

BRANCHES

DECEMBER 5, 2025 | VOLUME 38 | ISSUE 3



CREDO CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18

LANGLEY CANADIAN REFORMED CHURCH

The Promise of the Manger Throne

70 YEARS OF REFORMED EDUCATION

PASS THE PROMISE 1985-1995

1:30 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

LIVESTREAM WILL BE AVAILABLE

<http://vimeo.com/event/4741160>

Grade 2 Winter City Scapes



In This Issue:

- From the Chairman
- From the Principal
- Short Report of Board Mtg
- Proposed Minutes of Oct AGM
- Kodiak Corner
- Credo Aid Update

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 *Oliver Hansma*

The seasons are quickly changing and we are already over three months into the school year. Classes at Credo have been busy adjusting to new teachers and materials and the schedules have by now become routine. At the same time, we are also looking forward to Christmas to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. May it be a time of celebration and reflection on the gifts that God has given to us as a school community through His Son. The Lord continues to bless the work of the teachers, the administration staff and the board as it assists the parents in their task of educating their children. The school remains a hum of activity, and we pray that the upcoming Christmas break will provide some rest and relaxation for both staff and students.

We thank the membership that we were able to meet quorum at our AGM and thus conduct the business of the meeting. It is always appreciated by the board that we are able to meet with the membership to provide financial updates, deliver other presentations, and provide an opportunity for membership comments and questions. As board we appreciate an engaged membership and feel it is important and encouraging as the school comes alongside parents to educate our covenant children.

At the AGM, we could express our thanks to the retiring board members, Greg van Popta, Jason VanDelft, and Weiming Liu. Thank you for your wisdom and guidance as you governed the affairs of the school. We pray that the Lord will guide and bless you and that you will seek other opportunities to serve in His kingdom. To Greg, in particular, thank you for your effort of leading as chair the last two years. The school has benefited from your capable leadership and you leave big shoes to fill.

As was mentioned in the meeting, the board had decided to trim the size of the board by one member. Two new board members were elected to the board, Sue Schouten and the undersigned. With Greg retiring, the board has placed me as chair. I have to admit the role seems daunting but I know that I will be able to rely on the assistance from the rest of the very capable board members, Otto, and the administration team. We also don't do the tasks that the Lord has placed on us in our own strength. I am humbled to serve and ask for patience. Please remember to keep the board, administration, teachers, educational assistants and volunteers in your prayers so that God may bless our school community.

Less than a week after our AGM, a board meeting occurred where the following portfolios were assigned:

- Chair – Oliver Hansma
- Vice-Chair/Education Committee – Eric Vandergrindt
- Secretary/ Board-Staff Relations – Marilyn Mostert
- Treasurer – Aren Van Dyke
- Membership – Sue Schouten
- High School/Valley Wide – Darren Leffers
- Maintenance – Al Scholtens
- CRSA/IT/CCSTA – Daryl Driegen

On a final note, subsequent to our last board meeting, the membership received a survey via email from the Education Committee as they are completing a review of the Special Education Department. At the time of writing this report, we received completed surveys from 76 households. Thank you to those parents who responded.

As board, we wish you a blessed Christmas and New Year!



Merry Christmas
FROM THE STAFF AT CCES

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11*

From the Principal *Otto Bouwman*

It's the time of year when evening darkness is more and more noticeable already before supper time. But it's also the time of year when the lights of Christmas remind us of the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world. Welcome to the final *Branches* issue of 2025.

By the time this issue appears in print, the recent parent survey of the Special Education area will be closed. Our hope and prayer is that the Education Committee's review of our SpEd program during this school year will help to identify areas of strength as well as areas for potential improvement. Thank you to the committee as well as to all who participated in the survey.

Tell the Next Generation

In 2024, "*Tell the Next Generation*": *Essays on Christian Education at Home and in School* was released. The book was written by Dr. Cornelius Van Dam, emeritus professor at the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary. In the foreword, Dr. Christine van Halen-Faber (who has worked tirelessly in a full-time capacity at the Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) for the last 32 years) addresses the readers: "You are about to embark on a special journey. A journey shaped by a love for "telling the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord" (Ps. 78:4) and by a desire to keep the generational chain, from ancestors, via parents, to children, and children's children, intact." I recently purchased the book and thoroughly enjoyed reading it; I encourage parents to read it as well. I contacted the author and asked him if I could reproduce a few pages from the book in this issue of *Branches*, and he readily agreed. On those pages, the author underlines the responsibility parents have in educating their children and highlights the beautiful opportunities that become evident when home and school work effectively together.

