



CREDO
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS.
EPHESIANS 2:10A

BRANCHES

DECEMBER 6, 2024 | VOLUME 37 | ISSUE 3

CREDO ELEMENTARY | KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 5

I Come Christmas Concert

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19

LANGLEY CANADIAN REFORMED CHURCH

10:30 AM - Seniors & Grandparents are invited to our morning performance
(all are welcome)

11:30 AM - Seniors are invited to stay for a light lunch in
Langley Church served by the Grade 7 students

7:00 PM - Evening Concert

Livestream will be available at 7:00 PM - <https://vimeo.com/event/4741160>



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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 edition of *Branches*. As usual, we have many reasons for gratitude.

In this issue you have opportunity to consider a few other articles that are also worth your attention. In the first place, you will find an article written by John Wynia. John is the coordinator for the League of Canadian Reformed schools in Ontario, and recently was again in the area for some meetings with school leaders. The four hallmarks of our schools (covenantally founded, confessionally grounded, enmity surrounded, and bound in unity with homes and churches) have been presented previously. This time, John's article focuses on some of the practical consequences of the "bound in unity" aspect. There are aspects there that are worth reflection and discussion.

Secondly, many of our staff members attended sessions at the InspirEd Convention in early November. After having attended, Alice Wu documented some insights gained from presentations from Hannah Beach, and I thankfully pass them along. Remaining mindful of students' emotional health is just one great way for school and homes to work together. Thank you, Alice, for your willingness to share.

Finally, there was a small student newspaper that was recently published by a team of writers in our Middle School. Enjoy the "Fake News" article that was lifted from there (with permission).

Special Activities

This time of year seems to be filled with special activities. During the next few weeks we'll have a variety of highlights. Our 6th grade class is all pumped about the scheduled performance of their play "Compose Yourself." I'm thankful for the capable leadership that several members of our Middle School teaching team is able and willing to provide. Students benefit from the instruction and coordination that Nadine Krikke provides, as well as musical expertise from Nathalie Snyder and the choreography talent from Natalie Hoogstra. Thank you, teaching staff and students for putting on a great performance!

It's report card season. That means our teaching staff has a flurry of activity for a few weeks. Progress reports need to be put together collaboratively for the students who have an Individualized Education Plan or a Learning Support Plan. Subsequently, teachers fill in the Work Habits page of the report card for each student, as well as the MyEdBC component. After all these reports have been reviewed and edited, they're ready to be printed,

bundled, and distributed. Yes, substantial efforts are made to ensure that reporting about student progress is accurate and informative.

Two other highlights in the near future are the Grade 7 & 8 Market Day sale, planned for Friday, Dec. 13, and the K – 5 Christmas concert performance, scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 19. These two events are culminating activities, in the sense that a lot of preparatory work had to be done. I look forward to seeing many parents, grandparents, and community members at these events.

The Internet

The submission from Alice Wu served as a good reminder of the impact of the internet/phone/computer on child development. Parents, especially of young children, please establish and maintain deliberate boundaries in your home; your children's well-being really does depend, in large part, on the protocols you implement.

On a similar topic, a parent recently shared with me (thank you again) an article from the White Hatter about strategies that schools and homes can adopt in response to threats from our current culture. Several years ago, our schools hosted the White Hatter to provide a parent presentation in Langley church related to internet safety. The presentation was very well-received. I'm appreciative of much of the work that the White Hatter organization does; their work informs readers and listeners of many of the challenges and threats that contemporary culture places on families. They also provide recommended strategies to respond appropriately to current threats. Parents, please remain informed about the rapidly changing world in which your children are living and implement good protocols in your home. As well, keep working with that foundational Biblical truth: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Miscellaneous

This past week Credo Christian Schools had another External Evaluation; two inspectors visited CCES and CCHS and spent two days verifying Credo's compliance with Ministry expectations. Under normal circumstances, these evaluations happen every six years. Though all was well, the inspectors also promised to share a few recommendations for future attention.

Christmas season is almost upon us. It's that time of year when we give deliberate focus to God's astonishing plan of salvation to fallen man. May all the reminders of the season lead each of us to praise and worship the Giver of all things. The second stanza of the well-known hymn "O

come, all ye faithful” is not as frequently sung as the other stanzas:

*God of God, Light of Light,
lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created.*

Notice how this stanza beautifully captures truths as confessed in our creeds. Appropriately, each stanza

exhorts listeners: “O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!” Indeed, adore him this Christmas season and always.

Happy reading. Enjoy God’s goodness in this festive season. And Happy New Year!

Short Report of Board Meeting

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School October 7, 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.

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

Minutes and Short Report: The Minutes and Short Report of the regular September 9, 2024 Board meeting were adopted.

Principal’s Report: Otto Bouwman presented the Principal’s Report for October 2024.

