



BRANCHES

What does **GOD** require of You?

To Act

Justly



To Love

Mercy



To Walk

Humbly



In This Issue:

- ***From the Chairman***
- ***From the Principal***
- ***Education Committee Report***
- ***Short Reports of Board Meetings***
- ***Minutes of Membership Meeting***
- ***Calendar for 2019/20***
- ***Supply List***
- ***Credo Aid Update***
- ***Graduation***

**Volume 31
Issue 8
June 14, 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

We are one week away from ending another school year at CCES. At the time that this issue of *Branches* is being circulated many of us will already be starting to get distracted with summer plans and activities, looking past the last week of school. I myself am mentally preparing for the Grade 7 grad trip to Victoria that I signed up for next week. If I thought that camping with my own 4 kids was a bit of a frenzied experience, how about with 20 kids!?!? Jokes aside, I am looking forward to this opportunity and would imagine that shortly after the trip when I get the opportunity to congratulate each of the students at their grad ceremony I will get to view them in a bit of a different light.

Before we get too far in our happy thoughts for the summer ahead of us, let's reflect a bit on what has all transpired over the course of the 2018/19 school year.

At the beginning of the year I included our school theme of Micah 6:8 in my *Branches* report where we read "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." As a board member and parent I have had the pleasure of witnessing CCES work towards this teaching. We have seen this lived out all the way from the parents down through the board, through the teachers and in the students themselves this year. We have much to be grateful for! The quality of the parental involvement and support, the board and administration's leadership, the teachers competency and love for the students and the growth and leaning of the students is evidence of this.

Spring Meeting

Thank you to all those who attended the spring meeting on May 29th. I believe we had a record number of members attending the meeting. The meeting included presentations on the school budget, 5 year capital plan and some house-keeping bylaw amendments. In addition to this, the highlight was the presentation of the Valley Wide High School Review Committee's recommendation and the vote which followed it. As a member of this committee I was extremely happy with and grateful for the level of endorsement the recommendation received from our membership as well as from the memberships of our sister schools in John Calvin and William of Orange. To recap, the CCES membership voted 97% in favour of the recommendation and WofO and JCCS also voted 97% and 98% respectively in favour. These results show a

number of things but for me what sticks out is that the recommendation itself equally met the needs of all three membership and that overall there is resounding support for unity across the Valley. Thank you to our membership for your support in this vision!

A special thank you also goes out to the Finance and Maintenance Committees for their presentations at the meeting and for the work they continue to do for CCES. We have been blessed again with a balanced budget which requires no increase in tuition for next year. This is the second year in a row that tuition has remained the same and is largely as a result of our government grant increasing significantly in the last two years and due to the fact that the administration and teaching staff have done a remarkable job in accommodating some very large classes without having to complete any new full grade splits. Thank you for your endorsement of the presented budget and for your approval of the 5 year capital plan which was presented. Spending funds on capital improvements in the context of the VWHRC recommendation is not easy but the board feels it is important to not sacrifice the quality and functionality of our building for the next 10 or so years even though it may be sold off in the future.

As board our role is to govern CCES and in doing this enhance the school's mission, protect its values and guide the administration of the school with appropriate policies and processes. We are also encouraged to be visionary in our actions and decisions strengthening the school for our future generations. I would suggest that the work involved in the items presented at the meeting are indications that we are on the right track. Thank you for your support in this!

Staffing

One of the more significant focuses for the board and our administration over the past months has been the planning for staffing next year. We are very happy to announce that we have been able to accommodate the staffing needs for next year by hiring David Wu as an intermediate teacher and Kendra Vandergaag as our new front office secretary. David and Kendra, we wish you well as you prepare for these new positions over the summer.

I would also like to take this time to thank Jenn Harink, Sarah Beintema and Jessica deBoer as they depart at the end of the school year. Jenn, your dedication and professionalism as a teacher has been very much appreciated and will be greatly missed. Sarah, your assistance and care you have shown to the students

has been amazing and will also be thoroughly missed. Jessica, even though you were only here for half of the year, as a former CCES teacher, it was great to have you join us again. It took you very little time to get reacquainted with us and it provided a very smooth transition for our grade 2 students. On behalf of the board I wish you our best as your move on to the next chapters of your lives! And Elma, even though you will still be with us full time next year till January and half time from then on as bookkeeper, I still want to thank you for all you have done and continue to do for CCES. It is always a blessing for an organization to be able to leverage the experience and skill of one of their veteran employees by adjusting to a part time role and this case is no exception.

From the Principal....

Otto Bouwman

We have again come near the end of another school year. It's time to count our blessings. I'm thankful to God for his gracious care and provision during this past year. Everything listed below is thanks to God.

I'm thankful for a capable and committed School Board. This visionary Board inspires administration and staff to do our best in our daily work.

I'm thankful to work with capable colleagues in the front office. Elma, Jennifer, and Deb Huttema have each done tremendous service to the school community this past year; if the school generally appears to run smoothly that's in large part because of your efforts. Speaking of Elma: Is everyone aware that Elma will have worked here for 25 years by the end of this month? You've done so much to define and support this institution! Thank you so much!

I'm thankful to work with a wonderful teaching team at CCES. The teachers here are a collaborative, creative, and competent bunch who work well together. Furthermore, the teachers enjoy working together! Elsewhere in this publication you'll see evidence of that when you read Jerry Scholten's submission about why he enjoys teaching.

I'm thankful that we have our staffing in place for next September..... even if there are a few questions about some particulars. As God has provided for us in the past, he will continue to do so in the future.

