

The Lynden LINK

August 26, 2018
Volume 17, Issue 1

Cornerstone Christian School

~ Chairman Report ~

Article 58

When reviewing the history of why we do what we do regarding Reformed Education in the Canadian/American Reformed denomination, article 58 of the Church Order often gets mentioned. Article 58 of the Church Order states, "Schools: the consistory shall ensure that the parents, to the best of their ability, have their children attend a school where the instruction given is in harmony with the Word of God as the church has summarized it in her confessions."

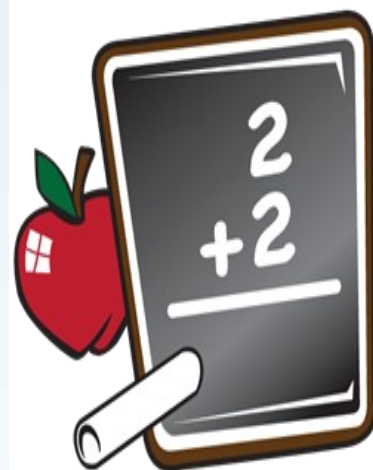
In the late Rev. W.W.J. Van Oene's book - *With Common Consent* – he provides a commentary on the meaning and importance of Article 58. It is helpful to review such commentaries when you read this article of the Church Order. At face value, it could give wrong ideas or interpretations of what the intention of this article is.

While the history of our denomination has shown that parents of children in our church have put a high value on Reformed Christian education, we should reflect upon the reasons that Reformed Christian schools were established. As parents of covenant children, promises were made at their baptism. Promises to bring our children up in the way of the Lord. Important promises made by the father and mother to instruct their children in the doctrine as soon as they can understand, to the utmost of their power. Parents have sought to establish schools so that they may protect their children by providing them an environment that supports and promotes what is taught at church and home. Further, so that the Word and doctrine that is taught at home and in the church is not eroded or undermined while learning at school. The result of this was that parents established Reformed Christian schools. This was very important to many in our denomi-

nation and through history it can be seen that the establishing of Christian schools quickly followed behind the establishing of a church in a certain geographical area.

One thing to remember about setting up the schools is that schools were not set up to fulfill the responsibility of parents to instruct their children but to provide a learning environment where the teaching at church and home could be complimented. Schools were not established to replace the church or home instruction. Schools are to be institutions for learning. In these institutions learning can happen and requirements can be met so that children may be instructed in subject matters and establish careers or to prepare them for future vocations. As the Word of God permeates life it is only natural that His will for us flows through everything we do – including our learning and future lives. Schools were not set up to take over the spiritual guidance that is given by the church or parents.

In reflecting on this article of the church order it should also be remembered that these articles are for the church's use and guidance. It is an aid for consistories and the church. In the case of Article 58 it helps provide parameters to encourage parents to discharge their responsibilities about the instruction of their children in a manner that is beneficial to their spiritual well-being. The instruction of children is primarily the parents' responsibility as outlined in the baptismal promises that were made. It is important also to remember that the consistory is made of members of a church. School is not church and membership of schools is often different and spiritual oversight is not the primary responsibility of the teachers or the school board.



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Upcoming Dates

Aug. 28—First Day of School
Sept. 3—Labor Day
Oct. 4—Inservice Day
Oct. 5—Fall Break
Oct. 8—Columbus Day

We do well to realize the importance of parents in the instruction of their children. As such it is very important that parents take a leading role at schools and in all aspects of their learning. We must not forget the importance of making sure that the Lord is the center of all aspects of life and that includes learning.

As to other matters regarding the school:

The summer is drawing to a close. Parents and students are eagerly awaiting the start of school (probably the former more than the latter). We can be thankful for the time of rejuvenation and relaxation. We thank the Lord for his care during the summer. We can see His rich blessings daily.

The school continues to be blessed with the support of its members. It is great to see the involvement and the enthusiasm that goes into the operation, support, and fundraising for the school. These activities did not take a break even though children were not in school. Without the support and extra efforts of the community, the operation of our school would not be possible. Thanks go to all those who have worked so hard this summer and those who will work hard in contributing to the school throughout the school year!

