



Volume 19 Issue 7
Mar. 6, 2008

BRANCHES

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

from the Chairman....



Paul Schouten

Good day to all the readers of this magazine. That you are reading must mean that you have some interest in the happenings at CCES and we are really quite happy to hear that.

It's Monday evening, another day of rain and cold is almost over and we look forward to the rest of the week. Hopefully it warms up a little!

The days of this school year are passing by ever so quickly. It seems that they go quicker once the month of March is here. Perhaps because now is also the busiest time of Board activity.

However, because the days seem to go quicker does not mean we do not have a good sense of God's grace and love at CCES. Each day again the Principal, teachers and staff at CCES have been encouraged and strengthened through God's great love to carry on. It seems that all things concerning education at CCES are moving along smoothly and without great hurdles. Soon, March 17 - 28, spring break is here. A little time of rest and relaxation for all and then back for the final hurdle to the end of another school year.

The Board hopes that the students, Principal, teachers and staff have a terrific spring break and that they come back refreshed and re-charged to continue for another three months or so to the year end. Relax and enjoy!

As to Board matters.....

Interviews of possible teachers and T.A.'s have taken place. A proposal was presented to the Board on the 4th of March and we hope and pray that those being offered a position will accept. Acceptance means that we will have our complement of teachers in place for the 2008/09 school year. We hope to update you in the next issue of Branches.

The budgeting process for 2008/09 is still in "DRAFT" mode. By this time next month we hope to have all the data and numbers together to complete the budget for presentation to the membership. ***As we (and we're sure also you) greatly appreciate quorums, we think it would be great of you to pencil in May 28th for a membership meeting. Thank you! Merci! Bedankt!***

We would also like to remind the membership to work at keeping their tuition and membership fees current. The treasurer and bookkeeper do really brighten up when they receive your cheque as it keeps the salaries and bills paid.

The Development Committee is again gearing up for spring time activity, mainly the golfathon. I'm sure that you'll be hearing more from them over the next while. Keep you eyes glued to *Branches* for

updates. The Development Committee is a busy committee. They see to it that everyone knows what it takes to become a member of the CCES School Society, what the benefits are of supporting CCES and what obligations there are with that. They contact our church community members in all age groups starting with college and careers and up. They really do a remarkable job. As a school member, feel free to help them by encouraging those who are not to become members of CCES.

Although we mention the Finance and Development Committees that does not mean the other committees are not active. Far from it, the work continues diligently month by month by eager Board and committee members.

Soon we will again remember and celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. That awesome sacrifice made on

our behalf so that we could again stand righteous before our God and King. As we remember that sacrifice may we all be strengthened to more clearly show ourselves to be God's people, redeemed from sin, being courageous and strong in our witness to those around us in all our activities of life. To Him, the triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit belongs the power, the dominion and the glory forever. May that truth also continue to manifest itself in the instruction of our children at Credo Christian Elementary School.

We thank you all for your continued support of and prayers for CCES.

Rejoice and be glad in Him for it is He, our God and our Father, who has made it possible to have this school!



Principal's Report



John A. Roukema

This weekend the students could share their Student Achievement Report Cards with their parents. We certainly hope that this sharing promoted interactive dialogue and understanding. Certainly the students are looking forward to showing their school work to their parents on either Thursday or Friday of this week, when the Parent-Student Conferences are scheduled. The first P-S Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, March 13, from 3:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The remaining conferences are scheduled for Friday, March 14, from 9:00 a.m. to about noon.

What will the conference experience be like? As parents and their children enter their respective classrooms, they will notice that there will be at least two other conferences going on. The student will be conferring with her/his parents, explaining by means of materials in a portfolio what (s)he has learned, and giving them an assessment of the school year to date. While these conferences are going on, the teacher will take a backseat, so to speak; that is, he or she will be in the classroom (probably at her desk), ready to give support and encouragement, but not be actively involved in the conference. Parents wishing additional information may request that some time after the conferences. Depending on the nature or scope of additional information requested, some of that may be obtained while the conferences are in session. To help parents along with these conferences we included in the Report Card envelope some materials for them to look over before attending the conference: Notice to Parents, Portfolio Presentation Prompts, and a Parent Response Form. Such interaction with your child will no doubt enhance the parents' understanding of their child's education and progress.

