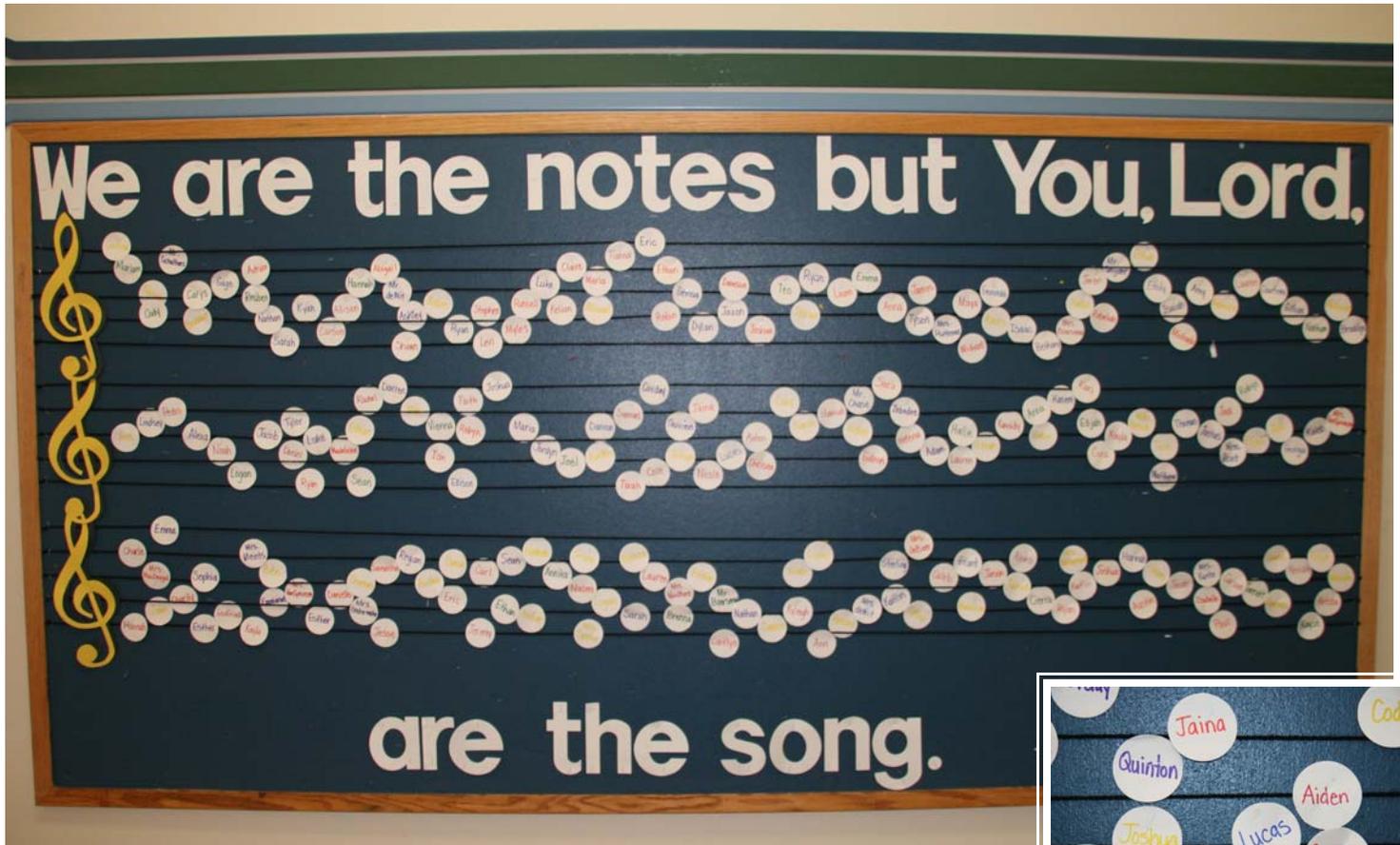


BRANCHES



In This Issue:

- ***From the Chairman***
- ***From the Principal***
- ***Short Reports of Board meetings***
- ***What Makes Reformed Education Reformed***
- ***Golf Tournament Update***
- ***Fairy Tales***
- ***Credo Aid Update***
- ***AGM Agenda -Oct 24, 2012***
- ***CCES Financial Statements 2011/12***
- ***Board election nominees***

Volume 25
Issue 2
Oct. 12, 2012

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....

Chris Hoff

The Thanksgiving weekend has just passed, and it gave us cause for reflecting upon the Lord's blessing in our lives. Perhaps it is a good practice to consciously and intentionally reflect on these blessings - both as families and corporately. Throughout our daily joys and challenges, it is a privilege to be at peace knowing God's master plan is being carried out.

It is indeed also a blessing that we can continue to operate a Reformed school to train our children. This edition of *Branches* contains an article from Mr. TMP Vanderven (Nick's dad), former Principal of the Teachers College in Ontario on this matter. This article is one of a series from Mr. Vanderven that will be published in *Branches* throughout the school year. We hope you find it edifying and perhaps even stimulating. So please get your Sunday coffee, settle in your chair and enjoy!

Our Fall General Meeting is planned for **October 24 2012 at 8:00 PM.** It will be a meeting where we can reflect on the blessings of the past year, review our financial statements and elect two Board Directors. We expect that there will be time left over after the meeting to walk through the halls and chat with the teachers. We hope to see all membership families represented.

