



Volume 22

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Issue 4

# 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....***

Chris Hoff

Welcome to the first issue of *Branches* in 2011! A New Year lies ahead, and only God knows the plans He has in store for us, and for CCES. As a Board we pray that God will bless the plans and activities of the Board, administration, staff, volunteers, and the many people who are committed to maintaining the operation of the school. To God be the glory!

Speaking of those committed to maintaining the school, the Board is served by a variety of different committees and portfolios, each of which plays a critical role in the functioning of CCES. Over a series of issues of *Branches* I would like to highlight some of the work of the various committees that goes on 'behind the scenes'.

The Maintenance Committee is mandated with the "proper care, maintenance and adequacy ... of the school, janitorial services, and other related duties as delegated by the Board." Much work is done during breaks - indeed many of you may have helped out in a summer work-bee - but the committee also keeps busy during the school year. A review of committee minutes recently submitted to the Board shows that, over the last few months the brothers finished the library chairs; worked on the school sign; repaired roof leaks; placed new wheels on the mobile computer lab; painted curbs, no parking notice and cross-walks; fixed wobbly desks; installed an extra basketball hoop; put coat hooks in the men's bathroom and insulated the loud bell. The list of ongoing and upcoming projects is equally remarkable. We can thank God that we have brothers capable and willing to serve CCES in such an impressive fashion. As a Board we wish to extend our appreciation and thanks to the Chair, Richard Bredenhof, and the rest of the Committee - Mike Homan, Sprout Vandergutten, Rod VanSpronsen and Ron Wiegers.

At this time, the Board is also preparing for the next school year beginning in September 2011. This includes preliminary views of the finances and budget, and staffing requirements. Elsewhere in this issue of *Branches* you will note that the Board has agreed to split the large (29 student) Grade 1 class next year, and are seeking a second Grade 1 teacher. Advertisements have been sent out, but please do not be afraid to spread the word by mouth - sometimes this is most effective. Options to accommodate the second class in the school are presently being considered by the Board.

Budget planning also relies upon estimates of students and family memberships. To this end it would be helpful if you could inform the Board of plans to move out of the CCES catchment area. Thanks in advance for this. Speaking of moving outside the CCES catchment area, we bid farewell to Sr. Sunhi Cho and her family who plan to move to Germany. It has been an honour to serve you, and we pray for God's blessing as you and Ikze seek Christian education in Frankfurt.

As a Board, there are also many other activities that go on 'behind the scenes'. We are thankful that we can rely upon God to give us the strength and wisdom we need to govern the affairs of the school. We also covet your prayers as you seek God's blessing on all aspects of the school from governance to volunteer activity. All of this work is done for a purpose - to instruct our covenant children in Gods ways and to equip them, in unity with home and church, to shine like stars in the universe. God Bless!

# We live in exponential times.

Heres Snijder

“We are currently preparing students for jobs that don’t yet exist.”

<http://vimeo.com/2030361>

“Unique Educators Inspire Active Minds”, so claims the cover of the January 28 Professional Development Day pamphlet. Quite true. It takes a unique professional to be involved in the field of education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It not hard to become sidetracked, lost and overwhelmed in the information age. In .41 seconds you will have successfully located 197.456.999.000 results to any simple Internet search. Strikingly, the impressive videoclip *Did You Know*, (<http://vimeo.com/2030361>), concludes with an urgent, almost desperate question: **What does it all mean?** I wish to encourage you to view this video once or twice: it **is** a whopping 5 minutes long! If viewing it increases your appreciation for hard working members of your Education Committee, to mention just one hard working group of committed members, then these 5 or 10 minutes will have been well invested!

What **does** it all mean?

Well, to have 185 students file into Credo Elementary every day means that there is an enormous potential being unfolded day-by-day and little step by little step. There’s growth! There’s academic prowess, there’s social and emotional development happening every day, every class, every moment. Thinking about *that* is overwhelmingly **exciting!**

**Skating in Twin Rinks** with **hot chocolate** served at Credo, means that knowledge is pursued without becoming obsessive compulsive about it. Academic rigor is balanced with love, respect and appreciation for each community. The skate gave older students a prime opportunity to develop servant leadership skills and attitudes. **Wonderful!**

**Designing a context** where optimum learning can take place at the Kindergarten and Grade One level means that Credo community doesn’t quite buy into the economic model of day school teaching, by grouping as many students as possible with the least number of teachers. Choosing to abide by an optimum teacher-student ratio means that each covenant child will get optimum attention for the benefit of maximum growth and development. It is **inspiring** to see focused, effective learning take place in Credo’s two K-classes! (See also the article ***Size Matters!***)

It is to the credit of the **Reformed Curriculum Development Committee** that Mr. Nap and Torenvliet have successfully completed volume three of the **Flame of the Word** Church History series. By September 2011 (DV), the teacher’s edition will also go to press: it will signal the closure of a project that has spanned 15 years! How **enriching!** The January 5 RCDC meeting was a festive one!

