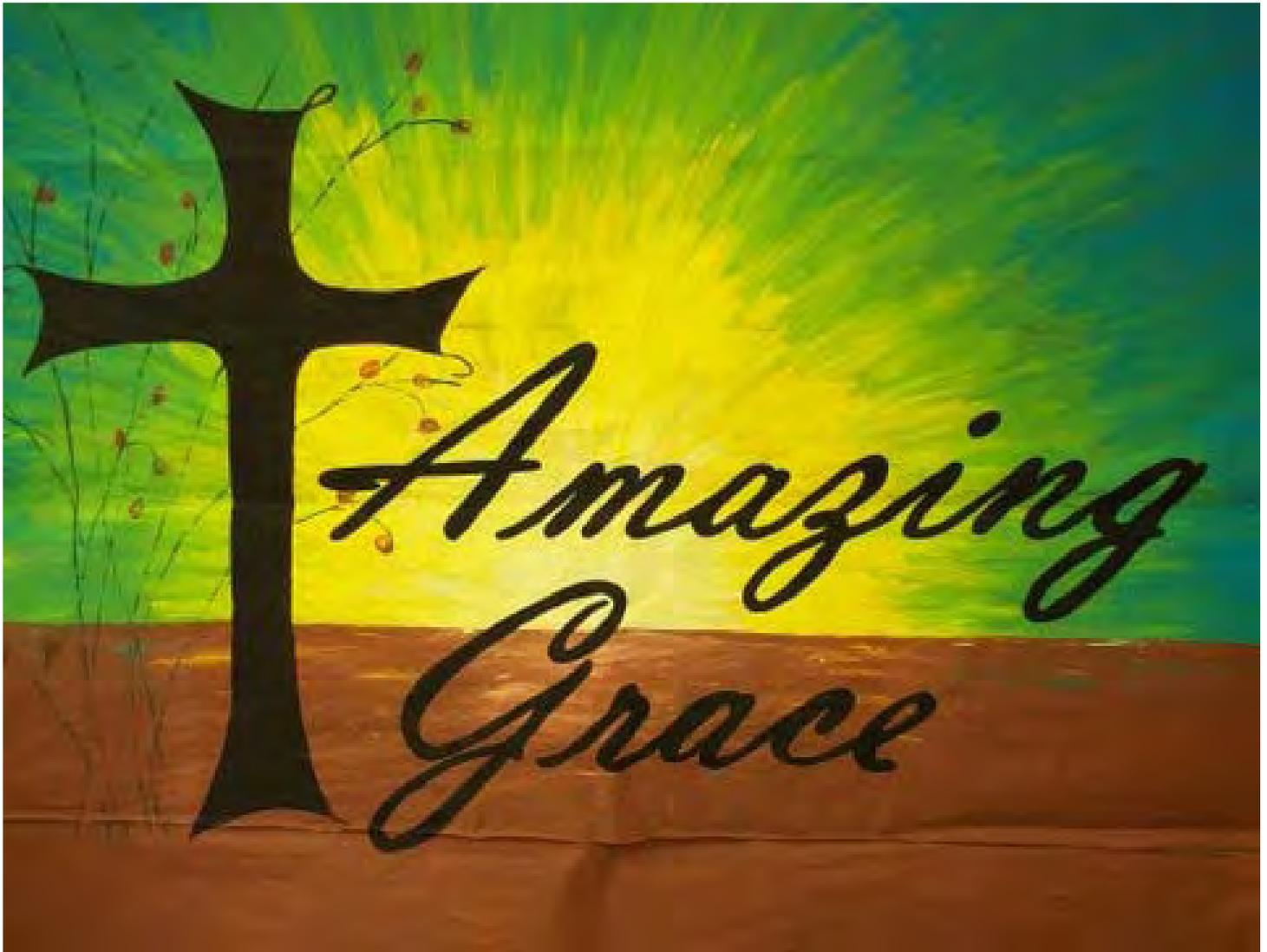


BRANCHES



In This Issue:

- *From the Chairman*
- *From the Principal*
- *Short Reports of Board Meetings*
- *Joint Press Release -CCES & WOCS*
- *SEA Position Available*
- *Why do You Send Your Children to a Christian School?*
- *Credo Aid Update*
- *Amazing Grace -Gr. 5 Perspective*
- *Mind Maps*

Volume 25
Issue 3
Dec. 21, 2012

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

It seems like it has been quite a while since the last edition of *Branches* in October. The Board and its committees have been busy since then as we plan for the September 2013 school year. It was good to see strong attendance at the October General Meeting. From our perspective, this reflects a continuing enthusiasm and interest in CCES within the membership, for which we are grateful. At the meeting the financial statements were approved, and we learned about the outcome of the Cardus survey.

Through the Secretary's Report we also had the opportunity to reflect upon God's abundant grace on us over the past year. During this period we saw harmony of purpose between many people with different roles - (grand)parents, students, teachers, administration, volunteers, committees and the Board. Through God's favour we were again able to pool our collective resources to support the school over the last year, and enable CCES to remain a vital institution in support of growing our covenant children.

Board Elections and Duties

Two Directors were also elected at the General Meeting. 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. It is good to thank to Stan Pol for his contributions to the Board and the Development Committee over the past three years. With your leadership the Development Committee has accomplished much - from very successful funding raising efforts through the Golf-a-thon, development of promotional videos, and other ways of promoting Credo within our community. All of us benefit from your hard work. We will also miss your thoughtful and well considered views at the Board table. On behalf of all us and membership - thank you. May God bless you as you find other ways to work in His service.

We also welcome Oliver Hansma to the Board. We trust that you will find the opportunity to contribute over the next three years rewarding. Membership also saw it fit to return myself to the Board as well. On behalf of both Oliver and I, we consider it a privilege to serve and thank you for the confidence you place in us as the Board navigates the challenges ahead.

The rearrangement of responsibilities within the Board was fairly minor. Oliver will lead the Development

Committee and also serve on the Finance Committee. John Lof will also serve on the Maintenance Committee with Ed Visscher, and retain his responsibility for the IT Committee. The other portfolios remain the same, and a complete list of Director responsibilities can be found in the Short Report of the Nov. 13, 2012 Board meeting.

Personnel Matters

Some personal personnel matters merit our attention as well.

- Kim and Shawn Meints - At any time now, Kim and Shawn Meints anticipate arrival of their first child. We seek God's blessing upon all three of you during this exciting time.
- Reasonably enough Kim has served notice that she will not be available, soon. We are blessed that Alexandra Douma is available as an SEA around this time, and we were able to hire Alex, with a transition period beginning in December 2012. Alex is wrapping up a Social Services Diploma Program at UFV. The course work in her diploma program exposed her to many Special Education concepts, and she has worked as an SEA in a K/1 classroom as well as with an autistic teenager. Alex endeavours to enrol in the Bachelor of Social Work Program in September 2013. Welcome Alex!
- We also noted that Emily Boot has become engaged and plans to settle down in Alberta. Congratulations Emily! Emily has (reasonably enough) also served notice that she will not be able to complete the school year. You may see an ad for her SEA position beginning mid-April or so in the typical places, but word of mouth is also always welcome!

