



BRANCHES

*Be still...
and know
that I am God*

Psalm 46:10

*Wishing you the Lord's peace
at Christmas and in the New Year*

CCES Staff
Otto Bouwman
Stephen Chase
Wilma Debesaw
Sarah Hicks
Mark Hoogerdijk
Deborah Hattema
James Kanis
* Elma Kurtz
Mary MacDougal
Katelyn Postert
Diana Nobel
Jennifer Onderwater
Jerry Scholtens
Leslie Scholtens
Jacqueline Spoor
Karin Timmerman
Amy Vanderhoek
Paige Vanderhorst
Lisa Vanderveen
Lisa VanDyke
Natasja VanRhee
Angela VanSpronsen
Linda VanSpronsen
Alyson Winkelbaar

CCES Board
Neil Dykstra Oliver Hansma
Chris Hoff Bob Hattema
Fiona Jansen Al Leyenhorst
Tim Rook Will VanDene

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**Volume 28
Issue 3
Dec 4, 2015**

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. 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 heard insightful presentations from Neil Dykstra and Harry Moes.

Many Thanks

Through the Secretary's Report we also had the opportunity to reflect upon God's abundant grace on us over the past year. While writing this report, I was struck by how many times I felt the need to thank people (you may also notice this as well as you read on...). As a Board we are in a position to have a bird's eye view of the school. What we see is a great many moving parts, perhaps akin to an orchestra. There are many people with many roles and tasks - students, teachers, (grand)parents, administration, volunteers, committees and the Board. All of us collaborate with a harmony of purpose to make this venture work, and indeed flourish. This happens only with God's blessing - so most of all let us thank God that we continue to have a thriving school that enables us to raise our covenant children in truth.

Board Elections and Duties

On behalf of Oliver and myself, we wish to thank membership for the confidence that you again placed in us through the re-elections at the October membership meeting. It is a privilege for us, and indeed the entire Board, to serve. And on behalf of the entire Board, we endeavour to continue to invest ourselves with affirming the vision of the school within the community, and help making that vision a reality through our governance and oversight of the school.

There was no turnover with board directors this year, and all Board directors retained their portfolio from the previous year. As such, we are able to continue with our work fairly seamlessly. Finally, we wish to thank Geoff Hoogstra and Eric Vandergriendt for agreeing to stand during the October election, and we encourage you to seek other opportunities to serve at CCES.

Committees

Speaking of opportunities to serve CCES in other ways, it is also a good time to acknowledge those who retired from Board committees over the last while:

- Membership Committee: Ron Scheper and Martin VanWoudenberg
- Education Committee: Yolanda Hoogstra and Wenda Sikma. Thanks also to Wenda for continuing into another term

- Maintenance Committee: Mike Homan and Rod Vanspronsen.
- To each of you - on behalf of the Board and the entire community - thank you for your diligence and hard work over the last number of years.

Personnel Matters

It has been a few months now since Otto transitioned into his new role as Principal at CCES. From what we can tell at the Board level, this transition has been fairly seamless. While this is a testament to Otto's experience and professionalism, it is also a product of teamwork with the rest of the staff and administrative team (Jennifer Onderwater, Deborah Huttema and Elma Kuntz).

Speaking of teamwork, we wish to welcome two more people to the team. Over the last few months you may have noticed that Marcelle Togeretz is at school twice per week, helping out with the French program. And, starting on December 07, Lisa VanDyke will be helping out in Grade 7 with the writing / LA program for the remainder of the year.

So... thanks also to each of you for your willingness to contribute and professionalism - may God continue to bless your work.

Welcome to Two New Families

Over the last month or so, two new families have arrived at CCES:

- Steve and Marcey Koning (Sara - grade 6, Pedro - Grade 3, and Noemi - K) have returned from Alberta, and have resettled into CCES. Daniel is in Grade 8 at CCHS.
- Glenn and Colleen Veenendaal (Hailey & Lauryn-grade 7) have moved from Edmonton. While they plan to settle in Abbotsford, the children are attending CCES for the remainder of this school year.

