

BRANCHES



*From the rising of the sun to the
place where it sets, the Name
of the LORD is to be praised. Psalm 113:3*



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**Volume 27
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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

Well, the first few weeks of school are underway. While the school is abuzz with activity, Board activity is also heating up with committee meetings, Board meetings and a flurry of other activity. We remain thankful that the school has such strong community support, and are grateful for all the people - staff and volunteers alike - that enable us to operate with such vitality.

Over the last few months, the Board has participated in some post-JSPC discussions with representatives from the other three Canadian Reformed Schools in the Fraser Valley. Based upon this, we are fairly familiar with the pressures and potential plans at the other schools. While CCES is fairly comfortable in the short term with the two new rooms (and the potential scalability with a portable, if required), both John Calvin and William of Orange are actively exploring options to respond to their own unique pressures. As a Board, we continue to operate on the premise that we have a collective future. As such, we will continue to seek opportunity for collaboration with the other schools that acknowledges ongoing trends in demographics, and is consistent with a reasonable long-term vision for the Fraser Valley.

We also extend a hearty welcome to the James and Jan Bredenhof, Henry and Kim Kieneker, and Brian and Debbie Huttema families. The Bredenhofs have three elementary aged children (Katie - Grade 7, Jared - Grade 5, and Hendrik - Grade 3), while the Kieneker and Huttema families have high-school aged children. We also welcome the Leung and Su families who send children to CCHS as international students.

Principal Announcement

In early September, we released an announcement to membership by email. For those that did not receive the email, we repeat it in the following:

"In June 2013, Heres Snijder approached the CCES Board Executive to communicate his intent to reflect on his current position as CCES principal and explore the possibility of taking a different career path. Concurrently, and based on mutual understanding and agreement, the Board began exploration of potential alternatives to fill a possible vacancy for this position.

Discussions between the Board and H. Snijder continued through September 2014. The purpose of this note is to inform you that H. Snijder intends to serve as Principal for the present school year, but will not return for the school year beginning September 2015. The Board and H.

Snijder have expressed commitment to continue to serve the best interests of the school community in their roles as Directors and Principal during this time.

The Board is thankful for Heres' contributions over the last four years, and plans to acknowledge his service at an appropriate time during the school year. At the same time, the Board and Principal welcome your positive and prayerful support during this time of transition."

To this end, we have placed an advertisement for a new Principal in this the typical places, including this edition of Branches and Church News. However, word of mouth is often the most effective method to communicate, so please feel free to forward this advertisement to potential candidates!

Increase in 'Entrance Fee'

At the May 2014 membership meeting, changes to the 'entrance fee' were brought forward to membership. These changes include an increase in the 'entrance fee' from \$3,000 to \$3,600, effective November 1, 2014. In other words, families that become members on or after November 1 2014 will be expected to pay the \$3,600 entrance fee before enrolling their children in Grade 1. However, families that become members before November 1 2014 will be grandfathered in with the \$3,000 entrance fee.

Extending Membership to Families that are Members of the United Reformed Churches

We are aware that the John Calvin Christian School extended membership to families that attend a United Reformed Church a few years ago. Before actively considering this at CCES, we wish to gauge if this matter is active in our membership. As such, we invite feedback from membership on this - in the form of a letter - by January 09 2015. This timing would give an opportunity for membership to consider this and become fully acquainted with the status of ecumenical relations between the federations of Canadian Reformed and United Reformed churches via Synod reports (www.canrc.org), Clarion articles, etc.

Other Board Matters

In other Board matters, we are also preparing for the membership meeting planned for October 29 2014. The next edition of Branches in a few weeks will have more information regarding the agenda and matters for the meeting.

From the Principal....

Heres Snijder

From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised!
Psalm 113:3 (ESV)

More, more and more!

As our year theme suggests, and just like east and west never meet, we will not be able to say, ever, that we've arrived at the point of bringing enough praise to the name of the Lord. There is to be more! Paul emphasized it to the Thessalonians "[you] ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so **more and more**" (4:1) As well, he encouraged the Philippians "that your love may abound **more and more** in knowledge and depth and insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ." (1:9). We are committed to emphasize and encourage the Credoians in the same spirit and with the same long term goal in mind. Maranatha!

Cultural Transition Assistance

Credo is blessed with the presence of many new students. By all accounts, they are finding their stride and step and place in the respective classroom communities. The arrival of Harry Lln (K), Daniel Lin (4) and Rina Liu (5B) from China has resulted in a collaborative initiative dubbed CTA, Cultural Transition Assistance. High School students Alice Wu, Chris Yan and Ben Yu, fluent in the mandarin language, meet these three students once a week to assess and support them in any transition challenge they may be facing at the time. We are grateful for these high school students for sharing their time, insights and experiences: only a few years ago they were facing the same challenges, obstacles and (language) barriers!

