The Lynden LINK **Cornerstone Christian School**

December 15, 2019 Volume 19, Issue 3

~ Chairman Report ~

Where has the year gone... Once again it's that time of year and the Christmas season is upon us. For many around us, it's the time of wonder, magic, joy, peace, ringing bells and endless shopping... All these warm and fuzzy feelings that makes December "the most wonderful time of year" ...? But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, twinkling lights in the windows, stuffed mailboxes filled with Christmas greetings, party after party with family, friends and neighbors? I'm sure you all know the answer should be much different than most people around us would have us believe. I encourage you to think about our school theme this year from Proverbs 4:23. "Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flows the springs of life." To guard our hearts is to remain faithful to what is asked of us as Christians. Do our lives look different than a non Christian's does? Society's expectations during the Christmas season are far different than God's expectations and it's important to remain mindful of these societal differences. We can put this into practice by reflecting on the motives behind our actions. Let's keep our minds and heart open to the Lord's will, while guarding it from all the things that do not come from Him. May the spirit of Christ and not the spirit of Christmas live in our hearts. May we all strive to serve as a light and blessing in our own community and neighborhoods.

For many the holidays are a difficult time for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Our school and church community have experienced a great loss last month with the passing away of our dear sister, Ellen Davis. Our hearts and prayers go out to the Davis and Burger families as they continue to grieve the loss of their dear mother and grandmother. Ellen was a wonderful asset to our school and her absence is deeply felt by her colleagues and students as well. The Veldman families are also grieving the recent loss of Marta Veldman and her unborn child. May the Lord in His compassion surround

the family with strength and comfort during this difficult time. May this encourage us all to live our lives every day in humble service to our Lord. May our heavenly Father comfort all with peace and hope this holiday season and in the weeks and months to come.

This time of year we can reflect on God's goodness and blessings and the many gifts He has granted as school community. The board would especially like to thank our principal, teachers and staff for their commitment and dedication to teaching our children; each one a precious gift from God. It's been a joy to welcome our newest teacher, Jeanette Janssen, and we hope you feel at home soon if not already in our midst. Your enthusiasm at adapting to a new school, new country and even the cold is a joy to witness. We especially thank Antina Chase and Jenny Tiemeyer for their role this year in filling Ellen's shoes and are so grateful for your willingness to continue this for the remainder of the school year. The board was also recently informed that Janita Willis will not be returning for the 20/21 school year. She hopes to move in pursuit of new adventures... Janita, you have been a wonderful asset to our school and your love for teaching is evident in your work. Keep up the great work for the remainder of the school year and know, even though you will be missed, we wish you all the best in your pursuits. The board has begun advertising for teachers to fill our upcoming vacancies for the 20/21 school year. We covet your prayers for God's provision to fill these positions.





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Upcoming Dates

Dec. 20 - Year End Skating 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. Dev. Day Feb. 17 - President's Day

This past week the board received disappointing news in regards to the Stephen and Fiona Houweling family visa process. Currently Stephen Houweling is working in the US on an H-1b visa. Last year the board approved moving forward with a labor certification PERM application, which if approved would allow us to file a visa petition for permanent status. Due to a technicality, this application was not approved. This does not affect the H-1b status, but is disappointing none the less. Our attorney has recommended that we re-apply with some minor tweaks to the application with hopes of success. We recognize this too is in the Lord's hands and we pray for patience and that in due time He would also grant a blessing on these efforts to seek permanent status to the Houweling family.

The board could welcome two new members, Clarence Kobes and Tim Faber. Clarence will take on the role of SMA (Staff and Membership Administrator) and I will take on the role of board chairman. As I write this first report I am humbled by the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I look forward to working on behalf of the society, alongside the board and principal in this important task. May the Lord grant the necessary strength and wisdom as we take up our tasks as new board members, alongside current board members and all those serving on the various committees. It does not take long just reading through the pages of this Link to see how much is going on behind the scenes with all the various committees. Thank you for your dedicated service! On behalf of the board, staff and society we would like to express thanks and appreciation to our outgoing board members, Darren Leyenhorst and Rick Demooy. Rick, thank you for all your diligence and attention related to the school staff and membership matters as well as general board duties. Darren, many thanks for your thoughtful leadership and dedication as our board chairman. We hope you both can enjoy a well deserved break!



