



# BRANCHES



Jocelyn Gr.4/5

## Book Week Winners!

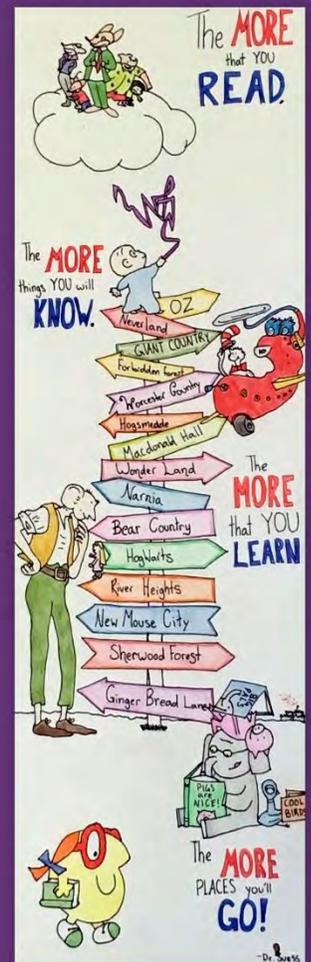


Jenna K/1



Lucy Gr. 2/3

Jaina Gr. 6/7



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Volume 31  
Issue 5  
Mar. 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.



**REGISTER  
NOW**

*It's never too early to plan for an  
afternoon of golf in aid of a great cause!*

**ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT CREDO AID AND CREDO CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

# **ANNUAL CCES GOLF TOURNAMENT**



Date: June 8, 2019 from 12:00-5:00 PM

Where: Poppy Estates Golf Course

Entry Fee: \$150

Registration & Lunch: 12:00 PM

Tee Off: 12:45 PM

*Entry fee includes green fee, snacks, prizes  
and dinner. Bring cash for on course games.*

*All ages & all skills welcome!*

Dinner and silent auction to follow at  
Aldergrove Canadian Reformed Church

Doors open: 6:15 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Suggested dinner donation is \$40  
*entry fee includes dinner*

**TO REGISTER:**

Darren Leffers (604) 866-1300

Diane den Hollander (778) 956-9279

Esther Vandergugten (778) 878-6065

## ***From the Principal....***

Otto Bouwman

The Lord's faithfulness has been evident again in recent weeks: "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." Though many of us love the mild and gentle weather here in the Fraser Valley in January and February, there are also many of us who find some measure of biting cold wind and snow invigorating and enjoyable (for a while) as well. It appears that this winter "winter" is at least a few weeks long, and resulted in us missing, thus far, two days of school.

The winter weather enabled circumstances to come together on Thursday afternoon, February 14, and the end result was that Benjamin Bisschop was carried off the playing field on a stretcher by ambulance attendants. After school that day the staff gathered together in prayer, thanking God for preserving life and for emergency care providers, and commended Benjamin to his Father's care. A week later Benjamin was rolled back into the school - now in his wheelchair - and answered a plethora of questions from his inquisitive friends; they wondered what life was like with a broken femur in one leg and a broken tibia in the other.

Through it all, we are reminded of our human frailty and of our Father's care and provision. He will guide each of us - individually and corporately - according to his plan. He has also promised to demonstrate his faithfulness in the steady changing of the seasons. As is captured in that favorite hymn:

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Early in the morning of Saturday, February 16, Harold and Alyson Winkelaar were able to welcome their son, whom they named Hendrik Will Winkelaar. Also from this place, Harold and Alyson: Congratulations! May the Lord strengthen you and enable you to experience much joy as you raise this precious covenant child to our Father's glory.

### **Update**

The previous paragraph begs the question: "How are

things going at Credo - especially without Alyson?" Again with gratitude: things are going well! Without hardly skipping a beat, the transition in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade from Mrs. Winkelaar to Mrs. Jessica Deboer has been very smooth. Jessica is an experienced teacher and fits very nicely back in with Credo staff. It's a pleasure to have you on staff here, Jessica!

February 14<sup>th</sup> was a special day at school. Seeing the students crowd around the front entrance bulletin board, searching for the little heart with a personalized message from their parents, was just heartwarming. Thank you, Mrs. Spoor, for your coordination in arranging this beautiful display. One little joy I observed that morning: one of the students looking for valentines of his siblings..... witnessing such quiet little evidences in the students of love for and pride of their family just thrills me.

An annual highlight is "Book Week." This year the students were encouraged to practice their reading skills regularly when they heard the following over the school's PA system: "Stop. Drop. Read." Then there was silence throughout the school for approximately 10 minutes. Other activities related to reading and writing also took place, thanks to the coordinating efforts of staff members. Parents and colleagues: Thanks so much for all you do to foster appreciation for reading!

