



Volume 22 Issue 3
Dec. 10, 2010

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....

Chris Hoff

Welcome to the last edition of *Branches* for 2010!

I am told that time seems to pass quicker as you age, and I admit to be a bit perplexed with how fast the last 'governance year' for CCES has passed. The October 2010 Annual General Meeting gave cause to reflect on God's faithfulness to us over the last year. We remain free to operate a Christian school in an increasingly secular society, and CCES remains a vital institution in support of growing God's covenant children. The attendance at the AGM reflects the enthusiasm and interest in CCES within the membership, for which we are grateful. Based upon a review of the financial statements it is clear that the membership has been blessed with the ability to sustain the school, which is also a matter of thankfulness. Overall, we were able to conclude that CCES remains faithful, and we praise Him for this.

At the AGM, new Board directors were also elected from a strong slate of six candidates. For those who did not get elected, we thank you for your willingness to have your name stand, and encourage you to seek other opportunities to serve the CCES community.

The incoming directors replace Board directors who served the Board and CCES community admirably and with honour. Sr. Janet Schouten served as the Education Committee chair for two years with care, enthusiasm and dedication. May God bless you and Pastor Schouten with peace as you contend with his illness, and we pray for full restoration of health. After six years of faithful service, including the last two as Board Chair, Br. Mike Stam has also retired. Mike led the Board with wisdom, good judgement, and dedication, and set the tone for a collaborative and constructive Board (and generally ended the meetings on time). Both Janet and Mike have been a real blessing to the CCES community, and leave big shoes to fill. We pray for God's continued blessing over your work, and that you may have the strength for the new tasks that God places in front of you.

We welcome Br. Ed Visscher back for a second consecutive term. It is indeed great to have you back – your contributions to the Board and your continuity as Chair of the Transportation Association are valued. We also welcome Brs. Wilfred Bulthuis and John Lof. Both have previously served on school boards – Wilfred with William of Orange, and John with Credo Elementary. We trust that the next three years will be rewarding, and that you will find a Board united by the desire to serve our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ with humility, and to govern the affairs of the school with integrity.

The rotation of Board directors also led to rearrangement of Board portfolios. Speaking of big shoes to fill, I have been elected to follow Br. Mike Stam as Board Chair. I am humbled by the confidence placed in me, somewhat daunted, and pray for wisdom during my tenure as Chair. A number of other portfolios were also re-assigned. Br. Bulthuis assumed the position of Vice-Chair and the Education Committee portfolio; Br. Lof will lead the IT Committee and serve on the Finance Committee; Br. Visscher will also serve as Secretary; and Br. Richard Bredenhof will continue to lead the Maintenance Committee as well as serve as Staff Relations Coordinator. The other portfolios remain the same, and a complete list of director responsibilities can be found on the back page of *Branches*.

There are but a few more days of school left before the Christmas Break. We trust that all – parents, students, staff, and CCES members – will enjoy time spent with family, gain strength from the celebration of Christ's incarnation and God's redeeming work, and return safe and refreshed in Year 2011.

Rock Solid Stability - Lightning Speed Change

Your word, LORD, is eternal;
it stands firm in the heavens.
Your faithfulness continues through all generations;
you established the earth, and it endures.

Psalm 119: 89, 90.



Take a good look, for this picture paints a *CREDO* scenario worth a thousand-word elaboration. [I will limit it to 686 words, promise]. Two students, from grade one and grade six, purposely and intensely engaged in the process of learning. This is a regular occurrence, where students connect with each other *across the grades*.

The picture shows student focus, teacher's intent and community support. Yes, there's evidence of the teacher's influence. Even though s/he is not pictured, this moment is carefully planned and structured. There is cooperation between the students, but

evidently, just as much between the teachers. More, *picture yourself* as contributor to this moment through your prayerful and practical support, which enable our community to engage in applying technology to learning and education, *something we could never do on our own!*

The question about how Credo Elementary can be **the best educational stepping stone for your child** generates numerous discussions. Please continue to come alongside by connecting with teachers, and committee members to move to **make that**

vision a reality! Is there a program, a subject or an event that you would love to see changed, implemented, integrated, or organized? Let's make it topics of discussion amongst us all! Let's encourage each other to picture Credo beautiful, effective, well equipped, with *best practices* implemented everywhere, at all levels, in class – and across the grades. Let's face it: the challenge of **'Teach me something I cannot Google'** misses the point: we realize that computers, powerful tools to support and stimulate learning in itself, will not eliminate the need for teachers, displace the need to read, replace writing, or do away with a need for numeracy. Moreover, we need each other even more to ensure that the next generation be at least as discerning as *this generation*: **"... history is a growth of good and evil side by side, a real growth for good – a real attainment or progressively higher goods, but along with this an equally real growth of evil – a growth in the power and range of evil forces. (L.Newbigin, 1989. *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society. Grand Rapids, MI, Eerdmans, p. 44).***

