



BRANCHES



In This Issue:

- From the Chairman
- From the Principal
- Short Report of Board Meeting

- Credo Aid Update
- Book Week Contest Winners
- Calendar Update

Volume 29
Issue 6
Feb 24, 2017

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

In my last Chair Report I had made special mention of the wintery weather we had experienced over the Christmas break and how it was nice to move forward thinking about spring. Apparently I got ahead of myself as we were able to go through it all again at the beginning of February. After a couple of major snow and ice storms resulting in school being canceled again for a few days and events like Grandparents' day being postponed, we were again reminded how we have little control over the weather. Thanks to God again for keeping us safe as we experienced these elements!

Grandparents' Day

Speaking as someone whose children are blessed to have 4 grandparents who could attend Grandparents' Day I would like to reflect on how much of a blessing this day was for the students and grandparents. As a parent I was not invited, but by all indications it was another tremendous success and we thank all of those who participated and those who helped in organizing the event!

Staffing

James Kanis has given notice that he will be filling the principal position at William of Orange next year. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank James for his commitment to CCES over the past number of years and for all his teaching efforts. We wish him all the God's blessing in his new position. Our loss will definitely be William of Orange's gain! I would also like to thank Otto and the interview committee for their quick efforts in advertising for a new teacher to fill the Grade 6 vacancy and for their decisive work in interviewing all available candidates. It was with great thankfulness that we were able to offer a new teaching position to Nadine Krikke. Nadine currently lives in Burlington Ontario and after graduating from Brock University will join us next September teaching one of our Grade 7 classes. Jenn Harink will be filling in for James in the Grade 6 Classroom. Welcome Nadine!

Continued efforts and progress has been made in planning the teaching assignments for the large primary grades for next year and we again ask for your prayers as we balance the needs of both the students and the teachers within our current financial constraints.

Classroom Visits

A few weeks ago I had the wonderful opportunity to do a round of classroom visits with an Education Committee member. Even though in previous terms I have had a number opportunities (as many of you also have had) to do these visits, this time was different. In past years we would normally visit 3 classes for approximately 30 minutes, sitting quietly, observing and filling out an evaluation sheet. This type of visit could be somewhat uncomfortable for the students and the teachers and the value of the visit would vary depending on what was being taught at the time of the visit. I was pleasantly surprised at the new format for these visits. We were able to visit almost all of the classrooms for about 10 minutes at a time in a very casual manner engaging freely with the students and teachers with the ability to move from room to room picking the best time to interact with each of the grades. This created a much more comfortable visit for all involved and gave myself as a Board member a very good feel for the school and the activities taking place. It also reinforced how much we have to be thankful for at Credo Elementary. I am very thankful for the level of competence, professionalism and caring personalities demonstrated by our teaching and administration staff and for the all the cheerful attitudes the students showed throughout the visit.

There are only a couple of weeks ahead of us before we head into Spring Break. Best wishes to the teaching staff, students and parents as we prepare for this time off.

The Grade 6 students will be presenting their drama ***The Rockin' Tale of Snow White*** on Thursday, March 2 at 7 p.m. in the CCES gym. Everyone is welcome!

Book by Barbara Lennon, Music by Bill Fancoeur; Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service Inc., Englewood CO

From the Principal....

Otto Bouwman

The winter storms reminded us of God's power and man's fragility. When faced with hazardous road conditions, we are reminded of our own limitations. Let's be thankful to God for his ongoing protective hand over us, and praise him every day. Thank you, parents and everyone else, for your continued prayers and support for what is taking place at Credo Christian Elementary School.

There has been a flurry of activity during the last month of school. However, that was not without its challenges. First of all, for the first weeks of January staff and students were plagued with abnormally high rates of illness and absenteeism; we were thankful that there were not serious ailments. Then followed the uncertainties related to winter weather, and the challenges continued. Finally, all the activities associated with reading week and Grandparents Day also contributed to a certain level of disruption from the regular progress. We are glad that things are now back on track!

As this is being written up and printed, teachers are also just wrapping up the work of the second term. Report cards will be issued on March 7, with student-led conferences scheduled for the end of that week. We look forward to good levels of interest and involvement again from parents!