Just recently, samples of the revamped CSI Bible Curriculum **Walking with God and His people** have arrived at Credo. Although it is a lot of work to assess a school wide program, the end result will be **rewarding** when a good thing is made better, more cutting edge, and more relevant to the 21<sup>st</sup> century context.

### **Do you know what this means?**

We can continue to labor at Credo without the burden of meaninglessness. We are moving forward to that moment when time segues into eternity. All quests about meaning will then end; everything will be meaningful. We will carry on imagining what the Kingdom of Heaven in all its glory will be like. Looking forward is **encouraging!**



A few weeks ago, while doing outside duty, a student came up to me.

“Mr. Snijder, do you know what this means?”

He was holding up a glass marble with those nice blue swirls.

“.....”

“No -what does it mean?”

“Well, this marble reminds me of the world we live in”. Just like I am holding this marble in my hand, God is keeping this world in His hands, sir.”

## Kindergarten Registration

Recently registration packages were sent to parents of children eligible for Kindergarten in September 2011. If you have a pre-schooler in this age group, but did not receive the information, please contact the school office at (604 )530-1131 or [cces@telus.net](mailto:cces@telus.net). We would appreciate having the forms returned to the school by Feb. 14/11 Thank you.

# Size Matters

•Leslie Scholtens  
•Jennifer Onderwater

Imagine you are throwing a birthday party. For a party of 10 kids you plan fun games and crafts, maybe the kids get to decorate the cupcakes or you have a theme. Now imagine a party for 20. Out go the elaborate crafts or the complex games. Chances are you just try to manage and get them home safely.

The same applies to Kindergarten.

“Common sense suggests that smaller classes and higher staff-child ratios are better for young children, allowing more individual attention, reducing the time and effort devoted to classroom management, and reducing the number of stressful interactions.”<sup>1</sup>

With a small class, the students get more opportunities. They have more opportunities to share in circle time, answer a question, pick a song, lead activities and be the teacher’s helper; all the things that make school special.

When the teacher student ratio in a class is lower, the teacher can notice each child for who they are. Students receive more individual attention when they are struggling, extra help, and one-on-one time with the teacher. It is simple math. The less students there are, the more time the teacher has to spend with each student.



With a small class, the teacher spends less time managing the students, and more time teaching them. Students receive the attention they require and there is less of a need for children to seek attention from the teacher with bad behavior.

<sup>1</sup> [www.nieer.org](http://www.nieer.org) National Institute for Early Education Research

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“Teachers in small classes pay greater attention to each pupil. Students in these classes experience continuing pressure to participate in learning activities and become better, more involved students. Attention to learning goes up, and disruptive and off-task behavior goes down.”<sup>1</sup>

The atmosphere in a small sized class is calmer. Students learn better in a less chaotic environment. Moreover, studies show that smaller class size positively impacts students’ success in Reading and Math. Since the primary grades form the foundation for reading and math skills, size does matter. Smaller classes offer many opportunities to do some of the more involved activities. Students can paint, bake, explore new class materials, take more field trips, do detailed crafts and class writing projects they are so eager to take home etc.

Your child has *only one* kindergarten experience, often their first school experience. The experience is important and just like the birthday party, it should be memorable. A student’s experience can set the tone for the years to come. Most children come passionate and excited to go to school and to learn. We want to encourage and stimulate that love of learning in the best educational environment we can.



<sup>1</sup> [www.aera.net](http://www.aera.net) American Educational Research Association.

