



Volume 19 Issue 5
Dec. 21, 2007

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....



Paul Schouten

And.....a good day to you all again!

This is the last issue of *Branches* for 2007, another year gone and another soon to start. A time for Christian celebration, reflection and the continued making of plans.

Celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is a truly wonderful and joyous occasion. An occasion that can easily be overwhelmed by many things of the world. To overcome that possibility, by God's grace, we allow the power of God's Spirit to work in our hearts and minds, reflecting on and discerning more clearly God's message of salvation through his Son. With much thankfulness we then also consider the real freedom we have to worship and live out each day glorifying our God and King for the salvation he accomplished through his Son. His Son who was faithful to death so allowing us to live in the knowledge and hope of life eternal. What a great and glorious God we have! We sinned, we daily continue in our sinful weaknesses, yet he, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ conquered sin and allows us to live in that hope of life eternal if we believe and live our lives in thankful and humble obedience to him.

That message of God's love for his people should also spur us on to faithful living and careful planning in the year of our Lord 2008!

And so.....

The Board of CCES hopes that each of you, in your many and varied circumstances, may have a truly joyous Christmas season and that the blessings of our gracious and merciful God may continue to abound in your lives in 2008.

That same hope is then conveyed to the staff, administration and all those who work at CCES. May God grant you a short time of rest and relaxation while you also take time to reflect on his great and awesome love for us. And as you begin a new year, may God's grace and mercy continue to strengthen you day by day as you faithfully continue to instruct our children in the wonders of His work of creation and re-creation. Go on each day in his great love!

From the Board.....

***Walter Nordeman, Bob Onderwater, Paul Schouten,
Paul Sikma, Mike Stam, Verne Stel,
Ria Vandenberg & Ed Visscher.***

As to Board matters.....

On December 11th the Legal Authority for CCS (Credo Christian Schools) met to review many aspects of the two campuses. The principals of the two schools report on matters pertaining to courses offered, time allowances for courses, teacher certification, completion of government requirements, policies, etc. Although it may seem somewhat redundant as both campuses of CCS have their own Board, yet it forces everyone to consider whether the requirements of the Ministry are met. As well the cost per student is analyzed as best we can at that time. To keep up with government requirements for education in terms of instruction and operation takes a considerable amount of time for the principals. We thank them for their continued diligence and expertise and wish them continued wisdom and strength as they carry out their task, each in their own school. Keep up the good work J. Roukema and H. Moes!

The Board of CCES met after the Legal Authority meeting. Each meeting of the Board focuses on reports and minutes of committee meetings. From these reports and minutes we usually have a fair amount of good discussion and are usually able to move ahead with majority decisions. Recently, as Board we decided to increase the amount of time the principal is given for that specific task he has, increasing the time from 40% - 60%.. The Board had been informed by way of the several reports (two School Evaluation reports in as many years from the Ministry and as well the Principal's Evaluation report) and as well becoming aware of the fact ourselves that our Principal required more time to complete his task adequately. We hope that this decision affords him the time he needs to carry out his task. Providing our Principal with more time for his task

also meant increasing instruction time for others. We thank Sr. Linda VanSpronsen for responding to that requirement and hope she may be strengthened for that extra work. The Board is at present also considering all aspects of our policies regarding admittance and as well hoping to soon complete a full review of our policy manual. We have a resident Board member who carefully sifts through it all to determine accuracy, redundancies, duplication, etc.

At this time we would also like to thank two others for the time they have given at our school. Sr. Marg Meyer has requested to be relieved of her responsibilities. Marg, we thank you for your work completed and wish you the Lord's blessings as you move on to other things. Br. Dave Rolleman has accepted the responsibility to take over Marg's place and we pray that he may receive strength to continue on in that task. We also thank Sr. Jane Deglint for the work she has done with the music program. She has completed her tenure here and so we also wish you the Lord's blessings as you continue in your others tasks and pray for God's continued blessing over the work you have done.