I continue to be very thankful for the close relationship between Credo homes and school, and really appreciate the frequent interactions and visits that parents make..... which brings me to the next topic of introducing a recently-adopted Visitor's Policy to the school. At its last meeting, the board adopted a revised policy, and asked me to briefly introduce it here in my report. Beginning after the spring break, a new protocol will be implemented at Credo, by which we will follow the lead of many other schools - both public and independent. We will be asking all visitors to sign in (and out again upon departure) at the front office of the school. Visitors are defined as anyone coming to the school during school hours, other than CCES students or employees.

This protocol was not adopted because there is a desire from anyone to make the school more restrictive. Far from it! Board and staff and administration love to see continued community interest and involvement in the school. What then are the reasons for such a protocol being adopted?

- We want to give a warm, friendly, and professional welcome to all visitors to the school.
- We have the responsibility to ensure that our students have a safe and secure environment in which to live and work. One implication of that is that administration needs to be aware of (and approve of) each person in the building any time classes are in progress.
- It is best practice to have uniformity of expectations for all visitors to the school.
- In the event of any emergency in the building (think fire, for example), the secretary needs to know exactly who is in the building, along with their probable location.

I acknowledge that the first few times regular visitors show up at school after spring break, they might feel that signing in represents some kind of unwelcome intrusion. Based on my observations of other school communities (Lynden's Cornerstone adopted after my departure from there, and within a few months quickly became the "new normal." Also at William of Orange this is standard practice.) such routines can be established in a pleasant manner. I trust that will be the case here as well.

I take this opportunity to again commend the board for its willingness to spend the time and effort to ensure that everything in the school is conducted "decently and in good order."

I've been late in putting this report together, and the bottom of my allocated page has arrived. Thank you for your continued support. God bless us all as we continue in service to him.

Short Reports of Board Meetings

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School
January 9th, 2017

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Tim Bontkes, opened the meeting by reading from Hebrews 6 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 Reports of the November 14, 2016 and December 12, 2016 Board meetings were adopted.
- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** One incoming letter was received by a member regarding cancellation of membership. An outgoing letter was sent to a member thanking them for assistance provided to the Board. A reply letter was sent to JCS regarding strategic planning. A reply letter was sent to WO regarding the Special Education agreement.
- **Principal's Report:** Otto Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for January 2017 and provided updates on learning assistance assessments, and program delivery scenarios for 2017/18. A proposed Drinking Water Testing Policy was considered.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for December 2016 was received for information. Tim Bontkes reported on his activities as chairman.
- **General Business:** A number of matters were discussed including the upcoming Combined Boards meeting, the salary committee report and the proposal from JCS to convene a committee to

discuss joint strategic planning. A revised School Visitors policy was considered.

- **Membership Committee:** Neil Dykstra provided updates on the membership committee. The committee is planning visits with young prospective members. The subcommittee for the Golf Tournament has started their planning work.
- **Finance Committee:** The income statement for December 31, 2016 was submitted and reviewed. Oliver Hansma reported on the activities of the Finance Committee.
- **Maintenance Committee:** Ron Scheper provided updates on the activities of the Maintenance Committee and reported that the fire alarm system was inspected during the Christmas break and the washroom renovation is nearing completion
- **CCSTA:** Tim Rook reported on a meeting of the CCSTA where the CCSTA financial statements were approved. John VanSeters from WO has been appointed Chairman of the committee.
- **IT Committee:** Tim Rook reported that the committee plans to replace the netbooks this summer after four years of service. It is decided to earmark the proceeds from the golf tournament for the new netbooks.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** Combined Boards meeting is planned for January 25, 2017. The next regular Board meeting is planned for February 7, 2017.
- **Closing:** Erica Feunekes offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Tim Bontkes closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Calendar Update			
March	7	Report Cards	
	9 & 10	Student-Led Conferences	
	13-24	March Break	no school
	27	School reopens	
April	14	Good Friday	no school
	16	Easter Sunday	
	17	Easter Monday	no school

