



BRANCHES



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Jan. 29, 2016

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 edition of *Branches* for the year 2016! Although it is nearing the end of January, a New Year lies ahead. 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!

Planning for Program Delivery for September 2016

And while we indeed do not know the plans that God has in store for us, it is still incumbent upon the Board to begin preparations for the next school year beginning in September 2016. Right now it is anticipated that we will have in the range of 215 to 220 students next year, where this would be followed by a small decline in the following years. The distribution of the students throughout the grades shows a number of classes that meet or exceed our guidelines for pupil-teacher ratio (PTR). For example, we expect that the Grade 5 and 6 classes that are currently split will remain split next year, as these students reach the Grade 6 and 7 levels. We also have our eye on the fairly large Grade 1 class for next year.

The PTR serves as a guide for program delivery. The Board does not follow it dogmatically, but also considers a number of other factors such as room size, class character, teacher assignments, facilities and budget/operational costs (which directly convert to tuition). Collectively, these factors lead to a program delivery plan.

At this point in January, our program delivery work is focussed upon preliminary views of the finances and budget, and prospective staffing requirements. While the Board has not made a decision regarding creation of a new position for next year, you will notice that we have advertised in the normal places such as *Church News*, *Branches* and *Clarion* - just in case. We should be able to report further on this in the upcoming months, and as we plan for the May membership meeting.

Other Board Matters

Part of the Board's ongoing policy review has included a review of committee mandates, with particular attention being paid to the Development Committee and Education Committee. Final changes to the Development Committee mandate were approved at our January meeting including:

- The overall direction of the committee is now more explicitly focussed upon affirming and promoting the

vision of the school in our community.

- The committee also will continue to be responsible for matters such as maintaining contact with members, annual contact with non-member families who have children enrolled at CCES, prospective member visits etc.
- The mandate has a decreased emphasis on matters such as fundraising. In the past, this part of its mandate (aka the Golf Tournament) has consumed the majority of focus for the committee, often at the exclusion of other worthwhile activities. To this end, we are quite thankful for the leadership from the Golf Tournament organizers, who have taken the bulk of this work away from the committee.
- In keeping with the nature of these changes, the name of the Committee was changed to the Membership Committee.
- In parallel with this, the committee has also been busy with production of updated and flashy information and promotion materials regarding CCES, and these should be available in the not too distant future.
- And finally, it is good to thank those who are involved in this including Neil Dykstra, Deanna VanDyke, Mary-Anne Vanderhorst, Bryce Graham and Shelley Sikma.

Finally, over the next few months you may hear more about 5-year planning efforts being undertaken by some committees. While the recent expansion and renovation was a great step towards updating our building, we also need to plan for future investments such as an HVAC system, potential gym update etc over the next five years. Along the same lines, the IT Committee also plans to review its needs over the next five years. This information could feed into a 5-year plan for the school, where some of this work would be above and beyond normal budgeting and traditional fundraising efforts. Keep tuned, as we hope to have more information on this at our May membership meeting.

And this is of course just some of the work that is happening 'behind the scenes' as we, secure in God's promises, plan for the future. We pray that God will give us the strength and wisdom we need to govern the affairs of the school, and seek your prayers as well. All of this work is done for a purpose - to instruct our covenant children in God's ways and to equip them, in unity with home and church, to be effective ambassadors of Christ in the world around us! God Bless!

From the Principal....

Otto Bouwman

We have recently transitioned from one year to the next in the humble acknowledgement that "our help is the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth." What a wonderful way to begin the year! Without that confidence, life would be profoundly different.

There have been times that some members of our Credo community have been reminded of that in a particularly poignant manner - for example, just a few weeks ago Miss Katelyn Mostert, while en route to school, was involved in a collision that resulted in the loss of her vehicle as well as numerous aches and pains. Other members of the community experience God's care in other ways; may we all continue in thankful submission to him as our Father guides our lives and the lives of our loved ones, giving to each of us what is good for us.

School Developments

Since the last reporting period, many things have gone very well.

