

BRANCHES

SEPT 4, 2026 | VOLUME 39 | ISSUE 1

WELCOME

back to school!



2026/2027 Theme Text

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

Colossians 3:16

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

From the Chairman *Oliver Hansma*

Welcome back to another school year, Credo Community. We trust that the summer months provided rest to staff, students, and parents. It is amazing that the Lord has provided us with distinct seasons in this part of the world and through them we are reminded that He is in control over all things.

With the new school year, a new season of board meetings and activity begins. We thank the school community for entrusting the board members with the governance of the school and we covet your prayers for the work of the board, staff and administration.

We welcome families who may have been members for some time, but are sending their first child to school. We invite you to become heavily involved in school activities (if you are not already), from volunteering in various capacities, to serving on the Board and its committees.

The group of kindergarten children will fill two classes again this year. While some students (and parents!) may be apprehensive, most will be excited to come to school. They have heard stories about school, dreamed about what it would be like, and treasure the newfound independence. With God's blessing, each of these children will be trained in our collective school system for 13 years. Upon graduation, each of these children will have been trained as disciples and ambassadors of Christ, charged with their own office in God's master plan. Over

this time many influences will shape these children – at home, in the church, with family and friends, as well as many sources outside our covenant community. We hope and pray CCES will serve an important influence in imparting a Reformed worldview that enables children to interpret the times and school disciplines with discernment.

It is also good to extend thanks to those who attended the summer work-bee on August 29, including those who supplied equipment.

At the tail end of the school year we became aware of an upcoming maternity leave for part of this school year. Due to this and identified additional staffing needs, we hired an additional Education Assistant. We extend a hearty welcome to Lauren Vanderstoep and hope and pray that her integration will go well.

In October we will be holding our Annual General Meeting. Part of this meeting will include elections for board members. If you get a phone call or in person request from a member of the board nomination committee, please seriously consider letting your name stand. Personally, I can attest that it is a rewarding experience and allows the opportunity for you to experience the inner workings of the school at a closer level. It also gives you a greater appreciation for this gift that the Lord has given us.

From the Board

Yearly tuition fees run from September to August. The 2026/2027 tuition rates will take effect on September 1, 2026, and Pre-Authorized Debits (PAD) will be adjusted accordingly:

Kindergarten	\$470.00
Elementary (1-5)	\$735.00
Middle (6-8)	\$810.00
Junior High (9-10)	\$955.00
Senior High (11-12)	\$1015.00
Membership	\$160.00

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the Tuition "Top Up" Plan. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated.

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 - b.dykstra@credoces.org.

Treasurer - Aren VanDyke
arenvandyke@credoces.org

Bookkeeper – Belinda Dykstra
b.dykstra@credoces.org

From the Principal *Otto Bouwman*

Welcome to Credo Christian Elementary School's 40th year of existence! Last year we, along with other area schools, celebrated 70 years of Reformed education in the Fraser Valley. In light of last year's celebrations, I'm not anticipating that our school's 40th anniversary is going to be a prominent highlight for the year. Nonetheless, we gratefully acknowledge God's good care – not just during the past summer weeks, but also for his preserving hand all of our school's history. What a good and gracious Father we have; praise God!

School Theme

For this school year, the staff has chosen Colossians 3:16 as our theme text: *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.* As the school year gets underway, there will be multiple opportunities to reflect on how we might go about letting God's Word dwell richly in our hearts. We look forward to singing Colossians 3:16 together. We look forward to memorizing parts of Scripture together.

One of the reasons that we selected this theme text was in connection with the work of William Tyndale. Five hundred years ago, in 1526, Tyndale completed his translation of the New Testament into the English language. Five years prior to that, in 1521 – so the story goes – Tyndale got into a heated discussion with a local clergyman in Gloucestershire, England. As the clergyman advocated for respecting the power and

authority of the pope, Tyndale replied with the following famous words: "I defy the Pope and all his laws; if God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth the plough shall know more of the Scripture than thou dost". Subsequently, Tyndale set to work translating the Bible into the English language so that every family in England could access God's Word in their own language.

