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

Ready or not, here it comes - the 2012-13 school year! The upcoming year marks the 11th year of our school's operation. Our God continues to provide richly for us over the years, and in so many ways. We have a very capable and dedicated staff, strong administrative leadership, a robust level of volunteer support, a beautiful facility, and, of course a good and steady number of students! 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!

As you read these words our teachers have already completed a busy week 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 their 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 the new computer systems come to mind. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

We may be thankful that most of our plans for staffing have settled into place. Miss Kleyn can testify that it wasn't without a few unexpected challenges! In connection with staffing, I would like to extend a hearty welcome to our new staff members. Mrs. Jennifer Tiemeyer will be handling third grade Language Arts, a number of subjects at the First and Second grade level, and some applied Math at the high school level. Mrs. Tiemeyer is an enthusiastic, experienced teacher with a passion for the Reformed faith. She and her husband Gordon live in Lynden, and are members of the United Reformed Church. Another Lynden resident has joined the staff as well. Mrs. Liliana Polinder will be teaching Spanish to the Juniors and Seniors. Mrs. Polinder is originally a native of Columbia (South America, not British,) where she was a shift manager and event planner at a large, high-end hotel. She is, of course, a native Spanish speaker, and has been teaching Spanish off and on since moving to Lynden with her husband, Mike, about ten years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Polinder have one son who attends Ebenezer Christian School, and they are members of the Second Christian Reformed Church. Welcome ladies!

Finally, as Christians, we ought always to live in hope, and it appears that's what we will need to do regarding our other new staff member, Mr. Tom VanderHorst. Mr. VanderHorst is planned to be teaching the 5/6 grade level. He and his wife, Su, reside in Langley and are members of the Canadian Reformed Church there. As of this writing, we are still awaiting approval on either one of two possible Visa applications. We remain confident that an appropriate visa will be granted, but in the mean time our brother, who is very eager to get in front of the classroom, will need to exercise patience. We look forward to being able to welcome you in an unrestricted way, Mr. VanderHorst! As I write this, the details of how we will fill this temporary hole in our staffing are being worked out. It appears that at least part of the solution will involve a familiar face. Welcome back, Mrs. M.! 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 REPORT OF THE BOARD.....FROM JULY 24TH-2012

The chairman, J. Bareman, opened the meeting by reading from Ps. 133 and prayer. He welcomes everyone present including the Principal and Mr. Paul Schouten. P. Schouten is here to present a speech that he gave at the last Principal's Conference at Cedar Springs. His topic was the roles of the board/principal in our Reformed Schools. A discussion followed his presentation. He is thanked for his time he took to spend with us and he leaves the meeting. The board follows up with a discussion on several matters from the speech. The agenda is adopted for the rest of the meeting. There were updates given on the visa applications that are in progress. Possible back up staffing is discussed. The Principal is thanked and leaves the meeting. Financial items are dealt with relating to the fund drive and budget. Short report is approved and T. Faber closes the meeting.

SHORT REPORT OF THE BOARD.....FROM AUG. 16-2012

The chairman opens the meeting by reading Ps. 2 and prayer. He welcomes everyone present including the Principal. The minutes of June 12th and July 24th are adopted. The agenda is adopted. A letter is received regarding the two year visa renewal for Miss T. Kleyn. The Principal, O. Bouwman, presents the school handbook that he updated and these changes are approved. A printed copy will be available and it will be posted on-line on the school web site. The grade 5/6 teaching position is discussed and a backup plan is detailed if Mr. Tom Vanderhorst cannot arrive on time. T. Faber reports on the work of the CBM and the IT committees. J. Bareman along with B. Lodder report on a visit made with the Allan and Lynette VanHofwegen family with their request to send two girls in grade six and seven. This is approved. A letter was received regarding the entrance fee and a reply will be sent. B. Lodder is appointed to find new members. The immigration process is discussed regarding the R-1 visa application for T. Vanderhorst. U.S. Immigration needed more info. concerning his employment. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 25th. The Principal is thanked and leaves the meeting. The remaining minutes of June 12th are adopted. Matters from the minutes are discussed. Agenda is adopted. Staff visits are reported on by B. Lodder and J. Bareman. Finances are reviewed for the past year and looking forward to next year. Short report is approved and B. Lodder closes in prayer.

