begun. As a Board, initial planning for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year is already underway. We covet your prayers for all who are involved.

## ***From the Principal....***

Heres Snijder

### **Thankful for Collaboration.**

“**Co-laboring in the field of the Lord**” was the theme of this year’s CTABC/SCSBC convention (Christian Teachers Association of British Columbia/Society of Christian Schools in British Columbia. ‘Credo’s teachers are member of the CTABC; ‘our’ schools are not members of the SCSBC).

As Credo Elementary School community we are intentional about keeping the direction from Philippians 4:8 in the forefront of our mind:

...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—**think about such things.**’ And what a *collaborative* effort *thinking* is at school!

Indeed, the theme text is displayed in the hallway and classrooms. But much more importantly, this mind set is fostered ‘across the curriculum’, in the hallways, on the playground and in the school buses. Our intent is that our children experience the creation as God-breathed and upheld by His power. (Educating with Heart and Mind: Perspectives for Curriculum in Christian Schools. Langley, SCSBC)

As members of home, church and school community, we are urged to be practical, hands-on about it. Our children and we are growing up...

*’ ... in terrible times in the last days. <sup>2</sup> People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.*

*2 Timothy 3:1-5*

Collaboration therefore is essential. Due to the tensions between a grateful God-centered attitude and a self-centered and uncontrolled stance in life, collaboration between home, school and church is imperative. It takes a whole village to raise one child, and the village is the stronger for it. Further, where there is appreciation and gratitude for this God-given treasure, the process of learning becomes a source of great joy, evidenced by the fact that children run into school in the morning at the same speed they run out in the afternoon! (E.N., 35).

.....For we are coworkers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.  
1 Cor. 3:9

Once this reality sets in, we find many reasons for humble gratitude. It’s my pleasure to list just a few:

# 17+1

I am grateful for the latest addition to Credo's staff: welcome aboard, Ms. Emily Boot! Your presence as full time Educational Assistant at Credo enables us to practice more effectively what we believe about the uniqueness of each child. When there is a need in the community to come alongside children with distinct learning styles and challenges, we step up to the plate to meet that need in the best way possible.

# 1+1!

Kim Gelderman and Shawn Meints were married on October 7. Congratulations to both of you: may God bless you and keep you as you go through life as husband and wife. May He who brought you together, garner much glory from your relationship! Welcome back, Mrs. Meints!

# 188+ 3

A special welcome to Geri and Tony VanOene! Their children Logan, Courtney and Sarah have moved the student population past the 190 mark.

# 55

Recently, a Pro-Life chain was formed along 200<sup>th</sup> Street in Langley. No less than 55 Credo Elementary students participated with representation from every grade, including Kindergarten! Participating in events like these help shape both character and biblical worldview in our children. Such a turnout of students and their pastors, parents, and teachers is encouraging and inspiring!

# 30

An event like this is an example of 'turning the home-school-church triangle inside out'. During the National Principal's Conference, held last month, 30 principals were challenged to think through the challenge of *character development in Christian day schools*. Professor Nelson Kloosterman, - Ethics Consultant and Executive Director of Worldview Resources International, - asserted that Christian day schools must serve to move our students from Christian worldview to Christian character, so that upon graduation from elementary and high school, their character increasingly reflects that of their Maker. In line with Christ's directives in the Sermon on the Mount we were challenged to be intentional about nurturing a *missional life style*:

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, *let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.* (Mt.5:14-16).

"Christian Schools exist to help students explore and experience what it means to be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. This vision is non-negotiable." (Educating with Heart and Mind, SCSBC document, 2004)



**Christian education descriptors:** *love, stewardship, justice, service, discipleship, generosity, simplicity.*

**Secular education descriptors:** self-fulfillment, autonomy, relativism, human mastery, entitlement.



## 6

The recently struck Strategic Ad-Hoc Development Committee consists of six school members. Its mandate is to determine what is the best way forward as school community. Careful stock will be taken of where we are at in bringing about our vision for the best possible Christian day school in the 21<sup>st</sup> century context. Among other things, this includes a careful look at how well the current building serves us to achieve this goal, and which programs should be revised, expanded or added in order to maintain a vision driven school. Realities like *global village, information overload, multiple intelligences*, and *online learning* challenge us to take a step in place, take stock and chart a way forward. Your prayer support will be an essential contributing factor to a well-crafted final recommendation.