Elsewhere in this edition of *Branches* you will find the meeting agenda as well as brief biographies of candidates who have let their name stand for the Board of Directors. The three year terms for Stan Pol and myself expire this year. For candidates, the Board has nominated Oliver Hansma, Ryan Sikma, Sprout Vandergugten and Chris Hoff. Also, you are also reminded that the Board accepts nominations up to 15 minutes before the beginning of the AGM meeting.

This edition of *Branches* also includes financial statements for the school year 2011-2012. We have once again been blessed with the ability to meet our financial obligations, and even generated a modest surplus. Thanks again to the Finance Committee - Tim Bontkes, John Lof and Elma Kuntz - for their diligence and hard work.

Though this school has barely begun, we already have our sights on preparing for September 2013. We will

have two classes near the maximum pupil-teacher ratio next year, and the Board is considering our options. While we - and our committees - have quite a bit of work to do before a decision can be made, we will update membership on some of our considerations at the October 24 General Meeting. We will also give a brief progress update on the Fraser Valley Joint Strategic Planning Committee, and our ongoing discussions with William of Orange.

Regarding William of Orange, it probably comes as no surprise that we have not yet heard from prospective volunteers willing attend there in the short term. No doubt this would be disruptive for families that are already rooted at Credo. We continue to have a good relationship with the William of Orange Board, and pray that this relationship may yield a common solution where we can help each-other.

In membership and other news:

- Since the September edition of *Branches* we welcome the Paul and Elsa Houweling family, and their daughter Cierra to Credo. They were a last minute arrival, and we trust that they feel welcome among us.
- We offer congratulations to Heres and Frieda Snijder on the marriage of their daughter Kathleen to Steve Vanderveen last week. As membership we will have the opportunity to get to know them better as they settle into Aldergrove .
- In anticipation of Kim Meints' maternity leave starting in December (or so), please find an advertisement for her replacement elsewhere in this edition of *Branches*.
- As of early October, our working relationship with the janitors - Fritz and Corrie DeWit - will have ended. We thank Fritz and Corrie for their services over the last few years, and pray that God will bless them in their new endeavours. As a Board we have hired a cleaning company on a short term basis. In the near future we plan to have a competition for the janitorial position that will include soliciting interest from membership. If you are interested, please stay tuned.

Have a blessed Sunday!

From the Principal....

Heres Snijder

We are the notes but You, Lord, are the Song.

Have another look at the front cover! It is a picture of Mrs. Jacqueline Spoor's bulletin board, displayed next to the library room. The three music staves feature music notes, without stems. Each music note has a name of one of the 209 students at Credo plus staff, including administrative and janitorial staff. Students stop, search for their own names, and merrily skip along, after finding it. The quote is a beautiful and profound way to express that being in Christ is fundamental to what we do in life and why, no matter what stage, station, occupation or capacity. In short,

*"There are things **only** you can do and **you** are alive to do them. In the great orchestra we call **life**, you have an instrument and a song, and you owe it to God to play them both sublimely."* (M.Lucado)

As we approach the half-way point of October, we have opportunity to look back with gratitude. God has blessed us with safe keeping, freedom, energy and vision to go about teaching and training His children. Signed and sealed in baptism, safe and predestined to do the work God has laid out for them and all of us to do, we may confidently look ahead, carry out or plans for the day - and strategize to meet several challenges that deserve our communal attention. Our community is blessed with servant leaders, strategic thinkers, astute number crunchers, policy makers, visionaries and practical thinkers at Board, Education Committee, staff and community levels. In the presence of the transforming Holy Spirit we may move forward, confident that He Who is with us, is bigger than any challenge ahead of us. (2 Cor. 3:18).

External Evaluation

On October 17 and 18 an evaluation team will be visiting Credo Christian Elementary and High Schools for a once-in-a-six-year in depth examination of our school. Though a formal report will be issued, it is not likely that findings can be shared during the upcoming October 24 AGM.

Awareness and Fund raiser: EDUDEO ministries

On October 9, the first awareness and fund raiser was launched. All 209 students gathered in the gym to learn more about the EduDeo organization, and the school's involvement in it. EduDeo Ministries is a Canadian, Christian, mission organization serving children in developing countries with quality education rooted in a Biblical worldview. A volunteer working for EduDeo summarized the rationale for being involved:

"We have prayed so much for God's blessing on Christian education here in Canada -- and have been extraordinarily blessed over the years. Now we have the opportunity, or even more so, the responsibility to share this blessing!"

Home, Church, Credo Elementary School - and 'Cardus'.

"The habits of the home in one generation become the morals of society in the next. As the old adage says: 'The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.'" [1996 Washington Times 10 May A2]

It is a privilege to have a well-developed understanding of the relationships between home, church, school and society. The above quote from the Washington Times echoes the crucially important role of the home in the upbringing of children. No child-care or day school program can fully substitute the value and impact of a Christ-centered home. The recent unveiling of a CARDUS survey also underscores this reality in a powerful way. The study focuses on comparing Canadian graduates of government and of independent schools.

Cardus (root: cardo) is a think tank dedicated to the renewal of North American social architecture. Drawing on more than 2000 years of Christian social thought, it aims to enrich and challenge public debate through research, events, and publications, for the common good.

Cardus comes from the root word *cardo*. The *cardo* was a north-south oriented street in Roman cities that was considered to be an integral element of city planning and city life (both publicly and economically). (<http://www.cardus.ca/organization/about/>).

The findings of this CARDUS study are important for Credo Elementary. What is put in place at a foundational K-7 level, significantly impacts the outcomes and performances at subsequent school levels. Findings about students' religious and spiritual formation, faithfulness, ability to contribute to the good of society confirm that only a solid foundation will support strong structures. There is no surprise, and much affirmation here: Jesus concluded his Sermon on the Mount by teaching, 'with authority'.