From The Treasurer..... Mr. Marty VanDriel (martyvandriel@yahoo.com)

As we begin another new school year, the board thought it might be appropriate for a few words from the Treasurer. We have so much to be thankful for as a school society! The Lord has provided for us abundantly in so many areas, and the financial blessings we see are just a part of this.

At our fall membership meeting, we will be able to officially look at last year's budget, but consider this a brief preview. While not all work has been completed to close these books, I can report with gratitude that we were able to stay mostly within our budget, except for a few categories that went slightly over what we had anticipated. Thankfully, our income from dues, tuition, and donations was also slightly over our budget, so we were able to take care of all expenses during the course of the year without undue stress to our bookkeeper Mrs. M. Faber.

At our spring membership meeting a few months ago, the society adopted a budget that called for about \$57,000 worth of "pledges" in order to cover our expected expenses while keeping tuition and dues at their current level. Now that the pledges have all been tallied, we may report with joy that our operating costs will be more than covered, and we will indeed be able to keep tuition at the same rate as last year. We are truly thankful for the generosity shown by our school community and friends!

This response again brings to mind the words of Psalm 133 as we sing together from the Book of Praise – "Behold! How good, how pleasant is the union – when brothers dwell together in communion." It is a privilege as well as a duty to bear each other's burdens in love, and it is a beautiful thing to see this principle in action in our school society.

This reminds me that it would be great for us to encourage our young people (couples and singles) to donate to the school society as they are able, and to become supporting members if at all possible. It is so helpful for all of us – whether or not our own children are currently benefiting – when we can shoulder the

load together. In this way, tuition rates can stay manageable for those of us in the midst of those expensive years of raising a family, and one can support the important work ongoing at Cornerstone Christian School.

I also would like to encourage parents whose children aren't yet in school to become members and get involved with the school as soon as possible – it's a great way to get to know about how the school functions, and your efforts and suggestions will be greatly appreciated!

This report may also serve as a reminder that if your child is beginning school for the first time, or is moving to middle or high school, then tuition rates would apply as shown below as of August 1st. Our tuition rates are based on a twelve month year, running from August to July each year:

Category 1: Members without children in school: \$125 per month

Category 2: Members whose oldest child will begin attending first grade in 2 years: \$200 per month

Category 3: Parents whose oldest child at Cornerstone is in grades 1-4: \$500 per month

Category 4: Parents whose oldest child at Cornerstone is in grades 5-8: \$700 per month

Category 5: Parents whose oldest child at Cornerstone is in grades 9-12: \$850 per month

Thank you to the many of you who have signed up for our ACH program in which funds are automatically removed from your bank account to pay your tuition or dues – this helps to keep our cash flow even, and minimizes the chances that you forget to get those checks in on time. (If you need a form to fill in so that you may take advantage of this program, please contact me any time.)

I hope I have not been too wordy with all these financial matters, and thank you again for your continued support of our school society.

From The Principal.....Mr. Otto Bouwman

Summer came, and summer went. A new school year is almost upon us. We can be thankful, in the first place, for the Lord's care over our individual, family, and communal lives during the past few months. We can also thank God that we stand enthusiastically at the cusp of a new school year, confident that we are able to be engaged in worthwhile work here at Cornerstone. However, all the work that we do this coming year will not be able to be done without the blessing of the Lord. Please pray regularly for the work that is done at the school throughout the entire school year, so that it can be done with joy and with good result.

2012/2013 School Theme

During the past week, your staff members have spent many hours together making preparations for this coming school year. Besides just the regular "getting-the-school-ready" types of activities, we were also able to discuss many details of the programs that we hope to offer for the 2012/2013 school year. We have decided to work with a very similar theme as we had last year. Last year's school theme was "Each One Unique" and much attention was given to the uniqueness of each student. Rarely in all my years of teaching have I seen a school theme resonate as well as last year's did. After all, each student is a unique creation, and we do well to recognize that, even in an institution with standards for all students.

