



BRANCHES



Got sand?...

...add water!

This is BC, after all.

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

From the Chairman....

Tim Bontkes

As this is the first issue of *Branches* for 2018, I would like to welcome everyone back and wish you all God's blessing in the year ahead! During my reflections leading up to this report I can't help but marvel at how much cooperation and selfless action I see within the CCES community. This leads me to the question of what does Community mean to us as members of CCES? Wikipedia defines community as *"a small or large social unit who have something in common, such as norms, religion, values, or identity. Communities often share a sense of place that is situated in a given geographical area or in virtual space through communication platforms. Durable relations that extend beyond immediate genealogical ties also define a sense of community. People tend to define those social ties as important to their identity, practice, and roles in social institutions like family, home, work, government, society, or humanity, at large."*

I bring this up and ask this question because as the Board embarks on another year of governance I am continually reminded and impressed by the sense of community we have not just at CCES but across the Valley, up north and south of the border. Our common mission and purpose, our strong reformed identity and our cohesive and strong relationships allows us to be truly defined as a thriving community and one we can be very proud of being associated with!

As 2018 comes upon us, the richness of the CCES community is already amazingly clear to me. Students are engaged in various academic projects, fundraising initiatives, sporting events and social engagements. Parents are engaged in volunteer opportunities on committees, in classrooms, in the gym and many other places within the school. In addition to the task of educating our children, teaching staff are spending

countless of hours on various extracurricular activities for the balance of this school year. Our Principal is spending time with our teaching staff encouraging them as they move forward with their tasks all the while ensuring that we are prepared for not just the present time but also for the 2018/19 teaching year. We have a very dedicated group of parents, teachers and staff and I want to thank you all for this!

The CCES Board also has an integral role in creating a sense of community at CCES. The CCES Board Manual states that *"A Christian community must always be one that is characterized by humility, gentleness and patience (Eph. 4:2, 3). This means that the school board, elected by the Society, must always be 'approachable' and cultivate harmony among parents, teachers and students."* We have opportunities to do this in many ways at CCES. Board/staff socials, Christmas lunches, acknowledgment of staff milestones through the Board's public relations initiatives, school visits by Board members and the annual Board-staff visits are examples of opportunities the Board has to solidify relationships with the staff at CCES and to continue to build up the sense of community at CCES.

We have so much to be thankful for within the CCES community and should not take for granted the harmony that exists between all those involved. As Board we continue to ask for your prayers and encouragement as we continue to govern this school community and also encourage the staff, parents and students to also continue to stay engaged and to continue to build each other up and to hold each other up in prayer. We wish you God's blessing for 2018 and as we continue on into the second half of the 2017/18 school year!

From the Principal....

Otto Bouwman

Welcome to another issue of *Branches* - the first of 2018. Though we are well along already with a substantial start to another calendar year, I'll still take the opportunity to wish each of you readers the Lord's blessing in this new year. There is much encouragement in the awareness that also this year is another "year of our Lord."

Events in the School

Events at school continue to proceed smoothly. Just before Christmas, the students again enjoyed the annual skating tradition, where it was great to see many parents and grandparents as well. Thank you, Credo Aid, for enabling us to continue this tradition and wrapping it up with some hot chocolate at the school! One of the really encouraging things that I notice at such events is the willingness of our older students to provide assistance to the younger ones. What a great opportunity for the older students to show this type of leadership; keep it up, please!

On the last day of school in 2017, we could attend a brief assembly, where we were invited to reflect on the many blessings we have been given by our Savior. How easy it is to journey through life without fully appreciating the gifts we have been given. May our lives give bountiful evidence of our thankfulness for the salvation we have been granted - also giving incentive to others to glorify and praise our Creator's name along with us.

On the first day of school in 2018, we could attend another brief assembly, where we learned about the work done by the Salvation Army's Gateway of Hope. Currently the students are collecting funds for this organization, as they learn more and more about such local needs and opportunities. On Saturday, February 24, this initiative will wrap up at the "Coldest Night of the Year" walk. Visit <https://coldestnightoftheyear.org/location/langley> for more information as well as to register. Note that they have made a specific request not only for food but also for adult socks.

