

# The Lynden LINK

## ~ Chairman Report ~

June 15, 2025 ~ Volume 23, Issue 6

With thankfulness to the Lord God, we have completed another academic year at CCS! We have seen much progress in the growth and development of our students over this past year, and we have topped it off with 8th and 12th grade graduations. May the knowledge and wisdom that were gained and the skills that were developed be of lasting benefit to the students. May the efforts of the staff, volunteers, and parents be recognized and appreciated by the students who reap these benefits. May our teaching at Cornerstone, based as it is on the foundation of God's revealed Word, shine as light in the darkness of our secular and materialistic society.

We hope that the students and teachers enjoy this time away from

academic pursuits, and are able to be recharged during the summer break.

Thank you for your patience and support as we worked through a difficult time of securing teaching staff for the next year. We have a plan in place now that covers almost all the gaps. The board plans to appoint a new advisory committee to help find teaching staff next year.

Now that school is done, the building expansion committee has started working on the changes to the original building and are working to prepare the athletic field. We continue to be extremely grateful for all the financial and physical help we are receiving for this project.

Enjoy your summer, everyone!  
Steve Hofford



## ~ From The Treasurer ~

In this column, as Treasurer, I want to highlight how faithfully God has provided for our community—not only meeting our financial needs but enabling continued growth. As another academic year has closed, we're once again reminded of the Lord's abundant provision. It is a true blessing to continue fulfilling our mission, year after year, by His grace.

It was a pleasure to see many of you at the Spring membership meeting and to reflect together on both our current operations and our future. With about six weeks remaining in our fiscal year, I'm pleased to report that our actuals compared to operating budget remains on track. As I shared at the meeting, barring any unforeseen changes, we expect to end the year with a surplus—providing a valuable buffer for future needs.

By now, you've likely been contacted by a board member regarding the 2025/2026 operating pledge. This year's campaign seeks to close a funding gap of approximately \$99,748 to support the membership-approved budget. These contributions play a key role in keeping tuition accessible for our families. Whether your gift is large or small, it makes a meaningful difference. We are deeply grateful for your prayerful consideration of this matter.

Thank you for your past and present generosity and faithful support for Cornerstone Christian School. Lord willing, I look forward to stepping into another year of Kingdom-advancing work alongside each of you.

Ian Davis  
Treasurer

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### Upcoming Dates

Aug. 26 - First Day of School  
Sept. 1 - Labor Day  
Sept. 10 - School Photos

**Next LINK Submission**  
**Due Date:**  
August 20, 2025

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, Walk as children of light. Eph.5:8

## ~ From the Ed Comm ~

And here we are - at the end of another school year! We can reflect on God's goodness and faithfulness to our school community through another year. In the classroom learning, the field trips, the school spirit events, the teacher-student relationships, the team sports, God has been faithfully working to help our children grow not only academically, but spiritually, physically, and relationally - what a blessing!

We were grateful for a good turnout for our Parent Information Evening in April where we could host John Wynia of the League of Canadian Reformed School Societies. He reminded us of the privilege we have to talk about reformed education, and the need to evangelize about the importance of it. He spoke about the role we have as parents to be the first educators of our children, and to not abdicate the role to the school or to service providers. He also spoke about the beauty of Reformed schools that are covenantally founded, confessionally grounded, enmity surrounded, and bound in unity. We have a beautiful gift in Cornerstone Christian School, and it is a privilege to be involved in the education of our covenant children!

Senior projects are always a highlight of the EdComm work, and listening to the last three seniors present on their catering and fundraising events, photography skills, and trailer remodeling was not an exception. We even got to tour the remodeled trailer in the CCS parking lot, which was a neat way

to bring the presentation to life! And as the last senior projects wrapped up, the proposals for next year's seniors started to roll in. We look forward to seeing this new group work out their Christian worldview in the fields of dentistry, engineering, law enforcement, business, floristry, and more!

Another school visit was made in May by a Board and EdComm member and they shared their appreciation for the level of learning and the positive interactions between teachers and students. A "beehive of activity" was how the atmosphere was described, and seeing the school in action is truly a fantastic way to get enthusiastic about the work that is being done at Cornerstone!