Recently, our janitors, returned to their task again. As you may well know, Sr. Corrie Dewit had an operation on her foot some time ago and after a time of healing and recuperation is now able to return to her task. Corrie, we hope that the healing will soon be complete and that you will be able to continue in your task with your husband John. All the best! We also give a hearty thanks to Sr. Nellie Scholtens for maintaining the cleanliness of the school facilities in Corrie's absence. THANK YOU!

That's all for this one, until next time.....PJS



Principal's Report



John A. Roukema

Christmas Wishes

Beginning this week, students and staff may enjoy a two-week break from the rigours of school routines and schedules. More importantly, we may celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is through him that we have any meaning in life. We are not our own but we belong to him who came in the flesh to take upon himself our sins, to conquer death, and be our advocate in heaven so that we might gain eternal life with him. Happy are we to be chosen as heirs of his victory!

*"Now make a joyful noise before Him;
O all the earth, His praises sing!
With loud acclaim let all adore Him
And let the joyful anthems ring!"*

While we believe that the "spirit of Christmas" must prevail throughout the year, it is still good for us to ponder these things in the light of today's world. We did this last week Monday (Dec. 17) in assembly in the school gym. Parents, grandparents, and friends chose to join the grade 5 students in the singing of praises and adoration. We thank also Mrs. Deglint for her great efforts and expertise in helping the grade 5 students master some of the songs for recorder playing and two-part harmony.

Staffing Matters

Mrs. Marg Meyer requested to be relieved of her Special Education Assistant duties; this has been granted. Marg's last day here at CCES was Thursday, Nov. 29. We thank Marg for the work she has done for us here and wish her the Lord's blessings in other endeavours. We have found Dave Rolleman willing to assume Marg's duties, effective Monday, Dec. 3, 2007. Due to the increased workload for the Sp. Ed. Department, we have increased Deb Huttema's time. Between Deb and Dave we'll see extra time being expended because of the additional Sp. Ed. load.

Mrs. Linda VanSpronsen was found willing to make up for the teaching time lost due to the increased administrative time awarded to me (and gratefully accepted) by the Board. We have

arranged for Linda to come in all day Wednesdays and all day Fridays effective Dec. 5, 2007.

Mrs. Corrie Dewit has returned to work on her full schedule basis. It's good to see her back, but we can notice that her foot will still swell towards the end of the work schedule. We wish Corrie further healing. We thank Nellie Scholtens for doing a wonderful job filling in for Corrie.

Due to enrolment increase next year, as it stands now, the Board will be soliciting applications for one full-time equivalent (FTE) teacher for (probably) grade 5 and one FTE Teacher Assistant for grade 1

Wednesday, Dec. 19 was Mrs. Jane Deglint's last day of teaching (music) at CCES. We thank Jane for her willingness to share her music talents with our grade 3-7 students. The grade 6/7 students had the pleasure of working with her on their musical, "To be Shakespeare or Not to be Shakespeare" and were able to perform for us on Wednesday, Dec. 12. It was most appreciative to see such a large crowd turn up for the fine performance. We thank the grade 6/7 students and Mrs. Deglint for their great efforts and fine product. We wish Jane the Lord's guidance as she continues in her other endeavours. At the same time we welcome back Mrs. Elizabeth Smith who will take over the Music classes, effective Jan. 7, 2008, same days and same time slots as Jane's.

We extend our congratulations to Allison Dekker upon her engagement to Rob Vandeburgt last weekend. We wish them God's blessings as they plan for their wedding date.

From the Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College we received a request to have one of its 3rd or 4th year students complete a teaching practicum session with us, sometime in late February. which the Board has given its approval.

Anti-Bullying, Anti-Teasing, Peer Pressure

As you may remember, our school theme for this year is taken from Micah 6:8b: "... to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Our weekly devotional assemblies have focused on this theme by using the Ten

Commandments, one commandment per month. During these devotions we encourage students (and ourselves) to do unto others as we would have them do to us. Early in the school year we were entertained by Judi the Manners Lady as she brought across that message to us in word, song, and play. Last week we were entertained by the Canadian Half-Pints, a touring group of little people who brought the message of anti-bullying.