By and large, instruction in the different subject areas in the second term has been proceeding smoothly. Because of the resourcefulness and dedication of

our committed teachers and EAs, each of the students at Credo is able to receive meaningful instruction. The staff is also thankful for the continued support and encouragement of our parent community, some of whom come to the school regularly as volunteers. Often teachers are reminded by parents that they are being held up in prayer by the parents. Since we teachers are unable to do our work without the Lord's blessing, we genuinely appreciate that and covet your continued prayers. Along with the teachers, please remember also other adults who interact meaningfully with the children, including our capable educational assistants and our bus drivers.

For those of you who appreciate a "heads-up" notice about upcoming school programs, please be aware that we hope to have a program performance on Friday evening, April 20. The program will focus on our school theme for the year: "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth..... all things were created through him and for him." Mark your calendars; concert preparations are beginning.

Though this largely happens "behind the scenes," this year the Education Committee is taking a deliberate look at the Bible curriculum in the school. In due time some recommendations will go to the board and a report will be shared with the community about this work that this committee has been doing throughout the year. Last year's curriculum study was helpful for the staff, and a similar outcome is anticipated again this time.

Core Competencies

Elsewhere in this issue you'll find something else about Core Competencies again. You'll be hearing a fair bit about these competencies in the coming months. An important aspect of these skills is that students are required to self-assess their performance related to core competency development. Evidently, during the school year, teachers will be teaching the students the language of core competency, and will help students to somewhat accurately reflect on their own abilities. Student self-assessment should not intimidate us; we want students to be able to reflect on how they are

doing and then be deliberate about seeking to improve their skills. Imagine a young hockey player who doesn't realize which particular skills he needs to intentionally develop so that he can become a better asset to the team. He will likely be floundering for a long time. Then imagine the player who knows he needs to improve his ability to skate backwards, or to stop quickly, or to increase his puck control. The second one will be more intentional, and will likely be able to comment intelligibly on his skill development. The latter scenario is what we are mandated to be working on in our classrooms.

For more information related particularly to the Communication Core Competency, please ask one of your children about something they learned in the assembly on this topic that we had the other day. Mrs. VanSpronsen had an interesting exercise that

made it clear to all students that communicating includes speaking clearly and listening carefully.

Wrapping Up

We are rapidly moving toward the time of year that we need to make concrete decisions about next year. At this point, it looks like ongoing class size challenges will continue to test our capacities. This will result in interesting discussions at a variety of meetings in the coming months.

I know it's only the end of January, but enjoy the transition to spring! Marvel at God's faithfulness as you witness his creativity in the warmer weather and newly-emerging buds and flowers. May his blessing be evident to all of us.