It is exciting and challenging to be an educator and parent in the 21st century! Once we have surrendered our uncertain future into the hands of our all-knowing God, we can go about teaching the next generation by adhering to that which is **not negotiable**, namely that our education efforts remain **Christ-centered, student oriented, teacher guided and community connected.**

From this conviction flows a confident and resolute determination to contribute to a school community that continuously seeks a more excellent way by **planning and structuring for change.** Steven Vryhof (1989) elaborates:

"This effort requires time, money and good communication. Administrators provide leadership and teachers have ownership. Worthy ideas are kept under discussion by all involved. Commendable practices are emphasized; undeserving are de-emphasized. While those seeking change allow others to save face, those skeptical of change allow the more daring to take risks. Trust is built on the idea that the Spirit speaks through the body of Christ and not just through single interpretation by one person or a few." (12 Affirmations: Reformed Christian Schooling for the 21st Century, Grand Rapids, 81)

Now that the Christmas break is almost upon us, we do well to reflect with gratitude on 4 months of laboring at Credo Elementary. No snow days, power outage, roof leaks and gas leak can minimize the countless blessings we have received: good health, travel mercies, a combined purpose and effort, memory work and new cubicles, a well crafted Christmas program (hats off to the primary teachers!) and wonderful School Spirit Days (they were very well received!). Assemblies and morning devotions, visits to the library and field trips, numerous meetings by many committees and interest groups! Parent teacher interviews, and other one-to-one sessions, involvement of parents and visits from the occasional guests.

May God bless us all, as we enter into a time of festive celebration! **Immanuel! God with us!**



H.Snijder
Principal

Short Report of Board Meeting

Short Report of the Meeting of the
Board of Directors
of Credo Christian Elementary School
October 05, 2010

- Opening: The Chairman, Br. Mike Stam, opened the meeting with reading from Scripture and prayer. All Board members were present and welcomed. Br. M. Stam acknowledged the absence of Sr. Janet Schouten due to her recent resignation.
- Approval of Minutes and Short Report: The Board approved the minutes of the regular Board meeting held September 14 2010, and the short report for the September meeting was approved for publication.
- Matters from the Minutes: Matters from the minutes were reviewed including the initiation fee policy and some housekeeping matters.
- Incoming Correspondence: Four items of correspondence were received including a letter from Sr. J. Schouten, resigning immediately from the CCES Board.
- Outgoing Correspondence: Three items for outgoing correspondence, including a notice in *Branches* regarding suspension of discussion of full day kindergarten.
- Principal's Report: Br. Snijder highlighted key points from the Principal's Report including professional development, teaching media discernment to students, maintenance matters and a bullying incident.
- Finance Committee: Minutes of the meeting held in September 2010 were reviewed, and Br. Bontkes gave an update on a number of matters including arrears, transition between treasurers, and financial statements. A motion to transfer funds between accounts, for consideration of membership at the October 2010 Annual General Meeting, was approved.
- Maintenance Committee: Minutes of the meeting held in May 2010 were reviewed, and Br. R. Bredenhof reported on other activities of the maintenance committee including roof repair.
- Development Committee: Sr. C. Stel and Br. B. DeBoer were appointed to replace the outgoing Br. Paul Sikma and Sr. Mirjam Scholtens.
- Chairman's Report: Br. M. Stam reported on his activities as Chair including a Principal-Chair meeting, and a variety of sundry matters.
- New Business: An ad-hoc Nomination Committee presented a candidate list of brothers to replace the retiring Board members Brs. M. Stam and E. Visscher, as well as the resigned Sr. Schouten. The nominations were approved by the Board and will be published in *Branches*. Key items on the Annual General Meeting agenda are elections of Board members, review of financial statements and motion to allocate funds and the secretary's annual report.
- Items for the Next Board meeting: Items include orientation of new members, classroom visitation reports, review of Principal job description, CCS legal authority preparation, internal Board elections, and review of the October 2010 Annual General Meeting.
- Question Period: One item was raised.
- Next Meetings / Events: The next Board meeting is planned for November 09 2010; and the AGM is scheduled for Oct 27, 2010.
- Thanksgiving and prayer: Br. T. Bontkes closed the meeting in prayer.
- Adjournment: Br. Mike Stam adjourned the meeting.