Arrangement with William of Orange

As most of you are aware, the Boards of Credo and William of Orange have been in contact for some time, with a view to finding ways to help each other out in addressing our respective challenges. This has included seeking volunteers that may be interested in transferring to William of Orange. We are thankful to report that the Kok and Souman families have agreed to transfer, commencing in September 2013. A press release regarding this was distributed by email last Saturday, and may also be found elsewhere in this edition of *Branches*. In the meantime, please note that the Koks have asked that this news not be shared with their children, if it can be managed.

Planning for September 2013

In the press release, it is noted that this arrangement, along with other developments, enables the Board to confidently decide not to split the Grade 1 class next year. The Board, with excellent input from the Education Committee, also remains busy with planning for the other grades, and we expect to relate plans in the January edition of *Branches*.

Joint Strategic Planning Committee (JSPC)

The Fraser Valley JSPC has also been active with a number of meetings and quite a bit of associated work this fall. At present, the JSPC still anticipates reporting to respective Boards in January 2013. It is anticipated that membership of the respective Societies will have the opportunity to comment on the JSPC recommendation, and vote on its merits, some time in Spring 2013.

And Last but far from Least ... External Evaluation

Every six years the Ministry of Education (Inspector of Independent Schools) appoints an External Evaluation Committee consisting of seasoned education experts from other independent schools. This team of four Inspectors descended upon Credo Elementary and High Schools on October 17 and 18, 2012.

The External Evaluation Committee (EEC) looked to assure the Ministry of Education that the schools are meeting statutory requirements and effectively delivering the programs that we claim. EEC interviewed principals at both campuses and examined administrative procedures, school files, teacher certification, criminal record checks, and school facilities. The team also met with teachers and support staff. Classrooms were visited and student work examined. The EEC also reviewed curriculum planning, learning resources, and student evaluations. Much effort from the teachers and administration (Heres and Nathan) went into preparing material for the External Evaluation, and we are grateful for this.

While we reported orally on the visit during the October General Meeting, we have since received the report. Credo (both Elementary and High) was commended for a number of positive things such as the "seamless integration of our 'faith foundation' into programs, teaching and school environment. We are blessed that we have this environment to train our children in. Collectively let us thank God for blessing us, and seek His continued blessing in the New Year.

On behalf of the Board, we wish your families a restful, festive holiday celebrating the birth of our Saviour!

The Board of Credo Christian Elementary School is inviting suitable candidates to apply for a 1.0 FTE position of

Special Education Assistant

Duties to commence April 2013 and to extend into the 2013/14 school year.

The successful applicant is eager and able to interact with children on the basis of his/her Christ-centered worldview. S/he has acquired Special Education Assistant certification. Further, s/he is flexible and able to execute IEPs together with class room teacher and Special Education Coordinator. S/he is interested in ongoing professional development in various specialty areas. The successful candidate is also an excellent team player.

If all of the above describes you, you are encouraged to apply on or before January 31st, 2013.

For inquiries, please contact:
Heres Snijder, Principal,
Credo Christian Elementary School
Ph. 604. 530.1131 (school) or
604.576.4930 (home)
e-mail: snijder@shaw.ca or h.snijder@credoces.org

Please submit your application to:
Credo Christian Elementary School
c/o Mr. Ron Scheper,
Secretary of the School Board
21919 52 Ave.
Langley, BC V2Y 2M7
e-mail: rescheper@gmail.com

From the Principal....

Heres Snijder

Grace and Peace: Immanuel forever!

Don't come with a thimble when God has nothing less to give you than the ocean of Himself. Don't be contented with a 'nice' Christmas when Jesus says, "It has pleased my Father to give you the Kingdom."

Brennan Manning.

Blessings to you and yours!

With the holidays upon us, and with the school doors closed for the Christmas break, it is time to unwind, relax, and change routines. How good and pleasant. How good a first term we have had. The daily routines, the field trips, the rigors of assessing of, assessing for, and assessing as learning, the parent teacher interviews, the opportunities to discipline and sing and move and, simply be at Credo with children who express so much *joie de vivre* so well, it's been good, so very good. Thanks be to the Joy giver. May we find many opportunities to share the blessings He provides to our home, church and school communities.

Staffing changes

School doors will be open again on January 7, 2013 - and Credo will not be the same. Mrs. Meints will not join us again in staff and classroom. It was so good to have you on staff, Kim! Blessings to you and your family! Alex Douma will take Kim's place: welcome to Credo, Alex!

Emily Boot is engaged and getting married, the Lord willing, in May 2013 - and will not return to Credo either. Included in this issue of Branches is an advertisement to fill her position.

Professional Development

On Friday, November 30, teachers had a whole day to further their research on a self-initiated project. Understandably there is a wide range of interests and passions amongst professionals: 'how boys learn', 'art for beginning teachers', 'combating anxiety', 'furniture for the differentiated classroom enhancing the teaching to multiple intelligences', and so forth and so on. The outcomes of this varied research will be shared for the benefit of staff, students, parents and teachers elsewhere. Stay tuned!

Year Theme - and (Bus) Behaviors

"Transformed into His likeness" turns out to be a wonderfully applicable school year theme in many

settings, including the school bus. Several meetings have been had with students, parents and bus drivers to apply this to students' (mis) behavior. Support from you, the parents, has been evident and frequent -and, also on behalf of the CCSTA coordinators Doug de Boer and Curtis Braun, 'thank you' for making a good venture even better! Of course, one playground with 206 students draws out territorial behaviors, at times resulting in angry words, torn shirts, tears, and especially opportunities to reconcile and restore relationship: "I am sorry....". "I was wrong", "What can I do to make it right?", "I will not do that again. ", "Will you please forgive me?"

The issue of **Bullying** continues to receive much attention. While this buzz word is easily misused and misapplied (not all teasing, taunting, name-calling, etc., is bullying), the issue of respect and dignity receive sustained attention in your school - *in cooperation with groups of parents, where and when most needed*. There is ample evidence that unacceptable behaviors of students is most successfully thwarted when parents, students and teachers cooperate, communicate, clarify and set acceptable standards. Clearly, this task cannot be delegated to either one person or institution, as it demands involvement of the whole community.

Hold on to Your Kids.

