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From The Chairman.....Mr. James Bareman

While the lingering fantastic weather we have been enjoying might lull us into thinking that summer is still in full swing, the rapidly dwindling daylight hours are a sure reminder that the time for a new school year has once again arrived. The 2013-14 school year marks Cornerstone Christian's 12th year in operation. We look to our heavenly Father for his continued provision for the school, as has been abundantly evident in the past in so many ways. Praise God for his goodness to us, and for the beautiful work we can be involved with – equipping the children of our Great King for royal service in his kingdom!

Over the past week or more, our teachers have already completed a busy time of preparation for the start of school. There is s-o-o-o much that goes into ensuring that the school year gets off to a smooth start - thank you to the principal, the teachers, and the office staff for diligent efforts toward that end. Thanks also to the many who worked so hard to ensure the school facilities are in tip-top shape for the start of the year: those involved with the cleaning parties, the CBM, and those who spent many hours preparing computer systems come to mind. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

We are thankful to have a full complement of capable staff to handle the teaching workload. We are, of course, very happy to have many returning staff members – a real boon to school stability. One of our returning staff members, Mr. Kleyn, will be serving in a totally new role for him - that of Principal! We wish him God's blessing and much success in the new role! It is also worth noting that Mr. Chase and Mr. Marissen will both be covering some additional course work this year, and we thank them for their willingness to do so. We especially extend a hearty welcome to our two new staff members. Mrs. Lynette VanHofwegen, who will be teaching the fifth and sixth grades, and Mr. Stephen Houweling, who will be teaching seventh and eighth grades! May the Lord richly equip you, and all the staff members, for your tasks, and may you soon feel very at home with the rest of the staff!

It is good when new members join our School Society, as commitments, both financial and ideological, are needed to make this endeavor work! We welcome Stephen & Fiona Houweling, and Stephen & Jessica Chase as new members. Welcome also to the Dwight & Leshia Kuiper family as a new family in the Cornerstone Community. We hope your children are soon comfortable in their respective classes.

Looking ahead on the calendar, the third annual Building Legacies Golf Classic is scheduled to take place on September 21. Thanks to all those who have been working hard to ensure a successful tournament!

May the Lord bless our principal, teachers, students, parents, and all involved with the school with everything needed for another successful year that brings praise and honor to his name!

Short Reports of the Board.....

Report for.....August 15, 2013

The chairman called the meeting to order, read from Psalm 16, and then led in prayer. The minutes from the meeting of June 3, 2013 with the principal were approved as written. Matters from the previous meeting's minutes were looked over by the board, and their statuses noted. As incoming mail, the board received a request from Stephen and Jessica Chase to join the School Society; an official response will be sent. The agenda for the first part of the meeting with the principal was adopted as published.

The board discussed the latest principal's report. Darryn Kleyn introduced and talked about his first report as principal, noting that things have been going well and that much is being done for the start of the new school year. Highlights included an update that the Houweling family is settling in well, the class schedule for grades 1-4, appreciation for the retirement and health plan work that has been done, and a new policy on absence notification. The new process for alerting the school in the event of a student absence is to send an email to "absent@cornerstoneschool.us"; this will ensure a more efficient means of alerting the entire staff at once. D. Kleyn also updated the board on some summer professional development. He thanked the CBM and IT Committee for recent work done, noting that iPads have been purchased for Fine Arts purposes, and are being readied for use by S. Houweling. D. Kleyn informed the board that he has met with three families who have students attending for the first time, and introduced them to the school. Also discussed was a matter of surplus income collected from athletic events, and a publication of a supplies list before the start of school.

B. Lodder gave an update on Ed Comm developments, noting that a suitable typing instruction program replacement has been found, and that the IT Committee will handle the installation of the software. Also noted was the importance of the ongoing Language Arts curriculum development by the committee.

T. Faber updated the board on items relating to the building, including painting projects both completed and scheduled, fire sprinkler inspection, carpet cleaning, and new classroom equipment.

T. Faber reviewed recent IT Committee work, including the addition of new iPads and computers, and the upcoming wiring of the new library area for Ethernet.