Story Starters

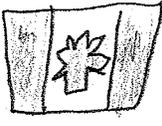
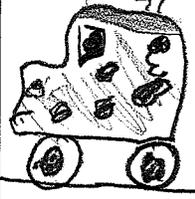
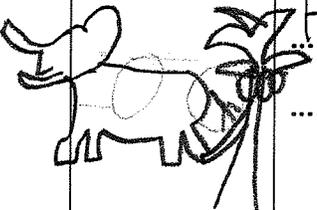
Grade 6 students

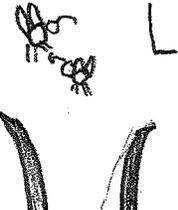
worked together to make these story starters
when we were learning about the writing trait of organization.
Wouldn't you love to read more!

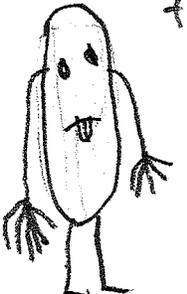
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- ★ "Stu, Stu! Get up! It's snowing outside" said Jackson. The two brothers rushed downstairs, gulped down their bowls of cereal, and rushed outside to play. "Snowball fight!" yelled Jackson as he pegged Stu.
 - ★ A long, long time ago in a far away land there lived a beautiful fair maiden with the name of Fredericka.
 - ★ One day in the city of Nod there was a supermodel and a zombie. Two boys named Jim and Fred were fighting over who would marry the supermodel.
 - ★ "Who ate my beautiful raspberry pie?" yelled Mrs Claus. "Maybe Rudolf was hungry again" replied Santa.
 - ★ Every night when there is a full moon in the winter and it shines on a snowman, he comes to life. He has three parts for the body; a head, middle, and bottom.
 - ★ Once upon a Christmas tale, a very long time ago, there was a girl named Ruthie Smith. This young girl had always dreamed of getting a doll, even though her parents could not afford one.
 - ★ It was early on Tuesday morning and Jimmy had just woken up to the wonderful sight of snow!!! He knew it was really early but he screamed "it's snowing!" He got up and pounded down the stairs.
 - ★ It was a dark and dreary when the old man made his way through the neck high grass. An owl hooted eerily in the tree as a rabbit scampered by, startling the man.
 - ★ I woke up with a need to go outside. I tiptoed down the stairs and put on my stuff. I opened the door and gasped because I saw that there were tiny little snowflakes falling.
 - ★ I still remember that day when I was walking down the street of Rain. It always poured there and I was with my cat and imaginary umbrella.
 - ★ I went to the beach, on a very beautiful day, which was close to my house. The glittering tan coloured sand burnt my feet because I had no shoes. But to my surprise the water was frozen!
 - ★ It was tense as Connor was ready for the last face off of the game.
 - ★ "Susan, supper time!" yelled her exhausted mother from the kitchen downstairs. Susan finished her sentence, closed her book, and went downstairs. Before she sat down she peeked in the first pan, 'ewww' she thought, it was asparagus.
 - ★ The door groaned as it opened. "Let's go and show those big boys that we aren't scaredy cats. I know this place isn't haunted" said Tom.
 - ★ On the Belgium battle field we were fighting them. We French soldiers did not have enough money for proper shoes or a place for shelter.
 - ★ There was once a boy named Roy. Roy had two small dogs named Lidiay and Bill.
 - ★ "Ting, ting" Santa was ready to go to the Jingleorios which was the town that was closest to them. The sleigh was full and ready.
 - ★ "That was so amazing!" said Daniel to Karen as they came in from the swim in the ocean.

Alphabet Books

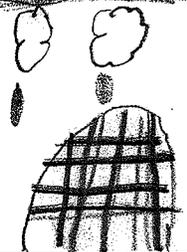
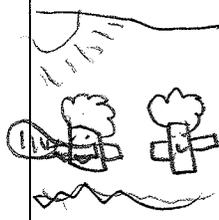
In the Grade 2 writing program this past term each student made an Alphabet Book. We learned that books need a theme and excellent ideas. Students tried to incorporate as many alphabet letters on each page as possible. Some of the ideas were very creative. Writing also needs to show good organization. These books demonstrated one way of organizing ideas. Here is a sample from each child's book ~ the themes are not consistent in this sample.

