

THE LYNDEN LINK

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Cornerstone Christian School

~ Chairman Report ~

I'm writing this article the day after senior graduation. What an enjoyable experience to be part of! Many people put a lot of effort into preparations for the evening, and you can see that come out in various ways. As a board member, my wife and I were treated to a delicious dinner, hosted by the graduates. They did a great job! The ceremony was well-attended, and was a memorable commemoration of an important event in the life of these graduates. Thank you to all those who helped in planning the evening and making it run smoothly.

As I mentioned in the last Link, the vision statement of CCS mentions the "pursuit of knowledge and the development of talents, with a view to being faithful stewards over creation." I think these words may take on a new meaning for the graduates now that they are finished at CCS. They have completed a foundational part of this development, and now enter a new phase of stewardship. Congratulations to each one of you, and also to the parents.

Now that the school year is complete, I want to thank the staff and volunteers for their dedication and work this past year. We thank God for his providential care over the course of the year, and for His blessing upon the work that has been done.

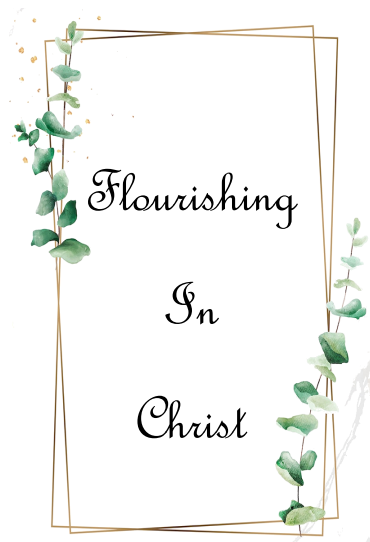
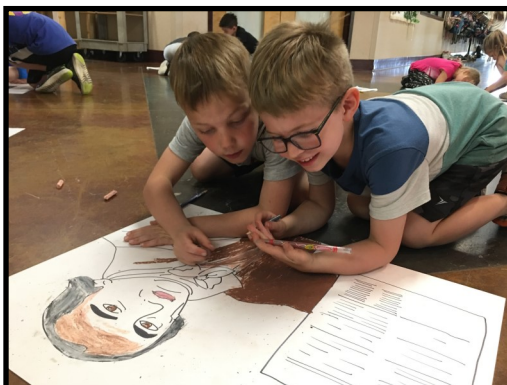
I would like to welcome a number of new members to the society: Jan and Jocelyn VanSabben have joined, and will be sending their daughter to 1st grade next year. Will and Chloe Kingma have also joined, as well as Christian and Marlies Willis, and Joel Wielenga. Finally, we look forward to one of our staff member's children attending next year. Brian and Tessa

Kooiker's four children (grades 1, 5, 8, and 10) will be joining Tessa at CCS.

You may be wondering about the status of Nathan Kok. Due to the ongoing lack of certainty with immigration, Nathan secured a one-year teaching position in Ontario. The board is in agreement with this approach, as we could not find any reasonable way to get him here for the 2023-24 school. We are still working towards him becoming our principal, and we continue to take the necessary steps to pursue this goal.

Thank you for your support of our expansion project. The board decided to appoint a fundraising committee to facilitate a focused effort on that aspect. The building expansion committee will continue to function as it exists now. They will proceed with the project execution phase as soon as adequate funding is secured. We are thankful that this project is moving along, as our enrollment for next year will mean a tight fit for quite a few classrooms. But, it is exciting, and may God continue to bless this growth!

Steve Hofford



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Upcoming Dates

Aug 29 - First Day of School
Sept. 4 - Labor Day
Sept. 13 - Student Picture Day
Oct 6 - PD Day
Oct. 9 - Columbus Day
Oct. 27 - PD Day

~ From the Ed Comm ~

Another school year is in the rearview mirror. The Ed Comm can look back over the past school year and be so thankful for what could be accomplished. We worked hard together to discuss the many different facets that go into our children's education.

It was a pleasure to listen to 12 successful senior projects. The work that is put in and the way it stretches each student in a different way is a blessing to be able to witness. The evident relief when they have delivered their presentation is so visible and can be felt by each of us.

We have already received some of our upcoming seniors 'Letters of Intent'. Among them are; swimming instruction, hairdresser, vet job shadow, tutoring, a Biblical counseling course, and building a derby car. We want to wish you strength as you

work on your projects. One thing that continually is mentioned by students is that they struggle with procrastination. So with that in mind, go forward and work hard. Don't put it off till the last minute!