I'm thankful to work with our resourceful Educational Assistants. Particular student needs, along with large

Graduation and Year End Celebrations

On behalf of the board I would like to thank our membership for their support we have received as board members and would also like to thank you for the support you have continuously provide the school. Your involvement helps define our school and its culture and adds to the blessing it is to our children and to our community. We wish you a great end to the school year and relaxing summer. Also, please keep in mind that the grade 7 graduation is scheduled for Monday June 24th at 7:30 pm in the Langley Canadian Reformed Church building. Please come join us as we celebrate this occasion and the end of another successful year!

class sizes means that we do well to have a team of EAs here. Because of their commitment to student success, students and teachers alike benefit.

I'm thankful for our student body. Some students love reading. Some love writing. Some love drawing. Some love listening to stories. Some love numbers. Most love relationships with other students. Some love the structure of the classroom; others find the structure of the classroom harder to love. But they're all growing, learning, and maturing. It's a joy to welcome students to school, to greet them during the day, and to bid farewell at the end of the day. Students: you're the reason all the adults come to school every day. Enjoy another summer; we look forward to your returning in September.

I'm thankful to receive support and encouragement from parents and the supporting community. Thank you for your prayers for all the activities that go on in the school. Thank you for coming and sharing concerns, joys, or frustrations. Living together as community, and modeling and teaching the next generation to live together, can occasionally stretch and challenge us all. A few occasions on which it was particularly encouraging to see the parent and supporting community come together were Sports Day at McLeod Athletic Park, the May membership meeting, as well as the June 8 golf/gala festivities. Keep up the strong connection in future years!

I'm thankful for the traveling mercies staff and students experienced this past year. There were no significant accidents that the buses and parents experienced as

we traveled to and from school.

I'm thankful for the plethora of volunteers who routinely drop by. That includes our maintenance guys. There are moms who bring hot lunches courtesy of Credo Aid. There are classroom helpers. There are librarians. There are committee members. Thank you all.

Thank you, all, for your ongoing prayerful support for the work that goes on at Credo Christian Elementary School. May all this work bring praise to our Father in heaven.

For Your Consideration

Elsewhere in this *Branches* issue find a page from the Cascade Christian Counseling Association. I received permission from the association to include the page in this publication. Please take a few minutes to read it. Jan Bryant's article is very helpful for parents of school-age children. Particularly, her suggestions about how you might reduce stress on your children and enhance your children's mental health are worth consideration. Mike Ayers' article is also worth reading; enjoy and benefit!

There are some members in our community who have heavy burdens that they carry. Though we thank God that he gives the needed strength to carry such burdens, life can be very hard. In one of the Psalms of Asaph - Psalm 77 - the psalmist wonders if God will ever hear him. Then he reminds himself that he ought to meditate on the mighty deeds that God had previously done; such recollections will give him the strength to continue life's journey. Let's do the same when become bewildered. As there is occasion to come alongside especially those weighed down with difficulties, please capitalize on such an opportunity. We remember Neil and Heather's family as Neil's health declines; may God graciously provide. We remember Dave and Jac Spoor, who were suddenly saddened with the passing on of Dave's mother; we thank God for his provision in his time.

Never think that school is the primary place one learns. There are so many lessons to learn from all of life's experiences - whether in the home, on the road, at the campsite, in the books you read, at the summer camp, in church, or wherever you are - that we do well to deliberately always be in learning mode.

Please allow me to give one concrete suggestion in line with the thought of continuing learning during the summer months. Perhaps many families are already doing this - if so, great! Consider having everyone around the dinner table reading from individual Bibles - including children just learning to read. Everyone can

take turns reading a few verses at a time. Parents can gently correct reading mistakes. New / big / difficult words can be explained. Children can practice their reading aloud skills on a daily basis in a safe home environment. Open Bibles and reading along can foster children's attention skills and make a brief discussion about what was read a bit easier. Reading aloud - especially for young readers - helps comprehension. Consider the potential benefits of making individual reading part of your daily family devotions.

Next School Year

In preparation for next school year, you'll find a calendar of events. Please plan your family vacation time with school commitments in mind. You'll also find a list of supplies that students should have for the first day of school in September. Parents of older elementary students, note especially the line about getting binders which do not have a zipper around them; those binders won't fit on the classroom shelves. With regards to the instructional plan for the primary grades, the current plan is that:

- Leslie Scholtens (with the assistance of Lisa Vanderven) will teach the class of about 20 Kindergarten students.
- Mary Macdougall will spend the lion's share of her time teaching Language Arts to both halves (separately) of the very large first grade class and Language Arts to our second graders.
- Jennifer Onderwater (working almost full-time), Heather Dykstra, and Deb Minderhoud will share the remainder of the teaching responsibilities in the two Grade 1 classes and the one Grade 2 class. There will also be some EA presence. Perhaps it's helpful to add that there has been discussion and planning related to the possibility of personal circumstances preventing Heather from executing (some of) her responsibilities. Contingency plans have been developed. Because of this uncertainty, we'll have to hold off on confirming the exact plans for now.
- Stephen Chase (again with a limited role of Deb Minderhoud) will be in third grade.

Though this isn't part of the CCES plan, I should mention that the school will be poorer without Jessica deBoer on staff next year. She flexibly fit right back into the Credo routines, and served well in second grade. Wishing you the Lord's blessing in the future, Jess! I'm sure your gifts and passion will be much appreciated next year at John Calvin!

The instructional plan for the intermediate grades is quite similar to this year's. Of course, we need to say farewell to Jenn Harink in the Grade 6 classroom, and then enthusiastically welcome David Wu. It was a

Jenn-uine pleasure working with Ms Harink, and we wish her the Lord's continued blessing in her life. We appreciated your ability to customize your instruction for your students. I'm confident that Jenn will be much appreciated in the Neerlandia school community!

We also need to say farewell to Sarah Beintema, who is taking a departure from her role as Educational Assistant here. Sarah, we treasured how well you were able to work with so many students. Your empathy coupled with your quiet determination helped make you a valuable team player. We wish you and your growing family well in the future!

Signing Off

Farewell to the students who will not be returning in the fall. We hope that your experiences at Credo Christian Elementary School in the past years will serve you well as you continue your life of service in other educational institutions.

