

The Lynden LINK



Cornerstone Christian School
~~ Lynden, WA ~~

Vol. 14 - Nu. 3, December 20, 2015

Chairman's Report

As we approach Christmas, we are reminded again of God's great faithfulness to us, His people! What a wonderful gift we have received in the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ! All around us, we see signs that the world hardly even remembers what the real reason for the season is..... instead, reverence and gratitude are completely replaced by consumerism, and preoccupation with giving and receiving "regular" gifts..... how great it is that we as Christians can focus on the greatest gift of all - the birth of our Lord and Savior!

A hearty "thank you" to all members who attended the membership meeting on November 24..... this event marked a record for attendance - 79% of the membership was represented at this meeting, and for that we are very thankful. From the board's perspective, this indicates good support and interest in what goes on at our school. As you'll see elsewhere in the LINK, the board decided to distribute the minutes of the membership meeting via this publication, so what was discussed at the meeting might remain fresh in our minds!

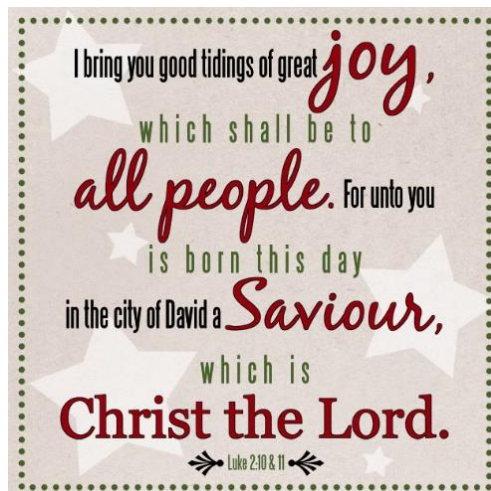
An important part of this meeting pertained to the long term financial picture for our school. Our outgoing treasurer John Doornbos shared a presentation that outlined some of the realities and challenges pertaining to the finances of our school. We are in excellent financial shape right now, and in a good position to be able to address a challenge we see on the horizon, namely that the revenue we currently generate via tuition, pledge drive and fundraising is slightly lower than the cost of running the school. Making a good plan now is prudent for us all, since we have the time and resources to do good plan now is

the time and resources to do so (as opposed to waiting until we are in a more urgent situation), which is why it was brought to the membership's attention at this opportunity. As the board prepares the budget for next year, we anticipate that there will be modest increases in tuition, pledge drive requirements and/or fundraising requirements. It was very helpful to hear input from members at the meeting, and also to receive feedback via email and verbally afterwards. If you have input regarding this matter, please feel free to contact the board via any of the board members. As was pointed out at the membership meeting, we can be thankful that the Lord has always provided amply for our society, and that we have been able to operate tremendously well for 14 years with his rich blessing! We trust that he will continue to provide for us in all things!

In addition to the presentations and discussions at the meeting (which you can read about in the minutes), the membership elected two new board members, Jeff Brown and Steve Hofford, and said "farewell" to two outgoing board members, Eric Brown and John Doornbos.

Congratulations to the two incoming board members. We wish you the Lord's blessing as you fulfill this role for the coming 3 years. We pray that He will give you the necessary wisdom and strength as you serve in this capacity. May you find this work to be enjoyable and rewarding!

Also, a final "thank you" to the 2 outgoing board members. Each of them served selflessly and effectively for the previous 3 years, and is leaving their incoming replacements with a well ordered and tidy portfolio to take over.



Thank you, gentlemen, for your excellent work! We hope you will be able to enjoy a bit of rest & relaxation in the coming while.

At our first board meeting with the new board, which took place on December 7, Jeff Brown was appointed to be the Secretary of the School Board, and Steve Hofford was appointed to the role of Treasurer. We thank these brothers for their willingness to serve in these capacities!