(Matthew 5:29): "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on

the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

At the October 24 Annual General Meeting, time will be set aside to briefly reflect on the findings of this survey, and its significance for Credo Christian Elementary School.

School Spirit Days

We thoroughly enjoyed Crayon Day, a fabulous school wide game of tag, with Grade 7 students the taggers. Stay tuned for more spirit days!

Personal, Professional Development

Teachers are encouraged to take professional development seriously. As staff, we meet and discuss various topics and dynamics of immediate relevance and concern for the classroom. Various workshops addressing character growth (and challenges), teaching strategies, use of interactive white boards and others, are attended by individual teachers. Findings and insights are shared formally and informally.

This year, teachers have resolved to focus on an area of interest and passion they wish to pursue professionally. PD time is set aside during the first 2/3 part of the year. In the course of the final 1/3 of the year, the findings will be shared with colleagues, and perhaps later in the context of valley-wide sharing sessions amongst our schools, or during a future convention.

2012 CTABC Convention

Staff is busily processing the effects, findings and insights from the annual 2 day convention. This year was special as it was the fortieth time this Convention was organized. Its theme was explained as follows:

How do we love our neighbour?

(Retrieved from <http://www.christianteachers.ca/conventiontheme.cfm>)

As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place. When he stood up to read, he was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,

*God's Spirit is on me;
he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to
the poor,
Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and
recovery of sight to the blind,
To set the burdened and battered free,
to announce, "This is God's year to act!"*

He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent.

Then he started in, "You've just heard Scripture make history. It came true just now in this place."

Who is our neighbour?

God's central command - "love me totally, first and above all, and love and respect your fellow human as intently as you love and respect yourself . . . makes all humans inescapable neighbours."^[1] It is the way we are made, the way we are intended to live. Jesus underscores this reality by telling a story of enemy love in response to a religion scholar's question - a story of a Samaritan who gave aid to an enemy who had been wounded by thieves and ignored by a priest and a Levite religious man. The Samaritan "reaches out in love to help his enemy, breaking all the customary boundaries, because he has clearly seen in his enemy not only a neighbor, not only a fellow human or a fellow creature, but a fellow sharer in the life of God."^[2]

"'Neighbour' is not a class of approved people. Neighbourhooding is a glorious gift to human nature: the opening to give to and receive from one's fellow humans what is needed."^[3] If we take Jesus and the Gospels seriously, we have to assume that they say what they mean and mean what they say. The story of the Samaritan makes it clear that "we are not permitted to choose our neighbours ahead of time or to limit neighbourhood."^[4]

Consider the story of Dirk Willem one of many Anabaptists who were tortured and killed in the 16th century for becoming re-baptized as adults because they did not believe infant baptism had any value. Dirk was captured and imprisoned in his hometown of Asperen in the Netherlands. Knowing that death by burning lay ahead of him, Dirk escaped from prison only to be pursued by a guard. Dirk made a dash across a pond covered with a thin layer of ice. He made it across but his pursuer did not. Dirk responded to his pursuer's cries for help, turned back and pulled the guard from the frigid waters. A Burgomaster standing on the shore ordered the guard to re-arrest Dirk. Dirk Willem was burned to death on May 16, 1569.^[5]

Our neighbour is any sufferer who needs our help.

What does it mean to love our neighbour?

To answer this question, we only have to take seriously what Jesus said and did and then to walk with him, caring for the things he cared for: seeking justice, rescuing the oppressed, living a life of love and peace. "The Gospels are overwhelmingly concerned with the conduct of human life . . . we are to love one another . . . And this is to be a practical love; it is to be practiced here and now."^[6]

The love the Gospels describe is not a feeling or an abstract idea; it is a way of life that necessarily affects our daily decisions. In answering what it means to love our neighbour, we must avoid a spiritualized reading of the

Gospels. If we don't we "overlook the everyday applications that were there for Jesus' original listeners."^[7]
 "Every decision we make is an ethical decision, which forces us to choose whether we will act out of love or end up denying the image of God in others."^[8]

Jesus' answer to the neighbour question is an invitation to an entirely new way of living in the world. It is a way of life in which everyday practical acts of love can bring glimpses of God's shalom world of wholeness and abundance. It is an invitation to a "spendthrift freedom and heedless exuberance of giving away a respecting love to those humans who are least able or are unwilling to respond as neighbours . . . such neighbouring is the very life of God's adopted children, because neighbouring the handicapped

and terribly helpless and those who persecute God's faithful ones confirms, ratifies, our bond of intimate love with the LORD . . . who in Jesus Christ is the Lord of all humans and would that neighbours become brothers and sisters."^[9]

"Blessed are the faithful neighbours, for they shall experience shalom and the communion of saints . . . You are solid oak trees of what is tried and true, a veritable planting of the LORD, given a history as a human simply to display God's glory."^[10]

May God continue to bless us as we go about teaching in a Christ-centered, child oriented manner.