General Business:

- The Board approved the recommended recipient for the *CCES Scholarship for Teachers in Training*
- An EA position has been offered to Caitlin Viljoen beginning in November.
- The Board approved a list of nominees to present to the membership to serve on the Board

- Planning for the October 30 Membership meeting is underway.
- Anniversary Celebration: September 2025 marks 70 years of Reformed Education in the Valley. The CCES Board is interested in celebrating this milestone.

Education Committee: Eric Vandergriendt reported that the committee will review the Math curriculum at CCES this year and classroom visits will happen soon.

Fundraising Committee: Jason VanDelft reported that the Golf Tournament raised approximately \$45,000.

Finance Committee: The draft Financial Statements were reviewed by the Board and will be presented to the membership at the October 30 Membership meeting.

Next Meetings / Events: The next regular Board meeting is planned for November 4, 2024. The Fall Membership meeting is planned for October 30, 2024.

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

Proposed Minutes of the October 2024 AGM

Proposed Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School with the Membership October 30, 2024

Opening and Welcome: The Chairman, Greg VanPopta, welcomed everyone present and opened the meeting. We sang Psalm 119: 1 & 40 and Greg opened with prayer. A quorum of members was present.

Agenda: The agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the CCES membership meeting held May 29, 2024, were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion to adopt the minutes as presented was approved.

Business arising from the Minutes: There were no matters from the minutes to address.

Board Elections: Three new directors were required to replace Dave Doornbos, Mary-Anne VanderHorst, and Richard Welfing. Nominees were Daryl Driegen, Darren Leffers, Marilyn Mostert, Kaitlyn Scheper and David Torenvliet.

The Chairman read off the names of those nominated, requesting members to vote for up to 3 members. After the voting concluded, Daryl Driegen, Darren Leffers and Marilyn Mostert were confirmed as the 3 new board members.

A motion to securely destroy all ballots from the October 30, 2024, CCES Board Member Election was approved now that results have been confirmed and no disputes are pending.

Annual Report: The Chairman gave the floor to Mary-Anne VanderHorst, who presented the 2023/24 school year annual report.

Acknowledgement of Service: The Chairman thanked Rose Doulome for her three years of service, teaching middle school French. He also expressed appreciation for the work of Nadia Boeve as an EA, who will soon be leaving on maternity leave, and welcomed Caitlin Viljoen, who will be replacing her.

CCES Scholarship for Teachers in Training: The Chairman announced the recipient of the CCES Scholarship for Teachers in Training: Katelyn Mostert.

Review of Financial Statements: The Chairman gave the floor to board Treasurer Dave Doornbos who presented the financial statements for the 2023/24 school year, the review engagement report from Rolfe Benson, and the review report completed by Adam Vanden Hoven and Derek Scheper.

A motion to accept the financial statements as presented along with the accountant's review engagement report and the reviewers' report was approved.

A motion to appoint Rolfe Benson as the Accountant for the 2024/25 fiscal school year was accepted.

Budget Update: Chairman Greg VanPopta gave a budget update regarding the Tuition Top-Up Plan. This initiative brings in \$40K in additional revenue. We will be rolling out Phase 2 now to the broader supporting community.

Golf Tournament: Chairman Greg VanPopta expressed thanks to Kevin Vandergaag for his leadership in organizing the golf tournament, which successfully raised \$45,000.

CRSA - Canadian Reformed School Association: The Chairman invited Board member Dave Doornbos to provide a brief update on CRSA. Dave highlighted several key points: lease agreements have been extended to 5-year terms, additional portables have been added by TLA and Crescent Heights, and a profit of \$320,000 was achieved. Looking ahead, CRSA plans to maintain the property to secure the best possible sale price if and when a sale is considered.

Valley-Wide High School Implementation Committee (VWHSIC) Update: The Chairman invited Richard Welfing to provide an update on the VWHSIC's activities. Richard highlighted the recent completion of the JCCS gym, which may come in slightly under budget. An open house is scheduled for November 22. On the topic of land, the committee continues to explore new opportunities, and they are also actively seeking two new community members to join the committee.

Question Period:

An opportunity for general questions was provided.

- **Investment with the Christian School Foundation (CSF):** A question was raised about the reporting of our investment with CSF in the financial statements and the rationale for choosing CSF over Christian Services. Given our established relationship with CSF, we opted to maintain our funds with them.
- **Sharing Financials with Membership:** Can CRSA's financial statements be shared with members? The Board will consider this request and provide an update.
- **Heritage Foundation Update:** Greg VanPopta provided an informal update on the Heritage Foundation. The foundation aims to support the long-term sustainability of Reformed Education in BC through an endowment. To achieve this, a small group has been tasked with developing strategies in partnership with the Christian School Foundation, which provides financial advisory support. Although the foundation has made progress, it is still working on increasing awareness within our community. Plans are underway to better inform and engage the community about its mission and activities.
- **Feeding Futures Initiative:** Principal Otto Bouwman shared details about the Feeding Futures initiative, confirming that it will continue into the 2024/25 school year.

