

The Lynden LINK

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Cornerstone Christian School

~ Chairman Report ~

Cultural Leaders

When we hear the words “Cultural Leaders” what comes to mind? Do we think of politicians? Celebrities? Sports figures? Who leads culture? Who should lead culture?

There are many influences all around us. Worldly figures who portray themselves with pride, strength, power, and popularity. People want to emulate them, to be them, or to be like them. They are all over the media. They have an impact and penetrate the thoughts and minds of many.

As parents of children we must be very aware of who our children perceive to be leaders. Who they deem to be relevant and who they want to emulate. Our children are bombarded with culture through a variety of media including radio, television, and the internet. Access to these influences have never been easier to access with the prevalence of personal devices and smart phones. The world influences how our children feel about music, sports, books, movies, clothing, and other items. People and ideas can be popularized almost overnight it seems. We do well to have our antennas up to test the spirits of our age. “Popular” often flies in the face of the Word of God and these influences can easily lead our children down the wrong path.

We must look to scripture and to Jesus when looking for our examples for positive cultural leaders. In Jesus Christ, we have the perfect example of humble service and giving freely. In scripture we also have instructions and principles on how to act, how to spend our time, and what we are to wear. We are given a template on how we are to live. We are to be Christ-like in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

Our children must be encouraged to be in The Word and use this as the guide on how to live. This is the manual for a successful life, a life with a future goal

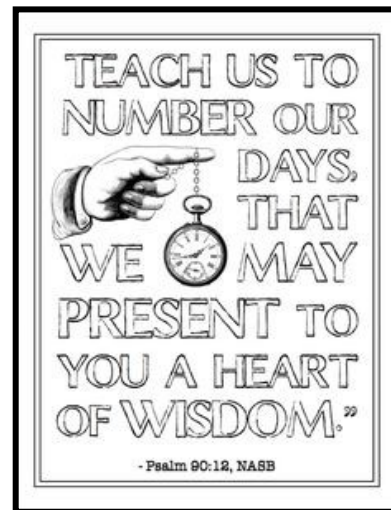
and purpose. Many of the cultural leaders of our age promote living for the day or living for ourselves. We do well to point out the vanity of this and how this path leads away from God and his future glory.

As Christians, we are to be cultural leaders. We should be the people who are dictating culture and we should be those who others look to. We are to be examples and beacons of truth in this world of sin. We should all remember this and be good examples to our children and ambassadors of Christ. We must train our children to be godly and to see godly leaders as those who provide Christ-like service.

We should ask our children to reflect on this. (Many times, as parents, we need to reflect on this too.) Examine what they do, what they wear, how they act etc. Are they/we living our life towards our Lord and Savior? Are we seeking things that are above? Or are we trying to fit into a sinful culture? Dressing like them, acting like them, pursuing pleasures like them....

As parents who send our children to a Reformed Christian school it is important to reflect on these things. Reformed Christian educators that I have talked to see the influence of culture in the classroom. They see the influence that this has on the children and how it affects their relationship with God and their peers. Our school is a parent run school, established with Christian principles, with the same confessions that we hold to at Church. We need to hold fast to the teachings of our Lord and teach our children the importance of seeking first the Kingdom of God.

Let's rely on the strength of the Lord to do all things and pray that he be with us and help us fight against worldly cultural influences. Pray that He may guide us to be spiritual leaders with an outlook to the future glory, so that our children may learn what real leaders are in this world.



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Upcoming Dates

August 27—First Day of School
September 2—Labor Day

As to other items pertaining to the business of the school: The school year is completed, and graduation ceremonies have occurred. As a board we are very thankful for the successful completion of another year. We are very grateful for what the Lord has provided for us. We are thankful for the efforts of all the teachers and their diligent work. We wish them a relaxing summer! We would also like to thank all of those who have volunteered in various capacities. Volunteers play such a valuable role in our school and provide an excellent example of service. Thank you to all our volunteers!

The board continues to be busy with various activities during the summer. The board, in conjunction with the strategic plan, will be reviewing over time the parent handbook. This will include looking at certain by-laws based on membership feedback. If there are items that you would like to provide input on – please feel free to write the board a letter or speak with a board member. The board appreciates any feedback as it helps us stay in touch with the members and our members provide great ideas that can help to make our school run more smoothly.

Inspire has moved into the building and has commenced activities. We are very thankful for the opportunity that we have with this as it has been a great boost to our financial bottom line for many years.

If all goes well, by the time that you are reading this the installation of the fence will have commenced. Based on information received from the subcontractor this item should only take a week to complete.

The interview committee has continued its work to try to finalize our last staffing openings. It looks like it will only be a matter of time before we secure a horticulture teacher. We are very excited about getting someone on board so that we can get this program going.

