

BRANCHES

AUGUST 29, 2025 | VOLUME 38 | ISSUE 1



Welcome Back to



2025/2026 Theme Text

"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." Psalm 145:3-4

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

From the Chairman Greg van Popta

Maintaining the Ministry of Our Schools

The fourth commandment -- Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. That may seem an odd topic to be reflecting on as we sense the excitement of a new school year approaching. But as I sit in a Kananaskis campsite soaking up a late-summer camping trip, that is where my mind is drawn.

We observe the fourth commandment in our weekly pattern of 6 days of work followed by one day of rest and worship. We're familiar with that. That's probably where our minds initially go when we hear the fourth commandment. But in a sense, we observe the sabbath with our schools as well.

For one, we follow that same pattern of work and rest -- 10 months of schooling is followed with the joy of resting from the structure and discipline of our schoolwork. For many of us, that rest looks like communing with God in his creation. It involves using exploring wherever our interests lead. It means applying our new-found reading, drawing and music skills by devouring summer novels and creating art. All done for the sheer beauty of it, and not as an assignment.

The Heidelberg Catechism also touches on the connection between the fourth commandment and our schools. It explains that "remembering the sabbath day" requires us (among other things) to maintain the ministry

From the Principal Otto Bouwman

Welcome to a new school year, Credo community! For many families, another year at Credo can be anticipated as just one more year of normal; everyone pretty much knows what to expect. For others, however, this year at Credo is a new beginning, and is possibly being accompanied with a few butterflies. Regardless of whether this school year is your first or fifth or tenth: Welcome! It is our prayer that God surrounds each of us individually and all of us collectively, providing us with all we need throughout the year.

Passing the Promise

On September 5, 1955, the first Canadian Reformed school opened its doors in Burnaby, BC. The early immigrants who played leading roles in the establishment of that first Canadian Reformed school had brought their understandings and experiences from The Netherlands, where there was already a long tradition of "Schools with the Bible." Today, 70 years

of our schools. It foot-notes the passage in Deuteronomy where Moses encourages the Israelites to diligently teach their children to love the LORD with all their heart, soul and might. And when their children ask the perennial question "Why?", they are to remind their children that they were slaves but are now free.

I trust the application of those verses to our current New Testament context is quite apparent — I won't belabour the explanation but I can't resist exclaiming "Praise God for the freedom we have in Jesus Christ!"

As a school board we look forward to resuming the task that you parents have entrusted to us. We will, with God's grace, continue setting a direction for our school that seeks to observe the fourth commandment. We will encourage teachers and staff to remind our children that they are free in Christ and that our Father in Heaven is so worthy of our love. We will ensure that that truth permeates every discipline that is taught at Credo.

Now, looking forward a month-or-so, we will be holding our fall AGM at the end of October. That meeting will include the election of a few new board members, and so I will encourage you to favorably consider letting your name stand for election if the school board sees fit to call you to that office. It is a noble and rewarding task that serves to honour God's command to remember the sabbath day.

PEANUT FREE FACILITY

AS WE ARE A 'NUT AWARE' SCHOOL; WE REQUEST PARENTS AVOID SENDING TREE NUT ITEMS IN CHILDREN'S SNACKS AND LUNCHES.

after 1955, there are more than thirty schools in our system serving Reformed families, helping them pass along God's promises to His covenant children.

On the first day of school, our students will be introduced to our school theme for the 2025/2026 school year. The staff has chosen Psalm 145:3-4: "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." This text speaks of the one generation helping the next one to see, recognize, and appreciate God's greatness. Evidently, that is closely linked with passing the promise from one generation to the next.

During this school year we will be making many references to the "passing the promise" motif, as will our sister school across the street, our sister school across the valley, and our sister school across the border. I'm thankful for the coordination activities that

our regional 70th anniversary committee has begun, and look forward to their further efforts.

What Are We Doing?

For many years, our school has worked with the following mission statement: "The purpose of our parental 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." This mission statement, and others very similar to it, have served our schools well for quite a few generations.

One thing I love about this mission statement is the focus on students acquiring knowledge, skills, and attitudes, so that the student will be able to live responsibly. The teaching staff works diligently to help each student gain worthwhile knowledge, develop essential skills, and embrace positive and godly attitudes. Since each student is unique, some of that teaching needs to be customized and tailored for that student's individual needs.

Perhaps what I appreciate most about this mission statement is the deliberate acknowledgement of the foundational educational role of parents. Successful Christian schools do not replace Christian parents; successful Christian schools provide an educational service to godly parents. The partnership between home and school requires involvement, commitment, and lots of communication. Evidently, there are responsibilities on both sides; the teaching staff looks forward to having meaningful and numerous conversations with parents throughout the year.

