

The Lynden LINK

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Cornerstone Christian School
~~ Lynden, WA ~~

Chairman's Report

Acknowledging God

This is the time of year when schools are getting out, classes have been finished, and graduations are taking place. It is a time for reflection and looking towards the future. This year there have been opportunities for me to attend graduations and interact with others who have attended various graduations. This is a good chance to step back and look at what we do at Cornerstone.

Our Christian school gives us the opportunity to learn about our God as we learn about the world. How through all subject matters and in all of life, God's love is interwoven, and His faithfulness is present. We can thank the Lord for the wisdom that he provides and the blessings of parents, teachers, volunteers, siblings, members of the community, and classmates whereby He facilitates the opportunities to learn about God at school. We can see how the Lord has blessed the students with different skills and abilities and has provided for this opportunity both mentally and physically. He provides opportunities to use talents and improve abilities for His glory and the benefit of all people.

With these blessings we can see God's directing hand at work. We can ponder on His goodness in the lives of our children where He can bring them to the point of graduation and recognize what He has done to provide for the blessed gifts, talents, and abilities that they have. When attending graduation at a public school the focus can be quite different. As can be witnessed in public school graduations – the sovereignty of God is not recognized. Most public schools have rules that prevent the name of God being mentioned in word or song during the graduation ceremony activities. Prayer and the acknowledgement of God has no part in the celebration. Little, if any, opportunity is given for students to express their faith with fear that they may offend or not be inclusive. Instead the focus is on personal achievement, the importance about what we can do, and being “good people”. The root of this is more the glorification of man rather than the recognition of the work of God.

In inter-denominational Christian schools there is more appreciation shown for the work of the Lord although there is often a similar tone of not wanting to offend and a focus on what man can do. I have heard anecdotal

accounts from people who have attended graduations recently and have found that besides a short prayer at the beginning and end of the ceremony, there was very little in the way of praising and acknowledging the work of the Lord. Often it can be - with non-reformed institutions - that the focus is on how man can choose for the Lord and welcome Him into their hearts. There is a subtler focus on what man does, rather than focusing on what the Lord has done.

We are very blessed with a Reformed Christian School where we can give God the glory. Personal, academic, and athletic achievement can be recognized but all with the realization that we have nothing and deserve nothing. All we have and all we receive is from the Lord. He has worked out the faith and good in us for His benefit and to the glory and honor of His name. He has blessed us and provided for us where we can serve Him and be a blessing to our neighbor. We can see His generational blessings, His work with our children.

It is important as we reflect back on the graduations and education through the years - that we don't lose focus. We need to give God the glory and live in thankfulness of His precious gifts. What a blessing our Christian school is! Thanks be to God for this!



As to items pertaining to the continued operation of the school:

The school year has been completed and the students and teachers have started their summer break. We are very thankful for the successful completion of the school year and wish all a blessed time off.

As most of you have heard by now the school is in the process of obtaining a greenhouse from Lynden Middle School. Many things have happened to make this come together and we can be very thankful for these developments. This is an item that there seems to be a lot of support for. Currently, we are going through the process of getting drawings and engineering complete so that a permit can be obtained. There is only a limited period of time (20 days) that we have in which to move this from the Lynden Middle School property on to our own. Soon there will be a bunch of work that will need to be done to strip the site, prepare for the foundation, form the foundation, install utility sleeves, pour the foundation, and place the greenhouse on the foundation. We hope for the support of the membership to keep costs down and to help make this happen. Particularly we would like to thank Tim Faber for alerting the school to this opportunity and for his time behind the scenes to research options, draw plans, and help with obtaining the permit. We also appreciate the input that we have received from Aad Hensen (one of our member experts) on the suitability of the structure, location of the structure, and his help with planning. It is wonderful to see everyone working together to make this happen for more opportunities for our children and for the benefit of our school community!

A few months ago, the board decided to adopt a proposal to add an Athletic Committee with a specific mandate to serve under the oversight of the board. You can read the role of the committee below:

The athletic committee is composed of the CCS athletic director (which may or may not be the principal), one teaching staff member, one board member, and one school society member (if possible, this member is a league coach).

The purpose of the athletic committee is to provide for the good operation of the athletic leagues that are organized and managed by CCS staff and whose financial accounting is under the oversight of the CCS board. This includes ensuring that the leagues are operated within the guidelines established by the board, and that the existence of the leagues continues to serve the official objectives of the society.

The role of the athletic committee includes the following activities:

- *Act in an advisory role to the athletic director.*
- *Review major incidents or conduct unbecoming to our leagues.*

- *Evaluate and communicate appropriate penalties for teams, coaches, players, or fans who do not abide by the league's code of conduct.*
- *Handle appeals to penalties imposed on teams, coaches, players, or fans.*

The athletic committee meets once prior to the beginning of league activity and once after the end of league activity. Any member of the committee may call a special meeting to evaluate specific incidents or concerns. The committee provides a written or verbal report to the board at least once per year, at which time the board also reviews the membership of the committee (there are no set terms).

