

BRANCHES

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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 Principal *Otto Bouwman*

Welcome to another *Branches* issue. Happy reading! Longer daylight hours and fresh colors in our yards reminds us that spring really is here. Seasons change, but God's faithfulness is constant – what a wonderful truth!

Life and Health

In my last submission I mentioned something under this heading. More often than not, we take our health and the health of our loved ones almost for granted. God has been reminding us that health is, in fact, a wonderful gift. Besides ongoing health concerns of Ben Vandergugten, there has been quite the succession of staff-related health concerns that we have been bringing to the Lord in prayer. First, Dexter Noort had to be hospitalized because of a significant infection in his finger. Mom Kathy, who had been planning on focusing on her new responsibilities in the Grade 7 classroom, suddenly found herself spending a lot of time in the hospital instead. Then, Jesse Hoogstra had to be hospitalized because of a lacerated kidney. Mom Yolanda found herself at Jesse's side in the hospital instead of in the classroom. We were thankful when Dexter and Jesse could return to their respective classrooms, and when Kathy and Yolanda could collaborate together in the 7th grade classroom instead of at the hospital! Praise God for healing mercies.

We remember in prayer the Vanrhee family. Mom Natasja spends considerable time with daughter Lauren, who was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma, is receiving medical treatments, and has a plethora of medical appointments. We are thankful for medical treatments that Lauren is receiving, and commend her and her family to the Lord's continued care. When we understand and appreciate God's providence – his care in both health and sickness – then we can be patient in adversity.

On the celebration side of life, we rejoice with the gift of new life; Joy and Tyler VanVliet recently became grandparents again, and so did Jim and Jennifer Onderwater. It's wonderful to see the gift of new life and to be reminded of God's precious covenant promises to these young children. As well, Paul and Shelley Sikma could celebrate a 25th anniversary and Kees and Natasja Vanrhee could celebrate a 30th anniversary. God's providential care makes us also thankful in prosperity.

Special Activities

I hope parents and grandparents enjoyed opportunities to witness some aspects of school life. Just at the end of January we had an Open House, which was a culminating highlight of Reading Week. Toward the end of February we

had a skating session, at the very end of February we had a Leap Concert in Langley Church. The daytime rendition had many grandparents in attendance and the evening performance was witnessed by a full church. These events were great opportunities to bring the school and homes together. Another part of the daytime Leap for Joy concert was that the seniors were invited to stay for a lunch; thank you to the mothers of the 7th grade class for preparing delicious soup, and thank you to the 7th grade students for doing a wonderful job serving!

As in previous years, staff has made plans for the parent/teacher conferences, scheduled for Thursday, March 14, and Friday, March 15. These conferences begin at 3:30 on Thursday afternoon, carry on into the evening, and then wrap up on Friday morning. We are hopeful that parent attendance rates remain high. It is our desire for home and school to be optimally in sync with each other, and so appreciate having an opportunity like this to connect with parents of each of our students.

Teacher Training from CCRTC

On Friday, February 16, teachers from across the valley and Lynden met together in the Aldergrove church and listened to Mark denHollander, one of the professors of our Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC). Mark spent much of his time reminding us of our privileged tasks as teachers in our schools. The title of his presentations was "Treasure your Treasure: Celebrating the Hallmarks of Reformed Education." Not only did our presenter want to ensure that teachers know the four hallmarks of Reformed Education, but he also wanted to help us apply the "lens" of those hallmarks into our daily practice. We ought to celebrate the rich heritage of Reformed Education that we may inherit and be a part of! The next four paragraphs will capture the four hallmarks of Reformed education.

In the first place, our schools have been "covenantally founded." That reminds us that God sets apart children of believers, gives them rich promises and calls, them to obedience. In our school, we understand that our students are adopted children of the King. We teachers are also adopted children of the King, and, as older siblings to the students, need to model the Christian life to them. We cherish the special covenant relationship God has made with us, model covenant obedience to our students, and train them to also live lives of covenant obedience. The school assists parents in the fulfillment of their baptism vows and educates 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."

Secondly, our schools are "confessionally grounded." At school we joyfully acknowledge that God's Word is authoritative and is the basis for all knowledge. Since the Three Forms of Unity are a faithful summary of Scriptures, we do well to reference them in age-appropriate ways. The Reformed school should show students that everything has its being and purpose in God and can only be truly known in relation to him. A confessional school will be one that not only employs teachers who have learned, and continue to learn, to say "I do" to God's self-revelation, but it also desires students to take up this confession as their own.