May the Lord watch over each of us as we look forward to a refreshing summer break! I look forward to welcoming everyone back to another year of learning on Tuesday morning, September 3!

Why I love teaching

Jerry Scholtens

As most of you know, I retired from teaching several years ago. I even received several going away gifts as I left. Many thought I was gone permanently. But what not too many of you may know is that as I retired it was always my intent to keep working on a part time basis for a few more years. So why would an old guy want to come back to Credo to spend time with 10 - 11 - 12 year-olds? That is not really such a difficult question. There are basically two reasons.

- Why Credo? This school has an atmosphere of togetherness. From the board, various committees, parent community, and the great staff, this school has always been like the perfect family, always cooperative, always helpful, always encouraging and just a wonderful place to be. The teamwork among teachers and support staff is unbelievable. Sure we do not always agree on this or that, but the atmosphere of professionalism and collegiality is hard to be matched by any other school.

- Why 10 - 11 - 12 year-olds? I must admit, there are mornings I do not feel like going to work. And yet, once I get here I feel glad to be here. Those 10 - 11 - 12 year-old students, so full of energy and zest for life, just invigorate me. They are the reason I love coming back time and time again. I know that at times the students' energy might be ill focused. But then again, aren't we all ill focused at times? Don't we all need a little help every now and again? So is it not wonderful to be able to be an instrument of God in the lives of those so full of zest, so full of energy, just waiting to blossom for their Maker?

I pray that God bless us all as we work together to train his children.

Looking for a great career? Try teaching, you just might like it!

Short Reports of Board Meetings

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School
April 8th, 2019

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Tim Bontkes, opened the meeting by reading from Ephesians 1:3-14 and prayer. He welcomed the Directors and Principal Otto Bouwman to the meeting. Ron Scheper was absent with notice.
- **Agenda Approval:** The agenda for the regular board meeting was approved.
- **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Report of the March 11, 2019 Board meeting were adopted.
- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** A letter was received from the Associate Member Society of FISABC confirming our membership in the newly constituted Society. This Society replaces the old Associate Member Group. One outgoing letter was sent to parents of a student.
- **Principal's Report:** Otto Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for April 2019 and provided updates on work being done to fill staffing vacancies for the 2019/20 school year.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for April 2019 was received for information. Tim Bontkes reported on his activities as chairman.
- **General Business:** A discussion was had on staff vacancies, and how to attract and retain teaching staff in the future. A number of bylaw revisions were approved for presentation to the membership. A motion to adopt the revisions will be presented at the May membership meeting.
- **Education Committee:** Erica Feunekes provided a positive report on a Term 2 school visit.
- **Fundraising Committee:** Roger Aikema reported that planning for the upcoming combined fundraiser is well underway.
- **Finance Committee:** Minutes of a recent Finance Committee meeting were submitted and reviewed. The income statement for March 31, 2019 was submitted and reviewed. The draft budget for the 2019/20 school year was presented and discussed.
- **Maintenance Committee:** Richard Welfing reported on work completed over the spring break which included installation of sound panels, pruning of the traffic circle and cleaning of the gutters. The updated 5-year plan was presented and discussed. The plan, which includes upgrades to the intermediate classrooms, will be presented at the May membership meeting for approval.
- **Ad-Hoc Valley Wide High School Planning Committee:** The final report, including executive summary and all appendices was received and discussed. The final recommendation of the committee was adopted by the Board and will be presented to the membership for vote at the May membership meeting.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** The Combined Boards meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2019. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2019. The May membership meeting is scheduled for May 29, 2019.
- **Closing:** Ian Moes 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
May 6th, 2019

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Tim Bontkes, opened the meeting by reading from John 14:1-14 and prayer. He welcomed the Directors and Principal Otto Bouwman to the meeting. Ron Scheper was absent with notification. Deanna VanDyke attended the meeting electronically.
- **Agenda Approval:** The agenda for the regular board meeting was approved.
- **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Report of the April 8, 2019 Board meeting were adopted. A previous Board decision to approve the CCHS budget was confirmed. A previous Board decision was confirmed to extend an offer of employment to David Wu to fill the Grade 6 teacher vacancy for the 2019/20 school year.
- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** An incoming letter from a parent of a student was received. A reply letter will be sent. A letter was received from the Shop Easy program regarding the sale of gift certificates from the front office. This matter will receive further review before implementation is approved.
- **Principal's Report:** Otto Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for May 2019 and reported on student matters and staffing and program delivery for 2019/20. A decision was made to extend an offer of employment to Kendra Vandergaag to fill the school secretary vacancy for 2019/20.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for May 2019 was received for information. Tim Bontkes reported on his activities as chairman.
- **General Business:** The record of the April 24, 2019 Combined Boards meeting was received for information. It was decided to work with the other school societies to research to what extent there may be potential benefits of membership with SCSBC. The revised Board Policy and Procedures manual was formally adopted for use by the Board. The agenda for the upcoming membership meeting was finalized.
- **Education Committee:** Minutes of a recent Education Committee meeting were submitted and reviewed. Roger Aikema reported positively on a recent school visit.
- **Fundraising Committee:** Roger Aikema provided an update on the upcoming Gala dinner and Golf tournament, and noted that the committee is looking into credit card processing for the event.
- **Finance Committee:** The income statement for April 30, 2019 was submitted and reviewed. The proposed budget for the 2019/20 school year was reviewed and approved for presentation to the membership. Minutes of recent Salary Committee meetings were received and reviewed.
- **Maintenance Committee:** Richard Welfing provided an update on the work of the Maintenance Committee and noted that planning work has started on the classroom upgrades that will be done over the summer. The committee is planning to do further landscaping work to clean up the traffic circle.
- **Special Education Committee:** Minutes of a recent Special Education Committee meeting were submitted and reviewed. It was noted that this will be the last meeting of the combined committee since the agreement with WO will dissolve at the end of the school year.
- **Public Relations:** It was decided to amend the Board's gift policy relating to gifts for years of service milestones for staff members.
- **Valley Wide High School Planning Committee:** Tim Bontkes reported that the committee is working on plans for the Information Evening and is currently finalizing the wording of the special resolution that will be voted on by the societies.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for June 10, 2019. The May membership meeting is planned for May 29, 2019.
- **Closing:** Roger Aikema offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Tim Bontkes closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Membership Meeting Minutes