As is mentioned in the committee mandate – our hope is that this committee will aid in the smooth operation of the school's sports leagues and take the burden of management and decision making off the shoulders of one individual. It will also help in making objective decisions should any problems or issues come up during the season. We are thankful that Janita Willis and Kyle Lodder have agreed to serve on this committee along with Darryn Kleyn and myself.

Another project that the school is looking into is the rezoning of the former Hamstra property that the school obtained a number of years ago. Currently the school's property, the manse property, the church property, and the neighbor's property are all zoned multi-family. Our thought was that now would be the best time to rezone this property as this will be the time where the school has the least number of neighbors which may make rezoning this property in the future difficult. While the school has no immediate plans which would make rezoning necessary at this time, it was thought that it would be of benefit in the long term as it would increase different development opportunities in the future and increase the value of the school's property.

Thanks also go to the gentlemen involved with the Endowment Committee. Thank-you for your dedication and continued work on this. I know that we will be hearing more about some opportunities that our school community will have associated with this shortly.

The board would also like to thank the many volunteers that help make our school possible. The continued dedication of the volunteers helps to keep costs down and provide a beautiful example of service to our children. We also commend all those involved in the many fundraising opportunities for our school. These efforts are very much appreciated and we all do our best to help support each other in making Reformed Christian education affordable.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the Principal and all the board members for their consistent dedication to the school. As a board there have been many items on our agenda recently and a lot of topics to

cover which have meant many long meetings or extra meetings being held. Thank you all for these extra efforts in trying to get in front of this work. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Thank you also to the membership for your continued support. The board would like to wish all our members the best as they enjoy the summer!



Treasurer Report

At the end of the 17/18 academic year, I would like to congratulate the staff and administration for the successful completion of their classroom work. Not only have you completed the work, but your daily efforts have enabled our students to be instructed in a “protective and nurturing environment.”

One of the purposes of CCS is to “provide an orderly and secure atmosphere conducive to the attainment of good education.” This purpose is elaborated upon as follows:

By God's design and in His perfect wisdom it is the sincere desire of parents, and by extension, of teachers, to provide children during their delicate years of growing up with a protective and nurturing environment. Our school functions within this protective network. We strive to provide an atmosphere that is safe, comfortable, and conducive to learning. It is our desire that parents, teachers, and children live together in a relationship of trust and harmony, and that students are supported on the path towards maturity and independence.

As parents, we pray that our children move along on the path towards maturity and independence, so we trust that CCS will help us in this. I think we can confidently say that this has been happening over this past year. As we witnessed at the 8th and 12th grade graduations, our children are indeed moving along this path, and we thank the staff and administration for their part in this process. From a financial perspective, our members and supporters continue to provide a solid foundation of financial stability, and we thank you for that. We are

coming up on the end of our fiscal year, so please take note of your obligations (documented in the May statement that you have received) so that we can wrap things up by July 31. Also, if you have any outstanding reimbursement requests, please get them to Karla as soon as possible. It's much easier to get things taken care of now than to wait until the end of the fiscal year.

Even though the academic year has concluded, many in our community continue to work to provide funding for CCS. Under the oversight of the Finance Committee, the golf and run committees are hard at work preparing for the September events. The golf tournament is scheduled for September 8 and the run is set for September 15. If you have any suggestions or ideas that may help improve or enhance our fundraisers, don't hesitate to contact a committee member. Each member of the Finance Committee is a liaison to a specific fundraiser or fundraising entity, as follows: Nathan Chase (Bun-on-the-Run), Brian Hendricks (Keystone), Jon Kruyswijk (golf), Katrina Lodder (run), Leanne Veldman (Ladies Aid). It should also be noted that Jan Kottelenberg is just finishing up his term on the Finance Committee, where he did a great job coordinating with the golf committee. There are other fundraising ideas and activities that may be pursued in the future, but these are the main income-generating areas that we have at the moment.

Finally, we as board are in the process of coordinating the 2018/19 operating pledge. We have received excellent support so far! Our hope is that with your support we will be able to achieve our goal; we will update the membership once we have completed the drive. Many thanks to those who have already pledged. As you know, these pledges are a critical component of our ability to be fully funded throughout the year.

-Steve Hofford

Education Committee Report

It may still be sinking in, but somehow another school year has flown by and the long-awaited summer is here! While summer break means a break from 'formal', in-the-classroom education, it doesn't have to be a break from learning. As parents, we are tasked with instructing our children in the mighty works of the Lord, and summer brings perfect opportunities to experience this in new, tangible ways – through watching a glorious sunset, camping, playing with clay, building forts, playing by the ocean, flying a kite, or taking an art class. Alongside our kids, let's take every opportunity to try new things, to pause and wonder at God's vastness, His majesty, His delight in beauty. "Giving your children the opportunity to experience many things ... is giving them a big view of God." (Nancy Wilson, *"Why Give Kids a Vacation Anyways?"*, feminagirls.com).

