



Volume 20 Issue 5
Jan. 23, 2009

BRANCHES

The purpose of our parental Christian School is to educate our children to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for a life of responsible stewardship in God's Kingdom.

from the Chairman....



Mike Stam

Teachers, students, school members, and supporters of CCES... allow me, on behalf of the board, to wish you all a blessed and happy New Year! As the mounds of snow melt and things outside return to normal, life at CCES goes back to the regular routine that soon follows the holidays. January marks a new beginning and a renewed focus on our tasks at hand.

As we enter into this New Year, please continue to remember in your prayers the teachers, administrators, students, bus drivers, volunteers, and committees as they continue in their work at CCES. The activities of these various individuals can have many challenges and rewards. However, we know that all is accomplished only through the strength and guidance of our Heavenly Father.

There are a few updates to report on with regards to Board activity. In conjunction with our December board meeting, we held our fall "Legal Authority" meeting which included representatives from the high school. It was reported at this meeting that the two campuses had a monitoring inspection from the ministry on November 24, 2008. This inspection confirmed that the Credo Christian Schools continue to meet the requirements of the Independent School Act for Group 1 schools.

The inspector commended the schools' administration for their preparedness for that meeting, the school facilities, educational programs and school procedures. Thank you to J. Roukema, H. Moes, support staff, and all the teachers for their great work, enthusiasm and energy with regards to the instruction of our covenant children. We may also report that the schools continue to fall below the Langley District's "Cost per Student".

In the October short report there was mention that our principal had given his retirement notice for June 30, 2010. This prompted the board at our December meeting to appoint a "Search Committee" consisting of Janet Schouten, Troy Vanbostelen, Linda VanSpronsen and myself to begin the preliminary work of finding a replacement for J. Roukema. We pray that our search will be fruitful. The committee welcomes any input from the membership in this matter.

As board we have already started preliminary planning, budgeting, and looking at staff requirements for the upcoming school year. This work continues to be performed with much enthusiasm and diligence by the board and its many committees. The membership may also help in this planning process by advising the board of any future plans of moving out of the school's "catchment" area. This information will especially assist the Finance committee in preparing the school's budget.

As board we Thank You for your continued support of CCES and wish you all a restful and blessed Sunday!

Principal's Report



John A. Roukema

Together with staff and students, parents, grandparents and friends we could sing of God's love for this world in giving his one and only begotten Son, whose birth we commemorated at the Christmas Program of Dec. 19, 2008. We want to (again) thank Mrs. Deglint for all the many efforts and hours of work expended on this program. Much appreciated! It was obviously well worth it; compliments abounded.

And now we have been back again for another whole month, although we resumed the school year a day later than planned. The next few days were rather soggy! We pray that God will continue to guide us through the remainder of the school year.

As many of you may know by now, the CCES Board has decided to add a Kindergarten teacher for the next school year as the K-enrolment is expected to be 28. An advertisement for another K-teacher has been placed in the Jan. issue of "Clarion" and in the "Church News".

The grade 5 DARE program started on Monday, Jan. 12 and is to run every Monday for 10 weeks. Constable Neil Jensen is doing a repeat performance here. We thank the grade 5 parents for their prompt attention to the required paperwork.

Students were treated to a Public Skating session on Friday, Jan. 23 at the George Preston Recreation Centre, Langley. It was another time of fun and fellowship.

Friday (Jan. 30) is another Professional Development Day at which time the CCES staff will be joined by the JCS staff to work on Report Card formats/improvements a la BCeSIS. We hope to be able to work on improving comments formats and contents.

Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) Time
Mr. Mike Van will be participating in FSA test scoring training, at CCHS, Jan. 22. He will also be participating at the Society of Christian Schools (SCS) scoring session on March 5. The FSA tests (Reading, Writing, and Numeracy) are to be administered to all the grade 4 and 7 students

during the better part of February. Yes, these are the very tests that have attracted media attention recently. While we at CCES have no intention of following the lead of the BC Teachers Federation which is encouraging parents to opt their children out of the testing, we do have concerns about the amount of time this takes from our regular teaching. The BC Ministry of Education has been careful to point out that these tests are not the be-all and end-all of determining student achievement. The Ministry cautions that these tests are only snap-shots of what students are doing across the province as far as grade 4 and 7 are concerned. After the results of these tests have been returned to the school the staff and Education Committee review the overall picture and determine if any particular item needs specific and increased attention by staff and students.

