

The Lynden LINK

~ Chairman Report ~

August 27, 2023 ~ Volume 22, Issue 1

Ownership. What do you think of when you hear that word? Probably what comes to mind are physical items: home, property, money, cars, etc. But, what about ownership more broadly? How about taking responsibility for one's thinking and actions - 'owning up' to something? How about ownership of one's education? At what point do we expect our children to take ownership of their academic performance? I've been thinking about this topic in the lead-up to this next school year, and wondering how we can help our children take personal responsibility - "ownership" - for their own education.

This line of thought led me once again to that part of the CCS vision document that I've mentioned before: "the pursuit of knowledge and the development of talents, with a view to being faithful stewards over creation, is a necessary and worthy endeavor." In particular, the phrase *stewards over creation*. We believe that God owns all things and we are in fact stewards. As stewards, we are not the ultimate owners of anything, but are entrusted with managing what God owns. One could say that what we commonly call "ownership" is really stewardship. So, we can encourage our children to progressively "take ownership" of their academic performance as they mature. But we understand that they have been entrusted by God with abilities and they have an obligation to steward those abilities, as they also learn to steward material things. What wonderful grace that God has shown to us, and such a meaningful way to understand education and vocation!

We have a couple new member families to report: Johan and Bea Sterk

come to us from Colorado, and four of their children will be attending CCS. Yuntoa (Bart) Zhu and Yang Dong, who worship at the Chinese Reformed Church in Cloverdale, have a son who will be attending CCS. Welcome to both families. We hope that you and your children will find us hospitable as a community and helpful to you in your parental responsibilities.

As you can see in the board short report, we have various committees working diligently in different areas. You are already aware of the Building Expansion Committee, but we also have a Building Expansion Fundraising Committee to handle the project funding. We recently established a Security Committee to advise the board on emergency management policies and procedures. As a board, we greatly appreciate the ability to create subcommittees and get the help we need. It's always neat to see how the right people can be found to contribute their expertise to different projects. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

As we begin a new academic year, we ask that God will continue to give us strength and wisdom in this educational endeavor.

Steve Hofford



Living

In The

Spirit

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Upcoming Dates

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

~ From the Ed Comm ~

It's hard to believe that summer break is over and we are heading back to school! While we've had lots of sunny weather to relax and enjoy our summer break, some of our students in 12th grade have been very busy working on their senior projects. We received several letters of intent in the last couple weeks of school this past June, outlining various projects such as Christian counseling, creating (and subsequently demolishing ☐) a demo derby car, hairdressing, teaching swimming lessons... just to name a few! Since the senior class is quite large and several projects have been completed over the summer, the senior project presentations will be spread out over the course of the year so that those who have finished their projects by this summer's end can present in a timely manner. It is such a rewarding experience not only to watch the students present and display the fruits of their hard work, but also to see them use their God-given talents to grow and stretch themselves as they take ownership of their projects.

We are very excited to kick off this year's Parent Information Evening repertoire with the presentation of Mr. Jonathan Van Maren on September 18, followed the next day with grade-appropriate presentations to our children at the school on Sept. 19. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important and informative event! You can find more information below.

Several times each year, one member of the Education Committee and one member of the School Board have the privilege of visiting the classrooms to see the students and teachers in action! We look forward to witnessing God at work through our teachers and students, and experience a tangible reminder of what a blessing and privilege our Christian education is. In a world that is in turmoil with untruths, confusion and denial of God and His creative design, what a comfort to have a firm foundation in our God who is unchanging, ever faithful, and watches over His church and His children. May He continue to guide and protect us, and draw us clos-

er to Him as we enter a new school year, and may He provide the teachers, staff, parents, volunteers and children His blessings for a productive and fun school year!