[1] Seerveld, Calvin. (1988) On being human: imaging God in the modern world. Burlington, Ontario, Canada: Welch Publishing. P. 62
 [2] Berry, Wendell. (2005) Blessed are the peacemakers: Christ's teachings about love, compassion & forgiveness. Shoemaker Hoard. P.66.
 [3] Seerveld, Calvin. (1988) On being human: imaging God in the modern world. Burlington, Ontario, Canada: Welch Publishing. P. 63-64.
 [4] Seerveld, Calvin. (1988) On being human: imaging God in the modern world. Burlington, Ontario, Canada: Welch Publishing. P. 56.
 [5] www.christianity.com/churchhistory.
 [6] Berry, Wendell. (2005) Blessed are the peacemakers: Christ's teachings about love, compassion & forgiveness. Shoemaker Hoard. P.62.
 [7] Clawson, Julie. (2009) Everyday justice: the global impact of our daily choices. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books. P.175.
 [8] Clawson, Julie. (2009) Everyday justice: the global impact of our daily choices. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books. P.25.
 [9] Seerveld, Calvin. (1988) On being human: imaging God in the modern world. Burlington, Ontario, Canada: Welch Publishing. P. 64.
 [10] Seerveld, Calvin. (1988) On being human: imaging God in the modern world. Burlington, Ontario, Canada: Welch Publishing. P. 68.

Fundraising Events at CCES 2012-13

Dear Parents,

At Credo, part of our school vision is to create in children an awareness of the needs of others in our local community and in the world around us. As we did last year, our plan is to outline to you, the parents, all of our fundraising activities at the outset of the year so that your child can work towards fulfilling this commitment as well. We have targeted four awareness raisers and we would be most pleased if each student could participate. Through this initiative we are trying to encourage students to live a life of service both in the local community and globally.

Credo Teachers

October:

Road2Hope - EduDeo Ministries

Assembly Date: October 9

Race Date: October 26

We have a Christian school that provides us with Christian education. We want to help other children receive Christian education.

November/December:

Give a gift to help a family.

We would like to celebrate the gift of family and how our families provide for our needs. We would also like to give a gift to families in need.

February/March:

Mission Aid Brazil

We are blessed to have Christian education and the support of a local church. We would like to help support the work of Mission Aid Brazil in supporting the ministries of the Brazilian Reformed Churches.

May/June:

Relay for Life

Event Date: June 21

We are healthy and want to stay active. We want to participate in helping the sick become healthy again, locally and globally.

What makes reformed education reformed?

T.M.P. Vanderven

Originally printed in *Clarion* Vol. 46, No. 1 (1997)

Reformed people are very much involved with the education of their children. That is not surprising, since the Bible has much to say about parents educating their children. At the baptism of their children, reformed parents vow to provide their children with a reformed education (Form for Baptism, Question #3; Book of Praise, p. 578). Reformed education also turns up in the Church Order: Article 58 makes it the responsibility of the consistory to ensure that parents, to the best of their ability, have their children attend a school where the instruction is in harmony with the Word of God as the Church has summarized it in her Confessions. This concern with the education of the children of the church has led to the establishment of parent-controlled, reformed schools. In this article I wish to consider the question: What makes reformed education *reformed*?

The word "reformed" is, alas, at times contrasted with the word "Christian." Common usage appears to have given the word "Christian" a rather "greyer" meaning than what we learn in the Heidelberg Catechism (Lord's Day 12:32). And in our own circles, we tend to make a distinction between "reformed" schools when parents, teachers, and students all belong to the same reformed church, and "Christian" schools when parents, teachers, and students may belong to different churches. This distinction is rather unfortunate; if the words are rightly understood, they are synonymous.

The term "reformed (or Christian) education" usually stands in contrast with the term "secular education" (secular = relating to the world or the temporal). Using this contrast, we could describe reformed education as focusing on religious knowledge and eternal values. But of course we can say much more. The term implies a commitment to the Word of God as the rule for all of our life, no area or aspect excepted or exempted. Reformed, or Christian, education means an education which in all its aspects wants to submit itself to the Word of God. Therefore we reject the idea that some elements of education - for example the teaching of skills - could be considered neutral ground where our beliefs and convictions would matter little. We believe that all things are the Lord's (Rom. 11:36 - in Christ all things hold together (Col. 1:17). This is what the Great Reformation of

the sixteenth century was all about, and it is significant that all reformers immediately concerned themselves with the establishment of schools for the children of the church - a good reason to maintain the word reformed when speaking of our schools.

Reformed education also relates directly to the four characteristics of an educated person: willing and able to act independently, having developed his or her abilities, committed to serving others, and willing and able to carefully examine his or her own actions. Claiming that educated persons are independent does not mean that they do not need to submit themselves to the Bible as the rule for all of life. That would be claiming autonomy, that is, recognizing no authority higher than oneself. We want to say with the term 'independent' that we have actively chosen to submit ourselves to the rule of God's Word, as we did when we made profession of our faith. At that moment we acted independently in full submission to the demands of God's Word. As we do this, we acknowledge that our talents and abilities are not our own property, for us to use as we see fit. We acknowledge that God has made us with a particular set of talents and abilities (Psalm 139), and that it is our responsibility to develop and use these appropriately.

Further, we don't do these things because we are forced to (by our parents, by the church) but because we want to do them as God's children. We are committed to do them since that is what the Word of God requires of us (Rom. 6:17). We learned to act and we now want to act as is expected of us by our Father. Throughout all this, we acknowledge that such acting is never automatic (human beings are not automatons). To be obedient to the demands of God's Word requires our constant and prayerful effort: being a Christian does not guarantee of itself that we will also act as a Christian. Similarly, being educated does not guarantee that we will always act in an educated manner (Rom. 7:18).