God gave the English-speaking world a wonderful gift through the work of William Tyndale, along with many others. In our church services, God's Word evidently plays a central role. At school, God's Word will play a central role, not only in our devotions, but also in our instruction in all areas of school life. We trust that in your homes God's Word will be your family's foundation; as you do your devoting, eating, and living together, God's Word will define and determine your family's identity. At school we look forward, together with our churches and homes, to have the word of Christ dwell in us richly, teaching and admonishing each other in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in our hearts to God.

Staffing

During the summer time, as teachers drifted in and out of the school, things were quite quiet in school. During this past week, however, all staff members were present. With gratitude, we can report that we have a full complement of capable staff members. What a blessing! Here's our list:

Grade	Students	Teachers	Education Assistants
KA	14	Leslie Scholtens	Yolanda Hoogstra
KB	14	Deborah Huttema	Krista Vanderhorst
1	14	Jennifer Onderwater	Gerrine Stebbing & Sharon Struik
2	22	Alice Wu	Tianna Vanrhee
3	20	Meghan Pruim	Lindsay Schouten
4	24	Amber Spoor	Maddie Visscher
5	20	Natasja Vanrhee & Linda VanSpronsen	Joy VanVliet
6A	21	Nathalie Snyder & Alyssa Vanderstoep	Jac Spoor & Gerrine Stebbing
6B	20	Gavin Thomas	Natalie Hoogstra
7	27	Spencer Pruim	Mikayla Kobes
8A	20	Kathy Noort & Shelley Sikma	Lauren Vanderstoep
8B	20	Ben Vandergugten	Caitlin Warkentin

Admittedly, this chart doesn't tell the whole story. Some of our staff members are part-time. Some staff members have additional responsibilities that were not mentioned. Nor does the chart mention:

- Mary MacDougal: Language Arts in Grades 2 and 3
- Crystal Koat's targeted assistance to students in the intermediate and middle grades
- Nathalie Snyder's role in music
- Nadine Krikke's role as director of learning support
- Deb Huttema's work as primary learning support coordinator
- Jennifer Onderwater being our vice-principal
- Administrative Assistant: Kendra Vandergaag
- Bookkeeper: Belinda Dykstra
- Librarian: Jackie Vanoene

As you can imagine, putting a schedule together requires some flexibility and creativity. I am so thankful for the presence, the expertise, and the commitment of all my colleagues.

As a couple of the names above are new to our school this year, allow me to introduce them. First of all, last year's Meghan Visscher underwent a name change to Meghan Pruij. Congratulations again, Spencer and Meghan! Secondly, we have Gavin Thomas joining our ranks as a recent graduate from the teacher training program at UFV. Gavin, we're thrilled that you are beginning your teaching career at Credo, and we look forward to your contributions here! We also have one new EA: Lauren Vanderstoep. Lauren, we're thankful that you too are joining team Credo!

A Few Reminders

Parents can expect to receive letters home from each homeroom teacher; I will not repeat here what teachers write in those letters. However, I was asked to

remind parents of a couple school expectations, particularly as they relate to technology. In our Parent/Student Handbook, which is available on our website, we find the following: *Students may not have access to or use personal communication devices (cell phones, Apple watches, etc) while on school premises.* Parents, we kindly ask that you ensure that your child remains in compliance with that expectation. Though students may – when given permission – use a normal hand-held calculator, they may not have access to or use other devices. Much ink has been spilled documenting the challenges associated with the increased use of personal communication devices, particularly amongst today's youth. Thank you, parents, for ensuring that your elementary and middle school children understand these expectations.

Somewhat related to that: some students have taken digital or other cameras to school. Unless a teacher specifically invites students to do that – for educational purposes – please don't send cameras to school either. Student camera use at school or on field trips will likely blur the "technology line" and also raise some concerns related to privacy. Thank you again.

We look forward to welcoming students to school on Tuesday morning, and we look forward to having our opening assembly with parents and supporters at 10:00 that morning in the Langley church!

As always: if/when you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask. If/when you have gratitude to share, pass that along. If/when you have concerns, don't hesitate to bring that to the attention of the party involved. In a community marked by communication and transparency, wonderful things can happen. With the Lord's blessing, we look forward to that reality in the 2026/2027 school year!

