

The Lynden LINK

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Cornerstone Christian School

~ Chairman Report ~

Reflections of Blessing

It is that time of the year again. Time to go back to school. This happens every year – to the delight of the parents? Or disappointment of the students? We again settle into our regular routines and daily tasks. They are tasks given to us by God so that we have opportunity to live and work for His glory.

This time of year should also be a time of reflection. Rather than blindly settling into our routines – we can remember what we are doing and why we are doing it. Do we see our school as a blessing? Do we remember and give thanks to the Lord for the opportunity that our school provides? Do we see it as a memorial of the faithfulness of our God?

As we reflect on this, we are reminded of the words of Psalm 127, “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.” It is the Lord’s work that we see. He is faithful. He is a great God. We see a continual blessing through the years and a heritage from our God through the generations. Further in this chapter, “Behold, children are a gift of the Lord... Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth... They will not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate.”

When remembering the work of the Lord we can also be reminded of the time when Israel crossed the Jordan and a memorial was set up for the occasion. These words from Joshua 4, “Those twelve stones which they had taken from the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. He said to the sons of Israel, “When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying ‘What are these stones?’ then you shall inform your children saying, ‘For the Lord, God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed, just as the Lord your God had done to the Red Sea, which He

dried up before us until we crossed; that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, so that you may fear the Lord your God forever.”

While the memorial at the Jordan and the parting of the Red Sea were mighty acts from God to be remembered, we too can remember the faithfulness of the Lord by what he has blessed us with. This is an opportunity for us to share with our children why we do what we do as memorial of the Lord’s work. Then there is also the continual memorial and purpose that we share that is similar to the crossing at the Jordan, “that all peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, so that you may fear the Lord your God forever.” Additionally, from Psalm 127:5, “...They will not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate.”

Reflecting on the start of this year and the continual blessing of the Lord we can be very thankful for what He has blessed us with. It is a memorial of His faithfulness through the generations. We can give thanks and remember these things. Let us not settle into our regular routine without recognizing the work of the Lord and how He is there to guide His people. What a blessing we have! What a faithful God we may serve!

As to the matters pertaining to the operation of the school:

We are very thankful that we are about to start another year at Cornerstone. August 27th will mark the first day of school. All are invited out for our opening assembly at 8:15 in the Lynden ARC building. After the opening ceremony all are invited to walk over to our ‘new’ greenhouse facility for a ribbon cutting ceremony. This will give all a chance to look at the facility and we will be able to thank those who contributed to this project.



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Upcoming Dates

Aug. 27—First Day of School
Sept. 2—Labor Day
Oct. 10—Inservice Day
Oct. 11—Fall Break
Oct. 14—Columbus Day

Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life”. Proverbs 4:23

Following this we will also gather by the flag before school commences for the year. This past summer there has also been continued work behind the scenes. The Inspire group has come and gone, but there was much work that was facilitated by Marty Vreugdenhil and the CBM in order to make this happen. Thank you also for all the volunteers that helped with this. The IT Committee was also busy with much work getting the technology up and ready to go. We thank you for your efforts with this. We can also think of all the volunteers who help clean the school and get it ready to go. This is greatly appreciated!

As you come back you may also notice the new fence around our southern property. A big thank you goes out to Rick and Greg Faber for their last-minute efforts in grading out the dirt by the property line so that this could go in on time. We are happy to report that the cost of the fencing came in below the estimate and the school saved the survey costs as the surveyor was already putting in property markers for the adjacent properties.

This summer have been a very tumultuous summer for one of our teachers, Ellen Davis. We wish her the Lord's blessing and strength as she helps with her son, William, after the accident. We pray that God continue to be with Ellen and William as they continue down the road of recovery. Due to the happenings of summer, Ellen will be taking some extra time off at the beginning of the school year so that she can adjust and get settled. We wish her well in this.

This school year we will also look forward to the arrival of our new Math/Science teacher, Jeanette Janssen, in late October. She will be ending her school year in Australia and coming to America as soon as possible so that she can take up her teaching duties at Cornerstone. We are very thankful for this. Let's all make her feel welcome and let her know how much we appreciate that she will be teaching our children.

Given the above two scenarios with our teachers, our Principal has been working hard to fill in the teaching gaps as much as possible. Regarding this we are very thankful that Jenny Tiemeyer has been found willing to take on Ellen's work load in the interim. We also once again thank, Debbie Lodder, Kieran Willis, and Jeannine Spoto for being able to fill in at the be-

ginning of the year until Jeanette Janssen arrives. Thank you for being willing to do this and to Kieran and Jeannine – welcome to your first round of teaching at Cornerstone!