Are you looking for a good book to read about parenting over the Christmas break? May I suggest ***Hold on to Your Kids: why parents need to matter more than peers***. (Neufeld, Maté - Vintage Canada, 2005). It is a worthwhile read that explains what peer orientation is, how it has come to be such a pervasive dynamic in our culture, and why it is a significantly negative force on parent-child relationship and child development. It also offers ways for building a lasting bond with our children, and how our children can be prevented from being seduced by the peer world. Happy reading!

How Great is Our GOD!

Alyson Bosch has just completed her very first term of her first year of teaching. Recently, she shared with me the following description of a beautiful moment during a 'tired' day. With her permission I'd like to share it with you:

"Tis the time when students and teachers are becoming more and more ready for the Christmas break. Units are wrapping up, final assignments are being handed

in, and marking is being finished. It is also the time when students as well as teachers start to feel that state of tired that we all mentally count down, "one more week till Christmas break." Today was one of those days in the grade 2 classroom. We had just finished an intensive organizational practice in the church for our Christmas program on Thursday. After lunch we had two hours to go until the end of the day. Computers came and went, spelling tests were written, and stories were told, we were feeling it. As the teacher sometimes likes to say, "Our brains are tired!" Two clips from Louie Giglio's "How Great is Our God" were shown, as they support and connect with our next science unit. There was an instant hush on the classroom as we sat amazed at how many times the earth could fit into the Sun, as well as other stars that

the Lord has created. Our minds were filled with awe and wonder. The clips ended, and the students started to get ready for our end of the day routine. A few students came up and asked if we could sing "Humble Thyself/Our God is an Awesome God" once we put away our chairs. And so, as we sat around the carpet, the grade 2 class raised their voices in worship. As that song came to a close, one of the students started singing "How Great is Our God" totally unprompted by the teacher. We sang through the first verse as well as the chorus and bridge. It was an overwhelming moment, to see each student lift their voices in praise to our Heavenly Father. It was also a reminder that no matter how tired we are, God is in control of EVERYTHING! How Great is Our GOD!"

Joint Press Release for December 2012

CCES - WOCS Cooperation

While William of Orange and Credo operate as separate autonomous Societies, we have much in common that transcends Society autonomy, in particular our relationship as brothers and sisters in Christ as expressed through membership in the Canadian Reformed Churches, and the ability of members to freely transfer between Societies through moving their home. As such, for some time now, Boards of William of Orange and Credo Elementary have been in close contact, with a view to finding ways to help each other out in addressing our respective challenges.

As a result of these efforts, we are pleased to report that the Anton and Annette Souman (with Nathan, Joshua and Timothy) and Doug and Charla Kok (with Isaiah, Lucas and Jacob) families have agreed to join the William of Orange school community, commencing September 2013. We are very thankful to these two families for agreeing to cooperate in this way, as they have made their decisions knowing that it will mean significant change for them. We trust that their transition to William of Orange will be smooth, and that their children will soon feel at home in their new school community. In the meantime, however, the Koks have asked that this news not be shared with their children, if it can be managed.

You may wonder how this is an effective interim solution for the two schools involved. To be sure, it is not a complete solution. However, it will have a very noticeable impact on William of Orange's budget - through a combination of additional provincial grants for these

children and tuition, it is hoped that the net effect (all other things being equal) will be to reduce the likelihood of a deficit budget at William of Orange in 2013-2014 and beyond. Just as important, William of Orange's cost per student ratio will decrease significantly, with the expectation that it can avoid a reduction in provincial grant funding from 50% to 35%.

Credo will also realize some benefit from this arrangement. The transfer of the Souman and Kok children from the grades that they are in will relieve the pressure on those grades - both in terms of classroom space and the potential need to hire additional teaching staff. Specifically, this arrangement enables Credo to more confidently make a decision not to split the Grade 1 class in September 2013.

As you can imagine, it is difficult to ask families that have a personal investment in Credo to transfer to another school. This difficulty is compounded if Credo were to continue to accept transfers of families from William of Orange over the next few years. So, as of November 2012, the Credo Board has adopted a policy where each application for enrolment from families not presently in the Credo catchment area will be reviewed on a case by case basis. This policy includes families that do not presently have children in school. This policy will stay in place until a longer term solution that proceeds from the Joint Strategic Planning Committee (JSPC) is in place, or until further notice.

Amazing Grace....

This year's theme for Credo's Christmas concert is: *God's Amazing Grace.*

Grade 5 spent some time reflecting on this, and would like to share their creative, written responses with you this Christmas season.

Grace is a gift from God and it forgives. It is very powerful and it can change lives. Grace is like mercy and God shows a lot of mercy to His people. God shows grace to us, so try to show grace to someone in your life. (Cara Boersema)

God's Grace Can Change Lives

Payton put another ornament on the Christmas tree with her friend Alex. "I feel really bad." Alex said. "Why?" Payton asked. "I cheated on the spelling test we had this morning, and I'm not sure if God will forgive me." Alex said. Payton knew her friend was a Roman Catholic and did not believe in God's grace. Payton really wanted to tell her friend about His grace. But if she did Alex might of thought she was disrespecting Alex's parents."Well," She said. "God can give you grace if you just ask him in prayer." "Really?" Alex exclaimed. "I want to see this!" "It all says in God's Word." Payton told her. "Can I see the Bible?" Alex asked. "We have a spare." Payton responded. *That went really well.* She thought and she grabbed the spare Bible.