During the month of November our school was able to host three student teachers from CCRTC. We were thankful for this opportunity and look forward to being able to host more students again next fall. In the meantime, we look forward to the official response to CCRTC's application to become a degree-granting institution; an announcement is expected any day.

Highlight Events

The December weeks of the school year are always packed with big highlights. I'll address a few of these in order by date.

On December 4, in the evening, our 6th grade class will be putting on their annual drama production. This year's show, *Summer Camp*, promises to be a great performance. These students benefit so evidently from the expertise of teaching staff who have so much to share: Nadine Krikke with getting balls rolling, Nathalie Snyder with music, Natalie Hoogstra with sets and choreography, and again Nadine Krikke for everything else. For the students, putting this show on is a significant highlight. Thank you, parents, grandparents, and others, for your encouragement and support!

On December 12, report cards are due to be released. Before December even begins, teachers and EAs need to collaboratively put a draft progress report together for each student who has an Individual Education Plan or Learning Support Plan. Then, on December 5, teachers have a day set aside on which they are to put marks and remarks on the MyEd portion of the report card as well as on the Work Habits and Social Responsibility portion of the report card. During the week of December 8 – 12, draft report cards will be reviewed and edited. Parents, please read the report cards carefully with your child when it comes home. Hopefully, there will be no surprises to anyone, as parents and teachers have been communicating back and forth since the beginning of the school year. There will likely be some situations where a follow-up conversation would be warranted; parents, don't wait for the teacher to initiate a request for further discussion.

Also on December 12, our grade 7 and 8 students will be hosting Market Day. In preparation for that, these students have had to put in a lot of work. First of all, the groups of students had to collaborate and develop a business plan. A few weeks ago, each group had to publicly pitch their plan to Mrs. Tamara Jansen, who has lots of entrepreneurial experience and insights. After considering her feedback, the groups make preparation for Market Day by gathering their materials, assembling their products, and making plans for sales in the gym. Finally, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, siblings, and others interested show up and encourage the students by purchasing their wares. Profits from the experience are used, in part, to support students in a Christian school in Indonesia.

Monday, December 15 is the annual Christmas craft morning in the primary grades. The glue guns are fired

up and parents and grandparents arrive to help the K-grade 2 students construct some Christmas presents for family. It's usually a festive and fun time.

Thursday, December 18, at 1:30, Credo students will begin a Christmas assembly. Though this is not intended to be a formal program, it will be a joyful celebration of giving thanks for Christ's birth. Students will be happy to see loving and enthusiastic faces up on the balcony. If you wish to come a few minutes early, that would be great; we'll begin singing some Christmas carols at 1:15.

Finally, Friday, December 19 will be the last day of school for 2025. Students will then go home and have two weeks of vacation from school. I'm sure they'll enjoy that!

Wrapping Up

We began the year with the prayer that God would supply us with all that would be needed throughout the

year. God has indeed abundantly supplied us. Admittedly, some things that some of us have had to deal with in 2025 have been humbling and challenging. Nonetheless, we confess God's goodness and thank him for his care.

I'll give just one example of being challenged and yet being able to experience God's provision. In a previous installment of *Branches*, I mentioned that we were looking forward to Eline Post's arrival in November, when she was expected to take over from Deb Minderhoud. Since then, Eline (now Jacobi), discovered (and so did we) that getting work authorization in Canada is more difficult than it was previously. Though Eline will not be able to begin working here this school year, Deb Minderhoud has agreed to continue with her role; God again provided.

Thank you for your continued support, interest, and prayers.

Excerpt from: "Tell the Next Generation: Essays on Christian Education at Home and in School"

By Dr. Cornelis Van Dam

The Ongoing Challenge

The LORD has entrusted our children to us. He has also claimed them for himself and he has given his Word as the ultimate resource for raising them in the fear of his name. Scripture sets the goals and norms of their education. The ongoing challenge is to integrate the Word into all of life so that the great deeds of God resonate within our daily life as well as that of our children. To achieve that end, the Bible must be far more than a reference tool, to be consulted as the need arises. Its truths and standards must become second nature to us and our children. To achieve that, God has given both home parents and school parents.