Book Week Story Contest Winners



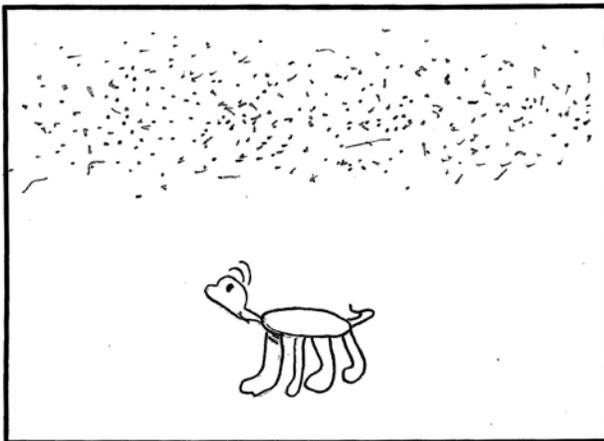
The Dog at the North Pole

Character/setting

Once there was
a dog in the
north pole.

Problem

The north pole was
so cold the dog
was ^{turned} ~~turne~~ in to
a icicle.



Solution

Santa came
and put him
in the microwave.

Owen

The Silly Farm

by Taron Kang



There was a farm, long, long ago. In the west, and it had a farmer, and rats, cows, chickens, billy goats, pigs, horses and sheep. Everything was good until, one day the animals got into a fight. And the fight was about who gets the most food. The sheep and the cows fought over the hay. The pigs and the chickens fought over the corn. The horses and the billy goats fought over the apples. The cows pushed the sheep around the farm, and the pigs pushed the chickens around the farm, and the horses pushed the billy goats around the farm. And then the sheep rammed the cows back. And the chickens came back and pecked the pigs. The billy goats came back and head butt the horses. "Stop fighting" the farmer said. "Or I'm going to butcher all of you." Then all of the animals froze. Then a proud fat rat walked up to the animals and said "I ate all of your food!" And then the farmer scratched his beard and said "You silly animals, no food for the day."

Book World

By: Brooklyn VanEgmond



Once upon a time there lived a girl named Gracie. She loved books, she read books all the time. One day she ran out of books to read. So, she went to the Library with her mom. When she was at the library Gracie could not find any good books until she found a golden sign that said "special books".

Gracie said, "Wow, I can find a good book in there!" So, she opened the door and suddenly whoosh! There was a big flash of light, so Gracie closed her eyes. When she opened her eyes, she saw everything was made with books. Gracie was amazed but a little scared she continued walking until she bumped into a walking book.

The book said, "Who are you?"

Gracie replied, "I am a little girl from B.C. and I want to go home."

The book said, "Well the only way we can get home is if you can find the golden book that is on the top of the Eiffel tower made with books."

Okay, I will try, thank you. You were a great help, I can see the Eiffel tower made with books over the mountain." So, the book left and Gracie went to the Eiffel tower. It was a long walk but she made it. She could not get in so she had to think of a plan.

Gracie finally came up with a plan to get in. Her plan was to sneak behind the guards and run up the stairs and grab the book. Most of the things she could do except she could not just run up and get the book. There was a door in the way. She remembered that she could pick locks, so she did.

She opened the door and she could see the book so she continued running until she almost grabbed the book, but suddenly a wall of books fell beside Gracie and the golden book. She started running the other way but guards were there. So, she had to dig the book out. It only took a minute or two and she had grabbed the book. However, one of the guards grabbed her but suddenly whoosh! There was a big flash of light and Gracie was back at the library, but she had brought the golden book and the guard. Gracie was scared so she opened the door and threw the guard off her and closed the door.

When she went home she never ran out of books to read because she always read the golden book.

War Struck

by Carys Roukema



Her Story:

Every day is a new day to hold back tears, a new day to wait in anticipation of the return of my dear husband, who has gone to fight for our country, to fight for freedom.

The day he was drafted I couldn't imagine something any more horrific. The days that followed were just terrible days left alone, every day I came home from any errand I would call out, "Honey, I'm home!" In the hope of hearing a return call, but never did that happen.

Every night I only thought of him to be there beside me. A pile of letters continued to grow in the corner of the bedroom, waiting to be sent, but I was only afraid that if I did send them I would never get a return letter. I only hoped to live in optimistic pain, than in the knowledge of a dead or nearly dead husband.

His story:

The violent rattling of the framed photo of my wife beside me woke my brief sleep. "Everyone up! They've come! The enemy power is attacking!" Yelled the rough voice of the commander. I gasped, not knowing what to do. I flung myself out of my bed, reaching for my gun. The large throng of soldiers was a frenzy of shouts and petrified faces.