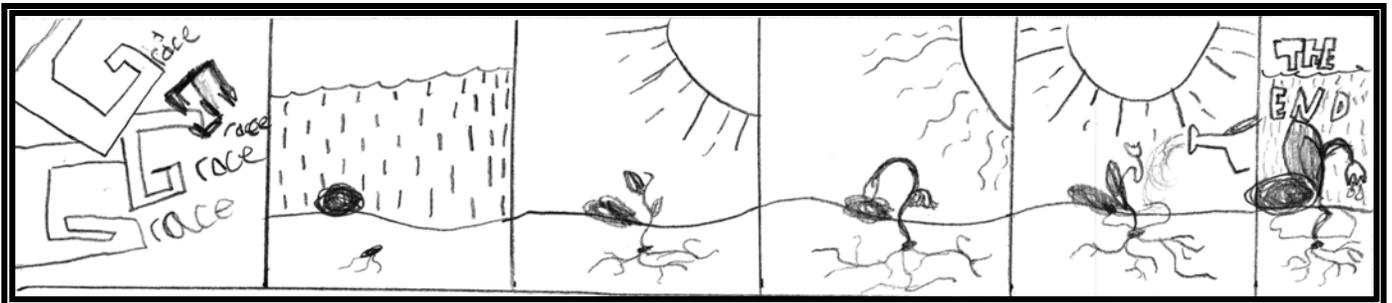
Questions

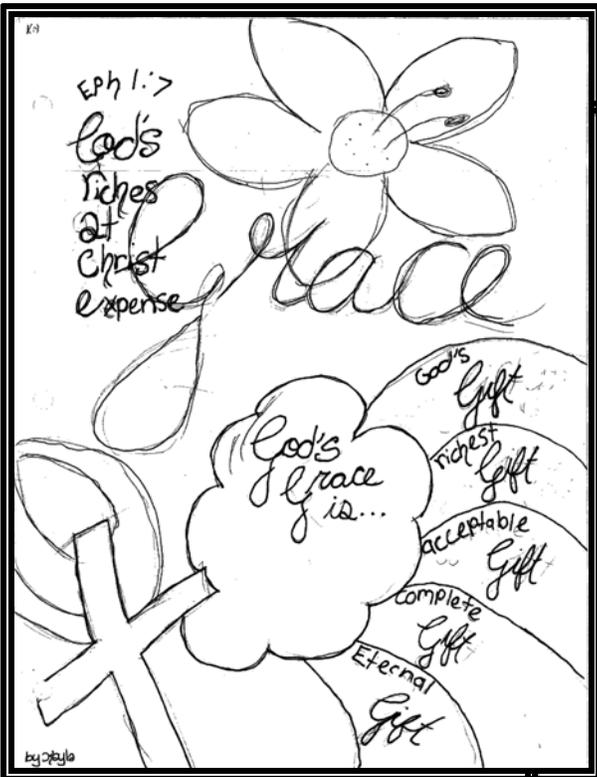
Would you do what Payton did? Or would you not? Would you be scared to ask God for grace?

By: Lauren

AMAZING GRACE IS HOPE,
HOPE IS JOY,
AND JOY IS LOVE!

(Cara Boersema)

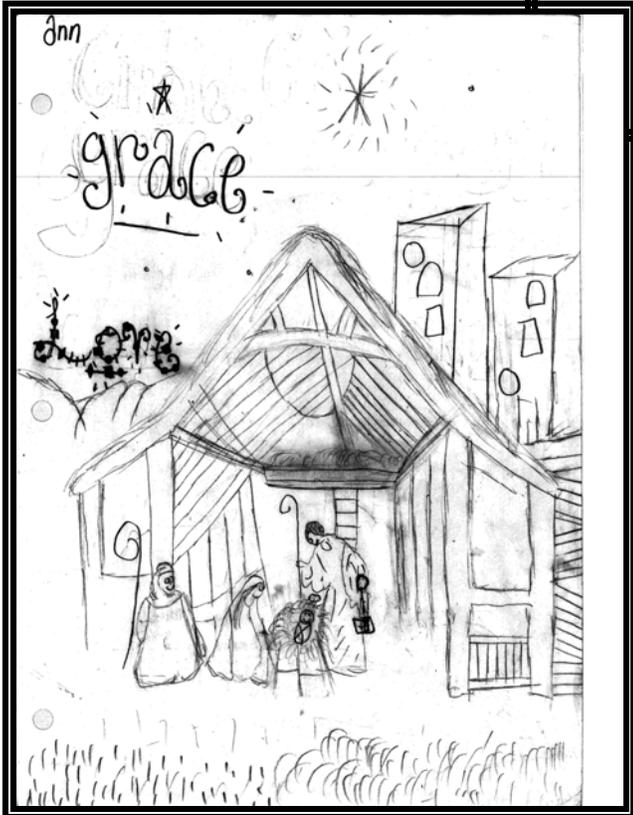




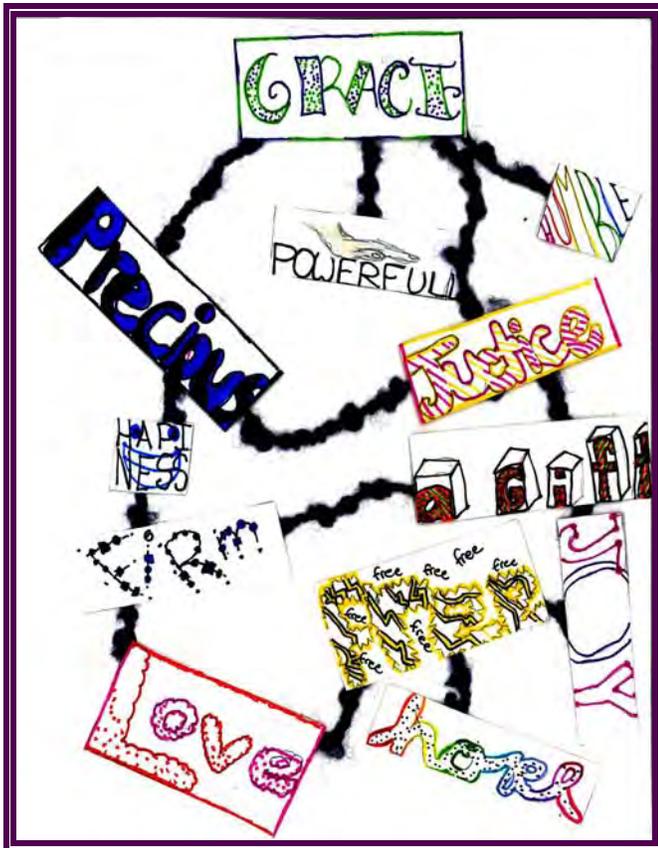
Amazing Grace...
...perceptions
and perspectives
from Grade 5

GRACE

<u>Gift</u>	e t e r n a l b a t d k c b o	<u>Graceful</u>
<u>Righteous</u>	a f x w q x z c a b e i o r u	<u>Outstanding</u>
<u>Amazing</u>	w w a z y a d e f h i n u d t	<u>delightful</u>
<u>Courages</u>	r v e d y c a k j i j r e s	
<u>Eternal</u>	t s e r t a b a l g n a e t	
	r i a n t e o u s n h p o g a a	
	a s u v o p e o a h t o e h n	
	d j h i n e p a r c d t v s i o	
	h k l w c f n e l m u e l j i	
	e g t a m a s i n g l e r s n	
	y z r e d c h k h n i f t u g	
	x g i e t a h j c d v e y z	
	e u t v u a i s y b c d u x a	
	Gift righteous amazing	courages eternal
	Graceful outstanding delightful	