What's in it for the child, you may wonder? We think much is. A student-involved conference is a presentation of a student's work or learning to his/her parents. During the school year, students prepared for this conference by developing their

portfolios, evaluating their work and setting personal goals for learning. Each student has been building up a portfolio or scrapbook of his/her work. A portfolio or scrapbook is a collection of work done in the various subject areas and organized into a scrapbook or file folders of various shapes and sizes - much like we have been doing in the past years. The portfolio will also contain reflective writings by the student on his/her performance and on the achievement of goals. At the conference the child will explain to his/her parents the work done and expected and the goals achieved, and ask you to comment on his/her progress. By having students actively involved in the conference, they will:

- assume responsibility for reporting progress to their parents
- learn to collaboratively set goals with you and their teacher for further learning
- be accountable for the work they produce and the quality of that work
- develop good communication and leadership skills
- be able to show parents first hand some of the many learning activities they are involved in at school.

Some of you may be wondering what to do with those children in school not in conference with them. Rest assured that a babysitting service will be provided for those children in the gym, but only during the duration of your attendance for conferences. But be reminded that the baby-sit will be for school-children only; that is, no pre-school children.

One other reminder: While Friday, March 14 is considered an instructional day, students come to school ONLY for their respective conferences.

Several applications for the teaching vacancies have been received. The Board's Interview Committee spent one evening interviewing these applicants and at its March 4, 2008 Board Meeting approved the Committee's

recommendation to offer the grade 3 teacher position to Mrs. Kathy Noort. Mrs. Noort has accepted this offer.. Mrs. Noort is completing her Teacher Education Program at the University College of the Fraser Valley.

We are very happy with the response we received from our call to help supervise the school playground during lunch hours. Four volunteers have signed up for this. Thanks so very much!.

We are also very happy with the Credo Aid! They have just informed us that will help us out in several areas of concern to us. Allow me to list some items:

- Carpet rugs for the K and Grade 1 classrooms
- Booster Seats. As you may remember, effective Sept., 2008 all children under 80 lbs or younger than 8 years of age will need a booster chair for automobile travel.
- Physical Education equipment - extra money for the purchase of more equipment
- Replacing the Playground Center, hopefully this summer.
- Credo Aid also covered the costs for the Judy, the Manners Lady, and the Canadian Half-Pints presentations.

The staffs of John Calvin School, Yarrow and CCES, Langley discussed and formatted Reporting Student Achievement documents during our March 7, 2008 Professional Development Day. This is in response to BC Ministry of Education requirements for Student Reporting. Changes have been made at the Ministry level and Ministry Orders have been circulated to apprise us of the required changes. We also tried to learn how these changes have been formatted on the BCeSIS computer program and consequently implement that system. This will imply incorporating learning descriptors onto the Report Card and consideration of a variety of assessment methods.

In other words, our Report Card will need to be much more criterion-referenced than norm-referenced. Criterion-referenced assessment is assessment of student work based on criteria (or learning outcomes, or learning descriptors) for that grade level in that particular subject. Norm-referenced assessment,

on the other hand, is based on what the norm of the class is at in particular subject area. Hopefully we can produce an acceptable format of reporting student achievement before the new school year begins.

On April 2, David Wiles is scheduled to visit our school. Dr. Wiles is associated with the Science World's "Scientists & Innovators in the Schools" (SIS) program. This program sends volunteer scientists to classrooms throughout BC to:

- provide hands-on science presentations
- bring excitement of science into elementary classrooms

These visits are free of charge thanks to the support of the Ministry of Education (MOE). On April 2, Mr. Wiles will do presentations to two class rooms (grade 4 & 5) in the morning; two (gr. 6&7) in the afternoon. Presentations are BC Ministry of Education Science Curriculum related.

Recently we informed you of a change in location for our school web site -right next to the CCHS site. Thanks to the CCHS staff Mr. Vanderhoek and Mr. Vanderven for their assistance in the transfer and ongoing tech support! Along with the move, there have also been some changes to the format. Because the new site is much easier to update and modify, it will become a much more useful communication channel between home and school. We could like to see just how well the information flow worked by the response to our request to use the web site form to select options for the upcoming Student-Parent Conferences. You will also find a form for Transportation Registration for 2008/09 which needs to be completed by all families wishing to use the bus or take advantage of receipt or tuition reduction options for their elementary school-aged children. You will find the form in the "Parents" section at www.credoces.org (the URL is unchanged if you already had it bookmarked.)

Another feature will be news updates. School closures will be posted on the site as soon as the information is available. You can also check out the progress of recently completed "Change for a Change" fundraiser. Of course, all the usual information such as *Branches* and *leaflets* is posted for you convenience.

