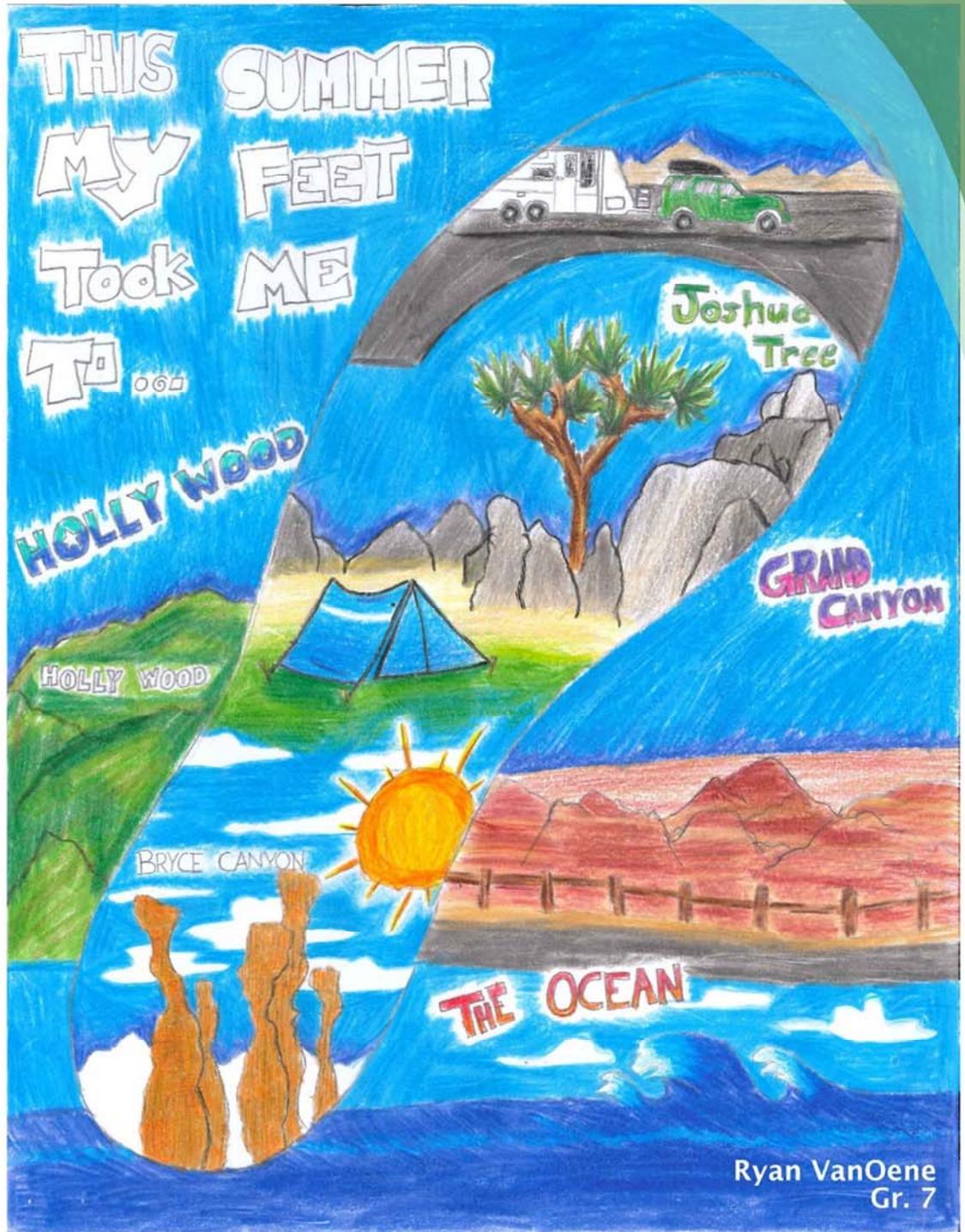




# BRANCHES



Ryan VanOene  
Gr. 7

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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 month or so of school has passed. I continue to be amazed by the buzz of activity associated with the school. In addition to the more routine (but still awesome) activities such as schooling, CCES also serves as a hub for the community. CCES is a place where people can become acquainted, and forge relationships through events like casual meetings while picking up kids or after-school activities; and relationships are formed through more formal activities such as the Board and its committees. We all would do well to reflect upon the real blessing that we have with CCES - not only as a faithful place to train our children, but also as a place where we can connect and encourage each-other.