<u>Life</u>	<u>Love</u>	<u>Worth</u>	<u>By Ken</u> <u>KEITHENED</u>
<u>UNITY</u>	<u>HOPE</u>	<u>PROMISE</u>	<u>ONE</u>
<u>FRASE</u>	<u>CREATION</u>	<u>CROSS</u>	<u>PRECIOUS</u>
<u>FRASE</u>	<u>CREATION</u>	<u>CROSS</u>	<u>PRECIOUS</u>
<u>FRASE</u>	<u>CREATION</u>	<u>CROSS</u>	<u>PRECIOUS</u>
<u>FRASE</u>	<u>CREATION</u>	<u>CROSS</u>	<u>PRECIOUS</u>
<u>FRASE</u>	<u>CREATION</u>	<u>CROSS</u>	<u>PRECIOUS</u>
<u>FRASE</u>	<u>CREATION</u>	<u>CROSS</u>	<u>PRECIOUS</u>
<u>FRASE</u>	<u>CREATION</u>	<u>CROSS</u>	<u>PRECIOUS</u>
<u>FRASE</u>	<u>CREATION</u>	<u>CROSS</u>	<u>PRECIOUS</u>



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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

Warm wishes to all our readers for an

Amazing Christmas and a Grace-filled New Year

Board of Directors

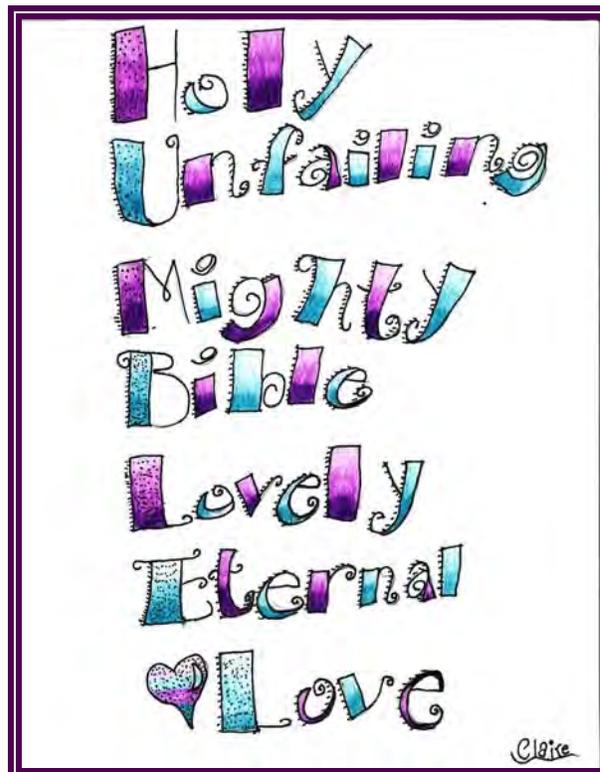
Chris Hoff
Wilfred Bulthuis
Tim Bontkes
Ron Scheper
Oliver Hansma
John Lof
Valerie Sikkema
Ed Visscher

Staff

Heres Snijder
Kim Boersema
Jennifer Onderwater
Mary MacDougal
Alyson Bosch
Stephen Chase
Natan Boersema
Jerry Scholtens
Linda Vanspronsen
Natasja VanRhee
Jessica deBoer
Rachel Vanderhorst
Deb Huttema
Emily Boot
Marie Bosma
Kim Meints
Jac Spoor
Angela VanSpronsen
Christina Stel
Elma Kuntz

Amazing Grace...

...perceptions and perspectives from Grade 5



Credo Aid
Evelynn Scheper
Leanne. Leyenhorst
Esther Vandergugten
Loretta Saide

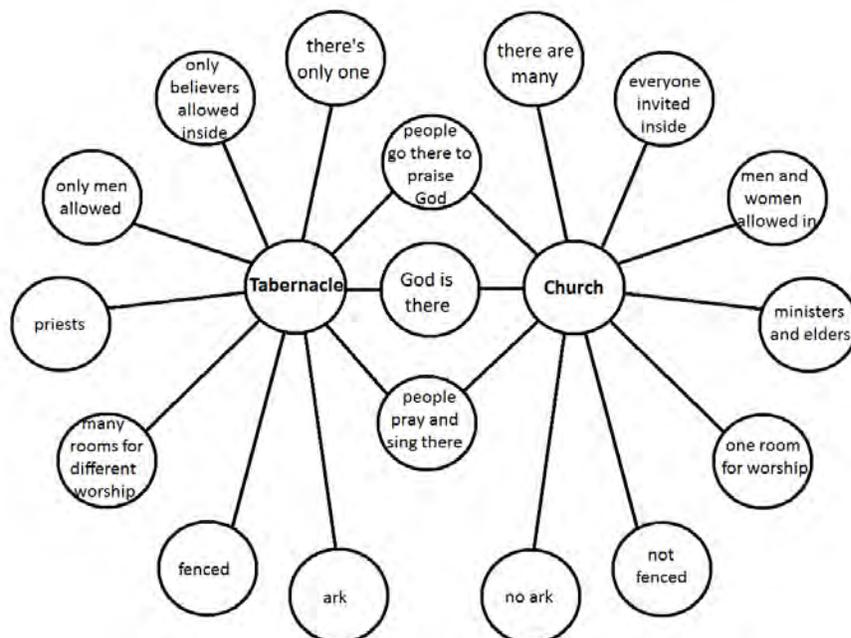
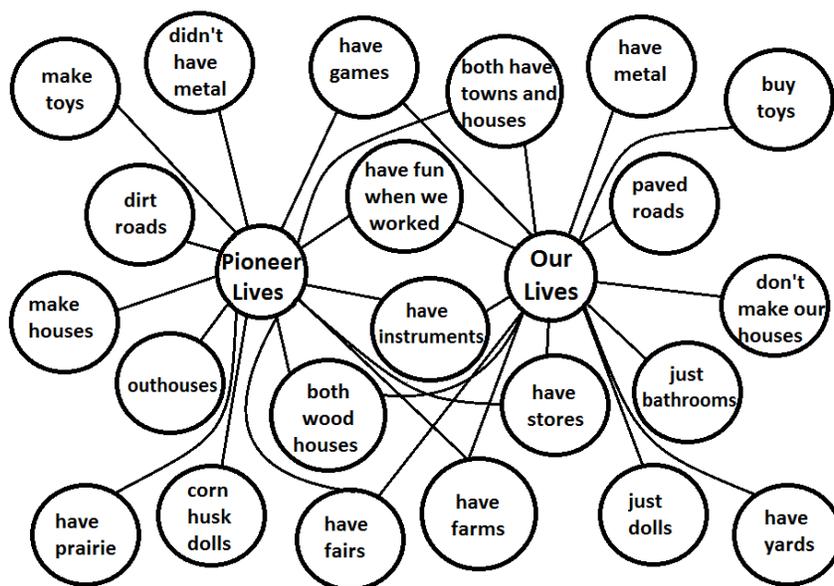
Mind Maps

Mr. Chase's Grade 3/2 class uses mind maps to improve comprehension and find patterns in thought processes to create a common language for learning. The students are familiar with and able to use several different mind maps which each highlight a different cognitive skill, such as comparing and contrasting, brainstorming, describing, and seeing cause and effect. Enjoy some of the impressively thorough mind maps the students created both individually and cooperatively.

