

### *In This Issue.....*

Chairman's Report.....1	IT Report.....4
Short Reports.....2	Principal's Report.....5
Treasurer Report.....2	Ladies Aid Report.....6
Ed Comm.....3	Calendar & Staff.....7
CBM Report.....3	Box Tops.....8



## **Chairman's Report.....Mr. Cason VanDriel**

A big "welcome" to the 2015/16 school year at Cornerstone Christian School to all students, parents, volunteers and staff!

We trust that you have enjoyed the time away from the regular routine of school and that you've been able to relax, and to enjoy the magnificent weather we've been blessed with this summer!

If you've been by the school recently, you know that things are in full swing already! The building has been cleaned from top to bottom by a diligent crew of volunteers. The staff members are busy preparing their rooms for this year's crop of new students, and in general, a spirit of optimism about the new year can be seen all around!

Our principal will elaborate more about the roles each teacher will have this coming year, but for the Chairman's report, I'd like to make mention of 2 new faces we'll be seeing at CCS this coming year.

Mrs. Shari Kruyswijk - what a summer it has been for Mrs. Kruyswijk..... moving from Michigan to Washington, getting married, and now, starting a new job at a new school! Shari, we wish you the Lord's blessing in your new role here at Cornerstone Christian School! We pray that the Lord will give you what you need, and that you will feel right at home here in short order.

Mr. Edmund Nederveen - Mr. Nederveen arrived on the west coast just last week from his home province of Ontario! He hasn't even had time to settle in yet, and he's already buckling down and getting to work at school! Edmund, we are glad you are here, and we wish you the Lord's blessing in your task here at Cornerstone. We pray you'll also feel like CCS is your home right away. We admit that we have a bias, but we think Cornerstone and Lynden are a pretty good place to be!

And of course, we extend a hearty welcome to all of our returning staff members as well! We hope that you had a relaxing summer, and that you are fully energized and rejuvenated for another year of school! We wish you the Lord's blessing as you resume your task, and we thank him for what he has provided our school society in such a dedicated and caring staff!

Folks, this marks the 14th year of operations for Cornerstone Christian School. That number seems a big number for a school that still seems so new and fresh! We can reflect with much gratitude on the blessings we have received as a Christian School Society from our Heavenly Father..... we have an excellent principal, a dedicated and caring staff, a host of willing volunteers, cooperative students, supportive parents, a beautiful facility and resources to support the continued operation of this school. Each of these is something that can easily be taken for granted, so it bears repeating regularly: We have much to be thankful for!

On behalf of the school board, I wish all students, parents, volunteers and staff a great school year!

In conclusion, we thank the Lord for His goodness to us, and we ask for His continued blessing on us as a school society.

## **Short Report of the Board.....**

### **Short Report, Cornerstone Christian School Board**

**August 3, 2015**

The chairman C. VanDriel opened the meeting with a reading of Proverbs 20, and then led in prayer. The board minutes for the first half of the June 8, 2015 meeting were approved without changes. The published agenda was adopted without changes.

Due to the summer break, there were no principal's or Ed Comm reports for the board to discuss. R. Faber reported that the CBM had not met since the last board meeting, but will soon. The Inspire group was set to move out the week of August 1, which gave the CBM more time than expected to get ready for the 2015/16 school year. Regarding IT, it was approved that the committee move ahead with the mandate to purchase five new computers for the upcoming year.

The board reviewed the master calendar for important dates, and looked over past action items, including a review of the school's website, and a possible formulation of a policy regarding personal vehicle use for school purposes.

The next regular board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 8th at 7:30 in the school building.

The board continued to the second half of the meeting, and approved the minutes from the second half of the board meeting on June 8th, 2015. The published agenda was adopted without additions.

J. Doornbos shared his latest report with the board. The board discussed the tuition and dues report, and the current state of the annual pledge drive and the true cost of education per family.

K. Veldman reported on a few staff & membership items, including the arrival and visa status of Edmund Nederveen.

Past action items were reviewed, and J. Doornbos led in prayer to close the meeting.