Education Committee

On September 30 the Education Committee will have its first meeting. Bob Huttema and Melissa VanPopta will be joining use for the first time. Thank you for doing so, and welcome to this hard working committee. A thank you to Jackie VanOene for serving on this committee for three years.

Items on this year's agenda include a study of the BC Education Plan for the purpose of assessing -worldview and curriculum related implications and challenges. The practice of fieldtrips will also be reviewed and the *distributed learning* format will be studied.

The Education Committee members will continue to listen to teachers as they may voice curriculum related needs (like textbook replacement or renewal) as well as to you, the parents. Looking back, parent evenings have been organized to delve into matters such as *bullying*, *digital technology* and *healthy boundaries with children*. Do you have a matter you wish to see discussed in this format? Be encouraged to contact any member of the Education Committee about any good idea you might have.

School Building, Grounds, and Traffic Flow

Last Monday we came to school to find the yellow fences

removed from around the field, much to the delight of all! A special note of 'welcome!' is extended to our new Mr. Fix-it. This time it is a (Darryl) Hofsink and (Rob) Bisschop duo! It was a pleasure to work with Mr. Casey deHaas who has done a most marvelous job keeping the building in ship-shape! Smooth traffic flow in the morning and afternoon continues to be a pleasure to watch. Despite the fact that it gets very busy during peak moments, congestion is avoided almost all of the time. Thank you for yielding to buses and for keeping incorrect parking to a minimum. It's a little gesture that makes a big difference.

Professional Development

The notion that 'teachers are the living curriculum' results in many planned professional development activities. In July, staff members have been involved in various PD activities, ranging from a (CCRTC initiated) Bible course, PhysEd curriculum developed (initiated and sponsored by the Reformed Curriculum Development Committee), innovations in classroom teaching, school leadership and staff development.

Seven Laws Of Teaching.

With so many approaches to student learning, with the educational field abuzz about the need to differentiate and incorporate findings about learning styles and multiple intelligences, Credo staff will discuss John Milton Gregory's The Seven Laws of Teaching. Given the fact that Credo staff is an energetic and impassioned mix of both young and veteran teachers, there are great expectations of vigorous discussions about the art and science of teaching. The beauty of exploring these 'laws' is that as reflective practitioners we will either be professionally challenged or personally encouraged.

Library Committee: Welcome Heather Dykstra!

The library program is in full swing again! At least 200 books are checked in and out every week! Head librarian Sita, volunteers and staff liason Leslie Scholtens had their first meeting to plan for the year ahead. After last year's critically successful Book Week, plans have formalized to have another book week in January, to help focus attention on the essential importance of developing a love for reading and of developing discerning reading skills. As well, the volunteers, with feedback from teachers plan to attend at least two sizeable book sales. Do you enjoy reading with your son or daughter? Do you love reading? There will be ample opportunity to combine the enjoyable with some volunteer labor by helping the librarians pre-view library resources. A review template (see elsewhere in this issue of Branches) is used to determine whether a library resources is a good 'fit' for the school's library. Don't hesitate to give Mrs. Sita VanderPol a call if you wish to be part of this fun and important work!

School Spirit Day

Under the able and creative guidance of Rachel Vanderhorst and her Grade 7 students, school and staff had the first School Spirit Day on Tuesday. The school population was dressed as athletes and a school wide lunch activity (athletes and refs version of capture the flag) helped contribute to the good spirit and atmosphere we so treasure at school. We recognize the parents' input and participation: you are going out of your way to 'make this happen' by providing different dress for your child. These are the spirit days planned for this year:

Spirit Days	Dates
Twins/Triplets/etc.	Wed., Oct. 22
PJ/Comfy Clothes	Tue., Nov.18
Opposite Grade	Wed., Jan. 28
Wacky Hair	Thu., Feb. 19
Beach	Wed., Apr. 29
Water fight	May (a warm and sunny day)

Awareness Raiser Assembly

Last Monday, Miss Bosch led students and staff in the first school wide awareness raiser assembly of this year. She shared her involvement in Helping Hands outreach of the Edu-Deo organization, specifically in Nicaragua. An Edu-Deo Race will be held October 2nd in Campbell Valley Park. We are looking forward to your cheer support! Three additional awareness and fundraiser events will be held this year: Coldest Night (for Salvation Army's Gateway of Hope) and Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Payroll Appreciation

Last week, staff expressed appreciation to our secretary, Mrs. Elma Kuntz for faithfully and expertly taking care of our paychecks, every month again. Having our pay stub and statement delivered in our mail slots is quite easy to get used to. Often we don't fully realize how much work and energy it takes, every month again to deliver these checks in good order. It's appreciated!