The board is excited to begin offering our first ever horticulture class in the new greenhouse starting in January! The class will be taught by Heather Johnson. She has a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Food Systems, with a passion for organic agriculture. Welcome aboard Heather! We look forward to seeing our new greenhouse in operation! There are still many things that have yet to fall into place ... installing growing beds, setting up donated potting tables, making work benches and bringing in soil. We would like to thank all those who have and are still dedicating their time and resources into getting the greenhouse up and running! Thank you to the ladies aid for the funds donated to install the gas line and parts to get the heater working, buy soil and purchase other misc equipment! All of your efforts are truly appreciated!

A big thank you to all our volunteers and parents who spend countless hours working in the classrooms, on committees or behind the scenes. The board is very thankful for a generous and supportive membership! What a precious gift to have a school community who gives so freely and passionately for the benefit of preparing our children for a life of Christ centered service and stewardship for the

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

~ Treasurer Report ~

Greetings Cornerstone Community!

Thank you for continuing to regularly pay your tuition and dues. There is a good sum of operating pledges yet outstanding for the current fiscal year. We are quickly approaching the end of the calendar year. These donations should be received before year-end if you wish for us to include with your 2019 charitable donation receipt. If your payment is coming very near the end of the month, an email note to the bookkeeper (bookkeeper@cornerstoneschool.us) would be helpful so that we know to look out for the payment and process it accordingly. Furthermore, it's certainly helpful for the school's finances to receive the pledged payment sooner rather than later.

Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in this year's Bun on the Run Fundraiser. With your help, we

raised over \$1,800 through the selling of 826 sandwiches to the community. These funds will go directly to the school budget.

The golf committee would like to thank departing members Dustin Wielenga, Leo Cano and Ben Faber for their contributions to the annual golf tournament. Your tireless work on this fundraiser is much appreciated! We would also like to welcome new members: Nathan Burger, Aaron Bosscher and Nathan Veldman. Welcome to the team! Our next meeting is planned for April as we gear up for the next tournament on September 12, 2020.

Wishing you all an enjoyable Christmas Season!

Kyle Lodder

~ IT Report ~

As the 2019-2020 Cornerstone School year continues, the IT committee has kept busy with a variety of tasks.

A hearty thank-you is due to departing committee member Dave Kruyswijk, who continued to lend his expertise to the IT committee well after the end of his three year term. Your help has been greatly valued and appreciated!

The committee has devoted time to resolving ongoing issues related to the school WiFi. Plans have been put forth to resolve connectivity issues in a cost effective manner by making necessary investments in access point hardware. In addition to providing more reliable WiFi connection throughout the school building, this investment will allow for the monitoring of connection droppage issues in the future, and help us to determine how best to develop along-term plan with regard to the school WiFi.

In addition, the committee has dedicated time to resolving the various technical issues that are sure to arise from time to time. The committee has been busy addressing issues with the security cameras in the gymnasium, fixing problems with the integration of the newly-instated set of chromebooks on the laptop cart, troubleshooting other issues with printers, projectors, and document cameras, and removing obsolete hardware from classrooms.

For the IT Committee, Aaron VanDriel



~ Education Committee Report ~

Work continues at a steady pace at Cornerstone and also with the Education Committee. We are taking a closer look at the Bible and Church History teacher and student resources to see if they fit our current curriculum needs. Some questions we are keeping in mind include: do the resources cover the historic timeline and material well? Are they wellsuited to the age level? Are they out-of-date? Another consideration is to look at what our fellow teachers are using in other Reformed schools, and to weigh that against our own resources.