As some of you may be aware – the “new” greenhouse is on the school property! Thank-you to all who have contributed so far to the preparation, moving and installation of the greenhouse. There have been many people who have contributed time and/or materials to this project. Even from people or companies that are not part of our school community. This has saved a lot of cost. There is still more work to be done before the greenhouse is operational, so please look for these opportunities as they come about.

You may have also noticed that the undeveloped part of the school’s property has been cleared of the trees and stumps that were there. These all have been combined into big piles that we hope to burn in the fall when it will be permissible. With the effort of some members of our community this work was done with donated time and equipment.

Again, also from people not associated with our school society. This is something that we can be very thankful for. We can see with the recent developments with the greenhouse and the land improvements that the Lord provides graciously for us. We have much to be thankful for in this!

As the summer draws to a close, it will also end the rental period of the Inspire group. We can be thankful for the income that this provides for the school in a time that it would generally not be used. A few members of our school society and myself have been engaging the Inspire group, looking to see if there could be a way of establishing a long term relationship that would be beneficial to both parties. We have had a few meetings and some preliminary items were discussed. At the time of this article there are no concrete plans in place as we are still early in the conversation of what this would look like. If plans or options become more solid – the membership will be informed if there are opportunities that would be of benefit to our school and its members.

In the early part of the summer, two of our board members were called to church office. As such there has been discussion at the board level that we will hold the Fall Membership meeting earlier this year so as to lessen the burden on these brothers with these two, time consuming responsibilities. We are looking to have the membership meeting toward the end of September or the early part of October – although nothing is finalized as far as a date is concerned. The terms of our secretary – Jeff Brown - and our treasurer – Steve Hofford - will be coming to an end. As such the board requests that the membership put forward names of people who could replace these board members as their term expires. Please feel free to write a letter, send an e-mail, call, or talk to a board member if you have any suggested names for new board members. Nominations should be submitted by the September 4th school board meeting.

Thank you all for your continued support in the operation of the school. May it continue to be a blessing for us all!

School Theme:

*Teach us to number our days
that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.
Psalm 90:12*

~ Treasurer Report ~

Now that fiscal year 2017/18 is over, it is time to look back to see how things went financially. I have done some preliminary evaluation, and I'm happy to report that we are in a good position. We had some late changes in our student counts at the beginning of the school year, which reduced our tuition income considerably. But this was more than made up for by fundraising, rental, and miscellaneous donations, all of which came in higher than projected. More on this at the upcoming fall membership meeting.

These numbers represent a lot of commitment and a great deal of effort by our school community, and these efforts are ongoing. As I write this, the Ladies Aid is finishing up its largest fundraiser of the year at the Fair. The golf tournament, to be held on September 8, is in the final stages of planning (currently at 90% of last year's sponsor level). The Homestead 15K will be run one week later on September 15 -- it's not too late to sign up at www.runsignup.com/homestead15; we also need volunteers on the day of the run if you are available. Then, over the next couple months, we'll be doing the Bun-on-the-Run again (see advertisement below). Finally, we have the ongoing Keystone Project homebuilding fundraiser -- the fourth house is on the market and is scheduled to be completed soon. The board greatly appreciates the work done by all these committees to prepare and execute these complex events and projects, and it's great to see how the income makes a real impact on the bottom line.

It should also be mentioned that the 17/18 operating pledge was very successful. At this point, we have received the budgeted total - \$117,000! Thank you for your pledges and for following through with them in a timely manner.

The board is now in the finishing stages of the 18/19 operating pledge. Our pledge goal this year is just

over \$100,000 and we are very close to that number. If by chance you have not been contacted and would like to

sign up with a pledge amount, you can contact any board member. If you have pledged but have not turned in a form, please make an effort to get the form back to us so we can be sure to have good information about your pledge amount and when you plan to pay it.

At the beginning of a new academic year, our hope is that these financial resources will serve the purpose of the CCS -- to educate our children and prepare them for a life of Christ-centered service and stewardship.