Looking ahead: Thanksgiving Assembly

Mr. Scholtens 4(B) , Miss VanderHoek (4A) and their students will lead us in a special Thanksgiving Assembly on Wednesday October 8. You are cordially invited to join us in the Langley Canadian Reformed Church building at 2:00 pm.

Covenant Canadian Reformed Teacher's College

The CCRTC and school boards in Western Canada continue to explore ways and means to be a hand and foot to each other. Recently, Reverend D. Agema offered a Bible course to teachers. Starting October 1, an online Science course will be offered.. More in-service courses are designed and offered across the country in on-line or sessional formats. The possibility of obtaining a Certificate of Reformed Education is extended to teachers currently working in Reformed schools who have been trained at secular institutions. Great developments, I'm sure you'll agree, in addition to the fact that the number of students receiving pre-service training at the college this year has increased to 21. More, our brothers and sisters in Ontario continue to address the issue of recognition and accreditation. They soldier on and continue to apply Christ-centered convictions to the area of institutionalized education, in spite of this daunting challenge and considerable financial sacrifice. Think TWU law school's challenge for recognition and you'll get the CCRTC picture. Food for thought, perhaps, and the question - am I positioned to come alongside this college and assist them prayerfully, and financially?

Short Report of Board Meetings

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School June 10 & 12, 2014

- **Opening and Welcome** (June 10th): The Chairman, Chris Hoff welcomed all the Directors and Principal Heres Snijder to the meeting. There was no official opening, as this meeting was preceded by the Legal Authority Meeting.
- **Agenda Approval:** The agenda for the regular board meeting was approved.
- **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Report of the May 6, 2014 regular Board meeting were adopted.

- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** Two incoming letters were received regarding student enrolment. An incoming letter was received from William of Orange. One outgoing letter was approved.
- **Principal's Report:** Heres Snijder presented the Principal's Report for June 2014 and highlighted items related to principal and staff year-end activities, Grade 7 graduation, and student enrolment for the 2014/15 school year.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for June 2014 was received for information. Chris Hoff reported on his activities as chairman.
- **General Business** (June 10th): A number of matters were discussed including the membership meeting of

May 28th, various staff matters, the September board/staff social and principal evaluation policies. One enrolment application was approved. Wilfred Bulthuis reported positively on third term classroom visits.

- **Ad-Hoc Expansion Committee:** Tim Bontkes reported on the activities of the Expansion Committee. An itemized list of the renovation items for the existing building will be written up and prioritized with input from the staff.
- **Closing** (June 10th): Al Leyenhorst closed with thanksgiving prayer. Chris Hoff adjourned the meeting and thanked all for coming.
- **Opening and Welcome** (June 12th): The Chairman, Chris Hoff, opened the meeting by reading from Proverbs 4 and prayer. He welcomed all the Directors to the meeting.
- **General Business** (June 12th): A number of matters were discussed including the CCES memory work program, board manual updates, and policies related to entrance fee, paternity leave, and international students. One additional enrolment application was approved.
- **Finance Committee:** The financial statements for May 31, 2014 were submitted and reviewed.
- **Education Committee:** Education Committee minutes

for April 22, 2014 and May 27, 2014 were submitted and reviewed. Bob Huttema and Melissa VanPopta were appointed to the committee.

- **CCSTA:** Al Leyenhorst updated on the latest developments in the CCSTA, including a possible change to the recently approved budget. Other business models for transportation are currently being explored.
- **Maintenance Committee:** Al Leyenhorst reported on the activities of the Maintenance Committee. Expressions of interest for the janitorial position are being reviewed and considered.
- **IT Committee:** IT Committee minutes for May 15, 2014 were received for information. Will VanOene reported on the activities of the IT Committee, including various IT items that will be purchased and completed over the summer.
- **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for September 9, 2014.
- **Closing:** Al Leyenhorst closed with thanksgiving prayer. Chris Hoff adjourned the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Credo Aid Update....

We have moved full swing into another year of fundraising! We have a new member, Jen Sikma and lots of exciting events planned for 2014/2015.

Veggie Packs - Chop Chop Chop! We need orders and we need Choppers!!