Thirdly, our schools are "enmity surrounded." We operate in a fallen world, a world in which God mercifully injected the antithesis, by which he binds his people to himself and separates them from all who submit to the rule of Satan. The Reformed school recognizes that education takes place on the battlefield and that students must learn discernment. Students need to be equipped for service in all areas of life, and need to be trained to be prophets (confessing God's name), priests (presenting themselves as living sacrifices of thanks), and kings (striving with a good conscience against sin and the devil). Since God has ordained praise from his children to silence the foe and the avenger, we teachers need to be diligent about and enthusiastic in our service of teaching!

Finally, our schools are "bound in unity." Psalm 78 reminds us that we are to tell the next generation about the deeds of the Lord so that they, too, may set their hope in God. What a beautiful task! What a heavy responsibility! Reformed schools partner with and serve the home and the church in this task. Though the school might have a distinct function/role within this partnership, the school works closely with the others. In this way, beautiful expression is given to the communion of the saints.

The presenter proved to be an effective communicator, and did an excellent job informing our teaching staff of these unique aspects of our schools. He was also able to challenge us to infuse these foundational understandings in our daily classroom practice. Our schools in Ontario have had more deliberate exposure to these four hallmarks during the past

decade than we have – in large part because of their proximity to CCRTC. These foundational aspects of our school go such a long way in defining the unique identity of our schools! We did well to spend deliberate time together as teachers reviewing these hallmarks and look forward to having more opportunities in the future doing more work with them. As its website says: *Since 1981, CCRTC has been preparing men and women for careers in teaching. CCRTC strives to be the definitive source for Reformed teacher training through providing academic teacher training and professional development in faithful submission to the Word of God, summarized in the confessional standards: The Belgic Confession, The Heidelberg Catechism, and The Canons of Dort.*" It was our privilege to reap some of the rewards from one of the CCRTC professors.

A Few More Points

Elsewhere in this issue you'll see an ad for teachers wanted. In case you were wondering, there is still a great need for teachers! Parents, are you encouraging your children to consider teaching as a career? Young people, are you giving consideration to the need for Reformed teachers to work with the youth of our churches for the upcoming decades? I would love to receive additional applications for next year; the needs and opportunities for teachers at our school next year are going to be slightly greater than I was expecting a few weeks ago. Please keep our school's staffing needs – both for next year and for years beyond that – in your prayers.

At the fall membership meeting I introduced the Feeding Futures initiative from the province. I had indicated that we were going to make gift cards available just before Christmas, then a second round in the winter, and a third round in the spring. Sorry that a second round has not yet become available. The reason for that is that we have not yet received the next installment of funds from the provincial government. Once the next tranche of money has been deposited in our account, you parents can expect to receive another letter about Feeding Futures.

Next time you're in the library, take a look at the beautiful mural that Sheila Van Delft has painted above the bookstands. Animals are perched on the bookshelves and seasonal foliage surrounds them. Wonderful!

Thank you again for your continued prayers and support.

Short Report of Board Meeting

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School January 8, 2024

Opening and Welcome: The Chairman, Greg VanPopta, opened the meeting by reading Scripture, followed by Board singing and a moment of prayer. He welcomed the Directors, and Principal Otto Bouwman to the meeting. W. Liu was absent with notification.

Agenda Approval: The agenda for the regular board meeting was approved.

Minutes and Short Report: The Minutes and Short Report of the regular December 11, 2023 Board meeting were adopted.

Principal's Report: Otto Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for January 2024. The Reformed Curriculum Development Committee minutes were shared, and security cameras will be installed.

General Business:

- Future staffing needs were considered.
- An EA position has been offered to Mikayla Stam beginning in February.

- The Board reviewed and approved some changes to transportation policies and procedures.
- Agenda items for the upcoming January 24 Combined Boards meeting were discussed.


Valley-wide Implementation Committee: Richard Welfing reported that the Town Hall meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2024, in the Aldergrove Church.

IT Committee: The IT Committee is completing an inventory list of IT equipment.

Finance Committee: Dave Doornbos provided an update from the Ad Hoc Salary Committee. Finalized recommendations will receive further attention at the Combined Boards Meeting on January 24.

Next Meetings / Events: The next regular Board meeting is planned for February 12, 2024. The combined Boards meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2024.

Closing: Dave Doornbos offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Greg VanPopta closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.




The Credo Christian Elementary & Middle School Board invites applications to fill teaching positions, beginning in September 2024.

Our K-8 school, located in the beautiful Fraser Valley, has a vibrant, and inclusive environment with approximately 270 students. Staff members enjoy the positive and collaborative teaching and learning culture here, and are grateful for strong levels of community support.

The successful applicant will:

- be committed to teaching in a Canadian Reformed context
- be a communicant member of a Canadian Reformed, United Reformed, or other sister church
- have or be able to obtain BC certification

For inquires about this opportunity, or to apply, please connect with our principal: Otto Bouwman
Ph: 604-530-1131 (school) or 1-360-510-1524 (cell)
Email: o.bouwman@credoces.org



21919 52 Ave Langley BC V2Y 2M7 | 604.530.1131 | admin@credoces.org

Kodiak Corner *Diana Jackson*

The last few months have seen a lot of work done on our Basketball skills.