What a privilege we have in an institution like Cornerstone Christian School, where our children are taught in the fear of the Lord, and where what is taught is a complement to what our kids learn at home and at church! We have been greatly blessed with this school, and we thank the Lord for what he has given us in it.

On behalf of the board, we wish the staff and students the Lord's blessing in the Christmas season and in the New Year. May you have an enjoyable and relaxing time away from the regular routine of school, and may you return with renewed energy and enthusiasm in the New Year!

Cason VanDriel



Upcoming Events

Jan. 4 - 1st day of School 2016
Jan. 18 – Martin Luther King Day
Jan. 22 – HS 2nd Qtr Reports
Jan. 25 & 26 – HS P/T Conferences
Feb. 11&12 – Mid-Winter Break
Feb. 15 – Presidents Day
Mar. 4 – Elem Term 2 Reports
Mar. 7&9 – Elem P/T Conferences

Short Reports of the Board

Short Report, December 7, 2015

Due to changes in board membership, the second half of the meeting was held first. The chairman, C. VanDriel, opened the meeting with a reading of Prov. 25 and prayer. New board members were welcomed. Minutes from the second half of the November 2nd meeting were approved without changes. The proposed agenda was adopted with minor changes.

Roles were assigned to the incoming board members as follows: Secretary – Jeff Brown; Treasurer – Steve Hofford.

Incoming mail was received and dealt with appropriately.

The outgoing treasurer, J. Doornbos, shared his final report with the board, touching on several topics, including news of an initial loan for the Finance Committee's Home Building Project, an update on new membership recruitment, an update on outstanding tuition, and an update on property pledges.

The Endowment Fund Committee presented legal options for enabling Canadians to contribute to the

school and its Endowment Fund. After a recommendation by the committee, the Board agreed to move forward with the pursuit of one particular option.

Other general matters were discussed.

After a short break, the meeting resumed with the welcoming of the principal, D. Kleyn. Minutes from the first half of the November 2nd meeting were approved without changes. Minutes from the membership meeting, November 24th, were also approved without change. The agenda was adopted with two additions.

Incoming mail was received and dealt with appropriately.

The chairman and principal expressed appreciation for the work of the outgoing treasurer and secretary and thanked them for their work. The treasurer responded with his own gratitude and left the meeting. The secretary was absent with notice.

The principal shared his latest report with the board and shared in a discussion on how best to handle interactions/meetings with interested, prospective

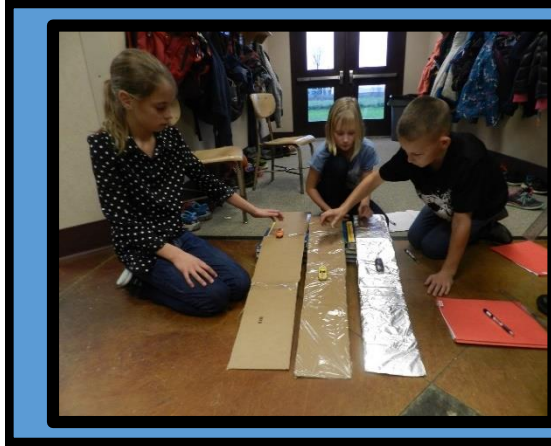
members from outside our own church community. Advice was given by the board. An update is requested and given regarding the visa renewal process for a current staff member.

The CBM reports that the term of A. Demooy has ended. Kam Veldman has accepted an appointment to the CBM as replacement. An additional update is given on recent work done by the CBM.

The Ed Comm reports that the terms of K. Leyenhorst and R. Faber are at an end. Candidates for replacement are discussed and will be contacted shortly.

In general matters, the annual calendar was reviewed. The principal presented more information regarding the establishment of school and principal evaluations, and a desire to establish a more defined long-term (5-10 year) school strategy plan. The fall membership meeting was reviewed. The next board meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 4th at 7:30pm.