### **Changes to Our Constitution and Bylaws**

While the purpose of the school is always central to Board considerations, it has been on our mind a bit more formally than normal lately. This is in good measure due to the changes to the *Societies Act* that have been introduced by the British Columbia Ministry of Finance. The *Societies Act* governs 27,000 non-profit organizations in BC. These societies are diverse and include independent schools (including CCES), churches and temples, sports organizations, care providers, preschools, environmental agencies, and community groups. Approximately half of societies are also registered charities.

It appears that the motivation for the Ministry of Finance is to make the present *Societies Act* more current and consistent with other corporate legislation in British Columbia, and in-step with other provinces. In general, the new *Societies Act* is substantially longer and more detailed, but provides clearer guidance on requirements for societies. There are some positive aspects to the new *Act*, but also some matters that we need to carefully navigate. Among these is a change to our Constitution, since it is no longer permitted to have unalterable clauses in constitutions or bylaws.

Thankfully Neil Dykstra and Will VanOene have been actively engaged in this file, including attending a number of seminars and workshops. Furthermore, Eric Vandergriendt has also been an instrumental resource in drafting our updated constitution and bylaws to meet the requirements of the new *Societies Act*. In fact, Neil, Eric and Will also became a resource for the other Canadian Reformed schools in British Columbia as well.

To this end, you will have received an email with documentation that introduces the proposed changes, and enables you to compare the original and new bylaws. These documents will also be available on our website. While the time is limited, we do encourage you to interact with us on this - preferably by October 10. This way the Board would have the opportunity to consider comments in advance of the October 26 membership meeting.

While these changes may seem daunting, we are thankful that we may continue to operate in a political environment that continues to respect the freedom of choice for parents as it relates to the education of their children. It is our prayer that our foundational documents, while conforming to the requirements of the government, continue to reflect the unique purpose and basis of our society, and provide guidance and direction for future Boards and members of CCES.

### **The majesty of God's name**

And of course, CCES is unique. Our school exists to train our covenant children in the majesty of God's name. Reaching back to 1988, the following is a helpful excerpt from an article by Dr. Deddens (who in turn quotes Prof. Holwerda extensively). We would do well to reflect upon this:

"Of course, two times two is four, also in our schools. But our children have to know that, not because they must presently be able businessmen, but in order to sanctify their business "for the LORD."

A recruit does not learn to handle weapons without purpose. He is learning this in order to be able to fight on behalf of his king, and his fatherland. So it is with our schools. Our children do not learn to read and to count as if education were an end in itself. Geography and history are not subjects which are to be considered apart from God. Children can only work with them either for or against God. There is not a third way. For the earth is the LORD'S and the fulness thereof.

Parents - this is your calling regarding the school with the Bible: that you see and confess things in this way: that you say: my children shall be educated in the service of God for their whole life; and in no other way; that you maintain it and stand for it, whatever

the consequences are: my children are for the honour and the Name of the LORD. For nothing else. You do not send them to the school because they have to know how they have to go through their life and how they can go to heaven, but in order that God's name will be glorified in all the earth. If the sole purpose of education would be to make them skilled for life and nothing more, then it would be alright to let them go to a public school. If it is desirable that they know something about religion, well, then the church and the catechism class are there. But if you say: the earth is the LORD's, then you say: now never any other school, but only the school with the Bible. For us, that is the school which

maintains the Reformed confession. Not all of them will become ministers of the church - a good thing too! - but presently they have to know on the farm, in the shop, in the factory, in the kitchen and in the garage how to serve the LORD."

**And speaking of the October membership meeting**

In Board matters, we have nothing new to report at this time. We expect to distribute an October version of *Branches* in a few weeks which will have other material in preparation for the membership meeting planned for October 26. This will include an update on the five year plan, and a slate of candidates for election to the Board.

***From the Principal....***

Otto Bouwman

With gratitude to our heavenly Father, it's wonderful to be able to report that the school year is off to a good and smooth start. It could be so different.

**Traveling to School**

A few weeks ago, while en route to our sister school in Edmonton, a bus was involved in a serious accident. In no time at all, the bus careened to a halt - tipped onto its side in the bottom of the ditch. Eight students from Parkland Immanuel Christian School had to be transported to the hospital - thankfully no student was seriously injured. Do we take for granted the safe arrival of our students every day? Considering the myriad potential problems which could occur, we should be most grateful for what we do experience. Admittedly, the bus ride may not be the highlight of the day for numerous students. Parents, please remind your children what a blessing it is to arrive safely at our destination each morning and each afternoon, and encourage each of your children to contribute positively to a godly and pleasant environment on the school bus.

**A Few Recent CCES Specifics**

In the last *Branches* edition, there was a reference to arrangements related to music instruction. We are all grateful again for additional clarity. Mrs. Yvonne Jacobi has been found willing to teach music to our 4th and 5th graders. The fourth graders will be heard from time to time practicing their recorders as they receive a more formal introduction to the world of music, and the fifth graders will be heard strumming on their ukuleles. We are also grateful that Mrs. Tamara Jansen has been

found willing to further expose our 6th and 7th graders to the world of music, and she already has been able to draw on other local talent - thank you, Mr. Frank Ezinga - to help her in this endeavor. We are very grateful for the willingness of these CCES supporters to help us out!

A round of applause can be directed to Mrs. V & Mrs. V for having organized a successful camping trip to Alice Lake already with the students in grade 5. And they, in turn, couldn't have pulled it off without the support and involvement of the parents. Thanks so much!

The students received the opportunity to learn about some specific causes our community supports. For example, Rev. K. Wieske recently shared some of what he has been doing as missionary in Brazil, and explained to the students the urgent need for additional preachers to go out throughout the world. At another assembly, the students learned about the Ride for Refuge fundraiser that took place yesterday. It really is wonderful that students can have their eyes opened to so many good things that are happening in this broken world; there will be no lack of opportunities for them to deliberately serve as they continue to develop their gifts. Let each of us continue to model and encourage such service in our daily lives.

**Government Expectations**

During the past year teachers from across our valley schools collaborated together in order to achieve a better understanding of the changing Ministry of Education curriculum as we prepared for continued

educational delivery in our schools. That collaboration was helpful as teachers became increasingly aware of changing Ministry requirements. Not surprisingly, the changes did not stop at the end of the previous school year; new regulations continued to emerge even during the summer. Evidently, we are living in a world where change is a constant; that reality brings with it challenges. For example, consider report cards.

Already last year the staff recognized that changes to report cards might be warranted. The Education Committee was consulted and encouraged the staff to make modifications to what was reported on in the student report cards this year. Just this past August, the Ministry released a new document regarding student progress reports. While many of the reporting requirements are routine and anticipated, there are several stipulations which will require further deliberate attention.

One stipulation, for example, is that progress reports are to include "a description of the student's behaviour, including information on attitudes, work habits, effort and social responsibility." Such a stipulation is very much in line with encouragement the staff received from our Education Committee. There is a common consensus that reporting should involve more than just a narrow focus on academic progress in particular disciplines. Education involves the whole child, and reporting that deliberately seems to make good sense. It will be interesting to see what that looks like when MyEdBC's template becomes available in the coming weeks.

A second stipulation will likely require even more attention. Moving forward, at the end of the school year, report cards for all students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 are going to have to include a new element: "a student self-assessment on core competencies." (Though this provision does not apply to independent schools this school year, it will in future years.) The term "core competencies" might be an unfamiliar one to most parents (and students - and teachers). By requiring that all students provide a self-assessment, the Ministry evidently wishes to shine a bright spotlight on the term. "Core competencies" are considered to be at the heart of the redesign of the curriculum, and have been described as "sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in deep learning and life-long learning." The three broad categories of competencies are communication, thinking (subdivided into creative thinking and critical thinking), and personal / social. This last category is defined as "the set of

abilities that relate to students' identity in the world, both as individuals and as members of their community and society."

Please read that last line over again. Wow. As the years flow by, one cannot help but sense that the government is increasingly interested in ensuring that children are deliberately shaped as they receive their formal education. Schooling in British Columbia is not just about passing on facts regarding the world we live in, nor is it just helping children to learn to add and subtract. The Ministry has served notice that it is very interested in ensuring that our children's identities receive deliberate attention at school. If ever we needed a reminder of the critical importance of maintaining our own schools and maintaining a sense of independence in them, here is a great one - especially when we consider how our culture is increasingly advocating that children ought to be able to self-identify in whatever way they individually choose!

The greatest factor in determining our children's identity is our heavenly Father's claim on them. In our covenantal school, we need to teach our students that God has established his covenant with each one of them. Each one has received God's rich and undeserving promises, and each one is to learn to respond in faith to those promises; everything else flows out of their identity in Christ. That is the identity that we have the opportunity to instill in our children. Parents are entrusting the teachers to assist in a critically important enterprise: shaping our children's identity. Parents, please pray for the teachers as they assist you, educating your 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."

### **Request**

Parents, grandparents, and other school supporters: Continue to support Credo Christian Elementary School prayerfully, financially, and emotionally. If the government realizes the "identity-level" work that needs to be done in our school, then certainly we also need to share that awareness. CCES has a purpose bigger than the teachers can do on our own. It's an enterprise that is bigger than the parents and teachers fulfill by themselves. Let's all in community continue to work together, praying for the blessing of the Lord. After all, the work that is done at CCES is critically important; the next generation of children is being shaped, being given an identity, and learning that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

# Short Report of Board Meeting

**Short Report of the Meeting** of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School  
June 13, 2016

- Opening and Welcome: The Chairman, Chris Hoff, opened the meeting by reading from Psalm 138 and led in prayer. He welcomed all the Directors and Principal Otto Bouwman to the meeting. Bob Huttema was absent with notice.
- Agenda Approval: The agenda for the regular board meeting was approved.
- Minutes and Short Report: The Minutes and Short Report of the May 9, 2016 Board meeting were adopted. The minutes of the May 25, 2016 membership meeting were approved for publication.
- Principal's Report: Otto Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for June 2016 and provided updates on professional development review, EA requirements for 2016/17, and the library committee. Plans have been finalized for the graduation ceremony.
- Chairman's Report: The Chairman's report for June 2016 was received for information. Chris Hoff reported on his activities as chairman.
- General Business: A number of matters were discussed including the recent membership meeting, music program delivery for 2016/17, and the September board staff social. Proposed changes to the bylaws were reviewed pursuant to the new BC Societies Act. A Discrimination Protection Policy was adopted. It was decided to extend an offer of employment to Freda Struik to fill an EA vacancy next year.
- Maintenance Committee: The minutes of a recent Maintenance Committee meeting were received for information. Al Leyenhorst provided updates on the activities of the maintenance committee including plans for the summer work bee and the gymnasium renovation.
- CCSTA: The minutes of a recent CCSTA meeting were received for information. Al Leyenhorst reported on the activities of the CCSTA.
- Membership Committee: Neil Dykstra reported on the activities of the Membership Committee and presented samples of the finalized promotional materials and provided a positive report on the recent golf tournament.
- Education Committee: The minutes of two recent Education Committee meetings were received for information.
- Finance Committee: The income statement for May 31, 2016 was submitted and reviewed.
- Next Meetings / Events: The next regular Board meeting is planned for September 12, 2016.
- Closing: Will VanOene offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Chris Hoff closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Calendar Update			
October	5	Thanksgiving Assembly Gr 6	
	6, 7	CTA Convention	no school
	10	Thanksgiving Day	no school
	26	School membership meeting	
	31	Reformation Assembly Gr. 7	
November	10	Remembrance Day Assembly Gr,4	
	11	Remembrance Day holiday	no school
	24	Report Cards	
	25	ProD Day	no school

## ***Introduction to Proposed Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws***

After years of consultation, Bill 24 was introduced in the legislature in March 2015. Bill 24 was the final version of the new *BC Societies Act*, and after years of public consultation, it received Royal Assent in May 2015. The new Act comes into force on November 28, 2016. The stipulations of the Act come into force immediately, but all charities in BC have two years from this date to actively *transition* to the new Act. *Transitioning* is a process whereby we file an application with the Corporate Registry in Victoria that includes: a) a revised constitution; b) the society's existing bylaws; and c) a statement that contains the address of the society and the names and addresses of the directors. These documents will now be stored in a new electronic filing system that will allow future filing to be done electronically. It is expected that these documents will be available to all members of the general public.

The minimum changes that a society must make in order to transition are:

1. To amend the constitution to remove all clauses **except** the society's name and purpose. Any other information in the constitution must be moved to the bylaws;
2. To amend any clauses that were previously deemed "unalterable";
3. File the constitution and bylaws as is with the above changes.

*These changes, and transition itself, do not require membership approval.*

There are a number of options for societies relating to amending their bylaws for transition.

1. Amend the bylaws before the *Act* comes into effect. This would require 3/4 membership approval (stipulation under old *Act*), as well as a separate filing and fee.
2. Amend the bylaws during transition. This would require 2/3 membership approval (stipulation under new *Act*), and can be done as a single filing.
3. Amend the bylaws after transition. This would require 2/3 membership approval (stipulation under new *Act*), as well as a separate filing and fee.

The Board has decided to proceed with option 1 above. Since April, the Board has been actively working with our legal counsel to draft new bylaws to address the changes and requirements of the new *Act*. We have reviewed our current bylaws to amend any items that conflict with the new *Act*, and also to add additional

items so that we are not exposed to some of the default provisions of the new *Act*. As well, we have made a number of suggestions to conform to current practice and improve the clarity and legal language of our bylaws. We have also agreed with the other schools to take the lead in this matter, and plan to share our work with the other local school societies. This process has created an opportunity for us as Board to become more familiar with modern governance standards.

In general, the new *Societies Act* is substantially longer and more detailed, but provides clearer guidance on requirements for societies. In many cases, it actually gives more freedom to societies in how they operate (which may or may not be beneficial). The new *Act* requires bylaws to clearly address:

- membership (admission, rights, obligations, classes),
- directors (election or appointment and terms),
- meetings of members (quorum, proxies and voting methods),
- and, restrictions on activities and powers of society.

Besides addressing the requirements above, many of the proposed changes are intended to provide further restriction on what is now being permitted in the *Act*. For example:

- Since it is no longer permitted to have unalterable clauses in constitutions or bylaws, we are addressing this by requiring unanimous membership consent in order to change a previously unalterable clause.
- The threshold for special resolutions has been reduced from 3/4 to 2/3 in the *Act*. We propose to keep our threshold at 3/4 in order to maintain our unity of purpose
- The *Act* permits access to society's records by members of the general public. We propose to restrict this in our bylaws.
- The *Act* permits remuneration for directors. We propose to restrict this in our bylaws.
- The *Act* permits attendance of membership meetings via electronic means. We propose to restrict this at this time (this could potentially be addressed in the future as technology allows us).

The Board desires to be fully transparent with the membership in this process to ensure a smooth and effective transition. The proposed changes to the Bylaws and the Constitution can be viewed on the

CCES website at <http://www.credoces.org>. We are requesting any and all feedback on these proposed changes to be received by October 10th so that we may consider any further changes or alterations prior to the membership meeting. Feedback can be emailed to any of the undersigned. It is our intent to pass the bylaw changes under a single motion at the October 26th membership meeting. These bylaws will be filed prior to November 28th but will not become effective until that day.

We are thankful that we may continue to operate in a

political environment that respects the freedom of choice for parents as it relates to the education of their children. It is our prayer that our foundational documents, while conforming to the requirements of the government, continue to reflect the unique purpose and basis of our society, and provide guidance and direction for future Boards and members of Credo Christian Elementary School.

Chris Hoff ([chris.hoff@tc.gc.ca](mailto:chris.hoff@tc.gc.ca))

Will VanOene ([wgvanoene@gmail.com](mailto:wgvanoene@gmail.com))

Neil Dykstra ([neildykstra@shaw.ca](mailto:neildykstra@shaw.ca))

## ***Credo Aid Update....***

Happy Thanksgiving! We hope you have an enjoyable time with family during the thanksgiving break. We thank the Lord for his many, many blessing. As we get back into early mornings and making lunches we can also be thankful we have a Christian school we can send our kids to! May everyone have a blessed week.

**Entertainment Books:** To date we have raised \$2000! We thank everyone for participating in this fundraiser! If you have any outstanding books or money, please send it to school.

**Veggie Packs:** Due to lack of volunteers, the veggie packs have been crossed off the ledger this year.

**Purdys:** Need stocking stuffer ideas? Chocolates are great for gift giving, both personally as well as corporately. Purdy's will be available again this year. Keep an eye out for the catalogs filled with photos of delectable chocolate, chocolate covered nuts and other Purdy's favourites in your child(ren's) agendas, due to come out in the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions, please contact Ang VanSpronsen.

