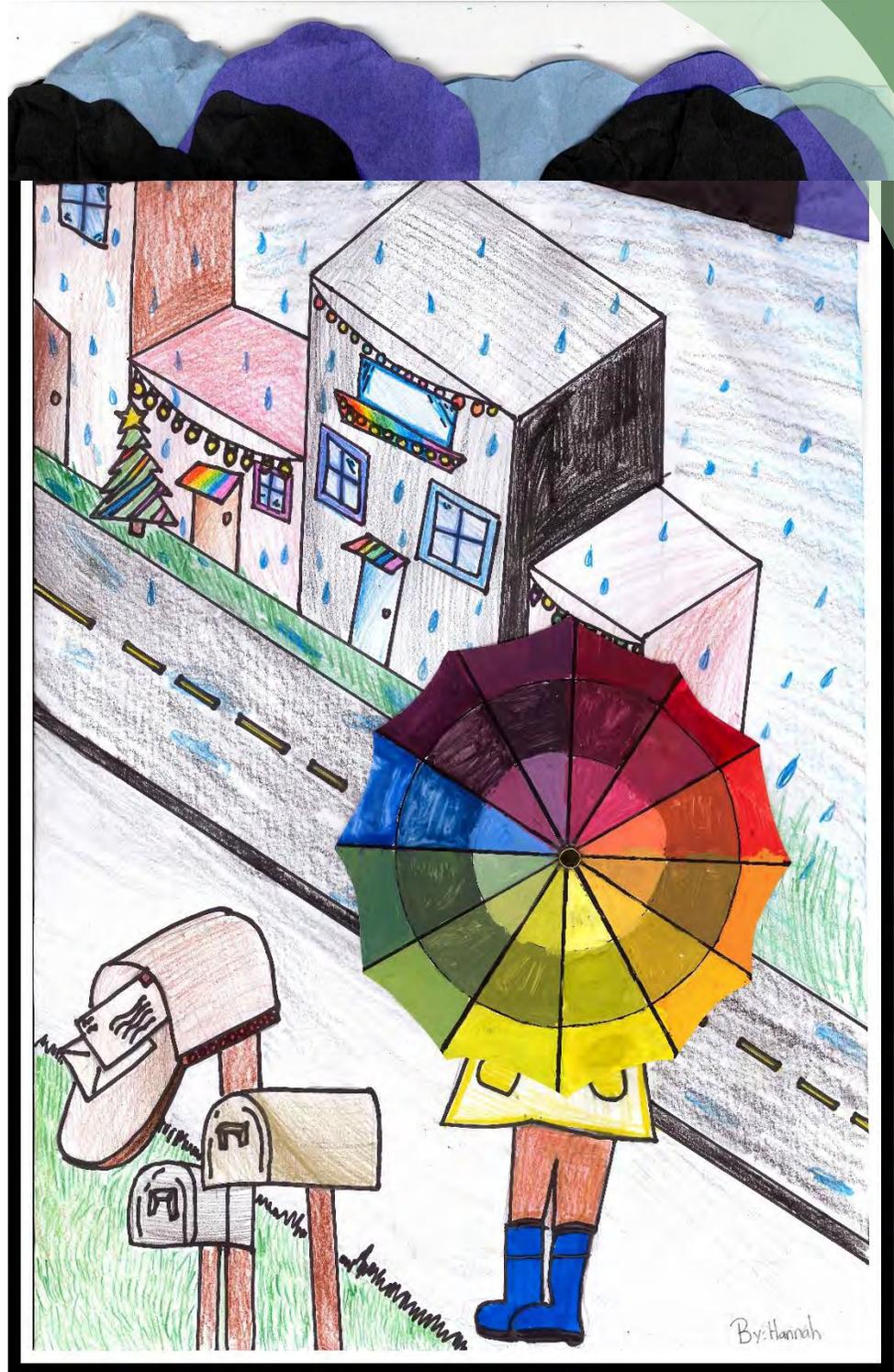




BRANCHES



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Volume 31
Issue 4
Feb. 1, 2019

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

It's hard to believe it is February already! Given that this is the first *Branches* for 2019 I would like to wish the readers a belated Happy New Year and a prosperous 2019! As I write this report and reflect on the start of 2019 my first thoughts go to what is transpiring in the world around us. From a global/earthly perspective we are faced with unsettling events such as international trade disputes, diplomatic tensions, political instabilities and the constant pressure of secularism and infringement on our religious beliefs at every turn. There are too many international concerns to mention but even as we start to look closer at the religious, economic and political stories and happenings around us we cannot help but feel a bit unsettled. And then I start to look closer to what we have in the Body of Christ. Within our own Church and CCES community we thankfully can take comfort in all that our almighty God provides for us. Even though we are continually reminded that we live in a sinful world we are able to fulfill our tasks and roles with confidence that all that we do is based on God's own sovereign will.