## **Treasurer Report.....Mr. John Doornbos**

This report will get to you virtually on the eve of another school year starting... I'm confident most of us are looking forward to this restart, some with eager anticipation and others with uncertainty on what the new school year will bring. In any regard, everyone is sure to be keenly aware of this important day and awaiting its arrival. May God bless each one of you in your role as you do your part to ensure a good kick-off and an 'uneventful' school year.

Although activity around the school appeared to go into hibernation this summer, there was still some important activity going on behind the scenes. One of which is that we as board have successfully completed the operating pledge drive for the 2015/16 school year. Our target was to get \$80,000 of pledges and we are happy to report that this was achieved. Thank you for once again committing the resources to make this all come together. We are continually thankful in how it all comes together each and every year.

That being said, at our summer meeting the board took some time to reflect on the origination, process, and appropriateness of the Operating Pledge. The Operating Pledge was first introduced when the high school was added and at that time it was considered a short term income bridge to meet the additional costs of starting our own high school. The expectation was that once twelfth grade was added, the regular tuition would cover all of our annual operating costs; this hasn't happened. Questions that follow are ones like; is the current system equitable? Does this system make it too easy for some families to defer their financial obligation to others? On the other hand, would eliminating the operating pledge make things too difficult on some families, perhaps causing them to reconsider their commitment to the school? Does the current system encroach on the diaconate's role in the church by, in essence, acting as a tuition assistance program? Would it be more appropriate to raise tuition and allow families to work out how they would meet that on their own? Eliminating the operating pledge would add about \$125/month to the tuition cost for each family with children in the school. Topics like this have reached the board table a number of times so we've tentatively planned to bring this conversation to the entire membership at our fall membership meeting. In the meantime please take some time to ponder on this in advance!

The 2014/15 financial year came to an end on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Over the next couple of months we'll be analyzing the data to see how we performed relative to the budget we approved in April 2014. We had budgeted for a \$20,000 shortfall and were projecting that we might be able to improve on that when we developed the current year budget in April 2015 however we won't know the final outcome for another month or two. Regardless, we can be thankful that our financial situation is healthy. We have not had reason to use our line of credit for a number of years nor have we had need to dip into our reserves. In fact in the meantime we have been

able to purchase land and pay it off on-time. Although now, with the property loan being paid off, our cash flow situation will be tighter. As such we're hopeful that with operating pledges paid early and tuition/dues being paid on time we should be able to avoid a cash flow crunch.

In conclusion, let's continue to pray that God grants each one of us what we need as we get engaged in the upcoming school year. No doubt there will be challenges that arise which will require amongst other things, wisdom, patience, and love for our neighbor!

## **Ed Comm Report.....Mrs. Karla Leyenhorst**

Here we are again, with the Lord's blessing, at the start of another new school year. Since it's still two weeks until Labor Day, and no other schools (that I know of) are starting until next week, some may be feeling like we're missing out on a week of summer. It doesn't help that it's also just days after the local Northwest Washington Fair which usually means summer break is winding down and not that it's already over. But alas! We have had the usual 10 weeks of summer break so school must begin!.... But why oh why are we starting a week before many schools in the area and in some cases even ending (a wee bit) later? I, like many of you, have wondered this very thing so, on behalf of the Ed Com, I hope to explain...

1. Back when the school began the decision was made to base our school year on days (180 per year) rather than on hours which is what many of the local schools do and (as far as we know) there hasn't been a real push or desire to change this.

2. We also have a few more holidays on our school calendar than other local schools do. (Perhaps this is where we match more what our friends/families across the border do - but start and end two weeks sooner than they do.)

3. In the case of having to cancel school for any reason we still have few days of lee-way before we need to stress about making up those days of missed classes. (I understand that under the same circumstances other schools may be extending their school year or adjusting school holidays before we would have to consider it.)

For further thought, those who think a later start date is better often argue that the weather is usually nicer in late August than in June. This may be true but I've also heard it argued that if the weather is nice in early June it is very difficult to keep the kids focused on school work while the nice September weather doesn't seem to have the same effect. It seems to me this also may be true.