-Steve Hofford

The third annual Bun on the Run Fundraiser is soon approaching! We would like to advertise this quick and easy lunch option to as many people as possible in the surrounding community.

Do you think you may have an opportunity to sell this lunch option to a friend, neighbor, or co-worker? You can find all you need in a packet that will make its way home to you.

If you haven't purchased this convenient lunch option for yourself or your family before, please place an order this year and give them a try!



~ IT Report ~

IT is currently busy getting everyone's computers back in place. Messing around with computers is not my forte, so that makes me even more thankful for

the rest of the committee. Without Eric, Dave, and Jack, you would all be back to pen and paper:-) Thanks men for the time put in!

~ Education Committee Report ~

The last from the sugar pot from camping has been used up. The last laundry basket of swimsuits has been washed up...Summer....it's over...and school has begun. For many of us, summer is a time to get away, vacation and enjoy a whirlwind of activities. I hope you also had time to do some quiet reflecting...also the kids. Kids become creative when given enough time. It is good also to have time off from committees as well. School needs a break. We need a break. God created rest for a reason. How Great Thou Art. Refreshed minds and hearts ready to begin again.

As the newest ed com member I've been given a small glimpse of the school in action behind the scenes. The ed com being a small cog in the well

-oiled synchronized wheel of the school. One item we took time in the summer was to look over the Iowa state tests to see if the old version needs to be replaced or not. This is one of the small items on our agenda. All the small items done by the many committees and volunteers work toward a God-glorifying education for our children and a community bonding that supports all the way around. Time for a fresh start. With that, please say hi once in a while. I'd like to know what you are thinking, how you are thinking and what is on your heart. Wishing you all God's blessings on a new school year. May He give courage, wisdom and strength to students, parents, teachers, the principal and supporting staff. Have a great year!

Jeanette Bouwman

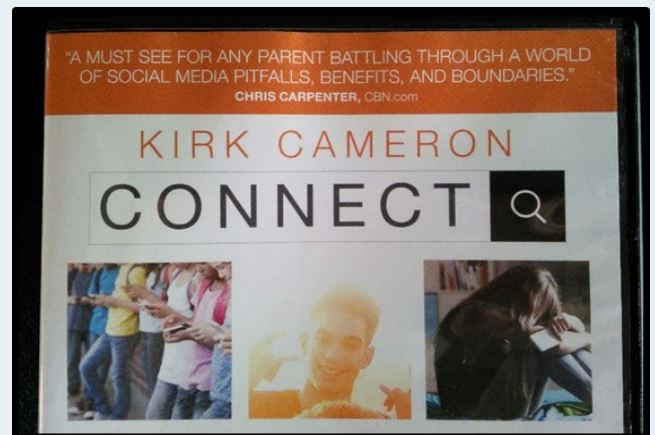
~ Save the Dates ~

Save the Date: Tuesday, October 2

Join us here in Lynden for an informative interactive evening with parents, older kids and anyone connecting with technology! A God-centered approach to technology and life in your family (this will include a film called "Connect"). ARC building at 7:30pm.

Save the Date: Monday, October 22

Join the group Connect and work with the broader Canadian Reformed community to an evening on the same topic in Langley: "Internet Safety and Digital Literacy for Parents and Caregivers" by the White Hatter Team



~ CBM Report ~

Welcome to a new school year! So far the preparations have been going on without any glitches. CBM, with the help of the principal and a few ambitious, young men hauled all the furniture down back into the classrooms. Thanks, boys! Your willingness is greatly appreciated!

You may have noticed some activities beyond the "fenced" boundary of the school. The greenhouse has been moved in and the extended property is in the construction phase of being deforested and leveled. Those couple of weeks were super busy for a bunch of guys. Although I cannot remember specific names, it was quite clear that when push came to

shove, a host of men, young and old can accomplish a pile of work in a hurry!! Thank you!

Shona Doornbos has also done a fantastic job organizing cleaners and schedules. Between her and Henry Klos cleaning carpets, the school should be spotless for the upcoming school year. Thank you!