Thanksgiving Prayer: We closed with the singing of Hymn 85:3 and Weiming Liu closed with prayer.

Closing: The Chairman, Greg VanPopta, closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

What Does it Look Like to be Bound in Unity *John Wynia*

Introduction

In the last issue of *The Link*, I wrote about "Getting Unity of Purpose Wrong" and I promised we'd look at what it means to get "Unity of Purpose" right in a Reformed school. We say that Reformed schools are "Bound in Unity". This phrase captures a profound truth: the home, church, and school are bound together in the work of educating covenant children. The basis of this unity is our shared purpose: telling the next generation the glorious deeds of the Lord so that they may set their hope in Him (Psalm 78:4,7). The last article looked at the ways that unity of purpose can go wrong when the home, church, or school doesn't recognize or respect the role of the other institutions. So what does it mean for a Reformed school to truly exemplify this concept of being "Bound in Unity"? What does it look like when a school fully embraces its role within the covenant community?

Distinct roles

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul discusses the spiritual gifts of the congregation and uses the analogy of a body with many parts. Despite the many diverse parts there continues to be one body and that body continues to function well because God has designed it to do so – "But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them as He chose... there are many parts, yet one body." A similar analogy can be applied to the unity of purpose of home, church, and school: this unity of purpose is realized when each part functions well in its distinct place and role.

Parents in the home are called to be the primary educators in faith and life – they have moral authority over and responsibility for their children. The church provides doctrinal instruction and spiritual nourishment for all its members and is responsible to shepherd the covenant community. Both of these institutions are created by God. The school is not. It is a human innovation, created to assist parents with the academic training of their children. The practical outworking of this is a school that serves the work of both home and church by offering academic education in a way that integrates faith into learning. At schools that exemplify being "Bound in Unity," thus, teachers and administrators understand that they are not merely imparting academic knowledge but are engaged in covenant work. Every lesson, whether math, science, or history, is infused with a biblical worldview, making each subject an avenue to explore God's creation and purposes.

Shared purpose

Because "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1), school, church, and home, share the purpose of telling the glorious deeds of the Lord (Psalm 78). This is the vision that inspires and guides the work of the Reformed school and the aim to which it must be held accountable by the church and the home.

There are many things that a school can be busy with and many ways that schools can assist parents. This is true outside of the covenant community, too. If you pay any attention to the news or the public conversation around education, you'll see that schools are treated as the panacea for almost all societal woes. Just looking at education in the province of Ontario in the last couple of years we've seen the introduction of a new financial literacy graduation requirement (to combat poor fiscal decision-making), the addition of required courses in the trades (to equip students to meet the demands of a changing labour market), and new curriculum and school support programs for student mental health (as a reaction to increasing levels of depression, anxiety, and suicide among youth in Canada), to name just a few education innovations. A Christian school can (should? must?) engage with societal trends and challenges – who better than a Christian school to understand that students are not just "brains on sticks," but are whole beings? But a Christian school should (must?) also be aware that these matters can become distractions from the shared purpose and responsibility entrusted to the school. Providing academic training that tells covenant children the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord is the task which the home and church asked of the school.

Working together

What does this look like in practical terms? The last issue of *The Link* illustrated various distortions of the home, church, school partnership: what happens in a school where unity of purpose is given proper expression? Let's work from the day-to-day learning in the classroom to the bigger picture of operating a Reformed school.

We've already highlighted a key feature of daily learning in a "Bound in Unity" school: every lesson should be infused with biblical perspective, turning every subject into an opportunity to explore God's creation and providence. Teachers should be transparent about what's being taught. Parents should be welcomed into the classroom. Parents should ask questions about what's being taught and teachers should be ready and

willing to answer them. This is why the work of the Education Committee in Reformed schools is critical: its mandate is to ensure that the entire educational program reflects the distinct Christian character and suits the mission and vision of the school.