Other Miscellaneous Matters

- While this may be old news by now, we have not publically congratulated Stephen and Jessica Chase upon the birth of their third son, Asher. May God equip you with all you need to raise this precious covenant child.
- You may also notice that we have published the draft minutes of the October 2015 membership meeting in this edition of *Branches*. This is for the benefit of those that were not able to make the meeting, and for those that wish to review proceedings. We will publish these draft minutes again in advance of the next scheduled membership meeting in May 2016.
- As a Board, we are continuing the policy review that

we started last year. On the surface, this may seem like a fairly mundane, or perhaps even frivolous, use of valuable time. However, these policies are important. Integrity of process is an important mark of a well functioning Board. By definition, policies guide a Board towards acting in a consistent, well considered way over time. This is especially important as Board members change over time - but the structures and processes remain constant and do not need to be regularly re-invented (which would come with the hazard of inconsistency). The policy review that the Board is working on now serves to acquaint the Board with the range of CCES policies, and build upon the legacy of work from previous Boards. Overall, we are making only limited changes to

existing policies, and introducing a few new policies. At some point we will elaborate on this review in *Branches*.

And it is That Time of Year Again ...

Well, it is hard to believe that it is that time of year again. Some of the hallmarks of a fast approaching Christmas include the first term report cards, parent-teacher interviews and the wearied, tired disposition of the teachers. It is good that a break is on the horizon. This edition of *Branches* is the final one for this calendar year. So let us be the first to wish you a blessed Christmas!

From the Principal....

Otto Bouwman

Every Monday morning, the staff meets together before school. We acknowledge our dependence on Father's blessing for the coming week, and ask for his blessing on our work in the week ahead. This week we also noted that Christmas was right around the corner - at that time, still 15 school days away. How good to realize that we are working together with our Father's children in our Father's kingdom. Thank you, everyone, for the continued support and encouragement that is palpable in the Credo community. As we move towards the end of the calendar year, with all the accompanying highlights and festivities, may our lives be characterized by profound gratitude for the blessings that we have been given.

Curriculum Changes

Last week Friday all teachers working in our valley schools met together in the Aldergrove Church. The elementary teachers were preparing to begin to work collaboratively on the development of course outlines that meet the changing BC Ministry of Education requirements. To set the stage for this process, Mr. Philip Hills, the Regional Director of ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International), had been invited to address us. Mr. Hills proved to not only be knowledgeable about the changing curriculum requirements of the ministry, but was also passionate about the need for Christian teachers to carry on the beautiful work of instruction in our Christian schools. His presentation was inspirational, and served the elementary teachers very well as we prepared to meet together by grade in order to update our course outlines. While admitting that the ministry's current requirements and timetable seem unrealistic, our speaker encouraged us to identify the opportunities we have to clearly articulate Christian perspectives in our curriculum.

Perhaps you have read something about changes to the BC curriculum in the newspaper or elsewhere. You might be wondering if this is something that ought to really concern us, or if we can just roll with it and be accommodating without further thought. From my vantage point, it would appear that much of the desire for change stems from a genuine "post-modern" mindset, and deserves our deliberate attention.

First of all, as articulated in a ministry website, the curriculum currently in place needs to change; it "tends to focus on teaching children factual content rather than concepts and processes - emphasizing what they learn over how they learn, *which is exactly the opposite of what modern education should strive to do.*" The assertion that "what students learn" is less important than "how they learn" represents a huge shift in emphasis. Where will we go with that? What does that ultimately suggest about assessment in each different grade level? Admittedly, an educational program which hammers content and fails to consider the processes that the learner needs to successfully engage in will likely lead to a great deal of frustration from the student and his/her parents. (And exactly that did sometimes happen in previous years and decades.) But where will a program lead that focuses primarily on the process of learning? The ministry is pushing the personalization / individualization of education. What that might mean for objective standards is an open question.

Secondly, another thrust of the new curriculum is a huge nod to aboriginal understandings and perspectives. There is mention of "First Peoples" in almost every grade and every subject. For example, in Social Studies, first graders are expected to know key events and developments in the local "First Peoples Communities." In English, fifth graders

should be able to "demonstrate awareness of the oral tradition in First Peoples' cultures and the purposes of First Peoples' texts." In Math, seventh graders should be able to "apply cultural perspectives of First Peoples to the concepts of locating, measuring, and numbering." Though these specific expectations are not the only components of these courses, they do give evidence of a direction of thinking that challenge us.

I am hopeful that there will be numerous stimulating conversations, not only in the school (for example, in the staff room and around the Education Committee table) but also in your homes. If you check out a ministry website at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>, you will be able to catch the flavor of where our educational leaders hope to direct the province's youth. In our post-modern world, the value of Christian schools which provide distinctly Christian education becomes greater and greater. Please pray for your teachers who do their best to instruct the coming generation; teachers will need much wisdom to provide Biblical instruction in a post-modern context. In the strength of the Lord, let's embrace the opportunities that we have been given to shape our curriculum in a distinctive manner; onward, Christian soldiers!