Part of our mandate as the Ed Comm is to have at least one Parent information evening per school year. Due to unforeseen circumstances this past year we have not fulfilled that mandate. We are excited to announce that if things go as we plan, we are expected to have Jonathan VanMaren speak to us this coming September. Stay tuned for the details and plan to attend, as it promises to be an educational evening!

That's all for now from here. Have a wonderful summer!

For the Ed Comm - Sharon Veldman

Congratulations 8th Grade Class On to High School!



~ From the Treasurer ~

Once again, we can look back on the past school year and stand in awe of the Lord's blessings. We see his hand and can confidently move forward into next year. We are always provided for even beyond our needs.

Often, we see the financial side of operating a private Christian school as a burden. But again, with the numerous sad news reports of the woke agenda expanding around this country, we can be evermore grateful to make the financial commitments in private Christian education at Cornerstone.

Thank you to all of you, for having made consistent on-time tuition payments this past year to keep our

cash flow in a good standing. Thank you also to all who have continued to support beyond these payments through donations and pledges. This is an important part of our annual revenue.

I am sure you are all aware our 2023-24 pledge drive is under way. The first round requests have been made and we have seen a 24% response rate. We have begun the second round of contact via email or phone call. Please respond to the request either way and understand that many small offerings can pay off a very large amount.

Enjoy your summer everyone!

~ From the IT Committee ~

What's up LINK readers? No doubt you have been anxiously awaiting the last IT update of the 2022/23 school year. Your wait is now over. Looking back over the past school year, it is this committee's opinion that things went more smoothly overall than in many past years, at least in the Information Technology department. We can be thankful for equipment that worked as expected, a wireless network that was consistent and reliable, and a relatively small number of bugs that cropped up.

Financially, we have a modest few dollars left over in the ending year's budget, so we'll spend it on some much needed upgrades, which are based on a staff survey/wish-list we conducted in May. The IT

Committee will be ordering a few odds and ends and installing them over the summer to help improve our teachers' IT experiences, and thus hopefully make their jobs easier. A little too often we find our good-natured teachers plugging along with some piece of hardware or system which could be greatly improved with a little work and/or a little money. On that note: staff, we encourage you to never hesitate to reach out to us at it@cornerstoneschool.us and let us know if anything technology-related in your domain needs fixing or upgrading.

That's all I got--have a great summer y'all!
- For the ITC, Eric Brown

~ From the CBM Committee ~

Hello again from the CBM committee. Summer is here and school is out. Congrats to all the grads!

The biggest item that has been coming up in our meetings is that Inspire has again agreed to rent our facilities for the summer and we are certainly thankful for that. They are requiring an added level of security so if you do happen to need access to the school, please check in. There will be a place to do so and you will be given a temporary visitor's badge.

We have got the Art Room up to snuff with paper towel and soap dispensers. I know it is a bit in the future but we will want help from volunteers to put furniture back on or around August 14th after Inspire moves out, so look for a reminder in a couple of

months! A few of the doors around the school have been needing attention and when we run stuck, we have been able to find help from a very generous and kind lock smith/door repair man. Some piping on the lawn sprinkler system was just repaired, so the sprinkler system will do its best to green up some of the grass at school. Lawn tools are getting tuned up and thanks to all who submitted applications. We have hired Harry Faber and Noah Pel-leboer hired to cut the grass.

We all hope you all have a great summer and look forward to a new year.

Thank you! Joshua Burger

~ Ladies Aid Report ~

Hello from Ladies Aid! We have wrapped up another school year and are thankful for the fundraisers that could be completed these last few months.

Coupon books: Thank you to all who made the effort to sell the books! A combined total of 605 books have been sold which means we are past the break even point! We have just over 140 books left which will be available for purchase at the school and at the Green Barn. Any books sold now are pure profit!

Plant Sale: All praise and thanks to God for another successful plant sale. He graciously (and very generously) gifted us with rain to water the plants, and just enough sunshine to promote a little growth. Thanks to all those who gave of their time and muscle and support to help the committee in many ways. We're thankful to report that we made a profit of just over \$14,500, and that we had fun doing it.

It's so exciting to support our school via this fundraiser.

