



Volume 19      Issue 2  
Sept. 28, 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

A good day to the membership and supporters of CCES. We hope that you have a joyful Sunday!

Yes, the first month of school has almost been completed. The staff, administration, office and support staff are already well into the groove of another school year, as I'm sure the students are as well. All things are progressing well.

The Board of CCES met on September 11<sup>th</sup> to begin their work for another year as well. As in most years, we have much work ahead of us. However, we do this work prayerfully, with much joy and enthusiasm in the service of our God and King and also on your behalf. God has been gracious and given us much strength to carry on in our tasks. We thank Him for His love and care over us and the CCES school community.

Two matters of business from our first meeting will also involve the membership. They are:

1. The Annual General Membership (AGM) meeting to be held on **October 24<sup>th</sup>** in the CCES gym. Please mark your calendar for that date. **We do need a quorum** to approve the financial statements. An agenda will be provided soon.
2. **And a quorum is also required** for the second matter, the election of two new Board members. Two of our eager, willing and capable members have completed their terms and so we will be seeking nominees. **Please consider carefully your abilities and how you could use them to serve as a member of the CCES Board.** Being an active Board member is really quite an exciting and joyful task.

While attending the AGM, take a moment to stroll through the hallways and view the beautiful new flooring. It really has enhanced the hallways and given them a fresh new look.

Soon we will again have a holiday called Thanksgiving day. Although each and every day for Christians should be a day of great thanksgiving, this is one day set apart especially for that purpose. The Lord our God, through His Son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, has richly blessed us in many different ways. We give thanks for the air we breathe, the food and drink we receive, the clothing, the shelter, our Church and School communities, our redemption from sin through the death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God's gracious gift of freedom, and the list could go on and on.

As this is a CCES publication, the Board gives thanks to our Heavenly and Triune God for His continued blessings over our school and the freedom we receive to have our covenant children taught in the knowledge of God and His creation. We thank Him for a faithful and

enthusiastic principal and staff, for the dedication of the office and support staff, for the facilities, the abilities of our children and their continued safety in the travels to and from school, for supportive parents, and this list could go on and on. Each day, each moment as God's children is a blessing to enjoy and give thanks for.

We hope and pray that each of you may truly give thanks for the blessings received through CCES and that God will continue to keep CCES and its supporting community under the shadow of His wings.

So this report ends. ***We'll see you all at the AGM – October 24th !*** We continue to entrust our school, the students, the teachers, staff and assistants into the hand of our heavenly God and Father. By His grace alone we go forward. May His blessing be on the instruction and learning that takes place at CCES and wherever faithful instruction is promoted !

# Principal's Report



John A. Roukema

It was good to have so many parents attend our Opening Day assembly. We praised the Lord for his goodness and mercy over us and we prayed for wisdom and guidance so that we can act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. We also thank Mrs. J. Onderwater, one of our Kindergarten teachers for the wonderful power-point introduction of students and staff to those who attended the assembly.

By the time you are reading this, the International Conference for Reformed Education (ICRE) will be over. As you may remember from the last issue, this conference, which took place from Sept. 24-26, was attended by principals, directors, division leaders of Reformed schools from Australia, Canada, Netherlands, USA, and South Africa. The Cedar Springs Christian Retreat in Sumas, WA provided a relaxing, yet invigorating, setting for this meeting of the minds. The first day featured two key-note speakers: Dan VanderArk, (retired) executive director of the Christian Schools International (Grand Rapids, MI), and, Dr. Freda Oosterhoff from Hamilton, ON. The other two days featured a variety of workshops dealing with application of the first day ideas.

The theme of the conference was "enabling Reformed teachers to teach Christianly in Post-Modern, Post Christian Times". The first

key-note speech, by Dan VanderArk was entitled "Faith and Life at the Intersection"; that is, how can we educate our youths to not only believe that God's truth is sure but also practise that truth in all phases of living? The second key-note speech, by Dr. F. Oosterhoff, was entitled, "Integrating Faith and Learning". We are confronted with the secular scholarship that is dominated by the naturalistic worldview of modern science, a worldview that is hostile to the teachings of the Bible, as reflected in their theory of knowledge. What do we do when science and faith clash? Each of these speeches was followed by a response from one representative from each region, whereupon a plenary discussion took place.

We thank all the host-families for their willingness to billet the Dutch guests in their homes. You provided me with prompt and enthusiastic responses and I can confidently say that your guests were impressed.

On Wednesday, Sept. 19, CCES students and staff were entertained by Judi, the Manners Lady. During the morning assembly she sang and cajoled the students into adopting good manners towards their teachers, parents, fellow students, and others; Basically, her message was to love your neighbour as your self and do unto others as you would want them to do to you.