PEANUT FREE FACILITY

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

Credo Aid Update

Welcome to the 2026-2027 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 held our first board meeting earlier this week to start the planning for our new school year. With thankfulness we reflected on the outpouring of community volunteerism and dedication of parents to provide funds once again to cover our annual upcoming budget this year. As a parent run school it is beautiful to see parents working together. We want to thank Joni VanderHorst for her hard work and dedication these past 3 years serving on the board as treasurer. We appreciated her willingness to learn new things and her quiet dedication to getting the task done. With her retirement we are looking for one new member to join us this year as I will be extending my term for one more year to complete my second year as chair. For parents whose youngest kids are in school that have not previously volunteered in this capacity can you consider if this is your year to serve the community in this way? It is expected that each parent heavily considers serving on the board at some point of their children's educational journey through Credo Elementary.

The AGM will be held at 9:00am on Tuesday, Sept 22rd 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. 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.

Last year over \$45,000 was raised in support of the Credo Aid programs. This will go toward our budget this coming year as well as provide for our wish list items. CCES was granted funds to purchase new picnic tables, game volleyballs, Grade 4 school supplies, Grade 6 play funds as well as funds dedicated to the kitchen space at the elementary. CCHS was granted funds to purchase new sewing machines, SALT bbq, and class outings. If you'd like more information about Credo Aid, you can visit the Credo Aid page on the CCES website (<https://credoces.org/credo-aid/>). For current events, please follow us on Facebook or through the school's weekly publication of Leaflets. 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.

Credo Aid Board

Georgene Van Delft - Chair (2027)
Joni VanderHorst - Treasurer (2026)
Rebecca Wildeboer (2027)
Jackie Vanderploeg (2028)
Brenda Beukema - Secretary (2028)
Su VanderHorst (2028)



**Thank you to all who helped at the annual
CCES Work Bee!**

CREDO
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
CALENDAR 2026-2027

September	7	Labour Day	No School
	8	First Day of School	
	8	Opening Assembly	10:00 AM LCRC
	10	Student & Class Portraits - Kindergarten 'B' Class Only	
	14	Student & Class Portraits	
	18	Pancake Breakfast	
	24	Middle School Retreat at Stepping Stones Bible Camp	Deroche
	30	Truth and Reconciliation Day	No School
October	12	Thanksgiving Day	No School
	22	Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences	PM
	23	Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences	No Regular Classes
	28	School Membership Meeting	8 PM Gym
November	4	Student Portrait Retakes	Gym
	11	Remembrance Day	No School
	12	Pro D Day	No School
	13	Pro D Day	No School
December	3	Grade 6 Play	
	4	Report Card Prep	No School
	11	Grade 7 & 8 Market Day	
	11	Term 1 Report Cards	
	18	Last Day Before Christmas Break	
	21 to 31	Christmas Break	No School
January	1	New Years Day	No School
	4	School Reopens	
	29	Admin Day	No School
February	12	Pro D Day	No School
	15	Family Day	No School
March	11	Last Day Before Spring Break	
	11	Parent/Teacher Conferences	PM
	12	Parent/Teacher Conferences	No Regular Classes
	15 to 25	Spring Break	No School
	26	Good Friday	No School
	29	Easter Monday	No School
	30	School Reopens	
April	Currently no events for the month of April		
May	20	Grade 9 Day	CCHS
	21	Pro D Day	No Classes
	24	Victoria Day	No Classes
	26	School Membership Meeting	8 PM Gym
June	23	Closing Assembly	1:30 PM LCRC
	23	Last Day of School	
	28	Grade 8 Graduation	7:30 PM LCRC
	30	Term 2 Report Cards	

Welcome to Credo

Kindergarten Students

Levi Bulthuis	Atticus Bysterveld
Anya Catamo	Silas Catamo
Anna Cordova Trivino	Marin De Boersap
Micaiah den Boer	Hailey Engel
Jonah Faber	Skye Flokstra
Caden Groen	Hudson Hansman
Lettie Jansen	Nathaniel Lee
Jasper Linde	Emme Meerstra
Elijah Nincao	Aidan Onderwater
Titus Schouten	Zavian Sikma
Kailey Togerez	Bennett Vandeburg
Asher Vandergrindt	Lily Vandergrindt
Makayla Vanderpol	Bodie Vane
Eleanor Vanlaar	Chloe Wubs