**Croquettes:** This popular fundraiser is coming up soon! Stay tuned for dates and information, to be released via our facebook page as well as leaflets and church mailbox inserts. Contact Ginny

VanderHorst to order your croquettes this year. Consider volunteering - it is a big job and so much fun. We will be looking for both volunteers and buyers.

**Campbell's Soup Labels:** We have a list of the Campbell's soup labels that give out points! Please visit our Facebook page for a detailed list, or contact Lisa Vandervan. There is a box in the kitchen for your labels. Or, you can send them in your child's agenda and the teachers will be willing to help you out. Please make sure it is the WHOLE label including the UPC. This is an ongoing fundraiser, so the labels can be submitted at any time. Thanks!

**Eco Cloths:** The Eco Cloths are an on going fundraiser, and can be purchased at any time of year. They leave a streak free finish, and when put to the test beside the Norwex cloth, the Eco Cloth won. They are available from Wends Sikma for \$5.

**Shop Easy:** Everyone needs groceries, so why not support the school at the same time? Order your gift cards today! The form is available online at: <http://www.files.credochs.com/CCES/Credoaid/certificateform.pdf>. The deadline for submitting 12 post dated checks is closed. Thank you to all those who submitted, and thanks to all who are new to the program. We also thank the organizers for their time and efforts that go into running this program smoothly.



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**Board of Directors**

Mr. C. Hoff (2018)	Chairman
Mr. B. Huttema (2017)	Vice Chair/Ed. Com
Mr. W. VanOene (2016)	Secretary
Mr. O. Hansma (2018)	Treasurer
Mr. N. Dykstra (2017)	Development/CCSTA
Mrs. F. Jansen (2016)	CCHS/SpEd
Mr. A. Leyenhorst (2016)	Maintenance/CCSTA
Mr. T. Rook (2017)	IT/Finance

**Education Committee**

Mr. B. Huttema	
Mrs. M. Dewit	Mr. I. Scheper
Mrs. W. Sikma	Mrs. M. VanPopta
Mr. O. Bouwman	Mrs. J. Onderwater

**Membership Committee**

Mr. N. Dykstra	Mr. B. Graham
Mrs. S. Sikma	Mrs. M. Vanderhorst
Mrs. D. VanDyke	

**Special Education Committee**

Mrs. F. Jansen	Mrs. D. Huttema
	Mr. O. Bouwman

**Finance Committee**

Mr. O. Hansma	Mr. T. Rook
	Mrs. E. Kuntz

**Maintenance Committee**

Mr. T. Bontkes	Mr. A. Leyenhorst
Mr. R. Bisschop	Mr. D. Hofsink
Mr. B. VanOene	

**Staff**

Mr. O. Bouwman	Principal
Mrs. J. Onderwater	VP, Kindergarten B
Ms. L. Scholtens	Kindergarten A
Mrs. M. MacDougal	Grade 1A
Mrs. A. Winkelaar	Grade 1B
Mr. M. Hoogerdijk	Grade 2
Mr. S. Chase	Grade 3
Miss A. Vanderhoek	Grade 4
Mrs. L. Vanspronsen	Grade 5
Mrs. N. VanRhee	Grade 5
Mr. J. Kanis	Grade 6A
Mr. J. Scholtens	Grade 6B
Miss D. Nobel	Grade 7A
Miss J. Harink	Grade 7B
Mrs. D. Huttema	SpEd, LA
Mrs. Y. Jacobi	Music 4,5
Mrs. T. Jansen	Music 6,7
Mrs. S. Beintema	Educational Ass't
Mrs. W. Deleeuw	Educational Ass't
Miss K. Mostert	Educational Ass't
Mrs. J. Spoor	Educational Ass't
Miss F. Struik	Educational Ass't
Mrs. L. Vanderven	Educational Ass't
Mrs. E. Kuntz	Office Administrator

**Credo Aid**

Mrs. J. Sikma	Mrs. L. Huttema
Mrs. K. Scheper	Mrs. A. VanSpronsen
Mrs. R. Leffers	Mrs. A. Leyenhorst

**Fee Structure 2016-2017**

<b>Membership</b>	<b>125.00</b>	<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>305.00</b>
<b>Elem. (1-3)</b>	<b>515.00</b>	<b>Elem (4-7)</b>	<b>535.00</b>
<b>Junior High</b>	<b>680.00</b>	<b>Senior High</b>	<b>730.00</b>