Credo Christian Elementary School
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of
Credo Christian Elementary School
with the Membership
May 29, 2019 CCES Gymnasium

Opening and Welcome:

The Chairman, Tim Bontkes, welcomed all those present and opened the meeting. He requested the membership to sing Psalm 145 stanzas 1&4, read from Philippians 2:1-11, and followed with prayer. A quorum of members was present.

Agenda:

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the CCES membership meeting held October 24, 2018 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion to adopt the minutes as presented was seconded and carried by a show of hands.

Business arising from the Minutes:

- *Traffic Circle* - Plans are being made to address the landscaping in the traffic circle.
- *Driveway Exterior Lighting* - New exterior lighting was completed on the building. No further work is planned to install lighting on the driveway.
- *Parking Restrictions* - The Board worked with the Township of Langley to have the no parking sign in front of the neighbour's house moved one car length.

Valley Wide High School Review Committee Recommendation:

A short video presentation from the Valley Wide High School Review Committee was presented to the membership which highlighted the many positive aspects of the current high school.

The Chairman then gave the floor to Board member Ron Scheper who delivered a presentation on the work of the Valley Wide High School Review Committee. He reviewed the committee's mandate, explained the recommendation and what is being voted on, and outlined possible next steps of implementation with Phase 1 and Phase 2 proposed timelines.

After the presentation, an opportunity for questions was given. A number of questions from the floor were addressed and further clarification was provided.

After discussion, the Special Resolution was read to the membership in full (see Appendix A). A motion to

proceed with the vote was seconded and carried. The chairman requested the membership to fill out their ballots. The ballots were collected, and after due process, the Special Resolution carried with 97.2% of the vote (104 in favour, 3 against). A motion to destroy the ballots was carried by the membership.

CCES Operational and Capital Budget for 2019/2020:

The Chairman gave the floor to the Board Treasurer Ian Moes, to present the CCES Operational Budget for 2019/2020. The changes from the previous year were explained and the budget notes were further clarified. It was noted that Special Education budget is no longer separate from the Operational Budget, since the agreement with William of Orange will expire at the end of this school year. It was also noted that capital budget items have been removed and are reported separately.

An opportunity for questions from the floor was given. There were no further questions.

The Treasurer gave the floor to Board member Richard Welfing who presented an update on the 5-year capital plan and capital budget. Items included in the capital budget were explained along with proposed timelines for completion.

An opportunity for questions from the floor was given. There were no further questions.

A motion to accept the Operational Budget and the 5-year Capital Plan Budget for 2019/2020 as presented was seconded and carried by a show of hands.

Bylaw Amendments:

The Chairman gave the floor to Board member Ian Moes to present the proposed bylaw amendments which were previously circulated to membership. Each of the proposed amendments was presented and the rationale behind each of the changes was clarified.

An opportunity for questions from the floor was given. There were no further questions.

After discussion, the Special Resolution was read to the membership in full (see Appendix B). A motion to proceed with the vote was seconded and carried. The Special Resolution was carried unanimously by a show of hands.

Question Period: An opportunity for general questions from the floor was given

What will be the process for appointing members to the new committee? This will be the next step in the process and will likely happen quite quickly, but will require direction from all three Boards.

Thanksgiving Prayer: The membership was asked to sing Psalm 73 stanza 8. Community member Paul Sikma led in thanksgiving prayer.

Adjournment: The Chairman, Tim Bontkes closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

APPENDIX A:

Special Resolution of the members of the Canadian Reformed School Association of Langley, BC dated the 29th day of May, 2019.

Whereas:

- A. The Canadian Reformed School Association (operating William of Orange Christian School), the Canadian Reformed School Association of Langley, B.C. (operating Credo Christian Elementary School), the Canadian Reformed School Society of Abbotsford (operating John Calvin Christian School)(the "School Societies"), who together operate Credo Christian High School, established and instructed a committee to provide a report (the "Valley Wide High School Review Committee") to study the future of Reformed Christian schooling in the Fraser Valley, which report was delivered to the boards of the School Societies in March 2019 (the "VWHSRC Recommendation");
- B. The VWHSRC Recommendation suggested that the School Societies continue to work together operating a shared high school in Langley for a minimum of 5 years while middle schools are being implemented (Phase 1). At the same time, a new committee (the "Implementation Committee") will be actively preparing to move the high school to Abbotsford. This preparation will take place during years 6-10 (Phase 2), or beyond, depending on land availability and other variables. The Valley Wide High School Review Committee proposed that all required funds be raised through special fundraising efforts and dilution of capital assets, and not through tuition fees or operating budgets.
- C. The boards of the School Societies have each agreed to put the VWHSRC Recommendation before their respective memberships to obtain their direction with respect to the VWHSRC Recommendation; and
- D. While the final implementation of the VWHSRC Recommendation will require further resolution(s) of the members, the members wish to confirm the Society's commitment to the other School Societies to proceed with implementing the VWHSRC Recommendation to provide certainty for all of the School Societies

Now therefore, the members of the Canadian Reformed School Association of Langley, BC (the "Society") resolve, as a special resolution that, on condition that the other School Societies also approve these special resolutions:

1. The VWHSRC Recommendation is approved and adopted as the direction for the Society, in the interest of fulfilling and furthering the Society's mandate and purpose;
2. The board of directors of the Society is directed to take such steps as are necessary to commence with the implementation of the VWHSRC Recommendation, insofar as it requires the local action of the Society; and
3. The board of directors of the Society is authorized to enter into agreement(s) with the other School Societies, on such terms as the board considers reasonable and necessary, to confirm the Society's commitment to the implementation of the VWHSRC Recommendation.