Who is on Staff?

At the beginning of the school year, it might be helpful to mention who is all working where in the school. Though one can go to the last page of this *Branches* and find many names of people who are involved in the school, it might be more helpful to capture some information in chart form:

	Students	Teachers	Education Assistants	
K	13	Leslie Scholtens	Tianna Vanrhee	
1	23	Jennifer Onderwater	Gerrine Stebbing & Tianna Vanrhee	
2	19	Alice Wu	Lindsay Schouten	
3	26	Meghan Visscher	Maddie Visscher	
4	20	Ben Vandergugten	Caitlin Warkentin	
5	40	Natasja Vanrhee & Linda VanSpronsen	Jac Spoor, Joy VanVliet, and Caitlin Warkentin	
		in one class, and Nathalie Snyder &		
		Alyssa Vanderstoep in the other		
6	28	Nadine Krikke	Natalie Hoogstra and Esther Vandergugten	
7	41	Spencer Pruim in one class and Amber	Phoebe Gao, Sharon Struik, and Yolanda	
		Spoor in the other	Hoogstra	
8	29	Kathy Noort, Shelley Sikma, and	Mikayla Stam	
		Deanna Van Dyke		

A few additional notes:

- Mary MacDougal will be providing targeted Language Arts instruction in 1st and 2nd grades.
- Grade 3 will be divided into two groups for the morning for Language Arts and Math instruction.
 Deb Minderhoud will be taking care of Math instruction for the first few months; we look forward to Eline Post's arrival in November to take over from Deb.
- Crystal Koat will provide targeted assistance at MS level.
- Nathalie Snyder will be the music instructor for the MS grades.

- Alyssa Vanderstoep will be our French instructor to grades 7 & 8, and also will teach some Science classes.
- Deb Huttema is leader of our Special Education program.

In the above, I did not distinguish between full-time and part-time. Many of our staff members do not work in a full-time capacity, but are we ever grateful for the contributions each staff member brings! The above captures the "big picture;" in reality it's all a bit more complex. After the first few weeks of school, all students will have figured who is where and when.

It is also worthwhile to note that we have many special needs situations — some students in particular need a very high level of care — who will require a lot of attention from staff members. We're thankful these students are able to be at our school, and we're also very thankful for the willingness and ability of staff members to provide appropriate and loving attention.

Some of the names of staff members are well-known to the Credo community, and others are less so. Allow me to introduce a few of the names which are new this year:

- Amber Spoor was previously known as Amber Vantil. Congratulations with your recent wedding, Amber!
- Maddie Visscher worked previously at CCES as an EA, and we're thrilled she came back!
- Phoebe Gao has been a member of the Chinese Reformed Church for over a decade; after working many years at several other companies, she is looking forward to the privilege of working with covenant children at CCES. Welcome, Phoebe!
- Deb Minderhoud wasn't on our staff list last year but has been previously; she is well-known and much-appreciated.

Keep Helping Out, Please

It takes many people to keep the school operational. Every year, I'm amazed about all the details which have to be considered as we get things up and running. The teachers, the assistants, the janitors, the front office staff, the maintenance team, and a host of others all

have to coordinate and ensure that things are functional and ready. Thank you, everyone, for all you have done recently to ensure the school year can begin!

A particular thank you is in order – once again – to Credo Aid. As a result of their work and generosity, a couple of special projects are in the process of being completed: an additional gazebo was installed, the gagaball pit is getting a complete overhaul and getting a concrete base, and additional lines are being painted on the gym floor. Thank you, Credo Aid, for everything that you have been doing; your assistance is much appreciated!

During the coming weeks and months, I'm sure there will be numerous opportunities for people to help out in a variety of ways. Please don't hesitate; working together builds community and fosters progress.

Sometimes, helping out happens in the most unobtrusive and quiet way imaginable. Several times, during the summer, I received emails such as the following from Return-It Express: "We processed your items and \$7.30 was donated to Credo Christian Elementary School." That means that someone was helping out by bringing their recycling items to the depot and crediting them to the school's account. Thank you, keep it up, spread the word, and keep looking for ways in which you can be a faithful steward of your time and resources.

We're at the cusp of another school year. May God richly bless the CCES community as we seek to pass the promise to our younger brothers and sisters one or two generations behind us. Thank you for your continued support.