All too often, secular educators explain wrong actions by suggesting a lack of education. Think of examples such as the fight against AIDS: this is not considered a moral problem but an educational problem (and we ought to admit it, at times we fall in the same trap of thinking that a

In most of our schools it has been a long-standing custom that board or education committee members make visits. In this manner the board exercises its mandate to ensure that the education in the school is reformed. It would be helpful when teachers and visitors discuss beforehand a question such as: What would you list as the first four or five major characteristics vital to the reformed character of your school?

good education will solve all problems). Unfortunately, it is a hard lesson to learn - as the Apostle Paul knew so well - that all too often we do not do what we know to be right! Therefore it is necessary that we spend much time and effort reflecting on our actions in order to evaluate whether we are acting appropriately, that is, in accordance with the precepts of God's Word (Ps. 25). Self-examination is a critically important characteristic of a Christian, of a truly educated person. Reformed education seeks to help young individuals to become such educated persons, committed to living according to God's commands, and willing to be reformed constantly - *semper reformanda!*

From this we can see that the term reformed education itself shows a program. It suggests the goal towards which all efforts are directed. And it does this in a manner that leaves no room for alternatives: Christians know of only one basis, of only one comfort, and therefore of only one direction in their lives: serve God and your neighbour. Consequently, reformed education will often find itself in conflict of conscience with secular education. If there is no opportunity to study within a reformed environment, many Christian students have struggled to resolve the conflict

between the express goals of secular education and those of their Christian faith. Obviously, such conflict is not limited to students at a secular institution; also in the workplace there is all too often tension and conflict between opposing beliefs and values (read about this in John 17).

How might we, then, define reformed education? It is an educational enterprise which submits itself willingly and fully to the norms of God's Word as the rule for all of life. This determines the goal for education, its content, as well as its methods. Although it is not possible to identify the peculiarly reformed nature of every particular educational action or decision - some of these are more closely related to the identity of the enterprise than others; compare, e.g., the employment of teachers and the use of a particular brand of pen - there is no aspect that escapes (or should be allowed to escape) the impact of the normative principles of reformed education. In other words, the reformed nature of education is all-pervasive; you find it everywhere. It is like the air we breathe, or the water the fish need. We will not always notice its presence, but we will surely notice its absence.

Short Reports of Board Meetings

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School May 8, 2012

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Chris Hoff, opened the meeting and welcomed all Board members, and Principal Heres Snijder.
- **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Report of the April 10 2012 Board meeting are adopted. The Minutes and Short Report of the joint Board meeting between CCES and WOCS held on April 10 2012 are adopted.
- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** Nothing new to report.
- **Principal's Report:** Heres Snijder presented the Principals Report for May 2012 including activities related to school visitations, the energy and community involvement for the speech contest, and that Dianne Vanderboom will fill in for Rachel Vanderhorst in Grade 7 for the balance of the school year.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for May 2012 was received for information. Chris Hoff reported on his activities as chairman.
- **General Business:** A number of matters received the attention of the Board including Board-Staff meetings, potential options for short term cooperation with William of Orange, child abuse

policy, conflict resolution policy, May membership meeting, student's use of visual media in the school and enrollment policy.

- **Maintenance Committee:** Plans are in place to review the HVAC system and identify potential staff room updates.
- **Education Committee:** The minutes of the April 24 2012 meeting are received for information. Wilfred Bulthuis reported on the activities of the Education Committee including classroom visits. The Lord has truly blessed our school with motivated and capable staff.
- **Finance Committee:** Tim Bontkes reported on activities in the Finance Committee including the comparative income statements and the draft budgets for 2012-13. The CCES and Special Education budgets are approved for presentation to the membership for the May 2012 AGM.
- **Development Committee:** The minutes of the May 1 2012 meeting are received for information.
- **RCDC:** The gym curriculum proposed by RCDC has endorsement from the Principal/Chair.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board and Legal Authority meeting is planned for June 12, 2012.
- **Closing:** Tim Bontkes closed with thanksgiving prayer. Chris Hoff adjourned the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Branches

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School June 13, 2012

- **Opening:** The Chairman, Br. Chris Hoff opened the meeting. As this meeting was a continuation from the preceding Legal Authority meeting, it was not formally opened. Those present were welcomed. Br. Ron Scheper was absent with notice.
- **Approval of Minutes and Short Report:** Review and approval of the May Board meeting minutes and short report was deferred until September 2012.
- **Matters from the Minutes:** Matters from the minutes included outstanding Board-staff visits and cooperation with William of Orange Christian School.
- **Incoming Correspondence:** Four items of correspondence were received regarding William of Orange Christian School. John Calvin School and admission policy.
- **Outgoing Correspondence:** One outgoing letter as approved.
- **Principal's Report:** Br. H. Snijder highlighted key points from the Principal's Report including preparation for external evaluation, staffing matters and media use policy.
- **Chairman's Report:** Br. C. Hoff highlighted key points from the Chair's Report and reported on his activities as Chair.
- **General Business:** Items under general business

included a review of the May 25 2012 membership meeting, provisional adoption of the school calendar for 2012-13, Board-staff meeting reports, cooperation with William of Orange, staffing matters and enrollment policy.

- **Finance Committee:** Financial statements and receivables were reviewed.
- **Education Committee:** Minutes of the meeting held May 29 2012 were reviewed. Oral reports on classroom visits were given and potential candidates for the Education Committee were approved.
- **Development Committee:** At present the Development Committee is focused on the Golf Tournament.
- **Maintenance Committee:** Summer work-bee plans were discussed. The Committee plans to renovate the staff room and repair the HVAC system.
- **IT Committee:** Nothing to report.
- **Credo Christian High School:** Nothing to report besides that discussed at the Legal Authority meeting.
- **Question Period:** There were no questions.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** Graduation is planned for June 22 2012. The next Board meeting is planned for September 11 2012.
- **Thanksgiving and prayer:** Br. W. Bulthuis closed the meeting in prayer.
- **Adjournment:** Br. Chris Hoff adjourned the meeting.



Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School September 11, 2012

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Chris Hoff, opened the meeting by reading from Psalm 111 and prayer. All Board members and Principal Heres Snijder were welcomed to the meeting.
- **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Reports of the May 8 2012 and June 13 2012 Board meeting are adopted.
- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** Two incoming letters from membership and an outgoing follow-up letter to a departing member.
- **Principal's Report:** Heres Snijder presented the Principals Report for September 2012 including activities related to staffing, professional goals for 2012-13, and the need to update the Teacher's and Parent Handbooks.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for September 2012 was received for information. Chris Hoff reported on his activities as chairman.

- **General Business:** A number of matters received the attention and discussion of the Board including the increasing enrollment, upcoming membership meeting, and Board nominations. The draft conflict resolution policy will be forwarded to other Boards in preparation for discussion at the Combined Board meeting. Viable options for short term cooperation between WOCS and CCES have been explored. A Director Letter of Commitment was adopted. An ad-hoc committee for Board nominations was struck.
- **Education Committee:** Wilfred Bulthuis reported on the activities of the Education Committee including plans to review the math curriculum, host another technology evening, and conduct classroom visits. Rene Jacobi and Leonna Huttema have completed their term on the Education Committee. New appointments are Ryan Roukema and Wenda Sikma.
- **Maintenance Committee:** Ed Visscher reported on the activities of the Maintenance Committee

- over the summer break including staff room renovations and the successful summer work bee.
- **IT Committee:** Summer work included software review/updates and installation of the smart board in the grade 6 classroom.
- **Finance Committee:** Tim Bontkes reported on activities in the Finance Committee including the comparative income statements. The statement of financial position report as of June 30, 2012 was submitted for information and decision for next board meeting.

- **CCSTA:** CCES bus ridership is up 15% for the 2012-13 school year.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** External school evaluation scheduled for the week of Oct 15 2012. The next regular Board meeting is planned for October 2 2012.
- **Closing:** John Lof closed with thanksgiving prayer. Chris Hoff adjourned the meeting and thanked all for coming.



Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School September 18, 2012

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Chris Hoff, opened the meeting by reading from Psalm 1 and prayer. Board members and Principal Heres Snijder were welcomed to the meeting. John Lof was absent with notice.
- **General Business:** A number of matters received the attention and discussion of the Board including a review of the enrollment forecasts and potential classroom and staff resource requirements for scenarios related to delivering education in 2013-14 and 2014-15. Potential options were discussed including proceeding with

large classes and provision of additional classrooms. The Maintenance Committee will explore options for potential additional classrooms. The Education Committee shall explore the impact of these options on pedagogy. The janitors have given notice that they will no longer supply services as of early October 2012. Short and long term options for janitorial services will be explored.

- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for October 2 2012. Fall membership meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2012
- **Closing:** Stan Pol closed with thanksgiving prayer. Chris Hoff adjourned the meeting and thanked all for coming.

The Board of Credo Christian Elementary School

is inviting suitable candidates to apply for a 1.0 FTE position of

Special Education Assistant

Duties to commence in December 2012 or January 2013

The successful applicant has acquired Special Education Assistant certification. Further, s/he is flexible and able to execute IEPs together with class room teacher and Special Education Coordinator. S/He is also interested in ongoing professional development in various specialty areas. Finally, and most importantly, the successful candidate is an excellent team player.

If all of the above applies to you, you are encouraged to apply on or before October 31, 2012 .

Please contact for inquiries:

Heres Snijder
Principal, Credo Christian Elementary School
Ph. 604. 530.1131 (school) or 604.576.4930 (home)
e-mail: snijder@shaw.ca or h.snijder@credoces.org

Please submit your application to:

Credo Christian Elementary School
c/o Mr. Ron Scheper, secretary of the School Board
21919 52 Ave.
Langley, BC
V2Y 2M7
e-mail: rescheper@gmail.com

2012 CCES Golf Tournament Update

It was a rainy day at the Langley Golf Centre on June 16 with a shotgun start at 0830. We had over 80 golfers and raised \$16,000 toward staff room upgrades at CCES.

A thank you to all those who helped raise the funds and provide door prizes for all the golfers. A big thanks to all who helped raise the funds and providing the golfers with door prizes.

A big Thank You to all our sponsors:

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 The Staff of CCES
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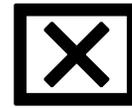


DOOR PRIZES:

Abbotsford Heat
 abc Country Restaurant
 B.C. Lions Football
 Best Western - Langley
 Better Blends Coffee
 Britco
 Brothers Too Wine Makers
 Castle Fun Park
 Chaberton Estate Winery
 Chilliwack Chiefs
 Comfort Inn - Surrey
 Days Inn & Suites
 Delta Controls
 Design Lighting
 Ennis Farms
 Esquires Coffee House
 EVL Nursery
 Fort Langley Cyclery
 Grant Thorton
 Hampton Inn & Suites Langley
 Harrison Beach Hotel
 Hazelmere Country Club
 Hi-Knoll Golf Centre
 Hol Shop
 Intercontinental Truck Body
 John Deere
 Ledgeview Golf Course
 Moxie's Classic Grill - Langley
 Milner Gardens
 Mike Stam
 MTF
 Ralph's Farm Market
 Ramada - Harrison Hot Springs
 Ramada - Hwy 10
 Sandman Signature Hotel - Langley
 The Wine Emporium
 Township 7 Vineyards & Winery
 Toy Traders
 T&G Nurseries
 Vancouver Canadians Baseball
 VanNoort Bulbs
 Willowbrook Lanes