School Happenings

The school has been a beehive of activity during the past month - when isn't it? A few points should particularly be noted - with gratitude:

- safety on the busses - day after day
- great ongoing instruction in the classrooms - hour after hour
- field trips that reinforce learning and provide different opportunities for growth
- assemblies which provide opportunity for individual creativity and mastery
- cooperative and cheerful students
- completed report cards - what dedication by the entire staff
- a competent office administrator who manages the front desk
- successful recent knee surgery for Mrs. VanRhee and the willingness of Mrs. VanSpronsen to cover her

classes for a month

- continuity at the board level - thank you for your volunteer service
- dedication by the many who volunteer on the various committees of the board
- Credo Aid's activities
- supportive and prayerful parents

We have much to be grateful for; continue to give thanks to our heavenly Father.

There are two more items which should particularly be mentioned.

- Our grade 7 teacher has been working very diligently this past fall, with a large group of 27 students. Thanks to the arrival of Hailey and Lauryn, the class expanded to 29 students. In order to relieve Miss Nobel of some of her load, Mrs. Lisa VanDyke will become responsible for the writing curriculum for the grade 7 class. Thank you heartily!
- During the past months, there have been numerous athletic activities which our intermediate students have been able to participate in. Thank you teachers, parents, coaches, drivers, and other volunteers, who made those events happen. These events appear to have been genuinely appreciated and formative for the participants. A volunteer recently emailed me to share her joy of being involved: "It was great to give all these girls a chance to improve their skills and learn about being on a team. For many of them this will be one of the only experiences they will get, as high school sports cannot accommodate everyone." Rest assured, all those involved: your volunteerism is widely appreciated; please keep up the wonderful Credo things happening!

We witness the anticipated changes in leadership in our partner schools in the valley, and pray that these transitions go smoothly. It is a pleasure to have wonderful principal colleagues in the area!

God bless us all as we approach the end of 2015 and look forward to a blessed New Year!

CCES Calendar Update		
December	18	Last day before Christmas break
	19-Jan.3	Christmas Vacation
January	4	School reopens
	15	Skating
	29	Art Festival/Open House



Short Reports of Board Meetings

Short Report of the Meeting of the
Board of Directors
of Credo Christian Elementary School
September 8th, 2015

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Chris Hoff, opened the meeting by reading from Mark 4 and prayer. He welcomed all the Directors and Principal Otto Bouwman to the meeting.
- **Agenda Approval:** The agenda for the regular board meeting was approved.
- **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Report of the June 9, 2015 Board meeting were adopted.
- **Principal's Report:** Otto Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for September 2015 and provided updates on start of year activities, janitorial agreement, and Bible translation usage at CCES.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for September 2015 was received for information. Chris Hoff reported on his activities as chairman.
- **General Business:** A number of matters were discussed including review of the board staff social, the October membership meeting, and nominations for new board members. The Ad-Hoc committee for Board nominations was struck.
- **Finance Committee:** O. Hansma reported on the activities of the Finance Committee. Part of the surplus will be allocated to a capital project reserve fund.
- **Maintenance Committee:** Al Leyenhorst reported on the activities of the maintenance committee, and work done over the summer. Ken Stam and Dan Warkentin were appointed to replace outgoing members Mike Homan and Rod VanSpronsen.
- **Development Committee:** Neil Dykstra reported on the activities of the development committee and outlined progress on promotional materials, and committee plans for the upcoming school year. Bryce Graham was appointed to the committee.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for October 6, 2015.
- **Closing:** Tim Rook 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
October 6th, 2015

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Chris Hoff, opened the meeting by reading from Isaiah 55 and prayer. He welcomed all the Directors and Principal Otto Bouwman to the meeting.
- **Agenda Approval:** The agenda for the regular board meeting was approved.
- **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Report of the September 8, 2015 Board meeting were adopted.
- **Principal's Report:** Otto Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for October 2015 and provided updates on staffing matters, curriculum development and the CCES teacher's handbook.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for October 2015 was received for information. Chris Hoff reported on his activities as chairman.
- **General Business:** A number of matters were discussed including review of the recent principal/chair meeting and the upcoming SCSBC conference. A number of policies were reviewed. The agenda for the annual general meeting was finalized. Oliver Hansma, Chris Hoff, Geoff Hoogstra and Eric Vandergrindt were nominated for Board positions.
- **Development Committee:** Development Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed. A revised committee mandate was reviewed, and the direction of the committee was discussed. The name of the committee was changed to the Membership Committee.
- **Finance Committee:** The income statement for September 30, 2015 and Finance Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed. The financial statements for 2014/15 were reviewed and approved for presentation to the membership. It was decided to propose to membership to transfer \$25,000 from the unrestricted reserve to the capital repairs and replacements reserve.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for November 10, 2015. The fall membership meeting is planned for October 21, 2015.
- **Closing:** Will VanOene closed with thanksgiving prayer. Chris Hoff adjourned the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Minutes of Membership Meeting (Draft)

