



Volume 20      Issue 2  
Sept. 26, 2008

# BRANCHES

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

## ***from the Chairman....***



Paul Schouten

A good day to the membership of CCES!

The end of September, one tenth of the school year gone by! Our Principal has informed us that all things at school are moving along well. That is certainly good to know for parents and Board.

The Board has met once and the committees have begun their work in earnest as well. Having said that, there are just a few matters or events at this time to report on to the membership.....

Without embarrassment a repeat of the last two years:

Soon the fall membership meeting will be upon us. At this meeting voting usually takes place for new Board members as well. This year four new Board members will be required and we would like to have a minimum of 8 nominations to replace these members. The Board has already started reviewing possibilities for new members and at the next meeting we hope to complete the list of nominations. We ask that you please take some time to consider whether you are able (we know you're all willing) to serve a term. The work of a school Board member is actually very interesting, enjoyable and rewarding. It does come with a responsibility that you are expected to focus your attention on and carry out for three years. Meetings are held once a month as a Board and committees usually (you'll be on one for sure) meet once a month as well. Between meetings you will have some work, research, etc. to do. If you have the ability and care for our school, why not give it a try? Thanks for giving it some thought and thank you very much for accepting the challenge.

At our first Board meeting the outstanding receivables were reviewed carefully as they were quite a bit higher than the last few years. The Board asks that you consider your commitments to CCES and as well the treasurer and the finance committee, ensuring that your monthly tuition/ membership is paid on time. The school needs to pay its salaries and bills on time as well and depends on your regular payments to do so. The tuition and membership fees are listed on the back of this magazine.

As we sign off we ask that you continue to remember the work at CCES; the students, Principal, staff, administration and Board in your prayers also thanking our gracious God for allowing us the freedom and ability to operate our own schools where the marvels and wonders of God's creation can be unfolded for our children.

Wishing you all a great and joyful day of rest to the praise of our God and King!

# Principal's Report



John A. Roukema

We opened the school year 2008-2009 in a Christian manner. That is, together with parents, friends, and relatives we assembled in the school gym and praised God for His continued guidance over us during the summer vacation. We reflected on our school theme for this year: "seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33a), and prayed for continued guidance and wisdom for this school-year. It was good to see such great school-community participation in this opening assembly. We hope that as parents and teachers together we may be given the strength and wisdom to do the work of nurturing children in the Lord.

In our last issue we urged all parents to take note of the school opening time-change. It is good to have the cooperation of all concerned as children arrive at school on time. We thank you for your cooperation.

This year, if all goes well, CCES will be converting to the BCeSIS computer reporting system. Aside from all kinds of student and personnel information, we will also be formatting and utilizing a new Report Card system. We were familiarized (somewhat) with this process during one of our year-end Pro-D days (June 24). We have been in contact with Alice Horstman at CCHS to have another session on Reporting, in time for us to do the November Report Cards. The conversion process will require patience and confidence from all stakeholders; it may be somewhat time-consuming.

The CCES staff attended an after-school workshop presented by Wilma Van Oosten (Yarrow, JCS). The presentation featured rubric development for the 6+1 Traits of Writing Program. This writing program focuses on the six main components of paragraph/story writing. Within these foci specific benchmark

assessments and rubric for scoring are addressed. Staff will be reviewing progress on a continual basis, especially also as the traits will become components on the new above-mentioned reporting system. Primary and Intermediate teachers will be holding monthly meetings to review progress in the development of these traits as they (the traits, that is!) are implemented in the classroom settings.

The FISA/Independent School Regional Tour for our area was held Monday, Sept. 22, at the St. John Brebeuf School in Abbotsford. Several Board members attended presentations made by the Independent schools inspectors and by the Executive Director of the Federation of Independent Schools Association. The inspectors and the director emphasized several matters of importance: among other things, DPA minutes required now of us; early learning projects such as full-day, every-day Kindergarten and half-day pre-school type classes. Reports on these matters will be studied by principals and primary staffs to ascertain the levels of benefit to us.

CCES is also targeted for an Independent Schools Monitoring Inspection this year. The date of this visit is not yet known. As you may know, monitoring visits are conducted every two years. You may remember that CCES as part of the Credo Christian Schools legal entity was evaluated by an Independent Schools-appointed committee during the 2006-2007 school year. This evaluation determines the continuation of funding to CCES. The bi-annual monitoring visits are conducted to ensure that the school is progressing on recommendations the evaluation committee may have made, such as changes to the facilities, staffing, and administration, curriculum and course outlines, and special education delivery.

The CCES Staff is scheduled to attend the annual Christian Teachers Association Convention, Oct. 9 & 10, in Abbotsford. The theme for this convention is taken from Micah 6:8 "What Does the Lord Require of Us?" The key-note speaker is Doug Blomberg who has written extensively on the philosophy and

practice of Christian education. Five other featured speakers will deal with topics of their expertise within the Micah 6:8 frame-work. Over the course of the two-day convention, teachers can choose from over 100 workshops. We are looking forward to two interesting and informative days of learning and interacting.