### **Staffing**

For the last while I've been eagerly waiting for an email from someone interested in becoming a primary teacher at Credo; Alyson's departure has resulted in a vacancy in the primary area for next year. Thus far nothing concrete has materialized in that regard.

To add a little bit more pressure to our needs: during the past week, we learned that our 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher has decided to exchange the green grass of Credo and the Fraser Valley for Neerlandia's wide open vistas. All it took was a few weeks of snow here and Jenn seemed to forget about our otherwise perpetually green pastures..... Jenn, though you will be sorely missed, our loss is Neerlandia's gain. All your colleagues have genuinely enjoyed working with you, and sincerely appreciate your desire to live and teach in service to our Father. We wish you well as you begin preparations to leave this warm community and look forward to new opportunities up in Alberta.

Jenn's departure means that we have two vacancies for

next year. When one looks in *Clarion* or *Christian Renewal*, one sees a plethora of positions being advertised throughout our system. Please remain in prayer, asking God to provide that our teaching needs be met for the coming year. Do you know someone who is interested in entering the teaching profession and so serve to enable the next generation to grow in service? Encourage them! Do you know someone who is considering returning to the teaching profession? Encourage them! Please give them my email address or my phone number. I'd love to connect with them!

Please continue in prayer, asking God to provide us with the needed personnel to teach the children in our care.

On a somewhat related topic, elsewhere in this issue of *Branches* there is also a request for applicants to apply for a (part-time) position of administrative assistant. After many, many years at the Credo front desk, Elma Kuntz has requested to transition from a full-time role to a part-time one. Thankfully, she has agreed to continue her responsibilities as book-keeper for now, and she is willing to work alongside the new administrative assistant next fall. The extent of my reliance on Elma's work is profound, and I'm very thankful for all she does. Potential applicants: if you have any questions about this role, please don't hesitate to let me know. A job description is available for interested candidates.

**Second Term Completion**

At the time of writing, teachers have begun the process of gathering marks together and putting the second-term report card material together. Such

reporting represents a significant amount of work by all teachers. Evidently, the style of reporting evolves as time goes on. We hope that the two components of the report cards serve to provide a meaningful picture of the progress of your children. Further, we hope too that the student-led conferences are one more opportunity for parents to engage and see the work done here. Some emphases in the world of education have changed during the past few decades; today we attach much significance to the ongoing involvement of students during their educational journey. I suppose what people are trying to move away from is the concept of education being something that happened **to** students. Today it's more about education happening **with** them. We seek student involvement not only in (self-) assessment, but also in developing their creativity, in making some aspects of learning more directly applicable in their lives, and in giving shape to their work. I'm not sure the differences at the end of the day are as profound as some might suggest; good and effective teachers years ago were also very deliberate about ensuring that "student voices" were heard and validated. Nonetheless, student-led conferences are effective opportunities for students to display ownership of their work. Parents, please come out and see your children's work. Please also use the opportunity to interact with the teachers and encourage them in their work.

At the end of March, the school will be mostly closed for two weeks as we enjoy another spring break. May the Lord bless us all with good health and opportunity to recharge our batteries.

God bless you as you continue in service to him!

Calendar Update			
<b>March</b>	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
<b>April</b>	1	School reopens	
	1	Awareness Raiser -Camp "Yak"	8:45 -gym
	18	Easter Assembly (Gr. 3)	2 pm -church
	19	Good Friday	no school
	21	Easter Sunday	
	22	Easter Monday	no school
Planning ahead? Next fall's Teachers' Convention will be taking place November 7 & 8, 2019 -not on the Thanksgiving Day weekend as in previous years.			

# Short Report of Board Meeting

**Short Report of the Meeting** of the  
Board of Directors of  
Credo Christian Elementary School  
January 14th, 2019

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Tim Bontkes, opened the meeting by reading from 2 Corinthians 5 and prayer. He welcomed all the Directors and Principal Otto Bouwman to the meeting. Erica Feunekes was absent with notification.
- **Agenda Approval:** The agenda for the regular board meeting was approved.
- **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Report of the December 10, 2018 Board meeting were adopted.
- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** A letter was received from FISA outlining changes to the Associated Member Society of which CCES is a part. A letter was received from the CRA requesting a small change to our Bylaws to ensure compliance with CRA requirements.
- **Principal's Report:** Otto Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for January 2019 and provided updates on staff intentions and program delivery options for 2019/20.
- **Chairman's Report:** Tim Bontkes reported on his activities as chairman since the last meeting.
- **General Business:** A number of matters were discussed including revisions to the Board Policy and Procedures manual, 5-year capital planning, and planning for Board/Staff visits. Proposed changes to the High School Operating Agreement were discussed.
- **Education Committee:** Minutes of a recent Education Committee meeting were submitted and reviewed.
- **Fundraising Committee:** A joint proposal from the Fundraising Committee and Credo Aid to host a single fundraising event in lieu of the Golf Tournament and Mother's Day Fair was reviewed and approved. The event would be an afternoon Golf Tournament with a dinner and silent auction to follow.
- **Finance Committee:** The income statement for December 31, 2018 was submitted and reviewed. It was decided to approve the purchase of a new portable sound system for the gym.
- **Maintenance Committee:** Richard Welfing reported that the Maintenance Committee replaced the exterior lighting on the building and completed the installation of insulation in the west wing of the school over the Christmas break. It was also noted that the Township of Langley plans to come to the school to review the parking issues at the entrance to the driveway.
- **Ad-Hoc Valley Wide High School Planning Committee:** Tim Bontkes reported that the committee plans to present a final report and recommendation at the Combined Boards Meeting.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** Combined Boards Meeting is planned for January 30, 2019. The next regular Board meeting is planned for February 11, 2019.
- **Closing:** Will VanOene offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Tim Bontkes closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

## Credo Aid Update....

Not much has been happening in the Credo Aid department. It is a bit of a quiet time with fundraising events. Stay tuned for our next Neufeld Farm order which is happening around April sometime!

We strongly encourage everyone to look into supporting the Shop Easy program if you haven't already done so. This fundraiser is one of the only ones in which we receive free outside money! The only thing you need to do is buy gift cards and the school receives a certain percentage back. It's that easy! We would love to see the percentage of the membership using this program to be higher than what it is. Only around 70 participants use this program. Let's make this number higher!

Don't hesitate to contact your local reps: Deanna Vandyke, Mary-Anne Vanderhorst and Meagan Vandergrindt.

For many years Credo Aid has run the Pancake Breakfast and then it turned into the Mother's Day Fair. Every year it grew to be more successful and bigger with more commitment from organizers and bigger call outs for volunteers. This year, changes are in order again and a new fundraiser is on the horizon. Instead of a Mother's Day Fair, an event will happen that will combine the efforts of the golf tournament, a silent auction and a dinner. Keep the date open: Saturday, June 8 and get ready to come out and support this event by volunteering in any way you can. Keep your eyes open for advertisements and details for this exciting new fundraiser!



Deborah Huttema

Connections...we are created to have and make meaningful connections daily. In the world of parenting and education making connections can be exciting and challenging in many ways. This is a reminder that the CONNECT group made of parents and educators want to come along side you and would love you to reciprocate.

Our motto is: Each child is unique and fearfully and wonderfully made; living in a sinful world is challenging and overwhelming, especially as a child growing up in it. Our aim with CONNECT is to enable parents and teachers to help our children thrive by building awareness and supporting each other. So, let's sit down and talk about it.

The Facebook page has 138 members from across the lower mainland Canadian Reformed schools and the Lynden's Cornerstone school. If you haven't joined yet, I recommend you do. You will need a Facebook account which doesn't require any commitment. Then search for CONNECT and ask to join. You will be asked a 'security' question to make sure you are from our school societies.

Once you're a member, you'll learn about events, you'll see articles, and be encouraged to consider various resources. Sometimes there are discussions so that others may also benefit from the wealth of information and resources out there to help our children. Thanks so much.

## Teaching Positions

The Credo Christian Elementary School Board invites teacher applications for a vacancies in our primary and intermediate grades, beginning in September, 2019. CCES is a vibrant and inclusive K-7 school with approximately 220 students . Staff members enjoy the positive teaching and learning culture here, and are grateful for strong levels of community support.

The successful applicant will:

- be committed to teaching in a Canadian Reformed context
- be a communicant member of a Canadian Reformed, United Reformed, or sister church
- have or be able to obtain BC certification

For inquiries about this opportunity, or to apply, please connect as soon as possible with our principal:

Otto Bouwman

Ph. 604. 530.1131 (school) or 360.510.1524 (cell)

E-mail: o.bouwman@credoces.org

## Administrative Assistant Employment Opportunity

Due to the anticipated "semi-retirement" of our current administrative assistant, we invite applications for a 50 - 60% FTE administrative assistant position, beginning in August, 2019.