Calendar Update

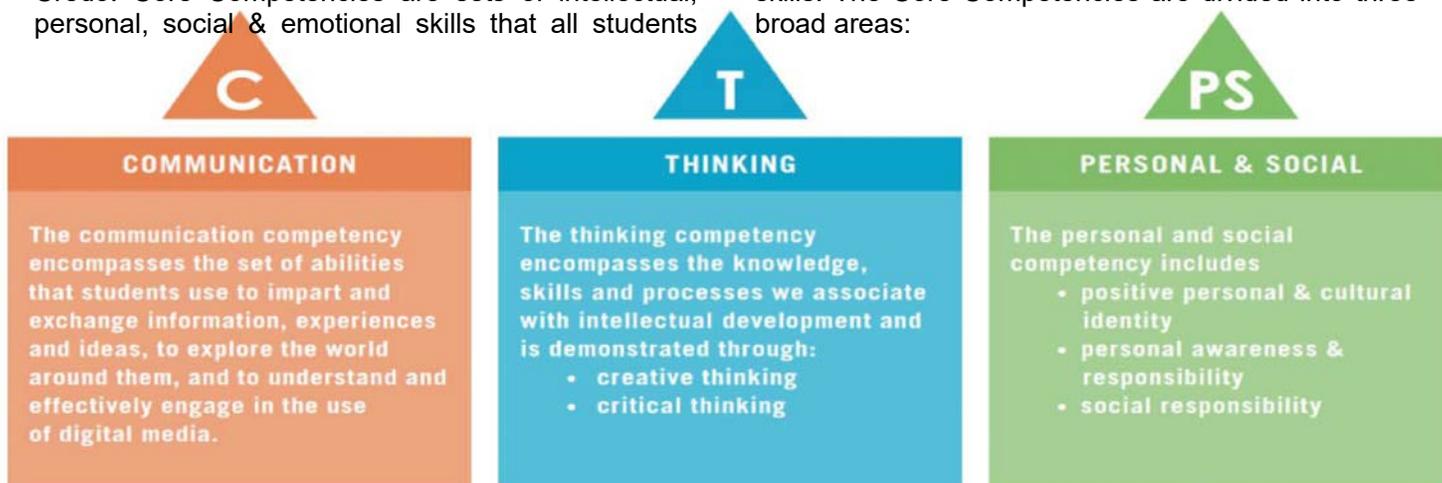
February	5 Opening Assembly	8:45 am gym
	9 ProD Day	no school
	12 Family Day	no school
	16 Book Week (Feb 19-23) Assembly	2:30 pm gym
	21 "Seniors" Dress up day	
March	5 Opening Assembly	8:45 am gym
	13 Report Cards	
	15, 16 Student-Led Conferences	
	19-29 March Break	no school
	30 Good Friday	no school
April	1 Easter Sunday	
	2 Easter Monday	no school
	3 School reopens	
	3 Opening Assembly	8:45 am gym
	20 Spring Program	7 pm church

The Core Competencies....

Jennifer Onderwater

Over the last three years the staff and students of Credo have been interacting with the British Columbia's redesigned curriculum and assessment. Core Competencies are a big piece of this new curriculum and are the focus of our curriculum work this year at Credo. Core Competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, social & emotional skills that all students

need to develop as they learn and grow. These competencies are not an add-on or a new subject. The Core Competencies are integrated into all subjects and grades. They are embedded into all curricular areas and allow students to develop and connect to these key skills. The Core Competencies are divided into three broad areas:



Each month, from January to June, we will focus an aspect of these Core Competencies in order for staff and students to grow in these areas and become more familiar with the language and expectations of the curriculum.

Communication

In January we highlighted the Core Competency of communication. Since communication is foundational to how we interact with others, share our learning, gather information and tell our stories, it is important that we all are effective communicators.

As a Christian school, we see communication in the light of scripture. It is especially important that we understand and communicate God's Word. We seek to acquire knowledge and express our learning as we engage with our world as children of God. Communication involves listening, reading, writing and speaking. We seek to grow in all of these facets of communication as life-long learners and followers of God:

Listen to, and engage, with others

- ▶ Proverbs 18:13 - don't answer before listening
- ▶ Proverbs 18:15 - listen actively - don't just receive but be engaged and ask questions

Read with comprehension

- ▶ 2 Tim 3:16 - Understanding God's Word, is the key to knowing Him better and growing in righteousness
- ▶ Prov. 1:1-6 - reading comprehension is a key to

growing in wisdom

- ▶ Daniel 1:17 - Understanding other literature and learning is a blessing from the God

Write effectively

- ▶ Eccl 12:9-11 - effectively communicating what we've learned involves seeking out just the right words

Speak God's Truth to the world

- ▶ 1 Peter: 3:15 - we need to be ready to speak
- ▶ Col 4:5-6 - we need to speak with grace, seasoned with salt
- ▶ Acts 19:8 - speaking persuasively is tied closely to speaking boldly (or courageously)

This broad skill of communication was be the focused on in an assembly. Teachers and students have continued to work with communication through classroom activities, assessments, self-assessments, and portfolio pieces. We are learning to connect better with others, present our learning, work collaboratively and reflect and change. We are gaining a better understanding of this competency of communication and moving forward in our curriculum work.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord my rock and my redeemer."
(Ps. 19:14)