Other than that, there is not much else going on besides the regular behind the scenes stuff we always do. have gotten a few emails from individuals that have noticed things that needed attention in and around the building. It is very much appreciated! It takes more than a few eyes to see it all.

Send a text or email to any one of the CBM guys and we will do our best.

~ Principal Report ~

Welcome to the 2018/19 school year! It is good to be back into the swing of school preparations. One thing that always stands out at this time of the year is the willingness of many members helping to get the school ready for occupancy again. The Inspire group have been and gone, the carpets have been thoroughly cleaned, the furniture has been brought out of storage and placed into the classrooms, the 'cleaning ladies' have dusted and cleaned and....the staff are very thankful! We are just about ready to roll!

Reflecting on the summer break, one wonders where the time went. Nevertheless, it was a welcome rest and a wonderful blessing from our gracious God to have the time to live at a slower pace, to spend time in the great outdoors and to enjoy time away with our families. Praise God for travelling mercies, for good health and for His protective hand in our lives.

Welcome

Right off the bat, we are delighted to welcome our 'new' first graders: Mackenzie, Kaylyn, Josiah, Ruth, Sophia, Lukas, Jace, Thomas, Chase and Jake. You may notice that there are four sets of parents who are sending their oldest child to school (welcome to *daily* school life!) and a couple parents sending their youngest. How that will go, you might ask? Maybe something like this: the oldest-in-the-family coming in *think* they know it all while the youngest-in-the-family probably *do* know it all! J I'm sure there will hardly be a dull moment in the grade 1/2 classroom this year.

Two other students that deserve a mention are our new freshman from down the road: Taya Dykstra and Thomas Heystek. Hearty welcome to both of you; we're glad you can join us!

Finally, we are excited to have Mrs. Marian Haller with us for a few short months. She is teaching art in the grade 3/4 classroom for one hour a week till Christmas break. She is filling in for Mrs. Karen deMooy, while she settles into her new(ish), joyful reality. Marian has been studying at WWU and has aspirations to be a teacher so this works out to be a good fit for her (and us!). Welcome aboard!

What is Learning?

This past week the staff have been busy setting up their classrooms and meeting together to discuss a range of topics relating to the new school year. We've also had opportunity to read some articles relating to education – including (with the authors permission) the one attached to this issue of the *LINK*. It's well worth a read. It was a good reminder for us as teachers that learning is about transformation. As the author points out *"learning*

affects thinking, thinking affects behavior, and both inform the formation of values and beliefs". And further on in the article a quote from Parker Palmer highlights the high responsibility on Christian teachers. *"We teach who we are. Teaching, like any truly human activity, emerges from one's inwardness, for better or worse. As I teach, I project the condition of my soul onto my students, my subject, and our way of being together."* Please, take the opportunity to regularly pray for the teachers at CCS that they, as learners, might lead the young learners in their care, in the light of Jesus Christ.

School Theme

This year we've decided to spend time in our monthly, school-wide assemblies learning about some of the holidays and commemorations on our calendar. This would include the Christian celebrations of Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and Ascension Day. Interspersed with these would include Labor Day, Reformation Day, Martin Luther King Day, Mission Month and Memorial Day. This would all fall under the umbrella text (theme) from Psalm 90:12: *Teach us to number our days that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.* As God's children we are well aware that our lives are transient. The scriptures make it clear that we only last for a "brief moment" before the Lord moves us on from our earthly existence. There is good encouragement in this text for us, also in the school context, to use the learning opportunities we have to develop a "heart of wisdom". We look forward to unpacking this further at our opening assembly and throughout the school year.

Church building and afterwards you're welcome to join us in the school building for some refreshments and picture taking opportunities.

We look forward to your continued involvement, support and prayers throughout this new school year.



Yearbook

During the summer months, Ms. Willis and the yearbook committee, have been working behind the scenes on the final edits for the yearbook. The printed copy has been across my desk and the final copy has been ordered. We look forward to receiving the order soon and you will likely have it in your hand in the first few weeks of the new school year. Congratulations and job well done to last year's 9th and 10th graders who contributed their design and written expertise to a few pages each. If you're a member without children at school reading this – and would like your own personal copy – please contact the school and

we'd be glad to send you the web link to place an order.