K. Veldman closed the meeting with prayer.



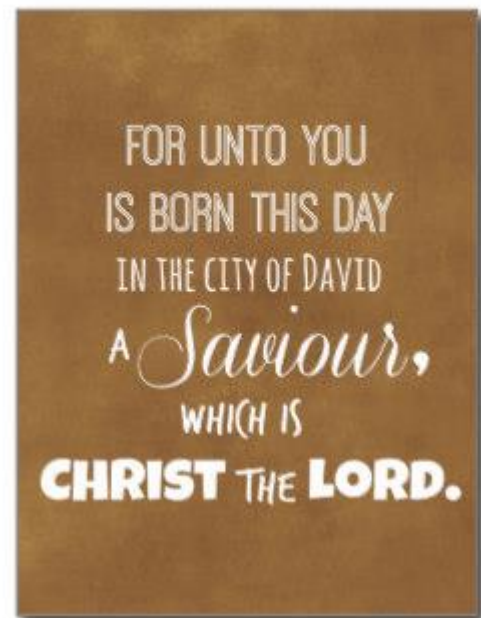
Treasurer Report

Greetings from your new treasurer! I'm happy to be able to take a role in administering the financial aspects of the association. I am thankful for those who have done this in previous years, and I look forward to building on the good work that has been done by many members, in many different areas. I also look forward to working with the other board members on other areas of administration. It is good to join a team of capable co-directors and I hope to learn much from their combined experience.

Having just started, I don't have a lot of specific information to report this time. We have begun to evaluate the feedback that came out of the Fall Membership Meeting, and we will continue to consider what we have heard as we develop the 2016-2017 budget.

The board has decided to pursue setting up a Canadian charitable organization in order to broaden the appeal of contributing to the endowment fund. While the success of this endeavor is not certain, we have been advised that it is reasonable to believe we can do it. The process will incur some costs, but we are confident that increased financial contributions will fairly quickly offset the expenses.

Thank you for your ongoing financial commitment to the school. Until next time, Steve Hofford



Ed Comm Report

Serving under the auspices of the School Board, the Education Committee takes seriously its mandate to “keep itself informed regarding the academic quality and Scriptural character of the instruction given....” We are so grateful for our principal--who serves as a liaison between us and the Board, and between us and the school--for his diligence in keeping all important and pertinent matters before us regularly.

One of the first matters we attended to this fall was seeing that the school web site was updated and upgraded. We have sought to make information easily accessible to parents, first of all, but also to those outside our community who wish to learn about us. The menu has been reworked, confusing things were eliminated, information about the history of the school and curriculum added. Many thanks to Jolene Faber for applying her expertise to this project! If you have not already, please check out our redesigned website.

Planning for college and careers can be a confusing process to navigate. We have worked to compile information from various sources in the hope that helpful information about course selection, schedules, scholarships, and vocational training can

be disseminated to parents and students who wish to receive some guidance in these areas.

Mr. Marrison, in order to make Science more hands-on, has been doing a trial on a new textbook for Grades 9/10. The Ed Comm has also looked at this textbook, discussing the pro's and the con's of the old book vs. this one. For a number of reasons, we determined that it would be in the best interest of the students to purchase this new text. We are now looking into alternatives to the current 7/8 Science textbook.

Each year, Mr. Chase does an exceptional job

overseeing senior projects, guiding students through every stage, and seeing them through to the end: the presentations in the spring. To assist him in this weighty task, the Ed Comm will now review senior project letters of intent at the beginning of the school year as well as helping to evaluate the projects at the end of the year.

Once in the fall and once in the spring, the Ed Comm hosts information meetings for the membership concerning topics of interest and benefit to the school. The most recent information evening was excellent, when Antoon Breen challenged our minds and our hearts when he spoke to us about what it means that we are a confessional school. We are now considering topics for the spring meeting. If members have any wishes or suggestions, please make these known to us in the next two weeks.