The LORD directed parents to incorporate the fullness of his revelation into all of life. Parents were to speak all day of the LORD and his greatness and love. It was to come naturally to speak in this manner because their hearts were to be full of love for the LORD. God exhorted them to teach their children diligently at home, on the road, during the day, and at bedtime his works and love. These were to be imprinted on their very hearts and minds (Deut 6:4–9).

Many parents are also blessed with the availability of a Christian school. It can be of great help to the instruction received at home. In the controlled atmosphere of an educational institution, the "fathers" and "mothers" teach students subjects all day long in the light of God's Word. Here the great deeds of God can be transmitted in such a way that they are not left forgotten in a book, but are relevant and meet the needs of the day. At school all facts, whatever the subject may be, can in one way or another be related to the LORD and his plan for us and the world. Then teaching is torah, giving direction for life, yes, for the full life in Jesus Christ on this earth, but which is at the same time the beginning of life eternal.

Ideally such a Christian school is a Reformed school. It provides the closest association with the ideals and beliefs of the children's parents attending a Reformed church. After all, Reformed schools are confessional in character since the teaching is based on the Reformed confessions. Such schools are also very consciously covenantal. They stress their close association to the local Reformed church community and the parental promises made at the baptism of their children. There can, of course, be situations where sending children to a Reformed or a Christian school is not possible. In that case the option of home schooling should be considered. More about that in the next chapter of this book. Parents can, however, also be compelled by circumstances to use a local public school. This can happen for a number of reasons, such as the inability to homeschool, a long

geographical distance from the nearest Christian school, or a child with special needs who can only be accommodated in programs available in a public school. In that case, Christian parents need to monitor ever so closely the education their children receive at such a secular school since teachers exercise considerable molding power over their students.

Also teachers in a Christian school obviously have an enormous influence over their students. These "fathers" and "mothers" at a Christian school take on a tremendous responsibility and exert considerable control in shaping their "sons" and "daughters." They are the "parents" away from home. This fact has important repercussions. They fill the lives of their "sons" and "daughters" in a very real way. Daily and systematically, with the authority and discipline which come with a school situation, the students are worked on, at a time when they are most productive and attentive. When the biological parents see them after school, their children have already given their best. The potential impact of the "fathers" and "mothers" in school is therefore immense and should never be underestimated. Life direction is given in the school. Yes, life—which must include eternal life.

Such is the impact that the successful teacher literally molds his "children" in his image, just as a biological parent has children in his or her image. This can and does happen in the classroom. Teachers are like parents. They give life instruction and influence the life outlook and the very image of their students.

One can sense that this state of affairs can raise problems. A teacher's influence is immense. Is it not too great? Do parents not have the first right to influence? Do their sons and daughters not belong to them? An Aramean story recounts how a mother took her child to school and entrusted him to the teacher with these words: "His flesh is yours, his bones are mine." That is, the teacher is given the authority to teach and discipline the child, but the child belongs to its parents. The flesh is given to the teacher, even to be beaten, if necessary, but the bones, the basic structure, remains with the parents.

There is something sound about this approach, for the teacher is not to remake the child he receives; the child belongs not to the school but to the parents. We are reminded that the first five or six formative years are in the parental home. This is also of comfort if one happens to be living where Christian school education is not possible. However, the fact that children belong to their parents is also a reminder that we cannot just leave our children in the care of the "parents" at school without any further involvement, no matter how good the school is. The school is to be an extension of the home; that's where the real father and mother are. Therefore parents must be very much involved with the teachers at school.

This involvement does not mean interference. It means praying for the teachers. It means using the channels available to show interest in their work and to find out how our children are doing. Positive involvement also implies good communication from school to home so that parents can reinforce what their children are taught in school and so that students receive a unified education. Parental involvement also means ensuring that teachers are well equipped so that they can do their calling as effectively as possible. It means above all that our children clearly see that there is no competition between their home parents and the school "parents" but that in the unity of the faith both are equipping the child in full obedience to the Lord in all areas of life.