CCES Membership Meeting



Agenda

Credo Christian Elementary School
General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, October 24th, 2012
8:00 P.M.
In the CCES gym

- Opening and welcome – Chris Hoff
- Minutes of the May 30th, 2012 Membership meeting
- Business arising from the minutes
- Election for new Board members – two required (retiring:Chris Hoff and Stan Pol).
Nominees are:
 - Oliver Hansma
 - Chris Hoff
 - Ryan Sikma
 - Sprout Vandergugten
- Secretary's annual report – Ron Scheper
- Presentation of the 2011/12 Financial Statements – Tim Bontkes
- Cardus Survey
- CCES Planning
- Question Period
- Closing

Minutes of the CCES Membership Meeting



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
of Credo Christian Elementary School
with the Membership
May 30th, 2012 CCES Gymnasium

Opening and Welcome: The chairman, Chris Hoff, welcomed all those present. After we sang Psalm 100, he read Psalm 78 and then opened with prayer. A quorum of members was present.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the membership meeting held October 26th, 2011 were distributed prior to the meeting and adopted as presented.

Matters from the Minutes: Nothing to report.

Financial Statements: The Chairman gave the floor to the Board treasurer Tim Bontkes to present the CCES Budget for 2012-13. The statement of operations was reviewed and the budget notes were further clarified.

An opportunity for questions from the floor is given. A suggestion to consider the possibility that a lowering of the membership fee may increase membership numbers is received. It was noted that the Personal Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) Agreement does exhibit flexibility for non-member regular contributions.

A motion is made to accept the Special Education Budget 2012-13 as presented. The motion is seconded and carries by a show of hands.

A motion is made to accept the CCES Budget for 2012-13 as presented. The motion is seconded and carries by a show of hands.

Development Committee: The Chairman gave the floor to board member Stan Pol to promote the efforts of the Development Committee related to the annual golf-a-thon. The annual golf tournament is to be held June 16, 2012 and those who pre-register by May 31, 2012 will be included in the early bird draw for two nights at the Harrison Beach Hotel. A special thank you was extended to those who helped to sponsor the event and furnish it with door prizes.

A promotional video that succinctly captures the mission and vision of CCES as well as the blessings the Lord has provided us with as a school community was shown to the membership.

Strategic Planning: The Chairman gave the floor to

Principal Heres Snijder to reveal key considerations related to "Understanding and Change: Christian Education in the 21st Century". This included the strengths to celebrate at Credo, 21st century challenges, and challenges specific to CCES. These factors necessitate a demand for resourcefulness in our school community as CCES is in need of extra space by September 2013 due to increasing enrollment. In so doing, the school must serve the students and not the other way around. Credo shall seek to instill kingdom values such as love, stewardship, justice, service, discipleship, generosity, simplicity and responsibility.

Chris Hoff then highlighted the activities of the Fraser Valley Joint Strategic Planning Committee (JSPC). This committee is primarily driven by the elementary schools, with the high school as an interested party. The mandate of the JSPC is to explore opportunities to seek longer term collective solutions to the challenges each school faces. This effort consists of five key areas, enrollment/demographics, facilities, programs, financial analysis, and governance/administration. Opportunity for input/feedback is possible via email to jspcfv@gmail.com. The JSPC is targeting completion of its mandate by spring 2013.

During an interim period between now and when a longer-term solution that could proceed from the FVJSPC is in place, CCES will need to manage. This could include large or blended classes, portables, internal renovation at CCES, or use of a satellite room at CCHS.

Chris Hoff then spoke about the discussion between CCES and WOCS that took place to assess various avenues of cooperation for the near term. The Board considered a number of options, and found most of them difficult to implement. At present the Board wishes to solicit volunteers willing to consider sending their children to WOCS. This will also be noted in the upcoming edition of Branches.

An opportunity for questions from the floor is given:

- Are our space challenges a factor in considering applications for enrolment from families that attend the Reformed Evangelical Church? It was a contributing factor, but this decision was more about interpretation of enrollment policy.
- Can new families seeking enrollment be directed to WOCS? This is difficult, as locations of families seeking enrollment impose challenges for commuting to WOCS.
- Is there an option to combine WOCS and CCES? This is to be explored.

Branches

- Is there a significant concentration of membership in the West Abbotsford area? This is to be explored by the JSPC.
- Is it possible to share the strategic planning presentation? Yes, to be shared via email.
- What is the timeline for feedback/input to the JSPC? There is opportunity for input over the summer using the previously noted email address.
- Has the financial projections considered the subsequent leveling off in tuition after the initial cost increases for additional classes? The current projections are for four split grades; additional split grades beyond the timeframe would continue increases in tuition.
- Lastly, Chris Hoff stressed the importance for membership to provide feedback to the Board regarding short term planning options to assist with decision-making.

Question Period:

What is triggering the moratorium on new enrollment, since we have accepted other members in the past? The Board

wants confidence that it is interpreting enrolment policy in accordance with its mandate, and the expectations of membership. The timeline for review is uncertain at this time. Who is the Board seeking advice from the respect to the policy review? The Board may seek advice, or a joint review, with other schools in the valley.

There was a comment that the enrollment policy is in place to reflect our membership and affiliation with the Canadian Reformed Church. This question has been asked since the creation of this school society. Our schools have been good and its strength is derived from it being our school.

Due to the timing for response from the JSPC and potential implementation of its recommendation (3-4 years) it appears our challenges with respect to space will arise before this time window. Should we not start fund raising at this point?

Thanksgiving Prayer: Rev. Visscher.

Adjournment: After we sang Psalm 128 Chris Hoff adjourned the meeting.