As we said before, this tied in well with our school theme for this year: act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).

CCES staff will be attending the CTA Convention Thursday and Friday, Oct. 4 & 5, in Lynden, WA. As in other years, a key-note speaker will address the audience of over 700 teachers from BC and WA. With a variety of 30 or so workshops offered each day. Staff is looking forward to another exciting and invigorating session of learning and interacting.

CCES is in need of another librarian, due to the "retirement" of Diane Vanderhorst. Please let the principal, Sita Vanderpol, Joyce Meersta, or Dinah Vanderhorst know if you are interested to take Diane's place. Librarians come in usually

every Wednesday and Friday.

Last Friday (Sept. 28), the grade 4-7 students participated in the Terry Fox Run, together with the Credo Christian High school. As this time of writing I do not know how things went or what the amount of proceeds were. We will keep you posted via the weekly leaflets.

The date of the annual Foundational Skills Assessment administration (grades 4 & 7) has been moved from May to February. Further particulars will follow as they are made available. The results are to provide a new baseline for student performance and new trend comparisons. That is, the results will be ready to send home by the end of March, rather than at the end of the school year.

#### When to Keep Your Sick Child Home

For the protection of your child, as well as other children, keep your child home if he/she:

- *Has a fever*
- *Is too sick to take part in all normal school activities*
- *Has a suspected or known communicable disease (ie strep throat, pink eye, chicken pox, or any other undiagnosed rash).*

Keep them home until they are no longer infectious.

Please let the school know your child's symptoms

A Message From Your School Nurse

[www.fraserhealth.ca](http://www.fraserhealth.ca)

click on School Health Resources

## The "One Voice" of the Board of Trustees

Henry Contant

*School board members are often referred to as school trustees. Rightfully so, as collectively the role of the school board is to be trustee' of the vision and direction of the school.*

An effective board is one that does not allow individual member 'agendas' to drive the business and decision making of the board. Instead, board leadership requires that the school board provide overall vision and direction for the school and establish sound policies to govern the school according to its mission. Periodic review of these policies to ensure that they still provide effective

guidance remains prudent, given the rapidly changing nature and realities of our Christian school communities.

Keenen, in his book *Christian School Board Governance* (2007) sums it up well when he states "The role of the board of Trustees is best understood when each trustee realizes that the

board must speak with "one voice". He goes on to say that this means that school board members or trustees have the authority to speak in a governance capacity only when attending an official board meeting. Individually each trustee brings much to the table: experiences, leadership abilities, and expertise in a given area are valuable assets. But these contributions must be exercised as part of the whole. When a board speaks, it must speak with one voice rather than with a variety of voices from individual members.

In the spirit of one voice, the trustees cultivate an atmosphere in which dissent can be expressed. The board meetings are also characterized by the pursuit of consensus and agreement. In addition, the essence of the board meetings is harmony, and peace is normative.

#### The voice of Discussion and Dissent

Does "one voice" mean that there must be an absence of differing opinions or individual preferences? Absolutely not! Debate and discussion are vital to the life of every organization, and Christian schools are no exception. Input is important, but the board must come to consensus on every issue. Dissenting opinions must be surfaced in board meetings in an atmosphere where they are valued. But dissenting opinions must not become dissension. Good trustees speak their piece and engage the debate but have the maturity and leadership discipline to yield to the counsel of the group.

#### The voice of Consensus

Consensus means that the discussion has reached the point where all trustees feel comfortable calling for the vote. This occurs because all have had a fair chance to voice their positions on the matter. Consensus is the "one voice" that establishes policy to guide the school. Consensus is the one voice communicated by the principal and/or board chair to the various constituent groups within the school.

Does this mean that there must be 100 percent agreement on every issue? Once again, the answer is no! It means that each trustee has spoken, been heard, and participated in the vote and then has entrusted the results to the corporate body. At this point there is no place for dissent or petty sniping.

#### The voice of Unity

For most decisions, strong boards of trustees are likely to reach 100 percent unity. However, there will be difficult issues that put good people on different sides, issues on which it is impossible to come to total agreement. Strong debate and much prayer must be devoted to these matters. Occasionally it is wise to postpone a final decision to allow everyone time to pray and seek wisdom from the Spirit of God. Sometimes there will be time spent in prayer together just before the decision is made. Even if individual board members struggle to accept a final decision, a board that understands the one-voice concept will know that if the outcome must be communicated to others, the communication must be with a peaceful voice of unity. - Based on Keenen, pp. 29-30

As school boards carry on their governance task in leading their Christian schools through another school year, I pray their actions and decisions will provide the needed

visionary leadership that advances, not hinders the cause of Christian education in their respective communities.

#### References

Keenen, Derek, J. (2007). *Christian School Board Governance: A Framework for Effectiveness*. Colorado Springs: ACSI Purposeful Design.