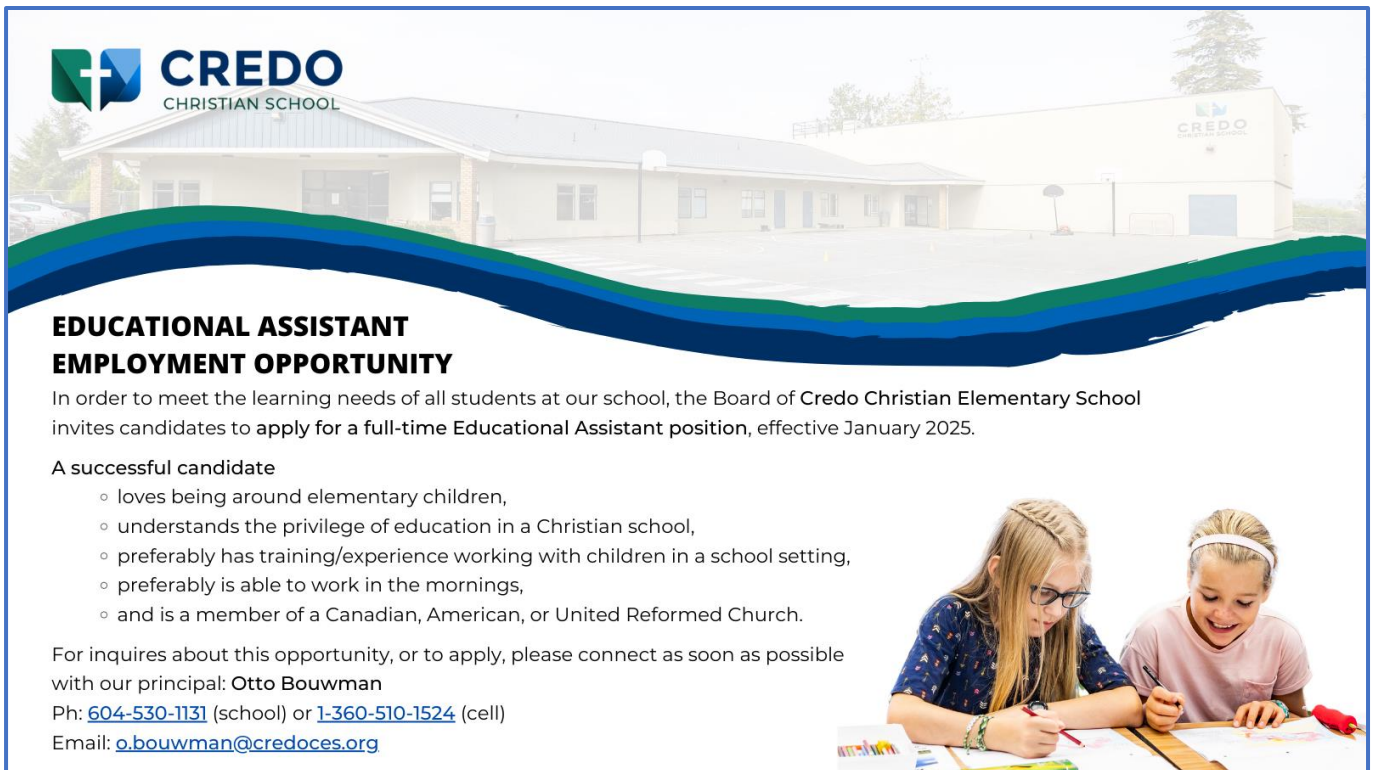
Moving outside the classroom to the extracurriculars of the school, the same rubric applies. The rationale for each activity must be the telling of the glorious deeds of our covenant God and assisting the parents with the education of covenant children. Whether sports or drama or music performances, extracurriculars too need to be thought through and operated from a firm theological foundation. I discovered an interesting example of this in a Gospel Coalition article I read about [“Youth Sports, Healthy Families, and the Future of the Church”](#). Toward the end of the article, the author discusses the value of sports in Christian context. She interviews a pastor who worked with his son to develop a list of ways to “warm the bench for the glory of God” and then examines the importance of competition (“Playing Hard as a Way to Love Your Opponent”). We may not agree with 100% of the theology of the author but, when it comes to extracurriculars, home, church, and school need to follow her example by thinking carefully and biblically about what we’re doing.

In the bigger picture we should see operating a Reformed school as a beautiful expression of the communion of the saints. For our schools to be effective in the educational task to which they have been mandated, the covenant community needs to be engaged and involved. This

means that the church needs to pray for the school and that it should financially support the work of the school. Ministers and elders should care about what’s being taught and provide discerning correction and redirection when the school begins to stray. Members of the church – not just parents – should serve on school committees and volunteer to assist in various ways. Because education is important, this full community involvement in the school is a beautiful way for church members to use their “gifts readily and cheerfully for the benefit and well-being of the other members.”

Conclusion

The joy of my work as League Coordinator is that it gives me the opportunity to visit schools and to work with parents and teachers involved in Reformed education. In this work, I’m thankful that our schools are beautiful expressions of the unity of purpose shared by home, church, and school. No, they aren’t perfect and, yes, there is room for growth. But reflecting on the things I’ve seen in my school visits and the kinds of conversations I’ve had with board members, principals, teachers, and parents there is a living sense of the importance of Reformed education and of the shared responsibility for the work of Reformed education. Let’s continue working together to tell our covenant children the glorious deeds of the Lord so that they may set their hope in Him (Psalm 78:4,7). Let’s hold each other accountable to our shared purpose. Let’s fulfill our distinct roles as home, church, and school. Let’s be “Bound in Unity!”



CREDO
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

In order to meet the learning needs of all students at our school, the Board of Credo Christian Elementary School invites candidates to apply for a full-time Educational Assistant position, effective January 2025.