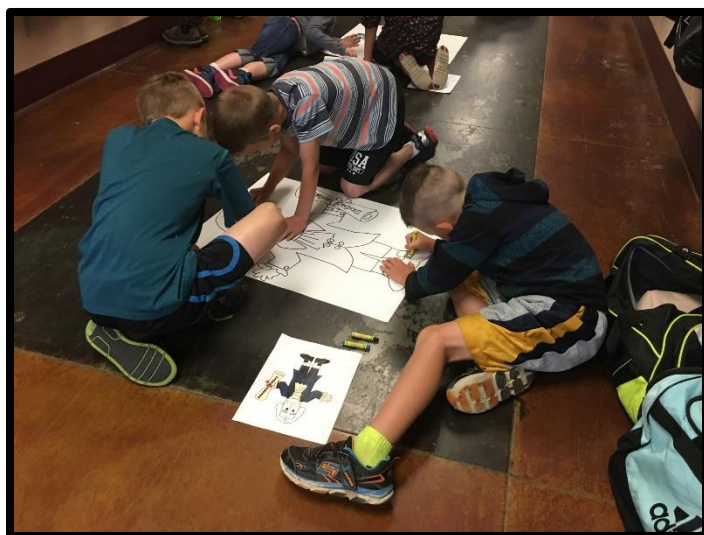
To report on EdComm activities, we are wrapping up our Language Arts curriculum review. Although this has been a big task, as Language Arts has many facets- reading, writing, spelling, grammar, etc-we have made good headway in reviewing what is currently being used, updating the curriculum guides, and developing a Scope and Sequence which lists the set of skills our students should gain through the Language Arts program.

Senior projects are finished, and what a great showcase of the seniors' talents, service, hard work, and love for God. Not only were the final products impressive, but the way the students explained their projects, handled audience questions, and articulated their Christian worldview is to be commended. We wish you God's blessing as you begin a new chapter

in your life; may God use you for great things for His kingdom!

Speaking on a personal level, being on the EdComm has given me another level of appreciation for the time, energy, and dedication that is given by our teachers and principal—in communicating with parents, teaching daily in the classroom with our children, creating engaging lesson plans that are rooted in our Reformed beliefs, working with EdComm on curriculum review and other tasks, and so much more. So, on behalf of the EdComm, and the school community, a huge THANK-YOU to our teaching staff for your passion and tireless efforts in educating our covenant children. Enjoy your summer break and we pray you will come back refreshed and invigorated for another school year!

For the EdComm,
Rianne Kruyswijk



Principal Report

It's officially summer time for the students and teachers at Cornerstone Christian School. The past few weeks, while busy, have been joyful and celebratory as we participated in the graduation ceremonies for our eighth and twelfth grade classes. What a blessing, that in our 15th year of operation, we may continue to educate the children of the covenant so that they are well prepared to use their talents and gifts in His kingdom for his greater glory.

Curiosity

Summer time, hopefully, gives everyone a chance to slow down from the busy routine of school life. Certainly the students will have more time to try their hand at new and exciting endeavors in their work or play. Maybe as our regular commitments slow down, we have more opportunity to explore some deeper questions with our children that we may not have got to during a busy school year.

In a previous issue of the *LINK* – I think I've made reference to a book by Philip Dow called *Virtuous Minds*. I pulled it off the shelf again recently; I highly recommend it as a summer read. The book delves

into the influence our intellectual character, or our thinking habits, have on our decision making process. One of the seven intellectual virtues Dow explores is curiosity. He writes:

...intellectual curiosity remains one of the most important and foundational of the intellectual virtues. Unless we are in the habit of asking the why questions, we will remain in neutral, never growing and never experiencing the richness that comes from a well-examined life. Consider the following classroom dialogue between George, a likeable but goofy high school nerd who seems incapable of stopping himself from asking questions in class, and his teacher, Mr. Jones.

Mr. Jones: "The Pilgrims came to Plymouth in 1620,"

George: "Why did they come? And why then?"

Mr. Jones: "Because they wanted to practice their faith freely."

George: "Why couldn't they do that in Europe?"

Mr. Jones: "Because in Europe there was a close relationship between the established church and a political system which felt threatened by those who believed differently."

George: "Why did the European establishment feel threatened? ...And how did this affect the way the Pilgrims viewed the relationship between religion and politics? ...And how does that affect America today?"