CCS Parent Information Evening

Save the date! Please mark your calendars for September 18th at 7:30 PM in the Lynden ARC church building. The CCS Education Committee is hosting a very special Parent Information Evening, and is excited to bring you a presentation by Jonathan Van Maren, public speaker, writer, and Christian activist. Mr. Van Maren will deliver a targeted message to parents, grandparents, teachers and all-comers the evening of September 18th, followed by two separate grade-appropriate talks to our students the following school day. The message he intends to share will address challenges our children and families face in the digital age, and the stark reality of the devil's attacks our kids are up against as they're raised in our technology-dominated society. Mr. Van Maren will touch on topics such as screens/phones, pornography, social media, and the like, and has promised his speech is "blunt"...so don't bring your thin skin!

Jonathon Van Maren is the author of several books, including *A Guide To Discussing Assisted Suicide*, *Seeing is Believing: Why our Culture Must Face the Victims of Abortion*, *Life Under Glass: the Ethics of Embryo Adoptions*, and *The Culture War*. He writes regularly for Canada's largest pro-life outlet, LifeSiteNews.ca, where you can also find his blog, The Van Maren Show. He blogs regularly at his own website thebridgehead.ca, and writes for many other publications including National Review, The European Conservative, and Reformed Perspective.

We hope to see you the evening of September 18th. Don't miss it!

~ From the IT Committee ~

The IT committee does not have much to report. Last year went well and we had no major issues. During the summer we upgraded a few projectors that were getting very old and worn out. With some leftover budget from this last year we were also able to purchase some much-needed IT equipment and get a few backup items as well. Hopefully with these new items this next year will go smoothly.

With new teachers and a new school year, there are always a few minor hiccups getting everything set up and running smoothly. Thankfully the staff has always been patient and helpful with the IT committee during this time of year, and we greatly appreciate it!

For the IT Committee - Matt Hoefakker

~ From the Treasurer ~

I hope everyone had a wonderful relaxing summer vacation. We all look forward to a great 2023/24 school year. The books have been closed for the 2022/23 school year and we are pleased to report a surplus in our budget. It is great to be operating on the positive side of the budget and be provided for financially in the operation of the school. Thank you to all for fulfilling your pledge commitments for the last school year.

Thank you also for the commitment to the pledge drive for the 2023/24 school year. The board had asked the society for a commitment of an \$80,944

pledge amount this year, and you answered with around \$90,000 in pledges. It's a demanding thing to operate a private school financially, but every year again we have been met with a willing society contributing to the operation cost. This is a unified effort that we can all be involved in relatively contributing and seeing the outcome that the Lord knows we need year over year! Thanks be to Him!!

Kolin V



~ Ladies Aid Report ~

Hello from Ladies Aid. The end of summer break is here already! We hope you enjoyed the beautiful sunshine and had some time of rest and relaxation. Just like that a new school year is upon us. Here's an update on our past and upcoming fundraisers -

Cornerstone Cafe: It's been quite the time at the fair these past nine days! We want to extend a BIG thank you to all the volunteers who cheerfully came out to fill a shift (or two, or seven!!!) at the Cornerstone Café at the NWWF. We are so thankful to have such a supportive community where we can have 270 positions filled and function smoothly! Thank you to all our managers, food supers, cashiers, drink servers, assemblers, fryers, grillers, cleaners, order compilers, and the late night money counters. You all came together to make a great team and the resulting spirit of camaraderie and fun was wonderful. Thank you also to all the behind-the-scenes people — the booth renovator, the decorator, the programmer who saved many organizational hours, the booth cleaners, the understanding spouses and families, and the babysitters and drivers who enabled our volunteers to come out in full force. And of course, we also want to thank our customers. It was great to see so many of you come through and enjoy the Café's Rodeo Beef Burger, the Chicken Strip Basket, or our famous sweet potato fries. As of Thursday night, we've sold more than 1200 Rodeo burgers and over 700 baskets!

Since this note is being written in time for the Link deadline, we can thankfully report that we were blessed with increased income every day as compared to last year! The final calculations are still

pending and we will get an update out to you when the results for this fundraising effort are in.

Apple Pies: We are looking for two more people to join us on the Apple Pie Committee. Please consider if you are able to help out and contact Michelle Veldman to sign up!