This year we also wrapped up the Geography and History curriculum review. Finding some gaps, we were able to determine that a new curriculum in the third through sixth grades would be beneficial. Curriculum from Bob Jones University has been purchased and will combine History and Geography knowledge and skills into one textbook. This new curriculum will allow for a more comprehensive overview of these subjects and allow for continuity through the grades.

As Cornerstone closes its doors for the summer, we pray that God will bless students, teachers, staff members, and volunteers with a time of relaxation and rest so that they are ready to take up another year of learning and growing in 2025-2026!



## ~ From the Ladies Aid ~

It's hard to believe that another school year is drawing to a close! We are so thankful that the Ladies Aid could complete numerous successful fundraisers this past school year. MANY hours of work went into helping on different committees and fundraisers! Thank you to each one of you that helped in a myriad of different ways to raise money for our school!

The plant sale has completed another year and they generated \$16,315 in profit! A big thank you to this hard working committee and to each of you that

helped pot plants and/or volunteered for a shift at the sale.

The Cornerstone Cafe is revving up! The committee needs your help and greatly appreciates you when you sign up for a shift or 2 (or 3?) later this summer!

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer!

On behalf of Ladies Aid,  
Jessica Chase

## ~ From the Principal ~

What a whirlwind finish to the school year! Without the Inspire group moving into the school for the summer, I thought that perhaps the call for packing boxes wouldn't be there. I couldn't have been more wrong. There was barely a space that remained untouched this year. If a room isn't being recarpeted over the summer, then it is storing the materials of the rooms that are. As a result of the expansion project several classrooms are moving to a different space as well. The school definitely looks like it is ready for summer break at the moment. Of course, we know the pain now is bringing us great gain at the end of summer. The excitement here is mounting!

The staff is also eager to put regular tasks aside to refresh and recharge over the upcoming weeks, and it is well deserved. Everyone has been putting in just a wee bit extra these last few weeks. The earlier finish to the school year gave teachers some extra opportunities for administration tasks that we have not been able to do since Inspire has rented our building. These admin days were used by teachers to prepare and conclude the assessment work for the school year, which is why reports were sent home digitally this past week. In addition, staff were able to meet to review end of year activities, report on curriculum progress, and make initial steps in planning for next year.

### RECENT EVENTS

Since our last issue of the LINK much has taken place that we should note. Students transformed the school for Spirit Week so that we were immersed in the four seasons. Even our grandparents and other special guests were able to enjoy the decor this year as both events coincided. Lunch on grandparents' day is a highlight for me in the school year. I may not know everyone in the gym at that moment, but to see and experience the generational support for what we are doing at Cornerstone, and the love and care that is shared at every table is heartwarming. In addition, a small army of volunteers has prepared the lunch, either on site that day, or with a pan of soup to serve. It's a community event, for sure.

During the month of April our students in the middle school grades worked hard on their speech writing and delivery skills. All that work culminated in a school contest of 10 students with Rylea Lodder taking first, Jenell Sterk placing second, and Taleesha Houweling rounding it out with her third place finish. All of our finalists did a great job, presenting interesting topics. Having the courage to come forward and speak to all of us in that formal setting is an accomplishment for all of them!

Our writing contest winners were announced at the final assembly. Our thanks to the judges who were willing and able to put their non-partial vote to this contest. The following students are commended for their fine efforts and winning first place. Liam V - Gr 1/2 Prose; Drew V - Gr 1/2 Poetry; Elise S - Gr 3/4 Prose; London B - Gr. 3/4 Poetry; Skarlett K - Gr 5/6 Prose; Joshua K - Gr 7/8 Prose; Dylan V - High School Prose.

As we rounded out the month of May, Sports Day could take place. With the good weather forecast, we pressed on with all our plans for this fun-filled day. It seems that every year we get eager passers-by wondering how they can get their children involved in such a fun event. While we couldn't sign up their children, we certainly could acknowledge it is a great event to be a part of. With some of the changes that we made this year I think it was better than ever. At our year end staff review meeting we note some improvements we want to make for next year. If you have some suggestions, we happily receive those, too, in an email, and will add them to our file for next year.

Other end of year activities included Aimsweb testing, one final Senior project night, course selections for next year, and year end trip planning. Finalizing staff input on expansion/renovation plans also took some thought, but to say we are eager as a staff to be working in the school building next year with all its renovations and new space would be an understatement. Please be aware that in August we will be implementing some changes in how we do things, so be watching out for those information notices.