A successful candidate

- loves being around elementary children,
- understands the privilege of education in a Christian school,
- preferably has training/experience working with children in a school setting,
- preferably is able to work in the mornings,
- and is a member of a Canadian, American, or United Reformed Church.

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

Reclaiming Our Students: Understanding and Supporting Emotional Health *Alice Wu*

During our last Pro-D day, I attended a session by Hannah Beach titled "Reclaiming Our Students: Why Children Are More Anxious, Aggressive, and Shut Down than Ever—and What We Can Do About It." The session was both informative and eye-opening, as Hannah shared her expertise on the emotional health of students. I believe more people need to hear her insights on how we can better support the emotional well-being of children at school and at home.

More and more students are struggling with big feelings, worries, and anxiety. But why is this happening? Well, behaviours stemming from anxiety, frustration, or worry are the student's way of communicating a deeper need. As educators and parents, it's our job to understand the root cause of these behaviours—what's driving them, and what's going on beneath the surface?

Hannah highlighted three main reasons why children today are more anxious, aggressive, and shut down than ever before. Two of these reasons stood out during her session:

1. We Live in a Culture of Disconnection

Daily rituals, like sharing meals together, provide the connection we need to anchor us. For example, family dinners allow members to listen to each other, affirm one another, and build bonds. Yet, as families become busier with activities and commitments, these rituals, though small, are often the first to be sacrificed. This disconnection leaves children feeling emotionally starved, which can contribute to anxiety and aggression. God created us to be social beings, but our modern culture often isolates us.

2. We Have Replaced Play with Entertainment

Think back to your own childhood. One major difference now is the lack of unstructured play in kids' lives. As technology becomes more integrated into daily life, children spend less time engaging in free play. This time is important because, during "void moments"—times when children are left to their own devices without distractions—free play gives children the opportunity to process emotions and build resilience. Without it, children experience emotional overload, as they don't have a healthy way to self-soothe. A child's greatest need is secure attachment—to those they love and trust. Free play, along with stories in books and movies (often involving themes of loss or abandonment), provides a safe space for children to process their fears and

emotions. When children are deprived of free play, they miss out on opportunities to process and heal their emotional experiences.

To summarize, Hannah Beach pointed out that in a disconnected culture, children become attachment-starved. This leads to more emotional turmoil, which can result in aggressive behaviour. Coupled with the loss of free play, children no longer have the tools they need to process their emotions.

Hannah also discussed how feelings of frustration can be transformative if handled properly. Initially, when children feel frustrated, they try to change the situation—fixing or controlling the issue. But when that's not possible, they shift toward adaptation. This involves feelings of sadness and disappointment. While sadness may seem uncomfortable, it is a critical step in developing resilience. When children face and work through sadness, their brains register this experience as survival, which ultimately strengthens them. Just like the Bible says in Romans 5:3-5 (ESV), "Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

As parents and educators, we must ask ourselves: "Are we comfortable with a child's sadness?" Often, adults subconsciously suppress sadness, both in ourselves and in our children. However, letting children experience their sadness is essential to their emotional growth. If this adaptation doesn't happen, it can lead to defensive walls and emotional shutdown, ultimately making children relationally starved. This wall can eventually lead to attacks—either outwardly or inwardly.

It's our job to help children find ways to release built-up energy before it reaches that point. Providing creative outlets like art, writing, music, movement, and nature can help children process their emotions healthily. But remember, technology should never replace these forms of play or release. When technology becomes a pacifier, children learn to avoid discomfort instead of confronting it.

So, what exactly is *free play*? It is not structured or goal-oriented; it's simply a time for children to engage in activities on their own terms. Free play is vital for emotional processing and growth, so we must create environments where children can freely engage in it.

When it comes to anxiety, more and more students come to school anxious; how can we support them? According to Hannah, children have two fundamental needs: attachment and authenticity. Children should never have to work for your love. If they feel they are not "with you" or "like you," they experience what Hannah calls *attachment alarm*—a deep-rooted fear that they don't belong or are not significant. Attachment alarm highlights the things that are important to a person:

- Belonging and loyalty
- Love
- Significance: The need to feel significant
- Being known: Does your child feel known?
- Sameness

This alarm triggers anxiety, which goes beyond simple nervousness. Anxiety is the alarm that has no eyes, or else it is just nervousness. For example, a child might feel nervous about performing in front of others, but anxiety arises from concerns like "Will my classmates accept me?"

Creating a space where children feel loved, significant, and known is key to alleviating anxiety. As Hannah Beach emphasizes, "Kids need a place to feel SAFE and a safe place to FEEL."

The concept of attachment is central to understanding a child's emotional health. Secure attachment, which is formed when children feel both warmth and firmness from their caregivers, allows children to trust and follow the lead of adults. Children are not meant to take care of others or lead the way; they need to feel safe to lean on us for support.