As we are in the gardening season right now, please take stock of the perennials that you have in your garden beds and make a mental (or written note) of plants that will be shareable next spring. Sometimes it's hard to remember what's lurking under the soil in March, when we start asking for perennial donations.

Lastly, if you have any empty hanging baskets in the fall, please consider saving them (along with their hangers) and donating them to next year's plant sale. Thank-you!

Cornerstone Cafe: Yes, the Cafe is on and we are so excited for another successful fundraiser! We can't do it without you... if you are interested in joining the Cafe Committee, now's the time! Please contact Michelle Veldman or Janice DeMooy if you'd like to know more!

To ensure the longevity of this fundraiser, we really need people from our community to step up. Are you a morning person? Cafe committee member Debby Lodder would love to hear from you. Do you love data entry? Then fellow Cafe committee member Irene Hicks is the one to talk to. This is the year to shadow a committee member, and put your talents to good use both this year and in future years! The success of this fundraiser is dependent upon

you... we'd love to have you join us!

Pumpkin patch: Seeds have been planted and pumpkin plants are out of the ground! We are hoping for an abundant crop of pumpkins. Stay tuned for your opportunity to help in the fall.

Wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer!

On behalf of Ladies Aid, Ang Davis

~ Principal Report ~

Flourish in Christ! Those were the words we kept in mind all year. What does that look like? Could it be completed curriculums? First grade students have learned to read, count and add. Fourth grade students have learned about multiplication and long division, but also spent some time working through some great novels. Eighth graders completed their learning goals successfully so that now they are our new high school students! Then in high school our students learned how to dissect various creatures and label them correctly. They learned how to set out proofs and the meaning of SOHCAHTOA. Our twelfth grade students completed their curriculum to the point of graduation! Are these signs the students have been flourishing?

Could it be the relationships students have with others at school? Is it the friendships forged in the young grades, or those solidified in middle school? Students working together on group projects or the camaraderie developed on sports teams are also a big part of school life. Students on the playground go out of their way to help a school mate. Is that a sign of flourishing?

Could it be the community spirit we see at the school? There are volunteers at the school every day, and almost every hour of every day. The hallway is often abuzz with the chatter of adults connecting, and not just with each other, but with students, too. Even at night the sense of community remains strong, with sport practices and games, or at a meeting from any one of the various committees. Is this what flourishing looks like?

Could it be the teachers' enthusiasm for sharing knowledge and helping skills develop. The 'Aha' moment when a difficult concept was now understood by a student is a teacher's joy! Taking stock of a child's growth over the course of a quarter is encouraging for an educator. Might this be what flourishing looks like?

Scripture teaches us a lot about flourishing. The section above, I would suggest, is all part of it. When students are working on what they are called to do, when they are relating to one another

in a manner that builds one another up, when we work together as a community to achieve the mission of our school, or when teachers work with each child so that they can reach their potential, all of this is part of flourishing. With one crucial caveat! The foundation or source of the strength necessary for this work must be our Lord. True flourishing only happens when we put the Lord first and obey his will. Anything else is not going to last.

School Life

A conclusion of a school year is always a little bitter-sweet. No one will deny the need to rest and refresh, but school has a lot of fun, too, that will be missed. The end of the school year is a busy time. Class trips to places far and near are always a highlight. No injuries occurred from white water rafting (grade 9/10), or twisted ankles from slipping in the mud flats (grade 7/8). The Oregon coast (grade 11/12) had beautiful weather and despite Mr. Chase's absence, everyone was able to enjoy the two night excursion. Trivan (grade 1/2) and VanWingerden Greenhouses (Grade 3/4) were wonderful hosts for tours, and time at a park is always a hit. Of course, heading to Bremerton and the Destroyer, including a ferry crossing (grade 5/6) is a highlight for the students, too. In addition to these adventures, Spirit week was held in May, with a theme of 'Around the World'. The students decorated the school in an amazing fashion once again, and in record time! Then a games afternoon to wrap up our delayed Spirit week was a nice change of pace for the whole school to enjoy together. The volunteer social is another unique event in the school year, with older students really stepping up to help prepare for the social, and assist with younger student supervision during the event. They did great once again! Of course, another highlight is Sports Day. We made a few adjustments, and with your feedback we likely will maintain many of them. The change of location of some of the events certainly added to the community feel of the day. Of course, sunny weather is always a big plus on a day like that! Then finally, the year wrapped up with our graduations. Special nights, indeed.