Pumpkin Patch: The pumpkin patch has a great variety of pumpkins getting larger every day! We are looking forward to setting up a lovely Fall display near the end of September. This promises to be a successful fundraiser similar to last year. Keep your eyes & ears open for your opportunity to help with this fundraiser in the next few months!

Finally, please save the date, on **Tuesday, Sept. 12**, we hope to have our Ladies Aid Fall Membership meeting. We are looking for two new board members for the positions of Vice President and Secretary. Terms are for two years so if this is something that interests you, please contact one of the board members.

We are looking forward to another successful year of fundraising. May God bless the efforts of the committees in the coming year. If you're not in a committee, your contribution as a volunteer is needed and wanted - as the saying goes, 'many hands make light work'!

On behalf of Ladies Aid,
Ang Davis

~ Cornerstone Foundation ~

For this LINK installment from the Cornerstone Foundation we wanted to provide some updated information about FFRE.

"How dumb is this writer?", you may be wondering, "Doesn't he know that there is a double EE not a double FF in 'free'?" You may also be thinking it's advisable he audit a few sessions with the first and second grades to get a refresher on proper capitalization.

Well, it was intentional. Since it's an acronym all basic standards of spelling and punctuation are off the table. As a reminder FFRE (Foundation for Reformed Education) is the Canada-based foundation that is directed by the Cornerstone Foundation. It allows family and friends that live north of the border to make charitable donations to Cornerstone Christian School.

Quote: "The Foundation For Reformed Education is a non-profit organization formed to provide direct support to Cornerstone Christian School." End quote.

If that piqued your interest and you *just have* to read on, well there is more where that came from. If you are reading this edition of the LINK via pdf received in your email, check that message for an additional pdf attachment, an informational brochure about FFRE and its connection to Cornerstone Christian School. If you are reading the hardcopy LINK...well, that's too bad. You'll just have to read on here for now and figure out how to get the electronic version later. It doesn't seem beneficial to elaborate in this column with a long paragraph summarizing the entire thing - the brochure speaks much better for itself. However it is helpful to ask and answer a very

basic question: Why this brochure, and why now?

Well, it's not brand new; an earlier version circulated several years ago. But it has been recently revised and refreshed. The recent approval of the building expansion project makes this an optimal time to seek support outside of our local community. There are fairly strict guidelines about what donations through FFRE can be used for but building (capital) projects like the one before us are the primary purpose allowed. We intend this brochure to be an easy way to share information about how Canadians can help *and* get a tax benefit. Please spread it far and wide! The CF board hopes you and your loved ones find it visually appealing as well as informative. Above all, may the Lord also bless efforts through this channel to allow us to fund the expansion project with some relief for our local families.

Aside from this update on FFRE I'll just mention that the Cornerstone Foundation met over the summer to handle regular administrative business. We look forward to sharing more information on our work next time.

For the Cornerstone Foundation board,
Ian Davis



~ From the CBM Committee ~

Hello All!

Classes start next week and I am sure all the kiddos are so very thrilled. We as a committee are excited to start a new year of maintaining the school, and actually it has already started with a bang! There is quite a bit of small odds and ends that need maintaining before school starts and we will be working on them, from removing branches and installing a new shelf in the library to eradicating bees in the field and working on a few doors so they work properly and much more in between.

Inspire has come and left and we are grateful for them and they seem very grateful to rent the school. We are very thankful to everyone who showed up to help move furniture around after Inspire left. Thank you very much!

We would also like to thank the graduating class of 2023 for the gift card left to us. We plan on using it for something fun and noticeable for the school!

Let's all pray for a great year, asking God to bless us and take care of us all! We are especially looking forward to Mr. Chase coming back and teaching for years to come!