Double Bubble Map – for Comparing and Contrasting

Double bubble maps are one of the most often used mind maps in class. After reading about pioneer communities, jobs, homes, and fun, Grade 2 made text to world connections by comparing and contrasting pioneer life in B.C. with life in B.C. today. Note the mirror-like differences on the right and left, and the similarities in the center. On the right is Emily's double bubble map.

During Bible class, the entire grade compared and contrasted the Israelite tabernacle/temple with churches today. Here's what they developed as a class:



Short Reports of Board Meetings

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School October 02, 2012

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Chris Hoff, opened the meeting by reading from Psalm 89:1-18 and prayer. Board members and Principal Heres Snijder were welcomed to the meeting. Ed Visscher was absent with notice.
- **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Reports of the September 11 and 18 2012 meetings are adopted. Minutes of the Spring Membership meeting held May 25 2012 are approved for presentation.
- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** One incoming letter from William of Orange, two outgoing thank you letters to departing members, and two outgoing thank you letters to departing committee members.
- **Principal's Report:** Heres Snijder presented the Principals Report for October 2012 including activities related to staff professional development, upcoming vacancy for a SEA position, and a SWOT analysis for the 2013-14 school year.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for October 2012 was received for information. Chris Hoff reported on his activities as chairman.
- **General Business:** Reformed education articles shall be included in the Branches publications for reader's edification. The Ad-Hoc Nomination Committee proposes that Chris Hoff, Sprout

Vandergugten, Oliver Hansma and Ryan Sikma stand for election for two Board member vacancies at the upcoming membership meeting. The JSPC is targeting reporting to the respective Boards in January 2013. JSPC information release to membership targeted for the Spring Membership meeting.

- **Finance Committee:** Tim Bontkes reported on activities in the Finance Committee including the comparative income statements and overdue receivables. Melissa Vanpopta and Rob Bisschop are appointed as reviewers of two random months of financial statements. The financial statements for 2011-12 are approved for presentation to membership.
- **Education Committee:** Wilfred Bulthuis reported on the activities of the Education Committee including the use of the Book of Praise for memory work, assemblies, and devotions.
- **Maintenance Committee:** Plans are in place to secure janitorial services on a short term contract. During this time, this position will be advertised to membership.
- **IT Committee:** Planning efforts are underway to replace/upgrade and secure additional computers.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for November 13 2012.
- **Closing:** Valerie Sikkema closed with thanksgiving prayer. Chris Hoff adjourned the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Short Report of the Ad-Hoc Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School October 30, 2012

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Chris Hoff, opened the meeting by reading from James 4:13-17 and prayer. Board members were welcomed to the meeting. Ed Visscher was absent with notice.
- **Cooperation with William of Orange:** A proposal for collaboration with William of Orange received the attention and discussion of the Board. It was agreed to approach certain families in CCES membership to

explore their potential interest in transferring to William of Orange, commencing in September 2013. Commencing in November 2012, new applications for enrolment from families not presently in the CCES catchment area will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for November 13 2012.
- **Closing:** Ron Scheper closed with thanksgiving prayer. Chris Hoff adjourned the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Short Report of the Meeting of the
Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School
November 13, 2012

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Chris Hoff, opened the meeting by reading from Psalm 89:1-18 and prayer. Board members and Principal Heres Snijder were welcomed to the meeting. Special welcome was extended to the newly elected Board member, Oliver Hansma. Ed Visscher and Ron Scheper were absent with notice.
- **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Reports of the meeting held October 2, 2012 were approved. Minutes of an Ad-hoc Board meeting held October 30 2012 were approved. Minutes of the Fall Membership meeting held on October 24 2012 were approved for presentation.
- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** There was one incoming letter, and two outgoing letters of correspondence.
- **Principal's Report:** Heres Snijder presented the Principals Report for November 2012 including activities related to staff professional development and expressions of interest for upcoming SEA positions.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for November 2012 was received for information. Chris Hoff reported on his activities as chairman.
- **General Business:** A verbal report was given on the October 2012 External Evaluation undertaken by the Ministry of Education. The Board reviewed another article from Mr. TMP Vanderven, the SCSBC Conference and the October 2012 General meeting. There was further discussion of a Child Abuse policy. A potential arrangement with William of Orange was discussed. A related interim policy regarding transfers into CCES was approved. Program delivery for the school year September 2013-2014 will be discussed further in December 2012.
- **Development Committee:** Stan Pol gave his last update on the work of the Development Committee. The Committee was commended for the promotional video shown at the October 2012 General Meeting. Stan took the opportunity to address the Board, and seek God's guidance as the Board navigates the years ahead. Heres Snijder offered a prayer for a blessing upon the upcoming 'Board' year.
- **Board Assignments:** Following due process, the following roles and functions were assigned to Board

Directors:

- Chair - Chris Hoff
- Vice-Chair - Wilfred Bulthuis
- Treasurer - Tim Bontkes
- Secretary - Ron Scheper
- Education Committee - Wilfred Bulthuis
- Finance Committee - Tim Bontkes / Oliver Hansma
- Development Committee - Oliver Hansma
- IT Committee - John Lof
- Special Education Committee - Valerie Sikkema
- Credo Christian High School representative - Valerie Sikkema
- Maintenance Committee - Ed Visscher / John Lof
- CCSTA representative - Ed Visscher
- Public Relations Liasion - Ron Scheper
- **Maintenance Committee:** Janitorial cleaning, minor maintenance matters and traffic circulation during the afternoon was discussed.
- **Education Committee:** A report regarding scenarios for Program Delivery for the school year 2013-2014 was received. The Education Committee was commended for the report. Program delivery will be discussed further at the December 2012 Board meeting.
- **Finance Committee:** Tim Bontkes reported on activities in the Finance Committee including the comparative income statements and overdue receivables. Melissa Vanpopta and Rob Bisschop were appointed as reviewers of two random months of financial statements, and discovered no concerns. Tim Bontkes will represent CCES on the valley-wide Salary Committee.
- **Special Education Committee:** Minutes of the recent meeting held with WO and CCHS were received for information. Valerie Sikkema noted with thankfulness that we have received funding for all our applications.
- **CCHS Report:** Valerie Sikkema reported in CCHS, including the External Evaluation and upcoming General meeting scheduled for November 21.
- **IT Committee:** John Lof reported on work within the IT committee, and the minutes of a recent meeting were received.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for December 11 2012. This meeting will be preceded by a Legal Authority meeting.
- **Closing:** Tim Bontkes closed with thanksgiving prayer. Chris Hoff adjourned the meeting and thanked all for coming

Why do you send your children to a Christian school?