APPENDIX B:

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Bylaws of the Society be amended by deleting Article 9.1 of the Bylaws of the Society in its entirety and replaced with:
 - 9.1 General meetings are held at the time and place that the Board determines. The annual general meeting shall be held not later than the last day of October in each year, at which meeting the Board shall give account of its administration and of the activities of the Society. Business conducted at a general meeting includes the election or appointment of directors, consideration of any financial statements, and consideration of any reports of the directors.
2. The Bylaws of the Society be amended by adding the following as Article 17:

Article 17 - Non-Profit

The Society shall be carried on without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other gains to the Society shall be used in promoting its purposes.
3. The Bylaws of the Society be amended by adding the following as Article 15.3:
 3. For clarity, on the winding-up or dissolution of the Society, the assets of the Society shall not be distributed amongst the members but, after all debts have been paid or provision for their payment has been made, the remaining assets shall be paid, transferred and delivered to one or more qualified donees as that term is defined in section 149.1(1) of the Income Tax Act.
4. Any one officer, director or agent of the Society is authorized to take all such actions and execute and deliver all such documentation required by the Societies Act and which are necessary or desirable for the implementation of this resolution.

Report from the Education Committee

Pearl Hoff and Deanna Van Dyke

At the beginning of the 2018/19 school year, we thanked Mandy Dewit and Wenda Sikma for their excellent work on the committee, and in their place welcomed Yvonne Jacobi and Jacoba Leyenhorst. In November, Brad VanOene joined to replace Mindert Deboer who resigned a year early due to his new role as elder. Our chair and board representative, Deanna Van Dyke, continued to lead our monthly meetings. Our meetings ran very smoothly, thanks in part to Otto's articulate Principal Reports and insights into the day to day happenings at CCES. We are also grateful for Jennifer Onderwater's willingness to act as our very proficient secretary. A special thanks to them both for their continued efforts, professionalism and involvement on the committee!

CURRICULUM REVIEW

This year the Education Committee decided the focus of the curriculum review would be Language Arts & Spelling. This tied in with the previous year's RCDC conference focus on Language Arts. At our September meeting, the committee was provided a summary of the staff Writing/Spelling Questionnaire from June 2018. This outlined what resources the teachers were currently using, the perceived effectiveness of both the writing and spelling programs in their classroom, consistency of approach between grades, and recommendations of other programs the staff encouraged our committee to look at.

Our committee was also provided yearly course outlines for each grade, current government curriculum requirements and feedback from WOCS, John Calvin, Langley Christian Elementary and Langley Fundamental on their current programs and effectiveness. Once again the object of this process was and is to offer recommendations to the board and staff which are based on a thorough review of the current practices and relevant materials used in Credo classrooms.

WRITING

The 6+1 Traits of Writing was the most common writing resource used by staff across most grades but teachers felt there was a need for more resources and consistent tracking between grades. The Orton Gillingham method was taught capably by Mrs. MacDougal. She is a licensed practitioner. Throughout our entire review we engaged with the staff for their feedback and very much appreciated their

contributions and insights. Both the staff and committee agreed to continue with the "6+1 Traits" teaching method as it was comprehensive and effective and to support the staff with extra resources to help teach this method effectively across the grades such as the "Reading Power Gear" resources by Adrienne Gear of Vancouver. The Orton Gillingham method would continue in grade 1 with the desire that more primary staff become familiar with this in the future.

SPELLING

Spelling receives good attention at Credo and is viewed as an important aspect of the Language Arts. Spelling is not currently taught in grade 6 & 7 but integrated into the overall Language Arts lessons. There were a variety of literacy resources being used including Orton Gillingham, Sitton and Words their Way. The staff were amenable to the idea of adopting a consistent approach throughout most grades and agreed to the "Words their Way" program currently being used in Grade 3 by Stephen Chase. It is based on many of the same philosophies of the Orton Gillingham method, such as identifying word patterns, which ties together nicely. Our committee acknowledges that the "Words Their Way" program is more labour intensive for staff to establish for their classroom but provides an individualized program for each student based on their level of ability.

The Education Committee would like to acknowledge that the recent changes in the Math and Bible curriculum during the last two years contributes to a substantial increased workload for the teachers. Therefore, we recommended the Language Arts & Spelling changes be implemented slowly and the staff have the training and resources required.

Since it is essential that teachers articulate a Christian worldview in their outlines and overviews we encouraged them to do continue to do this as well as formatting their outlines in alignment with the Ministry of Education sections of Rationale, Big Ideas, Curricular Competencies and Content.

At the conclusion of the school year a proposal of four recommendations was brought to the board for approval.

SOUND

The board also asked the committee to investigate

options for enhancing the quality of the sound in our classrooms. While this directly impacts our hearing impaired students, the committee understands that increasing any student's opportunity to hear clearly, from every area of the classroom, has significant positive impact on their learning. The FrontRow system used in Grade 2 has worked, but some key shortcomings had become obvious. After meeting with our expert consultant (Kathy Pompura) and researching a few options, it was decided to pursue purchase of a Phonak system. This system was implemented in Grade 7 and does a great job of syncing with the systems already used by our hearing impaired students. So far, the feedback has been very positive, so much so that more classrooms will receive this resource in the near future, with the assistance of Credo-Aid. In addition, the committee also monitored the installation of sound-deadening panels in the Kindergarten classroom. This too has been received with thankfulness, and has been deemed effective by the teachers.

Our committee reviewed the Library Committee minutes and thank the library volunteers for the great service they provide our children. We also assisted the

board in reworking the Interview Committee mandate for the revamped Board Policy Manual.

