



Volume 19      Issue 4  
Nov. 23, 2007

# 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 fellow members,

The AGM is behind us again. It was real great to see such a good attendance; not only great for the Board but especially so in that it shows a good level of enthusiasm by the membership.

The financial statements of the last year reflect the reality of the many blessings we receive at CCES. Having the freedom to operate the CCES is in itself a great and awesome blessing, but having more than enough financial resources to continue year by year is certainly a matter to bring thanks to our Heavenly God and Father.

The AGM also allowed each of you to vote for a new Board member. First we thank all those who let their name stand for nomination. This year again we had more names than required. We thank you all for your willingness to let your name stand and to give of your time to serve the membership of CCES. For those who did not get elected, we pray that you may continue to use your gifts and talents elsewhere in the Church or School communities.

Having voted, we can welcome aboard one new Board member, Br. E. Visscher and welcome back for another three year term Br. M. Stam. We pray that you may both be strengthened to your task, that you may do it joyfully and above all that you may glorify God in this work.

We thank Br. M. Stam for continuing on in a second term. It's great to have you on the Board. Your enthusiasm, desire and care for CCES has not gone un-noticed and have an upbuilding effect. May God's blessings continue on the work done and the work you will continue to do.

As Board and membership we say farewell and thanks to Br. T. VanVliet. We thank you very much for your great efforts, your dedication and enthusiasm at the Board level. You have been a blessing to the CCES community and will for sure be missed at the Board meetings and as well on the Development committee, your work and enthusiasm in that committee were terrific. As you have completed your work we also ask for the Lord's continued blessings over the work you have done and pray that you may be strengthened in the various other tasks that you have.

At the November meeting, after elections, the executive and committee positions on the Board are normally reviewed. We can report that all stays as it was with the exception that Br. E. Visscher will take over the Development committee position vacated by Br. T. VanVliet.

Ending another column in *Branches*, the hope is expressed that the parents, students, teachers, principal and all involved with CCES may continue to live, by God's grace, under the shadow of His wings.

Have a blessed Sunday!

# Principal's Report



John A. Roukema

## Parent-Teacher Conferences

Last Thursday (Nov. 22) you received your child's Progress Report of the first term of this school year. Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday, Nov. 26 and Wednesday, Nov. 28. Each report envelope contained a copy of the schedule for the Parent-Teacher Conference. Please arrive on time for your scheduled conferences. You should also have a copy of a Student Information form enclosed in that same envelope. The teachers are looking forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress.

## New Student

Ryan Wendt was enrolled in the grade 4 class of our school on Monday, Nov. 19. Ryan comes from the William of Orange Christian School. We welcome Ryan into our midst and hope he may soon adjust to his new surroundings.

## Musical

The grade 6/7 students are practising for their musical "To be Shakespeare or Not, That is the

Question", under the guidance of Mrs. J. Deglint. Shakespeare has become famous for writing plays about mighty kings who were tricked by jealous knights. But the grades 6 and 7 students have prepared a play in which the mighty Shakespeare himself becomes the victim of an evil plot. Come and see this Musical Drama on Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Langley Canadian Reformed Church. More details will follow. The grade 6/7 students are looking forward to this presentation and hope you will too.

## Christmas Assembly

This year we are scheduling a Christmas Assembly (instead of an evening Christmas Concert), to be led by the grade 5 students. As you may notice from the 2007-2008 School Calendar, an Easter/Spring program is scheduled for April 25, 2008. The Christmas Assembly is to be held on Monday, Dec. 17, at 9:00 a.m., in the school gym. The grade 5 students are looking forward to sharing the Christmas message with you in word and song.

# School Calendar Update



Dec.	5	Education Committee Meeting
	11	Board Meeting
	12	Grade 6/7 musical
	17	Christmas Assembly
	21	last day of school before Christmas Break
Jan.	4	last day of Christmas Break
	7	first day back after Christmas Break
	8	Board Meeting

# Philosophy of Life

Derek Stoffels

*Below is an article written by Mr. Derek Stoffels, principal of the Ebenezer Canadian Reformed School, Smithers, BC., as it appeared in that school's newsletter last month.*

## Are you conscious of your philosophy of life?

Over the last few weeks I have been reading a book called "Consumed: How Markets Corrupt Children, Infantilize Adults and Swallow Citizens Whole." It has been a difficult read but it raises some worthwhile points. The basic thesis of the book is stated provocatively in the title. The author Benjamin Barber asserts that capitalism (read business) has been so consumed with greed that it is destroying democracy. In contrast to that Barber claims that one hundred years ago capitalism and democracy worked well together. At that time capitalism served democracy by reinforcing the values and conduct that are needed for a wise citizenry. In Barber's words capitalism was "...a needs-serving economic machine,..." Today it is a wants-stimulating economic machine out to profit itself at any cost.