From the Board

Yearly tuition fees run from September to August. The 2025/2026 tuition rates will take effect on September 1, 2025, and Pre-Authorized Debits (PAD) will be adjusted accordingly:

•	Kindergarten	\$465.00
•	Elementary (1-5)	\$730.00
•	Middle (6-8)	\$800.00
•	Junior High (9-10)	\$940.00
•	Senior High (11-12)	\$1000.00
•	Membership	\$160.00

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the *Tuition "Top Up" Plan*. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated. If you have not yet participated, there is still an opportunity to do so. The form was last emailed to the membership on August 18, 2025. Should you encounter any difficulties, please email bookkeeper@credoces.org; Belinda Dykstra will be happy to assist you.

Donations are another meaningful way to help keep educational costs as low as possible for our families. We invite members and friends of Credo to prayerfully consider making a gift. Please contact our bookkeeper if you would like to make customized arrangements.

Credo Aid Update



Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year; we hope you enjoyed your summer and feel refreshed! Credo Aid is looking forward to another year serving for and working with the greater school community with fundraising events that support our schools with classroom resources, new equipment, field trips and much more. We also look forward to treating the students with hot lunches and treats throughout the year. We are happy to provide our first treat of the year on Friday, September 12th - the annual Pancake Breakfast. This is nice for parents too as no breakfast prep is required.

But first, a bit of housekeeping from last year now that the funds and expenses are tallied and the budget completed. With that we have a very large surplus to help support the schools with about \$18,500 each towards their wish list items. CCES was granted funds to cover a host of things such as; a gazebo cover, picnic tables, band instruments, volleyball uniforms, gaga ball pit repair, line painting in the gym and more. CCHS was granted funds to cover a portable keyboard with stand for devotions, laser printer for shop class, supplies for SALT barbecues, sound equipment which also includes equipment for the fields.

We held our first board meeting in mid August to start the planning for our new school year. **Note the AGM will be held at 9:30am on Tuesday, Sept 23rd in the fellowship hall in Langley Church (babysitting provided).** We would love to see you there as your feedback and ideas are greatly appreciated as we review the budget, fundraisers and discuss plans for the new year. If you'd like more information about Credo Aid, you can visit the website <u>HERE</u>. For current events, please check us out on Facebook or through the school's weekly publication of *Leaflets*. Also, a representative from the Shop Easy Program will also be there to discuss the program, funds raised and the support they have provided for CCES this past year.

With the Lord's blessing, he has granted us enough funds to meet our needs and much more. We pray that we will be good stewards of the funds received through the support of the greater community during this new school year. We are planning our first fundraiser with Neufeld's Farm Market in the coming weeks so look for more information in *Leaflets* and on Facebook.

Last but not least, we are happy to announce that Brenda Beukema has joined Credo Aid. Welcome Brenda! As two of us are retiring we are looking for one more member, ideally from Langley as there will be no rep, please consider.

Credo Aid Board

Monica Miguel - Chair (2025) Joni VanderHorst - Treasurer (2026) Rebecca Wildeboer (2027) Brenda Beukema (2028) Jan Broersma - Secretary (2025) Georgene Van Delft (2026) Jackie Vanderploeg (2028)



Opening Assembly
FRIDAY SEPT 5
10:15 AM
LANGLEY CANADIAN REFORMED CHURCH





On September 5, 1955, the first Canadian Reformed school opened its doors in Burnaby, BC. **Seventy years** later, there are more than thirty schools serving the families of the Canadian and American Reformed churches, helping them to pass along God's promises to His covenant children.

Each school in the Fraser Valley will be commemorating this event at assemblies throughout the school year. The first CCES assembly, commemorating the years 1955-65, will be held on Friday, September 5 at 10:15 AM at the Langley Canadian Reformed Church.

All community members are invited. Refreshments will be served to guests before our assembly begins (and after the high school's assembly ends).

We look forward to seeing you there.



CALENDAR 2025-2026

	1	Labour Day	No Classes
	2	First Day of School	
	5	Opening Assembly	10:15 AM LCRC
September	12	Pancake Breakfast	
September	19	Middle School Retreat	Deroche
	24	Student & Class Portraits	
	29	Pro D Day	No Classes
	30	Truth and Reconciliation Day	No Classes
	10	Thanksgiving Assembly	2 PM LCRC
	13	Thanksgiving Day	No Classes
October	23	Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences	PM
	24	Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences	No Regular Classes
	29	School Membership Meeting	8 PM Gym
	5	Student Portrait Retakes	
	6	Remembrance Day Assembly	2 PM LCRC
November	7	Pro D Day	No Classes
	10	Pro D Day	No Classes
	11	Remembrance Day	No Classes
	4	Grade 6 Play	
	5	Report Card Prep	No Classes
	12	Middle School Market Day	
December	12	Term 1 Report Cards	
	19	Christmas Assembly	1:30 PM LCRC
	19	Last Day Before Christmas Break	
	22 to 31		
	1 to 2	Christmas Break	No Classes
January	5	School Reopens - Classes Begin	
	12	Family Day Assembly	2 PM LCRC
February	13	Pro D Day	No Classes
	16	Family Day	No Classes
	12	Pre-Spring Break Assembly	2 PM LCRC
	12	Parent/Teacher Conferences	PM
March	13	Parent/Teacher Conferences	No Regular Classes
	16 to 27	Spring Break	No Classes
	30	School Reopens - Classes Begin	
	3	Good Friday	No Classes
April	6	Easter Monday	No Classes
-	30	K - 5 Concert	7 PM LCRC
	15	Pro D Day	No Classes
May	18	Victoria Day	No Classes
	27	School Membership Meeting	8 PM Gym
			2 3 ,
	17	Last Day of School Closing Assembly	1:30 PM LCRC