As Board Chairman, I would also like to thank all the board members for their continued diligent work. The work load can be quite high at times, but your continued efforts have helped with the continued smooth operation of the school. Thank you for all your efforts!

The Board also continues to pray for Will Davis and the Davis family after Will's accident. There is a long road ahead and we wish Ellen strength and we pray for Will that he may continue to heal and that he may have patience. May the Lord be with them all during this time.

We are once again thankful for the summer time and very grateful for all that the Lord has provided. He has blessed the school and he still continues to provide as needed for the next school year. We have much to be thankful for! Our God is good!



~ Ladies Aid Report ~

Wow! Here we are at the end of the school year! What a great year it has been. Thank you to everyone who has helped in both big and small ways!

We are happy to report that the plant sale is now behind us and was very successful. I believe the numbers were posted at an earlier date. A big thank you to the committee members for giving it their all!

We recently had a new sink installed in the kitchen. I'm

sure it will be enjoyed for many years to come. Thank you to the men who made this happen. Come by and check it out!

Meanwhile the Fair Committee is busy getting things in order to make the Cornerstone Cafe another success this summer. Please sign up for a shift or two when the time comes! It's fun. You will get into the fair for free. AND you are supporting a great cause! See you there!

~ Treasurer Report ~

Thanks to all who came to the Spring Membership Meeting. We are grateful that the operating budget could be approved, as well as the Special Resolution for the fence purchase. We are thankful to the Lord for his continued provision and that we can be in a position to show only modest tuition increases while also reducing our pledge drive by approximately \$20,000 compared to the prior year.

The Board is following up with membership seeking commitments for the 2019-2020 Operating Pledge drive. Thank you to all the commitments received from membership thus far. If you haven't yet responded back to the Board, we kindly ask that you get in touch with a Board member as soon as possible so that we can complete the drive. We are on our way to meeting the goal, but we still require some further commitments.

You should have received a letter and statement in your church mailbox noting this past fiscal year's monthly charges and payments in your account for tuition, dues and pledges. Please let myself or the bookkeeper know of any discrepancies.

As a reminder, here are the 2019/2020 fiscal year tuition and dues rates effective August 1.

- \$160 for members without children in the school, or
- \$475 for students in grades 1-2, or
- \$600 for students in grades 3-4, or
- \$830 for students in grades 5-8, or
- \$990 for students in grades 9-12

The fundraising committees are in full swing planning for their next events. The CCS Golf tournament will have a new feature this year - you can now register online! Feel

free to check it out at <https://birdeasepro.com/ccsgolfclassic/>. You can also view and bid on auction items here, and see event details with some new ways to collect amazing prizes! As we get closer to the event on September 7, more items and details will be added. Do you know someone who might want to participate this year? Send them to this website for all the details and to register online!

The Keystone Project Committee has passed along an update to relay, as well as a refresher regarding their purpose and intentions. Here is their update:

The Keystone Project is a private LLC initiated in 2016 to build and sell spec homes with the profits being donated to Cornerstone Christian School. Funding for this project has been obtained through private lenders. This funding, along with volunteer help from the school community, has allowed us to build and sell four homes in the past four years. We hope to have our fifth house completed by the end of July. This house officially went on the market last week. A new lot has been secured for House # 6 and we anticipate a fall start on this next project. So far, we have been able to donate \$90K to the school budget. The Lord has blessed us in so many ways with this project and we continue to look for his guidance and direction as we move forward. We are constantly re-evaluating this project and its effectiveness. As long as the market remains strong, we have the backing from our lenders, a strong Keystone committee and great volunteer help from the community, we will continue to build spec homes and donate to the school. We appreciate your support.

The Keystone Project Committee

Wishing the CCS staff, students and volunteers an enjoyable summer break and a time of refreshment.

From the Treasurer, Kyle Lodder



~ Education Committee Report ~

School's Out!

The halls are quiet, clean and empty. Another year of learning - to the glory of God - we are very thankful.

One of the highlights in the month of May for the Education Committee is the culmination of Senior Projects for the 12th grade students. What are Senior Projects you might ask? Didn't those get thrown out a few years back? Well, they did, in some schools. Our school has kept up this valuable and sometimes life-changing aspect to the final year of Cornerstone Christian School graduates. Included below is the reasoning behind keeping it alive and strong.

As a parent, I have seen students grow, come to new understandings and learn a lot about themselves. The Senior Project is one of the many stepping stones on to adult life that prepare and give self-confidence. Is it easy? No. It is hard work. Is there a choice? Lots of options for students to do something they are passionate about. Passion is a key point. What interests them in God's big world? The sky is the limit. A challenge to meet head on. Kind of real life stuff. Ora et labora (Pray and work).

Please see below the 'thinking' behind the Senior Project. I'm hoping this will give you courage and excitement to plan ahead with your child. Was getting a driver's license a big accomplishment? Senior Project is yet another opportunity to develop and grow. Make them think once again about God's plan for them and their future as well as how He directs and gives comfort and courage during the ups and downs of a project well done.