This unity of home and school is the beauty of true Christian education. The "problem" of the teacher molding students in his or her image is then in a sense always limited. For when our children are molded in the image of the teacher, it should not be a direct source of concern, for both the "father" in the school and the father at home have another Teacher to whom they both submit and whose image they seek to be. He gives true wisdom, yes, he is true wisdom. He gives and is life, even life eternal (1 Cor 1:30). He was not called "father" as a title of honor, as teacher, for his teaching ministry revealed the great Father in heaven. Those who saw him, the Lord Jesus, were to see the heavenly Father (John 14:9), and those who obeyed him would be the image of Father on earth (Rom 8:29; Col 3:10)! And is it not the image of that Father that we seek to impress on our sons and daughters, also in school?

Short Report of October Board Meeting

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School October 6th, 2025

Opening and Welcome: The Chairman, G. vanPopta, opened the meeting by reading Scripture, followed by Board singing and a moment of prayer. He welcomed the Directors and Principal O. Bouwman.

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

Minutes and Short Report: The minutes and short report from the regular board meeting held on September 15th, 2025 were approved.

Incoming correspondence: The Board received correspondence from CCRTC, CRSA and members of membership.

Principal's Report: O. Bouwman presented the Principal's Report for October 2025.

General Business: The draft agenda for the October AGM was reviewed. A motion was carried to reduce the number of board members from nine to eight. The board approved Lili Du, Oliver Hansma, Sue Schouten and Julian Vanderpol to membership for voting to fill two vacant positions.

Finance Committee: Minutes from the Sept 23, 2025 meeting were circulated through the board package. The Board reviewed the draft financial statements, which will be presented at the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM). The draft financial statements were approved for publication and distribution to the membership. Income statements and accounts receivable from September 2025 were reviewed. The Board is thankful God is continuing to provide for all of our financial needs.

IT Committee: A report to the board was circulated in the board package. The Board approved a committee request to slightly increase the hours allotted for IT support.

CCHS: The meeting noted a recent change at the high school regarding their vaccination protocols. The Board reviewed our current vaccination protocols and resolved to maintain our existing approach. Extra attention will be given to ensure that parents are well-informed.

Board/Staff relations: Birthday cards were signed.

Next Meetings / Events: A Chairmen/Principals meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2025. The CCES Membership Meeting is October 29, 2025 and the next CCES Board meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2025.

Closing: D. Leffers offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Chairman G. vanPopta closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Draft Minutes of the October AGM

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School with the Membership October 29, 2025

Opening and Welcome: The Chairman, Greg VanPopta, welcomed everyone present and opened the meeting. We sang Psalm 19:1, read from Romans 12:1-8 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 28, 2025, 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.

Election of Board Members: Greg vanPopta shared with membership that the board approved reducing the number of board members from 9 to 8 board members. As a result, two new directors were required to replace Weiming Liu, Jason Vandelft, and Greg vanPopta.

Nominees were Lili Du, Oliver Hansma, Sue Schouten and Julian Vanderpol.

The Chairman read off the names of those nominated, requesting members to vote for up to 2 members. The selected counters took the ballots to be counted.

Annual Report: The Chairman gave the floor to Marilyn Mostert, who presented the 2024/25 school year annual report.

Presentation of 2024/2025 Financial Statements: The Chairman gave the floor to board Treasurer Aren VanDyke who presented the financial statements for the 2024/25 fiscal year, the review engagement report from Rolfe Benson, and the review report completed by school members Lawrence Jansen and Jeff Vandergaag.

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 2025/26 fiscal school year was also approved.

Aren gave a brief update on the current 2025/2026 budget.

- The Tuition Top Up Program was again well received by the membership.
- The Golf Tournament was a financial success.
- Those two additional sources of revenue will go a long way to cover the intentionally budgeted deficit for the current fiscal year.

An opportunity for questions was given. **Questions asked:**

- A member inquired whether there were additional expenses related to special education, noting that typically more is spent than received.
- Answer: SpEd revenues and expenses didn't match perfectly last year, mostly due to unexpected revenues being received. The Board is aware of the need to diligently track expenses with revenues received.
- Is there a 5 year capital plan and if so, what are they?
- Answer: Yes, there is a 5 year capital plan. The main items on the list are air conditioning units, driveway paving and retaining wall replacement.
- What is the cost of air conditioning units?
- Answer: We received a \$100K estimate a few years ago, but that estimate would need to be refreshed before the expense is incurred.
- A member asked about the restricted and the unrestricted reserve funds.
- Answer: The Restricted Reserve fund is at approximately \$500K (approximately 14% of our annual budget); The School also has approximately \$500K of unrestricted funds on hand. The unrestricted funds are used as an operating "float". They represent approximately 6 weeks of current expenses, and help with cash flow needs, as expenses and revenues don't necessarily line up perfectly.