The board has also made an announcement previously about the hiring of Heather Johnson as our Horticulture teacher. After advertising for this position extensively, no Reformed candidates presented themselves, so the Board made use of school bylaw 6.2.5.1.2 which allowed us to hire Heather as a part time specialty teacher. Heather is a professing Christian, and her horticulture expertise is extensive. Officially the Horticulture course will not start until January, but Heather is already working with the school to help with the layout of the interior of the greenhouse. We are very thankful to have found such an experienced candidate.

We are also very excited this year to see the start of the Student Education Support Service Program. (SESS). We are very thankful to have Rianne Kruyswijk and Christine Hofford to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of this program at our school and for the willingness of Antina Chase to serve in a support role. This should be a blessing and a help for students who need some extra support to achieve their learning goals at school. We look forward to seeing this in action.

Recently, a note has gone out that our next scheduled annual Fall membership meeting is set to take place on October 8th, at 8:00. I apologize on behalf of myself as I sent this out looking at the school calendar – without looking too deeply at my own calendar. As such the board has decided to move the Fall membership meeting to a week later on October 15th, at 8pm. As a board we really appreciate all our members' attendance at these meetings. At this meeting we will also be looking for two new board members. Retiring this year are Rick DeMooy and Darren Leyenhorst. Please consider the positions of those who are retiring and if possible connect with a board member or send a letter of potential candidates who could fill these positions. If possible, please do this before September 9th – which is the date of our next regular school board meeting. Your input in this is greatly appreciated.

The board has continued it's work over the summer holiday and has taken on many items in the pursuit of improving our school. The board is working again with new items from the Strategic Plan and it is also going through the parent handbook and by-laws to see if any improvements are needed. There is much work behind the scenes by the board and the principal. I would like to commend all the board members for their continued diligent work. Thank you for all that you do for our school!

As we commence the year, we are also thankful for the continued parent and volunteer support. It is this work that makes our parental school flourish. Please consider the opportunities that come to volunteer as they arise. Your work with the school is very valuable.

There is a lot to be thankful for again at the beginning of this school year. Let us all look to our heavenly Father for his help and strength and thank Him for all he provides for us. Our God is good! Praise be His holy name!

~ Treasurer Report ~

I trust the staff and students had an enjoyable and restful summer break and are ready to get back to work! Wishing everyone a good transition back to the school routine.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Board's 2019-2020 Operating Pledge drive. The operating pledge goal approved at the Spring Membership meeting was a little more than \$79,000. We exceeded the goal by about \$11,000 and are in good financial shape heading into this next fiscal year. Without the operating pledge or other changes to the funding model, tuition would need to increase by about \$1,700 annually per family to balance the budget. So we are thankful to all those who are able to give extra beyond tuition and dues.

In regards to the operating budget, 88% of the operating expenses relate to teacher compensation, while the rest relates to other operational expenses. CCS certainly is a cost-effective educational institution, given the fact that we also are able to operate in a beautiful and functional facility.

The fundraising event planners continue to be hard at work. Thank you to all the committee members' efforts to make these events a success and better than the year before.

The Golf Tournament committee has the following update:

We have had a resounding response so far this year and it's shaping up to be another successful day on the course. We would love to see you out on the course, so please visit our NEW website: <https://birdeasepro.com/ccsgolfclassic/> to sign up and pay online or the school website (follow the links) to download a sign up form. Tickets for golf & dinner are \$175 per person or \$75 per person for dinner only. Registration begins 11:30 a.m., shotgun start at 12:00 and dinner/banquet at 5:30 p.m.-ish

Got an interesting prize or service of value you can donate to our silent auction? We'd love to include it in this year's silent auction. Just contact any one of the committee members, and we will be sure to include your item. Every contribution helps!

Thank you for your help in making this Cornerstone community event a success!

The Keystone group is working on the finishing touches of their most recent house. They plan on being done next week. The house is on the market, and hope to have a buyer soon!

From the Treasurer, Kyle Lodder



~ IT Report ~

IT has been busy this summer! Unfortunately I cannot explain in detail as to what that is :-). But I can assure you that Eric, Reece, and Dave have our school's IT needs, wants, and wishes taken care of!!