Blessings on your summertime! May He give rest from school and refreshment to the soul. May God help us to depend on Him in all aspects of our lives

Jeanette Bouwman

CCS Senior Project

Rationale - Why a senior project?

The mission statement of Cornerstone Christian School reads, "To assist parents in educating the children of the covenant as part of their preparation for a Christ-centered service and stewardship in the kingdom and church of God." The Senior Project serves as a culminating project for which our students will receive opportunity to give full expression to the preparation they have received through twelve years of Reformed Education.

Additionally, Cornerstone has adopted a set of Core Competencies (or skills) that students will explore, learn and apply throughout their years at CCS.

This project will stretch a student in the areas of personal responsibility, communication, and creative & critical thinking. Students will demonstrate the ability to work with other people, explore and develop their talents, and apply an understanding of how their Christian Worldview applies to their work.

In more plain-spoken terms, the Senior Project is an opportunity for students to take on ambitious tasks that they might not otherwise think to do – tasks that will make them uncomfortable at times, have them wrestling with frustration, dealing with deadlines, and propel them to learn new skills. Tasks that will stretch them in ways they may not yet have been stretched in their schooling career, but ways in which they can expect to be stretched once they leave our halls. It is a chance for them to take up this big, real world type-of-challenge, but to still do so while operating within the safety net of school, parents, and mentors.

In sum, the senior project endeavors to give students a hands-on, service opportunity through which they are encouraged to demonstrate their learning and work habits in a real-life, tangible way.

Senior Project Overarching Goals

The senior project will give students the opportunity to:

1. Develop their talents, pursue special interests, or explore career interests in a hands-on way.
2. Stretch themselves in the areas of communication, personal responsibility and creative & critical thinking.
3. Work and communicate with others, including mentors, in the wider community.
4. Serve others, either in the project itself, or through the skills and experience gained.
5. Specifically apply a Christian worldview to their participation in and presentation of their project of choice.



~ Principal Report ~

Summer has arrived! Last week Friday our senior graduation ceremony brought the curtain down on the 17th year at Cornerstone Christian School. What a blessing to savor! To have an educational institution that aligns with what we teach our children at home and the instruction they receive through the church is an immense gift. When home, school and church are rowing in the same direction our students have every opportunity to flourish and to develop a Christian Worldview that will *prepare [them] for a life of Christ-centered service and stewardship in the Kingdom and Church of God.*

Congratulations

Our hearty congratulations to our 8th grade graduates: Jaclyn, Blake, Kyleigh, Christina, Seth, Courtney, Jessica, Lincoln, Katelyn, Rachel, Zander and Megan. We wish you God's continued blessings as you transition to the high school wing. We encourage you to see this as the next exciting challenge in your educational journey. We also congratulate our seniors on the occasion of their milestone graduation: Grant and Wesley. May the Lord bless you on your way; our prayer is that you would stand firm in your convictions and that your love for your Father in Heaven would grow deeper as you mature in Him.

The last few weeks have been a time filled with joy and thankfulness for the students arriving at these milestones. A hearty thank-you to all those who offered their time and talents to making sure all the 'moving parts' of these events were handled well. I appreciate all the parents who band together to support our students in organizing the dinner, decorations, coffee & cake, the clean-up etc. It's a real community effort! Thank-you!

Farewell

From this place too, we bid Mr. Willis farewell. We will miss him! He left an indelible mark on CCS in the one year he taught the middle and high school math/science courses. Beyond the 'regular' content, he had many experiences and ideas to share. Thank-you, Gavin, for giving your full attention to your students and for engaging your colleagues in some professional development along the way. You clearly have a passion for learning and will undoubtedly put that to work in your new community role. We wish you the Lord's blessings as you transition to your new job at the end of the month.

Welcome

The good news is that Miss Jeanette Janssen has received her work visa! We look forward to welcoming her

to CCS towards the end of October to take over the MS and HS science/math teaching role.

You may also be aware that Mrs. Rianne Kruyswijk has begun her role of Education Support Service teacher. Towards the end of the school year she has been interacting with teachers, she sat in on some student support meetings and has researched how different schools write up their Student Support Plans.

The board has also appointed Mrs. Antina Chase to serve as a paraeducator. Her task will involve working with students who need some extra support in or outside the classroom. She will work to put some of the Student Support Plans into action.

Finally, we're hopeful that we'll have an experienced horticulturalist in place soon to 'fire up' this new elective for our juniors and seniors. Thank-you to all those that have contributed to this fine addition to our facilities. Exciting opportunity for our students!

Prayers

We continue to remember Will Davis in prayer. He is travelling a tough road, along with his parents Ellen and Bret. May the Lord continue to be their rock and strength and may they continue to experience His supporting hand in the coming months.