Early in the new year we are scheduled to have the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program back. This is a 10-week, one hour per week program presented by the RCMP to grade 5 students. Parents and students will be informed about this program more fully as the time and details for presentation have been finalized.

New Family

The Emmanuel Tamba family has decided it would like to join the CCES community. Emmauel and Adrania were sponsored by the Aldergrove Canadian Reformed Church to be brought over here from Liberia some five years ago. We are thankful that the Lord has made Christian education a possibility for them. Beginning in the new year, we may welcome Miata Tamba to our grade 1 class. Amanda Tamba is scheduled to be in Kindergarten next year. We trust that Miata will soon adjust to her new surroundings.

Fund-Raising Projects

Every year CCES is committed to several fund-raising projects. One of these projects this year, as in the past several years, is the monetary support we offer the Los Guandules Christian School just on the outskirts of San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic through Worldwide Christian Schools (WWCS), Hamilton, ON. Mind you, ours is one of several Christian Schools supporters for that school. Our portion of approximately \$400/year covers the costs for one classroom per year (desks and supplies). We reach that total when every student brings in 25 cents per month. To date we have collected about \$130.00. Obviously, we still have some way to go.

In joyful obedience to God WWCS seeks to help responsible Christian organizations worldwide to develop Christian schools. Its job is simply to provide them the critical resources they need to do their jobs. The guiding principle of WWCS is to glorify God by ensuring that all people have access to Christian education. In a recently written letter, Michele Ludwig, WWCS Sponsorship Coordinator, writes, "Sponsorship has both an immediate and

eternal effect on the lives of children and families that are connected to the local Christian school. Thank you for helping provide such opportunities to families in the community around your sponsored school!"

Another fund-raising project is the annual Food Hampers. While for several years we would take the grade 7 students to the Union Gospel Mission in Vancouver, in the last few years we have limited that journey to within our own environs, namely to the Langley Food Bank. Nor have we restricted our visit to Christmas time. The Langley Food Bank is quite happy to receive our donations during January or February; those are leaner months for them. Thus, as the new year begins, we will be asking students to bring non-perishable food items to school. Further details will follow in the first *leaflets* of the new year.

The third annual fund-raiser is the "Loonie" Drive (formerly, the Penny Drive), which begins in the week of Valentine's Day with the kick-off assembly. This year, our Loonie Drive target is Children of Hope, an orphanage in Pan da Vida, Mexico, in the area where Duanne Visscher is currently working.

Curricular Matters

The Foundational Skills Assessments (FSA) results have been received and reviewed by the staff. These will also be reviewed by the Education Committee at its next meeting. Individual results have been forwarded to the parents of last year's grade 4 students. Previously, the BC Ministry of Education conducted these tests in mid-May. However, the timing has now been changed to mid-February. The rationale for this is justified: by moving the date of these tests to an earlier one would make it more possible to have the results in before the end of the current school year and therefore be more meaningful for the students and parents concerned.

At its last meeting the Education committee could review the English Language Arts Curriculum Linkages as developed by the staff last June. This Committee will also be receiving the Health and Career Education (formerly called Personal Planning) Curriculum Linkages developed by the staff during our Nov. 30 Professional Development Day.

Finally, I refer you to the RCDC Press Release below for further updates on the activities of the Reformed Curriculum Development Committee.