Eventually, I was fighting. It was unbearable. Killing those who you don't even know? What if they were just like me, they could've had a loving family waiting for a caring father to come home, but that is never going to happen because their life had come to an end!

The close soldier to me screeched a piercing, "Look out!!" Before I could see it, an explosion set off, sending soldiers, including me, soaring through the air. I crawled towards a more needy soldier than me, he was not only a soldier but, a friend. I tried to help him, but it was no use, I watched as my close friend slowly but surely sank into death. I forgot my own pain, but soon enough, all I could see were silhouettes, those silhouettes faded into complete darkness.

I woke up in a hospital bed, in a room full with other soldiers that needed immediate attention. The nurses beside me ended their whispering together and turned towards me, "An explosion was set off near you, you were lucky to even survive. But you do have 3 fractured ribs, a sprained ankle, and a broken arm. The casts on are temporary and will be taken off in a few weeks, where you will receive new ones. Although," I started to cut her off, " Wait, does this mean I won't be fighting anymore?" I had to ask the question, of course I wanted to fight for my country, but I wanted more than anything to reunite with my wife. "Of course, you will be sent home by Wednesday." Wednesday! That was only 4 days from now! I would be sent home, to see my wife, in 4 days!

The following days were simply spent in bed, where I was treated and gradually healed. The day finally came to leave the scene of the World War, to a warm home with the most important person in my life standing there to greet me, where I could see her once again.

Together at Last:

The familiar house stood there once again, shining in the warm sunshine of the morning. The familiar door gleamed of home, with the wife writing yet another letter in her cozy bedroom, and the husband limping towards the well known home. A soft knock on the door went ringing through the house. The wife, curious and with no knowledge of her husband's return, looked up from her letter. The visitor bellowed out a familiar phrase, "Honey, I'm home!"

Credo Aid Update....

Do you like working with numbers? Are you looking to be a part of a fun, energetic team that helps to raise money for our schools? Credo Aid is looking for a willing person to join the team as Treasurer. We are looking for a commitment of 3 years or more. If you think this might be for you, please contact a member of the team as soon as you are able. We wish to extend a huge thank you to Ang VanSpronsen, for her commitment to this position for 7+ years. Thank you for your attention to detail and for providing the numbers at our meetings.

With Shauna Stam passing the reins of the Shop Easy program on, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce the new (and seasoned) members to the team. For Aldergove, the team members are Ang DeBoer and Meagan Vandergriendt. Ang DeBoer takes care of the banking and deposits, and Meagan is a Rep. For Langley, Caroline Visscher is in charge of purchasing the cards and making sure they get passed

to the Reps for Langley, who are Deanna VanDyke and Marcia Wildeboer. The Shop Easy program is an ongoing fundraiser, available at any time of the calendar year. It is a program that costs you nothing above what you are purchasing already and supports the school at the same time. If you have any questions, please contact a Rep, who will be more than happy to help you.

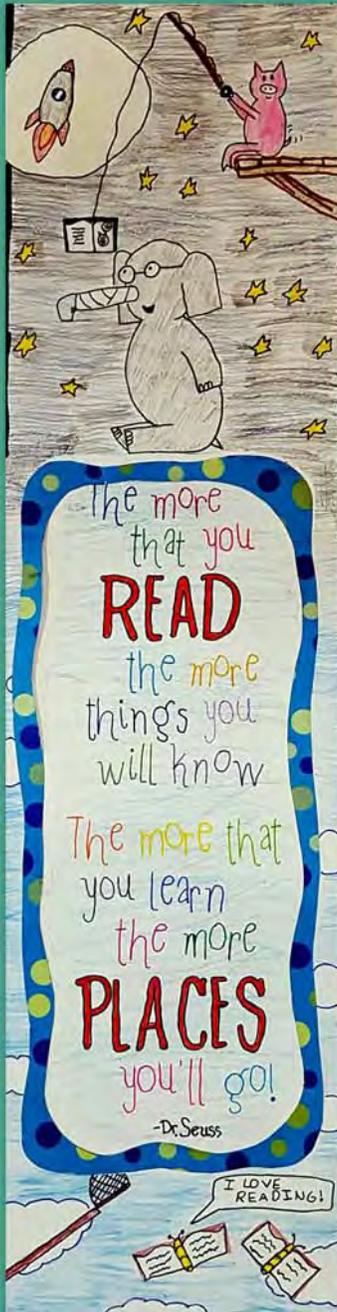
- **Campbells Labels:** We are still collecting labels. For a complete list of the labels we can use, please visit our Credo Aid Facebook page.
- **Co-Op Receipts:** We collect your receipts from the Co-Op. Each receipt helps us to earn gift cards, which we use for things like hot lunch.
- **The Mother's Day Fair** is coming up in a few short months. The organizing has started, stay tuned for volunteer information.