The board discussed items related to the school assembly to mark the start of the school year. The assembly is planned for the morning of Tuesday, August 27th.

The board discussed setting dates for a regular meeting schedule. It was decided to meet regularly on the second Monday of each month.

The board briefly discussed the discovery of a new Teacher's College Board of Governors representative, as well as a staff-board yearly kick-off barbeque.

The board discussed the school visit schedule for the new year and assigned members for the year's first three school visits. B. Lodder agreed to take the September/October date, J. Bareman the November/December date, and T. Faber the January/February date. Further dates will be scheduled at future meetings.

J. Doornbos updated the board that the compensation committee has gathered and compiled a large amount of data from across North America, and identified important expenses for staff respective to where they live. The committee continues to work to help solidify the data into future policy.

The next regular meeting was scheduled for September 9, 2013 at 7:30 PM, and the quarterly Big Picture meeting was scheduled for September 30, 2013 at 7:30 PM, both in the school building.

D. Kleyn was thanked for his time and left the meeting at 9:34 PM.

The minutes from the second half of the June 3, 2013 meeting were approved as written, and past action items were reviewed. The agenda for the second half of the meeting was adopted.

The board spent time discussing financial matters. A preliminary look at the financials for 2012-13 was tabled for the next meeting. The board discussed the progress of the new membership committee and looks forward to an update from the committee regarding potential new members.

Delinquent tuition was discussed, as well as possible changes in personnel on the Finance Committee.

The board also discussed the possibility of increasing the size of the board by one member, citing an increased workload in HR matters, and agreed to come to a conclusion at the next meeting.

T. Faber gave an update on the upcoming Golf Tournament, noting that the committee has so far

raised \$5,000 above last year's corporate figures.

Related to the recent property purchase, T. Faber informed the board that the Society will most likely have to pay property taxes on the new land until we have a designated use for it. Until then, the existing arrangement of grazing livestock will be maintained.

E. Brown led in prayer and the meeting was closed.

From the Treasurer.....Mr. John Doornbos

Not much has gone on since the last report. We've all enjoyed a bit of respite since the busy spring! One item that was still being worked on was the Operating Pledge Drive. That is now complete and we are thankful that we have received enough pledges again this year to reach the goal we had set, and that is true despite the additional drain of the property pledge earlier this year.

Staff health and dental benefits have been set up for those that are eligible. Following much research, we went with an HSA plan offered by Group Health. With this plan the school also put a start-up amount of money in the staff's HSA account to cover any initial out-of-pocket expenses that they might incur. Ultimately, this plan provides the staff with good health care and the peace-of-mind to know that if something should go wrong they have adequate health insurance.

The same positive update can be given for the retirement program. A few wrinkles needed to be worked out at the beginning of the school year as staff set up their accounts with Edward Jones but in the end it all appears to be working as expected.

The Golf Tournament Committee continues to be busy getting organized for the event on September 21st. All appears to be on track --- in fact the corporate sponsorships to-date appear to be ahead of pace of where we ended last year! Great work committee! As in past years, now is the time when the committee will start enrolling individual golfers to compliment the players that are playing for the corporate sponsors... so now is the time to connect with Ryan and the rest of the team to get your team or name in.

Committee work begins again this week as the Finance Committee and Compensation Sub-Committee meet with a view to get back on track with the projects we had on the go. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless the work being done with these and other committees!

Thank you,

From the IT Comm.....Mr. Tim Faber

As we gear up for the upcoming school year, that also means making sure all the computers are ready to go. For the most part we are in good shape, except we do still have approximately 20 aging desktop computers scattered around the school. (In the admin area, library and high school classrooms) This summer we purchased five new computers, which will replace five of our oldest / slowest desktop computers. Our goal is to eventually phase out these aging computers over the next several years.

The school also purchased (10) Ipad mini's, for the new videography class to be taught by our new teacher Mr. Houweling. I'm not sure who will be more excited to use these, the students or the instructor...! I'm sure you and the students will be able to put these to good use. A quick reminder to all the students, and I'm sure you will hear it over and over again from your teachers, we ask that you please take good care of the computers, laptops & Ipads. Please treat them as you would your own.