Short Report of Board Meeting

Short Report of the meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School
November 14, 2007

1. Opening: - The chairman P.J.Schouten opened with reading Psalm 145 and prayer. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting.
2. Approval of Agenda: - The Agenda was approved as presented.
3. Approval of Minutes and Short Report of the October 10, 2007 Board meeting & review of the minutes of the October 24, 2007 AGM: Motion: "to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2007 meeting with minor corrections" was made. Minutes and Short report were approved with minor corrections. The October 24, 2007 AGM minutes were reviewed for presentation to the membership.
4. Matters from the Minutes:
 - CCRTC Practicum
 - New Computers
 - Cho family tuition rate
 - Legacy Fund
 - Stage
5. Incoming Correspondence:
 - Two letters were received from CCHS
 - A letter was received from a family
 - The letter from J. Dykstra was discussed. Final decision regarding the Terry Fox Run was tabled to January Board Meeting.
 - A letter confirming the filing of the Annual Report was received from McQuarrie Hunter.
6. Outgoing Correspondence: None
7. Development Committee:
 - The Minutes of the Nov 7, 2007 meeting as received prior to the meeting were discussed.
 - Development Committee calendar was reviewed.
 - A new committee member was needed to replace D. Mackay. Sister M. Scholtens was appointed.
 - Garbage cans were purchased for outside.
8. Departing Board members: - T. Vanvliet thanked the Board for the good cooperation experienced throughout his term. The board expressed appreciation for all his work.
9. Appointment of new executive: - The following board members were appointed into the new executive: Chairman - Paul J. Schouten, Vice Chairman - M. Stam, Treasurer - V. Stel, Secretary - P. Sikma.
10. Appointments to Committees: - The following board members were appointed or re-appointed to the following committees: Edcom - W. Nordeman, Sped - W. Nordeman, Maintenance Committee - M. Stam, CCHS rep - R. Vandenburg, CCSTA - B. Onderwater, Development Committee - E. Visscher and P. Sikma
11. Principal's Report: The principal's report as received prior to the meeting was reviewed. Computers were purchased.
12. Chairman's report:
 - The chairman's report as received prior to the meeting was reviewed. M. Stam was thanked for taking on a second term.
 - CB's report still in progress.
 - J. Roukema will attend the Understanding by Design conference in March.
13. Education Committee: The minutes of the October 30, 2007 as received prior to the meeting were tabled to the next meeting.
14. Finance Committee:
 - The minutes of the Nov 6, 2007 meeting as received prior to the meeting were reviewed.
 - The Finance Committee recommends leaving the Reserve Policy as is for now. Further discussion will be held on the Reserve Policy in the Finance Committee.
 - WofO is the convener for the Salary Committee this year.
15. Transportation rep report: - Tabled until next meeting.
16. CCHS rep report: - Nothing to report
17. Special Education Committee report: - Nothing to report
18. Maintenance: - Janitorial Contract is complete.
19. Other Committee reports: (RCDC/CB's/RPDC/FISA): - None
20. Other Canadian Reformed Schools: - No report.
21. New Business: Review committee assignments.
22. Items for next board meeting:
 - Discussion of policies and review
 - Principal's staff evaluation (specific and/or general)
 - Ed Com visit reports
 - Legal Authority meeting.
23. Question Period: - None
24. Next Meeting: December 11, 2007.
25. Thanksgiving and prayer: M. Stam closed in prayer.
26. Adjournment: - P.J. Schouten adjourned the meeting.

RCDC Press Release



J. A. Roukema
secretary

Progress Report on the Activities of the Reformed Curriculum Development Committee
Members of the RCDC met on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2007 to review and discuss reports received of the activities conducted on the behalf of the RCDC. Below follows a brief description of these reports.

Curriculum Cooperative Committee

John Roukema reported on the progress of the discussions and projects of the CCC. The RCDC Science Curriculum Development (K-10) writing team completed Stage 1 during the past summer. He requested the RCDC to allow him to solicit the services of this team for next summer's Stage 2 development. Normally, this is done after a development proposal is approved in a March RCDC meeting. Since the RCDC approved the Science Project in its totality, it would make sense to seek the writers' acceptance for another summer session now, rather than after the March meeting, so that those writers do not make other commitments. The RCDC granted this request. The RCDC is grateful for the enthusiastic support it has received for this project from the participants. It expressed its admiration for the good work done by the curriculum writers and encouraged them to move boldly forward.