CRSA - Canadian Reformed School Association: The Chairman invited Board member Darren Leffers to the floor who provided a brief update on CRSA. Darren reported that the premises continue to be leased out to other educational institutions and net a modest annual profit.

An opportunity for questions was given. **Questions asked:**

- Can the Board provide the membership with a financial update from CRSA periodically?
- Answer: Yes, the board will endeavour to provide periodic financial updates from CRSA, either as their own report, or within the monthly Short Reports published by the Board.

Valley-Wide High School Implementation Committee (VWHSIC) Update:

(VWHSIC) Update: The Chairman invited Darren Leffers to the floor who provided a brief update on VWHSIC. Darren reported that progress continues behind the scenes and that community response at the last town hall was positive. The committee is continually looking for suitable opportunities.

He noted that the potential properties currently under consideration are located just outside the city's urban development boundaries, which has made obtaining assurances from the city challenging. However, a potential property has been identified just East of Whatcom Road (north of the Freeway), and the committee is optimistic about the possibility of moving forward.

An opportunity for questions was given. **Questions asked:**

- Is there any fundraising currently happening for VWHSIC? Could a percentage of funds from the golf tournament or the fair go toward this?
- Answer: We are currently not pushing super hard for capital fundraising until we get some more concrete plans. Until then, our annual fundraisers are focussed on our local / individual school operations.
- Is the property that is currently identified further east than the VW Report calls for?
- Answer: Yes, it is a few minutes further east than the current boundary set by the VW Report.

70th Anniversary: 2 short videos celebrating 70 Years of Reformed Education in the Fraser Valley were shared.

The Election results and motion to destroy ballots: The chairman presented the results of the election: Oliver Hansma and Sue Schouten were elected as new board members.

A motion to securely destroy all ballots from the October 29, 2025, CCES Board Member Election was approved now that results have been confirmed and no objections to the vote were raised.

Question Period:

- A member shared appreciation for the outgoing board members.
- Greg briefly shared with the members the plans of the education committee regarding the SpEd review.
- Otto thanked members for participating in the feeding futures program and shared they can anticipate an email to participate again.

Thanksgiving Prayer: We sang Hymn 61:1 and Greg vanPopta closed with prayer.

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

Kodiak Corner *Shelley Sikma*

Fall sports are quickly transitioning into winter sport schedules at Credo!

Cross country season seems like it was a while ago, however, we still want to recognize the top Elementary runners who qualified for the Langley district finals! Credo has some very strong runners again this year. All qualifiers are pictured below. Special mention to the following runners who finished in the top 10! Levi Wildeboer (4th - gr 7 boys), Acsah Wildeboer (9th - gr 7 girls), Zach Schouten (5th - gr 5 boys) and Kate Louwerse (6th - gr 5 girls)

Volleyball season has been and gone for the grade 8 teams, and that meant the grade 7's got their turn for some Kodiak league play during November! Two boys' teams and one large girls team spent their Wednesdays, after school, participating in triple ball games against other Langley district schools. Lots to look forward to in grade 8 for these teams. They looked great!



The grade 6 class also took their turn playing in a one-day tripleball tournament against other Christian schools. The boys spent the day out at Regent Christian and the girls journeyed out to Lion's Gate Christian.

The grade 8 basketball teams have been established, and each team has had at least one league game so far. Coaching these teams is a huge commitment. Mikayla Stam with the assistance of her sister Hailey Stam will be leading our girls' team. After much searching, Justin Vanderploeg has agreed to coach the grade 8 boys together with senior students Ben VanderHorst and Jack Bouldman. Justin also coaches the sr. boys' team at Credo High and so we are extremely grateful for his above and beyond commitment to the athletics program and his passion for developing athletes.

Again, a huge thank you to our many community coaches!

- Grade 7 girls tripleball: *Renee Leffers and Kathy Noort*
- Grade 7 boys tripleball: *Kim Meints and Jason & April Togeretz*
- Grade 6 girls tripleball: *Emily Les and Kenzie Raap*
- Grade 6 boys tripleball: *Brenda Beukema and Kim Meints*
- Grade 8 girls basketball: *Mikayla Stam and Hailey Stam*
- Grade 8 boys basketball: *Justin Vanderploeg, Ben VanderHorst, Jack Bouldman*



Credo Aid Update

A huge thank-you to all the volunteers, participants, and buyers of our **All Things Dutch Fundraiser**. Together we were able to raise just over **\$14,000 for Credo Aid!**

What a blessing to the school community. It was amazing to see the many hands and hearts working together to raise funds for our school.