~ From the Principal ~

This past Monday morning at 9am, all the classroom teachers met together to start official preparations for the school year. On Tuesday, in addition to the teacher scurrying in their classrooms, the halls were swarming with mops, buckets and families scrubbing the school to a shine. On Wednesday, the entire staff of Cornerstone met, making sure we are all on the same page and working as a team. On Thursday the classroom teachers sat down together again to make sure everything was indeed organized and ready for the students from a school-wide point of view. At these meetings we discussed a large variety of topics, including the reading and discussing of various articles. We talked about the place of AI as a tool in education, how to properly deal with anxiety and worry, and the importance of peer groups. Many hours were also spent preparing the classrooms and the course outlines, so we are ready to start teaching! In addition, we thank all the volunteers for once again moving items back to their rightful place, for the IT committee getting our technology in working order again, and the CBM taking care of the building so it is in tip top shape.

SCHOOL THEME

This year we have chosen to work with the theme of "Living in the Spirit". We felt this theme flowed nicely from the two previous themes of "Hope in God" and "Flourishing in Christ". As we place our hope in God, it enables us to flourish in Christ and then live in the Spirit. As we go through the year, we plan to unpack this. Phrases that are similar to the one we have chosen are 'alive in the Spirit', and 'walk in the Spirit', or 'led by the Spirit'. All of these would have served as good themes as well, but "Living in the Spirit" felt like a phrase that encompassed all the others. Psalm 51:10 is a good Bible verse to keep things in perspective. This is all God's work, not ours. He works in our hearts, and as a result of His Spirit working in us, we are able to demonstrate the fruits of the spirit in love to our neighbor. There is a new worldview when we live by the Spirit. Lord's Day 33 speaks of this as well, and our old nature dies and our new nature comes to life. We are excited to unpack this theme with the students this year.

WELCOME!

We have some new students to welcome this year. Grade one will have Hunter Burger, Maxwell Cano, Ezra Chase, Tory Faber, Kase Kooiker, Olivia Kruyswijk, Raylon Lindeman, Easton Pelleboer, Lane Stap, Kaitlin Thompson, Selena VanSabben, and Liam Vreugdenhil. In addition to this fine group of young scholars, we can welcome some of their

older siblings. Kase has a sister Skarlett in 5th grade, a brother Kolt in 8th grade and another sister Sydni in 10th grade. Tory, Raylon, Selena and Liam are all the oldest in their family, so all of this is new for them. Welcome to you all. But the welcomes continue because David Zhu is joining the 4th grade class. He is excited to have followed his teacher from last year, Mr. S. Chase to Cornerstone! And we also welcome Mason Dykstra who joins two of his sisters at Cornerstone in high school. Mason is a 9th grade student. Our final student welcomes are extended to Elise Sterk, a 3rd grade student, Jenell, a 5th grade student, brother Ruben in 8th grade, and Kaitlin Sterk in 11th grade. To all of our new students, along with those who have been here before, we are so very thankful to have you amongst us. We hope and pray that you will feel a part of the Cornerstone community soon.

On a staffing front, we welcome Mr. S.Chase to the staff. There has been much debate and discussion on how to differentiate between the two Mr Chases. Not all of the ideas went over as well as others. It might be best to let them decide on this with the students in class. In the EdSupport department we had the greatest turn over. For the coming year, we welcome Mrs. K. Lodder, Mrs. K. Hofford, and Mrs. Thompson as para-educators. Their time and efforts are a huge support to the work of the classroom teachers. This is, of course, in addition to the team already in place. The only other new name in the school is Mrs. Groves as the grade $\frac{3}{4}$ teacher. She isn't new, though, just her name. Congratulations Miss Kingma with your recent marriage!

THINGS TO NOTE:

Before I close out this article, I'd like to bring a few matters to your attention.

- I mentioned the article about AI that staff members read and discussed. One thing we gleaned was that this can be a very powerful and useful tool. We want this to be used properly and to the betterment of student learning. Students need to be aware that legally it isn't to be used independently under the age of 18. Teachers will therefore also keep that in mind in preparing assignments. Assignments will be designed to encourage critical thinking skills in the students and limit the possibility of AI use in place of the student's own thinking.
- We would also like to remind everyone about the cell phone rule. Please remember that your child should NOT be accessing their phone during the school day. If you need to forward a message, please feel free to email the teacher and it will be passed along, or expect your

child(ren) to receive the message at the end of the day. Phones should be kept in the lockers or their cars during the course of the day.