## 2

On October 21, two buses will transport Credo students to Campbell Valley Park where the Road2Hope race will take place. This is as much an *awareness-* as a *fund* raising event. Many students' lives elsewhere in the world are transformed through the work of Edu-Deo. Fostering awareness of this work is meant to deepen the students' appreciation for the level of prosperity in BC, along with awareness how we can bless others with this gift of wealth. Fostering gratitude helps build self-less character. For more information on this fundraiser, see also <https://edudeo.com/get-inspired/schools/>.

## 5

This fund – and awareness raiser is one of five that have been planned for this year. They have been listed in the previous issue of *Branches*. The students' awareness will deepen along with their involvement to raise the (suggested) one-dollar amount: can they come up with a chore or another activity to enable him/her to practice generosity and part with their own earned money?

## 8

Eight additional foursquare and hopscotch grids have been painted on the asphalt and side walks around the school building. Teachers, during the August prep week, strategized to make better use of the -limited- available space. The result is that more students are more actively engaged during recess and lunch times.

# 8

Eight rows of produce are gracing the first garden box. A fall crop was planted during the first week of school. Again, this project has 'collaboration' written all over it: building materials were picked up and delivered, compost was transported from the compost bin (constructed by high school shop students!) and mixed in with the generously donated soil!

# 1200

Lynden Christian School hosted this year's CTABC/SCSBC convention. Twelve hundred teachers from BC and Washington gathered together for devotion, mutual encouragement and professional development. Many teachers volunteered to share their expertise about numerous relevant educational topics. A tip o' the hat to Mr. Scholtens, Mrs. De Glint and Mrs. MacDougall!

# 0

Lynden Christian School has been in existence since 1910. They have done so for 100 years without support from the government, quite like our brothers and sisters in Ontario. This reality testifies to the strength, depth and commitment to their vision for Christian day school education. While the government support we enjoy here in BC is another cause for humble gratitude, it also leads to self-reflection: will my vision and support for Credo remain intact in the absence of government support?

# 26

On October 26, the regular Annual General Meeting is planned. After this meeting you will have opportunity to take a stroll through the halls and classrooms of Credo, and meet the staff. We are grateful for the opportunity to connect with you! In a significant way, through your children you become part of our classroom events and activities, and in an equally significant way, teachers become part of your family for this year: a very good reason to touch base, face to face!

# 1

Elsewhere in this issue you will find **one** story taken from [Stories from the Heart](#). It was also shared during the Principal's Convention. I'd like to share it with you, to encourage us all to *not quit*, when the parenting and teaching gets tough. Our baptism-signed-and-sealed children are worthy of every bit of our care, love and attention. *Don't Quit!*

**God be with you till we meet again – on the 26<sup>th</sup>!**

# Don't Quit<sup>1</sup>

Charles R. Swindoll

What we don't hear much about is finishing well. About sticking with something until it is done. About hanging tough when the excitement wanes and the crowd goes home and the fun fades. As Eugene Peterson has remarked, our attention spans have been conditioned by thirty-second commercials. Our sense of reality has been flattened by thirty-page abridgements.

In our culture anything, even news about God, can be sold if it is packaged freshly; but when it loses its novelty, it goes on the garbage heap. There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called holiness.

Our generation toys dangerously with an "I'm getting tired, so let's just quit" mentality. And this is not limited to the spiritual realm. Finishing school is a hassle so we bail out. Cultivating a close relationship is painful, so we back off. Working through conflicts in a marriage is a tiring struggle, so we walk away. Sticking with an occupation is tough, so we change jobs.

Ignace Jan Paderewski, the famous Polish pianist and statesman, was once scheduled to perform at a great concert hall in America. It was a black-tie affair--a high society extravaganza.

Present in the audience that evening was a woman who had brought her nine-year-old son, hoping that he would be encouraged to practice the piano if he could just hear the great Paderewski at the keyboard. Weary of waiting for the concert to begin—and being there against his wishes anyway—the lad squirmed restlessly in his seat. Then, as his mother turned to talk with friends, the boy slipped out of his seat and down the aisle, strangely drawn by the ebony concert grand sitting majestic and alone at the center of the huge stage. He sat down on the tufted leather stool, placed his small hands on the black and white keys, and began to play "Chop Sticks."

Suddenly the crowd hushed, and hundreds of frowning faces turned in his direction. Irritated and embarrassed, some began to shout: "Hey, get that boy away from there!" "Where's his mother?" "Somebody stop him!"

Backstage, Paderewski heard the uproar and the sound of the simple tune. When he saw what was happening, he hurried onto the stage. Without a word to the audience, he walked up behind the lad, reached his arms around either side of him, and began to improvise a counter melody. As the two made music together, the master pianist kept whispering in the boy's ear: "Keep going. Don't quit, son. Keep on playing...don't stop...don't quit."