We wish to thank all those who look after the technology needs of the school, and wish teachers and students blessings in the new school year!

From The CBM.....Mr. Tim Faber

This past summer the CBM has been busy with a few projects around the school in preparation for the new school year. The exterior doors have received a fresh coat of paint, the library has been moved up to its "temporary" location on the mezzanine and the old library room has been transformed into a regular classroom. The new air conditioning unit has been installed in the upstairs computer server room and is functioning very nicely. I would like to thank all those, who have contributed in any way to make these projects happen.

We are targeting Saturday, September 14th for a painting work party... weather permitting. As noted in the previous CBM update we are hoping to re-paint the exterior siding, as well as stain the window trim and entry posts. If you are able to help we would love to see you out there on the 14th!

It sounds like there was an excellent turnout for the summer cleaning party and everything was completed in one day! Thanks everyone for your eager service to care for the building. We wish staff and students well as they embark on another school year!

From Our Principal.....Mr. Darryn Kleyn

Welcome back to a new school year at Cornerstone Christian School! The school summer break on this continent is long but the weeks sure go by quick! Already we're on the cusp of a new academic year. We can reflect with thanksgiving for God's providential care in supplying all that was needed during the break. There's no disputing the wonderful run-of-sun we've received from an all-powerful Father in heaven. Undoubtedly many of us had the opportunity to spend some time away in a different part of His creation, resting and being rejuvenated. Together we look forward with eager anticipation for His continued guidance as we begin life with school routines again.

Thankfulness

Yes, on the theme of thankfulness we can see God's blessings manifest itself in so many ways. Some in our community have received new life in their families while some eagerly await it. Others have travelled great distances and have returned safely. We are thankful with the family deMooy, for the protection bestowed on their sons in a farm accident. Our young brother Brent, in particular, who sustained some serious injuries, is well on the mend. Wonderful to see and experience the Lord's healing hand.

The Lord has supplied us with a full complement of staff. Some in particular have travelled many miles to get here. We are delighted to welcome the Houweling family into our community from the other end of the earth. Stephen & Fiona, with (most of) their children, have settled into the beautiful surrounds (and smells!) of Sumas. We look forward to their contribution in the classroom, staffroom and in the church and school community at large.

We also welcome (back!) Mrs. Lynette Van Hofwegen who enjoyed a short stint in the grade 5/6 classroom at the beginning of last year, but is now taking on this class in a full-time position. We are thankful to have her enthusiasm on staff.

School Theme

During this past week, the staff has been hard at work making preparations for this coming school year. Besides the preparing of classrooms, furniture, schedules, etc, we were also able to discuss the programs that we plan to offer this year. After much discussion, we decided to work with a new theme; one that truly builds on the previous few years. You may recall that our theme last year was "Each One Unique – Yet One in Christ". We paid attention to the fact that while each child is unique, we are also a community of believers; all brothers and sisters in the Lord.

This year our theme will be "Sons and Daughters of God – serving in His Kingdom". This theme was prompted by an article we read and discussed in our staff meeting last week. It was a speech written by Dr. C. Van Dam entitled, *A School of Sons and Daughters*, published in a recent edition of *Clarion*. We have chosen this theme to highlight, first of all, our identity as Sons and Daughters of the living God. We all have a special and unique calling and responsibility in the world in which we live. It also gives recognition to the fact that our children live in a covenant community. They are sons and daughters of their biological parents; they are also "sons" and "daughters" of their "parents" in the school. As parents and teachers we stand side by side to impart to children the fear and wisdom of the Lord. Our children belong to a heavenly Father and from His Word we transmit and remember the great deeds of God in life and encourage them in true obedience (Psalm 78). In addition, (the second part of the theme), because we are Sons and Daughters of THE King, we have a wonderful opportunity to serve in His kingdom. We have the privilege to use our unique talents and gifts out of true thankfulness for who we are in Christ. We look forward to unpacking this theme in the classroom and in our monthly assemblies.