- Please remember the pick up protocol. When at the front of the school, please pull as far forward as you can as the first car, even following the curve somewhat. It would also be a huge help on Fridays if the friend-visiting-arrangements were made ahead of time, instead of while the car is in the pick up line. We appreciate your help with this. We want to avoid having cars lined up on Northwood Road.

- For school safety it should be noted that the high school foyer doors will be locked after 8:15. All students arriving after that time will have to enter by the front door. Students coming in after 10:30 (when Mrs. VanDiest has gone home) will be asked to sign in using the form on the counter.

- Finally, a reminder regarding absences. For a single day absence, please remember to send an email to absent@cornerstoneschool.us. It is not okay to simply let one classroom teacher know. There are a variety of teachers that teach each class and it is important for the school to know who is present and who is not. For long absences, like a family vacation, we would appreciate a note at least a week in advance. Teachers may choose to share some



homework in advance, but are not required to do so. Onus on catching up remains with first of all with the student.

- We also respectfully request that if you need to convey a message to a student during class time, that you do so with as little disruption to the instruction as possible. Please wave at the door to get the teacher's attention or leave a sticky note on the door. We want to reduce interruptions/distractions to instructional time as much as possible.

So heading into the new school year, we thank you all for your part in getting things ready for the new school year. And as always, we covet your prayers for a successful year. We do this not on our own strength, but rely on our Heavenly Father to guide and sustain us.

Severe NUT Allergy

A child in 1st grade has a life-threatening allergy to most nuts, with *walnuts and peanuts* very high on the list. In consultation with the parents we are expecting grade 1/2 to be NUT-FREE, and the rest of the school to be NUT-AWARE! Nut-aware means that students need to eat any food with nuts in their own classroom only and also NOT on the playground. All students must wash their hands after eating any food containing ANY nuts!

~ From the Education Scholarship Committee ~

The Cornerstone Christian School Education Scholarship exists to promote the field of Reformed education as a viable and attractive career choice for our graduates and alumni. At the senior graduation ceremony this past June, we were excited to award two grads with a CCS Education Scholarship:

\$2037.50 to **Jackie Brown** - beginning her first year at Whatcom Community College

\$2037.50 to **Seth Kleyn** - beginning his first year at Dordt University in Iowa

Jackie and Seth, our prayer is that these funds will help relieve some of the financial pressures of college life. May the Lord bless you abundantly in your studies!

A hearty "Thank you!" to the many members and supporters of the CCS community who generously donated to this scholarship!

~ Stephanie Bareman & Melanie Kottelenberg

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

14- Senior Graduation

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
Debbby 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
Jolene Groves— PE, Bible, Hist. 3/4, L.A., Math 3, PE, Science Gr.1/2
Lynette Van Hofwegen - Gr. 5/6
Stephen Chase - PE 5-8, HS Eng & Hist, His. 7-8, Per Fin 9
Stephen Houweling - Math 4, Gr.7/8
Wayne Chase - HS: Bible, Math, English, History

Part Time:

Christine Hofford - Ed Support
Janice Dykstra - Ed Support Director
Jolene Vreugdenhil - Culinary Arts 11/12
Julie Thompson - Ed Support
Karen DeMooy - Art 3/4
Kathleen Stevens— Yearbook, L.A 4
Katrina Lodder - Ed Support
Kaylene Hofford - Ed Support
Kristina Wendt - PE HS
Melanie Kottelenberg - Music 5/6
Shari Kruyswijk - Gr.1/2 Bible, Math, Music, Art, History
Sharon Veldman - Culinary Arts 11/12
Tessa Kooiker - L.A. 1/2

1st Quarter Course Coverage

Debbie Johnson—Spanish 11/12
Stephen Chase—PE 9/10, Pers Finance 10
Melanie Kottelenberg—Science, Music, Geography 3/4