Barber's asserts that capitalism, out of greed, has been consciously promoting a message that creates an infantile or childish people that capitalism can then manipulate easily and for capitalism's financial benefit. The heart of the infantalist message is EASY over HARD, SIMPLE over COMPLEX and FAST over SLOW. He cites examples like Shaquille O'Neal and Terrell Owens, as representatives of living out this infantalist philosophy. Play over work and having it all right now rather than later are what people are being trained to pursue. Or as he quotes Dr. David Jones and Doris Klein; "the child wants what it wants when it wants it, without consideration of the needs of others..."

This infantalist message is set in contrast to what Barber calls the Protestant ethos (which he describes as self-restrained, delayed gratification, rationality, and order or HARD, COMPLEX, and SLOW). He argues for a return to that.

I was discussing this with a friend and he pointed out that the market or capitalism can only be successful in this strategy of consumption if people do not have, what he called, a "counter philosophy." By counter philosophy he meant a philosophy or approach to life that is different from what capitalism is promoting. His point is that if people have a philosophy of life that is

different from capitalism's then the advertising campaigns will not be so successful. To follow that logic one step further means that if Barber is correct it is because people today don't think for themselves. They do not have a sense of the true meaning of life. Indulgence becomes the motivating force.

As Christians we are in possession of a philosophy of life that is different than the current one being promoted by capitalism. We recognize that our lives gain meaning only in relation to God. We know that we exist to glorify God and are to work to that end in His kingdom now. As I read the book and reflected on us as Reformed people I wondered if we have let that philosophy of life get covered up by dirt and dust. Maybe we have lost our grip on it or at least relaxed our grip enough that it is sliding out of our hands.

To think that we are not exposed to or susceptible to the extremely effective marketing campaigns of capitalism is to deceive ourselves. Reformed people are by large indistinguishable from unbelievers in terms of our exposure to the marketing of the day. We subscribe to satellite television, satellite radio, watch movies, read the books and magazines, watch the news, surf the internet, play the games etc. At every point along the way we are having the message of EASY over HARD, SIMPLE over COMPLEX, and FAST over SLOW blasted at us over and over again. Having a counter philosophy is not a guarantee of resistance to the message of modern capitalism.

If we pray for Spirit-guided insight and reflection on our lifestyle and are honest with ourselves we can see that we have bought into this infantalist message, this ethos or way of living. We may not have swallowed it hook, line, and sinker but we are definitely on the hook. I would like to join Benjamin Barber in urging us all to recognize what is going on and to turn away from this ethos and return to what he calls the Protestant ethos or philosophy of life. We need to remember who we are, why we are on this earth and very importantly that our children are not our own but are God's covenant children.

We need to train ourselves and our children to recognize that there is nothing wrong with hard over

easy, complex over simple and slow over fast. In fact that ethos or way of life better reflects Biblical teaching about life this side of Jesus Christ's second coming. Slow life down, don't try and cram so much into it, don't try and keep up with the latest consumer items, activities, clothing, holiday destinations etc. Instead put your energy into building things that last, not into a movie like Harry Potter, Shrek, or leisure activities

over work. Make the time and energy as families to reflect on what your lifestyle is like and how and where you have let it be driven by EASY over HARD, SIMPLE over COMPLEX and FAST over SLOW. Bring the balance point of daily life to where it belongs. Live the message God gives us in Romans 12:1 and Philippians 4:8-9.

## Minutes of the AGM



Minutes of the CCES Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, October 24, 2007  
8:00 P.M.