Every committee member was also privileged to visit CCES this school year and observe with a board member a glimpse of the CCES learning environment. Once again we were warmly received and there was evidence of how richly God has blessed our school. We continue to be thankful for Credo's hardworking Christian students, teachers and educational assistants, dedicated librarians and the efforts of our committed administration. But ultimately praise be to our Heavenly Father!

Looking ahead to next year, we welcome new agenda items as well as building on the importance of literacy by reviewing the Reading Curriculum at CCES. May God continue to bless the efforts of all who work and serve in our community. Hope everyone has a refreshing summer!

Micah 6:8 "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

From the Treasurer

Ian Moes

Yearly tuition fees run from September to August. The current fees are payable for July and August for all members -including those with graduating students and those who are relocating. The only exceptions are families with international students as these assessments are payable over ten months.

Fees for the upcoming school-year (2019/20) will remain the same in each tuition category according to the schedule below. Pre-Authorized Debits (PAD) will be adjusted to the new rates as of September 2019.

Kindergarten	320.00	Junior High (8-10)	695.00
Elementary (1-3)	530.00	Senior High (11-12)	745.00
Elementary (4-7)	550.00	Membership	125.00

Credo Aid Update....

What a great year it has been! Even though the year is not yet quite done, we can reflect back and see how God has blessed us through our fundraising efforts and enjoyed some community events.

So far, this is what our profits are at:

Ball Hockey Rumble:	\$4,276
Neufeld Farms X3:	\$3,899
Purdy's Chocolates:	\$928
Croquettes:	\$8,180

Do you notice a recurring theme here? hmm, food!

We are still waiting for a final total of the Credo Gala Fundraiser in which we will be sharing the profits with the golf tournament. Stay tuned for that! We have reached and surpassed our goals this year and we have you to thank for that! Especially, we would like to recognize the amazing skills and efforts put in by the awesome organizers who run these fundraisers! We appreciate all that you've done this past year on behalf of Credo Aid!

We were happy to serve our community as well. We made sure there was coffee and baking at the membership meetings, townhall meetings, grandparents day and speech contest. Thank you to

Credo Aid Shop Easy

A big thank you to our Shop Easy supporters who have helped raise over \$16,500.00 from Sept to May this year! Please consider supporting this ongoing fundraiser - we all need groceries and this is a great way to raise money for our schools. We have about 55 regular purchasers that support us monthly, plus a group from Manohah Manor and some businesses. We receive between 5-8% back for our grocery vendors...can you think of an easier way to fundraise?

Why not try out \$250 - \$500 per month, in gift cards, to your favourite grocery store. We aren't asking for your full grocery bill to be paid for in gift cards. We know you like to get some of the benefits with your credit cards as well! But, did you know that \$250 per month (12 months) would be a \$150 profit for Credo? The great thing is that \$250 didn't cost you anything because you would have spent it on groceries anyways :)

those who supplied baking and helped serve and clean up! We love you ladies!

Credo Aid supplied quite a few extras for the children - the biggest and most favorite would be all the field trips the kids went on and hot lunches served throughout the year! There was also skating day with hot chocolate and timbits, candy canes at Christmas, freezies on waterfight day and tons of treats on Sports Day (hotdogs and donuts and ring pops oh my!) There will also be one more treat on the last day of school!

Credo Aid will have the pleasure of blessing both the Elementary and Highschool with money allocated to items on their wishlists. We will keep you posted as to what we choose!

We also want to encourage everyone to keep up supporting the Shop Easy program - remember, it's our only source of outside money!

As we finish the year we want to express our gratitude to all those who have volunteered in some way in all the fundraising and serving efforts. Credo Aid can't do any of it without you! May God be glorified through it all! Have a wonderful summer!

Besides cheques, you can also call one of our reps and e-transfer for an order if that's easier...or you can be added to an email list for reminders about ordering each month. We would love to answer any of your questions, so just contact any of our reps and they will be happy to connect with you!

Langley: Deanna Van Dyke
deanna_wt@hotmail.com

Langley: Mary-Anne Vanderhorst
burkeandmaryanne@gmail.com

Aldergrove: Meagan Vandergriendt
meaganvdh@hotmail.com

Late Breaking News...

Golf Gala and Auction Fundraiser Update

Our marquee event on June 8 was a big success! We are so grateful to the supportive school community members, business sponsors, and local businesses who helped us raise a whopping net profit of \$46,500! A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Online and Silent Auction. We greatly appreciate your contributions to CCES and Credo Aid. We were thrilled to see the clear intention to 'give' made obvious by bids going above and beyond the value of items. We are happy to let you know that the Auction portion raised a total of \$16,699.25!

A big shout out goes to our Auction committee: Marilyn Vandeburgt, Lisa VanderVen and Sue Schouten for all the hard work of gathering, organizing and managing all the auction items. We'd also like to thank Cassidy VanOene for putting her artistic abilities to work and providing caricatures to our dinner guests. A huge thank you to the very

entertaining emcees Tom and Burke for the great laughs and running a tight ship on the timing of the evening. We also thank the fundraising committee for coming alongside us and giving their support especially with organizing financial details. We appreciate all your input Steve Leyenhorst and Roger Aikema.

And most of all we thank our heavenly Father for blessing us immensely with the freedom to educate our children in our school, for giving us the ability to financially sustain this gift, and blessing us with a community that is willing to work shoulder to shoulder to make it possible.

Sincerely,
Darren Leffers,
Diane denHollander,
Esther Vandergugten

Words of Welcome!

As a school society,
we would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to
Jared and Christina Bouwman
(Langley Canadian Reformed Church)
who recently became members.