Bus for Brazil

On Monday, Feb 9 we plan to have our annual "Change for Change" assembly. This year our target is Mission Aid Brazil's fundraising efforts to acquire \$\$\$ to buy a much-needed new bus for the Escola Biblica Crista (EBC) in Maragogi. The Brazilian government has recently issued a regulation that forbids the continued use of their old and worn-out bus. While the new bus is to cost about \$70,000, Mission Aid Brazil hopes to raise about half of that amount from all the schools of supporting congregations and various youth groups in the Fraser Valley. At our assembly we hope to have Sean Raap present us with a brief slide show on the work he and others do there.

Open House

Although the event is not marked on the calendar, the staff has been discussing having an Open House this school year, scheduled for Friday, Feb. 20. This will coincide with our school spirit day and the focus will be on "countries": each grade will "do" a different country. All parents, and others interested in the work our students do, are invited to the opening assembly from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. After the recess/coffee break, the parents will be invited into the hallways and class rooms to observe teachers and students at work and to admire their handiwork. We thank the Credo Aid for making

themselves available for the coffee and goodies. I'm sure everyone appreciates their dedication and enthusiasm. For those concerned about parking at this time, we would suggest to the more physically-able they use the parking lot of the Langley Church.

Ready, Set, Learn

We will again host a Ready, Set, Learn open house, sometime in April. Ready, Set, Learn builds on and supports reading activities already going on in many families and communities. The Ready, Set, Learn program is sponsored by the BC Ministry of Education. The open house is intended for three-year olds and their parents. During this session, Ms Onderwater will introduce some of the literacy activities to engage the 3-year olds and provide their parents with helpful strategies to enhance such learning. With 3-year olds we mean those children who are scheduled to enrol in Kindergarten in Sept. 2010. More information will be forthcoming to those concerned.

Parent-Student Conferences

Moving through February also means focusing on the reporting of student achievement progress. As the CCES School Calendar indicates, the next Report Cards are to be issued on Friday, March 6. The following week will feature the Parent-Student Conferences. On Thursday, March 12 these will be held after school; on Friday, March 13, all day.

While we have explained the P/S format before, we might do well to review the information and format as well as inform those not familiar with this kind of conference. A student-involved conference is a presentation of a student's work or learning to his/her parents. During the school year, students prepared for this conference by developing their portfolios, evaluating their work and setting personal goals for learning. Each student has been building up a portfolio or scrapbook of his/her work. A portfolio or scrapbook is a collection of work done in the various subject areas and organized into a scrapbook or file folders of various shapes and sizes - much like we have been doing in the past years. The portfolio will also contain reflective writings by the student on his/her performance and on the achievement of goals. At the conference the child will explain to his/her parents the work done and expected and the goals achieved, and ask you to comment on his/her progress. By having students actively involved in the conference, they will:

- assume responsibility for reporting progress to their parents
- learn to collaboratively set goals with you and their teacher for further learning
- be accountable for the work they produce and the quality of that work
- develop good communication and leadership skills
- be able to show parents first hand some of the many learning activities they are involved in at school.

In our February issue of *Branches* we will provide more details on the baby-sitting services.

Kindergarten Registration

Registration forms have been forwarded to parents who have children eligible to enrol in Kindergarten for September 2009. Due to changes in our student information system, we are beginning the registration process earlier than in previous years. We request that these forms and the supporting documents (copy of child's birth certificate and a parent's drivers's licence) be returned to the school by Feb. 13, 2009. We would be happy to make the required photocopies at the school. If you did not receive a form, but have a preschooler who was born in 2004, please contact the school office. Also, if you prefer not to enrol you child in the CCES Kindergarten program, please let us know.

Fire and Earthquake Evacuation Procedures During Assembly

As part of our Emergency Preparedness Plan, we have established evacuation procedures should an event occur during an assembly in the gym. This includes instructions for parents and other guests.. If a fire alarm occurs, parents exit out the glass hallway doors on the southwest corner of the gym. It is important that parents do not try to connect with their children until teachers have determined that the students have reached their gathering places safely and all are present.