As Board of CCES we are continually reminded of the strength we can draw on from our own community. As we complete our Board task and each month when we meet together we witness how each of us in our own way contributes to the education of our children. It is not just the teachers and administration at CCES, but the parents and students as well who all volunteer and assist in making the CCES experience productive and enjoyable. As Board it is very rewarding when we see this level of cooperation, not only does it make our tasks easier as we govern the school, it also provides us with a sense of pride as we go about our work. Thank you everyone for this!

Thank you Alyson!

As we approach the second half of the 2018/19 year the first item I would like to acknowledge is the departure of Alyson Winkelaar. Last Friday was her final day as she heads off on maternity leave and makes ready for the arrival of her/their first child. Thank you Alyson for all your contributions and best wishes as you move through the final weeks of your pregnancy! Also a special welcome

to Jessica deBoer who will be taking Alyson's place in the Grade 2 class.

Planning Activities

Aside from our regular tasks as Board, February is the time where we start to look ahead at the teaching and budget needs for next school year. Projecting student enrolment, analyzing class sizes and teaching needs, meeting with teachers to review their plans for next year, reviewing the classroom availability and capital requirements and factoring any new costs associated with the operation of CCES are all part of this review and require the input of quite a few individuals and committees. Each year I am always amazed at how things fall into place in this regard and it is our prayer that this year will be no different.

Valley Wide High School Review Committee

One other item which has been front and center for myself has been the Valley Wide High School Review Committee's work. The committee which Ron Scheper and I sit on has been quite active in working towards a recommendation for how we can best deliver high school education to our children in the future. Our commitment was to bring our recommendation to the Combined Boards at the end of January and this commitment has been met. Each of the Boards will now deliberate the recommendation over the coming month and it is the committee's goal that the recommendation can be supported by each of the Boards and then brought to all the school members shortly thereafter. Please continue to pray for all those involved as this report and recommendation are reviewed and deliberated.

As we move forward into spring and the second half of the school year we as Board want to ask the membership for their continued support and prayers as we continue in our roles. We also ask you to join us as we encourage the teachers and administration at CCES in their tasks. Finally, please keep the students in your prayers. Each of them have their own needs and as community we need to continue to support them in every way that we possibly can.

From the Principal....

Otto Bouwman

Staff and students were able to return to school with renewed levels of energy again on January 7. It's been good to be back and continue our teaching and learning activities here at Credo. What a privilege to be able to work together in a covenant community as we seek 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."

As I have opportunity to regularly interact with all my colleagues (not all 26 of them every day because we have a significant number of part-time staff) as well as the students (and sometimes their parents), along with Board and committee members, I am constantly amazed at how many moving parts there are in this organization. I am profoundly thankful for everyone's diligence and commitment to the cause of Christian education; school operations have continued to go smoothly since the last issue of *Branches*. Thank you to all - whether you work in a visible role or in a quiet background one - for your contributions to Credo's wellbeing.

Update

With regard to regular activities here at school: there has been repeated attention given to our school theme: "What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God", regular classroom instruction has been given, core competencies have repeatedly been referenced, essential questions have served to focus learning, students enjoyed another skating venture, and field trips have served to support classroom learning. (Also from here, Credo Aid: thank you heartily for your support that enabled us to enjoy another skating experience and even to be welcomed back to school with hot chocolate! This and your other evidences of support for Credo's well-being is so appreciated by all of us!) Furthermore, a successful Awareness / Fundraiser took place after Naeem Zafar's presentation about "Christ for All Ministry" - students learned about the challenges of our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world - and especially in Pakistan.

Parents, thank you for your continued support of and appreciation for Christian education at Credo Christian Elementary School. Especially as we connect with our brothers and sisters in Alberta, we regularly are reminded of how grateful we ought to be for the blessings we can experience.

Staffing

We have been bringing the needs of Neil Dykstra before the Lord in prayer at school and at home. Recently Neil had to undergo another series of tests, and just a few days ago they heard the results; he is scheduled to undergo another biopsy in a few weeks to determine whether a tiny growth in his lung is cancerous or not. Please continue to beseech our Father to grant comfort and healing in these difficult circumstances.

February 1 is the last day for Mrs. Winkelaar to be at Credo for the immediate future. She looks forward to embracing her responsibilities as a mother a month or so later. Alyson has been an energetic and dedicated teacher here at Credo since she arrived here as Alyson Bosch in September, 2012. Her enthusiasm for and commitment to living and teaching Christianly have been evident to all who have interacted with her. One of the unique gifts she shared with the Credo community has been her love for music; her singing voice could often be heard in the school. Though we at Credo will miss Alyson as a colleague, we joyfully wish her all the best as she transitions to motherhood. Thank you for your work, and God bless you, Alyson! We look forward to your return to show us your little "Ducky."