We have a new member on the veggie pack team: Esther Vandergugten....thanks so much for joining!

Dates:

- Mon, Oct. 6 - evening chopping - Suggestion: Get a group of gals together and have a girl's night that includes your favorite drink, knife and a cutting board.
- Tues, Oct 7 - Assembly day starting at 9 am. In Langley church.

Please contact Esther at 604-510-0534, email mikesthervdg@gmail.com, or via Facebook to order your packs (\$2 each) and to sign up as a volunteer! We need lots of choppers and assemblers, so come join in the fun and productive time! Orders must be in by Oct. 1

Gift Certificates Have you sent in YOUR postdated cheques yet? This is such an easy way to support our schools! Don't forget - its a great idea for Birthdays, Weddings, Anniversaries, Christmas!!

Mark your calendars for November 14th! Excited to announce a **Ladies Only** evening, hosted by all three elementary schools! Stay tuned for more info!

Please also follow our Facebook page for opportunities to volunteer and information on events! In the mean time, here are the minutes from our General Meeting.

Credo Aid General Meeting

September 9, 2014

Opening and Welcome: Susan Stam opened with reading and prayer and welcomes all members present.

Introduction to Credo Aid:

Susan Stam - President, Cindy Luiten - Vice, Leanne Leyenhorst - Secretary, Ang Vanspronsen - Treasurer
Loretta Saide, Jen Sikma

Susan reads the Credo Aid Mandate and speaks about the yearly fundraisers and where the proceeds go.

Calendar of Events

- Credo Aid Volunteer List for all major fundraisers passed around
- Entertainment Books: Profit over \$4,000.00 last year.
- Veggie Packs: Date to be determined. Ang Deboer will still place the order and delivery. She requests a Langley rep to head up orders, veggie pick up and organize packing of the veggie packs. Esther Vandergugten volunteered to help Ang.
- Purdys: Yolanda H. and Caroline V. request a new Person in charge of this fundraiser.
- Campbell's Soup Labels: Contact person is Lisa Vandervan
- Otter Coop: collect receipts and the store gives back a % in gift cards.
- Canadian Tire \$: Ang V. will collect and save up to purchase various items for the school (ie. Sporting goods for the gym)
- Hot Lunches: Sign-up sheet is passed around
- Sports Day: Joyce Warkentin, Loretta Saide, Yolanda Hoogstra, Caroline Visscher, Petra Bontkes are willing

Branches

- to organize concession.
- Croquetten: Price will be increased this year
- Certificates: (Shop Easy Program): a request for membership to sign up with postdated cheques. ***lots of room for growth
- Discussion on different ways to promote the idea of buying certificates. We need to talk and inform the society and community more. The profit we made has helped pay for the new soccer field (\$50,000.00) and with less than 30% of membership participating we have raised \$18,000.00 this past year. The majority of the money raised through Script has been from people who have committed monthly with postdated cheques. A great program that collects money outside of our church and school community.

New Business

Classroom Mom: request for positions to be filled in each grade. A brief discussion of the responsibilities of classroom mom, and a reminder that class parties for the staff needs to be kept simple and expectation will be reminded to staff and classroom moms alike.

New Fundraising Ideas

- A proposal to drop some of the smaller fundraisers and focus more on some bigger events. This will decrease constant advertising in the fall for many small fundraisers, as well as potentially bring in more \$. The

Fundraisers proposed to be dropped are Purdys, Wreaths, Vesey Bulbs, Book Sale (bring this to the Pancake Breakfast), Totes, Gift Baskets. This proposal was approved by membership. As elsewhere in the minutes, the Purdys fundraiser may stay due to easy money but are looking for new person to run it this year.

- A proposal was made to the membership that we team up with the other elementary schools (JCS, WofO) to produce a larger scale fundraising opportunity. A combined Bazaar was talked about with much positive feedback from the membership. This will need to have further discussion.
- A proposal to have a Ladies' Night/Fair in the later fall for home based businesses to attend and for shopping opportunities. This event was also proposed to join with the other schools. This initiative was well received by the membership. We await decisions from the other schools before we move ahead with dates and planning.
- Pancake Breakfast: Discussion of having this event at the Credo High School. This would allow more space and the ability to create this fundraiser at larger scale. (ie. Garage sale, auction, car wash, more vendors...)

Question Period: Request to put advertisements in Credo Chronicle for fundraisers, as well as notifications for Credo Aid Membership meetings to keep all the membership informed.