This year, our theme will be "Each One Unique – Yet One in Christ." We have chosen this theme because we want to deliberately build on the work that we did last year. While continuing to acknowledge that each child is unique, we also all need to be reminded that as brothers and sisters it is good to give more deliberate expression to the reality that we are a community. This conviction is partly in response to sentiments that were recently shared with the staff about student behaviors and attitudes last year. Staff was informed about some patterns of behavior that apparently had been going on in which students were not treating others in a healthy manner.

Interestingly, one article which was shared with and discussed by staff this past week has been included in this issue of the *Link*. It was written by Rev. P. Feenstra, and was originally delivered as a graduation address for the Covenant Teachers College. Please take some time to read it. As teachers, we are certainly cognizant that a good bit of our work revolves around the notion of "character education." That's also necessary, as we are working not with perfect angels who have yet to fall from grace, but rather because in the first place we ourselves as teachers are fallen, and secondly we are working with depraved young children. In this life we will never arrive at the state in which our sanctification is complete. We have to work together molding and shaping the children in our care. We need to help them become more and more aware that their sanctification must become more and more evident, also in their treatment of each other as well as in their approach to their work. Working on character education has implications also for communication patterns between the home and the school.

Recently, the school board approved a number of (mostly minor) changes to our school's handbook. However, there is one newly added section that is critical to ensure the smooth operation of Cornerstone. While parents have been deliberately requested to communicate in line with this in the past, it was not in our handbook. In italics, here is the newly added material:

Parent-School Communication Policy

Parents and teachers are encouraged to have regular communication with each other about student performance and behavior. While this can be done by means of officially scheduled parent-teacher conferences and report cards, contact by phone and e-mail is also encouraged.

All contact should uphold the principles of biblical justice (Matthew 18) and procedural fairness. If parents witness or hear of a particular incident which they consider may have been handled in an inappropriate way by a teacher or support staff, then the following procedure is to be followed to resolve any concerns. Bypassing this procedure can result in unsubstantiated allegations becoming public knowledge, making resolution very difficult.

Procedure for parents to communicate concerns:

1. Parents are encouraged to first contact and have a discussion with the teacher involved.
2. If the parents remain concerned and wish to pursue the matter further, then they should inform the teacher that they plan to have a discussion with the principal. The principal will take the matter up with the teacher and try to resolve the issues so that all parties feel it has been handled in a satisfactory manner.
3. If the parents still conclude that the issue with the teacher has not been properly resolved and they wish to pursue the matter further, then they should inform the principal and bring the matter to the board in writing. The board will have the final decision as to how the matter will be resolved.

If communication from home to school follows these patterns, we are most likely to be able work together in a relationship of trust and harmony.

Since character education is something that needs attention every school day, the staff also took a close look this past week at what can be done during recess and lunch times to help increase the likelihood that all activities at school are wholesome for everyone involved. It's definitely best to have as much supervision of student activities as possible, both inside and outside of the classroom. Though teachers are assigned to take turns on recess duty, that doesn't yet mean that all students around the school are being supervised appropriately. Sometimes, students make it out before the teacher. Sometimes, the teacher's back is turned. Sometimes, the supervising teacher is on the other side of the building. Teachers would love to see parents assist us in our supervisory tasks. It is by no means uncommon to have parent volunteers helping monitor students during recess and lunch breaks at schools around the country. We would love to have many parents volunteer at the school in this capacity. Every day, we have elementary recess from 10:15 – 10:30, and lunch recess from 12:10 – 12:45. If you would be able to work in a supervision session at that time at the school, please contact the front office, let us know which day(s) work(s) for you, and we will make up a schedule. It would wonderful if we could have parent assistance for recess and lunch supervision every day.

At the same time, we ought to recognize that the challenges surrounding character education will never disappear. That doesn't mean we should not work diligently, but we ought to be realistic in our expectations. