



BRANCHES



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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....

Tim Bontkes

Christmas for us is a celebration of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. It is a time to spend time with our loved ones, a time to reflect on the year past and to make plans and new goals for the year to come. We do this as individuals, we do this as a community of believers, we do this as a school and we also do it as school Board. In a world where religious freedoms continue to be eroded and we are surrounded by secular influences, we remain unified and strong with the knowledge that Christ has been born and will come again on another day washing away our sins and promoting us to glory! *"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."* Luke 1:32-33

Elsewhere in this edition of *Branches* you will find a copy of the annual report which our secretary presented to us at the October AGM. 2018 has been another year full of blessings for CCES. We have countless reasons to be thankful: for the students, the dedicated staff, all of the volunteers and the supportive parents. Thank you to all those who continue to contribute to the success of our school!

Board Transition

A special thank you to my fellow Board members for their commitment to serve and for their dedication to the mission and vision set out for our school. At our AGM we were able to say thank you and goodbye to three Board members for their years of service. Thank you again to Oliver Hansma, Neil Dykstra and Tim Rook for all your efforts! Tim, we wish you and your family the Lord's blessing as you move to Manitoba in the next couple of weeks and Neil we continue to pray for all you need as you continue to deal with your health concerns. Thank you also to the members who were willing to let their names stand as new Board members. Welcome to the Board Ian Moes, Roger Aikema and Richard Welfing! We are looking forward to your contributions over the next 3 years.

School Evaluation

Over the course of October 24-26 the Ministry performed a combined external evaluation of CCES and CCHS. This level of evaluation occurs every 6

years and provides a true test of operation of our schools. I am very proud to say that we did extremely well in this evaluation. The team provided very positive feedback on how the vision of our school is evident in all aspects of the operation of our school, our procedures and policies are up to date and well set up, we prove to be on top of ministry requirements as it relates to curriculum and educational systems in the classrooms and our physical facility meets all the prescribed requirements. Further to this, the reviewers were very impressed at how our identity shone through in all aspects of our school. They acknowledge that there is a very professional and positive culture and great learning environment. Aside from a couple of very minor policy updates which are required, I'd say that we did very well. This positive report and feedback is a testament to the diligence and expertise shown by the past and current administration and boards. Thank you to Otto and Kent for all your efforts in preparing for this evaluation and for your work in meeting and exceeding the requirements of the ministry!

Staffing

I am happy to announce that the Board has been able to offer a job to Jessica deBoer to fill in for Alison Winkelaar's maternity leave in February of next year. Jessica's availability was quite an opportunity for us; especially with her familiarity to CCES. Welcome back, Jessica!

Our administration team and special education department are continually assessing the teaching needs in our classes. After a review of the first couple of months of this school year it was felt that further assistance was necessary to meet the ever increasing needs of our students. The Board was thankfully able to offer a job to Alice Wu as an Educational Assistant. From what I understand at the time of writing this, Alice has adjusted well to her new role at CCES.

Valley Wide High School Planning

Thank you to all of you who were able to attend the Town Hall meeting last month along with other school members across the Valley to discuss each of our needs and desires as we continue to plan for the delivery of high school education into the future. By all indications the presentation of the work of the

committee was well received and the group discussions, surveys and panel discussion were appreciated by all the members, hopefully helping them prepare themselves for a future vote on the matter. Thank you to members of the Society of Christians Schools of BC (SCSBC) for their assistance with this evening. For all those young families who are thinking about signing up as members of our school society, now is the time. The upcoming voting on the committee's recommendations will have as much or more effect on your children who have not even entered the school system yet. Now is a good time to get involved and to influence the outcomes with your vote as members of the CCES society!

The Board asks that you continue to pray for the Planning Committee and the CCES Board as it continues to research, discuss and contemplate the trade-offs across the valley as we approach a final recommendation and vote by the Boards and various memberships. The expectation is that the final conclusions and recommendations will be presented to the Boards in January of 2019 and that if this meets their approval, it will be presented to membership in the spring of 2019 with a vote shortly thereafter.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank everyone for the support we have received as we continue to govern on your behalf. We also wish everyone a safe and blessed Christmas break!

From the Principal....

Otto Bouwman

A frequently heard hymn at this time of year is that well-known "*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile, until the Son of God appear.*" Though the author and composer are unknown, it seems that the hymn is over 800 years old. It might reference a period of exile - like the Babylonian captivity, which happened almost 600 years before Christ was born. The exiles could "Rejoice!" because a Savior was to come who would bring ultimate freedom and restoration to God's people.

What a fitting song for God's people to sing at this time of year! When we look back we rejoice that the Savior was born; then we look forward with anticipation to his return and the complete and final restoration of all life's brokenness. Rejoice in our Savior's birth, and pray for his second coming.

Updates

There are many items that I could expand on, including

- gratitude for work done by outgoing board members
- gratitude for willingness of new board members to take up their new roles
- best wishes to the Rook family (Tim & Vanessa, Sean, Carina, Lauren, Bethany & Jared) as they move to Carman
- gratitude for new staff hires - Alice Wu and Jessica deBoer

- excitement about Friday's "Market Day" - put on by our 6th and 7th grade students
- gratitude for a successful fund / awareness - raiser in connection with Mission Aid Brazil
- gratitude for completion of a good first term of school and appreciation to all parents who came out for discussions at parent/teacher conferences
- a very positive External Evaluation experience
- and the list could go on and on.....

However, I will resist the temptation and just focus on a few topics below. As you can see: there are so many things for us to be thankful for! Feel free to ask anyone in the school about any of the items mentioned above.

Christmas Programs

A few years ago, the three elementary schools deliberately tried to do some stream-lining for our Christmas / Easter programs. The "new normal" would be that the one school would do a Christmas program, another one do a concert in the spring, and the third one not do a formal school-wide program. This year is Credo's "year off." (If you are looking for an elementary school Christmas program, though: William of Orange has their program on Thursday evening, Dec. 20.)

Even though it is our "year off," the staff was still looking forward to having a grandparents / senior day. In order to accommodate some snowbirds in

our midst, staff decided to have this grand-parents day close to Christmas. After all, we like to host such events at a time that is conducive to good attendance. Since the timing of this particular grandparents day was set for close to Christmas - why not do a Christmas-themed grandparents day. We look forward to the attendance of many next Thursday!

White Hatter

Last month many parents took advantage of the opportunity on a Monday evening to listen to "The White Hatter" make his presentation in the Langley church. I heard a great deal of appreciation for his presentation, even though listening to his passionate presentation was a little bit like trying to drink from a gushing water hydrant; there was so much information coming at us that it was hard to appreciate and swallow it all. Nonetheless, there was one specific tidbit, which continued to echo in my mind for some days following the presentation, that I'd like to mention here: The speaker really encouraged us in our roles as parents to *be parents*. Dare to set rules and create boundaries for your children, and don't cave in because of some resistance from them. Parents will often (always?) encounter pushback from children as they identify the thresholds - whatever those thresholds might be. Your child might be unhappy about as small (or huge - depending on the circumstances) a matter as having no technological devices in her / his bedroom. But the speaker stressed that parents should know they are in charge, that they (should) know what is best for their children, and they need to set the rules and define the parameters for children. That means, he added, that we parents should not make it our aim to be friends with our children. Look forward to that eventuality by parenting them deliberately and consistently while they are growing up. It was a great presentation!

Psalms

This past summer one of our teachers participated in a week-long professional development opportunity here in the area. Her assignment was to develop a new unit of study for her students. She accepted the challenge by creating a new unit on the Psalms. One of the resources she relied upon was an excellent new devotional (Christ's Psalms, Our Psalms), compiled by Rev. Holtvluwer - a highly recommended resource. She also had a local pastor come into her classroom to talk about the Psalms. I'm grateful when I witness our teachers deliberately attempting to pass on a love for the Psalms to the

next generation - also as they are put to music in our *Book of Praise*. In that regard, I encourage parents to keep singing those psalms, and help your children every week come back to school with their memory work firmly embedded in their head and heart. Parents do such a service to their children when they pass on enthusiasm about those psalms (and other Scripture texts) to their children, and when you "talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." Please make the goal of helping your child achieve a good grade in memory work on his / her report card a high family priority.

Cultural Trends

News related to Christian schools in Alberta has been a topic around many coffee tables. We wait to hear what the decision of the courts will be. In the meantime, it might be of interest to our readership to see a few quotes from a recent bulletin from one of our sister schools in Western Australia. The cultural trends are global:

- *Some time ago the Free Reformed School Association sent out an email concerning the potentially tenuous position we have in relation to maintaining our ethos. Our schools, together with many other 'faith based' schools are in the firing line of government legislation which is threatening to remove some of our religious freedom, if not to severely curtail it.*
- *This is a time of uncertainty, but at the same time there is a deep sense of certainty also. The uncertainty is that we don't know what the government will do, and what the consequences for us are in the shorter and longer terms. The deep sense of certainty is that the outcome is already determined and that it will be OK because our Father is the one who has this in His hands also. He is not like us, in that He reacts to what people do. He sees and knows the hearts and minds of every person, and His action has been planned from the beginning. Psalm 2 captures that in one line: "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion."*

I share the above as an encouragement for us to continue to be thankful for the freedoms we (still) enjoy, to pray for those who are facing persecution of any kind, and to be willing to step forward when there is need / opportunity for a clear defense of the Christian faith in the public square. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Calendar Update

December	20	Grandparents' Day / Christmas Assembly	
	21	Last day before Christmas Break	
	24–Jan 4	Christmas Vacation	no school
January	7	School reopens	
	14	Awareness Raiser (Christ for All)	8:45 -gym
	24	School Skating -Twin Rinks	
	25	ProD Day	no school

CRTS Conference

At the end of January, our theological seminary is hosting their annual conference here in Langley. This will be a conference of interest to all who are intentional in the generational transfer of the faith. Our children are “covenant children” – what are some consequences of that conviction as we teach them at home and at school?

The conference will be from January 24 to 26 and will feature free evening lectures on both Thursday and Friday night. No need to register for this, just show up at the Langley church at 8:00:

- Thursday: "Do not Hinder Them" By Dr. Gerhard H. Visscher.
- Friday: "Mature in Christ: How do Presbyterians Raise their Children" By Dr. Eric Watkins.

To register for all presentations and panel discussions, preregister by December 31. There is something for everyone, regardless at what stage in life you are! You can attend just one speech or all day! Check out complete details at

<https://www.canadianreformedseminary.ca/news-and-events/conference-2019/CRTS-Conference-2019-Main-Langley.html>

Hope many of you can be there!

Words of Welcome!

As a school society, we would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to:

Michael and Jenise Hollaar (Aldergrove Canadian Reformed Church) and **Stuart and Joni VanderHorst** (Aldergrove Canadian Reformed Church) who recently became members of our school society.

As well, we welcome **Jonathan and Jennifer Vanderpol** - (Christ Covenant Church) to our school; their oldest son Adam entered Kindergarten this fall.

We are thankful to have these families join us and pray you may enjoy the blessings of our school community.

Minutes of the October 2018 AGM

Credo Christian Elementary School
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
of Credo Christian Elementary School
with the Membership
October 24th, 2018 CCES Gymnasium

Opening and Welcome: The Chairman, Tim Bontkes, welcomed all those present and opened the meeting. He requested the membership to sing Psalm 25 stanzas 2 & 6, read from Ecclesiastes 3:9-15, and followed with prayer. A quorum of members was present.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the CCES membership meeting held May 30th, 2018 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion to adopt the minutes as presented was seconded and carried by a show of hands.

Matters from the Minutes: There were no matters from the minutes.

Board Elections: Three new directors were required to replace Neil Dykstra and Tim Rook who resigned their positions, and Oliver Hansma who had completed his second term. Nominees were: Roger Aikema, James Dehaas, Darren Leffers, Ian Moes and Richard Welfing. The chairman, Tim Bontkes read off the names of the nominees and requested the membership to mark their ballots. The ballots were collected and, after due process, elected were Roger Aikema, Ian Moes and Richard Welfing. A motion to destroy the ballots was seconded and carried by a show of hands.

Annual Report: The Chairman gave the floor to board Secretary Will VanOene who presented the secretary's annual report for the 2017/18 school year.

Review of Financial Statements: The Chairman gave the floor to board Treasurer Oliver Hansma who presented the general and special education

financial statements for the 2017/18 school year along with the review report completed by Caroline Visscher and Pauline Homan. An opportunity for questions was given throughout the presentation. What is included in the "miscellaneous" category for Credo Aid expenditures? Typically items that do not fit into the other budget categories, such as hot lunches, classroom funds for teachers, sports equipment, etc. (information was provided from the floor by a representative of Credo Aid).

A motion to accept the financial statements as presented and appoint Avisar as the society's accountant for the 2018/19 school year was seconded and carried by a show of hands.

The chairman offered a word of appreciation for outgoing board members, Neil Dykstra, Oliver Hansma, and Tim Rook.

Question Period: An opportunity for general questions from the floor was provided:

Is there anything we can do to improve the condition of the traffic circle? This matter is currently being addressed by the Board and maintenance committee.

Can improvements be made to the exterior lighting of the driveway? Exterior lighting improvements are on the 5-year capital plan and are currently being addressed by the Board and maintenance committee.

Has there been any progress with parking restrictions in front of the school? The Board has submitted a request to the Township of Langley and we are currently waiting for a response.

Thanksgiving Prayer: The chairman requested the membership to sing Psalm 103 stanzas 1 & 7. Community member Phil Vandyke led in thanksgiving prayer.

Closing: The Chairman, Tim Bontkes closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Board Secretary's Annual Report

Will VanOene

Once again I have the privilege of presenting the Board's annual report for the 2017/2018 school year. The primary purpose of this report is for the Board to report on its activities to the membership of the Society, as required by our bylaws. It is also an opportunity to collectively review the work done over the past school year and take note of contributions by so many individuals that helped to further the purpose of Reformed education at Credo. As we do so, we are tempted to consider that our successes are the result of our human efforts. Therefore we also acknowledge in all things the guiding hand of our heavenly Father, and that God gives each one of us what is required in our individual tasks. Last year's school theme helps us in this. Colossians 1:16a tells us: *"By Him all things were created"*. The passage continues in verse 17 *"He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."*

Knowing this we can do our work in the confidence of knowing that he is in control of all things. In a year that we heard about fatal bus crashes, devastating school shootings, as well as increased attacks on our Christian freedoms, we look to our heavenly Father and rest in His providential care. And as we train our children, each created uniquely in his image, to be responsible stewards in His Kingdom, we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.

On September 5, 2017, Credo welcomed 220 covenant children to its halls, 31 of whom had never attended Credo before. These students, with their unique personalities and youthful energy made the school a truly vibrant and exciting place to be. Visits to the school by Board and Education Committee members repeatedly confirmed the genuine atmosphere of learning and respect for others. They reported on students engaged in the learning process, helping each other, and faithful staff members committed to their task of guiding their students each according to their individual needs.

Our staff and students were involved in many special events last year such as assemblies, field trips, awareness days and sports events, extending the teaching and learning beyond the classroom. Credo students did very well in annual interschool contests such as the public speaking, spelling and geography

challenges. In 2017 our churches celebrated the 500th anniversary of the reformation, and Credo's contribution in the arts did not disappoint. In the spring, the students put on a concert aligning with the school theme, praising God as the creator of all things. Both in the classroom and out, the students were taught to live and act in a way that reflects the image of their Creator. In all subjects, they were taught to see His Creative power. In devotions they were taught to praise and worship Him as Creator. At Credo, our students are treated, not only as children of believing Christian parents, but more importantly, as God's covenant children. While they all have their individual talents and abilities, they all share in God's promises received at their baptism, and have their identities in their Savior, Jesus Christ.

We are thankful that Credo continues to have the financial means to operate, receiving funding from the provincial and federal governments, tuition from parents, and donations from school supporters. As will be reported tonight, we were again able to meet our annual budget and also enjoy a substantial surplus. Through a number of fundraising avenues, such as the annual Golf Tournament, we were able to meet commitments to capital plans. Funds raised by Credo Aid through the gift certificate program and Mother's Day fair, were able to support extra items for the students not accounted for in the regular budget. In addition to finances, we are also thankful that we have the human resources to operate the school effectively, both in paid staff and a plethora of volunteers who give of their own time in support of the school. We are thankful for the willingness among our membership to provide for the needs of our school.

The school grounds and newly air conditioned building continued to meet the needs of the education program at Credo, although it can be said that the facilities were at or near capacity. This reality again challenged the Board and administration in dealing with pupil teacher ratios, classroom composition, and staffing requirements, resulting in some difficult decisions around program delivery and enrolment.

At the beginning of the year, our team of paid staff included 13 full- and part-time licensed teachers, 6

education assistants, two music teachers, office administrator, and one full-time principal. Later in the year, utilizing additional grant funding, three additional education assistants were hired to address classroom pressures and special needs. The staff and administration performed their duties diligently both in front of the classroom and in the staff room. Professional development opportunities were embraced by the staff during the school year and over the summer break. Many also gave of their spare time to manage extra-curricular activities for the benefit of the school and the students. Their dedication to Credo was always evident, and their Christ-like love served as an example to the students in their care. As a Board, we are thankful for a cohesive staff that works together, plays together and prays together.

Last year we welcomed to the staff, Nadine Krikke from Ontario as a new teacher who took her place in front of one of the Grade 7 classes. Mekayla Knol also joined Credo to teach music to Grades 6 and 7. Later in the year, we welcomed Lisa Devries, Yolanda Hoogstra and Meagan Lewis to our team of education assistants. Meagan's time with Credo Elementary was short and we said farewell to her at the end of the school year. Also departing at the end of the year were Amy Vanderhoek and Freda Struik. All three accepted positions at Credo High. Finally, we also said farewell to Natasja VanRhee who departed after six years of service at Credo. As these staff members move on to new callings we wish them the Lord's blessing in all of their endeavours, and we thank them for their dedicated service to our school.

In the front office, the Board was pleased to welcome back Otto Bouwman as principal on a full time basis. Our principal worked tirelessly managing the day to day operation of the school, encouraging the staff members, supporting students, and generally providing a strong Christ centered direction for the school. He maintained communication with the principals of our sister schools on matters of mutual concern. Otto's reports to the Board were always timely and relevant. The Board is thankful for a positive and mutually up-building relationship with the administration of our school.

Last year, the Board met with the membership on two occasions. In October, we were introduced to a new initiative called "Connect", which provided an avenue for parents and staff to share various challenges faced by our children and students. The

Board also reported on a new standing committee dedicated to the work of fundraising for our school. In May, the Board was able to report on the ongoing 5-year capital plan for our school, as well as the work of the Valley-wide High School planning committee, and was able to present various options that are being considered for the future of our schools in the Fraser Valley.

Last year, the membership re-elected Neil Dykstra and Tim Rook to second terms on the Board, and we welcomed Deanna VanDyke as a new Board member to replace outgoing Board member Bob Huttema. With one new member joining the Board, the assignment of tasks remained largely unchanged. Tim Bontkes continued his role as chairman of the Board, providing strong leadership and direction, and maintaining contact with the school administration and leadership teams of our sister schools. Tim also kept the membership up to date with regular Chairman's reports in Branches.

Each Board member was assigned various tasks on the Board's standing committees and within the executive. The Board met monthly, and discussed many matters related to the operation of the school, including finances, enrolment, policy development, program delivery and strategic planning. Reports were received from the principal and all standing committees on a regular basis. The Board maintained six committees to advise and assist in the work of Education, Membership, Finance, Fundraising, Maintenance and IT. Each committee was made up of Board members and volunteers from the membership, who worked diligently to execute the Board approved mandates. In addition to the Board committees, Credo was active together with our sister schools in Special Education, Transportation, Reformed Curriculum Development and Salary Committees. The Board also met twice with representatives from the high school who reported on their activities for the purposes of our Legal Authority framework. We continued to maintain a strong bond with our sister schools in the Fraser Valley which was also evident in the work done by the Valley Wide High School Planning committee.

In April of last year, the Board was faced with the resignation of Neil Dykstra, after being duly elected to a second term. Neil's resignation came amidst ongoing health concerns and additional treatment related to his cancer diagnoses. As a Board, we were saddened by Neil's departure and his absence

around the Board table. We continue to uphold Neil, Heather and their family in our prayers, and trust that even in difficult times our heavenly Father has a plan for us.

Tonight we will elect new Board members to fill the vacancy left by Neil, as well as Oliver Hansma and Tim Rook. We thank them for the time and dedication to the Board work, and we wish them the Lord's blessings as they apply their talents where God has called them. We welcome the new Board members around the table and we encourage those who do not get elected to seek out other opportunities to serve. We thank the membership for the confidence you place in the Board, and we covet your prayers both for us and for this school.

We would also like to take this time to extend a thank you to everyone who has volunteered their

time and effort for the benefit of the school. They drive the buses, maintain the library, clean and repair the building, help out in the classroom, drive for field trips, attend meetings, organize and manage events and fundraising, make calls and visits, coach and mentor, and generally provide a helping hand wherever needed. They work in the forefront and behind the scenes, and do not desire any special recognition. Indeed we are blessed with many faithful and talented members who are critical to the maintenance and operation of Credo. In all this, we see God's Fatherly care over us.

As we embark on another school year, we place our worries and cares into the hands of our Heavenly Father. We go forward in the confidence of his promises, and we know that just as he created all things, he will also uphold them in his power.

Short Reports of Board Meetings

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School October 1st, 2018

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Vice-chairman, Ron Scheper, opened the meeting by reading from Isaiah 41:8-10 and prayer. He welcomed the Directors and Principal Otto Bouwman to the meeting. Tim Bontkes was absent with notification.
- **Agenda Approval:** The agenda for the regular board meeting was approved.
- **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Report of the September 10, 2018 Board meeting were adopted. The Minutes of the June 11, 2018 Legal Authority Meeting were received for information.
- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** Two letters were received from members regarding bussing and transportation.
- **Principal's Report:** Otto Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for October 2018 and provided updates on an upcoming evaluation by the Ministry of Education, RCDC initiatives, and ongoing pressures being experienced by independent schools in Alberta. It was requested to make Credo Christian jackets available to the CCES staff.
- **Chairman's Report:** The chairman's report was received for information.
- **General Business:** The agenda for the upcoming AGM was finalized. Roger Aikema, James Dehaas, Darren Leffers, Ian Moes and Richard Welfing were nominated for Board positions.
- **Membership Committee:** Membership Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed. Deanna VanDyke reported on the activities of the Membership Committee.
- **Education Committee:** Education Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed. Deanna VanDyke reported on the activities of the Education Committee. The committee is planning to review the language arts curriculum this year. The committee is also currently investigating sound field technology for the classrooms.
- **Finance Committee:** Finance Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed. The draft

financial statements for 2017/18 were reviewed and approved for presentation to the membership. Some discussion was had regarding the requirement to appoint an auditor for the school's financial statements.

- **Maintenance Committee:** Ron Scheper reported on the work of the maintenance committee and noted the final insulation work in the west wing will be proceeding.
- **CCSTA:** Discussion was had around the restriction of bus service to intermediate students within the designated 3km walk limit. It was decided to review the existing policy and assess the implications of any proposed changes to the school and the CCSTA.

- **Ad-Hoc Valley Wide High School Planning Committee:** VWHSPC minutes were submitted and reviewed. The committee is on track to complete their work and report to the combined boards in January.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for November 5, 2018. The fall annual general membership meeting is planned for October 24, 2018.
- **Closing:** Oliver Hansma offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Ron Scheper closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

**Short Report of the Meeting of the
Board of Directors of
Credo Christian Elementary School
November 5th, 2018**

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Tim Bontkes, opened the meeting by reading from Proverbs 3 and prayer. He welcomed all the Directors, Directors-elect 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 October 1, 2018 Board meeting were adopted. The Minutes of the October 24, 2018 Membership Meeting were approved for publication.
- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** One incoming letter was received from the CCRTC. One incoming letter was received regarding membership. Two reply letters were sent to members regarding bussing and transportation.
- **Principal's Report:** Otto Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for November 2018 and provided an update on the recent external evaluation by the Ministry of Education. It was decided to advertise for a new fulltime EA. A revision to the Child Abuse policy was approved.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for November 2018 was received for information.

Tim Bontkes reported on his activities as chairman.

- **Finance Committee:** The income statement for October 31, 2018 was submitted and reviewed. Oliver Hansma reported on the activities of the Finance Committee and noted that he will remain on the Salary Committee in an advisory capacity.
- **CCSTA:** Tim Rook reported on a meeting of the CCSTA which included budget approval. Some discussion was had on implications of extending bussing to students within the 3km walk radius.
- **IT Committee:** Tim Rook reported on the activities of the IT Committee and noted that the new Chromebooks have all be purchased and set up.
- **Board Assignments:** After being given opportunity to speak, the departing Directors, Oliver Hansma and Tim Rook, left the meeting. Otto Bouwman offered a prayer of blessing on the upcoming board year. Following due process, the following roles and functions were assigned to Board Directors:
 - Chair - Tim Bontkes
 - Vice-Chair - Ron Scheper
 - Treasurer - Ian Moes
 - Secretary - Will VanOene
 - Education Committee - Deanna VanDyke
 - Finance Committee - Ian Moes / Ron Scheper
 - Membership Committee - Roger Aikema
 - Fundraising Committee - Roger Aikema

- IT Committee - Will VanOene
- Special Education Committee - Erica Feunekes
- CCHSrepresentative - Erica Feunekes
- Maintenance Committee - Richard Welfing
- CCSTA Representative - Ron Scheper
- Board-Staff Relations Liaison - Erica Feunekes

The Governor Letter of Commitment was signed by incoming Board Directors Roger Aikema, Ian Moes and Richard Welfing. Ian Moes was authorized as a signing authority for the Society.

- **Education Committee:** Deanna VanDyke reported on the activities of the Education Committee and noted that Brad VanOene has been appointed to the committee.
- **Maintenance Committee:** Ron Scheper provided an update on the work of the maintenance committee. It was decided to

proceed with permanently cleaning up the parking lot traffic circle.

- **Ad-Hoc Valley Wide High School Planning Committee:** Tim Bontkes reported that the committee is finalizing reports from the various task forces and will be starting the community engagement process.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for December 10, 2018, which will be preceded by a Legal Authority meeting with members from the CCHS board.
- **Closing:** Ron Scheper offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Tim Bontkes closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Credo Aid Update....

It has been a busy month! We just had 2 fundraisers back to back:

Purdy's: Ang Vanspronsen and Shelley Sikma once again ran this fundraiser and because of all who ordered those yummy Purdy's chocolates, brought in around \$900. Thank you to everyone involved!

Croquettes: This was a fun event and with the help of so many volunteers who made the croquette's on Monday and Tuesday, the many moms who babysat in the church, all the people who ordered, and the amazing organizational skills of the croquette team, \$7,964.75 was raised. This team consists of: Joanne Dewit, Rita Schouten, Ang Vanspronsen, Deb Lof, Tanya Pruijm, Rachelle Hummelmans and Ginny Vanderhorst. Audrey Leyenhorst answered the call for joining them next year. A huge thank you to everyone. Enjoy your croquettes!

Along with fundraising, Credo Aid also serves: We have been busy with making sure coffee is served at Credo's AGM, and just recently at the Townhall meeting there was a combined effort from all 3 societies to serve coffee and baking for all who attended. Thank you to all those who volunteered to bring baking and with serving/clean up when asked. We appreciate it a lot!

And for the children, there will be a treat on the last day of school. Enjoy!

We also just purchased new booster seats as a bunch disappeared over the last few years. We now have 30 booster seats which are all labeled 'cces'. As a reminder, these booster seats are meant for field trip purposes for the primary school grades. If you need to borrow them for a field trip, please remember to bring them back upstairs exactly where you found them. Please don't leave them in the hallways or front foyer for the teachers to put away. Thank you for your co-operation. If everyone does it this way, there will be no need to purchase them again.

[Mothers' Day] Fair

PLEASE NOTE: The fair will not be held on the Mother's Day weekend as it has in the past years. Save the date! The Fair will be on April 27, 2018. We still need a games person. We'd love to have this position filled by Christmas holidays. Please consider signing up for this!

Questions? Comments? Give us a shout!

~ Diane den Hollander and Esther Vandergugten

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas!

From the Credo Aid board:

Audrey Leyenhorst
Danielle Stiksmas
Leona Huttema
Pearl Hoff
Tanya Scholtens

Short Stories from Grade Three....

Benjy and Jewls

By: Chloe

Once upon a time there was a dog. His name was Benjy. He was a very sweet dog. He had an owner that was a princess. Her name was Jewls. She also was a very sweet princess. They loved each other. But one day Benjy ran away! Jewls was heartbroken.



She thought that she would never see Benjy again. But she thought to herself what if I go and find him? So she went to go find him. She ran to find Benjy. But when Jewls looked back she was LOST! She panicked! She didn't know what to do! She ran to find her castle. But she just ran more in the wild. By the time it was dusk she was very tired so she went to sleep. When she got up she was still really tired but she could not go back to sleep. When she got up she was in a jungle. It was the most beautiful place in the world! There was sooo much she could hardly believe her eyes! She got up and ate a dragon fruit. She thought it was sooo good. So she had one more. She had a very happy day. But that night she heard a stick crack. She got worried. When she saw it... it was a bear! The bear attacked her. But all of a sudden Benjy came! Benjy attacked the bear and saved her! She was soooo happy Benjy followed the scent to their castle and they had a happy day.

The New Whitecap Player

By Nathan

Once my mom saw that Davies was coaching my mom told me, "Do you want to sign up?" I said, "Yes." The next week I was ready to do some practice and my mom dropped me off at BC Place and right away I saw Davies and he comes up to me. "Are you here because I'm your coach?" "Yes," I said. "Okay, let's start." So Davies coached me and every Saturday I got coached. One Saturday Davies said, "You're ready for the Whitecaps." Davies said that he'll talk to his coach. Next Saturday Davies told me that the Whitecaps are full. But Davies has an idea. "Let's practice more." One day the Whitecaps have a meeting at BC Place on Saturday and the same time I have a practice with Davies and the coach saw me score a goal on Davies. The coach started to notice me. The coach got more and more interested in me. At one Whitecap meeting the coach said that I can come to a practice and in practice I scored two goals. So the coach said, "If you want to make the team, you have to face off against Russell Teibert. So next Saturday Russell Teibert and I faced off. I started with the ball. So five minutes later it's a time game and I tripped and fell so Russell Teibert had a chance to score! I got up and quickly stole the ball. What a goal! I win! I win! I shake Russell Teibert's hand.



The Bear

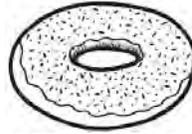
By Petra

Once there were two sisters. Their names were Kaitlyn and Breanna. One day the girls went to Stepping Stones. While the girls were there they met a girl named Mekena. One day at Stepping Stones the girls were playing a game with the camp before bed. When the game ended the three girls went into the cabin and found a bear! So then the girls called their counselors. The counselors came running in and said, "What's the matter!" Mekena said, "Look!" While the counselors were looking they saw Kaitlyn trying to make friends with the bear. Her counselor yelled, "Don't do that!" and then went to go get all the other counselors. When they came back the three girls were all playing with the bear! So then all of the counselors and all the campers started to play with the bear and now the bear was everyone's friend.



Dough With a Little Bit of Frosting

By Pierce



Once there was a donut named Don. Don loved to play with his friends Boston and John. One morning when Don was playing something terrible happened - Don was chosen! (dun dun dun!) The next thing he knew he was in a car. When they got to a house a boy named Bob took Don inside that house. Don started to walk around. Then Don smelled something weird. It was from a giant robot monster. (a.k.a. a vacuum) So Don went inside it and got stuck. Then a cat showed up and ripped the robot monster's tummy. (a.k.a. vacuum bag) Then Don escaped and ran for his life and the cat chased him around the house. Then Don jumped out the window and landed on a donut truck and held on. The truck drove to the doughnut shop and Don hopped off and went to his friends. Don went to play ball tag with Boston and John.

The Daring Journey

By Owen

Once upon a time there were two brave warriors. Their names were Jack and Owen. This was happening in Bible times when Leviathans roamed the earth. The next day Owen and Jack went into the forest. After a while (they had found lots of animals by then) they came across a Leviathan! They were so scared they started running as fast as they could with the Leviathan hot on their trail. They found a hiding spot and made a plan. They saw the Leviathan again. Owen said, "Don't run. We have a plan, remember?" "Right," said Jack. Jack and Owen sneaked up with their spears and daggers in their hands. They surprised the Leviathan but their plan failed. They came up with another plan and made the Leviathan so tired that it fell asleep. They brought it back and tried to cook it. It obviously didn't work. They decided they would keep it in a cage and starve it to death. After a couple of days they checked on it. It was dead. Jack and Owen were so surprised that they fainted.



The Missing Ball

By Joel

One day after lunch Joel and Chase went to play ball in the park. The other dogs are playing volleyball. Joel and Chase are having a fun time. Joel threw the ball too far and the ball started to roll away. The ball fell into the pit in the ground in the middle of the park. Joel and Chase are sad. Joel and Chase go get the others. They try to get the ball with Marshall's ladder, but the ladder doesn't reach that far. Marshall tries to reach for the ball but Marshall falls into the pit! Now they have to try and get Marshall and the ball out! Marshall is sad and scared. The others think a big rope will get Marshall and the ball out. They are going to get the rope from Sky's helicopter. Joel thought of this idea. Tracker is going to help. Sky goes and gets the rope. Tracker is going to hold the rope with his cables that are attached to his pup pack. Sky lowers the rope into the pit. Marshall hooks the rope onto his collar. Marshall puts the ball in his mouth. Sky and Tracker pulled the rope and Marshall was rescued. Marshall is happy! Marshall says thank you to Tracker and Sky. All the dogs go for dinner, they have pup treats. They are happy.



Assembly and Grandparents' Open House



Where: Langley Church and Credo Christian Elementary

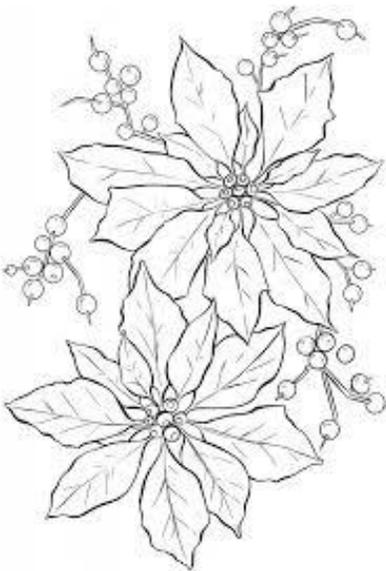
When: Thursday, **December 20**, 2018

Details: 9:00-10:00 - **Assembly** in Langley church
(parents welcome to the assembly too).

10:00-10:30 - **Coffee** at Langley Church
(grandparents only)

10:30-12:00 - **Shuttle service** from the
church to Credo Elementary

10:30-12:00 - **Visit the classrooms** and
interact with your grandchildren.