Henry Contant (contant@twu.ca) served Christian schools for 30 years as a teacher, principal, and development director before assuming his role as Executive Director of the SCSBC. He has a B.A. in Secondary Education from (Dordt College, Iowa) and a M. Ed. (Simon Fraser University, BC) in Administrative Leadership.

#### QUESTIONS to ask yourself before agreeing to serve on the board

1. What will be expected of me?
2. Can I make time for meetings, retreats, homework?
3. What qualifies me to serve on this board?
4. How long a commitment can I make?
5. Do I really believe in the school?
6. Am I truly supportive of the administrative team and staff?
7. Is my spouse supportive of my decision?
8. Is there any reason I should not serve?
9. Do I sense God leading me in this decision?

- adapted from Biehl, Engstrom, *The Effective Board Member*

# Short Report of Board Meeting

Short Report of the Minutes of the  
Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary  
School

June 12, 2007

1. Opening: The Chairman, P.J. Schouten called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He read from Isaiah 61 and led in prayer. All Board members were in attendance.
2. Ed Com Classroom reports
  - S. Stam and C. Vandelft were welcomed to the meeting as representatives from EdCom to report on class room visits. Almost all of the classes had been visited. The reports were all very positive.
  - S. Stam was thanked for all the work she has done for EdCom as her term is complete.
3. Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.
4. Approval of minutes and short report of the May 08, 2007 Board meeting. Review of minutes of the May 28, 2007 membership meeting for presentation to the membership: - Motion: "that the minutes of the May 8, 2007 Board meeting be approved as presented" was made. Minutes and Short Report were approved with minor corrections. - The minutes of the May 28, 2007 General Membership Meeting were reviewed and approved to present to the membership in the next issue of *Branches*.
5. Matters from the minutes:
  - The letter of appointment for J. Deglint will be sent.
  - A. Horstman was contacted regarding the benefits plan.
  - SCSBC report tabled until September.
6. Incoming correspondence: - None
7. Outgoing correspondence: A letter of appointment to the CCRTC was sent to J. Deglint.
8. Principal's report:
  - The Principal's report as received prior to the meeting was reviewed
  - The Grade 7 graduation is scheduled for Tuesday, June 26. P. Vandergugten will be speaking on behalf of the parents and the Valedictorian is Emma Hansman.
  - The PCA position still needs to be filled. Have application to fill half time for this position.
  - J. Roukema expressed thankfulness to the Board for all its efforts through out the year.
- Board/Staff social is scheduled for Sept. 7, 2007.
9. Chairman's report:
  - P.J. Schouten expressed appreciation for the professional manner in which each Board member carried out their task and asked for continued blessings over the tasks that lay ahead.
  - Thankfulness was also expressed to J. Roukema for his participation in Board meetings as well as his diligent efforts throughout the year as Principal. J. Roukema was asked to convey appreciation to the staff as well for all their efforts.
10. Education Committee:
  - The Edcom meeting minutes as received prior to the meeting were reviewed.
  - S. Stam prepared a report in response to the Board's request for periodical updates on the general direction of how our mission statement is carried out. This report outlined the committee's curriculum review and classroom visits. A copy of this report will be placed in *Branches*.
  - J. Onderwater is the staff replacement for T. Visscher to the Edcom.
11. Finance Committee/Treasurer's report:
  - V. Stel reviewed the minutes of the finance committee as received prior to the meeting.
  - Severe arrears cases were discussed. Letters will be sent as well as follow up visits scheduled.
  - V. Stel looked into automatic withdrawals. It was deemed too expensive based on processing fees quoted.
12. Development Committee: Preparations for the June 16th Golf Tournament are almost complete. Hole sponsorship and golfer sign ups have been very positive.
13. Transportation rep report:
  - The minutes of the April 2, 2007 meeting as received prior to the meeting were reviewed.
  - The proposed budget for 2007/08 was passed.
  - It was noted that the CCSTA board policy should be reviewed soon. B. Onderwater will pass this on to the CCSTA.
14. CCHS rep report: - Nothing to report.
15. Special Education Committee report: The Ruth Vanderpol Memorial Fund interest is being followed up on.

16. Maintenance:
- Summer project lists are being finalized. More quotes are coming in for the tiling of the floor.
  - The Work Bee is scheduled for Aug 11.
17. Other Committee Reports (RCDC/CB's/CCP/PPDC/FISA): Nothing to report
18. Other Canadian Reformed Schools: Nothing to report
19. New business: Nothing to report
20. Items for next board meeting:
- Review of Board Manual.
  - Adopt board calendar for school year 2007/08.
  - SCSBC report.
- Reserve Policy.
  - Begin Board nomination process.
  - Enrollment (Financial Implications)
  - Continue Board development (Video Series).
  - Cost per student update/report.
  - Update on submission of necessary documents to Ministry of Education.
21. Question Period: None
22. Next Meeting: Aug 28, 2007 if required; otherwise September 11, 2007.
23. Thanksgiving and prayer: B Onderwater closed with prayer.
24. Adjournment: P.J. Schouten adjourned the meeting.