T.M.P. Vanderven

One of our readers asks for a discussion about how to deal with the struggle to teach our children the skills and attitudes required to remain "strangers" in this world. The letter writer adds the following explanation:

Unlike my own children, I have never gone to a Christian school. My education was "different" from theirs in a way that is not always reckoned with today. I was tempted to use the word "better" instead of "different," but that would not be true.

I remember incidents of ridicule for saying "Christian" things as a young child in a secular environment. This ridicule came not only from my classmates, but from the teacher also. My parents would often remind me of what I was while in school: I was to be a "stranger" there; I was to be an example. I should not hide my light under a bushel

How short I fell of my parents' admonitions is easy to guess; of course, that struggle is never over. Yet I remain thankful that it was already impressed on me at an early age that Christianity was not going to be easy in the world we live in. The antithesis between the church and the world is easily distinguishable.

Maybe the best way of describing what I would love to see you tackle in an article can be summed up in this question (I made this up, but am a little ashamed of asking!): Do you send your children to a secular school and teach them how to be Christians in the world, or do you send them to a Christian school so they can learn how to become worldly Christians? (I'm sure that you can see why I am ashamed of this little play on words!).

Well, here it is; there is no reason at all to be ashamed of asking this question. No, it is not a new question, but it certainly is an important one. It will take more than a short article to discuss it. And more than that, we all would do well to consider this question. Therefore, I invite our readers to react as well. In this instalment let me focus on the aspect of *being a Christian in the world*.

It seems to me that every generation must struggle with questions such as the reader poses: why do we do what we do as Christians? Parents are concerned that their children will leave the well-trodden paths of protection, "do it our way, and all things will be well," is the implied advice. Children naturally challenge their parents as they search for their own identity and their own place, questioning the propriety of the parental ways of doing things why do we have to do this or that? And these young challengers will all too often win out because of the many inconsistencies of their parents - which parent can claim perfection as an

educator? Do as we say and not as we do! And so there are tensions between the older and the younger generations the generation gap, we call that.

It may take us, human beings, up to twenty years or more before we can act and live independently. The deep desire of parents - and by extension of educators - to provide children during their years of growing up with a protective, nurturing environment, is much more than an instinct; it is the way for parents and their children designed by God in His wonderful wisdom. The Christian school functions within this protective network aimed at leading children to maturity. Teachers stand *in loco parentis*, required to take care of their charges as a responsible parent would. As an extension of the home, the Christian school seeks to promote the total well-being of its students, providing an environment in which they feel comfortable and safe, in which they can trust the instruction and the instructor, and by which they are supported on their path towards independence. The teacher stands in a vital trust relationship with her students, a relationship that is essential to the proper functioning of the educational process.

Thus, a first part response is: In order for a family or a school to function well, it needs to provide a nurturing environment where parents and educators and children can live and work together in a relationship of trust and harmony. Within this setting, the children are to learn from the adults how to deal with the questions of life.

Do not build a wall, separating family life and school life from life within society. The Bible does not teach us this; our creeds do not profess this. When the Heidelberg Catechism speaks of our only comfort in life and death (Lord's Day 1), we ought not theorize about what type of life that might be: it is our life as we live it every day in whatever circumstances. That's what we ought to show our children: our trust in our lord Jesus counts for everything in every moment of our lives, whether we relax or are busily at work, whether we study inside the classroom, or play on the school ground: we are busy with life; we are alive as God's people.

"In order for a family or a school to function well, it needs to provide a nurturing environment where parents and educators and children can live and work together in a relationship of trust and harmony. Within this setting, the children are to learn from the adults how to deal with the questions of life."

Our children may learn this slowly, over time. It's a good thing we do not have to use the throw-in-the-pool-and-swim approach when educating our children. I am sure, many a

person has learned to swim that way, and perhaps even came to like swimming as well. However, there are better ways of helping children grow up: a safe environment within which children learn by precept and example of the adults what it means to live as a Christian; what it means to speak and use the Word of our Lord; what it means to confess your sins and shortcomings and ask for forgiveness; what it means to help each other; what it means to make choices for the Lord and against the world, our flesh, and even Satan.

Will this God-directed mindset always stand out, loud and clear? No, not at all. There will be times when the name of the Lord will not even be mentioned as we are struggling to complete that thousand-piece puzzle. There will be times when the Bible remains untouched as students work hard to solve their mathematical problems or are trying to get the lawnmower started as part of their weekly summer chores. Yet regularly, even on a daily basis will they get together around the supper table - with their teacher at the end of a school day - and together confess that their only help is in the name of the Lord Who has made heaven and earth. They will thank Him for allowing them to move around that marvellous creation with all its wonders and questions; they

will thank Him for the fun of play, for the challenge of the math problem, for the friendship, for the food ... they will thank Him for everything there is, and for everything that they were allowed to do. They will thank Him for being alive in Christ (Col. 3:15-17).

As we send our children to a Christian school, we do not want them to learn how to become Christians, let alone how to become worldly Christians. We want them to go there as children of our Father, learning from their brother or sister teacher about their Father's world with all the good things that He created, and also about all the evil things that are in that world - Satan is powerful, and the antithesis is a reality: there is a war going on, and our children better know about that. But don't try to train them in the middle of battle. As yet, the Lord gives us our Christian families and Christian schools as safe havens for our children. Let us make the most of every opportunity (Eph. 5:15,16)!

Let's pray that our families and schools are, indeed, model places for Christian life where our children are prepared for battle with the armoury of Scripture.

Credo Aid Update....

It has been another busy fall fundraising season! Thanks to all of you for playing a part in making the year thus far a fruitful one; we have been blessed beyond measure to have such a supportive community. We pray that God may continue to bless our efforts in 2013!

Credo Aid Funds: Here is a recap of all the funds raised so far:

Entertainment books:	\$2860
Veggie packs:	\$2417
Vesey Bulbs:	\$339
Croquetten:	\$4858
Purdeys:	\$2182
Gift baskets:	\$1750
Wreaths:	\$1060

Croquettes: A huge thanks to the organizing ladies for this once again successful fundraiser! And thank you also to the many volunteers that came out to roll and package the croquettes. Altogether 512 dozen croquettes were made and sold! This is a huge operation and we couldn't do it without the help of many hands. Thank you!

Gift Baskets: We were recently given the opportunity for a new fundraiser; a local company requested Credo Aid's assistance in organizing and assembling their corporate holiday gift baskets, offering compensation for our time and

efforts. Headed up by a very capable Loretta Saide, over 150 gift baskets were assembled and wrapped up! Thank you to all the ladies that came out and took up a place on the "production line."