That being said, I would also like to include some quick details about Labor Day falling on the latest date possible, the 7<sup>th</sup> of September. Since 1992 this has only happened four times (1992, 1998, 2009 & 2015). We (this also includes me☺) do well to realize that it is roughly only once every 6 -7 years that we will have two weeks of school before Labor Day (of course Leap years will cause this to be less or more). Suddenly our situation doesn't seem all that bad after all. For those who still aren't convinced that this is o-k, at least we can be thankful for a beautiful early summer that has already lasted much longer than we're used to, and, so you have time to prepare, (unless things change) the next time this happens will be in 2020. – Sorry, Leap year is not in our favor next time around☹.

In closing, as Ed Com we look forward to another year of work and wish all teachers and students a wonderful year. We especially welcome our new teachers and wish them well in our school & community. We thank the Lord that you have arrived safely and on time. Finally, since the senior project presentations are always the highlight of the year for Ed Com members and a culminating event for the senior students, we also wish them all the best as they plan and begin their senior projects. (I understand one student may have already completed his...way to go!) Seniors, we pray that all your efforts will be blessed and that you will, in turn, be a blessing to others in this your final year at Cornerstone. Have a great year everyone!

## **CBM Report.....Mr. Ron Faber**

Welcome back to the start of another school year! I would like to start by thanking all those involved in moving our furniture and supplies back into the classrooms once again. It is a busy week moving all our stuff out and then back into the classrooms....but we can all agree renting out the school to Inspire is well worth the effort. They once again have used our school and turned it over in fantastic shape. Hats off to Inspire for doing such a great job with maintaining and cleaning the building.

CBM has been busy with small ongoing maintenance items; nothing major to report on. Thank you to the committee for staying on top of the school's needs.

## **IT Report.....Mr. Ron Faber**

IT committee has had a busy week getting all the computers up and running after moving back in to the classrooms. Five new computers have been purchased and installed in our yearly maintenance to replace the oldest machines. In the past we have had problems with connectivity to the internet. Students and staff have had many issues in logging on. Several changes have been made to routers and the network that should make things much better. It will be monitored closely as the year goes on. We are hopeful the changes made are enough as the other options would require a significant investment. We wish all a blessed 2015/2016 school year!

## **Principal Report.....Mr. Darryn Kleyn**

A hearty welcome back to the start of a new school year. Sometimes it seems a bit surreal to be starting up again. It seems that it wasn't that long ago that we were saying farewell to our seniors and here we are again on the cusp of a new school year! I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing summer break and have renewed energy to begin our regular tasks again.

God's care over us has been truly evident. There were no major accidents affecting our families. The Lord has kept us safe on our travels. The sunny weather has been spectacular. And there is seemingly no end to the beauty that is the Pacific Northwest. There is certainly lots to see and do and plenty of opportunity to marvel at the creative and sustaining power of our Almighty God.

### **Welcome**

Right off the bat, we are delighted to welcome two new staff members to the Cornerstone community. Mrs. Shari Kruyswijk married Dave over the summer which brings her very close to the school, certainly geographically. She is excited to bring her experience to the grade 1/2 classroom. The Lord has also been gracious in directing the visa application for Mr. Edmund Nederveen. He slipped through customs in Toronto without a raised eyebrow and arrived in Seattle last week. He will bring his experience to a wide ranging teaching portfolio from 3rd grade into the high school. A big welcome to you both and we're sure that you'll both be wonderful contributors to life at Cornerstone Christian School.

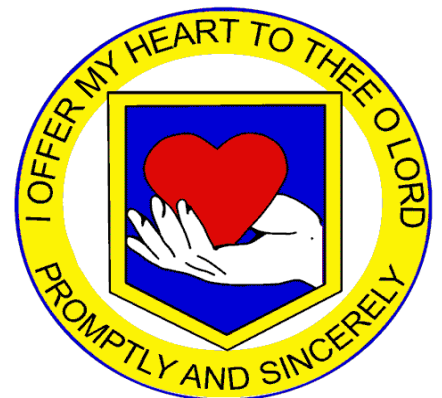
We're also excited to welcome some new first grade students: Kayleigh, Adam, Kyle, Claire, Fei, Mya, Justin, Briana, Dylan, Jessie, Zachary and Casey. You'll notice that their parents are 'old pros' when it comes to school life, so no special welcome to any new parents. I'm sure our treasurer noticed this quite some time ago already ;-). In the high school, we welcome Grant Heystek who comes to us from Covenant Christian School.