WELCOME TO CREDO

Kindergarten Students

Tessa Baker Liam Beukema Carter Burgsma Jonah Doornbos Nathan Dykstra Brynlee Hollaar Jeremiah Lee Jaymie Schouten Polly Torenvliet Harrison Vandelft Griffin Vandergaag Chloe Vanderpol Ainsley Welfing



New Students

Thompson Vandelft (Grade 4) Amy Chen (Grade 5) Ethan Luo (Grade 5) Ronel Raheel (Grade 5) Monica Cordova Trivino (Grade 6) Fraser Vandelft (Grade 6)

As a School society, we would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to the following families,

Pedro & Andrea Cordova Alcivar Wei Luo & Nancy Zhang Tyson & Lainey Vandelft Raheel & Reena Zafar Daniel & Kate Lee



CCES Board of Directors

Al Scholtens (2025) Aren Van Dyke (2026) Darren Leffers (2027) Daryl Driegen (2027) Eric Vandergriendt (2026) Greg van Popta (2025) Jason VanDelft (2026) Marilyn Mostert (2027) Weiming Liu (2025)

Maintenance Treasurer CCHS / CRSA Membership / Fundraising Vice-Chair / Education Chairman Valley-Wide Secretary / Staff Relations IT / CCSTA

Education Committee

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

Finance Committee

Aren Van Dyke Belinda Dykstra Greg van Popta Otto Bouwman

Colleen Schouten Daryl Driegen Erin Jansen Joel Vandergriendt Kendra Vandergaag

Membership Committee

Maintenance Committee

Al Scholtens Darryl Hofsink Matt Schouten Mike Hollaar

CCES Staff List

Otto Bouwman Jennifer Onderwater Leslie Scholtens Alice Wu Mary MacDougal Meghan Visscher Deb Minderhoud Ben Vandergugten Linda VanSpronsen Natasja Vanrhee Nathalie Snyder Alyssa Vanderstoep Nadine Krikke Spencer Pruim Amber Spoor Kathy Noort Deanna Van Dyke Deborah Huttema Crystal Koat Shelley Sikma Phoebe Gao Natalie Hoogstra Yolanda Hoogstra Lindsay Schouten Jac Spoor Mikayla Stam Gerrine Stebbing Sharon Struik Esther Vandergugten Tiana Vanrhee Joy VanVliet Maddie Visscher Caitlin Warkentin Jackie VanOene

Principal Vice-Principal / Grade 2 Grade KA Grade 1 Grade 1/2LA Grade 3 Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 5A Grade 5A Grade 5B & Music Grade 5B Grade 6 Grade 7A Grade 7B Grade 8 Grade 8 SpEd SpEd PhyEd (6-8)

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Librarian

Fee Structure 2025-2026

Kendra Vandergaag

Belinda Dykstra

Membership - 160.00 Kindergarten - 465.00 Elementary (1-5) - 730.00 Middle (6-8) - 800.00 Junior High (9-10) - 940.00 Senior High (11-12) - 1000.00

Credo Aid

Bookkeeper

Monica Miguel Jan Broersma Joni VanderHorst Georgene Van Delft Rebecca Wildeboer Jackie Vanderploeg Brenda Beukema

Office Administrator



Date: Saturday, September 20

Time: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM (registration opens at 7:15 AM)

Location: Poppy Estate Golf Course

Entry Fees: \$175 (Adult) | \$125 (Student)

Games & Bonuses: Available at Registration (Cash or E-transfer)

Entry fee includes green fee, snacks, prizes & lunch

SEPTEMBER 20 2025 REGISTER NOW www.credoces.org/golf-tournament

For sponsorship opportunities call, text or email - we'd love to hear from you! 778 908 8489 | golf@credoces.org

All proceeds support Credo Christian Elementary & Middle School