To be the leaders our children need, Hannah suggests using what she calls the "Primary Instruments of Attachment":

- **Collect:** Engage the child by making eye contact, using their name, and acknowledging them individually.

- **Matchmake:** Connect them with other caring adults who may have an impact on their emotional well-being.
- **Bridge:** After a conflict, build a bridge by making small gestures like asking for their opinion or offering a favour.

It's essential to remember that a relationship with a child should never be a reward. Our love and support should be unconditional, not based on behaviour.

In addition to all of this, it is important to see who God created them to be. No child is ever too late for change, and that change starts with us: who children think they are matters more than who they actually are! Reframe their identity so they can experience themselves as successful! And through it all, celebrate all growth and lean into the growth. Help them see their strengths and be their cheerleader in spite of it all. Personalities are fluid; we have the ability to build a kid up or down, so why not build it up?

In conclusion, Hannah Beach gives us four Rs to help us bring our children to rest:

1. **Relationship:** Be the leader who bridges divides.
2. **Rhythm:** Routine and structure help lower anxiety.
3. **Room:** Create space for children to explore, make mistakes, and feel safe.
4. **Release:** Facilitate healthy emotional release through creative outlets and connections.

While Hannah touched on many complex topics, one central theme stands out: love the child God has entrusted to your care. Regardless of how anxious, aggressive, or shut down they may seem, love covers a multitude of challenges. As 1 Peter 4:8 (ESV) reminds us: "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins."



Kodiak Corner *Shelley Sikma*

October and November were packed with exciting events for Credo students!

Grade 4-7 Cross-Country: While this race was a few weeks ago already, we promised to share the results of the Langley District Championships! Great job runners!

- Grade 4 girls - Kate Louwerse (2nd), Malia Moes (15), Tessa VanderHorst (16)
- Grade 4 boys - Zachary Dykstra (3rd), Zach Schouten (10), Jeremiah Nincao (29), Logan Onderwater (30)
- Grade 6 girls - Ellie VanderHorst (4)
- Grade 6 boys - Levi Wildeboer (4), Aiden Togeretz (9)
- Grade 7 boys - James Louwerse (18), Nyles Kang (22)

Gr 8 Cross-Country: Credo had three runners that finished in the top 10 at the Eastern Valley Championships! Congratulations to Travis Wildeboer (5th), Emma Breukelman (6th) and Claire Scholtens (8th)

Grade 6 Tripleball: All grade 6 students participated in a one-day Christian School tripleball tournament. As this grade has double classes, two teams were submitted for both boys and girls. The boy's teams did well in their tournament at Regent Christian, coached by Kim Meints & Mikayla Stam and Jason & April Togeretz. The girls participated at Cornerstone Christian in Abbotsford and were coached by Sue Schouten and Shelley Sikma. Lots of fun for all!

Grade 7 Tripleball: Both teams played four weeks of league games against other schools in Langley and

participated in a final Jamboree the first week of Dec. to wrap up their seasons. The girls team was led by coach Deanna VanDyke. With a small number of girls in the grade, they were able to add two capable grade 6 girls to join them and had some exciting wins! The boys team was led by coaches Mirjam Scholtens and Crystal Dykstra. This very enthusiastic group of boys also enjoyed successful results!

Grade 8 Volleyball Teams: Both teams wrapped up their Langley league play seasons in early Nov and then enjoyed an invitational game at John Calvin Christian School in their new gym. The games were exciting and a fun way to meet future classmates and potential teammates in grade 9! Once again, thanks to coaches Al Scholtens, Everett Devries and Devon Dykstra.

Grade 8 Basketball: Both teams are blessed to have our coaches from last season return to share their skills and passion for basketball with the teams. Kaycie Leyenhorst, assisted by Grace and Natalie Pruijm will lead the girls and Maria Bay (Dykstra) will lead the boys team. Thank you coaches! Tryouts for both teams have happened and rosters have been finalized. Our grade 8 boys team will have some capable grade 7 boys joining them to complete their roster. Their league games began the first week of December. As always, please refer to the [Athletic Calendar](#) on the website for times and locations of any of our Kodiak games.



Cross-Country
Grade 8



Tripleball
Credo 1 Girls Team



Tripleball
Credo 2 Girls Team



Tripleball
Credo 1 Boys Team



Tripleball
Credo 2 Boys Team



Tripleball
Grade 7 Boys

Credo Aid Update

We are in the final stretch before our Christmas break and have a few things yet to share. We tried a new fundraiser with Ralph's Ambrosia apples that profited Credo Aid with just over \$400. We were all pleasantly surprised that each box was 30lbs rather than 20lbs - and these apples were crunchy delicious! Thank you!