So it is with us. We hammer away at life, and sometimes it seems about as significant as "Chop Sticks." Then, about the time we are ready to give up, along comes the Master, who leans over and whispers: "Don't quit. Keep going," as He provides His finishing touch of grace, love, and joy at just the right moment.

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<sup>1</sup> Gray, Alice, ed., Stories for the Heart. Over 100 Stories To Encourage Your Soul. Sisters, OR, 1996, 37.

# Credo Aid Update

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! We hope you had an enjoyable family time during the thanksgiving break, remembering and thanking the Lord for all of His many blessings. As we get back into early mornings and lunches we can also be thankful for these routines, especially when we have a Christian school to send our kids to! May everyone have a blessed week.

**VEGGIE PACKS:** A HUGE THANK-YOU to all those who came out to help. With fewer volunteers this year, everyone had to work extra long and hard, but we managed to get it done with 15 minutes to spare. If you did not pick up your veggies yet they will be in the school freezer. Please forward payment, marked veggie packs, to Ang Vanspronsen or place in the Credo Aid mail slot in the office. There were only a few extras (some without carrots) and they are a first come first serve deal. Thanks!

**PURDY'S:** Don't forget to take a look at all that yummy chocolate in the catalogue and pass on to friends and colleagues as well. All the information you need it outlined on a letter attached to the catalogues but feel free to contact Yolanda Hoogstra at [ghoogstra@hotmail.com](mailto:ghoogstra@hotmail.com) or 604-888-4698 if you have any questions. Orders are due Monday, October 17.

**CROQUETTES:** The dates have been set already for this fundraiser! Please mark on your calendars Monday Oct 24 for making the batter, and Tuesday, Oct 25 for assembly day in the Credo Elementary gym. To volunteer, please contact Ginny Vanderhorst. More info will be coming as to the ordering and other details.....stay tuned!

**CERTIFICATES:** The deadline for the "special order" certificates is this coming Thursday, Oct 13th. Please place an order through Shauna Stam. Don't forget that we always have the regular grocery and Tim's cards in stock so just give us a shout! Shauna and Marcia (Langley) and Angela (Aldergrove)

**CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS:** We have a list of the Campbell's soup labels that give out points! Please follow the link and check it out. There is a box in the kitchen for your labels, or send them in your child's agenda and the teachers will be willing to help you out. Please make sure it is the WHOLE label including the UPC. Thanks!  
[http://www.labelsforeducation.ca/english/eligible\\_exp.asp](http://www.labelsforeducation.ca/english/eligible_exp.asp)

**Credo Aid Update:** If you have anything to put in the weekly update please forward it to Ang de Boer at [bandadeboer@shaw.ca](mailto:bandadeboer@shaw.ca). FYI: The Credo Aid update portion is sent to the school by 9:00am Monday morning.

**Credo Aid Board:**

Ang DeBoer: 604.857.0524

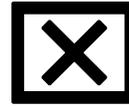
Esther Vandergugten: 604.510.0534

Ang VanSpronsen: 604.530.0008

Lisa Vanderven: 604.856.2507



# CCES Membership Meeting



## Agenda

Credo Christian Elementary School  
General Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, October 26th, 2011  
8:00 P.M.

1. Opening and welcome – Chris Hoff
2. Minutes of the May 25th, 2011 Membership meeting
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. Election for new Board members – three required (retiring: Tim Bontkes, Richard Bredenhof & Valerie Sikkema). Nominees are:
  - Tim Bontkes
  - Brad deBoer
  - Mindert deBoer
  - Ron Scheper
  - Valerie Sikkema
  - Aren VanDyke
5. Secretary's annual report – Ed Visscher
6. Presentation of the 2010/11 Financial Statements – Tim Bontkes
7. CCES Transportation – CCSTA/Curtis Braun
8. Question Period
9. Closing

Meet the teacher...

The teachers will be available after the meeting to discuss the class, curriculum etc.  
Please take advantage of this opportunity to become acquainted with the teachers  
and CCES programs!