And on and on and on it goes. As annoying as George's questions may be for his peers, and perhaps even his teachers, with each why question, George is peeling back another layer of life's richness and seeing new connections that allow him to think and live a more meaningful, effective and abundant life. We don't need to be in a classroom to ask good question and reap the results. In fact, the same enriching process is probably even more powerful when it is applied to our day-to-day lives.

So, how do teachers promote this kind of curiosity in the classroom? I would submit that it starts in the unit planning stage as teachers decide what big, overarching (or essential) questions will be explored through a study, for example, on the American Civil War or the human circulatory system. It's one thing to teach the facts and the content but quite another thing to have the students engage with and think more deeply about questions that can't be answered with a simple, factual answer. Another way that teachers can promote curiosity in the classroom is through



modelling and establishing a classroom culture where there is *time* for questions and where the students are encouraged to engage in discussions and submit ideas that may 'answer' the 'big' questions.

What about on the home front? How can we, as parents, promote curiosity with our children as we "sit in our houses and walk by the way"? Summer time certainly opens up opportunities to be curious...about the environment around our campsite, the miracle of growth in the garden, the relationship dynamics in the family, ways we may add value to the company we work for and the list goes on. What about those deeper questions our children may be curious about? Maybe questions we were asking when we were young and perhaps never got an answer to until our friends informed us. Or: how do I establish positive, up building relationships with my peers? How do I respectfully work with the advances of someone of the opposite gender? How do I maneuver through negative peer pressure? How do I approach my teacher if I have an issue with a grade, another student or the way I was disciplined? What should I do if I'm feeling really down....or suicidal? How can I go about developing better self-control when I have the urge to be angry, disrespectful or lazy?



Summer time....a time to slow down, to reflect, to focus on relationship, to promote curiosity, to ask those deeper questions and maybe a commitment to setting time aside for those important discussions with our children and each other.

Congratulations

Our hearty congratulations to our 8th grade graduates: Reagan, Maddy, Brent, Joel, Lewis, Samuel, Kierijan, Alayna, Levi, and Desiree. 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: Caleb, Joel, Josh, Kenton, Juanita, Aaron, Riley, Ashleigh, Dallas and Brandon. May the Lord bless you on your way and allow you to build on a solid foundation rooted in Christ's love for you.

We could also rejoice with new life in the family of one of our teachers, Karen (and Andrew) deMooy. All births are a miracle – but I think you'd agree that this one is particularly special. Andrew & Karen, Kyleigh & Mikenzie: congratulations on the birth of a new daughter and sister. We are delighted with you and for you and we wish you the Lord's blessings as you enjoy this new gift from His hand.

Community Connections

One of the chief joys about working at CCS is the willingness of so many to be involved – whether that be serving on a committee, grading work, tutoring, building maintenance, library, coaching a sports team and the list goes on. One thing's for sure – we have a place for everyone to share their gifts in some way. If you have a desire to be more involved next year – drop me a line. Thank-you to all our volunteers for your willingness to share your time and talents for the benefit of our students. I think we do well to impress on our children – how many people work behind the scenes for their benefit.

We're also thankful for the support of the dads who helped out at the Technic Training Center this past year. A special thanks to Kolin Veldman who served as the CCS teacher.

No doubt you've also heard about the recent purchase of the greenhouse. I'd love to hear from anyone who has ideas on how we might leverage this opportunity as part of the school curriculum, particularly for our high school students. Even more, if you have some skills or time to contribute in this capacity – please let me know.

On the topic of electives, you may be interested to know that we've recently had contact with the folks at Cloud Mountain Farm Center, a non-profit educational organization, located just outside Everson. Check them out online for what they're all involved in. We're in discussions with their education director about the possibility of tapping into their programs for a science elective for some of our high school students. Cloud Mountain are currently going through some organization restructuring so our conversations with them will continue in September to see what opportunities (if any) they can provide for our students.

That's all for this issue. 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 28, DV.

Ladies Aid Report

Here we are at the end of our 2017/18 school year! What a blessing it has been. We would like to thank everyone for volunteering and helping to make our fundraisers a success. The Plant Sale did well considering it's new location. Also the Garage Sale is behind us and by all accounts brought in a healthy sum as well.

We are excited to see our Blitz poster filling up. If you do not have your name down, please consider putting it down and joining a committee. Who knows, you might have fun doing it!

After a little back and forth it looks like we are the proud owners of a new greenhouse! We pray that this will be a blessing for the years to come in our community.

We hope to see you at the Cornerstone Cafe at the Fair this summer. Sign up for a shift, it promises to be fun and you will receive free admission. Win, win.....right?!

Enjoy the sun!



Congratulations Class of 2018!
All the best in your future endeavors!



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 24 – Sports Day
 May 27 – Memorial Day
 May 30 – Ascension 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

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	L.A 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
Jack Marissen	Science

High School:

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