This was followed by the highly anticipated "All Things Dutch" fundraiser in November. The Credo Croquette Team rallied the troops once again for which we are very grateful. This remarkable team of dedicated ladies deserve a special thank you for making this event a huge success! They are: Ginny Vanderhorst, Joanne DeWit, Rita Schouten, Ang Van Spronsen, Tanya Pruim, Deb Lof, Bernice Wubs and Cindy Luiten. Credo Aid presented the two longest running members, Ginny and Joanne with new "Croquette Queen" aprons as a token of appreciation for their dedication over the many years.

In addition to this team, Tako of Holland Shopping Center provided all the other Dutch goodies and dozens of ladies helped in so many different ways. It was wonderful to see the different generations working together, supporting our schools and having fun! We also thank Emily de Boer who was the Community Team Leader and Ang de Boer, our bookkeeper, who both worked with Credo Aid to make things run smoothly. How would this event be done without the generous gift of space from Credo High School who gave up their kitchen and gym for a couple of days? It was very much appreciated and we hope the staff enjoyed some croquettes!

With that the community supported our schools by purchasing 620 dozen Credo croquettes, 715 chocolate letters and 45 wheels of cheese, profiting us almost \$13,500. THANK YOU everyone!

The students and staff enjoyed a couple of great lunches by Melissa Vanpopta and her Hot Lunch Team who served up tacos in October and Sloppy Joes in November. Thank you!

We say goodbye to Lizanne Hansman who served for a few months on Credo Aid but needed to step back, thank you for all your great ideas! We are urgently looking for someone to fill the role. Please contact any of us ladies if you are interested (our next meeting is January 14th 😊).

Calling All Bakers at Credo Middle and High School!

(Grades 6-12)

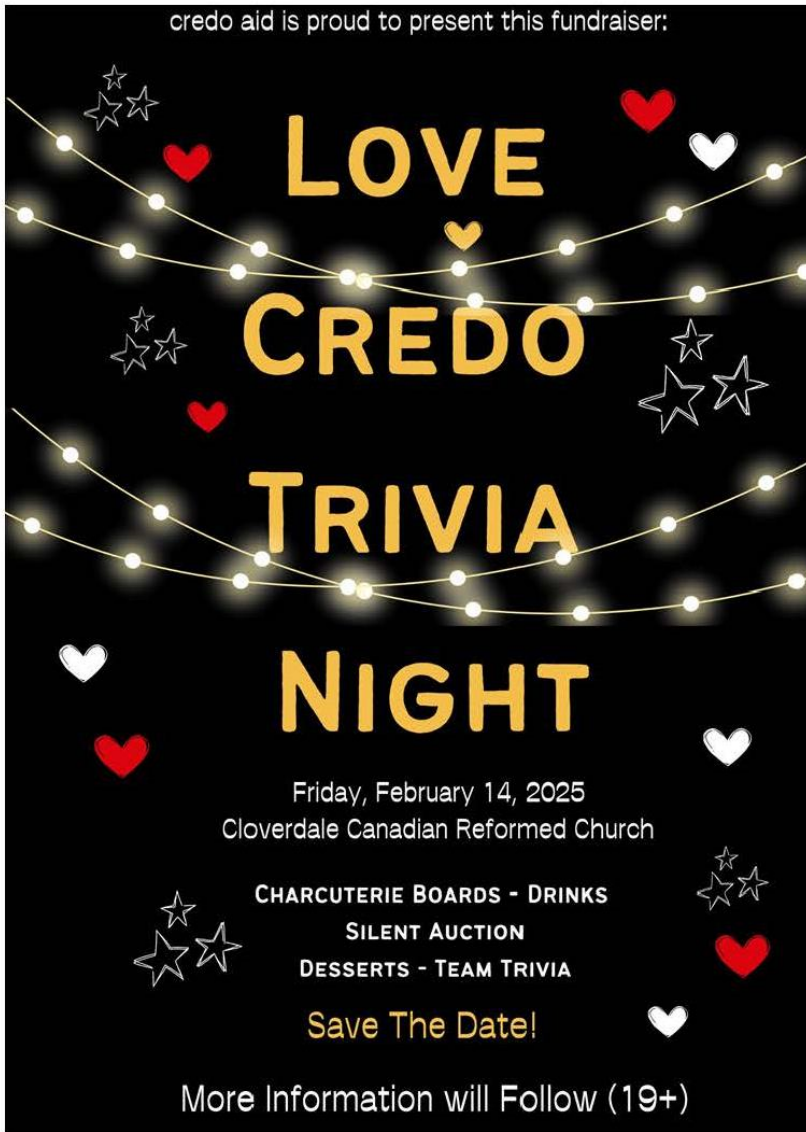
Credo Aid needs your sweet skills to make our Trivia Games Night Fundraiser a success!

We're looking for creative bakers to showcase their culinary talents by baking a few cakes for our **Love Credo Trivia Fundraiser event on Valentine's Day!**

The twist? Our guests will be the judges, and the winner from each school will receive a \$25 gift certificate!

Stay tuned for more details!