1. Opening: The Chairman, P.J. Schouten read Ephesians 2: 1-10, after which the membership sang from Psalm 92. He then offered a word of prayer. Everyone was welcomed. The chairman announced that there was a quorum. Presentations by the Development and Maintenance committee's were added to the agenda. The agenda was then adopted with a minor correction.
2. Approval of Minutes of the May 29th, 2007 meeting: A motion "To approve the Minutes of the May 28, 2007 membership meeting" was made by W.Pol, seconded by J. Scholtens and carried by the membership.
3. Business arising from the minutes: None.
4. Secretary's Annual Report: Paul Sikma presented the annual report on Board and Committee activities to the membership.
5. Election of three Board Members: There were no nominations in addition to the names published in the most recent issue of Branches. The nominations were, G. Hoogstra, M. Scholtens, V. Sikkema, M. Stam, W. Vanoene and E. Visscher. The ballots cast, were counted and it was announced that Mike Stam and Ed Visscher were elected to the Board. A motion: "to destroy the ballots" was made and carried by the membership. Tyler Vanvliet and Mike Stam were thanked for the all the work they accomplished during their terms.
6. Presentations: A brief video presentation was made showing the work completed at the Summer Work Bee. T. Vanvliet also briefly highlighted the purchases that were made with the profits from the golf tournament.
7. Presentation of the Financial Statements for 2006/07: V. Stel presented the Financial Statements as handed out prior to the meeting. A question was asked whether the golf tournament income was deferred to this year's statements. Yes, it will be on the 2007/08 financial statements. There was a question asked concerning who rents the gym from CCES. Trinity Western user groups have been renting the gym from CCES. The letter of review from Y. Jacobi and A. Deboer was read, stating that the Financial Statements for 2006/07 were found to be in good order. A motion "to approve the Financial Statements for 2006/07" was made by E.Visscher, seconded by V. Stel and carried by the membership.
8. Question Period: None.
9. Closing: P.J. Schouten closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

# Short Report of Board Meeting

Short Report of the meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School  
October 10, 2007 @ 7:30

1. Opening: - The Chairman P.J. Schouten called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He read from Philippians 2: 1-15 and led in prayer. B. Onderwater was absent with notification.
2. Approval of Agenda: - The agenda was approved with some additions.
3. Approval of Minutes and Short Report: - Motion: "that the Minutes of the September 11, 2007 meeting be approved as presented" was made. Minutes and Short Report were approved with corrections.
4. Matters from the Minutes: - SCSBC report tabled until further notice.
5. Incoming Correspondence:
  - A letter from Sister Y. Jacobi and Sister A. Deboer reporting that they have found the books and records for 2006/07 to be in good order.
  - A letter was received from J. Dykstra and tabled to next meeting.
6. Outgoing Correspondence: - A letter was sent to parents who have cancelled their membership.
7. Principal's Report:
  - The Principal's report as received prior to the meeting was discussed.
  - The RCDC will meet November 29, 2007.
  - J. Roukema will place ICRE reflections in the next issue of "Branches".
  - The FISA Pre-K Advice Survey was sent in by H. Moes.
8. Chairman's Report:
  - A Chairman/Principal meeting was held Oct 2, 2007.
  - M. Stam and T. Vanvliet were asked to prepare calendars for their respective committees to assist new board members in taking over these positions.
9. Education Committee:
  - The minutes of the Oct 3, 2007 meeting as received prior to the meeting were discussed.
  - The classroom visit list needs to be up-dated.
10. Finance Committee:
  - The Reserve Policy recommendation was tabled for next month.
  - The up to date financial statements were received and will be presented to the membership prior to the AGM.
11. Development Committee:
  - The minutes of the September 19, 2007 meeting as received prior to the meeting were discussed.
  - Membership list has been updated.
12. Transportation rep Report: - No report.
13. CCHS rep Report: - The projected budget from CCHS was discussed.
14. Special Education Committee: - An interest cheque for the Ruth Vanderpol Memorial Fund was passed on to the Treasurer. The next meeting is scheduled for Oct 17, 2007.
15. Maintenance:
  - The minutes of the September 26, 2007 meeting as received prior to the meeting were discussed.
  - M. Stam was asked to look into options for new garbage cans.
16. Other Committee Reports(RCDC/CB's/CCP/RPDCS/FISA) - A FISA regional meeting was held September 21, 2007.
17. Other Canadian Reformed Schools: - Nothing to report.
18. New business: - Annual General Membership meeting will be held on October 24, 2007.
19. Items for next board meeting: Orientation of new Board members, Policy manual review, Edcom review of D.A.R.E. program (May 8, 2007), Board development: video series, Ad-Hoc Salary Committee : Combined Boards to discuss Para- professional pay grid.
20. Question Period: - Was made use of.
21. Next Meeting: - November 13, 2007
22. Thanksgiving and Prayer: - P. Sikma closed in prayer.
23. Adjournment: - P.J. Schouten adjourned the meeting.