# Short Report of Board Meeting

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School  
December 14, 2010

- Opening: There was no official opening, as this meeting continues after the legal authority meeting. The Chairman, Br. Chris Hoff opened the meeting and welcomed those present. All directors were present.
- Approval of Minutes and Short Report: The minutes and short report for the Board meeting held November 10, 2010 were tabled to the next meeting.
- Matters from the Minutes: Outstanding matters from the minutes were reviewed.
- Incoming Correspondence: Four letters were received including a letter from teacher seeking employment at CCES, a membership application received and short report of CCRTC Board of Governors Meeting Nov 12, 2010, and a letter from William of Orange Christian School.
- Outgoing Correspondence: Four letters were sent including a letter to a family who cancelled membership; letters to Br. Paul Sikma and Sr. Mirjam Scholtens thanking them for their contributions to the Development Committee, and a letter to Sr. Janet Schouten thanking fher for her contributions to the CCES Board.
- Principal's Report: Br. Heres Snijder reviewed the Principal's report including teacher professional development, Parent-Teacher interviews, staff related matters and personal work load.
- Chair Report: The chair reported on his activities as the new chair, and thanked the board for their confidence in him. He reported on a number of activities including meetings with the past Chair, past Principal, current Principal Heres Sneider and Br. Harry Moes.
- General Business: A plan for Principal Evaluation was laid out, and three policy related matters were tabled to next meeting.
- Finance Committee: Br. Tim Bontkes reported on the finance committee meeting. A motion to amend the finance committee mandate to add the past treasurer as an optional fourth member to the committee was approved. There was also discussion regarding the arrears list.
- Education Committee: Minutes of two meetings were received and reviewed. Board/Ed Com classroom visits were reviewed it was noted that the teachers continue to instruct our children in an effective godly manner. A motion to hire a second grade 1 teacher for the 2011/2012 school year due to the large class size was approved. Directors were encouraged to attend a social with teachers on December 17 2010.
- Maintenance Committee: New carpets, paint, and blinds are scheduled to go into the four west classrooms-summer 2011. Reception area painting and carpets are also scheduled for summer 2011. Janitorial matters were also discussed.
- Development Committee: Minutes of meeting were received. A meeting of development committee / maintenance committee and credo aid is scheduled for Jan 2011.
- Other Committees: Due to snow, the RCDC and Chairman-Principal meeting rescheduled to January 05 2011.
- Outgoing Correspondence: Four letters were sent.
- Next Board Meeting: Items for the next Board meeting were noted.
- Question Period: Three questions were raised regarding gym rental, membership of the Education Committee and Board material.
- Next Meeting: Scheduled for January 11, 2011. A Combined Boards Meeting is scheduled for January 26 2011at Credo High.
- Thanksgiving and prayer: Br. Tim Bontkes closed the meeting in prayer.
- Adjournment: Br. Chris Hoff adjourned the meeting.

# Grade 6's Field Trip to Port Metro Vancouver Discovery Centre

Sienna and Alice

Our trip to Port Metro Vancouver was a blast! We learned a lot of new things (even Miss Dokter did!) from our presenter Sabrina. We learned what products Canada imports and exports. The Port has five main imports which are: cruise ships, containers, bulk, automobiles, and break bulk. Did you know that every cruise ship that visits Port Metro Vancouver generates \$2 million for Vancouver? All the Asian made vehicles that are imported to Canada come through the Port. Break bulk are items that are imports and exports that are lifted and put onto ships, like lumber or steel pipes. Bulk items are poured into ships and are things like grain, coal, sulphur, and potash. Pulp and paper used to be a bulk item until once it was being shipped by train and slowly became wet because of a leak in the train car. When pulp and paper gets wet it expands. In this case it expanded so much that it blew the train doors off! Now, pulp and paper is wrapped in plastic wrap and shipped as break bulk.

At the end of the presentation Sabrina taught us a new game called 'head to head'. She would ask us a question and if we got the answer correct we would get a prize. We all left with a magnet and a Port map. On the drive to and from we drove down East Hastings and realized how blessed we are to have homes, food, and clothing. It was a fun and interesting field trip. Thanks to the drivers: Mrs. Visscher, Mr. Nordeman, and Mrs. Pang.



## Credo Aid Update



**SCHOOL KITCHEN:** Credo Aid tries to keep the school kitchen clean and stocked up for occasional use by our school community. Please help us with this by leaving the kitchen tidy if you use it for birthdays or other events, and don't forget to take out your garbage and place it in the big bins in front of the school, near the bus drop-off. Also, the cupboard above the sink used to be full of towels and dish cloths, but they are missing. If you took them home to wash them or borrowed them, please return them! The last time we saw them was when we bought new towels just before the making of croquettes. Thank you for your cooperation!

**HOT LUNCH:** The next hot lunch is scheduled for February 4th and will be soft tacos. Yum!



**INK CARTRIDGES:** We are in the process of getting a new fundraiser underway... recycling empty ink cartridges! If you have any around your house, or you know of a business that has some to give, please bring them to the school and leave them in the kitchen in the box labelled "Ink Cartridges". More information will come soon! Thank you!



**CERTIFICATES:** Miscellaneous certificates are due on February 10. In the meantime, don't forget to order your grocery certificates from your rep, or by filling out an order form! These forms are being updated regularly... once in awhile a new store or restaurant is added, so it's a good idea to have a peek and place an order! This month, Boston Pizza has been added! Don't delay... order some certificates today! Contact: Shauna @ 604.514.9805

**CREDO AID UPDATE::** Due to my upcoming "maternity leave" :, we are looking for someone who is willing to take over the task of putting together the weekly Credo Aid Update. If you'd like more information about the commitment, or if you already know that this is something you'd love to help out with, please contact Lisa at [nicknlisa@gmail.com](mailto:nicknlisa@gmail.com) Thank you!!