In case of earthquake everyone is to stay in place and assume the "power" position - tucked on knees with hands over back of necks and chin down. Teachers and students will count to sixty. The counting is a calming activity more than anything as the earthquake and possible aftershocks take place. Teachers will then determine if it is safe to exit or if students and teachers should resume counting for another sixty seconds due to further aftershocks. Evacuation will take place by the same routes and manner as for a fire emergency.

School Calendar Update



Jan.	27	Education Committee Meeting
	30	Professional Development Day -no school
Feb.	4	Sp. Ed Com. Meeting
	7	Bowling
	9	Change for Change Assembly
	10	Board Meeting
	20	Open House
	21	Grade 6/7 Volleyball Tournament
	24	Education Committee meeting
	27	Professional Development Day -no school
March	5	Reformed Curriculum Development Committee (RCDC) meeting
	6	Report Cards
	12	Parent-Student Conferences (evening)
	13	Parent-Student Conferences (all day)
	16-27	March Break

Bowling Bonanza

It's not always about raising money. Sometimes it's just about enjoying each other's company or getting to know the other people in our school community. Sometimes it's just about getting out there and having FUN! So, staff, students, volunteers, parents, grandparents and members of Credo Christian Elementary are invited to a community building FUN-raiser.

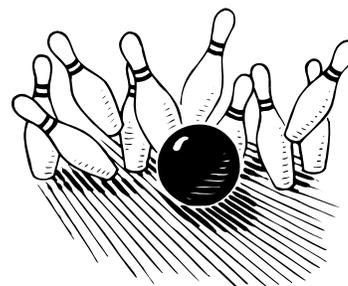
When: Saturday, February 7

Time: Saturday afternoon, 4:45 PM. - 7:00 PM (bowling starts @ 5).

Where: Willowbrook Lanes, 6350 196th St., Langley, B.C.

Cost: \$6.00 per person includes shoe rental & all the games you can bowl.

Teams: We will make up the teams, trying to mix people up so everyone gets a chance to meet someone new. If you have small children in your family that you would like to bowl with, write that in the space provided. Fill in the chart with your names, ages of children, or Experience level of adults (expert, good, so-so or beginner), and whether or not each bowler would like to be in a lane with bumpers, so we can match everyone up. The form is available on the CCES website: www.credoces.org. Please fill in a form and return to CCES or email it to Valerie Sikkema (avsikkema@gmail.com) by Monday, January 26.



Short Report of Board Meetings

Short Report of the meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School
Tuesday November 18, 2008

Opening: - The Chairman P.J. Schouten opened the meeting with reading Colossians 3: 1-17 and prayer. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting especially the new board members.

Approval of Minutes and Short Report: Motion: "to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2008 meeting as presented" was made. Minutes and short report were approved with minor corrections. The minutes of the October 29, 2008 CCES membership meeting were reviewed and accepted for presentation at the next membership meeting.
Incoming Correspondence: The approved Financial Statements of 2007/08 were received and filed.

Education Committee: W. Nordeman reviewed the classroom visit reports with the board. There was discussion on whether board members need to go on classroom visits. The board feels that this is a very important way to determine how the school mandate is being carried out. Board policy also states that Directors are to visit the school to make sure that the education given is in accordance with the policies of the Association. J. Roukema will prepare an analysis of the Special Education Mandate, and how this functions between WofO and CCES. Next EdCom meeting is scheduled for November 25, 2008.

Finance Committee: CCHS is the convener for the Salary Committee this year. C. Polysou has called the meeting for November 26, 2008. The Salary Committee was asked to have their report ready in December prior to the Combined Board's meeting.

Opportunity for departing Board members to speak: W. Nordeman and V. Stel expressed thankfulness for their experiences on the school board and wished the Lord's blessing in the coming years to the board. P.J. Schouten requested that all departing board members hand in all their school board material. He also recommended making a policy about emailing and keeping things confidential. He expressed thankfulness to J. Roukema for all his contributions for these past years emphasizing that his input is always

a big asset to the board. M. Stam thanked all the departing board members for their hard work and dedication during their term on the board.