For the Education Committee, Ellen Davis



IT & CBM Report

As 2015 comes to a close, we are truly thankful for what our Heavenly Father has blessed us with. We thank Him for our building and the ability to maintain it.

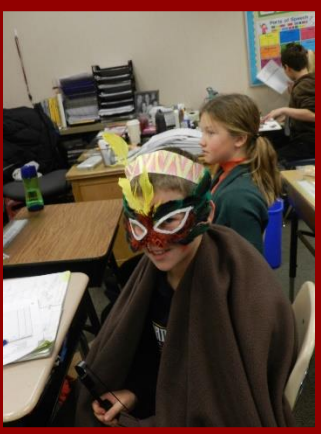
I would like to start with a big "Thank You" to three members of our committee whose term has come to an end. Jolene Vreugdenhil has been the head janitor of the school for the past three years. *We thank her for the dedication and hard work in scheduling and seeing to it that our school is spic and span.* Andrew DeMooy has worked hard on the CBM, his willingness and expertise will be missed. Steve Hofford has been on the IT committee and his

knowledge and insight in the systems that run our school are very much appreciated.

For our safety you may have noticed the curb in front of the gym has been painted a bright orange color as several people have fallen not realizing there is a step. Please use caution this time of year as our lighting in the parking lot is not the greatest, especially when the day light is so short.

We are happy to report that other than the expected small items that need adjustment or repairs our school is performing well. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ron Faber



Book Character Day



Principal Report.....Mr. Darryn Kleyn

Without the gospel everything is useless and vain; without the gospel we are not Christians; without the gospel all riches is poverty, all wisdom folly before God; strength is weakness, and all the justice of man is under the condemnation of God. But by the knowledge of the gospel we are made children of God, brothers of Jesus Christ, fellow townsmen with the saints, citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, heirs of God with Jesus Christ, by whom the poor are made rich, the weak strong, the fools wise, the sinner justified, the desolate comforted, the doubting sure, and slaves free. It is the power of God for the salvation of all those who believe.

Reflecting on these words of John Calvin, we can rejoice in the wonderful reality of *knowing* the gospel! In this upcoming holiday season, as the world is in turmoil around us, we are assured of the gift of Jesus Christ coming into the world to save us from our sins.

Theme in Action

Calvin's response to the reality and depth of Christ's love comes out in his creed or motto: "I offer my heart to Thee, O Lord, promptly and sincerely". Calvin desired to sacrifice all to the service of the Lord.

At Cornerstone we may do the same as we put 'our' theme for the year, into action. As parents and teachers, we set the example for our children/students in how this is lived out. A few obvious ways in which this is being done with joy:

- Dedicated parents who serve on committees to enhance the smooth operation of the school.
- Competent secretary and book keeper who diligently work to keep things functioning in good order.
- Enthusiastic coaches who demonstrate an interest in our students' welfare beyond the court



- Passionate teachers who consistently teach and look for those “shining eyes” (and once in a while recall rule #6 ☺)
- Devoted volunteers working in the classroom, behind the score bench, in the background -updating the website, cleaning the facilities, providing the ‘personal touch’ on bulletin boards etc.
- Committed community members who contribute to fundraising efforts and put their ‘shoulder to the wheel’ through their donations and volunteer efforts.

Indeed, there are many ways to offer our heart to the Lord and his service, through our activity in the school setting. At the same time it should be said - that acts of service are just one of the ways that we can respond in thankfulness. We can certainly be thankful that the next generation is responding to and using the good gifts the Lord has given them. Our student leadership team (STAMP) is active in promoting and ‘staging’ events such as dress-up days and more recently, a ping pong tournament in the high school. Way to go, students! You too are an example for the younger students. It has also been pleasing to see the older students thanking guest speakers at our school-wide assemblies. Students keep embracing opportunities to enhance your leadership skills.

The junior/senior class are anticipating a trip to the East coast in the spring. To that end, the students, and in particular a group of boys, are busy



selling firewood around the county. Keep up the good work, gents! The funds are rolling in and

you're getting close to your goal.