A	Sean 	a is for apple. The apple went to the park!
B	Justus 	B is for B. The bat was in a bat cave. The bat ate a banana that had eyes.
C	Nathan 	C is for Canada. I live in Canada.
D	Gillian 	D is for dog. The dog dives a dirty dump truck with a duck in the dirt.
E	Ashley 	E is for elephant. He has energy so good he runs every where.

F	Luke 	F is for fries. The fries go for dinner. But the flies are trying to eat them.
G	Emmanuel 	G is for gingerbreadmen. They went out to have a picnic as long as they were out. But then the people ate them.
H	haley 	H is for hary. Hary is hopping and hiding away from the hungry hyena.
I	Luke B. 	I is for infantry. has infantry marches to the battle field.
J	Quinton 	J is for jaguar. The jaguar jumped on a Branch.
K	Sophia 	k is for kangaroo. kacey liked kangaroo so kacey kissed kangaroo.

<p>L</p>	<p>Emma</p> 	<p>L is for Lemon. One lemon on the tree is so sour if you take a bite, you will shrink.</p>
<p>M</p>	<p>Tyson</p>	<p>M is for monkeys. The monkeys ride a motor bike.</p>
<p>N</p>	<p>Adam</p> 	<p>N is for newt that finds a new friend.</p>
<p>O</p>	<p>zeb</p> 	<p>O is for octopus. The octopus had to go to the store but he turned the wrong way. oops.</p>
<p>P</p>	<p>Esther</p> 	<p>P is for penguin. Peter penguin pecked his pickle pepper's all the way to his friend, Palma's house.</p>
<p>Eric, Q</p>		<p>Q is for queen sized cucumber. That ran quickly into the quiet Quibek.</p>



<p>R</p>	<p>Isaiah</p> 	<p>R is for Rice I had rice for dinner I loved it.</p>
<p>S</p>	<p>Kaitlin</p> 	<p>S is for Sucker. The Sucker slipped out of the container. He slid right on the snail.</p> 
<p>T</p>	<p>Matthew</p> 	<p>T is for turtle. The turtle is the goalie. He just in the net.</p>
<p>U</p>	<p>Ashley</p> 	<p>U is for Umbrella bird. She uses her umbrella until she see's her uncle and Aunty Uneah.</p>
<p>V</p>	<p>corday</p> 	<p>V is for vitamin. The vitamin invited his very best friend. He played his violin very Good.</p>
<p>W</p>	<p>Nathans.</p>	<p>W is for watermelon. The watermelon washed a window.</p>

X	Esther A. 	X is for X-ray fish The X-ray fish played a xylophone
Y	Esther D.	Y is for yak. Yori the yucky yak yipped yipedy yay yesterday.
Z	Adam 	Z is for zebra that soundly goes to ZZZ good night.

Deep in Thought!



Earlier this year grade 4 went to A Rocha Field Study Center. A number of students were caught on candid camera. Certainly there were more pictures than these three but these show the intensity of thought as students learned about the interconnectedness of God's great creation. Pictures like these tell me as a teacher that there is more learning happening on a field trip than one might think!

God bless,
J. Scholtens



Credo Aid Update



Wow, it's hard to believe that the end of 2010 is already in sight! 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.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS: Our hard-working volunteers crafted an amazing 80 beautiful wreaths this year! A big thank you to everyone who helped out and who placed orders, especially to Frieda Snijder who had orders for 16 wreaths! Our estimated profits were \$1,300.00 Many thanks to coordinator Shelley Sikma!



CROQUETTEN: Credo Aid would like to extend a huge THANK-YOU to the ladies who organized the croquettes this year and all the years in the past. The days of production go so smoothly and we know that is a result of a lot of planning and hours on behalf of the organizers. Speaking of organizers we have word that one lady would like to retire next year. Although still willing to help out she would like to pass on the organizing part. If anyone is interested in joining the croquette team please contact Ang de Boer @ bandadeboer@shaw.ca If you have not yet picked up your croquettes please look in the freezer (also the one in the kitchen) and place your cheque in the Credo Aid mail slot marked croquettes or pass on to Ang Vanspronsen. Thanks again!

CERTIFICATES: The certificate team needs your help. It is hard to remain passionate and enthusiastic with this fundraiser that never ends,

especially when sometimes the response is ho hum. Without constant reminders and trying to drum up new business this program easily falls into a plateau of about 25 - 30% participation.