Short Reports of Board Meetings

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School November 6th, 2017

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Tim Bontkes, opened the meeting by reading from Psalm 8 and prayer. He welcomed all the Directors, Directors-elect and Principal Otto Bouwman to the meeting.
 - **Agenda Approval:** The agenda for the regular board meeting was approved.
 - **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Report of the October 2, 2017 Board meeting were adopted. The Minutes of the October 25, 2017 Membership Meeting were approved for publication. A previous Board decision to extend offers of employment for EA positions to Lisa Devries, Yolanda Hoogstra, and Meagan Lewis was ratified.
 - **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** One incoming letter was received from the CCRTC requesting a letter of support for their accreditation process.
 - **Principal's Report:** Otto Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for November 2017 and provided updates on the new EA hires, program delivery planning for 2018/19, and IT matters. Revisions to the Board Calendar were reviewed and approved.
 - **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for November 2017 was received for information. Tim Bontkes reported on his activities as chairman.
 - **Education Committee:** Bob Huttema reported that the committee intends to review the Bible curriculum this year. A new Library Resources Policy was reviewed and approved.
 - **Board Assignments:** After being given opportunity to speak, the departing Director, Bob Huttema, left the meeting. Otto Bouwman offered a prayer of blessing on the upcoming board year. Following due process, the following roles and functions were assigned to Board Directors:
 - ▶ Chair - Tim Bontkes
 - ▶ Vice-Chair - Ron Scheper
 - ▶ Treasurer - Oliver Hansma
 - ▶ Secretary - Will VanOene
 - ▶ Education Committee - Deanna VanDyke
 - ▶ Finance Committee - Oliver Hansma / Neil Dykstra
 - ▶ Membership Committee - Neil Dykstra
 - ▶ Fundraising Committee - Neil Dykstra
 - ▶ IT Committee - Tim Rook
 - ▶ Special Education Committee - Erica Feunekes
 - ▶ Credo Christian High School representative - Erica Feunekes
 - ▶ Maintenance Committee - Ron Scheper
 - ▶ CCSTA Representative - Tim Rook
 - ▶ Board-Staff Relations Liaison - Erica Feunekes
- The Governor Letter of Commitment was signed by incoming Board Director Deanna VanDyke.
- **General Business:** The October membership meeting was reviewed and reports were presented on the recent SCSBC Conference.
 - **Membership Committee:** Neil Dykstra reported on the work of the Membership Committee. Two enrollment requests were reviewed and discussed.
 - **Fundraising Committee:** Neil Dykstra reported that he is in the process of finding willing community members to serve on the committee and intends to form the committee by January.
 - **Finance Committee:** The income statement for September 30 and October 31, 2017 were submitted and reviewed. The financial statements were passed on to W. VanOene for the archive. It was noted that Angela deBoer and Deanna VanDyke were appointed as reviewers and discovered no concerns. O. Hansma reported on the status of the five-year plan, reserve fund investment and salary committee work.
 - **Maintenance Committee:** Ron Scheper provided an update on the work of the maintenance committee, which is currently finalizing some items that are outstanding from the recent HVAC upgrade.
 - **CCSTA:** Tim Rook reported that the CCSTA is considering the implementation of new policies and procedures to deal with rider behaviour on the busses.
 - **IT Committee:** Tim Rook reported that the committee has made upgrades to the school's

internet service and has improved wireless connection issues at the school. Ryan Sikma and Nic Vanderven were appointed to the committee.

- **Special Education:** Erica Feunekes reported that there has been a positive response from the membership to the new "Connect" initiative.
- **Ad-Hoc Valley Wide High School Planning Committee:** Tim Bontkes reported that the committee is commencing SWOT analysis of

the current high school facilities, and still plans to report to the Boards in April.

- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for December 11, 2017, which will be preceded by a Legal Authority meeting with members from the CCHS board.
- **Closing:** Neil Dykstra offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Tim Bontkes closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

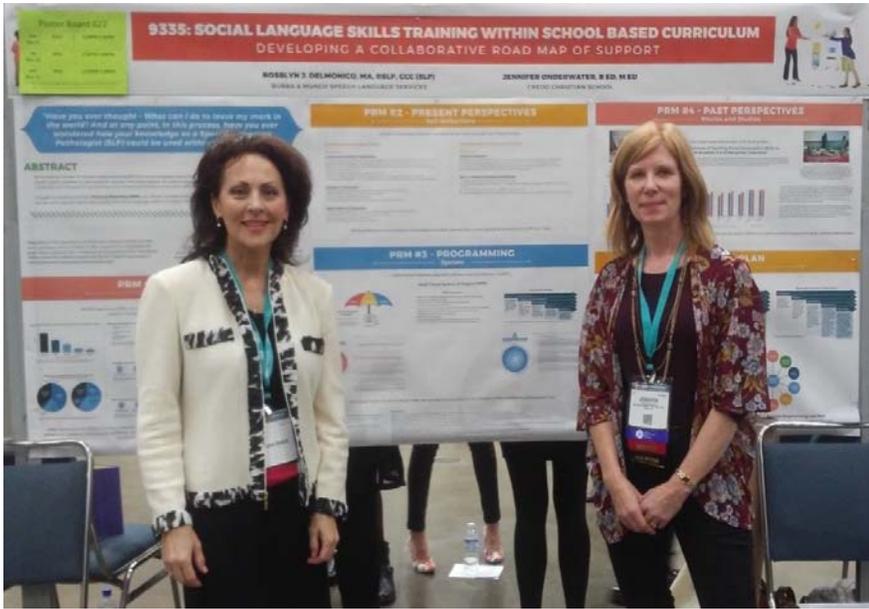


Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School December 11th, 2017

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Tim Bontkes welcomed all the Directors and Principal Otto Bouwman to the meeting. There was no official opening, as this meeting was preceded by the Legal Authority Meeting with CCHS.
- **Agenda Approval:** The agenda for the regular board meeting was approved.
- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** One incoming letter was received from the CCRTC providing an annual report of their activities. A letter was sent to the CCRTC in support of their accreditation process. A reply letter was sent to a family regarding enrolment.
- **Principal's Report:** Otto Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for December 2017 and provided updates on program delivery for 2018/19, library matters, and Special Education. Revisions to the Board Calendar were reviewed and approved.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for December 2017 was received for information. Tim Bontkes reported on his activities as chairman, and provided updates on recent RCDC and CCC meetings.
- **Membership Committee:** The Membership Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed. Neil Dykstra reported on the activities of the Membership Committee and noted that the committee is currently working through formalizing the process when dealing with enrolment applications from non-member families. A decision was made on an enrolment application.
- **Education Committee:** The Education

Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed. Deanna VanDyke reported on the activities of the Education Committee and noted that the committee is beginning work on Bible curriculum review and is considering various grade scenarios for the 2018/19 school year.

- **Fundraising Committee:** Roger Aikema was appointed to the committee.
- **Finance Committee:** The income statement for November 30, 2017 was submitted and reviewed. Oliver Hansma reported on the activities of the Finance Committee including work being done by the Salary Committee. A decision was made on a tuition request.
- **Maintenance Committee:** Ron Scheper provided updates on the activities of the Maintenance Committee and reported on a recent water test that was completed at the school building.
- **CCSTA:** Tim Rook reported on the activities of the CCSTA and noted that the committee is currently testing onboard video surveillance on the busses.
- **Special Education Committee:** Special Education Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed.
- **Ad-Hoc Valley Wide High School Planning Committee:** Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed. Tim Bontkes reported that the committee is has completed SWOT analysis of the current high school facilities, and will moving into option development.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for January 15, 2018.
- **Closing:** Tim Rook offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Tim Bontkes closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.



Presenting at an American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) Conference in Los Angeles:

I had the privilege of being accepted as a co-presenter with Rosslyn Delmonico at the ASHA Conference in L.A. This conference is attended by 10,000 speech and language professionals. We were given 1½ hours to present on teaching social language in schools. It was a great opportunity to share some of the research I did for my thesis and also learn from Rosslyn's expertise as an author and speech and language pathologist. Besides presenting, I could attend this large conference and learn from experts in language and speech.