Reading Month

During the month of November, the students were involved in reading month through buddy



readings, collecting reading minutes, a Book Character dress-up day and the ever-exciting event for the younger students – the Snuggle Up and Read on a Friday evening at school. We're very grateful

for the activities that Mrs.J. Faber coordinates each and every year, to promote reading in the school and at home.

Christmas Program

If all things went to plan our Christmas Program was a wonderful time of singing and rejoicing. A hearty thank-you to Mrs. Schouten, our experienced conductor, and Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Veldman, our master accompanists. It's a blessing to have such fine musicians in our community and we're thankful for the leadership and inspiration you provide to our students during the practices and throughout the concert itself.

Dad's Day

Once again, we'd like to invite the dads to the classrooms in the New Year. We've chosen the

morning of Tuesday, January 12 at 8:15. It's our way of giving you the opportunity to see the classes in action which many of our moms see on a regular basis. Let me know if you're interested in attending and I'll setup a schedule – so that everyone doesn't end up in the same classroom at the same time. ☺

Sports Program

The basketball season is up and running for our high school students. They all participate in the Cornerstone-hosted league – the Northwest Youth Basketball League. This year the league has five teams in the A-division, six teams in the B-division and 4 teams in the girls division. We're pleased with our committed referees and scorers who ensure a smooth running event each Tuesday and Thursday evening. I'm also thankful for Mr. Nederveen's support and his willingness to serve as on-site manager on some the evenings. If you're interested in catching a game you can check out the schedule at www.nwyouthbb.com.

As another year draws to a close we can be thankful for God's gracious care over our lives. While we don't know what the New Year will bring, we can be sure that all our striving will not be in vain if we do our work to His honor and glory. I wish you all a festive Christmas season and God's blessings in the year of our Lord 2016.

Ladies Aid Report

Just a quick update from Ladies Aid:

Wreaths were a success, with a final profit of \$892.48. A big thank you to all who came out to help and to the committee members for their hard work in making this a success!

One change to the Ladies Aid has been the addition of a bookkeeper. Karla Leyenhorst has cheerfully agreed to take on this role, and we are thankful for her skills in making the money side of things work more efficiently.

Also, we'd like to give a quick reminder about turning in orders for Ladies Aid. The secretary now has a lock box in the school foyer if you need to turn orders/money into the front desk. If she is not there, please place them in her box. This eliminates confusion for the secretary and keeps money more secure. If you are simply leaving payment for an ongoing (cookbooks or dish brushes) or past Ladies Aid fundraisers, please place them in the Ladies Aid/Bookkeeper lock box. As in the past, you can also turn orders into a committee member or to your child's teacher.

Thank you!

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas break, and praying that the peace of Christ and the joy of His birth surrounds you throughout the holiday season!

The Ladies Aid Board – Rianne Kruyswijk



From all the staff here at Cornerstone

*Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*

2016



From the Grade 1/2 Classroom

Awesome Alliterations From Grade 1

Fei is finally finding fancy flowers in the field on Friday.

Cool Kyle rides kangaroos.

Daring Dylan dances with Dad in December.

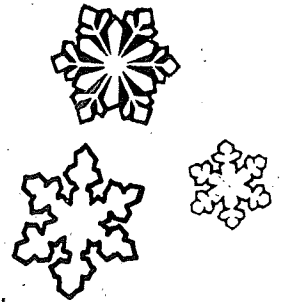
Casey counts cats and cows from Canada.

Brave Briana bakes banana bread for breakfast.

Kind Claire is counting her class.

Mya mixes mushy marshmallows on Monday.

Caring Kayleigh kisses a can in Canada.



Adam adds apples.

Zippy Zach zips on the zip line.

Jolly Jessie jump ropes in January.

Joyful Justin jumps on the jungle gym.