Thank you to all who participated in the Parent Information Evening regarding Earth Stewardship on November 5. It was helpful to have our Biblical perspective reinforced, and to also be reminded of our need to be responsible in our care for God's creation. Many thoughtful questions were brought forward, and I think everyone learned something new. For those who missed the evening, you could have a chat with Otto, Wayne or Gavin and get yourself up to date. It was noted at our last meeting that the school library could use more help, including book/author presentations. Do you enjoy reading and would you be willing to share your love for books? Please contact Bernice Vreugdenhil for further information (mavreugdenhil@aol.com or 360-220-0284 cell).

We are blessed to have teachers and students who are together in the faith. This struck me on one classroom visit where a teacher was getting ready to sing with the class during morning devotions. "Enjoy the truth" she encouraged her students. Especially at this time of year when we sing many well-known Psalms, Hymns and songs related to our Savior's birth, it's important to ponder the truth of those words and marvel at God's goodness to us in sending our Savior. We have much to be thankful for!

For the Ed. Comm., Christine Hofford

~ CBM Report ~

Winter has fully set in now and the CBM has been busy getting the building closed in, keeping the heating system functioning and working on regular maintenance items inside and outside of the school. There are a couple of projects in the works to keep an eye out for such as: repairing some of broken windows throughout the school, thanks to the help of Ryan VanDelft.

The CBM is looking into getting the grass in the soccer field spruced back up and establishing a long term maintenance plan to keep the field in better condition. We are also working to get the soccer goal post repaired and re-striping the parking lot to name a few. The CBM bids farewell to Shona Doornbos as our School Cleaning Coordinator, and we welcome in Jessica Chase as her replacement. Thank you Shona for your willingness and hard work!

Lastly a couple of reminders: the CBM would like to remind the key holding school community members to make sure to set the alarm and lock the doors if you are the last one out of the building, and remind your children and make an effort to pick up garbage around the school grounds as you see it. There are several out door trashcans that can be used.

Thank you! For the CBM – Dave Hofford



~ Ladies Aid Report ~

It's been rather quiet on the Ladies Aid front since our busy spring fundraising events! However, that doesn't mean nothing is happening! Behind the scenes, our liaisons are in contact with the upcoming fundraiser committees, and completing action items from our board meetings.

We had a very successful start to our fundraising season which generated \$13,981.17 profit from the fair booth and \$6,262.39 from apple pies sales! Thanks to all the committees and volunteers who put in a tremendous amount of time to make that happen.

The next fundraiser coming up in February/March is the entertainment coupon book! Keep an eye out for this relatively easy money-maker in the new year!

May God bless all the efforts in raising funds to support our school!

For the Ladies Aid, Fiona Houweling

~ Principal Report ~

Why do you send your children to Cornerstone Christian School? I think most would agree that we have a caring, Christian culture and community, a solid academic program, a team of dedicated teachers and a raft of faithful volunteers. Truly, Cornerstone is a blessing to our children, our families and the broader community. It's a gift from God that we do well to treasure and give thanks for.

At the same time, why Cornerstone? It's possible that community expectations, tradition, cost etc. can be 'drivers' weighing into our decision to send our children to CCS. But let's consider for a moment what your chief desire is for your children as they grow up? What do you want for them above anything else? In other words, what vision do you have for your children? And what do you do to immerse your children in this 'vision for life'?

Christian Worldview

Albert Mohler, in his book <u>The Conviction to Lead</u> makes the observation that years ago, economist Thomas Sowell, when observing why the same people tended to end up on opposing sides of controversies, came to this basic conclusion: People do not think issue by issue and question by question. Instead, they operate out of what he called a vision - a basic understanding of reality. In Sowell's words, visions are "the silent shapers of our thoughts". As parents and teachers, we understand that these visions shape our thoughts without most people even being aware that it is happening. We're building a mindset day by day, bit by bit. (Mohler, 43)