It was also reported that J. Roukema is scheduled to attend a three-day Understanding by Design Curriculum Institute in March, 2008

The CCC is in the process of establishing a web-site for its work completed and in progress. This web-site would include background information on the RCDC and the CCC, its products and processes. Most of this work will be done by Hugo Vanderhoek and Pieter Torenvliet. We look forward to an exciting web-site, confident in the expertise of the aforementioned designers.

The Flame of the Word Project

Mr. Apko Nap reported that sales of Books 1, 2, and 2A have been brisk. Many schools are now using this series for their Church History courses. However, progress on Book 3 has been slow due to the many other activities that keep the authors, A. Nap and P. Torenvliet, occupied. For that reason, they could not confidently say that Book 3 would be finished in 2008. It was also reported that the Brazilian translator has started work on Book 2A and that discussions were being held with Maple Zeng about the selection of

suitable chapters for the translation of Book 2B into Chinese.

Narration Project

This project, entitled "Ears Acquire Eyes When you Listen", is actually a series of workshops conducted by P. Torenvliet and A. Nap. One such series of workshops was presented to our South Africa counterparts last summer. Ten different presentations about the narrative approach were presented there. A. Nap briefly reviewed the proceedings and participation of the workshops. The RCDC was presented with several upbeat and positive observations and reactions from the South Africa participants. He reported that the group was enthusiastic and dedicated to the education of children. This group would like to have another course presentation next summer, pending financial feasibility.

Financial Report

Piet Torenvliet presented statements of incomes and expenditures of each RCDC project: ICRE 2, CCC, Flame, and Narration. It was noted that all projects are well within their budgeted allotments and that ongoing projects are well within the means provided. It was explained that Haidee Voorhorst, secretary of the WOCS, spent many hours on the book-keeping aspects. The RCDC gratefully acknowledged her contribution towards this aspect of the RCDC work and agreed that she be remunerated with a token appreciation of a gift certificate valued at \$50.

Harry Moes reported that the services of Ms Jenny Vanderzyl, CGA were rendered as these pertain to the reviewing of the financial books of the RCDC. She has reported that the bank statements, cheques, deposits and computer records for the RCDC for the period Sept. 2006 to Aug.2007 were found to have been done in good order.

Conclusion

The chairman thanked all those reporting for the many hours of work expended on their respective projects and the good results these projects produced. The RCDC is thanks the Lord for His continued guidance and provision of insight and strength into the work done on behalf of all our schools. It looks forward to your continued prayerful and financial support.

Credo Aid Update



Wow, it's hard to believe that the end of 2007 is already in sight! What an exciting year it's been! We are once again overwhelmed by your tremendous support in our fundraising efforts this year - we would not be able to do it without you! We give thanks to our Heavenly Father that we are working in such a supportive community, and we pray for His continued blessing of our work as we enter a new year.

A few last updates on profits from our last fundraisers:

Christmas Wreaths: our hard-working volunteers crafted an amazing 74 beautiful wreaths this year! Our profits this year were just over \$1200 - many thanks to coordinator Shelley Sikma!

Croquetten: After tallying up the final numbers, our profits this year were close to \$3000! Many thanks to coordinators Shirley deHaan and Ginny VanderHorst!

Certificates: For the month of November, our profits were \$2170 - many thanks to those who ordered Christmas gifts through Credo Aid...and especially to those businesses that purchased employee bonuses and give-aways. We had a few very large orders in Nov and Dec which gave a big boost to our profits. Thank you!

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas as you celebrate Christ's birth with your families and friends! See you in 2008!

Credo Aid Board:

Hilary Vandergugten: 604.856.3375

Wenda Sikma: 604.534.7875

Marijke Ezinga: 604.514.9414

Jean VanSpronsen: 604.882.1663

Michelle Vandeburgt: 604.514.8076



Grandparents' Day



The CCES staff and students invite all grandparents to our school on Friday, January 25 beginning at 9:30 a.m. for a morning of interaction and celebration.

Grandparents will be visiting the classrooms of their grandchildren and participating in the Creation theme. Please mark that date on your calendar.