We are moving slowly towards a better WiFi, replacing the old laptops with new chromebooks (FYI.... very affordable for a high school student), replacing a few PC's, and al-

ways managing the "network" to make it more efficient for the teachers and students alike.

Many thanks to those who came out on Monday evening to haul the equipment back to their appropriate classrooms! Truly a blessing to see the awesome response to a simple request for help!

On behalf of the IT Committee, Marty Vreugdenhil

~ Education Committee Report ~

The Education Committee is raring to go once again. Every year at this time the Ed Comm starts a review of a particular area of curriculum, so that, over the course of every 7 or 8 years, we've looked over everything. The purpose behind this review is in keeping with the idea we should be "always Reforming" – on this side of Heaven we haven't reached perfection so there is always room for improvement.

This upcoming year we will be reviewing the school's Bible and Church History curriculum, talking with teachers to see if they like the resources they have, or see a need for something new, or have spotted any gaps that could be addressed.

Another area of improvement, one we've been looking at a little this last year and will look at again this year, is the area of apologetics. Apologetics is not only about speaking, but starts with being able to see rightly. It

involves being able to tell right from almost right, being able to spot the Devil's lies, and accurately understand God's Truth. Then, only once we know *what* to say, does it get down to *how* to say it best. That training is always happening in our school, in everything from our Bible to English, to History, Science, and more, so in one sense our school already has an apologetics program, even if we don't have anything specifically under that name. But that doesn't mean there isn't room for improvement. So here too we'll be exploring any gaps we can fill, and any resources that might be helpful.

That means there's lots to look forward to! May God bless the staff, students, volunteers and parents as we take on the challenge He's laid out for us in the year ahead!

For the Education Committee, Jon Dykstra



~ CBM Report ~

The CBM committee has enjoyed low maintenance the last couple months with summer vacation happening. As it comes to an end and Inspire has left the building, we've once again moved all the classroom furniture and computers around so Henry klos could get in and do another fantastic job of cleaning the carpets. We would

like to thank all the volunteers that showed up last week to help with all the shuffling and rearranging, it's greatly appreciated. We hope all goes well for students and teachers as a new school year begins.

On behalf of CBM
Jan Vansabben

~ Ladies Aid Report ~

Where does the time go? So thankful to be standing at the beginning of a new school year and know that all things are in God's sovereign hands.

Thank you, thank you, to the ladies who spent so many hours running Cornerstone Cafe! You have done an amazing job, your efforts are so appreciated. The time put in for the benefit of our school is a real gift!

We can look back with thankfulness that the sink was installed just before the summer started and is working well. The Inspire group was the first ones to enjoy it.

Looking forward, apple pie making will be upon us before we know it. Please consider if you can serve on this committee. It is always enjoyable to be part of a team and seeing everything come together!

Thank you for taking the time to put your name on the Blitz poster! If you haven't done so yet there are still some open spots. We can't do it without you! Please contact Leanne V to let her know where you can help.

How is that dish brush looking? We just ordered a new supply. Get your new brush soon.... and support a good cause!

October is pass-the-torch month for 2 members of the Ladies aid. Is this the year you will embark on the journey of being on the Ladies Aid? Voting will take place at our Fall meeting.

Looking forward to another successful fundraising year!

For the Ladies Aid, Sharon Veldman

~ Principal Report ~

It's exciting to be on the cusp of the regular routine of school life again. The teachers are back and raring to go and we've enjoyed each other's company this past week as we interacted in our meetings and went about setting up the school to receive students.

We look forward to welcoming the students back this coming Tuesday. Pray that the Lord would work in the hearts and minds of our children so that they too will be willing to take up their task again with renewed vigor, focus and a desire to do their best for God's glory!

Welcome

Right off the bat, we are delighted to welcome some new (and 'old') staff members to the classrooms at Cornerstone. Most are filling a need in a temporary capacity. Jenny Tiemeyer is taking Ellen Davis' teaching load till she is in a position to come back. Kieran Willis (Pre-Calc), Debby Lodder (9/10 math) and Jeannine Spoto (7-12 science) are teaching for 8 weeks as we await the arrival of Jeanette Janssen. Rianne Kruyswijk and Antina Chase will work together to provide support to our students who find learning an extra challenge. At the school opening you'll likely also have an opportunity to welcome Heather Johnson who will teach our new horticulture course in January. A big welcome to each of you and we're sure that you'll all be wonderful contributors to life at Cornerstone Christian School.