Jennifer Onderwater



Heather Dykstra, Resource Dept. @ William of Orange Christian School

What is dyslexia? The most common answer is that dyslexics are people who see things backwards: reversing b/d or p/q. While it is true that some dyslexics struggle with reversals, this is not the case for all. The actual definition of dyslexia, as defined by the International Dyslexia Association, is "a deficit in the phonological component of language." To put it simply, dyslexics do not have an ear or eye for the sounds of speech. Dyslexics have a harder time processing the individual sounds that make up spoken words and they have a harder time mapping the sound to the written letter.

The brain of a dyslexic is not wired efficiently for language. It takes them so much longer to process what they are hearing, reading, or writing. Think of those moments in which you've said "it's on the tip of my tongue". How frustrating it is when you can't seem to retrieve the word/letter that you know is in your brain. A dyslexic individual experiences this much more frequently. This has a major impact on the fluency of reading/writing and is why a dyslexic requires more time to complete their work.

Dyslexic students face significant challenges when it comes to their daily schoolwork. The effort it takes for a dyslexic to read and write can be compared to the effort it would take to attend a school being taught in a foreign language that has not been mastered. Everything you read and write would have to be translated in your head as you go along. It would be mentally draining to have to do this all day long.

It's important to know that while dyslexia impacts learning, it's not a problem of intelligence. Kids with this issue are just as smart as their peers. Many people have struggled with dyslexia and gone on to have successful careers. If your child has dyslexia, he/she won't outgrow it. But there are supports, teaching approaches and strategies to help overcome the challenges.

If you question whether your child has dyslexia, or you'd like to learn more, please attend the seminar that the Connect group is hosting on this topic.

CONNECT
LET'S TALK ABOUT...

THE **MYTHS**,
THE **STIGMAS**,
THE **TRUTHS**,
REVEALED.



THE BIG PICTURE
RETHINKING DYSLEXIA

Directed by James Redford
Scientific Advisors: Drs. Bennett & Sally Shaywitz



**The CONNECT Group will be hosting a screening of
"THE BIG PICTURE - Rethinking Dyslexia"**

Wednesday February 28

7:00 to 9:00pm

at the *Aldergrove Canadian Reformed Church*

26655 -24Ave Aldergrove

[Register on Eventbrite.ca](http://Eventbrite.ca)

Contact Dyslexia BC, Cathy 778-839-1540 or DDBritishColumbia@gmail.com

Credo Aid Update....

Credo Aid Shop Easy

The first quarter of the year is behind us already and a lot has been happening with Shop Easy. First we would like to say farewell and THANK-YOU to Marcia for her years of service as a rep in Langley. Her dedication to serving her customers and keeping a balanced spreadsheet were greatly appreciated. Enjoy your "free" time on Sunday!

In connection with that, secondly, we would like to welcome a new member to our team: Mary-Anne Vanderhorst. Welcome, and thanks to you for volunteering your time to help us out. We look forward to working with you!

Thirdly, we would like to let you know the profits in the first quarter for both this year and last year as a comparison:

2016:		2017:	
September	\$1428	September	\$1780
October	\$2233	October	\$1952
November	\$2411	November	\$1845
December	<u>\$3885</u>	December	<u>\$4450</u>
Total profits:	\$9957	Total profits:	\$10,027

The profit margin is slightly higher this quarter from last year due to a HUGE Christmas rush this year. Thanks so much to all the businesses who made a point to order through us. We sold almost \$87,000 worth of gift cards in December alone!

There was a slight dip in the monthly profits in Oct and Nov. We are holding steady at around 65 faithful participants, but a new year is a perfect time to try it out if you haven't done so before. We encourage you to try the post dated system with just a few cheques or ask to be put on a reminder email list so we can help you remember. We would LOVE to serve you!

We accept cheque, cash or e-transfers. Please contact your rep with any questions, or hopefully your order.

Langley: Deanna Van Dyke
deanna_wt@hotmail.com
Langley: Mary-Anne Vanderhorst
burkeandmaryanne@gmail.com
Aldergrove: Meagan Vandergriendt
meaganvdh@hotmail.com

Gift Card Order

Name:

Date:

Phone:

email:

Grocery Stores (always available)

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

Restaurants

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

Coffee & Treats

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

Department Stores

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

Home Improvement

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

Specialty Stores

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

Send your form to the school (marked Credo Aid)



School Skating... December 2017