Christmas Wreaths: The wreaths marked the last fundraiser of the year and another successful event it was. We asked for help and enough help came. Ladies, the end results of your clipping, bunching, hammering and gluing efforts, are beautiful! Thank you!

Rookworst: The new freezer is in and stocked again with rookworst. (1 for \$4.50 or 3 for \$12) Please fill out payment envelopes (beside the freezer or in the office) and place payment in the Credo Aid mail slot at the school.

We share with you the glory, the wonder, and the miracle of this Holy Season; may you have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Your Credo Aid Board,
Evelynn Scheper
Esther Vandergugten
Ang VanSpronsen
Loretta Saide
Leanne Leyenhorst

CERTIFICATE ORDER FORM

GROCERY STORES – ALWAYS AVAILABLE

Superstore (5%)	_____	x	\$50.00	=	\$ _____
	_____	x	\$100.00	=	\$ _____
	_____	x	\$250.00	=	\$ _____
Save On Foods (8%) (Pricesmart)	_____	x	\$50.00	=	\$ _____
	_____	x	\$100.00	=	\$ _____
IGA (reloadable)(5%)	_____	x	\$50.00	=	\$ _____
Safeway (8%)	_____	x	\$50.00	=	\$ _____
	_____	x	\$100.00	=	\$ _____

COFFEE AND TREATS

Tim Horton's (5%)	_____	x	\$10.00	=	\$ _____
	_____	x	\$25.00	=	\$ _____
Starbucks (5%)	_____	x	\$10.00	=	\$ _____
	_____	x	\$25.00	=	\$ _____
Esquires (10%)	_____	x	\$25.00	=	\$ _____

RESTAURANTS

Available in \$25's:

- Domino's (10%)
- Olive Garden (7%)
- Earls (7%)
- The Keg (7%)
- Kelsey's Multibrand (3%)
(Milestone's, Kelsey's, Montanna's, Second Cup)
- Moxie's (10%)
- Red Robin (7%)
- The Boathouse (7%)
- White Spot (7%)
- Boston Pizza (5%)
- Old Spagetti Factory (5%)
- Wendy's (3%) and Subway (5%) also available in \$10

DEPARTMENT STORES

Available in \$25 and \$100's

- Sears (2%)
- HBC (3%)
(The Bay, Zellers, Home Outfitters)

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Available in 25's and 100's

- Home Depot (2%)
- Home Hardware (3%)
- Rona (3%)

SPECIALTY STORES

Available in 25's

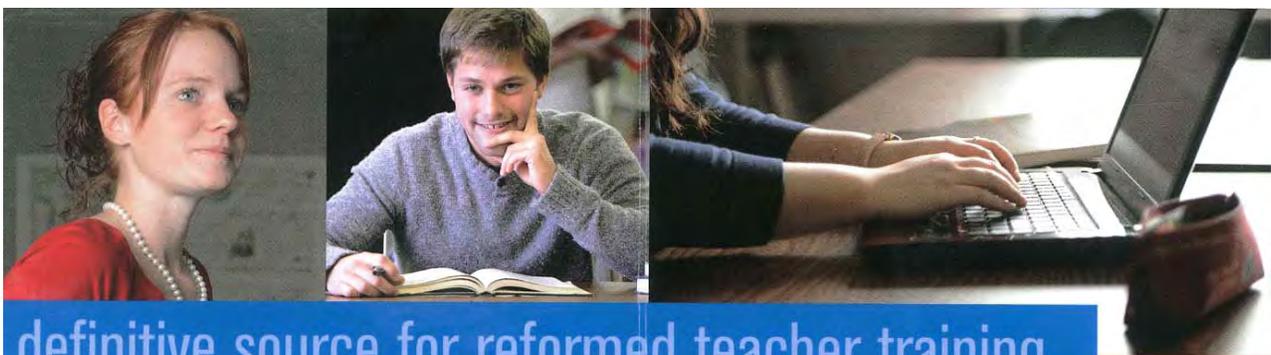
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|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Aeroposte (7%) | American Eagle (5%) | Best Buy (2%) |
| Canadian Tire (3%) | Chevron (2%) | Future Shop (2%) |
| La Senza (7%) | M&M Meat Shops (3%) | Mark's Work Wearhouse(7%) |
| Old Navy (7%) | Payless Shoes (5%) | Petro Canada (2%) |
| Shoppers Drug Mart(3%) | Sport Chek (4%) | Staples (3%) |
| Toy's R Us (2%)(or \$10) | Winners (7%) | |

Available in \$20's – Chapters (10%), Roger's Video (7%)

Available in \$50's – Spa Utopia (7%)

Please use this space to write your orders for specific stores (other than grocery/coffee):

Send your form to the school (marked Credo Aid) or phone Shauna Stam 604-514-9805



definitive source for reformed teacher training.

REFORMED EDUCATION

Covenant College operates within the broader context of Reformed education. It serves Reformed schools and their supporting communities by preparing teachers for these schools and by providing in-service support for practising teachers. Both the content and the delivery of its programs reflect the same principled perspectives that give Reformed education its distinctive identity.

The biblical perspectives that shape Reformed identity inform the practices in Reformed schools including teaching the whole child, fostering literacy and numeracy, and stimulating intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and discernment.

PROGRAMS OFFERED

DIPLOMA OF EDUCATION

A one-year program for those who hold an undergraduate university degree and wish to prepare themselves for a teaching career in an elementary or a secondary school.

DIPLOMA OF TEACHING

A three year program for those who have a secondary school diploma and wish to prepare themselves for teaching in an

GOVERNANCE/ RECOGNITION/SUPPORT/ LEGAL STATUS

The members of Covenant Teachers College are school societies established within Canadian/American church communities. Each member school society delegates a person who will serve as a member of the Board of Governors.

Covenant College is a non accredited institution. It is in the process of registering as a private career college in the province of Ontario.

Covenant College is a non publicly funded, not-for-profit institution. The College meets its financial obligations from income derived from annual membership fees paid by member school societies, from tuition fees, and from individual donors and businesses.

Covenant is a charitable organization and it



Yes! I would like to support the CCRTC!

- One-Time gift of \$ _____ (cheque enclosed)
 Monthly by pre-authorized automatic withdrawal

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROV _____ PC _____

CHURCH _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Will you partner with us in providing reformed teacher education?

Pre-Authorized Direct Withdrawal Form

I hereby authorize Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College to withdraw regular payments from my bank account and agree to accept annual increases as set by the board:

- \$33/Month** - Withdrawn on the:
 15th of the month 30th of the month
- \$396/Annually** - Withdrawn on _____ each year
- \$ _____/Month** - Withdrawn on the:
 15th of the month 30th of the month

SIGNATURE

Please ATTACH a blank cheque marked "VOID" to this form.