Prayer: P. Sikma offered a word of prayer. The retired Board members left the meeting.

Appointment of new executive: The following board members were appointed or re-appointed into the new executive. Chairman: M. Stam, Vice Chairman: E. Visscher, Treasurer: T. Bontkes, Secretary: P. Sikma.

Appointments to Committees: The following board members were appointed or re-appointed to the following committees. Maintenance Committee: R. Bredenhof. EdCom: J. Schouten. Transportation Rep: E. Visscher. High School Rep: R. Vandenberg. Special Education: V. Sikkema. Development Committee: P. Sikma and V. Sikkema. Finance Committee: R. Bredenhof. Employee Relations Person: J. Schouten. It was noted that the board look into making the Employee Relations Committee a formal committee with a documented "to do list" position that would be included in the CCES Board Manual.

Principal's Report: The Principal's report as received prior to the meeting was reviewed. The Teacher's Handbook and Parent-Student handbook are undergoing revisions to reflect changes in educational regulations.

Chairman's Report: - M. Stam reviewed the report from P.J. Schouten regarding expectations of a board member. He highlighted some very relevant suggestions made for all the current board members. Each committee should try and get minutes and information distributed to the board early enough so that we can all be prepared prior to Board meetings.

Development Committee: D. Huttema's term is completed. W. VanOene was appointed to take his place.

Maintenance Committee: - C. VanderHorst's and P.Sikma's terms are completed. C.

VanderGugten and R. VanSpronsen were appointed to the MC to take their places.

New Business:

- Policies review: carry over until after Revised Manual received.
- Review committee assignments and establish reporting procedures to Board
- Board development agenda adopted. With this agenda item the Board summarizes or sets out any specific goals they desire to accomplish in the coming months or year

- Review Principal's job description: carry over until January meeting.
- The high school is preparing an E-board with the hope that we can utilize this in the future.

Next Meeting: Next meeting December 9, 2008. A Legal Authority meeting is scheduled prior to the board meeting.

Thanksgiving and prayer: M. Stam closed in prayer.

Adjournment: M. Stam adjourned the meeting.

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School -Tuesday December 9, 2008

Opening: - The chairman M. Stam opened the meeting with reading Psalm 65 and prayer. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. E.Visscher was absent with notice. The CCES board continued to meet with the regular board agenda upon finalizing the Legal Authority meeting.

Approval of Minutes and Short Report: Motion: "to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2008 meeting with minor corrections" was made. Minutes and Short Report were approved.

Incoming Correspondence: A letter confirming the filing of the Annual Report was received from McQuarrie Hunter. A Christmas letter to the Board of CCES from the Staff was received.

Principal's Report: The Principal's report as received prior to the meeting was reviewed. J. Roukema suggested setting up a "search committee" to begin the process of hiring a new principal. He also has some material (Hiring a New Leader: A Planning Resource for Christian School Boards) that would be beneficial to this committee. Motion: "to strike a committee for hiring a new principal that includes M. Stam (Board Chairman), J. Schouten (Education Committee Chair) and T. Van Bostelen" was made, seconded and carried. J. Roukema will have an overview report of Special Education in CCES handed out to each board member. All board members were encouraged to review the SpEd mandate in the board manual as well

Chairman's Report: The chairman highlighted some ideas for making board meetings more efficient. He floated the idea of a 'Motion' binder for easy access. He also wished all the board members and

staff a restful holiday. Board members were encouraged to show up at the school December 19, 2008 to give best wishes and gift certificates to the teachers before Christmas break.

Education Committee: The minutes of the Education Committee November 25, 2008 as received prior to the meeting were discussed. The EdCom recommends the board divide the Kindergarten class into two groups and hire a second Kindergarten teacher. Motion: "to hire a second Kindergarten teacher for 2009/10" was made, seconded and carried.

Finance Committee: The minutes of the December 1, 2008 meeting as received prior to the meeting was discussed. The Ad-hoc Salary Committee met. The Salary Committee report will be distributed prior to the next board meeting. It was noted that board members are obliged to keep this report confidential.