Credo Christian Elementary School
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
of Credo Christian Elementary School with the
Membership
October 21th, 2015 CCES Gymnasium

Opening and Welcome: The Chairman, Chris Hoff, welcomed all those present and opened the meeting. He requested the membership to sing Psalm 2 stanzas 1 & 4, and followed with prayer. A quorum of members was present.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the CCES membership meeting held May 27th, 2015 were distributed prior to the meeting and adopted as presented.

Matters from the Minutes: The changes to the bylaws have been formally registered with McQuarrie Hunter.

Board Elections: The Chairman gave the floor to board Vice-chairman Bob Huttema who presided over the voting for new directors. Two new directors were required (retiring were Oliver Hansma and Chris Hoff). Nominees were: Oliver Hansma, Chris Hoff, Geoff Hoogstra and Eric Vandergriendt. Elected were Oliver Hansma and Chris Hoff. A motion to destroy the ballots was carried.

Annual Report: The Chairman gave the floor to board Secretary Will VanOene who presented the secretary's annual report for the 2014/15 school year.

Financial Statements: The Chairman gave the floor to board Treasurer Oliver Hansma who presented the general and special education financial statements for the 2014/15 school year along with the review report completed by Shauna Stam and Ang Deboer. An

opportunity for questions was given.

- What is the purpose of the CCSTA investment amount? This line item represents initial seed funds that were invested when CCSTA was started. The finance committee has considered removing this item, but it is likely that we would be entitled to a larger return if the CCSTA was ever dissolved.
- When will the CCES school calendar be aligned with other schools to eliminate the additional CCSTA costs? This matter has the attention of the board.

A motion to accept the general and special education financial statements as presented was carried.

Presentation - No Neutral Ground: The Chairman gave the floor to board member Neil Dykstra who presented a report on a booklet put out by ARPA called No Neutral Ground.

Presentation - FISA Update: The Chairman gave the floor to community member Harry Moes who presented an update on FISA and the ongoing work with the provincial government and Ministry of Education. FISA is currently working on a template for independent schools in order to respond to the changes in the new Societies Act.

Question Period: An opportunity for general questions was given. There were no further questions.

Closing: Community member Steve Leyenhorst closed the meeting in thanksgiving prayer.

Adjournment: Chris Hoff adjourned the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Year-end reminder:

Each year we are blessed with many donations from the supporting community. We are thankful for each and every contribution. Please be reminded that year-end tax receipts for 2015 will include all payments received up to December 31.

Thank You.
The Finance Committee

Credo Aid Connection

CROQUETTEN FUNDRAISER

Another batch of croquetten has been made and sold, and a very good fundraiser it was! The amount of just over \$8,000.00 was raised through the sale of the "world famous supermagnifigreat" Credo Aid croquettes. The proceeds are so high due in no small part to the fact that the costs of some \$3,000.00 were covered by several very generous sponsor/donors.

The croquetten production started on October 20th with the buying, cutting up and cooking up of the meat. The next day chop it, weigh it, parcel it up, measure and weigh flour, spices, liquid, and on and on. Then, on November 9th, making of the ragout and getting the mixture ready for November 10th, the actual shaping of the croquettes, cutting them to length, roll, dip roll. Then bag them into dozens and filling the orders. About 600 dozen croquettes!! Every croquette, some 600 dozen, individually handled several times.

This takes many dozens of helpers and willing workers, who wait for us to call them at this time of year ("I was expecting you to call!") and who step up willingly to help. Thank you, thank you for making this such a profitable project!!

From the CROQUETTEN TEAM: Diny Dehaas, Joanne Dewit, Debbie Lof, Tanya Pruijm, Rita Schouten, Diane VanderHorst and Ginny VanderHorst. (our motto, at the height of the busyness; WE'RE HAVING FUN, RIGHT??!!)

p.s. – we'll be calling you again next year.

Purdy's Fundraiser

Orders are in! We hope you are enjoying your sweet treats. This fundraiser raised over \$1,100 this year. Thank you for your continued support!

Campbell's Labels

Keep your labels and pass them on to Lisa Vanderven and together we will collect points for purchasing fun things for our school! Check out the Credo Aid Facebook page for an updated list of all the products to collect.