# Minutes of the CCES Membership Meeting

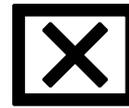


Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School with the Membership  
May 25, 2011  
CCES Gymnasium

- Opening: The Chairman, Chris Hoff opened the meeting with reading from Proverbs 1, and prayer. The membership sang from Hymn 80. Those present were welcomed to the meeting. A quorum of members was present.
- Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the Membership Meeting held October 27, 2010 were presented. A motion to adopt the minutes as presented was made, and carried unanimously. There was no outstanding business arising from the October 27 2010 minutes.
- Overview of CCES Enrollment Forecasts and Planning Challenges: Chris Hoff presented an overview of enrolment and building challenges that CCES can be expected to encounter over the next five years. Developing a long term view is a priority for the Board over the next year, and the Board intends to establish an ad-hoc Strategic Planning Committee. A number of questions were received from membership including the potential to expand the existing building / add a second floor / use portables; inclusion of William of Orange Christian School in strategic planning; use of facilities at CCHS; and expected composition of the committee.
- Financial statements and CCES Budget for 2011-2012: Tim Bontkes reviewed the financial statements and proposed budget for the 2011-2012 school year. A motion to approve the budget was made, seconded and approved unanimously. There were two questions from membership:
  - ▶ What is the RCDC? Reformed Curriculum Development Committee.
  - ▶ Last year a capital expense of 100,000 was requested, yet you did not use it. Why? Originally the budget was expected to be a lot higher but we were able to sharpen the pencil and bring costs down.
- COWS and internet diligence: Nathan Boersema led an interactive discussion of Computers on Wheels. Netbooks were distributed to the membership and a hands-on demonstration was given. The older membership had some challenges with the Netbooks technology; as well an inability to follow the directions from the teacher. The membership has been Nathan's most challenging class yet.

Heres Snijder discussed internet security and diligence. The goal is for children to seek out the Lord on the internet and teach discernment. The internet can be used as an invaluable tool for research. "The Door that's not Locked" website was introduced, and an internet safety quiz from this website was taken by the membership. Based upon a question from membership, it was noted that the Netbooks do not presently have security filters as students are directly supervised by teachers.
- Question Period: Stan Pol took the opportunity to remind membership of the annual golf tournament taking place in June. Stan Pol also received a number of questions and comments regarding regular contributions, attracting young people to membership, retaining members whose last child graduates from Grade 12, and mandatory church community contributions.
- Thanksgiving and prayer: The membership praised God from Psalm 121 and Heres Snijder closed in prayer.
- Adjournment: Chris Hoff adjourned the meeting.

## Nominee Profiles



Tim Bontkes

I have been a member of Langley CRC for all of my life and currently live in Murrayville with my wife and four kids; Josh and Ryan are currently in grade 1 and Kindergarten and Meagan and Abigail are both at home keeping my wife Petra busy. I am the current Treasure for CCES and have enjoyed the Board experience. I would be more than willing to serve another term."

Brad de Boer

I am married to Ang. We have 4 kids, two girls, Kayla (9) Esther (7) and two boys, Ryan (3) and Joel (1 1/2). We attend Aldergrove Canadian Church. I am employed at Two Ee's farm and have been there since I graduated in '97. I also am currently serving a term on the development committee.

Mindert de Boer

Hi there, for those that don't know me here is this short biography. moved from Holland around 1999, have attended both Credo Elementary and High school. I am married to Emily (Olij), and will soon have a family of four, of which the oldest currently attends Kindergarten. I am employed at EDS Pumps where I do sales & service in the water, well pump and treatment business. I am ready and willing to face the task of serving the school board, and look forward to doing so.

Ron Scheper attends the Canadian Reformed Church of Langley with his wife Evelyn and three kids (Taia, Jeren, and Leena). Taia has just begun Grade 1 at Credo Elementary. Ron is employed at Kinetics Drive Solutions Inc. as a project manager and control systems engineer. Ron is interested in supporting our Christian school as a CCES board member.

Valerie Sikkema - I've been married for 20 years to Arnold and we have 3 children in grades 9 and 12 and 2nd-year university. With degrees in horticulture and education, I taught math & science at CCHS in 1991-92 and 2005-06, and now work as the staff horticulturist at a large wholesale nursery in Abbotsford. We are members of Langley CanRC. I have been on the CCES board for three years and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I have served on the Development Committee and am presently on the Special Ed Committee and am the CCHS rep where I also serve as the chair of the Curriculum Committee. Arnold and I are committed to Christian education from kindergarten through university (Arnold teaches at Trinity Western). I have attended the Board training offered by SCSBC each of the three years of my tenure, and would love to continue working for the good of Christian education in our community.

Aren Van Dyke is employed at Ebco Industries, where he works as an engineer. Aren married his wife Deanna (a high school Math teacher) in 2003 and together they have been blessed with three children, Ethan, Maria and Jonathan. Ethan is in grade 1 and Maria cannot wait to start kindergarten next year. They live in Langley and attend the Canadian Reformed church of Langley. Aren would enjoy the opportunity to work within the church and school community.