Development Committee: The minutes of the December 1, 2008 meeting as received prior to the meeting. The DevCom was mandated to write a proposal regarding a Legacy Fund/Fundraising and present it to the Board. The bowling evening is scheduled for the first week of February.

CCHS rep Report: At the CCHS membership meeting the expansion and gym repair proposals were both passed by the membership. The proposal to create a new Capital Reserve Fund (to finance the renovation) and amend the current Operating Reserve Fund also passed.

Maintenance: The minutes of the Maintenance Committee meeting of December 2, 2008 as received prior to the meeting were reviewed. The Janitorial Contract was signed. Ensuring school security was discussed.

Other Committee Reports (RCDC/CB's/CCP/RPDCS/FISA): The minutes of the RCDC meeting held Thursday November 27, 2008 as received prior to the meeting was discussed. M. Stam highlighted the importance of this committee and the excellent work they carry out for the school and its curriculum. J. Roukema noted that the press release would be in the next 'Branches'.

New business: J. Schouten will write a proposal for the employee relations committee and report back.

The E-Board access was discussed. R. Vandenberg will keep us updated on any progress.

Next Meeting: January 13, 2008.

Thanksgiving and Prayer: - P.Sikma closed in prayer.

Adjournment: - M. Stam adjourned the meeting.

Press Release

RCDC

A Progress Report on the Activities of the Reformed Curriculum Development Committee Meeting Nov. 27, 2008

The last time I reported to you on behalf of the RCDC was on the occasion of the March 6, 2008 Press Release. That report was rather lengthy; that is, longer than usual. I hope that the review of the RCDC's proceedings of the past years was helpful.

This report is intended to update you on the RCDC work since our March 6, 2008 report. The RCDC met on Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008 in the staff room of the Credo Christian High school. As at our past meetings, reports were read and briefly explained to apprise the members of the progress being achieved on behalf of the RCDC.

First of all, we should report that the RCDC received a letter from past-CCES Board chairman, Paul Schouten, who, in this farewell letter, expressed appreciation for the work done by the RCDC and encouraged it and the CCC to keep up the good work and to continue seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The RCDC is grateful for these encouraging words of appreciation and trust and thanks P. Schouten for his contributions to the schools in general and the RCDC in particular.

On behalf of the Curriculum Cooperative Committee (CCC), J. A. Roukema reported on the projects it is entertaining. He reported that he had attended the *Understanding by Design* Curriculum Institute, led by Grant Wiggins, one of

the developers of UbD, in New Orleans, LA (March 12-14, 2008), to become more acquainted and functional in the use of this curriculum development model. You may remember that this model or design was used for our RCDC K-12 Social Studies Curriculum Development project. It is also being used for the RCDC K-10 Science Curriculum Development project. Last summer, we completed Stage 2 of that project and we are scheduled to complete it by finishing the Stage 3 component during the summer of 2009. In any case, the UbD Institute was of great value to me as it reinforced my conviction that this model would be of great service to our curriculum development projects. The model is of such a nature that it can be used as a format for curriculum development in any school system.

We are making the most of UbD. Two years ago we assembled the staffs of our schools to introduce and familiarize them to UbD via the new RCDC Social Studies curriculum. While enthusiastically received, it met with limited success. Some tried their hand in using this design for their own unit development, but others were not quite comfortable with it. Just recently, we invited Ms Elaine Brouwer, from Alta Vista College in Bellevue, WA, to take us through the three stages of the UbD model during our Professional Development Day (Nov. 28, 2008). This all-day presentation garnered greater interest and enthusiasm. From all accounts it was a day

worth it. Of great benefit is the fact that our freshmen teachers have been taught this model in the teacher college training placing them in the position of being able to provide assistance to the veterans.

Through the CCC, our teachers have also been familiarized with the *6+1 Traits of Writing* process, an across-the-grades process that presents us with a more structured and intentional approach to writing, an approach that is used across the grades. These traits are written in a scoring guide (a rubric) that is used to assess student writing. By using this method of scoring, teachers can focus their instruction and identify the key areas in which the student needs help. The assessment feature is an attractive and useful additional component to the Traits of Writing.