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

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)

Supplies and Personal Items for September 2019

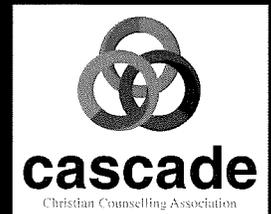
Primary Personal Items List for 2019-20	K	gr. 1	gr. 2	gr. 3
indoor shoes (NO LACES) (These are also gym shoes and should stay on firmly)	✓	✓	✓	✓
towel or blanket (no larger than a beach towel)	✓			
box of tissues	✓	✓	✓	✓
Intermediate School Supplies List for 2019-20	gr.4	gr.5	gr. 6	gr. 7
good quality 3 ring binder 1 ½" (not zippered)	1	2	2	2
looseleaf paper	✓	✓	✓	✓
binder dividers (pkgs)	✓	2	2	2
HB pencils	✓	✓	✓	✓
pencil sharpener, scissors	✓	✓	✓	✓
erasers	✓	✓	✓	✓
pencil crayons	✓	✓	✓	✓
blue or black pens, red pen	✓	✓	✓	✓
highlighter	✓	✓	✓	✓
white board markers	✓	✓		
glue stick	✓	✓	✓	✓
pencil case -no magnetic pencil holders	✓	✓	✓	✓
Math notebooks/quad ruled/spiral back (+ .5 cm squares preferred)			✓	✓
basic calculator			✓	✓
METRIC ruler	✓	✓	✓	✓
indoor (gym) shoes	✓	✓	✓	✓
box of tissues	✓	✓	✓	✓

School Calendar 2019-2020

August	24	Work Bee	
September	3	First day of school, Opening Assembly	10 am -church
	11	School photos	
October	11	Pro D Day	no school
	14	Thanksgiving Day	no school
	30	School membership meeting	
November	7, 8	Teachers' Convention	no school
	11	Remembrance Day holiday	no school
December	6	Report Cards	
	10, 12	Parent-Teacher Conferences	
	20	Last day before Christmas Break	
January	23–Jan 3	Christmas Vacation	no school
	6	School reopens	
February	14	Pro D Day	no school
	17	Family Day	no school
March	10	Report Cards	
	12	Student-Led Conferences	
	13	Student-Led Conferences	no school
	16-27	March Break	no school
	30	School reopens	
April	10	Good Friday	no school
	12	Easter Sunday	
	13	Easter Monday	no school
May		Public Speaking Contest	
		Sports Day	
		Kindergarten Orientation Day	
	14	Grade 8 Day	
	15	Pro D Day	no school
	18	Victoria Day	no school
	27	School membership meeting	
June	1	Track & Field Day Gr. 6 & 7	
	19	Last day, Report Cards, Closing Assembly	11 am -church
	22	Gr. 7 grad	church

CHILDREN, TEENS AND DEPRESSION

SPRING 2019



If you want to know if the kids are alright, the answer is about half of them are. Mental Health Statistics in Canada reveal that about 50% of our children show no mental distress, 30% have mental distress, 15% have a mental health problem and 5% have a diagnosed mental disorder. Of the 50% who are struggling, most of them have anxiety, depression or both.

Our children are quirky. When a child is stressed, or sleep deprived, or both, the added pressure can turn a quirk into a mental health issue. The child who lines up their stuffies or neatly organizes their rock collection can move towards Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. The child who is sensitive, cautious or watchful can move towards Anxiety Disorder. Your glass-half-full child can move towards Depressive Disorder. The main way to help your child retain their quirkiness is to make sure they are not exposed to too much stress and get sufficient sleep, especially in the teen years.

Your child may be depressed if they show some of these symptoms and they last longer than a month:

- Sad, irritable, crying, or angry more than usual, especially for “no reason”
- Little or no interest in previously enjoyed activities
- Withdraws from family and friends
- Negative thinking, only notices the bad things
- Changes in appetite and/or sleeping
- Tired or low energy, possibly slow moving
- Problems thinking, concentrating or making decisions
- Can't see their own positive qualities
- Blame themselves for things that are not their fault
- Feel like a disappointment or burden to others
- Feel numb, bored or empty
- Hopeless and feel that nothing will change

There are two basic kinds of depression: situational and biochemical. Your child may be depressed because of the situation they are experiencing: grief, loss, trauma, bullying, life or family or friend changes, moving or a school change. Children may be psychologically vulnerable to depression if they have poor coping skills, a negative world view, low self-esteem, or high or unrealistic expectations of themselves or others. If these factors affect your child, they can be taught skills to change this vulnerability. Sometimes depression is caused by a biochemical imbalance in the brain that can be caused by genetic factors, the 9 year change or puberty or being 15,

thyroid issues, anemia, chronic pain, injury or disability, ADHD, an anxiety or eating disorder and the use of drugs, particularly marijuana, opioids or alcohol.

In the big picture, you can best help your child by taking God's perspective: “You are loved absolutely, completely and unconditionally. There is nothing you could do or not do that would change the way I feel about you.” A child thrives when there is Secure Attachment. They trust you and confide in you, see you as safe, clear, consistent and predictable. They feel that you get them and love them no matter what. The second factor is Secure Functioning. The home environment in which they live is headed by fully functioning adults that work together well, and there is love, support, laughter, dignity and security in family life.

Specifically you can reduce stress on your child and enhance their mental health by:

- Keep it real: personal and private things should be talked about in person, not online.
- Don't give your kids smartphones, iPads or computers. You can own one yourself and lend it to your child but children who “own” these devices and have unlimited access to the internet have access to too much information which increases stress and temptations.
- If you think your child needs a phone for safety reasons, only have phone and texting functions, not internet access.
- Keep your kids off Social Media. It is a huge distraction and the constant flow of gossip and personal information has very negative effects. If you think they are old enough to be on it, you should have complete access to all their accounts and check them regularly.
- Don't let your children watch the (mostly bad) news on TV. The images stay in their minds and cause distress and they can't do anything about most of these situations. Reading or talking about the news is fine if the subject is appropriate.
- Limit what they watch on the TV, computer and the games they play. Watch with them.
- Avoid telling young children about all the terrible ways we have wrecked their planet. Children as young as 9 can have “Environmental Depression” where they are so discouraged about the future of our planet that they feel life is hopeless and pointless.
- Go play outside. Often. Give children their “wildhood” back. Ramble, wander, investigate, discover, breathe, enjoy. They need to learn to love God's creation before we ask them to save it.