Calendar

Elsewhere in the Link, you'll see the schedule for the 2019/20 school year. We try and include as many of the regular events on the calendar as possible so that you're able to bend your (children's) schedule around the school schedule. We hope this helps you plan your vacations and such – so that the students have maximum opportunity for class contact and success throughout the school year.

Summer Break

Finally, an encouragement to keep your children engaged, at minimum, in regular reading habits during the summer break. The town libraries have a motivating summer reading program which is worth looking into. There are also some excellent (free!) online programs that are motivating for students to chip away at.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer break. May the time away from school be refreshing and rejuvenating so that our task at school, with the students, may begin again on August 27, DV.

~~ Upcoming Events ~~

August 27—First Day Of School 2019-2020

September 2—Labor Day

2019/2020 School Calendar

Aug. 27 – First Day of School
 Sept. 2 – Labor Day
 Oct. 10 – In-Service Day
 Oct. 11 – Fall Break
 Oct. 14 – Columbus Day
 Oct. 16 – PSAT Test Date
 Oct. 25 – HS 1st Qtr Reports
 Oct. 28 & 30 – HS P/T Conferences
 Nov. 11 – Veteran's Day
 Nov. 22 – Elem Term 1 Report Cards
 Nov. 25 – Early Release (11:55am)
 Nov. 25 & 27 – Elem P/T Conferences
 Nov. 28 – Thanksgiving Day
 Nov. 29 – Thanksgiving Break
 Dec. 20 – Last Day 2019
 Dec. 21 – Jan 5 – Christmas Break
 Jan. 6 – First Day of School 2020
 Jan. 17 – HS 2nd Qtr Reports
 Jan. 20 – Martin Luther King Day

Jan. 21, 22– HS P/T Conferences
 Feb. 14 – Prof. Development Day
 Feb. 17– President's Day
 Feb. 26 – Elem Term 2 Report Cards
 Feb. 27 & 28 - Mid Winter Break
 Mar. 2 - Early Release (11:55am)
 Mar. 2 & 4 – Elem P/T Conferences
 Mar. 20 – HS 3rd Qtr Reports
 Mar. 27—Easter Program
 Apr. 6-10 – Spring Break
 Apr. 10 – Good Friday
 May 1 – Public Speaking Contest
 May 21 – Ascension Day
 May 25 – Memorial Day
 May 29 - Sports Day
 June 1 – Quad School Track Meet
 June 5 – Eighth Grade Graduation
 June 11 - Last Day of School
 June 12 – Sr. Graduation

Board

Chairman	Darren Leyenhorst
Vice Chairman	Marty Vreugdenhil
Secretary	Raymond Faber
Treasurer	Kyle Lodder
Ed Comm Liaison	Jon Dykstra
Staff & Membership Admin	Rick DeMooy
Building Liaison	Marty Vreugdenhil

Building/Maintenance Committee

John DeBoer	Jeremy Bouwman
Jan VanSabben	Mark Veldman
Marty Vreugdenhil	

Education Committee

Jeanette Bouwman	Angela Davis
Jon Dykstra	Christine Hofford
Darryn Kleyn	Bernice Vreugdenhil

IT Committee

Eric Brown	Dave Kruyswijk
Reece Lodder	Marty Vreugdenhil

Finance Committee

Nathan Chase	Brian Hendricks
Katrina Lodder	Kyle Lodder
Jon Kruyswijk	

Library Committee

Ellen Davis	Shona Doornbos
Debbie Johnson	

Ladies Aid Committee

Janice Dykstra	Katrina Lodder
Leanne Veldman	Sharon Veldman

Administration Staff

Darryn Kleyn	Principal
Karla Leyenhorst	Bookkeeper
Kari VanDiest	Secretary

Teaching Staff

Grade 1/2:

Shari Kruyswijk	Bible, Math, History, Art
Janet Faber	LA, Music, Science
Darryn Kleyn	PE

Grade 3/4:

Debbie Johnson	Bible, Math 3, LA3, Science
Ellen Davis	LA 4, Music, History
Stephen Houweling	Math 4
Darryn Kleyn	PE

Grade 5/6:

Lynette Van Hofwegen	
Ellen Davis	Music
Janita Willis	PE

Grade 7/8:

Stephen Houweling	
Janita Willis	History, PE
Debbie Faber	Art
Jeannine Spoto	Science

High School:

Wayne Chase	Bible/History/Math
Debbie Faber	Art
Darryn Kleyn	PE, Per. Finance, Bus. Math
Janita Willis	English, Yearbook
Jeannine Spoto	Science
Debby Lodder	Math 9/10
Kieran Willis	Math 12
Darlene VanStaalduinen	Spanish
Sharon Veldman	Culinary Arts
Jolene Vreugdenhil	Culinary Arts