School Calendar Update



Dec. 24 - Jan. 4	-	Christmas Vacation
Jan. 4	-	last day of Christmas Vacation
7	-	first day back after Christmas Vacation
8	-	Board Meeting
23	-	Education Committee Meeting
25	-	Grandparents Day
Feb. 8	-	Combined Pro.D. Day



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. P. Schouten (2009)	Chairman
Mr. M. Stam (2010)	Vice Chair/Maint.
Mr. V. Stel (2008)	Treasurer
Mr. Paul Sikma (2009)	Secretary
Mr. W. Nordeman (2008)	SpEd
Mr. R. Onderwater (2008)	CCSTA
Mrs. R. Vandenberg (2009)	CCHS
Mr. E. Visscher (2010)	Development

Education Committee

Mr. W. Nordeman	Mrs. M. Aikema
Mrs. J. Onderwater	Mrs. W. Sikma
Mrs. C. VanDelft	Mrs. C. Visscher
Mr. J. Roukema	Mrs. N. VanRhee

Development Committee

Mr. E. Visscher	Mr. Paul Sikma
Mr. D. Huttema	Mrs. F. Jansen
	Mrs. M. Scholtens

Special Education Committee

Mr. W. Nordeman	Mrs. T. Visscher
Mrs. W. VanderHoek	Mr. J. Roukema
	Mrs. D. Huttema

Finance Committee

Mr. V. Stel	Mr. M. Stam
	Mrs. E. Kuntz

Maintenance Committee

Mr. M. Stam	Mr. R. Wiegiers
Mr. J. Roukema	Mr. C. Vanderhorst
Mr. D. MacKay	Mr. Phil Sikma

Staff

Mr. J. Roukema	Principal, Gr. 5
Mrs. J. Onderwater	Kindergarten
Ms. L. Scholtens	Kindergarten
Mrs. M. MacDougal	Grade 1
Mrs. D. Vanderboom	Grade 2
Mr. G. Scholtens	Grade 3
Mr. M. Van	Grade 4
Miss R. Vanderhorst	Grade 6/7
Mrs. T. Visscher	SpEd, LA
Mrs. D. Huttema	SpEd, LA
Mrs. S. Allison	Grade 5/6,7 PE
Mrs. J. Deglint	Music
Mrs. L. Vanspronsen	Grade 5
Miss A. Dekker	TA
Mrs. A. Devries	SEA
Mr. D. Rolleman	SEA
Mrs. E. Kuntz	Secretary
Mr. & Mrs. J. Dewit	Custodians

Credo Aid

Mrs. H. Vandergugten	Mrs. M. Ezinga
Mrs. W. Sikma	Mrs. M. Vandeburgt
Mrs. J. Vanspronsen	

Fee Structure 2007-2008

Membership	100.00
Kindergarten	220.00
Elementary (1-3)	400.00
Elementary (4-7)	420.00
Junior High	540.00
Senior High	590.00

CCSTA office	604-543-0890
Dave Champ (cell)	604-603-0890

CCES Staff wish you
 a joyous Christmas
 and
 a blessed New Year

Handwritten signatures:
 Onderwater, Rachel Vanderhorst, Allison Dekker, Tricia Visscher, Mrs. M. MacDougal, Mrs. D. Vanderboom, Mr. G. Scholtens, Mr. M. Van, Miss R. Vanderhorst, Mrs. T. Visscher, Mrs. D. Huttema, Mrs. S. Allison, Mrs. J. Deglint, Mrs. L. Vanspronsen, Miss A. Dekker, Mrs. A. Devries, Mr. D. Rolleman, Mrs. E. Kuntz, Mr. & Mrs. J. Dewit, Mrs. H. Vandergugten, Mrs. W. Sikma, Mrs. J. Vanspronsen, Leslie Scholtens, Jane Ogilvie, Deb Huttema, M. Van, DAVE KOLEMAN, M. MacDougal, Vanderboom, FRITZ, CORIE DEWIT, E. Kuntz.