# Credo Aid Update



With December fast approaching, we have a few fundraisers to help you get ready for a busy holiday season.

Christmas Wreaths: Orders are due by Wednesday, Nov. 28. We are in need of many helpers for the wreath assembly on Dec. 3 & 4 and for donations of greenery/branches. Please call Shelley Sikma (605.514.1446) to place an order and/or if you can help. Note: We are still looking for a space in which to do the wreath assembly on Dec. 3 & 4. If anyone has an appropriate space (such as a heated greenhouse, barn, large garage) we could borrow for this purpose, please contact Shelley.

Certificates: Please keep in mind that there is only one more official order deadline before Christmas (Dec. 13) - so if you are planning on giving some gift cards out this year, please don't delay! Please send in your forms or contact Shauna Stam (604.514.9805) to order. Here are some of the numbers to let you know how we are doing with this program:  
 September'07 \$1004.00    October '07 \$1273.00

With thankfulness, we can report on some of our other fundraising profits as follows:  
 Entertainment Books: (just over) \$3000.00; Veggie Packs: \$1993.00    Purdy's Chocolates: \$1260.00

Credo Aid  
**CERTIFICATE ORDER FORM**  
 Next order form deadline: November 22, 2007

**GROCERY STORES – ALWAYS AVAILABLE**

Superstore (5%) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$100.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$250.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Save On Foods (6%) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Pricesmart) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$100.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

IGA (7.5%) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Safeway (8%) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$100.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Safeway coupon booklets (40%) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (booklet of coupons... 4 x \$5 off purchase coupons... extra airmiles... \$\$ off select items)

**COFFEE AND TREATS**

Tim Horton's (5%) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (booklets of 5 x \$2 certificates)  
 Starbucks (5%) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Esquires (10%) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**RESTAURANTS**

**Available in \$25's:**  
 Domino's (15%)  
 Olive Garden (7%)  
 Earls (7%)  
 The Keg (7%)  
 Kelsey's Multibrand (3%) (Milestone's, Kelsey's, Montanna's, Second Cup)  
 Moxie's (10%)  
 Red Robin (7%)  
 The Boathouse (7%)  
 White Spot (7%)

**DEPARTMENT STORES**

**Available in \$25 and \$100's**  
 Sears (2%)  
 Hbc (3%) (The Bay, Zellers, Home Outfitters)

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

Available in 25's and 100's  
 Home Depot (2%)  
 Home Hardware (3%)  
 Rona (3%)

**SPECIALTY STORES**

**Available in 25's**  
 American Eagle (6%)    La Senza (7%)    Pier 1 (5%)    Suzy Shier (7%)  
 Best Buy (2%)    Linens-N-Things (7%)    Roots (7%)    The Body Shop (10%)  
 Canadian Tire (3%)    M&M Meat Shops (3%)    Shoppers Drug Mart (3%)    Toy's R Us (2%) (or \$10)  
 Coast Mountain (4%)    Mark's Work Wearhouse (7%)    Sport Chek (4%)    Winners (7%)  
 Old Navy (7%)    Sport Mart (9%)    Chevron (2%)    Banana Republic (7%)  
 Future Shop (2%)    Payless Shoe Source (7%)    Staples (3%)    Petro Canada (2%)  
**Available in \$20's** – Shell (2%), Chapters (10%), Blockbuster (7%), Roger's Video (7%)

Please use this space to write your orders for specific stores (other than grocery/coffee):

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Send your form to the school (marked Credo Aid) or phone Shauna Stam 604-514-9805



Credo Christian Elementary School  
 21919 52 Ave. Langley BC V2Y 2M7  
 Phone: 604-530-1131 Fax: 604 530-4268  
 e-mail cces@telus.net  
 web site: www.credoces.org

**Board of Directors**

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. T. VanVliet	Mr. Paul Sikma
Mr. D. Huttema	Mrs. F. Jansen
	Mr. M. Scholtens

**Special Education Committee**

Mr. E. Visscher	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. J. Deglint	Music
Mrs. L. Vanspronsen	Grade 5
Miss A. Dekker	TA
Mrs. A. Devries	SEA
Mrs. M. Meyer	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