Many thanks to the Credo Croquette Team (Joanne DeWit, Deb Lof, Cindy Luiten, Tanya Pruim, Rita Shouten, Ginny VanderHorst, and Bernice Wubs) who put many hours of hard work in to organizing and manufacturing 664 dozen croquettes!

A hearty thanks to the high school for allowing this project to go on during school hours as well as Langley church who provided the needed space to distribute all the goods. Thanks to Tako Slump with Holland Shopping Center and Meridian Farm Market for supplying us with 55 wheels of cheese & over 1500lbs of apples!

A special thanks to Ang Deboer and Emily Deboer who helped collect payments and organize orders.

Above all we are thankful to our heavenly Father for giving us the good gifts of time, ability, and willingness to show up for one another and work on this project together. As you see from the photos there were many grandmas, moms, aunts, and sisters working hard.

Thanks for taking the time out of your day to help out!



Love Credo - Puzzle Race! Friday February 6 2026

This ain't your Oma's regular Friday puzzle night...

This high-energy event (14yrs-99 yrs) requires you to gather a **team of 4** to compete in being the first to finish a 500-piece puzzle.

Prepare your strategy and focus for one Epic Puzzle Battle!

Further details on the event, cost, location
and team sign up are coming in soon!



CALENDAR 2025-2026

December	4	Grade 6 Play	
	5	Report Card Prep	No Classes
	12	Grade 7 & 8 Market Day	11 AM - 1:30 PM
	12	Term 1 Report Cards	
	18	Christmas Assembly <i>(Pass the Promise: 1985-1995)</i>	1:30 PM LCRC
	19	SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY - FESTIVE DAY	
	19	Last Day Before Christmas Break	
	22 to 31	Christmas Break	
January	1 to 2	Christmas Break	
	5	School Reopens - Classes Begin	
	26 to 30	Book Week!	
	30	SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY - BOOK CHARACTER DAY	
February	6	*NEW* School Skating (Grades 1-8)	CanLan Arena
	12	SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY - ONE HUNDRED YEAR OLD DAY	
	12	Family Day Assembly <i>(Pass the Promise: 2005-2015)</i>	2 PM LCRC
	13	Pro D Day	No Classes
	16	Family Day	No Classes
March	5	Spring Concert (Grades K - 5)	7 PM LCRC
	11	SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY - ROCK YOUR SOCKS DAY (COLORFUL CROCS/ SOCKS)	
	12	Pre-Spring Break Assembly <i>(Pass the Promise: 2015-2025)</i>	2 PM LCRC
	12	Parent/Teacher Conferences	PM
	13	Parent/Teacher Conferences	No Regular Classes
	16 to 27	Spring Break	No Classes
	30	School Reopens - Classes Begin	
April	3	Good Friday	No Classes
	6	Easter Monday	No Classes
	15	SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY - ATHLETES DAY	
	24	Open House for Grandparents & Parents	<i>(more details closer to the date)</i>
May	13	Grade 9 Parent Orientation	CCHS - PM
	14	Christian Schools Track & Field Event (Grades 4-7)	McLeod Athletic Park
	14	Grade 9 Day	CCHS
	15	Pro D Day	No Classes
	18	Victoria Day	No Classes
	21	CCES Sports Day (Grades K-8)	McLeod Athletic Park
	27	School Membership Meeting	8 PM Gym
	28	*NEW* Middle School Band Concert	7 PM LCRC
	29	SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY - SAMESIES DAY	
June	1 to 4	Grade 8 Grad Trip	
	17	Closing Assembly	1:30 PM LCRC
	17	Last Day of School Closing Assembly	
	22	Grade 8 Graduation	8 PM LCRC

The Kodiak - Loonie News

Mr. Bouwman's Double Life

Caleb's teacher, Mrs. Spoor, was trying to teach them about long division, but Caleb couldn't focus. His eyes were fixed on the door, specifically the small glass window. Through the window, the hallway was eerily quiet, except for one figure; Principal Bouwman.