- Grade 6 participated in one day tournaments
 - Thanks to Deanna VanDyke and Ashley Vanderpol for coaching the girls
 - Thank you Mirjam Scholtens and Hilary Vandergugten for taking one of the boy's teams and Demi Timmerman, Abigail VanOene, and Jac Spoor for coaching the other team.
- Grade 7 is currently busy with their league play. Thanks to Jess Wildeboer for coaching the boys and to Kait Scheper and Jolene Moes for capably leading the girl's team.
- Grade 8 Boys had an excellent season with Maria Dykstra as their coach and Jesse Lieuwen as the assistant coach.
- Grade 8 Girls were capably coached by Kaycie Leyenhorst with an assist from Karina Thalen.

Thanks to all who have been involved in developing the skills of the students in the world of athletics. Your efforts and contributions to the teams are very appreciated!

After Spring Break, we are looking forward to starting our work in the area of Track and Field.

Grade 8 Boys BB



Grade 8 Girls BB



Grade 6 Girls BB



Words of Welcome

As a school society, we would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to
Mike & Carolyn VanLaar

We are thankful to have you join us and pray you may enjoy the blessings of our school community.

Austin Plug – Grade 1



Rory Vandergaag - Grade 3



Nathan Beukema - Grade 3

CREDO AID UPDATE

Spring is around the corner but we have continued to be busy with a variety of events, fundraisers and treats during the tail end of winter. For that we can once again thank our Heavenly Father for granting us the opportunities to serve and support the school along with all those in our community in various ways.

The students were treated with the annual skating excursion followed by Timbits and hot chocolate, thank you to Otto and Jan and their respective teams for organizing that. Our community was able to enjoy the LEAP concert recently which was followed by the performing students enjoying their ice cream sandwiches - well done K-5 students! The Hot Lunch Team served up another delicious lunch recently: Soft tacos! Thank you!

Thanks is also in order for all those who placed orders from the Neufeld Farm Market Fundraiser as we were able to profit \$1168. Next Neufeld fundraiser: June. A special thanks to Katie Vandergaag who has for a few years now, helped us on each pick-up day by collecting the orders and loading up the vehicles, it is very much appreciated.

Two spring fundraisers are in progress/upcoming: a new Cedar Rim Nursery gift card fundraiser that will net CCS a significant 20% back from every gift card purchased, and of course, the much-loved Mother's Day hanging baskets from Darvonda Nurseries -- stay tuned for that one!

The library received funds to purchase 2 large bean bag chairs and the students are loving them. Thank you Jackie for purchasing them.

Due to a scheduling conflict the school's fundraiser dinner will be postponed until the next school year. This means you will have extra time to perfect your talent for the "Credo's Got Talent" themed school dinner. Thank you to all who have shown interest so far and we look forward to seeing you at next year's dinner!



And finally, a very important note from the Family Fun Fair Committee's Auction Team: We hope this memo finds you well! As we gear up for our upcoming **Family Fun Fair on May 31, 2024**, we are reaching out to our wonderful community for support in making this event a success. This year, once again, we are organizing a live and silent auction. We are kindly seeking donations for both of the auctions, and any contribution, big or small, will be greatly appreciated. Whether it's a service (like babysitting or house cleaning), a dinner hosted by your family, or an item on your "must own" list (like a board game or grill), your generosity will go a long way in making our fundraiser a success.

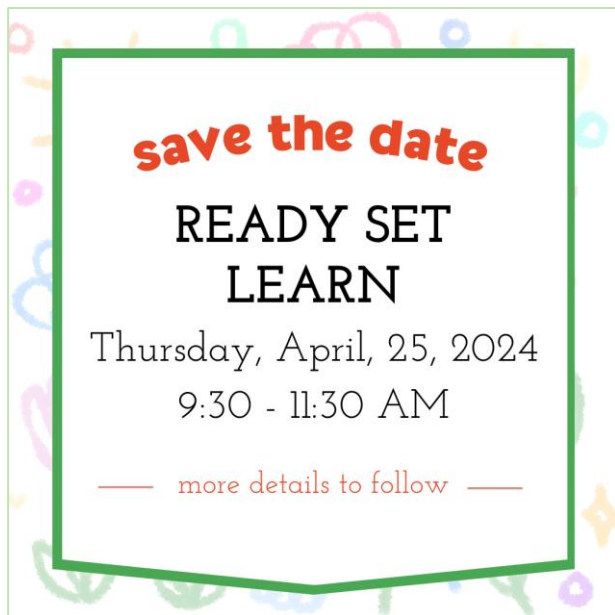
If you are able to donate, please contact Marilyn Mostert or Savannah Vandeburgt (familyfunfairdonations@gmail.com). Your support directly contributes to the education and experience of Credo Christian School Students - now, and in years to come!