New Students

Joshua Chen - Grade 2	Joseph Chen - Grade 5
Ellie Loney - Grade 3	Natalie Loney - Grade 6

A Warm Welcome to Our New Families

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

Evan & Corinna Bulthuis
 Hongdi & Karen Chen
 Daniel & Kelly Engel
 James & Belinda Linde
 Daniel & Kim Loney
 Charity Van Spronsen
 Seth & Leanne Vanderbugten

We are thankful to have you join our school community.

May you feel welcomed, supported, encouraged,
 and blessed as you become part of our school
 and grow alongside us.



CREDO
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2026 - 2027 Board & Staff

CCES Board of Directors

Al Scholtens (2026)	Maintenance
Eric Vandergrindt (2026)	Vice-Chair / Education
Aren Van Dyke (2026)	Treasurer
Daryl Driegen (2027)	CRSA / IT / CCSTA
Darren Leffers (2027)	CCHS / Valley-Wide
Marilyn Mostert (2027)	Secretary / Staff Relations
Oliver Hansma (2028)	Chairman
Sue Schouten (2028)	Membership

Education Committee

Michelle Dykstra
 Kim Meints
 Arlena Onderwater
 Jennifer Onderwater
 Derek Schepers
 Allison Vandeburg
 Eric Vandergrindt
 Otto Bouwman

Membership Committee

Sue Schouten
 Colleen Schouten
 Erin Jansen
 Joel Vandergrindt
 Kendra Vandergaag
 Mike Vandergaag
 Esther Zou

Finance Committee

Aren Van Dyke
 Oliver Hansma
 Belinda Dykstra
 Otto Bouwman

Maintenance Committee

Daryl Hofsink
 Al Scholtens
 Dave Torenvliet
 Steve Vanderveen

CCES Staff List

Otto Bouwman	Principal
Jennifer Onderwater	Vice-Principal / Grade 1
Leslie Scholtens	Grade KA
Deb Huttema	Primary SpEd / Grade KB
Alice Wu	Grade 2
Mary MacDougall	Grade 2-3 LA
Meghan Pruim	Grade 3
Amber Spoor	Grade 4
Linda VanSpronsen	Grade 5A
Natasja Vanrhee	Grade 5A
Nathalie Snyder	Music / Grade 6A
Alyssa Vanderstoep	Grade 6A
Gavin Thomas	Grade 6B
Spencer Pruim	Grade 7
Kathy Noort	Grade 8A
Ben Vanderbugten	Grade 8B
Shelley Sikma	PhyEd (6-8)
Nadine Krikke	Director of Learning Support
Crystal Koat	SpEd
Natalie Hoogstra	EA
Yolanda Hoogstra	EA
Mikayla Kobes	EA
Lindsay Schouten	EA
Jac Spoor	EA
Gerrine Stebbing	EA
Sharon Struik	EA
Krista Vanderhorst	EA
Lauren Vanderstoep	EA
Tianna Vanrhee	EA
Joy VanVliet	EA
Maddie Visscher	EA
Caitlin Warkentin	EA
Jackie VanOene	Librarian
Belinda Dykstra	Bookkeeper
Kendra Vandergaag	Office Administrator

Fee Structure 2026-2027

Membership - 160.00
 Kindergarten - 470.00
 Elementary (1-5) - 735.00
 Middle (6-8) - 810.00
 Junior High (9-10) - 955.00
 Senior High (11-12) - 1015.00

Credo Aid

Georgene Van Delft (2027)
 Joni VanderHorst (2026)
 Rebecca Wildeboer (2027)
 Jackie Vanderploeg (2028)
 Brenda Beukema (2028)
 Su VanderHorst (2028)



CREDO
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ANNUAL
GOLF
TOURNAMENT
2026

Date: Saturday, September 19

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 19
REGISTER
NOW

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