Veggie Packs

There are still veggie packs available in the school freezer. For just \$2, you can have your veggies all ready to go for your next pot of Sunday soup! Pick them up at the school and drop your payment of in the Credo Aid box in the office.

Gift cards

Do you know of a business, or even own one, that gives gift cards as Christmas bonuses, or goes on a company dinner? We can help with that! What a great way for the school to earn a profit on gifts that will be purchased anyways! More info to follow, or contact Shauna Stam to order.

Fun fact: Winter holidays are the top purchase occasion for gift cards, followed by birthdays.

Ecco Cloths!

Looking for stocking stuffers? Well these would be great for that special someone. Ecco Cloths are available through Wenda Sikma. Contact her to purchase your order today. For only \$5.00 and a little elbow grease your windows can sparkle!

Mother's Day Fair

Just over 5 months away! The planning is slowly starting and we are looking forward to this **grand event**. On **Saturday, May 7th**, there will be pancakes to flip, eggs to fry and games to play. There will be some new events to enjoy, including a silent auction. Many hands make light work, so mark your calendars and come on out to support our school in this amazing fundraiser.

Credo Aid Laugh Line

What Christmas carol is a favourite of parents?

Silent Night.

Merry Christmas

from

Credo Aid!

Cindy Luiten (President) luitenmatt@gmail.com
 Sue Stam (Vice President) stam.susan@gmail.com
 Kait Scheper (Secretary) scheperik@gmail.com
 Ang Van Spronsen (Treasurer) ang.vanspronsen@gmail.com
 Jen Sikma rjsikma@gmail.com
 Renee Leffers rbleffers@gmail.com



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. C. Hoff (2018)	Chairman
Mr. B. Huttema (2017)	Vice Chair/Ed. Com
Mr. W. VanOene (2016)	Secretary
Mr. O. Hansma (2018)	Treasurer
Mr. N. Dykstra (2017)	Development/CCSTA
Mrs. F. Jansen (2016)	CCHS/SpEd
Mr. A. Leyenhorst (2016)	Maintenance/CCSTA
Mr. T. Rook (2017)	IT/Finance

Education Committee

Mr. B. Huttema	
Mr. I. Scheper	Mrs. W. Sikma
Mrs. L. VanDyke	Mrs. M. VanPopta
Mr. O. Bouwman	Mrs. J. Onderwater

Membership Committee

Mr. N. Dykstra	Mrs. M. Vanderhorst
Mrs. D. VanDyke	

Special Education Committee

Mrs. F. Jansen	Mrs. D. Huttema
	Mr. O. Bouwman

Finance Committee

Mr. O. Hansma	Mr. T. Rook
	Mrs. E. Kuntz

Maintenance Committee

Mr. T. Bontkes	Mr. A. Leyenhorst
Mr. R. Bisschop	Mr. D. Hofsink
Mr. B. VanOene	

Staff

Mr. O. Bouwman	Principal
Mrs. J. Onderwater	VP, Kindergarten B
Ms. L. Scholtens	Kindergarten A
Mrs. M. MacDougal	Grade 1
Mrs. A. Winkelaar	Grade 2
Mr. S. Chase	Grade 3
Miss A. Vanderhoek	Grade 4
Mrs. L. Vanspronsen	Grade 5A
Mrs. N. VanRhee	Grade 5A
Mr. M. Hoogerdijk	Grade 5B
Mr. J. Kanis	Grade 6A
Mr. J. Scholtens	Grade 6B
Miss D. Nobel	Grade 7
Mrs. L. VanDyke	Grade 7
Mrs. D. Huttema	SpEd, LA
Mrs. K. Timmerman	Music Gr. 4-7
Mrs. W. Deleeuw	Educational Ass't
Miss S. Hicks	Educational Ass't
Miss K. Mostert	Educational Ass't
Mrs. J. Spoor	Educational Ass't
Mrs. P. Vanderhorst	Educational Ass't
Mrs. L. Vanderven	Educational Ass't
Mrs. A. VanSpronsen	Educational Ass't
Mrs. E. Kuntz	Office Administrator

Credo Aid

Mrs. C. Luiten	Mrs. S. Stam
Mrs. K. Scheper	Mrs. A. VanSpronsen
Mrs. R. Leffers	Mrs. J. Sikma

Fee Structure 2015-2016

Membership	125.00	Kindergarten	285.00
Elem. (1-3)	495.00	Elem (4-7)	515.00
Junior High	660.00	Senior High	710.00

CCSTA office 604-546-7455
 Doug Deboer email: doug@ccsta.net

**World famous
 Supermagnifigreat
 Croquetten!**



**Thank you,
 Credo Aid!
 Nov. 10, 2015**