## Maintenance Matters



**Mike Stam**

On behalf of the maintenance committee I would like to thank the many individuals that came out to the summer "Work Bee". It was a very productive day of working on the school and community bonding with both young and old alike. Many tasks were completed!

I would also like to thank the many men that came out on various evenings throughout the summer to help

with other tasks: preparing the hallway floor for tiling, varnishing shelves, painting, landscaping, etc.. Once again, without your help the school would not be looking as great as it does now! THANK-YOU!

Come to the October AGM and you just may see a picture of yourself hard at work! For those who missed out on this service opportunity... check out the pictures and plan to join in the fun next year!

## Credo Aid Update



The fundraising is in full swing already. We have had a wonderful response to the entertainment books again this year. Thank you to all who sold/purchased books this year. May you have a very "entertaining" year using up all your wonderful coupons!

Veggie packages should also be finished, as Tuesday was the big production day. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event. It was a lot of work. We really do appreciate all the effort to make this a success again this year.

There are a few ongoing fundraisers that we would like to remind the membership of, namely:

- Canadian Tire money (pass it on to one of the

Credo Aid board members or leave it at the school office)

- Club Z (HBC) reward points # 912 425 540
- Campbell soup labels (pass on to Carol Vandeburgt or at the school office)
- Otter Coop Receipts (pass on to a board member or at the school office)
- Certificates (order forms included or phone Shauna Stam @ 604.514.9805)

Credo Aid, like the other elementary schools, gives a percentage of their profits to the high school each year. The support from both the elementary and high school families is so very much appreciated. We are off to a great start...let's keep it up!

Credo Aid  
**CERTIFICATE ORDER FORM**

**GROCERY STORES**

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

Save On Foods (6%) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (3.5%) (Milestone's, Kelsey's, Montanna's, Second Cup)
- Moxie's (11%)
- Red Robin (7%)
- The Boathouse (7%)
- White Spot (7%)

**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 (3.5%)      | M&M Meat Shops (3.5%)     | Shoppers Drug Mart(3%) | Toy's R Us (2%)(or \$10) |
| Crabtree 'n' Evelyn (10%) | Mark's Work Wearhouse(7%) | Sport Chek (4%)        | Winners (7%)             |
| Old Navy (7%)             | Sport Mart (9%)           | Chevron (2.5%)         | Banana Republic (7%)     |
| Future Shop (2%)          | Payless Shoe Source (7%)  | Staples (3.5%)         | Petro Canada (2.5%)      |

**Available in \$20's** – Shell (2%) , Chapters (10%), Blockbuster (7%), Roger's Video (7%)

**DEPARTMENT STORES**

**Available in \$25 and \$100's**

- Sears (2%)
- Hbc (3.5%) (The Bay, Zellers, Home Outfitters)

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

- Available in 25's and 100's
- Home Depot (2%)
- Home Hardware (3.5%)
- Rona (3%)

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

# School Calendar Update



Oct. 4 & 5	CTA Convention	no school
8	Thanksgiving Day	no school
9	Board Meeting	
12	Grade 6/7 Soccer Tournament	
18	School Pictures	
23	Education Committee Meeting	
24	School Membership Meeting	
31	Reformation Day	

## Notification of School Membership Meeting Wednesday, October 24, 2007 8 p.m. CCES gym

The agenda will include:

- Minutes of the May 28, 2007 Membership meeting
- Secretary's Annual Report
- Treasurer's report and 2006/07 Financial Statements
- Election of 2 board members (Retiring are Mike Stam and Tyler VanVliet).

A complete agenda and financial statements will be forwarded to you in the next issue of *Branches*

## Canadian Reformed School Association of Langley Board Director Nomination Form

We hereby nominate.....  
to stand for election as a Director on the Board of the Canadian Reformed School Association of Langley, B.C. at its 2007 Fall Membership Meeting.

...../  
Name and signature of first nominator

...../  
Name and signature of second nominator

I, ..... hereby agree to allow my name to stand for election as a Director of the Canadian Reformed School Association of Langley.

...../  
(nominee's signature) date

Please return to a board member as soon as possible.



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 (2007)	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. T. VanVliet (2007)	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. D. Mackay

### Special Education Committee

Mr. W. Nordeman	Mrs. T. Visscher
Mrs. W. VanderHoek	Mr. J. Roukema

### 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