## Seek First His Kingdom and His Righteousness

This year's school theme is Matthew 6:33a: seek first His Kingdom and His righteous. Taken at face-value we may think to ourselves: Sure, no problem. Of course I will. But when we read what Jesus says starting at vs. 19 of this chapter, we may be a bit puzzled. What does Jesus mean: Don't be worried about taking care of yourself. Don't worry about what you will eat or drink? Don't be so concerned about clothing yourself. The pagans may do that, but we, followers of Jesus, don't.

Or do we? Isn't it quite normal and appropriate for us to worry about putting food and drink on our tables? What if we can't make ends meet? Isn't that something to worry about? Or, what if mom and dad don't have enough money to buy us some nice clothes? Wouldn't that bother you; wouldn't that concern your parents? I'm sure it would!

If you would re-read the parables of Jesus concerning His Kingdom, then you can see that Jesus' teaching is not against our worrying or anxiety per se but against the false direction of our worrying. Jesus is not talking about the quality of our worry but about the object of our concern. Jesus focuses on our motives, our priorities for our worries. We must learn to make His Kingdom and His righteousness our top priority.

If His Kingdom and His righteousness is not our priority then we are left to ourselves, wrapped up in the things of this life: good food, nice clothes, better house, a good career with high pay, lots of

entertainment and fun, good looking, healthy bodies. Television ads promote this kind of living --- in technicolour. They promote our hunger and thirst for this so-called good life. Jesus commands His followers to aim at something better than that so-called good life. He commands us to strive for His Kingdom where justice, righteousness, and peace reign. Knowing that direction we will search out that destination.

And so, as we go through the school year 2008-2009 Monday-morning assemblies, our staff members will focus their attention on Jesus Kingdom parables. We hope that students will take Jesus' teachings on the Kingdom to heart; that they, too, may seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness; that we, together, will make it our highest aim to be His followers. Jesus' command to seek His Kingdom applies to all areas of life and to all days of the week, 24/7, also to the education of His children. It's not just in Bible and Church History that we talk about His Kingdom; it's also in the Sciences and Social Studies, in Music and Phys. Ed., in the hallways and on the playground that we need to make clear that our first priority is His Kingdom and His righteousness. Are all our actions and studying motivated by seeking first Jesus' Kingdom and His righteousness?

Let me conclude with two quotes. The first one is from a commentary by Martin Luther on the section of our passage dealing with God's care for the birds of the air: "You see", writes Martin Luther, " He is making the birds our school

masters and teachers. It is a great and abiding disgrace to us that in the Gospel a helpless sparrow should become a theologian and a preacher to the wisest of men ... Whenever you listen to a nightingale, therefore, you are listening to an excellent preacher ... It is as if he were saying, 'I prefer to be in the Lord's kitchen. He has made heaven and earth, and He himself is the cook and the host. Everyday He feeds and nourishes innumerable little birds out of His hands.

The second quote is this little poem:

*Said the robin to the sparrow:  
I should really like to know  
Why these anxious human beings  
Rush about and worry so.  
Said the sparrow to the robin:  
Friend, I think that it must be  
That they have no heavenly Father,  
Such as cares for you and me.*

## Short Report of Board Meeting

Short Report of the meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School June 10, 2008

Opening: The Chairman P.J. Schouten opened the meeting with reading Colossians 1:1-23 and prayer. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. W. Nordeman was absent with notification.

Approval of Minutes and Short Report: Motion: "to approve the minutes of the May, 13, 2008 as presented" was made. Minutes and Short report were approved with minor corrections.

Incoming Correspondence: Letters were received from parents concerning the Kindergarten class for 2008/09.

Principal's report: The Principal's report as received prior the meeting was reviewed. An outline of the Principal's Teacher Evaluation Process was handed out and discussed. Sharon Allison will be taking the 60% FTE Special Education Assistant position. The Board/Staff social is scheduled for September 5, 2008. The Ministry of Education has informed schools that an extra 30 minutes per day will be required for

physical activity. J. Roukema is scheduled to attend the Christian Schools Canada 4th Leadership Conference September 18-20. There was discussion on the CCRTC (Covenant Canadian Reformed Teacher's College). There was a request for a possible practicum placement next year again. J. Roukema will check if there are teachers willing to do this next year.

Chairman's report: The Chairman's report as received prior the meeting was reviewed. P.J. Schouten expressed thankfulness to the principal and the staff for all their dedication in teaching the children of CCES faithfully and diligently this past school year. He also expressed appreciation for the work that the board continues to do and wished all the board members a blessed holiday and good health and strength for the next school year.