We are considering a photo gallery of events that have taken place around the school. These photos will be displayed in a password protected section so that the general public does not have access to them. (We'll share the access information when there is actually something to see.) If you have digital photos of recent events that you would like to share, please contact the school. Parents who do not wish to have pictures of their children included should inform the school office.

Finally, our March Break starts on Monday, March 17 and ends on Friday, March 28. Note that Good Friday, Easter, and Easter Monday are also included in that span of days. We hope that the students and the teachers have a relaxing break in the regular routine and that with renewed strength and vigour they can resume their tasks as we work through the final lap of the school year, starting Monday, March 31

Short Reports of Board Meetings

Short Report of the meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School Tuesday January 8, 2008

Opening: The chairman P.J. Schouten opened the meeting with reading from Psalm 89: 1-18 and prayer. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. W. Nordeman was absent with notification.

Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was approved as presented.

Minutes and Short Report: The Minutes and Short Report of the December 11, 2007 meeting were approved.

Incoming Correspondence: A letter was received regarding the writing of short reports. P. Sikma and P.J. Schouten will review and deal with at the next meeting. An email was received from Br. John Dykstra with a preview of the next Reformed Perspective Editorial re: 'Terry Fox Run'.

Outgoing Correspondence: A letter was sent to parents in response to their letter dated November 26, 2007. A letter was sent to parents regarding the cancellation of their membership

Principal's Report: The Principal's report

was discussed. Miata Tamba was welcomed to the school. Grandparents' Day is scheduled for January 25, 2008. (Covenant Canadian Reformed Teacher's College) practicum: Sister J. Broersema is scheduled for her session from Feb 4 - 22, 2008 with M. Van. A Professional Development day is scheduled for February 8, 2008. The Board reviewed the Terry Fox Run fundraiser. It was brought to the Board's attention that the money raised in the TFR could possibly be used for funding embryonic stem cell research via the National Cancer Institute of Canada. The Board came to the conclusion that the concerns expressed were sufficient to come up with suggestions for a different fundraiser. This matter will be discussed further at the next Principal's meeting, and J. Roukema will make a report then.

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee held a meeting January 8, 2007, prior to the Board Meeting. Delinquent accounts were discussed. Letters were sent to serious arrears cases. A report from the Finance committee on the Initiation and Reserve Policies will be distributed prior to the February Board meeting for review. The Salary Committee Report was reviewed.

Development Committee: Next meeting scheduled for February 6, 2008.

Transportation rep Report: The minutes of the October 1, 2007 meeting were reviewed. More Drivers are needed. A question was asked whether the CCSTA advertises for new drivers in our Canadian Reformed Churches. Yes they do

Maintenance Committee: The Maintenance Committee met on January 7, 2008. The motor on the heater for the gymnasium broke down and was replaced. The committee is busy with budget concerns and will report soon.

Other Committee Reports (RCDC/CB's/CCP/RPDCS/FISA): The (Reformed Curriculum Development Committee) and (CCRTC) minutes were reviewed and filed. Items for next board meeting: Preliminary draft budget. Adoption of 08/09 salary schedule.

Question Period: There was discussion on the contacting of Non-Canadian Reformed CCES members. Non- Canadian Reformed members should be contacted once a year to confirm that they are members in good standing in their respective churches as well as to confirm that they are receiving Branches/Leaflets from the school.

Next Meeting: - February 12, 2008.

Thanksgiving and Prayer: - E. Visscher closed in prayer.

Adjournment: - P.J. Schouten adjourned the meeting.

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School February 12, 2008

Opening: The Chairman P.J. Schouten opened the meeting with reading Psalm 95 and prayer. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. V.Stel was absent with notification.

Agenda: The Agenda was approved with some additions.

Approval of Minutes and Short Report: Motion: "to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2008 meeting as presented" was made. Minutes and short report were approved.

Matters from the Minutes: The letter regarding the writing of short reports was discussed. Improvements that can be made were noted and implemented.

Incoming Correspondence: A letter was received from WofO concerning Special Education.

Outgoing Correspondence: Letter to the staff regarding the board's acceptance of the ad-hoc Salary Committee Report.