So we ask you first of all to remember to buy your certificates :D, but also to contact your family members and friends and invite them to join in. Spread the word about this great program and be enthusiastic! Do you know a business that would like to use them as gifts or employee bonuses? Although it doesn't take a lot of organizing like a big fundraiser, it is a program that runs year round. We especially give a big THANKS! to Shauna for all her work.

So please be proactive by using post dated cheques, or simply making it a habit to buy certificates without being reminded. On behalf of the certificate team.....Shauna, Ang, Marcia, Mirjam.

MERCHANDISE Need a Christmas gift or birthday idea that benefits your kids in more ways than one? Purchase a Credo water bottle or sturdy tote bag with our Credo logo! They are available in the storage room near the freezer! Totes are \$8, waterbottles are \$6.

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

From your Credo Aid board,
Ang DeBoer. Esther Vandergugten, Lisa Vanderven, Ang VanSpronsen and Mirjam Vantil.

School Calendar Update



Dec. 17	-	Last day before Christmas Break
20-Jan 3	-	Christmas Break
Jan 4	-	School reopens
28	-	Combined Pro D Day (no school)

An opportunity

to be hand and foot to each other

Credo Christian Elementary School and William of Orange Christian School jointly operate a Special Education program at CCES. We serve the special needs of several of our covenant children through modified programs, Special Education Assistants, outside consultants, therapists and ongoing formal assessment. Much of our funding for this program comes from the provincial government, the budgets of the two supporting schools, and donations. While we are deeply grateful for government assistance and balanced budgets, the more we raise in donations, the less of an impact this program has on the tuition of our families. If the Lord has blessed you richly and you desire to show your financial support for this important program, please send a donation (with Special Ed in the memo line) to either of the supporting schools. All donations are tax deductible. May God bless the children who benefit from the program, and may He bless you for your vision and your generosity.

*The Board, Staff and Students
of Credo Christian Elementary School
wish you all
a joyful Christmas
and
a blessed New Year*



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Board of Directors

Mr. C. Hoff (2012)	Chairman
Mr. W. Bulthuis (2013)	Vice Chair/Ed. Com
Mr. T. Bontkes (2011)	Treasurer
Mr. E. Visscher (2013)	Secretary
Mr. R. Bredenhof (2011)	Maintenance
Mr. J. Lof (2013)	Finance
Mrs. V. Sikkema (2011)	CCHS/SpEd
Mr. S. Pol (2012)	Development

Education Committee

Mr. W. Bulthuis	Mrs. P. Hoff
Miss. J. Dokter	Mrs. C. Pol
Mrs. L. Huttema	Mr. R. Jacobi
Mr. S. Snijder	Mrs. C. Visscher

Development Committee

Mr. S. Pol	Mrs. M. Scholtens
Mr. W. VanOene	Mrs. F. Jansen

Special Education Committee

Mrs. V. Sikkema	Mrs. D. Huttema
	Mr. H. Snijder

Finance Committee

Mr. T. Bontkes	Mr. J. Lof
	Mrs. E. Kuntz

Maintenance Committee

Mr. R. Bredenhof	Mr. R. Wiegiers
Mr. J. Roukema	Mr. C. Vandergugten
Mr. M. Homan	Mr. R. VanSpronsen

Staff

Mr. H. Snijder	Principal, Gr. 5
Ms. L. Scholtens	Kindergarten 1
Mrs. J. Onderwater	Kindergarten 2
Mrs. M. MacDougall	Grade 1
Mrs. D. Vanderboom	Grade 2
Mr. N. Boersema	Grade 3
Mr. J. Scholtens	Grade 4
Mrs. L. VanSpronsen	Grade 5
Miss J. Dokter	Grade 6
Miss R. Vanderhorst	Grade 7
Mrs. D. Huttema	SpEd, LA
Mrs. L. Hofsink	Grade 5,7 PE
Mrs. J. Degliant	Music, SEA
Miss T. Heetebrij	SEA
Mrs. J. Spoor	SEA
Mrs. M. Rekers	TA
Mrs. A. VanSpronsen	TA
Mrs. E. Kuntz	Secretary
Mr. & Mrs. J. Dewit	Custodians

Credo Aid

Mrs. A. Deboer (chair)	Mrs. L. Vanderven
Mrs. E. Vandergugten (secr.)	Mrs. M. Vantil
Mrs. A. VanSpronsen (treasurer)	

Fee Structure 2010-2011

Membership	100.00
Kindergarten	245.00
Elementary (1-3)	440.00
Elementary (4-7)	460.00
Junior High	590.00
Senior High	640.00

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