Other curricular matters demanding our attention deal with assessment. An increasing number of schools are paying close attention to the various ways of assessing student work. Ministries of Education have produced reporting policies and practices that require the inclusion of degrees of assessment. Our schools will need to come to grips with not only the theories of assessment but also with their implementation practices. The CCC is assessing the many literary resources available on assessment.

The RCDC also heard Narration and Church History projects reports from Apko Nap and Pieter Torenvliet. First was their report on the progress of their Narration Project. The authors related that this course could not be offered in a shortened version, as was requested by one school. The possibility of offering this course again to the Fraser valley teachers is being considered, although other RCDC project goals challenge this option. It was exciting to hear that the Narration course is now also available on power-point, complete and on the web. *The Flame of the Word* sales are very moderate. This is probably due to the fact that most schools have purchased the series and are waiting for the last volume to be completed.

The reason for the slow progress on Book 3 is that one of its authors, P. Torenvliet, has not been able to produce much due to the workload of his regular duties. For this reason, the 2008 deadline cannot be met. The authors have, therefore, requested once again for release time for P. Torenvliet from the John Calvin School Board. The RCDC has requested the JCS Board to acquiesce to this proposal in the form of a secondment.

The meaningfulness of Church History instruction continues to be promoted also in China, where A. Nap spent some time lecturing on the book of Ezekiel, on post-modernity, and on Pentecostalism. The RCDC concurs with the prayer of the authors that the Holy Spirit will bless their efforts.

J.A. Roukema, secretary



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. M. Stam (2010)	Chairman
Mr. E. Visscher (2010)	Vice Chair/CCSTA
Mr. T. Bontkes (2011)	Treasurer
Mr. Paul Sikma (2009)	Secretary/DevCom
Mr. R. Bredenhof (2011)	Maint./Finance
Mrs. J. Schouten (2011)	Ed. Com
Mrs. V. Sikkema (2011)	DevCom/SpEd
Mrs. R. Vandenberg (2009)	CCHS

Education Committee

Mrs. J. Schouten	Mrs. P. Hoff
Mrs. J. Onderwater	Mrs. C. Pol
Mrs. W. Sikma	Mrs. C. VanDelft
Mr. J. Roukema	Mrs. N. VanRhee

Development Committee

Mr. Paul Sikma	Mrs. V. Sikkema
Mr. D. Huttema	Mrs. F. Jansen
	Mrs. M. Scholtens

Special Education Committee

Mrs. V. Sikkema	Mrs. D. Huttema
	Mr. J. Roukema

Finance Committee

Mr. T. Bontkes	Mr. R. Bredenhof
	Mrs. E. Kuntz

Maintenance Committee

Mr. R. Bredenhof	Mr. R. Wiegiers
Mr. J. Roukema	Mr. C. Vandergugten
Mr. D. MacKay	Mr. R. VanSpronsen

Staff

Mr. J. Roukema	Principal, Gr. 5
Mrs. J. Onderwater	Kindergarten
Mrs. M. MacDougal	Grade 1
Mrs. D. Vanderboom	Grade 2
Mrs. K. Noort	Grade 3
Mr. M. Van	Grade 4
Mrs. L. Vanspronsen	Grade 5
Mr. G. Scholtens	Grade 6
Miss R. Vanderhorst	Grade 7
Mrs. D. Huttema	SpEd, LA
Mrs. S. Allison	Grade 5,6,7 PE, SEA
Mrs. J. Deglint	Music
Mrs. A. Vandeburgt	SEA
Mr. D. Rolleman	SEA
Mrs. J. Spoor	TA
Miss E. Boot	TA
Mrs. E. Kuntz	Secretary
Mr. & Mrs. J. Dewit	Custodians

Credo Aid

Mrs. W. Sikma	Mrs. M. Ezinga
Mrs. H. Vandergugten	Mrs. L. Vanderven
Mrs. J. VanSpronsen	

Fee Structure 2008-2009

Membership	100.00
Kindergarten	235.00
Elementary (1-3)	415.00
Elementary (4-7)	435.00
Junior High	560.00
Senior High	610.00

CCSTA office	604-543-0890
Dave Champ (cell)	604-603-0890