Continued next page

- Strictly limit structured extracurricular activities. Most are led by adults and your child is required to listen, learn and perform. I recommend no more than two activities.
- Stay out of the car as much as possible. It is a moving box of stress.
- Give your children lots of opportunities to be creative and build imagination. "Imagination is more important than knowledge" – Albert Einstein
- SLOW EVERYTHING DOWN. If your child had a physical fever, you would put them in a quiet place to rest and reduce stimulation so they could recover. If your child has a "soul fever" you need to do the same. Pull back, shut off, slow down, stay close.
- Listen and empathize. Don't try to cheer your child up or tell them they shouldn't feel what they are feeling. Help

them strategize about problem solving instead of telling them what to do.

- If your child is struggling, get help. The longer a mental health problem goes unresolved in childhood, the more neural pathways are built that make it harder to turn it around.

A great resource for parents is www.keltymentalhealth.ca. They also have resource centres around the province and run workshops on supporting your children and teens. For teens www.foundrybc.ca is a website that gives teens information about mental health.

**Jan Bryant, BA, LLB, M.Ed, CCC
Contract Counsellor, CCCA**

THE DIVINE NATURE OF TURNING TOWARDS

I have a master's degree in marriage and family therapy and specialize in relationship issues. Do you want to know a concept that blew my mind during my studies, changed my personal relationship paradigm, and is a concept that I still regularly refer to in counselling couples today?

The concept is that of "Turning Towards" developed by Dr. John Gottman. This concept can not only transform your intimate relationship, but also has the power to transform your relationship with your kids and every other person that you interact with.

Gottman says that couples (and people) are constantly making "bids" towards one another. You can think of a bid like a fisherman who casts his line into the water, with every cast he is hoping a fish will bite. The same is true of relational bids. When someone throws out a relational bid, they are hoping for a bite. For example: if someone throws out a bid by telling a joke, they are hoping you will laugh, if someone throws out a bid for physical touch, they are hoping you will touch them back, and if someone throws out a bid for connection, they are hoping you will respond!

How can we know when someone is throwing out a relational bid? Basically, EVERY TIME a person interacts with us, they are throwing out some sort of bid. So whenever a person interacts with us, we can ask ourselves, "What bid is this person trying to put out there?" Gottman says there are three different responses to a bid that a partner can make: Turning Towards, Turning Away, or Turning Against. Your response to your partner's bid will determine your relational temperature.

Couples who Turn Towards each other's bids consistently will experience a WARM relationship, characterized by respect, admiration, care, and love. Couples who Turn Away from each other's bids consistently will experience a COLD relationship, characterized by distance and feeling alone. Couples can live this way, but their relationship will be more like roommates than like partners. Couples who Turn Against each other's bids consistently will experience a HOT relationship, characterized by hostility and aggression.

Psychologists refer to the phenomenon of "Fight or Flight." This is a natural reaction to threat. We are flooded with adrenaline and cortisol (a stress hormone) in order to either fight against the threat or flee away from it. Thus, Turning Against (Fight) and Turning Away (Flight) are natural human reactions to threat and criticism, so Turning Towards is a divine response. God does not turn his face away from us when we sin, nor does he instantly turn against us. Instead, God shows his love for us by turning towards us whenever we call out, even if we call out in pain or fear.

You can improve every relationship you have by seeking to Turn Towards the bid a person is making towards you. Even if we can't meet the bid a person is making, if we still acknowledge the bid and our desire to meet the bid in the future, that in itself is still Turning Towards the person. Turning Towards is a tangible way of showing the divine love of God to another person, and especially to your partner.

**Mike Ayers, M.A., RCC
Contract Counsellor, CCCA**



Kindergarten Grad

Date: Thursday, June 20 @ 2:00
pm

Location: Langley Canadian
Reformed Church

Relatives and friends are
welcome!

Refreshments to follow

Closing Assembly

Please join us on

Friday, June 21, 2019
at
11:00 pm

in the Langley
Canadian Reformed Church

Graduation!

Please join us in celebration of the
CCES Grade Seven Graduation
Monday, June 24 at 7:30 p.m.
Langley Canadian Reformed Church

Carson Robert Bisschop

Ryan Bontkes

Hendrik Jacob Bredenhof

Russell Peter De Boer

Caleb Isaiah Dewit

Jesse John Hofsink

Karolien Wilhelmina Hummelman

Caitlyn Jane Huttema

Jaina Nam-hee Kang

Austin Leyenhorst

Paul Jacob Leyenhorst

Krista Darlene Lof

Michaela Renee Luiten

Robin Isabella Luiten

Justin Cole Saide

Gideon John Scholtens

Carl Anthony Van Dyke

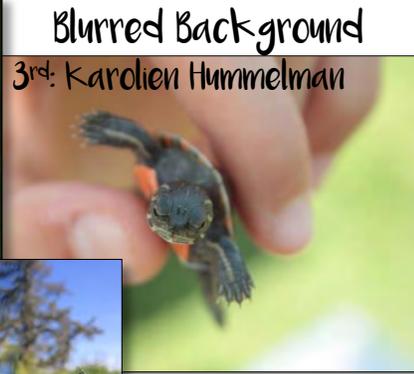
Sara Janae Vandeburgt

Lauren Joanna Monique VanRhee

Myles Lucas Vantil

Photography Project

Grade 7 practiced photography in art class. These are the winning pictures of the contest that was held.



Joy!
in an inanimate object