What a blessing to experience these events once again. Seeing the Year in review video really sums up the school year well. There is a lot of fun and fellowship that goes on during the months of August to June. We all might feel the weight of the work while we go through them, but there is so much to celebrate and be thankful for at the end of it all!

The challenge that was brought into Wayne Chase's life brought challenges to school life, as well. And as the Lord graciously provided for Wayne, He also provided for the school. It was hard to see how it would all work out, but there was always trust that this, too, was in God's hand. He provided for us all, and did

so in abundance. We are all so thankful for the expectation of him joining us again in the new school year. At the same time we wish John-Mark Stromberg all the best as he pursues his studies in Florida, Jenny Tiemeyer as she enjoys 'retirement', and Gavin Willis as he has completed his time as Athletic Director. Their talents and gifts were a blessing to our school and they will be missed!

And now it is time for summer break! May God grant safety to everyone over these weeks of rest. We look forward to the time when we will all return to take up our tasks at Cornerstone School again.



2023/2024 School Calendar

August

29- First Day of School

September

4- Labor Day

13- Student Picture Day

October

6- PD Day

9- Columbus Day

27- PD Day

November

10- Veteran's Day

17- HS 1st Qtr report Cards

20,21- High School P/T Conferences

23- Thanksgiving Day

24- Thanksgiving Break

December

8- Elem 1st Term Report cards

11- Early Release -11:55am

11,13- Elem P/T Conferences

22- Last Day of 2023

25- Jan 5 – Christmas Break

January

8- First Day of 2024

15 - Martin Luther King Day

February

1- HS 2nd Qtr Reports

February Cont.

5,6- HS P/T Conferences

16- PD Day

19 -President's Day

29- Mid Winter Break

March

1- Mid Winter Break

15- PD Day

22- 2nd Term Elem Report Cards

25- Early Release (11:55am) P/T Prep

25/27- Elem P/T Conferences

29- Good Friday

April

1-5- Spring Break

12- HS 3rd Qtr Reports

18- Grandparents Day

May

3- PD Day

9- Ascension Day

24- Sports Day

27- Memorial Day

28- Sports Day Backup

June

7- Eighth Grade Graduation

14- Last Day of School

Board

Chairman:	Steve Hofford
Vice-Chairman:	Ray Buitenbos
Secretary:	Ray Buitenbos
Treasurer:	Kolin Veldman
Ed Comm Liaison:	Eric Brown
Staff & Membership Admin	Jan Kottelenberg
Building Liaison:	Dave Hofford

Building/Maintenance Committee

Joshua Burger	Nathan Chase
Andrew DeMooy	Dave Hofford
Jon Kruyswijk	Terry VanDiest

Education Committee

Eric Brown	Janice DeMooy
Jon Dykstra	Debbie Johnson
Debbly Lodder	Sharon Veldman

IT Committee

Eric Brown	Ian Davis
Matt Hoefakker	Dustin Wielenga

Finance Committee

Janice DeMooy	Brian Hendricks
Harvey Pelleboer	Kolin Veldman
Gavin Willis	

Athletic Committee

Harvey Pelleboer
Kolin Veldman

Ladies Aid Committee

Pres - Michelle Veldman	VP - Bea Kleyn
Sec - Ang Davis	Treas -Jolene Vreugdenhil

Staff

Office Administration:

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

Full Time:

Jeanette Janssen - Science 7-12, Math 9-12
Lynette Van Hofwegen - Gr. 5/6
Stephen Chase - PE 5-8, HS Eng & Hist, History 7-8
Stephen Houweling - Math 4, Gr.7/8
Wayne Chase - HS: Bible, Math, English, History

Part Time:

Christine - Ed Support
Janice Dykstra - Ed Support Director
Jolene Kingma - Gr.3/4, 1/2 PE, Science
Jolene Vreugdenhil - Culinary Arts 11/12
Karen DeMooy - Art 3/4
Kathleen Stevens- Yearbook, L.A 4
Kristina Wendt - PE HS
Melanie Kottelenberg - Music 5/6
Shari Kruyswijk - Gr.1/2 Ref. Studies, Math, Music, Art, History
Sharon Veldman - Culinary Arts 11/12
Tessa Kooiker - L.A. 1/2