Education Committee: The minutes of the May 20, 2008 meeting as received prior to the meeting were discussed. Motion: " to raise J. Spors time from 25% FTE to 50% FTE for 2008/09" was made, seconded and carried. The EdCom made recommendations regarding the Ministry of Education's requirements for more daily physical activity for the students. Motion: " to start each school day @ 8:40(first bell) for an 8:45(second bell) start of learning, thus adding

10 minutes to each school day, and allowing the school year to end on June 19, 2009 (subject to this working for busing)" was made, seconded and carried.

Finance Committee: The treasurer V. Stel reviewed financial issues.

Maintenance Committee: Work Bee is scheduled for July 12, 2008

Items for next board meeting: Enrollment-

financial implications discussed. Special Education items (including grant application) Update on necessary documents to Ministry of Education. Begin Board nomination process.

Next meeting: September 9, 2008.

Thanksgiving and prayer: V. Stel closed in prayer.

Adjournment: The chairman P.J. Schouten adjourned

## Credo Aid Update



Wow - where has September gone? It's hard to believe that the month is almost over, and that fall is already here! We have some fun things and big plans for the months leading up to Christmas.

Veggie Packs: As we noted in the last Branches and you might have seen in other notices, veggie packs are on their way! The deadline for orders (Sept. 23) has now passed, but the actual assembly of the packs is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 29 (prep) and Tuesday, Sept. 30 (assembly). If you would still like to volunteer, many hands make light work! Please contact Corinne VanDelft (604.856.4365) or Joyce Meerstra (604.856.0257) if you can help. Please bring knives, cutting boards, peelers, and large, labelled bowls to the Langley Church kitchen on Sept. 30.

Reminder re: pickup. The packs are to be picked up between 12:00 - 2:30 at Langley Church on assembly day (Sept. 30), unless you make other arrangements. Thank you! Also, depending on the orders, there is sometimes a "wait list" set up

for extra, left-over packs if you missed out.

Certificates: Our best fundraiser! Did you know that everyone doing even a little bit helps out? You might even begin by just purchasing half of your monthly grocery budget with certificates! Make it even easier with post-dated cheques, cashed when you want them to be! Our current goal is to profit \$1000 per month (which we usually achieve), but we still do not have near the majority of the membership on board. Realistically we should easily be able to double this goal if more people joined in! Please contact Shauna Stam @ 604.514.9805 or fill in the form to order today! For Aldergrove church you can contact Pearl Hoff, and for Willoughby Church please contact Fiona Jansen. Please help us continue to support this wonderful program!

Coming soon: Delicious, decadent, Purdy's Chocolates. Stay tuned!

Your Credo Aid Board

# School Calendar Update



Oct. 6	Thanksgiving Assembly
9 & 10	Christian Teachers Association (CTA) Convention
14	Board Meeting
15	Sp. Ed Com. Meeting
27	Reformation Day assembly
28	Education Committee Meeting
29	School Membership Meeting
31	Reformation Day



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## 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. P. Hoff
Mrs. J. Onderwater	Mrs. C. Pol
Mrs. W. Sikma	Mrs. C. VanDelft
Mr. J. Roukema	Mrs. N. VanRhee

## Development Committee

Mr. E. Visscher	Mr. Paul Sikma
Mr. D. Huttema	Mrs. F. Jansen

## 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. Wiegers
Mr. J. Roukema	Mr. C. Vanderhorst
Mr. D. MacKay	Mr. Phil Sikma

## Staff

Mr. J. Roukema	Principal, Gr. 5
Mrs. J. Onderwater	Kindergarten
Mrs. M. MacDougal	Grade 1
Mrs. D. Vanderboom	Grade 2
Mrs. K. Noort	Grade 3
Mr. M. Van	Grade 4
Mrs. L. Vanspronzen	Grade 5
Mr. G. Scholtens	Grade 6
Miss R. Vanderhorst	Grade 7
Mrs. D. Huttema	SpEd, LA
Mrs. S. Allison	Grade 5/6,7 PE, SEA
Mrs. J. Deglint	Music
Mrs. A. Vandeburgt	SEA
Mr. D. Rolleman	SEA
Mrs. J. Spoor	TA
Mrs. E. Kuntz	Secretary
Mr. & Mrs. J. Dewit	Custodians

## Credo Aid

Mrs. W. Sikma	Mrs. M. Ezinga
Mrs. H. Vandergugten	Mrs. L. Vanderven

## Fee Structure 2008-2009

Membership	100.00
Kindergarten	235.00
Elementary (1-3)	415.00
Elementary (4-7)	435.00
Junior High	560.00
Senior High	610.00
CCSTA office	604-543-0890
Dave Champ (cell)	604-603-0890

## Notification of School Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 29, 2008 8 p.m. CCES gym

The agenda will include:

- Minutes of the May 28, 2008 Membership meeting
- Secretary's Annual Report
- Treasurer's report and 2007/08 Financial Statements
- Election of 2 board members (Retiring are Walter Nordeman, Bob Onderwater, Paul Schouten, Verne Stel)

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 2008 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.