Mr. Bouwman wasn't like other principals. He walked very quietly and stood in classrooms, as if he were trying to monitor everything. He never raised his voice; he only whispered, and somehow everyone in the room could hear him perfectly. And he always wore a tie to every occasion.

"It's obvious," Caleb whispered to his friend, Jesse, who was drawing a chicken eating a pickle.

"What's obvious?" Jesse asked, not looking up from his paper.

"Mr. Bouwman," Caleb hissed. "He's not a principal. He's a spy of course"

Jesse stopped drawing, looking up at his friend. "A spy? What?! No way!"

"Think about it! Why does he always wear sunglasses, even indoors?"

"Umm... Because his office light is really bright?" Jesse suggested.

"No! He's scanning the room for threats!" Caleb pointed to the principal's black rectangular watch. "That's not a normal watch. It's a communication device. He's probably talking to a secret base in Lynden Washington right now,"

Jesse looked at the watch with a new found suspicion. "What about his tie clips? They're always silver."

"Laser beams!" Caleb exclaimed. "Obviously. And his car? A VW with tinted windows. He claims it's for 'privacy' but everyone knows it's a spy car."

Caleb continued with his theory. "He knows everyone's schedule. He knows when the library is empty. He can appear behind you without making a sound. That's not principal training; that's ninja training."

Jesse squinted at Mr. Bouwman through the window again. The principal suddenly bent down with impossible grace to pick up a single piece of litter off the floor. He slipped it into his pocket with a movement that was both swift and discrete.

"He cleans up messes and destroys evidence..." Jesse remarked, his voice serious now. "Caleb you might be right!"

They decided they had to find proof. They would watch him. They would uncover the truth. Principal Bouwman, the master of silent hallways and discreet littler disposal, was clueless. He had no idea that he was being observed by the most determined (and imaginative) spies in the sixth grade. The game had started, and all because of a charcoal gray suit and a very suspicious silver tie clip.

Part 2 Coming Next Issue

Devon Aikema | Grade 6





CCES Board of Directors

Al Scholtens (2026)
Eric Vandergriendt (2026)
Aren Van Dyke (2026)
Daryl Driegen (2027)
Darren Leffers (2027)
Marilyn Mostert (2027)
Oliver Hansma (2028)
Sue Schouten (2028)

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

Membership Committee

Sue Schouten
Colleen Schouten
Erin Jansen
Joel Vandergriendt
Kendra Vandergaag
Esther Zou

Maintenance Committee

Darryl Hofsink
Al Scholtens
Dave Torenvliet
Steve Vanderveen
Tim Welfing

Education Committee

Aren Van Dyke
Oliver Hansma
Belinda Dykstra
Otto Bouwman

Finance Committee

CCES Staff List

Otto Bouwman	Principal
Jennifer Onderwater	Vice-Principal / Grade 2
Leslie Scholtens	Grade KA
Alice Wu	Grade 1
Mary MacDougal	Grade 1 / 2 LA
Meghan Visscher	Grade 3
Deb Minderhoud	Grade 3
Ben Vandergugten	Grade 4
Linda VanSpronzen	Grade 5A
Natasja Vanrhee	Grade 5A
Nathalie Snyder	Grade 5B & Music
Alyssa Vanderstoep	Grade 5B
Nadine Krikke	Grade 6
Spencer Pruij	Grade 6
Amber Vantil	Grade 7A
Kathy Noort	Grade 7B
Deanna Van Dyke	Grade 8
Deborah Huttema	Grade 8
Crystal Koat	SpEd
Shelley Sikma	SpEd
Phoebe Gao	PhyEd (6-8)
Natalie Hoogstra	EA
Yolanda Hoogstra	EA
Lindsay Schouten	EA
Jac Spoor	EA
Mikayla Stam	EA
Gerrine Stebbing	EA
Sharon Struik	EA
Esther Vandergugten	EA
Tianna Vanrhee	EA
Joy VanVliet	EA
Maddie Visscher	EA
Caitlin Warkentin	EA
Jackie VanOene	EA
Belinda Dykstra	EA
Kendra Vandergaag	EA

Librarian
Bookkeeper
Office Administrator

Fee Structure 2025-2026

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

Brenda Beukema
Joni VanderHorst
Su VanderHorst
Georgene Van Delft
Jackie Vanderploeg
Rebecca Wildeboer