### STAFFING

As everyone is aware the needs for staffing were a cause for concern. With a lot of holes to fill it was hard sometimes to see our way forward with a plan. I'm happy to report that with the recent hiring of Tricia, the board has also approved a plan for a 3/4 teaching team. Having a full time teacher in place for 1/2 allowed other willing trained community members to step forward for the 3/4 position, knowing that the other need had been looked after. So 3/4 will indeed be a team effort. Ranelle Faber will be leading the class three mornings, Bea Sterk will be taking the class one whole day and an afternoon, and Stephanie Bareman will cover Friday mornings. The three afternoons that will not be taught by Bea Sterk will be covered by part-time subject specific instructors. Karen Martin will teach PE, Melanie Kottelenberg will continue to teach Music, and Jolene Groves has also offered to come in and teach Science one afternoon a week.



In addition, our para-education department is still seeking one more person to be a part of that team. If you like working with students in a variety of subjects, though math and language do get the largest portion of our focus, we would love to hear from you. It's not a hard job, but it is definitely a rewarding one!

I'm also thrilled to report that our Spanish instruction will continue to be led by a trained Spanish instructor. Our maternity leave fill-in of this past spring, has agreed to come back as our regular instructor. Naomi Bormuth is only able to commit to 3 days a week, so the 4th day of weekly Spanish instruction will be a supervised period for Spanish lesson work. We are glad to have found a capable, enthusiastic instructor and a way to make this work for the coming year.

#### FAREWELL

Good-byes are hard. This year we have to say our good-byes to a few staff members. Mrs. Kruyswijk has been at Cornerstone for many years, faithfully working with our youngest students. Her gentle and kind demeanor was a blessing to the students, and we are thankful for the time and love she was able to share with the Cornerstone community over these years she was working on the CCS team. Now she is stepping away from her teaching tasks at this time, and while we will miss her, we wish her the Lord's blessings over her future plans. Also leaving are Mrs. Gonzalez, (But wait, she promised to sub in Spanish if we needed her sometimes - so it's likely we will see her from time to time) Mrs. Groves (but wait, she's coming back

for one afternoon next year, so it's not a full farewell for her), Mrs. Thompson (but wait, she's teaching one day of kindergarten next year, so we will still see her in the building), Mrs. K. Hofford (But wait, is this a temporary hiatus? - she sure loves Math!) Mrs. Kleyn (But wait, she's not really leaving. She's done helping out as a team member in 3/4 but she will be back to do subbing, for sure!) Mrs. Klos (But wait,. . . wait. . . she also was helping out as a 3/4 teaching team member, but she truly might not be back in the classroom next year. Thank you for all you have done to help.) It is quickly recognized that being a part of the Cornerstone community can look different from time to time, but it really is a community effort. It truly is a blessing to be working with so many of you, who have a real love and commitment to Cornerstone, and make sacrifices to be here and help with the education of all our students.

#### SUMMER

It's now June and a time to relax a little, refresh a lot, and recharge to full battery power again. This summer a lot of visible preparation will be evident from the work on the building project, but also behind the scenes, perhaps on home computers, the teachers will be putting plans to paper to prepare for a new beginning in the fall. There are some very enthusiastic teachers already hard at work for the 2025-2026 school year. As always, we pray for God's blessings on all our efforts and tasks. May He graciously keep us all safe and in good health. We will 'chat' from these LINK pages again in August!