We can't wait to see (and taste) your delicious cakes!



We acknowledge and thank our Heavenly Father as He has blessed us once again with your support of the schools through Credo Aid. We recognize we have something special here! We see this support from the wonderful staff at Credo to the community at large in the different ways you help year after year! It is highly valued and greatly appreciated. Wishing you all a merry Christmas and joyous New Year's season!

Credo Aid Board

Monica Miguel
Chair (2025)

Jan Broersma
Secretary (2025)

Joni VanderHorst
Treasurer (2026)

Georgene Van Delft
(2026)

Claire Plug
(2027)

EKAF News

The Mezzanine Monster Myth

Many of you have heard stories and rumors about mice in the mezzanine. But do you want to know what is actually lurking in the dusty corners and dingy shelves of the upstairs storage room? Of course you want to know! Well, I'll tell you. It is a monster. It feeds off children's thoughts, ideas, and intentions until their brains are nothing but simply purple goop. It is for these reasons that a teacher must accompany any student who needs to go upstairs. Since teachers and other adults are more intelligent than kids, the monster, whose name is Petruchio, is frightened by them. Just by thinking of the 13 times tables, a teacher can scare Petruchio away. So, next time you need to get something from the mezzanine, make sure an adult is with you, if you value your brains, that is.

Lauren VandenHoven



YOU ARE INVITED TO
GRADE 7 & 8
MARKET DAY

HANDMADE PRODUCTS & FOOD

When: Friday December 13

Time: 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Where: CCES Gym

What: Grade 7 & 8 students have designed and created products to see and purchase

Why: To support a Grade 1 & 2 class from the *Children of Light School* in West Timor



Compose Yourself—Grade 6 Drama Production

Thursday, December 5



CCES Board of Directors

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Greg van Popta (2025) | Chairman |
| Eric Vandergriendt (2026) | Vice-Chair/Education |
| Marilyn Mostert (2027) | Secretary/Staff Relations |
| Aren Van Dyke (2026) | Treasurer |
| Weiming Liu (2025) | IT/CCSTA |
| Al Scholtens (2026) | Maintenance |
| Jason VanDelft (2026) | Valley-Wide |
| Darren Leffers (2027) | CCHS/CRSA |
| Daryl Driegen (2027) | Membership/Fundraising |

Education Committee

- Eric Vandergriendt
- Otto Bouwman
- Jennifer Onderwater
- Michelle Dehaas
- Derek Scheper
- Melanie Vandeburgt
- Arlena Onderwater
- Michelle Dykstra

Membership Committee

- Daryl Driegen
- Colleen Schouten
- Joel Vandergriendt
- Kendra Vandergaag
- Erin Jansen

Maintenance Committee

- Al Scholtens
- Darryl Hofsink
- Mike Hollaar
- Matt Schouten

Finance Committee

- Aren Van Dyke
- Greg van Popta
- Belinda Dykstra

2024 - 2025 Staff

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Otto Bouwman | Principal |
| Jennifer Onderwater | VP & Grade 2A |
| Lisa Van Dyke | Kindergarten (A) |
| Gerrine Stebbing | Kindergarten (B) |
| Leslie Scholtens | Grade 1 |
| Alice Wu | Grade 2B |
| Mary MacDougal | Grade 1 & 2 LA |
| Meghan Visscher | Grade 3 |
| Ben Vandergugten | Grade 4A |
| Amber Vantil | Grade 4B |
| Linda VanSpronsen | Grade 5 |
| Natasja Vanrhee | Grade 5 |
| Nadine Krikke | Grade 6A |
| Kathy Noort | Grade 6B |
| Nathalie Snyder | Grade 6B |
| Spencer Pruijm | Grade 7 |
| Diana Jackson | Grade 8 |
| Deborah Huttema | SpEd |
| Shelley Sikma | PhyEd (6-8) |
| Alyssa Vanderstoep | French (6-8) & EA |
| Lisa Devries | EA |
| Natalie Hoogstra | EA |
| Yolanda Hoogstra | EA |
| Crystal Koat | EA |
| Kyleigh Kriel | EA |
| Lindsay Schouten | EA |
| Jac Spoor | EA |
| Mikayla Stam | EA |
| Sharon Struik | EA |
| Esther Vandergugten | EA |
| Tianna Vanrhee | EA |
| Joy VanVliet | EA |
| Caitlin Viljoen | EA |
| Jackie VanOene | Librarian |
| Belinda Dykstra | Bookkeeper |
| Kendra Vandergaag | Office Administrator |

Credo Aid

- Monica Miguel
- Jan Broersma
- Joni VanderHorst
- Georgene VanDelft
- Claire Plug

Fee Structure 2024 - 2025

- Membership - 150.00
- Kindergarten - 465.00
- Elementary (1-5) - 730.00
- Middle (6-8) - 785.00
- Junior High (9-10) - 925.00
- Senior High (11-12) - 985.00