- We are thankful that Mrs. VanDyk has begun working with our seventh graders, and that the smaller class sizes are being experienced in a positive way. Mrs. VanDyk is responsible for the writing part of the curriculum; things are going very well.
- An advertisement was placed for an Educational Assistant. We are thankful for the expressions of interest that we have received since that time. We are currently in the process of determining how to proceed, and expect to be able to report at a later date.
- Everyone enjoyed a refreshing Christmas break and returned safely to school.
- By the time you read this, our Art Open House will be history. At the time that I am writing this, we are hoping to welcome many of you to the school and anticipate you being very impressed with the displays and work the students have put together.
- Various activities have been coordinated for our students to develop proficiency with regards to their basketball skills; thank you heartily, coaches and coordinators, for your work in this regard. It really is much appreciated!
- Chocolate bar sales seem to be going great! Thank you to all who are honing their salesmanship skills, and thank you to those who are encouraging them. Please keep it up!
- Students in grades 4 and 7 are getting ready to write their FSA tests. These tests come from the ministry, and serve as an objective way of collecting data from and about schools, and serve also to inform teachers and parents about student progress. The teachers are scheduling these tests during the coming weeks; I hope that parents help to ensure that students come

to school well-rested and ready to engage in a great experience.

- A variety of resource people come to the school every day in order to help the teachers meet the learning needs of all the students in our community. I'm very thankful for how smoothly everything flows, and commend all those involved in the Special Education Department.
- School spirit days continue to bring joy to everyone - great to see!
- A wonderful skating outing, thanks to Credo Aid, was experienced by staff and students a few weeks ago. I was particularly impressed by how nicely our oldest students helped out the younger ones. Keep it up, students! It was also neat to see many parents and grandparents come out to provide assistance and encouragement.

Every day the school is a beehive of activity. Thank you students, parents, teachers, committee members, librarians, mothers, volunteers, board members, bus drivers and all others for making Credo a wonderful place to work and live!

Curriculum Developments

In the last issue of the *Branches*, several paragraphs of information were included regarding anticipated changes to the government's curriculum expectations. Since that time, the teachers have missed one day of school, and met with their counterparts for a day of curriculum work together. By all accounts, that day was a much appreciated opportunity for the teachers to gain better understandings of what the government is seeking and to also to be affirmed by neighboring colleagues that much of what we are doing in our schools is very good. As good as it is, though, it is excellent to ensure that our curriculum is properly aligned with our (changing) government expectations. At the same time, it is an excellent opportunity to create opportunities for meaningful discussions about the appropriateness and prioritization of these expectations.

Evidently, we are just at the beginning of this curriculum review journey. Another set of curriculum review days will be allotted to each of the teachers during the month of April. Further discussions are anticipated after that. One of the things I'm thankful for is the inter-school collaboration that is evident. There is an invitation from the Education Committee of one our sister schools to have a meeting together with all our Education Committees, so that together we can discuss how we as Canadian Reformed Schools continue to express our identity in our curriculum documents. The topic also has the attention of the Reformed Curriculum Development Committee.

Some Reading....

During my Christmas break, I read *The Shallows* by Nicholas Carr. It was an excellent book that I recommend to others to read. The author explores the provocative question, "What the Internet is Doing to our Brains," and his conclusion is concerning. He explores a great deal of recent cognitive research, and concludes that the level of dependency we are demonstrating on the internet, with everything that comes with it, should be alarming to anyone who recognizes the value of reading and thinking. For example:

- The author demonstrates how extensive use of the internet actually results in rewiring of the neurological pathways in an individual's brain.
- For centuries, reading and writing have been critically important activities in the transfer of culture in western civilization.
- Many studies have provided evidence that reading comprehension scores of material online, particularly if it includes hypertexts, are lower than reading comprehension scores of traditional text.
- Though people have been browsing and scanning for decades, browsing and scanning are increasingly becoming our primary modes of gaining awareness. Previously, people scanned as they were en route to read in order to achieve deeper understandings. Today's internet fosters a culture of browsing and scanning to the extent that they are our primary means of gathering information.
- Carr argues that the internet is not making us more intelligent; our multi-tasking brains become more nimble because of the constant shifting of our attention when we're online, but we are losing our ability to concentrate and think deeply and creatively. The more we multi-task, the less deliberative we become, the more shallow we remain, and the more likely we are to rely on conventional ideas and solutions. His question "Is Google making us stupid?" gets an answer that

makes me cringe. He notes that it is in Google's economic interest to encourage internet readers to click our mouse as frequently as possible. Each click marks a break in our concentration. As we surf around the internet we are very likely being distracted; "Google is literally in the business of distraction."

- The internet has resulted in an huge decrease in acknowledging the importance of memorization; today we can access almost everything we "need to know" on the internet; our society seems to believe that databases are an ideal substitute for personal memory. This represents a huge shift in understanding these facts. Memorizing normally resulted in the imbedding of great deals of information in our long-term memory in our brains. When today we flit around on the internet, we put things into short-term memory banks; rarely do they end up penetrating our long-term memory, and that's where deep connections and meaningful understandings need to be made.

There is more that could be shared, but I will limit my summary to the above. Evidently, we cannot expect that our homes and school become environments that foster the development of Luddites. But if we believe that the education we provide should help our students to develop the capacity to concentrate, and if we are children "of the Word" who need to meditate on that Word, we do well to recognize challenges that face us. We cannot expect the clock of time to go backwards, but need to acknowledge that technological realities. At the same time, we should be prepared to do what we can to help the next generation continue to develop their ability to memorize, to concentrate, to listen, to synthesize, to creatively reflect, and so to clearly develop their individual potential. In sum, I found Carr's *The Shallows* to be a stimulating read and recommend it.

Wishing you all God's continued blessings!

Kindergarten Registration

Registration for the 2016-2017 CCES Kindergarten class is now underway.



If your child will be 5 years of age before Dec. 31, 2016 and you wish to enroll at Credo Christian Elementary School for September 2015, please complete the CCES Registration Form (please contact the school if you have not received a copy). Please note that we require a copy of your child's birth certificate and a copy of your driver's license as proof of your BC residency. You are welcome to drop by the school to have these copies made. Please return the completed form and document copies to the school by Feb. 12, 2016. If you anticipate not enrolling your child, please let us know by phone ((604) 530-1131) or email (cces@telus.net).

Short Report of Board Meeting

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School -Nov.10, 2015

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Chris Hoff, opened the meeting by reading from Romans 12 and prayer. He welcomed all the Directors and Principal Otto Bouwman to the meeting.
- **Agenda Approval:** The agenda for the regular board meeting was approved.
- **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Report of the October 6, 2015 Board meeting were adopted.
- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** One incoming letter was received from the CCRTC.
- **Principal's Report:** Otto Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for November 2015 and provided updates on various staffing matters including a request to add additional teaching assistance for the Grade 7 class.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for November 2015 was received for information. Chris Hoff reported on his activities as chairman. A brief discussion was had regarding delegation of authority at CCES and how it relates to God, parents, administration, staff and the Board.
- **Board Assignments:** Following due process, the following roles and functions were assigned to Board Directors:
 - Chair - Chris Hoff
 - Vice-Chair - Bob Huttema
 - Treasurer - Oliver Hansma
 - Secretary - Will VanOene
 - Education Committee - Bob Huttema
 - Finance Committee - Oliver Hansma / Tim Rook
 - Development Committee - Neil Dykstra
 - IT Committee - Tim Rook
 - Special Education Committee - Fiona Jansen
 - Credo Christian High School representative - Fiona Jansen
 - Maintenance Committee - Al Leyenhorst
- **CCSTA Representative - Al Leyenhorst**
- **Public Relations Liaison - Fiona Jansen**
- **General Business:** A number of matters were discussed including the October 21 General meeting, the annual SCSCB conference and Societies Act changes. The CCES staff handbook and draft electronic board manual were reviewed, along with a number of CCES policies.
- **Finance Committee:** The income statement for October 31, 2015 and Finance Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed. The financial statements were passed on to W. VanOene for the archive. It was noted that Shauna Stam and Ang Deboer were appointed as reviewers and discovered no concerns.
- **Education Committee:** Education Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed. The committee is currently reviewing its mandate, as well as the purpose and method for the regular term classroom visits.
- **Maintenance Committee:** Tim Bontkes was appointed as chairman to the maintenance committee. Al Leyenhorst will serve as Board liaison to the committee.
- **Membership Committee:** Membership Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed. Document proofs for the new promotional materials are currently being closely reviewed by the committee.
- **Special Education Committee:** Special Education Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed. The meeting included representatives from all four schools in the Fraser Valley.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for Monday, December 14, 2015. This meeting will be preceded by a Legal Authority meeting.
- **Closing:** Al Leyenhorst closed with thanksgiving prayer. Chris Hoff closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

CCES Calendar Update			
February	4 & 5	Convention Pro-D Days	no school
	8	Family Day	no school
March	8	Report Cards	
	10 & 11	Student-Led Conferences	
	14-25	March Break	no school
	25	Good Friday	no school
	27	Easter Sunday	
	28	Easter Monday	no school
	29	School reopens	

Credo Aid Connection

Mother's Day Fair

While the Fair is still a few months away, we are already seeking to fill a few key volunteer positions:

- **Silent Auction Team:** We have a chief organizer who is working actively behind the scenes, but soon some additional help will be needed.
- **Plant Table Coordinator:** This is a simple role that involves acquiring product for the Plant Table sale at the fair.

If you are able to help out in either of these positions, or would like further details please contact Petra Bontkes or Evelyn Scheper.

SPRING St. John Babysitting Course

Time to sign up your child for the Spring intake of the St. John Ambulance Babysitting Course. It will be held on Saturday April 9, 2016 from 9 – 3 p.m at Credo Christian Elementary School. Your child must be 11 years old to enrol. The course is \$40 per child, in which your child will receive an official certification once they have passed and completed the course. We ask that you make sure you provide payment upon arrival that day. Cheques are to be made out to Credo Aid. Please send your child with a lunch and a pen.

To register, email Loretta Sadie at Lorettahoman@hotmail.com. Please provide your child's name, age, and the school they attend. Registration deadline is April 2, 2016.

Our instructors are looking forward to teaching your kids about the basics and essentials of babysitting.

Campbell's Labels

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

Gift Cards

Valentines Day is right around the corner! Are you planning on taking your sweet someone to dine under low lighting? We have the perfect thing for you! Take a peek at the list of restaurants on the back of this newsletter for ideas where to go. Call Shauna Stam to make your purchase today!

Big Thanks!

Thanks for your support in all the fundraising and volunteering thus far. Because of your support, along with the many field trips, Credo Aid was able to so far provide 2 hot lunches for all your hungry children. The kids were also able to go on an adventure and lace up some skates, returning to hot chocolate and tim bits to warm up their little hands and tummies. We will continue to keep you posted on all the fundraising and volunteer positions available. All of your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Credo Aid Laugh Line

Q. What happens if you eat yeast and shoe polish?

A. Every morning you will rise and shine!

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

Credo Aid

CERTIFICATE ORDER FORM

GROCERY STORES – ALWAYS AVAILABLE

Superstore	(5%)	_____	x	\$50.00	=	\$ _____
		_____	x	\$100.00	=	\$ _____
		_____	x	\$250.00	=	\$ _____
Save On Foods	(8%)	_____	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	=	\$ _____
		_____	x	\$25.00	=	\$ _____
Starbucks	(5%)	_____	x	\$10.00	=	\$ _____
		_____	x	\$25.00	=	\$ _____

RESTAURANTS

Available in \$25's:

Old Spagetti Factory (5%)
 Olive Garden (5%)
 Earls (5%)

The Keg (5%)

Kelsey's Multibrand (3%) (Milestone's, Kelsey's, Montana's, Second Cup)

Moxie's (10%)
 Red Robin (5%)
 The Boathouse (5%)
 Cactus Club (5%)
 Boston Pizza (5%)
 Subway (5%) also available in \$10

SPECIALTY STORES

Available in 25's

American Eagle (5%)	White Spot (5%)	Staples (3%)	La Senza (5%)
Best Buy (2%)	Petro Canada (2%)	itunes (4%)(\$10 cards)	Running Room (5%)
Canadian Tire (3%)	M&M Meat Shops (3%)	Shoppers Drug Mart(3%)	Chevron (2%)
Mark's Work Wearhouse(5%)	Sport Chek (4%)	Winners (5%)	

Available in \$20's – Chapters (10%),

Available in \$50's – Spa Utopia (5%)

DEPARTMENT STORES

Available in \$25 and \$50's

Sears (3%)
 Hbc (3%) (The Bay, Zellers, Home Outfitters)
 Walmart (1%)

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Available in 25's and 50's
 Home Depot (2%)
 Home Hardware (3%)
 Rona (5%)

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

Grade Five classes visited Westminster Abbey and Weaver Creek



Credo Christian Elementary School
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 Phone: 604-530-1131 Fax: 604 530-4268
 e-mail cces@telus.net
 web site: www.credoces.org

Board of Directors

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

Education Committee

Mr. B. Huttema	
Mrs. M. Dewit	Mr. I. Schepers
Mrs. W. Sikma	Mrs. M. VanPopta
Mr. O. Bouwman	Mrs. J. Onderwater

Membership Committee

Mr. N. Dykstra	Mr. B. Graham
Mrs. S. Sikma	Mrs. M. Vanderhorst
Mrs. D. VanDyke	

Special Education Committee

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

Finance Committee

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

Maintenance Committee

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

Staff

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

Credo Aid

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

Fee Structure 2015-2016

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

CCSTA office
 Doug Deboer

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