At Cornerstone, I think it's fair to say that we are in the 'business' of shaping these "silent shapers". We are helping our students develop a unified understanding of the world through each subject they study. They are gathering a set of ideas that makes their world make sense and allows them to see their place in it. For example, those that believe that their greatest reward must be found in this life will shape their worldview accordingly, and that belief will drive many other beliefs and assumptions. The same pattern works for us. We form a worldview and then the worldview forms us. (Mohler, 43)

Mohler articulates the Christian worldview as a robust and rich model of Christian thinking - the quality of thinking that culminates in a God-centered worldview, which requires that we see all truth as interconnected. Ultimately, the wholeness of truth can be traced to the fact that God is himself the author of all truth.

And he goes on to say, Christianity's doctrines are not like separate tools in a mechanics belt to be used only when needed. Instead, Christianity is a comprehensive worldview and way of life that grows out of Christian reflection of the Bible and the unfolding plan of God revealed in the unity of the scriptures. This focus gives parents and teachers a high calling

and an exciting challenge. We have the opportunity to teach our children to think Christianly through all the subjects we teach. More, we need to instruct and help our children approach every question in life in the light of God's truth. Those of us that are raising teenagers know that God's truth is not always the goto plumb line. Often peers, social media celebrities, musicians, sports 'stars', movie motifs and the like are forming attitudes and a way-of-thinking in our children that clearly collides with the Christian worldview. How do we push against this tide? How do we help our children see that what the world has to offer does not have lasting value? By showing them that the "way of the Truth and the Life" (Jesus Christ) is much superior and far more beautiful than any other worldview. In partnership with parents, Cornerstone needs to help our students uncover and see the truth and be able to articulate why the truth does not line up with the "spirits of this age".

As Mohler says: a God-centered worldview brings every issue, question, and cultural concern into submission to all that the Bible reveals, and frames all understanding within the ultimate purpose of bringing greater glory to God. This task of bringing every thought captive to Christ requires more than haphazard Christian thinking.... The recovery of the Christian mind and the development of a comprehensive Christian worldview will require the deepest theological reflection, the most consecrated application of scholarship, the most sensitive commitment to compassion, and the courage to face all questions without fear.

Sound daunting? I don't think it has to be nor should it be. When we became parents, when we said "I do" at the baptism of our children, we committed to instructing them in the ways of the Lord. A few quick thoughts to think upon:

• Developing a Christan worldview does not happen with a few conversations when an "issue" comes up. It needs to be imbedded throughout our curriculum and flow out of our teaching. Our kids need to hear it around our dinner tables, in



• A Christian mindset does not rely on tradition or "this is just the way our family does it" mentality. We need to take the time to explain the decisions we make and why we do the things we do, in the light of God's norms.

• Use the opportunity early on to explain the value of Reformed Christian education to your children. As in: "This is a wonderful opportunity to develop a Christian mind and worldview. Soak it in, take it seriously, do your best, it's a gift of a lifetime". Impress on your children that school is not just a time to pass the time. No matter your ability, it's training for life.

I am very thankful that the teachers at Cornerstone are eager to bring God's truths to bare in all the subjects they teach. We'll continue to challenge them to think Christianly, to act circumspectly and to take hold of the truths of the Bible. Let's work in partnership together to shape their vision so that our children "may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (1 Timothy 3:17).



~ Endowment Fund ~

Dear Membership of CCS,

Over the past year the Endowment Starter Fund Board has undergone some significant changes. In the spring we added two new board members (Clarence and Brian) to become a five member board as required by our starter fund bylaws and we received one new board member at this past Fall membership meeting. We welcome Marvin Vreugdenhil to the board and we say Farewell and Thank You! to Jim Bareman for his work and service on the board. Jim has been working on the board for the past 5 years since inception and now even in his "retirement" has agreed to help out on a Policy Committee to draft a long term investment policy that we as board can in the future bring to the membership for approval. Also at our last meeting we accepted the resignation of Tim Faber from the Endowment Starter Fund Board as he took on the task of Chairing the CCS Board. Congratulations Tim! And thank you to Clarence for deciding to remain on both boards. As a result this ESF Board has decided to seek Tim's replacement at the spring 2020 school membership meeting. As a result of these changes we have decided on the following board positions:

Treasurer - Clarence Kobes -

clarence@credoconstruction.com Secretary - Brian Hendricks brian.hendricks0303@gmail.com Vice Chairman - Marvin Vreugdenhil hillviewllc@aol.com Chairman - Jan Kottelenberg jan@trivan.net

In the past year the Endowment Fund received some more donations and the balance has grown to \$106,782.15. We as Endowment Board have invested \$100K in a Money Market Fund at Peoples Bank and have earned \$1,082 in interest to date this year. We are open to ideas from the membership on an investment proposal or strategy to present to the membership (in the future).

One activity we have been busy with behind the scenes this past year is how to more effectively market the endowment fund and grow our principal investment balance. We are looking for ways to keep this estate bequest target well known to the membership and provide some estate planning aids and information on local professionals that can help draft a will. We are also planning to roll out a new website, to refresh our single page of simple information on the school website. In conjunction with the website we hope to create a 1 page flashy brochure that can be given to grandparents & family and also be available to all the local community folks, ones that frequent our gym on a regular basis during all the sporting events. A Marketing Committee has been initiated for all this good work and we will be asking some society members to join this committee, those who would love to see their marketing skills be put to good use - be given the opportunity to do so.

This past year our Canadian foundation or society Foundation for Reformed Education (FFRE) has been ready, able and willing to receive donations from your Canadian family and friends. Talk to your Canadian family about this and if they are interested in supporting Cornerstone, they can write a check to FFRE and receive a CDN tax receipt. The Endowment Board Treasurer, Clarence Kobes or the School Treasurer can receive these gifts and can forward the gift to FFRE and ensure a Canadian Tax Receipt is provided.

Last year at this time we approached the membership with an official Fund Drive to get our fund balance to \$100k by the end of last year, and we did get to that milestone! Thank you again to all the generous donors. While we are not actively engaging in a phone call Fund Drive this year end, we would still graciously accept donations. Please consider the Endowment Fund in your year end giving if you have been so blessed to be able to consider some extra giving over and above what you have already pledged to your school and other important charities.

Thank you for your consideration, **The Endowment Starter Fund Board.** On behalf of the Board, Jan Kottelenberg

~ From our First Grade Students ~





Loving Lucas loves lemon lollypops. Awesome Austin ate 10,022 eggs in April.



Joking Jeremy's job in January is eating juicy jolly ranchers.

Marvelous Macy makes marvelous muffins in March and May.

Rylea rides her race horse on the rough road.





Jumpy Jaycie jogs in July. Eli exercises every day. Attractive Anna ate an apple. Giggly Grant giggles at Grandpa. Tall Tamsen tickles Taren. Jumpy Jaelyn finds jaguars in June. Marvelous Morgan does Math on Mars. Big Bennett brings bears to Bellingham.





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~ From Our Second Grade Students ~

How to make Thanksgiving Dinner Written by the Second Grade Class

First you need to get the turkey on the farm and then get the feathers off the turkey. You also need spices to put on the turkey. For dessert you can have pumpkin pie or apple pie. Put a nice table cloth on the table and candles that smell like pumpkins. Ruth Doornbos

For the Thanksgiving you can visit a farm and get the turkey. Then you kill it and put it in the oven for one hour. Put mustard on it. For dessert you can make ice cream cake. To make it really pretty wrap the utensils in a fabric cloth. Thomas Levenhorst



Go to Winco Foods and get a free turkey. Boil it in a plastic basket. It takes at least 10-20 minutes. Maybe mash some potatoes. For dessert have some ice cream and brownies. You need to put candles on the table and pumpkin lanterns by the front door. Lukas Faber