Gift Card Order

Name:

Date:

Phone:

email:

Grocery Stores (always available)

Name	%	\$	#	Total
IGA	5	50.00		
Safeway	8	25.00		
		50.00		
		100.00		
Save-on-Foods (Pricesmart)	8	25.00		
		50.00		
		100.00		
Superstore	5	25.00		
		50.00		
		100.00		
		250.00		

Restaurants

Name	%	\$	#	Total
Boathouse	5	25.00		
		50.00		
Boston Pizza	5	25.00		
		50.00		
Brown's Social House	5	25.00		
		50.00		
Cactus Club	10	25.00		
		50.00		
Earl's	5	25.00		
		50.00		
Keg	5	25.00		
		50.00		
Kelsey, Milestones, Montana's	3	25.00		
		50.00		
Moxie's	10	25.00		
Old Spaghetti Factory	5	25.00		
Olive Garden	5	25.00		
Red Robin	5	25.00		
Subway	5	10.00		
		25.00		
White Spot	5	25.00		
		50.00		

Coffee & Treats

Name	%	\$	#	Total
Starbucks	5	10.00		
		25.00		
Tim Hortons	5	10.00		
		25.00		

Department Stores

Name	%	\$	#	Total
HBC	3	25.00		
		100.00		
Walmart	2	25.00		
		100.00		

Home Improvement

Name	%	\$	#	Total
Home Depot	2	25.00		
		100.00		
Rona	5	25.00		
		100.00		

Specialty Stores

Name	%	\$	#	Total
American Eagle	5	25.00		
Canadian Tire	3	25.00		
		50.00		
Chapters	5	25.00		
Mark's Workwearhouse	5	25.00		
		50.00		
Options: Gap, Old Navy	5	25.00		
Shopper's Drug Mart	3	25.00		
		50.00		
		100.00		
Spa Utopia	5	50.00		
		100.00		
Sport Chek	3	25.00		
		50.00		
Winners, Marshalls, HomeSense	5	25.00		
		50.00		

Send your form to the school (marked Credo Aid)



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

Tim Bontkes (2019)	Chairman
Ron Scheper (2019)	Vice-Chair/Finance/CCSTA
Will VanOene (2019)	Secretary/IT
Ian Moes (2021)	Treasurer
Erica Feunekes (2019)	CCHS/SpEd/PR
Roger Aikema (2021)	Membership/Fundraising
Deanna VanDyke (2020)	Education
Welfing, Richard (2021)	Maintenance

Education Committee

Deanna VanDyke	Pearl Hoff
Yvonne Jacobi	Jacoba Leyenhorst
Brad VanOene	Kelly VanSeters
Otto Bouwman	Jennifer Onderwater

Membership Committee

Roger Aikema	Shelley Sikma
Karin Louwerse	Ryan Sikma
Rob VanDelft	

Special Education Committee

Erica Feunekes	Deborah Huttema
	Otto Bouwman

Finance Committee

Ian Moes	Ron Scheper
	Elma Kuntz

Maintenance Committee

Richard Welfing	Rob Bisschop
Darryl Hofsink	Kevin Leyenhorst
Dave Vandeburgt	James Vandeburgt

Staff

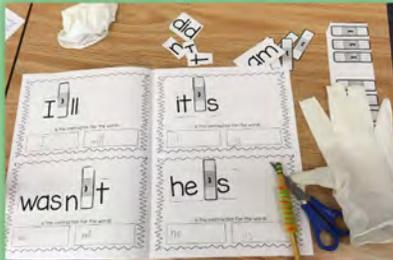
Otto Bouwman	Principal
Jennifer Onderwater	VP, Kindergarten B
Leslie Scholtens	Kindergarten A
Mary MacDougal	Grade 1
Heather Dykstra	Grade 1
Alyson Winkelaar	Grade 2
Stephen Chase	Grade 3
Debora Minderhoud	Grade 2 & 3
Nadine Krikke	Grade 4
Jerry Scholtens	Grade 5
Linda VanSpronsen	Grade 5
Jenn Harink	Grade 6
Diana Nobel	Grade 7
Deborah Huttema	SpEd, LA
Yvonne Jacobi	Music 4,5
Mekayla Knol	Music 6,7
Sarah Beintema	Educational Ass't
Wilma Deleeuw	Educational Ass't
Lisa Devries	Educational Ass't
Yolanda Hoogstra	Educational Ass't
Katelyn Mostert	Educational Ass't
Jacqueline Spoor	Educational Ass't
Lisa Vanderven	Educational Ass't
Joy VanVliet	Educational Ass't
Alice Wu	Educational Ass't
Jackie VanOene	Librarian
Elma Kuntz	Office Administrator

Credo Aid

Leona Huttema	
Pearl Hoff	Audrey Leyenhorst
Tanta Scholtens	Danielle Stikma

Fee Structure 2018-2019

Membership	125.00	Kindergarten	320.00
Elem. (1-3)	530.00	Elem (4-7)	550.00
Junior High	695.00	Senior High	745.00



Cross Country Meet 2018