Silas Leyenhorst (K/1)



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



...Amy Warkentin (2/3)

Book Week

Contest Winners

Ryan... VanOene (6/7)



Justin Saide (4/5)



Board of Directors

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Mr. Tim Bontkes (2019) | Chairman |
| Mr. Ron Scheper (2019) | Vice Chair/Maint. |
| Mr. Bob Huttema (2017) | Ed. Com |
| Mr. Will VanOene (2019) | Secretary/Finance |
| Mr. Oliver Hansma (2018) | Treasurer |
| Mr. Neil Dykstra (2017) | Development |
| Mrs. Erica Feunekes (2019) | CCHS/SpEd |
| Mr. Tim Rook (2017) | CCSTA/IT |

Education Committee

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. Bob Huttema | Mr. Mindert Deboer |
| Mrs. Mandy Dewit | Mr. Ivan Scheper |
| Mrs. Wenda Sikma | Mrs. Melissa VanPopta |
| Mr. Otto Bouwman | Mrs. Jennifer Onderwater |

Membership Committee

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Mr. Neil Dykstra | Mr. Bryce Graham |
| Mrs. Karin Louwerse | Mr. Ryan Sikma |
| Mrs. Shelley Sikma | |

Special Education Committee

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. Erica Feunekes | Mrs. Deborah Huttema |
| | Mr. Otto Bouwman |

Finance Committee

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Mr. Oliver Hansma | Mr. Will VanOene |
| | Mrs. Elma Kuntz |

Maintenance Committee

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Ron Scheper | Mr. Rob Bisschop |
| Mr. Darryl Hofsink | Mr. Kevin Leyenhorst |
| Mr. Dave Vandeburgt | Mr. James Vandeburgt |
| Mr. Dan Warkentin | |

Staff

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Otto Bouwman | Principal |
| Mrs. Jennifer Onderwater | VP, Kindergarten B |
| Ms. Leslie Scholtens | Kindergarten A |
| Mrs. Mary MacDougal | Grade 1A |
| Mrs. Alyson Winkelaar | Grade 1B |
| Mr. Mark Hoogerdijk | Grade 2 |
| Mr. Stephen Chase | Grade 3 |
| Miss Amy Vanderhoek | Grade 4 |
| Mrs. Linda VanSpronsen | Grade 5 |
| Mrs. Natasja VanRhee | Grade 5 |
| Mr. James Kanis | Grade 6A |
| Mr. Jerry Scholtens | Grade 6B |
| Miss Diana Nobel | Grade 7A |
| Miss Jenn Harink | Grade 7B |
| Mrs. Deborah Huttema | SpEd, LA |
| Mrs. Yvonne Jacobi | Music 4,5 |
| Mrs. Tamara Jansen | Music 6,7 |
| Mrs. Sarah Beintema | Educational Ass't |
| Mrs. Wilma Deleeuw | Educational Ass't |
| Miss Katelyn Mostert | Educational Ass't |
| Mrs. Jacqueline Spoor | Educational Ass't |
| Miss Freda Struik | Educational Ass't |
| Mrs. Lisa Vandervan | Educational Ass't |
| Mrs. Elma Kuntz | Office Administrator |

Credo Aid

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Mrs. Jen Sikma | Mrs. Leona Huttema |
| Mrs. Renee Leffers | Mrs. Audrey Leyenhorst |
| Mrs. Kait Scheper | Mrs. Ang VanSpronsen |

Fee Structure 2016-2017

Membership	125.00	Kindergarten	305.00
Elem. (1-3)	515.00	Elem (4-7)	535.00
Junior High	680.00	Senior High	730.00