You get the turkey ready by taking off all of its feathers and then take out all the bones. You need to cook the turkey for as long as a chicken, I think! The other things you need to cook are a big pig in a blanket and sandwiches. What you do for dessert is ask people who are coming to bring something yummy. Use one of your best table cloths and put a candle in the middle of the table. Sophia Dykstra

You should go to Jeremy's house and ask Uncle Marty for a turkey. You can call Brent and ask him if you can use his Treager. You can use his seasonings. It takes half an hour to cook. You need to cook Brussel sprouts because it is good for kids. You make ice cream for dessert. To make it cozy you shut off the lights and light candles. Chase Veldman

You can get the turkey at a store and get it ready by taking off the feathers. You can also make ham. You can make apple crisp. You can buy fall decorations at Dollar Tree. Makenzie Bosman

First you go hunting in the woods and shoot the turkey. Maybe wash it so you don't have yukky parts. I do not know how to cook it so maybe put it in the oven for 40 minutes. You could bake some potatoes and some fries. If I were cooking I would make apple pie for dessert. To make it look nice you could put ribbons inside the house and Christmas lights outside for decorations. Kaylyn Bouwman

You should go to Costco and get a turkey. If they don't have one you can go to Kentucky Greasy Fried Chicken and get some.

Then turn the oven on between 120 and 170 degrees and put the turkey in the oven for one hour. You should make ice cream cake for dessert. If you have pretend leaves and pumpkins then put the leaves and the pumpkins on the window sill. Josiah Chase

You get a turkey and put it in the oven for 2 hours. You need to put salt and pepper on it. You could also make some pizza. You could do Christmas light for decorations. Jake Veldman



My Dad is getting a turkey from his shop. You then get a really big pan and put some spices on the turkey and then put it in the oven. You can put it in for thirty minutes. You can make milk shakes and ice cream for dessert. To make it special get out your best plates and cups. Jace Kruyswijk

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

Board

Chairman: Vice-Chairman: Secretary: Treasurer: Ed Comm Liaison: Staff & Membership Admin Clarence Kobes Building Liaison:

Tim Faber Marty Vreugdenhil Raymond Faber Kyle Lodder Jon Dykstra Marty Vreugdenhil

Building/Maintenance Committee

Jeremy Bouwman Dave Hofford Marty Vreugdenhil

Nathan Burger Mark Veldman

Angela Davis

Christine Hofford

Stephen Chase

Aaron VanDriel

Bernice Vreugdenhil

Education Committee

Jeanette Bouwman Jon Dykstra Darryn Kleyn

IT Committee

Eric Brown Reece Lodder Marty Vreugdenhil

Finance Committee

Nathan Chase Steve Hofford Jon Kruyswijk

Library Committee Shona Doornbos

Ladies Aid Committee Janice Dykstra Katrina Lodder

Brian Hendricks Katrina Lodder Leanne Veldman

Debbie Johnson

Fiona Houweling Krissy Lodder

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 6 - 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

Administration Staff

Darryn Kleyn Karla Levenhorst Kari VanDiest **Teaching Staff** Grade 1/2: Shari Kruyswijk Janet Faber Darryn Kleyn Grade 3/4: Debbie Johnson Antina Chase Jenny Tiemeyer Stephen Houweling Darrvn Klevn Karen DeMooy Grade 5/6: Lynette Van Hofwegen Janita Willis Melanie Kottelenberg Grade 7/8: Stephen Houweling Janita Willis **Debbie Faber** Jeanette Janssen **High School:** Wayne Chase Debbie Faber Darryn Kleyn Janita Willis Jeanette Janssen Darlene VanStaalduinen Spanish Sharon Veldman Jolene Vreugdenhil

Principal Bookkeeper Secretary

Bible, Math, History, Art LA, Music, Science PE

Bible, Math 3, LA3, Science L.A. 4 History/Geography Math 4 PE Art

PE Music

History, PE Art Science

Bible/History/Math Art PE, Web Design, Bus. Math English, Yearbook Science. Math Culinary Arts Culinary Arts