**Congratulations 8th grade graduates!**

**All the best in High School!**







*Zoe Dykstra*



*Abby Kragswijk*



*Kaitlin Sterk*



*Mikenzie DeMooy*

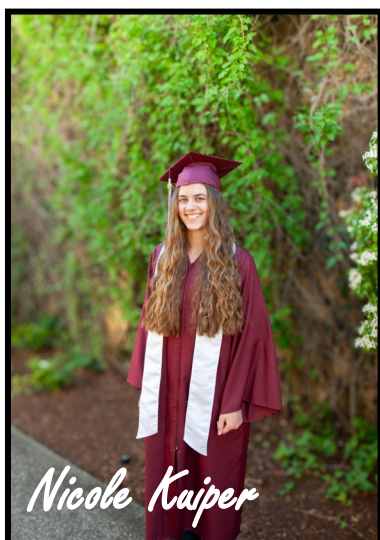


*Mikayla Klegyn*

*Congratulations*  
**2025**  
*Class Of*



*Share Stap*



*Nicole Kaiper*



*Jordan DeMooy*



*Kayella Kottelenberg*

# 2025/2026 School Calendar

## August

26- First Day of School

## September

1- Labor Day

10- Student Picture Day

## October

10- PD Day

13- Columbus Day

## November

6- HS 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr report Cards

10 - PD Day

11- Veteran's Day

12,13 - High School P/T Conferences

26 - Elem Report Cards Term 1

27- Thanksgiving Day

28- Thanksgiving Break

## December

1 & 3 - Elem P/T Conferences

19- Last Day of 2024

22-Jan 4 – Christmas Break

## January

5- First Day of 2025

19- Martin Luther King Day

30- HS 2nd Qtr Reports

## February

2 & 3—HS P/T Conferences

13- PD Day

16- President's Day

## March

5 & 6- Mid Winter Break

9- PD Day

13- Elem Report Cards Term 2

16 & 18- Elem P/T Conferences

## April

3 - Good Friday

6 - 10 -Spring Break

16 - Grandparents Day

17 - HS 3rd Qtr Reports

## May

8 - PD Day

22 - Sports Day

25 - Memorial Day

26- Sports Day Backup

29- Eighth Grade Graduation

## June

5- Last Day of School

5- Senior Graduation

8-10-Teacher Work Days

10 - Report Card Distribution

## Board

Chairman:	Steve Hofford
Vice-Chairman:	Jan Kottelenberg
Secretary:	Stephanie Bareman
Treasurer:	Ian Davis
Ed Comm Liaison:	Stephanie Bareman
Staff & Membership Admin	Jan Kottelenberg
Building Liaison:	Harvey Pelleboer
IT Liaison:	Lance Visser

## Building/Maintenance Committee

Rick DeMooy	Will Kingma
Brian Kooiker	Jon Kruyswijk
Harvey Pelleboer	John Vreugdenhil

## Education Committee

Debbie Johnson	Janice DeMooy
Jeanette Janssen	Jon Dykstra
Rianne Kruyswijk	Ryan VanDriel
Stephanie Bareman	

## IT Committee

Caleb Bareman	Johan Sterk
Lance Visser	Dustin Wielenga

## Finance Committee

Brian Hendricks	Harvey Pelleboer
Kolin Veldman	Gavin Willis

## Athletic Committee

Katrina Lodder	Stephen Chase
Harvey Pelleboer	Kolin Veldman
Gavin Willis	

## Ladies Aid Committee

Pres - Malorie Burger	VP - Lisa Pelleboer
Sec - Jessica Chase	Treas -Leanne Veldman

## Staff

### Office Administration:

Debbie Johnson - Principal  
Kari VanDiest- Secretary  
Karla Leyenhorst - Bookkeeper

### Full Time:

Debbie Johnson - Grade 3/4, Art 5-10  
Jeanette Janssen -Science 7-12, Math 9-12, Comp-Program 10  
Paige Kooiman - Gr. 5/6  
Stephen Chase - PE 5-10, HS Eng & Hist, His. 7-8, Per Fin 9  
Stephen Houweling - Math 4, Gr.7/8, Comp Progr. 9  
Wayne Chase - HS: Bible, Math, English, History

### Part Time:

Bea Kleyn - Grade 3/4  
Bea Sterk - Art 3/4, Math 5/6  
Christine Hofford - Ed Support  
Corrie Klos - Grade 3/4  
Hannah Gonzalez - Spanish 11/12, Gr. 1/2- PE & Science  
Janice Dykstra - Ed Support Director  
Jolene Vreugdenhil - Culinary Arts 11/12  
Julie Thompson - Ed Support  
Kathleen Stevens– Yearbook, L.A 4  
Katrina Lodder - Athletic Director, Ed Support  
Kaylene Hofford - Ed Support  
Kristina Wendt - PE 11  
Melanie Kottelenberg - Music 3-6  
Ranelle Faber - Gr.1/2 Friday, History  
Shari Kruyswijk - Gr.1/2 Bible, Math, Music, Art,  
Sharon Veldman - Culinary Arts 11/12  
Stephanie Bareman - Gr.5/6 Math