We are very thankful that Jessica deBoer has agreed to take on responsibilities as the second grade teacher for the remainder of the school year. Jessica: welcome back to Credo Elementary! With your previous experience in Credo classrooms as well as in the Grade 2 classroom at John Calvin, we hope the transition back is a smooth one.

This is always a bit of a nervous time of year for principals and school Boards. When one sees the number of ads for teaching and EA positions in our schools across the country, one can appreciate

that we really do have a teacher and EA shortage throughout our system. We too are advertising, and hope that we receive some expressions of interest - please do what you can to encourage potential candidates to contact me. Regrettably, I know of remarkably few young people who are preparing to enter the teaching profession. May the Lord supply us with sufficient dedicated staff to enable us to continue to meet the needs of the young brothers and sisters in our care. Please join me in giving profound gratitude to God for his generous provision to this point - and if you know of some people who might be interested in coming to Credo: please let me know!

CRTS Conference

We can look back to the recent CRTS conference with gratitude. The speeches and discussions were motivating and thought-provoking; we were frequently reminded of how privileged our children are that they are born in the covenant and as God's

children can go through life in his care. We heard speeches about the place of children in the Bible and in the early church, about some aspects of child development as well as some of the educational consequences, and even about the practices of Presbyterians related to what their churches do vis-à-vis the youth in their congregations. All in all it served as a good reminder that we need to be diligent in our ongoing efforts to pass on the faith to the next generation. We pass on the faith that has been entrusted to us, so that our children can tell their children, so that they can pass it on to those not yet born..... and our schools are important places in that generational transfer of faith..... God bless Credo also in the future.

God bless you as you continue in service to him; may we each put our hope and trust in God. Till next time.

Calendar Update			
February	4	Opening Assembly	8:45 -gym
	6	PJ Day	
	18	Family Day	no school
March	5	Opening Assembly	8:45 -gym
	12	Report Cards	
	14	Student-Led Conferences	
	15	Student-Led Conferences	no school
	18-29	March Break	no school
April	1	School reopens	no joke!
	Date confirmation: Sports Day - May 10 (Friday) at McLeod Athletic Park		

Words of Welcome!

As a school society, we would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to **Ben & Anna Togeretz** and **Steve & Kathleen Vanderveen** (Aldergrove Canadian Reformed Church) and **Dave & Nicole Doornbos** (Langley Canadian Reformed Church) who recently became members.

We are thankful to have these families join us and pray you may enjoy the blessings of our school community.

Short Report of Board Meeting

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School December 10th, 2018

- **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.
- **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Report of the November 5, 2018 Board meeting were adopted. A number of Board decisions made since the last meeting were ratified, including approval to extend an offer of employment to Alice Wu as a new EA, and approval to extend an offer of employment to Jessica deBoer to fill the teacher vacancy at the end of February.
- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** One outgoing letter was sent regarding cancellation of membership.
- **Principal's Report:** Otto Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for December 2018 and provided updates on program delivery for 2019/20, options for a new sound system for the gym, and computer hardware expenditures. A hard copy of the revised Board Policy and Procedures Manual was reviewed.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for December 2018 was received for information. Tim Bontkes reported on his activities as chairman, and noted that orientation was completed with the new Board members.
- **General Business:** A number of items were discussed including proposed changes to the Legal Authority reporting procedure, completion of a 5-year capital planning document, and a proposed bylaw update relating to auditors. It is anticipated that select revisions to the bylaws will be presented to the membership for approval at the next membership meeting.
- **Membership Committee:** The Membership Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed.
- **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 considering another trial of a classroom sound field system. Will VanOene reported positively on a first term school visit.
- **Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee minutes and the income statement for November 30, 2018 were submitted and reviewed. Ian Moes reported on the activities of the Finance Committee including work being done by the Salary Committee.
- **Maintenance Committee:** The Maintenance Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed. Richard Welfing provided updates on work being done around the school including attic insulation for the west wing, improved exterior lighting for the parking lot and driveway, and new landscaping for the traffic circle.
- **IT Committee:** The IT Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed. Will VanOene provided updates on the work of the IT committee, and noted that committee is planning upgrades to the teacher's desktop computers this year.
- **Special Education Committee:** The Special Education Committee minutes were submitted and reviewed. It was noted that the agreement with WO will expire at the end of the school year.
- **Ad-Hoc Valley Wide High School Planning Committee:** Tim Bontkes reported on the recent Town Hall meeting hosted by the committee and SCSBC at the Langley Canadian Reformed Church. The committee is planning to have a final report and recommendation ready for the January Combined Boards meeting.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for January 14, 2019.
- **Closing:** Erica Feunekes offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Tim Bontkes closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Featherpen News Bulletin

COVENANT CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

On January 7, 2019, students, staff, and faculty returned refreshed after the Christmas break. Reminded once again of the school year's theme text, 1 Peter 3:15, "Always be prepared . . . to give the reason for the hope that you have," faculty and students could pause and reflect how this theme impacts the work that will be done at CCTRC during the Winter Semester.