Principal's report: The Principal's report as

received prior to the meeting was discussed. Sister J. Broersema's practicum is going well. Grandparent's day was a success. It was noted that there were four Great Grandparent's in attendance. The Terry Fox Run support was discussed. J. Roukema gave a brief history of the event. The Principals discussed this and decided to look into alternative fundraising opportunities. H. Moes and J. Roukema will review this matter for next school year. The RCDC decided it would be beneficial for J. Roukema to attend the Understanding by Design Conference for curriculum design, from March 12-14 and the board agreed.

Chairman's report: The Chairman's report as received prior to the meeting was discussed. He encouraged all board members to continue to carry out their tasks. The Combined Board accepted the Combined Board's report. P.J. Schouten talked about our responsibilities with regards to budget preparations. The minutes of the February 6, 2008 Chairman/Principal's meeting were received and filed. P.J. Schouten will call P. Torenvliet for an update from RPDC (Reformed Professional Development Committee).

Education Committee: The minutes of the December 5, 2007 and January 23, 2008 meetings were reviewed. The Education Committee recommended hiring a FTE TA for

Grade one. There is also a good possibility we will require ¼ FTE kindergarten teacher. The board directed the Edcom to try to establish a combined system of TA usage between the Grade one and kindergarten needs. Playground supervision was discussed. More adult supervision is needed during recess and lunch hours as the Government is quite concerned with safety during these times. The Edcom will place an urgent appeal in Branches for volunteers and will also look into the possibility of using high school students. The letter regarding requirements in memory work Curriculum was discussed. CCES currently uses Book of Praise and Bible text memorization. J. Roukema will ascertain the ratio of Psalms/Hymns to Bible texts in the curriculum and report back at the next board meeting.

Finance Committee: The minutes of the January 8, 2008 and February 5, 2008 meetings were reviewed. Preliminary draft budget/Reserve Policy and Support Staff tabled to next meeting. Initiation Fee Policy: Motion was made " to amend point 2 of the Initiation Fee Policy to read 'have paid a minimum of \$3,000.00 prior to the enrollment of their first child into Grade 1 and that donations given to CCES for specific purposes will not be applied to the initiation fee amount'. " Motion was seconded and approved. The Ad-hoc Salary Committee Report was accepted on January 23, 2008 by the CCES Board at a special board meeting called after the Combined Board's meeting.

Development Committee: The minutes of the February 6, 2008 as handed out prior to the meeting was discussed. College and Careers Bible study was visited. E. Kuntz will be instructed to hand out "Branches" to all communicant members in Langley/Willoughby and Aldergrove churches. Non-Canadian Reformed families were contacted. Positive feedback was received.

Transportation rep report: The minutes of the December 3, 2007 meeting were discussed. They have enough drivers now. The CCSTA AGM was held on Dec 3, 2007. B. Onderwater will get a copy of the 06/07 financial statements to V. Stel.

CCHS rep report: The CCHS proposal regarding renovations and additions was discussed.

Special Education Committee report: The minutes of the February 6, 2008 meeting were discussed. The SpEd budget was reviewed.

Maintenance Committee: The minutes of the January 7, 2008 meeting as received prior to the meeting were discussed. Security system has been updated. M. Stam was thankful for the good cooperation from all the Maintenance Committee members.

Other Committee Reports (RCDC/CB's/CCP/RPDC/FISA/CCRTC): The January 10, 2008 Short Report from the CCRTC was received and filed. Sister J. Deglint will make report on this.

New business: Golf Tournament Funds: J. Roukema to discuss with staff. Graduation Gifts: We will continue to give NIV Study Bibles.

Items for next board meeting: Draft Budget for 2008/09. AGM agenda. Staff appointments for 2008/09

Question period: Admittance Policy Review: R. Vandenberg will have this ready for the next meeting.

Next meeting: March 4, 2008. Next combined board meeting scheduled for April 23, 2008. The AGM is scheduled for May 28, 2008.

Thanksgiving and prayer: W. Nordeman closed in prayer.

Adjournment: P.J. Schouten adjourned the meeting.

Credo Aid Update



Sports Mini-Camps: We are offering 2 sports mini-camps during Spring Break. Tuesday March 25 - basketball; Thursday March 27 - volleyball. These will run from 9:30am to 12:00pm and are open to students in grades 4-7. Cost is \$3 per camp, which will include a small snack and a drink. To register call Shauna @ 604.514.9805. Each camp is limited to 25 kids, so please register soon to avoid disappointment!

Certificates: Please contact Shauna @ 604.514.9805 or fill in the form to order. Stock up before Spring Break! If you haven't tried this wonderful, easy fundraiser yet, what are you waiting for? If you already participate, is there someone else you can think of who might be interested? Thank you!