First Day

The first day of school is this coming Tuesday, August 28. You're invited to the opening assembly at 8:10am in the American Reformed church building and afterwards you're welcome to join us in the school building for some refreshments and picture taking opportunities.

We look forward to your continued involvement, support and prayers throughout this new school year.



~ Ladies Aid Report ~

Just like that we are standing at the beginning of the 2018/2019 school year. What a blessing to know that whatever stands before us this year is safely in the Lord's hands!

Huge thank you to the core group of ladies and (husbands) that made the running of our fair booth a success. Of course we are also super thankful for all the volunteers that fried, cleaned, assembled etc. etc. We couldn't have done it without you.

Remember waaaay back when we had a blitz poster up and you signed up? The time has come! Apple pies will be the first on our list of fundraisers. Please stay posted for when and where you can help.

If your dish brush is looking a little sad, no worries, we have a supply to replace your current brush. Also don't forget our cookbooks. They make great shower gifts and there are some good recipes in there.

Last, but not least, we will be looking for 2 new board members this fall. Consider if you are able to serve on the Ladies Aid.

For the Ladies Aid, Sharon Veldman
See you at Apple pie making!

For the Ladies Aid, Sharon Veldman



2018/2019 School Calendar

Aug. 28 – First Day of School
 Sept. 3 – Labor Day
 Oct. 4 – In-Service Day
 Oct. 5 – Fall Break
 Oct. 8 – Columbus Day
 Oct. 17 – PSAT Test Date
 Oct. 26 – HS 1st Qtr Reports
 Oct. 29 & 31 – HS P/T Conferences
 Nov. 12 – Veteran's Day Observed
 Nov. 21 – Elem Term 1 Report Cards
 Nov. 22 – Thanksgiving Day
 Nov. 23 – Thanksgiving Break
 Nov. 26 – Early Release (11:55am)
 Nov. 26, & 28 – Elem P/T Conferences
 Dec. 14 – Christmas Concert
 Dec. 22 – Jan 4 – Christmas Break
 Jan. 7 – First Day of School 2018
 Jan. 18 – HS 2nd Qtr Reports

Jan. 21 – Martin Luther King Day
 Jan. 22, 23 – HS P/T Conferences
 Jan. 25 – Prof. Development Day
 Feb. 14, 15 – Mid-Winter Break
 Feb. 18 – President's Day
 Mar. 1 – Elem Term 2 Report Cards
 Mar. 4 – Early Release (11:55am)
 Mar. 4&6 – Elem P/T Conferences
 Mar. 22 – HS 3rd Qtr Reports
 Apr. 1-5 – Spring Break
 Apr. 19 – Good Friday
 May 3 – Public Speaking Contest
 May 27 – Memorial Day
 May 30 – Ascension Day
 May 31 – Sports Day
 June 3 – Quad School Track Meet
 June 7 – Eighth Grade Graduation
 June 14 – Last Day of School/Sr. Graduation

Board

Chairman:	Darren Leyenhorst
Vice-Chairman:	Jeff Brown
Building Liaison:	Marty Vreugdenhil
Ed Comm Liaison:	Jon Dykstra
Secretary:	Jeff Brown
Treasurer:	Steve Hofford
Staff & Membership Admin	Rick DeMooy

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
Jack Marissen	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

Alyssa Brown	Ranelle Faber
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
Marian Haller	Art

Grade 5/6:

Lynette Van Hofwegen	
Ellen Davis	Music
Janita Willis	PE

Grade 7/8:

Stephen Houweling	
Janita Willis	History, PE
Debbie Faber	Art
Jack Marissen	Science

High School:

Wayne Chase	Bible/History/Math
Debbie Faber	Art
Darryn Kleyn	PE, Per. Finance, Bus. Math
Janita Willis	English, Yearbook
Jack Marissen	Science, Math
Darlene VanStaalduinen	Spanish