For nine students, this semester marks the final semester in their Diploma of Teaching program. It also means that in addition to their regular studies, these students will soon be engaged in extracurricular activities such as preparing and submitting applications, and attending interviews. All the students are looking forward to the February/March practicum session. In addition to placements in the schools in Ontario, some students will also be travelling to Manitoba and Alberta. We remain very thankful that member schools and staff continue to welcome our students into their schools.

With the start of the semester, CCRTC again welcomes several sessional instructors. They will teach Children's Literature, Old and New Testament Studies, Bible Doctrine, Survey of English Literature, and Physical Education and Health. CCRTC considers itself richly blessed by the wide scope of talents and expertise of its full-time and sessional instructors. With gratitude we recognize that each person makes unique contributions to enrich the learning of our students.

On the accreditation front, things are moving along steadily. The election of a new government in Ontario has resulted in a modest recalibration of the application to ensure that a strong file will be submitted to a government that is aware of the existence of Reformed Christian schools. We are encouraged by the positive reception we receive from newly-elected MPPs and intend to build on this as we meet with the new Minister and her office. Although the process is taking longer than initially anticipated, you will understand that we want to submit the strongest application possible.

Finally, in all that we do we continue to trust that in all things God does what is best for us. Together with you, our readers, we rely on his blessings in the year of our Lord 2019.

PR Committee, CCRTC

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)



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

Tim Bontkes (2019)	Chairman
Ron Scheper (2019)	Vice-Chair/Finance/CCSTA
Will VanOene (2019)	Secretary/IT
Ian Moes (2021)	Treasurer
Erica Feunekes (2019)	CCHS/SpEd/PR
Roger Aikema (2021)	Membership/Fundraising
Deanna VanDyke (2020)	Education
Welfing, Richard (2021)	Maintenance

Education Committee

Deanna VanDyke	Pearl Hoff
Yvonne Jacobi	Jacoba Leyenhorst
Brad VanOene	Kelly VanSeters
Otto Bouwman	Jennifer Onderwater

Membership Committee

Roger Aikema	Shelley Sikma
Karin Louwerse	Ryan Sikma
Rob VanDelft	

Special Education Committee

Erica Feunekes	Deborah Huttema
	Otto Bouwman

Finance Committee

Ian Moes	Ron Scheper
	Elma Kuntz

Maintenance Committee

Richard Welfing	Rob Bisschop
Darryl Hofsink	Kevin Leyenhorst
Dave Vandeburgt	James Vandeburgt

Staff

Otto Bouwman	Principal
Jennifer Onderwater	VP, Kindergarten B
Leslie Scholtens	Kindergarten A
Mary MacDougall	Grade 1
Heather Dykstra	Grade 1
Jessica deBoer	Grade 2
Stephen Chase	Grade 3
Debora Minderhoud	Grade 2 & 3
Nadine Krikke	Grade 4
Jerry Scholtens	Grade 5
Linda VanSpronsen	Grade 5
Jenn Harink	Grade 6
Diana Nobel	Grade 7
Deborah Huttema	SpEd, LA
Yvonne Jacobi	Music 4,5
Mekayla Knol	Music 6,7
Sarah Beintema	Educational Ass't
Wilma Deleeuw	Educational Ass't
Lisa Devries	Educational Ass't
Yolanda Hoogstra	Educational Ass't
Katelyn Mostert	Educational Ass't
Jacqueline Spoor	Educational Ass't
Lisa Vandervan	Educational Ass't
Joy VanVliet	Educational Ass't
Alice Wu	Educational Ass't
Jackie VanOene	Librarian
Elma Kuntz	Office Administrator

Credo Aid

Leona Huttema	
Pearl Hoff	Audrey Leyenhorst
Tanta Scholtens	Danielle Stiksma

Fee Structure 2018-2019

Membership	125.00	Kindergarten	320.00
Elem. (1-3)	530.00	Elem (4-7)	550.00
Junior High	695.00	Senior High	745.00



Best Wishes from the Credo Community
 to Mr. & Mrs. Winkelaar!



Our First Awareness
 and Fundraiser for 2019