Absences

Just a small policy change in the Parent Handbook:

*In the event that a child is unable to attend school, the parents are to inform the school via email to **absent@cornerstoneschool.us** before 8:15 a.m.*

As staff, we would really appreciate you emailing us any absentees for the day (long or short) via this email address. Doing it this way – ensures that ALL the staff see ALL the absentees for the day. It helps us keep track of students throughout the day; quite a few of our teachers teach classes across the different grades and it helps us all be more aware of students that may be away at any given time. Thank-you in advance for your cooperation!

First Day

School starts again on Tuesday. We look forward to seeing you at the opening assembly at 8:15 in the American Reformed Church building where we will seek the Lord's blessing on a new school year.

Welcome

In addition to welcoming a new teacher family with children in 9th and 11th grade, we have a new family sending their oldest into first grade, another family with children in 1st, 3rd and 5th grade and a new student in 9th grade. We extend a hearty welcome to you and all the returning students. We hope you are looking forward to an enjoyable and challenging year of learning and growing in service to God.

Finally, I appreciate the words of encouragement given along the way as I take on the role of principal. I am heartened by the support shown in so many ways by the school community over the years and also more recently. I am encouraged by the enthusiastic and diligent team of staff that we have at Cornerstone. We're eager to serve you in the name of Christ and would invite you to join us in the school to encourage our young "sons" and "daughters" in their work. Keep the communication lines open; swing by for a chat, give us a call or send a message. May the Lord bless us all as we embark on a new school year!

From The Scrip Comm.....Mrs. Lydia Faber

Welcome back to another school year and thank you for your support over the summer and especially to all our new participants who came on board this summer! I think being able to offer them "Safeway" had something to do with this.

We currently have the following promotions available:

Food Pavilion / 10% profit with 8% earned on tuition/membership

Safeway / 4% profit with 3% earned on tuition/membership

Fred Meyer / 4% profit with 3% earned on tuition/membership

Lynden Chamber Dollars / 4% profit with 3% on tuition / membership

We are also excited to be able to continue to take part in the Safeway e-scrip program which enables us to earn another 1% on all purchases every time someone swipes their Safeway club card or phone number when they buy groceries. If you have not signed up your club card with us yet please do this soon as they are offering a huge promotion for back to schools right now. Not sure- I can check if you are on the list and get you signed up right away. They are offering 10% on hundreds of select products from August 14 – September 10 and this is a great time to stock up on these products and help the school out. More info to follow with Contact.

This past year from July '12- June '13 we sold over \$62,000.00 enabling us to raise over \$3000 for Scrip and several hundred's being applied to participants tuition/ membership. Many of you may wonder where the extra money in the Scrip account goes. This money has helped to purchase many wonderful extras for the school like the dishwasher, playground equipment, and most recently the new faucet in the kitchen, etc. We are also excited to be able to sponsor the upcoming school Soccer Carnival on Sep 7!!

Scrip can be ordered anytime at CCSScrip@gmail.com. Please let Helena or Lydia know if you have any questions or would like to learn more.

From the Ladies Aid.....Mrs. Sharon Veldman

Welcome to a new school year a new fund raising year! We hope that you had an enjoyable summer. Hopefully everyone is refreshed and ready to get back into the swing of things!

It was disappointing that we missed out on the Dairy Wives booth this year, we will continue to look for further opportunities in the future. We are looking forward to good participation this fall when we will be making apple pies and veggie packs. Keep your eye out for good apple trees and remember us when you harvest your gardens. Also we still have pie shells available in the freezer. Come by and pick up a few! Please leave your marked payment in the Ladies Aid box in the staff room.

Welcome to the new families that have joined our Cornerstone family. We hope you will feel at home among us. Ladies Aid is a great way to get involved!

Mark your calendars for our first meeting September 24. There will be voting for 2 new board members. If you are willing to serve in this way please talk to Lydia.

*Please join us for our opening assembly for
the 2013/2014 school year this coming
Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at 8:15am in the
ARC Church building.*