Credo Aid  
**CERTIFICATE ORDER FORM**

**GROCERY STORES – ALWAYS AVAILABLE**

Superstore (5%) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$100.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$250.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Save On Foods (6%) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Pricesmart) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$100.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

IGA (reloadable)(5%) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Safeway (8%) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$100.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**COFFEE AND TREATS**

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

**RESTAURANTS**

**Available in \$25's:**

Domino's (8%) Old Spagetti Factory (5%)  
 Olive Garden (7%)  
 Earls (7%)  
 The Keg (7%)  
 Kelsey's Multibrand (3%) (Milestone's, Kelsey's,  
 Montanna's, Second Cup)  
 Moxie's (10%)  
 Red Robin (7%)  
 The Boathouse (7%)  
 White Spot (7%)  
 Boston Pizza (5%)  
 Wendy's (3%) and Subway (5%) also available in \$10

**SPECIALTY STORES**

**Available in 25's**

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

**Available in \$20's** – Shell (2%) , Chapters (10%), Blockbuster (7%), Roger's Video (7%)

**Available in \$50's** – Spa Utopia (7%)

**DEPARTMENT STORES**

**Available in \$25 and \$100's**

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

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

Available in 25's and 100's  
 Home Depot (2%)  
 Home Hardware (3%)  
 Rona (3%)

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

# School Calendar Update

Feb	15	-	Grade 6 Math Contest
	22	-	Grade 7 Math Contest
	16	-	VSO trip -primary grades
	18	-	Tri School concer
	25	-	PD Day

## IN THE PRESENCE OF YOUR PEOPLE

### Psalm 52:9

*"I will always praise you in the presence of your faithful people."*

## COMBINED MUSIC CONCERT

Presented by the students of Grades 4 – 7

Credo Christian Elementary School of Langley, BC  
John Calvin School of Yarrow, BC  
William of Orange Christian School of Surrey, BC

**February 18, 2011**

**7:30 PM**

**First Avenue Christian Assembly  
Chilliwack, BC**

***Be a part of it and plan to attend!***



Credo Christian Elementary School  
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e-mail cces@telus.net  
web site: www.credoces.org

#### Board of Directors

Mr. C. Hoff (2012)	Chairman
Mr. W. Bulthuis (2013)	Vice Chair/Ed. Com
Mr. T. Bontkes (2011)	Treasurer
Mr. E. Visscher (2013)	Secretary
Mr. R. Bredenhof (2011)	Maintenance
Mr. J. Lof (2013)	Finance
Mrs. V. Sikkema (2011)	CCHS/SpEd
Mr. S. Pol (2012)	Development

#### Education Committee

Mr. W. Bulthuis	Mrs. P. Hoff
Miss. J. Dokter	Mrs. C. Pol
Mrs. L. Huttema	Mr. R. Jacobi
Mr. H. Snijder	Mrs. C. Visscher

#### Development Committee

Mr. S. Pol	Mrs. C. Stel
Mr. W. VanOene	Mr. B. Deboer
	Mrs. J. VanVliet

#### Special Education Committee

Mrs. V. Sikkema	Mrs. D. Huttema
	Mr. H. Snijder

#### Finance Committee

Mr. T. Bontkes	Mr. J. Lof
	Mrs. E. Kuntz

#### Maintenance Committee

Mr. R. Bredenhof	Mr. R. Wiegiers
Mr. J. Roukema	Mr. C. Vandergugten
Mr. M. Homan	Mr. R. VanSpronsen

#### Staff

Mr. H. Snijder	Principal, Gr. 5
Ms. L. Scholtens	Kindergarten 1
Mrs. J. Onderwater	Kindergarten 2
Mrs. M. MacDougall	Grade 1
Mrs. D. Vanderboom	Grade 2
Mr. N. Boersema	Grade 3
Mr. J. Scholtens	Grade 4
Mrs. L. VanSpronsen	Grade 5
Miss J. Dokter	Grade 6
Miss R. Vanderhorst	Grade 7
Mrs. D. Huttema	SpEd, LA
Mrs. L. Hofsink	Grade 5,7 PE
Mrs. J. Deglint	Music, SEA
Miss T. Heetebrij	SEA
Mrs. J. Spoor	SEA
Mrs. M. Rekers	TA
Mrs. A. VanSpronsen	TA
Mrs. E. Kuntz	Secretary
Mr. & Mrs. J. Dewit	Custodians

#### Credo Aid

Mrs. A. Deboer (chair)	Mrs. L. Vandervan
<b>Mrs. E. Vandergugten (secr.)</b>	<b>Mrs. M. Vantil</b>
<b>Mrs. A. VanSpronsen (treasurer)</b>	

#### Fee Structure 2010-2011

Membership	100.00
Kindergarten	245.00
Elementary (1-3)	440.00
Elementary (4-7)	460.00
Junior High	590.00
Senior High	640.00

CCSTA office 604-856-0806  
Rick Ostermeier: email: CCSTA@shaw.ca