Amazing Race: The Amazing Race is coming to Langley again and this year it's Ladies Only. So mark your calendars for the evening of April 19 and get your team of two women registered. To register, to volunteer or for more information contact Yvonne Onderwater (bycrv@shaw.ca or 604-532-0138) or Yolanda Hoogstra (ghoogstra@hotmail.com or 604-888-4698).

Babysitting Course: This course will once again be offered this spring on Saturday, April 26. Please contact Hilary Vandergugten @ 604.856.3375 to register. Cost is \$35.00, and the course is open to ages 11 and up.

Volunteers Needed: We are looking for a few individuals to help with the planning and organizing of the Mother's Day Breakfast in May. This is a large event to organize but a wonderful opportunity for the school community to gather. Are you able to help? Please call Hilary @ 604.856.3375 as soon as possible.

School Calendar Update



| | | | |
|-------|----|---|--------------------------------------|
| March | 13 | - | Parent-Student Conferences (evening) |
| | 14 | - | Parent-Student Conferences (all day) |
| | | | last day before March Break |
| | 21 | - | Good Friday |
| | 24 | - | Easter Monday |
| | 28 | - | last day of March Break |
| | 31 | - | first day back after March Break |
| April | 2 | - | Scientist in the Classroom |
| | 8 | - | Board Meeting |
| | 25 | - | Easter/Spring Concert |



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 e-mail cces@telus.net
 web site: www.credoces.org

Board of Directors

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Mr. P. Schouten (2009) | Chairman |
| Mr. M. Stam (2010) | Vice Chair/Maint. |
| Mr. V. Stel (2008) | Treasurer |
| Mr. Paul Sikma (2009) | Secretary |
| Mr. W. Nordeman (2008) | SpEd |
| Mr. R. Onderwater (2008) | CCSTA |
| Mrs. R. Vandenberg (2009) | CCHS |
| Mr. E. Visscher (2010) | Development |

Education Committee

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Mr. W. Nordeman | Mrs. M. Aikema |
| Mrs. J. Onderwater | Mrs. W. Sikma |
| Mrs. C. VanDelft | Mrs. C. Visscher |
| Mr. J. Roukema | Mrs. N. VanRhee |

Development Committee

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Mr. E. Visscher | Mr. Paul Sikma |
| Mr. D. Huttema | Mrs. F. Jansen |
| | Mrs. M. Scholtens |

Special Education Committee

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Mr. W. Nordeman | Mrs. T. Visscher |
| Mrs. W. VanderHoek | Mr. J. Roukema |
| | Mrs. D. Huttema |

Finance Committee

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Mr. V. Stel | Mr. M. Stam |
| | Mrs. E. Kuntz |

Maintenance Committee

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Mr. M. Stam | Mr. R. Wieggers |
| Mr. J. Roukema | Mr. C. Vanderhorst |
| Mr. D. MacKay | Mr. Phil Sikma |

Staff

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Mr. J. Roukema | Principal, Gr. 5 |
| Mrs. J. Onderwater | Kindergarten |
| Ms. L. Scholtens | Kindergarten |
| Mrs. M. MacDougal | Grade 1 |
| Mrs. D. Vanderboom | Grade 2 |
| Mr. G. Scholtens | Grade 3 |
| Mr. M. Van | Grade 4 |
| Miss R. Vanderhorst | Grade 6/7 |
| Mrs. T. Visscher | SpEd, LA |
| Mrs. D. Huttema | SpEd, LA |
| Mrs. S. Allison | Grade 5/6,7 PE |
| Mrs. E. Smith | Music |
| Mrs. L. Vanspronsen | Grade 5 |
| Miss A. Dekker | TA |
| Mrs. A. Devries | SEA |
| Mr. D. Rolleman | SEA |
| Mrs. E. Kuntz | Secretary |
| Mr. & Mrs. J. Dewit | Custodians |

Credo Aid

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Mrs. H. Vandergugten | Mrs. M. Ezinga |
| Mrs. W. Sikma | Mrs. M. Vandeburgt |
| Mrs. J. VanSpronsen | |

Fee Structure 2007-2008

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Membership | 100.00 |
| Kindergarten | 220.00 |
| Elementary (1-3) | 400.00 |
| Elementary (4-7) | 420.00 |
| Junior High | 540.00 |
| Senior High | 590.00 |

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| CCSTA office | 604-543-0890 |
| Dave Champ (cell) | 604-603-0890 |