We're also excited to welcome some new first grade students: Jaycie, Lucas, Macy, Grant, Tamsen, Bennett, Rylea, Eli, Austin, Jaelyn, Anna, Morgan and Jeremy. A baker's dozen – what a blessing!

School Theme

This year we're looking forward to focusing on the 10 commandments and how they are interwoven throughout the book of Proverbs. Rev. Reuben Bredenhof, in his recently published book *Wise*, demonstrates how the wisdom literature can bring each of the commandments to life in "refreshingly practical and eminently memorable" ways. We will use his book as a resource as we engage the students under a unifying text from Proverbs 4:23: "Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life". This text will hopefully help us keep the right focus in our monthly concentration on one of the commandments. We want to be sure that we don't fall into the trap of thinking that the commandments are just a list of do's and don'ts and that as long as people see me abiding by them on the outside...we're all good. Rather our love for God and for the neighbor needs to come from a heart that is truly dedicated to Him. Feel free to join us each Monday morning as we begin the week worshipping together in the school foyer.

Student Leadership

Next week Ms. Willis will engage the high school students around the topic of student leadership. We would love to see a thriving, serving student body in the high school again this year. Please have your children consider how they might offer their talents in meaningful way to contribute to a positive school culture. Of course, this doesn't have to be limited to the student leadership team or even just to high school students. Maybe some of the younger students have ideas that could be shared as the new school year begins.

Another area worth discussing with your children before school gets underway is how their behavior and contributions in the classroom can also 'lead' the culture of the (a) class. Some children are 'born leaders' and somehow have the charisma that draws people in. That comes with a lot of responsibility. How are you going to use this gift? For good, by being a good example (a "wise son") or for bad, by leading classmates astray (a "foolish son")? At the same time, students who are more of the 'follower type' also need to develop strength of character and be comfortable with their own identity to make their own choices on whether to follow others or not. A leader with poor intentions will only be encouraged down that road, if he/she has an audience or has followers who reinforce particular behaviors. These are not one time discussion points. Proverbs makes it clear that repetition is important.

We look forward to your continued involvement, support and prayers throughout this new school year. May the Lord bless us as we seek to train our children to embrace the promises they have received at their baptism.



2019/2020 School Calendar

August

27 – First Day of School

September

2 – Labor Day

26 - College Christian Fair

October

10- In Service Day

11– Fall Break

14 - Columbus Day

16 - PSAT Testing

25 - HS 1st Qtr Reports

28 & 30 - H S P/T Conferences

November

11 - Veteran's Day

22 – Elem 1st Term Reports

25 – Early Release (11:55am)

25 & 26 - Elem P/T Conferences

28 – Thanksgiving Day

29 - Thanksgiving Break

December

21 – Jan 5 – Christmas Break

January

6 – First Day of School 2020

17 – HS 2nd Qtr Reports

20 – Martin Luther King Day

21 & 22 – HS P/T Conferences

February

14 – Prof. Development Day

17 – President's Day

26– Elem Term 2 Report Cards

27 & 28 – Mid Winter Break

March

2- Early Release (11:55am)

2&4 – Elem P/T Conferences

20 – HS 3rd Qtr Reports

27 - Easter Program

April

6-10 – Spring Break

10 – Good Friday

May

1 – Public Speaking Contest

21 – Ascension Day

25 – Memorial Day

29 - Sports Day

June

1 – Quad School Track Meet

5 – Eighth Grade Graduation

11 - Last Day of School

12 - Senior 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	Jan VanSabben
Kam Veldman	Mark Veldman
Marty Vreugdenhil	

Education Committee

Jeanette Bouwman	Jon Dykstra
Christine Hofford	Darryn Kleyn
Rianne Kruyswijk	Bernice Vreugdenhil

IT Committee

Eric Brown	Dave Kruyswijk
Reece Lodder	Aaron VanDriel
Marty Vreugdenhil	

Finance Committee

Nathan Chase	Brian Hendricks
Steve Hofford	Katrina Lodder
Jon Kruyswijk	Leanne Veldman

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
Jenny Tiemeyer	LA 4, History
Stephen Houweling	Math 4
Darryn Kleyn	PE
Karen DeMooy	Art

Grade 5/6:

Lynette Van Hofwegen	
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, Web Design, Bus. Math
Janita Willis	English, Yearbook
Jeannine Spoto	Science
Kieran Willis	Math
Debby Lodder	Math
Darlene VanStaalduinen	Spanish
Sharon Veldman	Culinary Arts
Jolene Vreugdenhil	Culinary Arts