### **School Theme**

As colleagues, we've enjoyed meeting together this past week. We've discussed our roles, our vision, our learning – why we do what we do. We love teaching and we are excited to teach our young brothers and sisters in the Lord. We do this hand-in-hand with you, the parents. We also discussed a school theme for this year - one that would build on what we've unpacked and discussed in recent years. In the past we've looked at using our unique talents in God's service. Last year we focused on "walking in His pathways for Christ-centered service". This coming year we've chosen a theme that you may already recognize: "I offer my heart to Thee, O Lord, promptly and sincerely". This was the reformer, John Calvin's, motto. We thought this builds nicely on our previous themes of service. This aims at the "heart" of how and why we serve; the way we should approach our work and leisure time. We look forward to unpacking this further at the opening assembly and the subsequent assemblies throughout the year.

### **Gradelink Update**

Over the summer, Gradelink, our online school administration system/company, has added some timely updates. You may recall that each family just had the one log-in which meant that parents and children in the family shared one username and password. This meant that siblings could access each other's grades and information. Now, parents and students have their own account allowing for parents to access all their children's information including grades, attendance, discipline, report cards and transcripts, while each student will only have access to their own information. Along with these changes came the necessity to add some new log-in information. We will email the new account log-ins in the coming week.



## **Website**

Our school website has also received an overhaul. Jolene Faber has been busy updating the layout of our home page, changing up the menus, and generally sprucing up the individual pages with new content and pictures. We have also added some new pages which will need some content added over the next few months. In the meantime, you can check out the progress at [www.cornerstoneschool.us](http://www.cornerstoneschool.us). Thank-you, Jolene! Your expertise in web design are much appreciated!

## **First Day**

The first day of school is this coming Tuesday, August 25. 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.

## **Absences**

You're reminded that if your children are absent on any particular day we would appreciate an email sent to [absent@cornerstoneschool.us](mailto:absent@cornerstoneschool.us) by 8:15am. Please refrain from emailing directly to a teacher or our secretary. Most of our children have multiple teachers and it's preferable that all teachers are in the loop for all absentees. In addition, in the event of a fire (drill) – teachers will be able to remind each other if someone is away. Thank-you in advance for your cooperation.

## **Yearbook**

During the summer months, Emma Doornbos, on behalf of the yearbook committee, has 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 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders who contributed their design and written expertise to a few pages each. Thank-you to Mr. Houweling and the yearbook committee for your leadership and special attention to this project.

## **Volunteers**

I'd like to acknowledge the work of those who have done a marvelous job to prepare the school for the new school year. As you are probably aware, we are on a fairly tight schedule as we farewell the Inspire group and as the staff prepare their classrooms. First of all, thank-you to the CBM and IT committees under the leadership of Ron Faber, who have worked diligently to get the furniture back in place and computers technology up and running. Secondly, thank-you to all our mom volunteers, under the leadership of Jolene Vreugdenhil, who did a great job to ensure the building is at its sparkling best again. As staff, we are very appreciative of your efforts to get us up and going ASAP after our renters left. We're hoping that we can welcome many parents into the school in some volunteer capacity as a support to the teachers this year. Keep an eye out for a list of volunteer opportunities in the first edition of the *Cornerstone Contact* coming out this week.

## **Gearing Up**

As colleagues, we're looking forward to kicking off another school year. We covet your prayers and support as we begin this worthwhile endeavor – “telling the coming generation the ways of the Lord”. May we all look to our Father in Heaven for all the things we need to fulfill our task and calling.

## **Ladies Aid Report.....Mrs. Shona Doornbos**

Since summer is our slow time there isn't much to report on. One activity that we were involved in (just last week) was the Dairy Booth at the NWWF. We are grateful for the support that we received from many of you who took a turn in manning the booth. A huge thank you goes to Stephanie Bareman who willingly and cheerfully spent time in the task of recruiting our volunteers!

The only other thing to note is that the term of two board members, Louise Willis and Shona Doornbos, will be finished in September. At that time we will have a general membership meeting in which we will fill their vacant positions. Please prayerfully consider filling a position on the board.

Enjoy the start of a new school year and a new opportunity to support our school and glorify God in our volunteer work.



### **BOXTOP\$ for Education! Bonus time!!!!**

Attached to this Link/Contact you will once again find a paper promoting the Boxtop\$ for Education (BTFE) program. Please consider doing this for our school. All proceeds go to the Library which has many volunteers that work hard at keeping our children interested in reading good wholesome material.

-Take the handout and put it somewhere you & your family will be reminded to cut these out. If you assign a collection jar and have a scissor in it, it makes it even easier for everyone in your family to clip them.

-While we did not reach last year's goal of \$750 we did earn \$452.10 which is more than 1½ times what we raised the previous year. Since we can still raise MUCH more money I've left our goal for this new school year at \$750.00.

-There are lots of BONUS BOXTOPS out there right now on back-to-school items as well as many other things so be on the lookout for them.

-When mailed out, postage is paid by the weight of the package so it is important that we have as little extra weight on them as possible. (If you can clip them along the dotted lines and peel the extra paper off the back of the heavier ones this helps me and my children out immensely.)

-Their website, **boxtops4education.com**, has a lot of info. You can even sign up and see firsthand how our school is doing. Please note: If you sign up for the **safeway justforu eboxtops** you are already registered for the BTFE website!

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me!

Your BOXTOP\$ coordinator,

Karla Leyenhorst 988-0605 or [dkleyenhorst@frontier.com](mailto:dkleyenhorst@frontier.com)



# 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  
 Mar 28 - Apr 1 Spring Break  
 April 29 - Professional Development Day  
 May 5 - Ascension Day  
 May 6 - Public Speaking Contest  
 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:	Eric Brown
Treasurer:	John Doornbos
Staff & Membership Admin	Kolin Veldman

## Building/Maintenance Committee

Dave Burger	Andrew DeMooy
Ron Faber	Jon Kruyswijk
Terry VanDiest	

## 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

John Doornbos	Janice DeMooy
Rick Faber	Brian Hendricks
Dave Hofford	Louise Willis

## Library Committee

Ellen Davis	Shona Doornbos
Debbie Johnson	Karla Leyenhorst

## Ladies Aid Committee

Janet Brown	Shona Doornbos
Kaylene Hofford	Louise Willis

## Office Staff

Darryn Kleyn	Principal
Karla Leyenhorst	Bookkeeper
Kari VanDiest	Secretary

## Teaching Staff

### Grade 1/2:

Shari Faber	
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



# Do YOU clip & collect?

We can do  
**MUCH**  
better!

Some earning stats to peak your interest.

In previous school years we have earned:

2010/11 → \$165.56

2011/12 → \$234.00

2012/13 → \$235.70

2013/14 → \$299.20

2014/15 → \$452.10

2015/16 year end goal?  
**\$750.00**

## Collecting tips:

- Watch for **double boxtop\$ promotions** (at back to school time) & bonus boxtop\$.
- Sign up for **eboxtop\$** at the **safeway justforu** website. When you register for this you can also login to **boxtops4education.com** and see how our school is doing.
- walmart.com** shoppers can also earn **bonus boxtop\$**. Sign up @ **boxtops4education.com!**
- Check out the boxtops4education website for all the products that have boxtop\$ on them and for **coupons for boxtop products**.
- Ask **family & friends** that are not in our school community if they would be willing to collect theirs for you too!

*\*\*Please note that boxtop\$ have expiration dates on them and that you may submit them to me at **ANY** time.\*\**

**Please place them in a bag or envelope and put them in the labeled container on the school's office counter, in my mailbox at church, or you may simply hand them to me!**

**-Karla Leyenhorst**  
**Boxtop\$ coordinator**

What we are **NOT** asking is, for you to spend any more money than you otherwise would. This is extra cash we can earn just by doing our regular shopping!  
Let's make good use of the opportunity!

**Please DO NOT submit**  
**Campbell's Labels for Education.**



← A **GOOD** example of how they should be clipped (right along the dotted lines☺).

A **BAD** example of how they should be clipped.



**Next deadline for submissions is September 20th!**