Thank you for being an integral part of our community, and we look forward to seeing you at the Family Fun Fair!
Best Regards, Savannah Vandeburgt & Marilyn Mostert (familyfunfairdonations@gmail.com).

Thank you again for your continued support and encouragement!

Credo Aid Board
Monica Miguel - Chair
Jan Broersma - Secretary
Joni VanderHorst - Treasurer
Georgene Van Delft
Cheryl Van den Hoven

News & Events



Ready Set Learn – Children born in **2020**




Kindergarten Day – Children born in **2019**



- The library mural is complete! Thank you Sheila Van Delft for the beautiful display of seasons!
- The library also has two amazing hand painted signs for our Teen and Graphic Novel sections; these were created and painted by Robyn Huttema!



			
ROLLING CCS CALENDAR 2023-2024			
March	14	Last Day of Classes Before Spring Break	
	14	Parent/Teacher Conferences (3:30 - 8:00 PM)	
	15	Parent/Teacher Conferences (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM)	No Regular Classes
	18 to 29	Spring Break	No Classes
April	1	Easter Monday	No Classes
	2	Classes Resume	
	19	School Spirit Day – Samsies Day	
	25	Ready Set Learn	9:30-11:30
	30	Grade 6 Immunizations	AM

School Skating - Friday, February 23, 2024



CREDO
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
2023-2024 Staff

Board of Directors

Greg van Popta (2025)	Chairman
Richard Welfing (2024)	Vice-Chair/Valley-Wide
Mary-Anne Vanderhorst (2024)	Secretary/Staff Relations
David Doornbos (2024)	Treasurer
Weiming Liu (2025)	IT/CCSTA
Al Scholtens (2026)	Maintenance
Aren Van Dyke (2026)	CCHS
Eric Vandergriendt (2026)	Education
Jason VanDelft (2026)	Membership/Fundraising

Education Committee

Otto Bouwman	Michelle Dehaas
Kathy Noort	Jennifer Onderwater
Lydia Driegen	Melanie Vandeburgt
	Derek Scheper

Membership Committee

Jason VanDelft	Joel Vandergriendt
Colleen Schouten	Kendra Vandergaag
	Jean Yu

Finance Committee

David Doornbos	Greg van Popta
	Belinda Dykstra

Maintenance Committee

Darryl Hofsink	Mike Hollaar
Matt Schouten	Al Scholtens

Staff

Otto Bouwman	Principal
Jennifer Onderwater	VP & Grade 1
Lisa VanDyke	Kindergarten
Leslie Scholtens	Grade 1
Mary MacDougal	Grade 1 & 2 LA
Alice Wu	Grade 2
Breanne Neels	Grade 3A
Katelyn Mostert	Grade 3B
Spencer Pruijm	Grade 4
Linda VanSpronsen	Grade 5A
Evelynn Scheper	Grade 5A
Natasja VanRhee	Grade 5B
Nathalie Snyder	Grade 5B & Music - Middle
Nadine Krikke	Grade 6
Ben Vanderugten	Grade 7
Kathy Noort	Grade 7
Deb Minderhoud	Grade 7
Diana Jackson	Grade 8
Deborah Huttema	SpEd, LA
Yvonne Jacobi	Music - Elementary
Rose Doulome	French - Middle
Shelley Sikma	Phy Ed - Middle
Nadia Boeve	Educational Ass't
Lisa Devries	Educational Ass't
Yolanda Hoogstra	Educational Ass't
Tianna Huttema	Educational Ass't
Crystal Koat	Educational Ass't
Kyleigh Kriel	Educational Ass't
Shania Pol	Educational Ass't
Wilma Santema	Educational Ass't
Lindsay Schouten	Educational Ass't
Jac Spoor	Educational Ass't
Gerrine Stebbing	Educational Ass't
Sharon Struik	Educational Ass't
Esther Vanderugten	Educational Ass't
Alyssa Vanderstoep	Educational Ass't
Joy VanVliet	Educational Ass't
Jackie VanOene	Librarian
Belinda Dykstra	Bookkeeper
Kendra Vandergaag	Office Administrator

Credo Aid

Monica Miguel	Jan Broersma
Cheryl Van den hoven	Joni VanderHorst
	Georgene VanDelft

Fee Structure 2023-2024

Membership / 140.00	Middle (6-8) / 745.00
Kindergarten / 440.00	Junior High (9-10) / 880.00
Elementary (1-5) / 690.00	Senior High (11-12) 935.00