Closing: Cindy Luiten closes in prayer

Credo Christian Elementary School, located in beautiful Langley, British Columbia welcomes applications for the position of

PRINCIPAL

commencing in the 2015/2016 academic year.

Credo Christian Elementary School is part of a dynamic community, primarily serving the Canadian Reformed Churches of Aldergrove, Langley and Willoughby. Our K-7 school serves approximately 215 covenant children with close to 20 full and part time staff. We have recently completed a new two-room addition, and are located across from our affiliated high school.

We are presently seeking a Principal to guide delivery of our vision 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."

The ideal candidate:

- is a member of a Canadian / American Reformed Church, and fully subscribes to the purpose and basis of our school
- can articulate a depth of understanding of the biblical foundation for Christian education from a reformed worldview, and guide the delivery of programs consistent with this basis
- demonstrates a passion and commitment to their career in education, and understands it as their calling
- is a natural leader, professional, organized, thoughtful, enthusiastic, collaborative and community minded
- will have previous experience in school administration, or be an experienced teacher that aspires to a leadership role
- has, or is able to obtain, certification from the British Columbia College of Teachers
- is able to commence duties in August 2015, in advance of the September 2015 school year.

If this appeals to you, please send:

- a cover letter with resume
- a statement of philosophy of education
- two letters of reference
- a character reference from your pastor or elder.

For more information, or to submit your application, please contact:

Chris Hoff, Board Chair

604.856.1898; chris.hoff@tc.gc.ca

For more information about our school, please visit www.credoces.org

Criteria for recommending books in favor or against inclusion in the CCES library collection.

“With the Reformation came the ordinary person’s right to read and also the corresponding responsibility to understand and evaluate the printed word. This responsibility is greater than ever in today’s world with its flood of information and opinion presented through mass media and books.”

Dear volunteer reader:

Thank you for taking time to help us preview recent purchases for the CCES library collection.

Below please find a checklist that is designed to help you recommend a book for inclusion in our library.

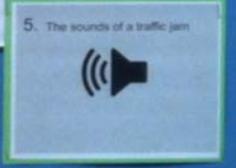
Title: _____ Author: _____

Appropriate for: early primary – primary – early intermediate – intermediate - junior age

1: The book is appropriate.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the book appropriate to the general aims, desires and expectations of our school community and to the general objectives for Reading? (See Curriculum document, p.8.6) 	1 2 3 4 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the book appropriate to the intellectual, emotional and spiritual level of maturity, interest and needs of the readers? 	1 2 3 4 5
2: The book has potential.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it engage and exercise the readers’ power and imagination in a way that honors God and neighbor and is in line with the mission and vision of the school? 	1 2 3 4 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it provide the reader with a significant and enjoyable experience? 	1 2 3 4 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it lead the reader to a greater understanding of their culture and society, a keener discernment of the spirits motivating that culture and society? 	1 2 3 4 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it lead the readers to reinforce the familiar and discover new aspects of the Truth about God and the way He made creation? 	1 2 3 4 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it provide the readers with a significant occasion for exercising and redefining their Christian faith and commitment? 	1 2 3 4 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it speak to the readers’ hearts and foster the growth of their commitment to Christ? 	1 2 3 4 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it sharpen the readers’ sensitivity and increase their concern and compassion for mankind’s social, moral, and spiritual predicament and needs? 	1 2 3 4 5
3. Worth	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the book have technical and literary quality? 	1 2 3 4 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the book as a whole achieve a moral impact by reflecting an honest, penetrating and valid perception of human life? 	1 2 3 4 5
<p>Note 1: A well written book may depict human sinfulness. Given the school context, the book under review must do so in a context which ultimately is sensitive to biblical morality and in a way that is suitable for the age of the readers. There should be no obsession with sinful actions and ideas, and sin should be shown as something that is destructive and need therefore be rejected.</p>	
<p>Note 2: In judging the merits of a book, it is more important to look at its theme than at any one of its parts. The moral and social significance of the work as a whole must decidedly exceed in value the possible offensiveness of any of its parts.</p>	
Additional comments and observations:	
My final recommendation:	
My name :	

Reading Between the Lines

4A students used lines of varying length, width, and style to represent 8 different prompts:



Following a discussion about the ability of lines to express different movements and emotions - for example, thin and tangled for 'crazy' or 'fast', short and thick for anger, straight edges for security, soft curves for peace, and harsh angles for chaos or conflict - students were asked to respond to 8 different prompts. These prompts included images, individual words, Biblical texts, short sound bytes, and a piece of classical music. Details of the prompts themselves can be seen in the photo, running above the students' artwork