Nominee Profiles



Oliver Hansma completed his Certified General Accountant certification in 2003 and has been employed in financial and management positions in industry since 1998. He is currently employed as the controller for K & R Poultry Ltd. in Abbotsford, BC. He has volunteered time as the treasurer for Langley Canadian Reformed Church for three years and in Aldergrove Canadian Reformed Church for six years, serving during the building of Aldergrove's new church. Oliver is married to Sara and together they have been blessed with four girls, two of which attend CCEs. They have been members in the Aldergrove Canadian Reformed Church since 2004. Oliver would enjoy the opportunity to serve on the school board, supporting our reformed education.

Chris Hoff originally hails from Southern Ontario where he earned successive degrees in Urban Planning and Civil Engineering from University of Waterloo. He moved to BC in 1997, where he was Technical Director with a Burnaby consulting firm. He presently serves as Project Manager with Transport Canada for files related to international trade and transportation. Chris married Pearl Vandeburgt and together have been blessed with 6 kids, of whom the oldest four attend Credo. Chris and Pearl have been members of Aldergrove Canadian Reformed Church since 2000, where Chris has served as deacon and elder. Chris has served on the Board for the last three years, and would be pleased to continue to have the opportunity to be involved in the education of our covenant children.

Ryan Sikma: I am 29 years old and married to Jen Sikma. We have two beautiful children: Camia (4) and Caleb (< 1 year). We live in Langley City and are members of the Langley Canadian Reformed Church. I work as a software developer at Delta Controls in Cloverdale, BC. I am looking forward to using any and all of my skills to serve our christian schools in any way that I can.

Sprout vanderGugten: I worship at Langley Canadian Reformed Church, I have a loving wife named Hilary and 4 boys, Lucas, Seth, Ian, and Adam, two of whom still go to Credo elementary. I am part owner in a small business in Delta, and a member of the maintenance committee of the school. I look forward to serving on the board "LORD willing", to get through the challenging yet exciting time ahead for our school.

Fairy Tales

Once upon a time in a school not so far away, there was a group of students exploring the world of fairy tales. This exploration opened up the world of classic and fractured fairy tales. Ms. Bosch, Mr. Chase and Mr. Boersema led their students as they explored magical kingdoms, the themes of good and evil, and other components of fairy tales. At the same time, students were comparing and contrasting fiction with non-fiction. The study generated great discussions in connection to the true stories we've been reading from the book of Exodus in Scriptures.

An example of the comparing and contrasting involved the reoccurring stories with magic. The students were asked if Moses had powers when he used his staff and how was his staff different than a magic wand? This helped students appreciate God's true and amazing power in contrast to the make-believe world of fairies and witches with their magic wands. The students learned to recognize God's power through miracles which cannot compare to the fantasy of magic. This was also illustrated by the Pharaoh's magicians who attempted to recreate God's power before Moses, Aaron and the Pharaoh. When it became apparent that they could not recreate the plague of gnats, they acknowledged the power of God: *But when the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they could not. Since the gnats were on people and animals everywhere, the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God."* (Exodus 8:18-19a). God wanted His power to be acknowledged by all and the stories retold from generation to generation.

On Friday, September 28, students were able to dress up and they enjoyed sharing their fairy tale costumes. The students and teachers enjoyed this time together as seen in the picture below. After the party on Friday afternoon, there was peace throughout the school. The students joyfully returned to school the next week and continued their studies happily ever after.

The End



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

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| Mr. W. Bulthuis (2013) | Vice Chair/Ed. Com |
| Mr. T. Bontkes (2014) | Treasurer |
| Mr. R. Scheper (2014) | Secretary |
| Mr. E. Visscher (2013) | CCSTA/Maintenance |
| Mr. J. Lof (2013) | Finance/IT |
| Mrs. V. Sikkema (2014) | CCHS/SpEd |
| Mr. S. Pol (2012) | Development |

Education Committee

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| Mr. R. Roukema | Mrs. W. Sikma |
| Mrs. J. VanOene | Mrs. C. Visscher |
| Mr. H. Snijder | Miss. J. Dokter |

Development Committee

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| Mr. S. Pol | Mrs. C. Stel |
| Mr. M. VanWoudenberg | Mr. B. Deboer |
| | Mrs. J. VanVliet |

Special Education Committee

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| Mrs. V. Sikkema | Mrs. D. Huttema |
| | Mr. H. Snijder |

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| Mr. T. Bontkes | Mr.J. Lof |
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| Mr. M. Homan | Mr. C. Vandergutten |
| R. VanSpronsen | Mr. R. Wiegers |

Staff

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. H. Snijder | Principal |
| Mrs. K. Boersema | Kindergarten A |
| Mrs. J. Onderwater | Kindergarten B |
| Mrs. M. MacDougal | Grade 1 |
| Miss A. Bosch | Grade 2 |
| Mr. S. Chase | Grade 2/3 |
| Mr. N. Boersema | VP/Grade 3 |
| Mr. J. Scholtens | Grade 4 |
| Mrs. L. Vanspronsen | Grade 5 |
| Mrs. N. VanRhee | Grade 5 |
| Mrs. J. DeBoer | Grade 6 |
| Miss R. Vanderhorst | Grade 7 |
| Mrs. D. Huttema | SpEd, LA |
| Miss E. Boot | Educational Ass't |
| Miss M. Bosma | Educational Ass't |
| Mrs. K. Meints | Educational Ass't |
| Mrs. J. Spoor | Educational Ass't |
| Mrs. A. VanSpronsen | Educational Ass't |
| Mrs. E. Kuntz | Office Administrator |