The successful candidate:

- enjoys working in an educational setting,
- has appropriate training / experience for this role,
- is able to work collaboratively with other experienced administrative personnel,
- is able to work independently,
- and is a member of a Canadian, American, or United Reformed Church.

Especially those candidates who anticipate at some point in the future being able to work in a full-time capacity with additional bookkeeper responsibilities are encouraged to apply.

For inquiries about this opportunity, or to apply, please contact our principal by April 15.

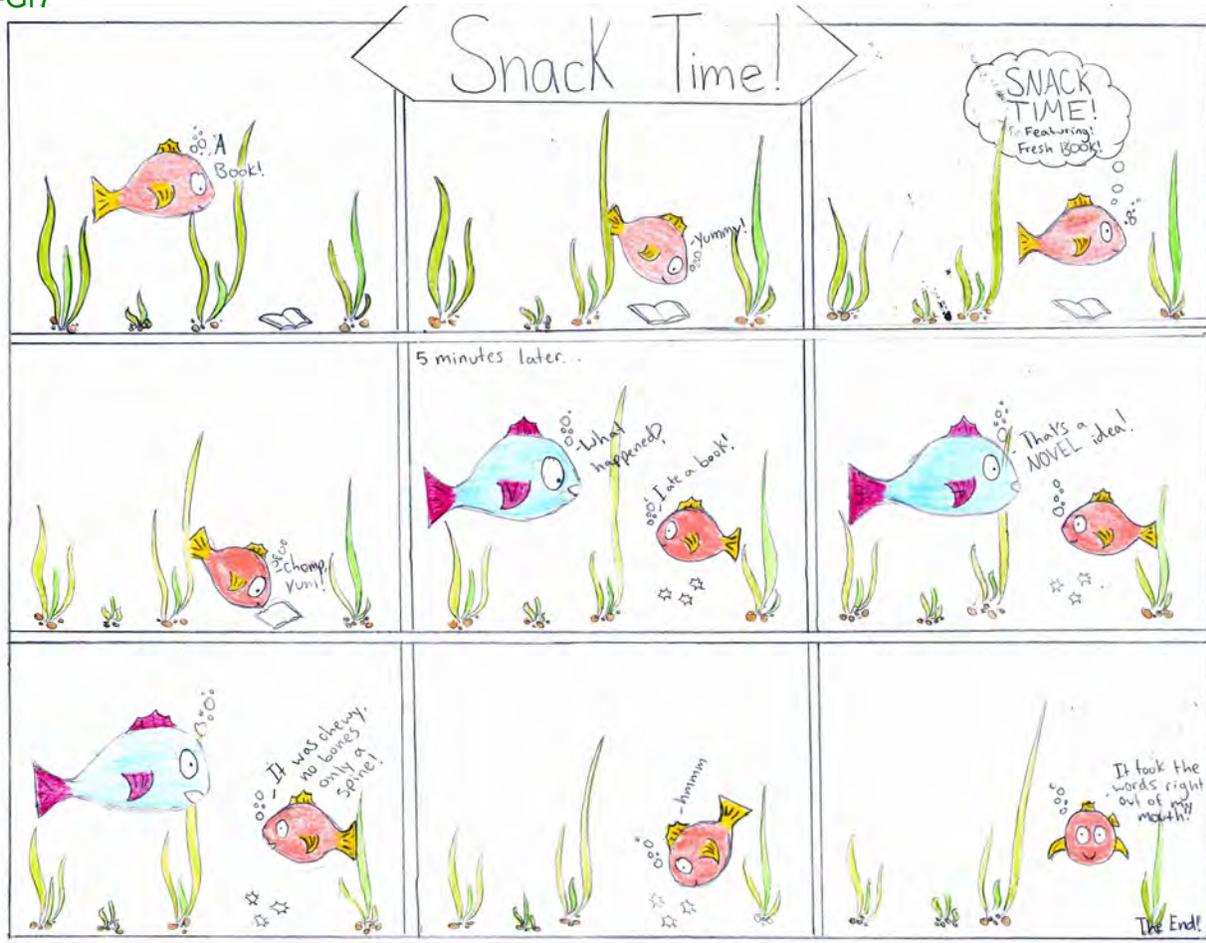
Otto Bouwman

Ph. 604. 530.1131 (school) or 360.510.1524 (cell)

E-mail: o.bouwman@credoces.org

# Book Week Comic Contest Winners....

Jaina -Gr7



# Book Week Comic Contest Winner....

Amy -Gr. 5



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

## MIGHTY

HEALTHY  
DESSERT



# MOE



# THE END

### 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