WINTER

(written by grade 2)

Bare trees sleeping

Scrumptious aliebollen gobbling

Frigid snowflakes tumbling

Dangerous snowballs throwing

Long skis zipping

Hard icicles cracking

Special program singing

Snuggly snow pants handing

Holy Jesus adoring



2015 – 2016 School Calendar

Aug. 25 – First Day of School
 Sept. 7 – Labor Day
 Oct. 8 – In-Service Day
 Oct. 9 – Fall Break
 Oct. 12 – Columbus Day
 Oct. 14 – PSAT Test Date
 Oct. 30 – HS First Qtr Reports
 Nov. 2,3 – HS P/T Conferences
 Nov. 11- Veteran's Day
 Nov. 25 – Elem First Term Reports
 Nov. 26 – Thanksgiving Day
 Nov. 27 – Thanksgiving Break
 Nov. 30 – Elem P/T Conferences
 Dec. 2 – Elem P/T Conferences
 Dec 17- Christmas Concert
 Dec 18- Last Day of School 2015
 Dec 21 – Jan 1 - Christmas Break
 Jan 4 - Return to School 2016

Jan 18 - Martin Luther King Day
 Jan 22- HS Second Quarter Reports
 Jan 25,26- HS P/T Conferences
 Feb 11,12 - Mid-Winter Break
 Feb. 15 - President's Day
 Mar 4 - Elementary Report Cards - Term 2
 Mar 7,9 - Elementary P/T Conferences
 Mar 24 - High School Third Quarter Reports
 Mar 25 - Good Friday
 Apr 4 - 8 Spring Break
 April 29 - Professional Development Day
 April 29 – Public Speaking Contest
 May 5 - Ascension Day
 May 27 - Sports Day
 May 30 - Memorial Day
 June 3 - Eighth Grade Graduation
 June 6 – Quad School Track Meet
 June 10 - Last Day of School/ Senior Graduation

Board:

Chairman: Cason VanDriel
 Vice-Chairman: Henry Klos
 Building Liaison: Ron Faber
 Secretary: Jeff Brown
 Treasurer: Steve Hofford
 Staff & Membership Admin Kolin Veldman

Building/Maintenance Committee

Dave Burger Ron Faber
 Jon Kruyswijk Terry VanDiest
 Kam Veldman

Education Committee

Jon Dykstra Ranelle Faber
 Darryn Kleyn Ellen Davis
 Karla Leyenhorst Henry Klos

IT Committee

Ray Buitenbos Ron Faber
 Steve Hofford Jack Marissen

Finance Committee

Janice DeMooy Rick Faber
 Brian Hendricks Dave Hofford
 Steve Hofford Louise Willis

Library Committee

Ellen Davis Shona Doornbos
 Debbie Johnson Karla Leyenhorst

Ladies Aid Committee

Janet Brown Kaylene Hofford
 Rianne Kruyswijk Kim Sytsma

Office Staff

Darryn Kleyn Principal
 Karla Leyenhorst Bookkeeper
 Kari VanDiest Secretary

Teaching Staff

Grade 1/2:

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

Grade 3/4:

Debbie Johnson
 Stephen Houweling Math 4
 Ellen Davis L.A 4, Music
 Edmund Nederveen History
 Darryn Kleyn PE

Grade 5/6:

Lynette Van Hofwegen
 Ellen Davis Music
 Edmund Nederveen PE

Grade 7/8:

Stephen Houweling
 Edmund Nederveen History, PE
 Debbie Faber Art
 Jack Marissen Science

High School:

Wayne Chase Ref Stu./History/English/Math
 Debbie Faber Art
 Stephen Houweling Behind The Scenes
 Darryn Kleyn PE, Comp.Studies, Bus.Math
 Edmund Nederveen Geography, English
 Jack Marissen Science, Math
 Darlene VanStaalduinen Spanish
 Irene Hicks Life Skills - Cooking
 Karen DeMooy Life Skills - Sewing

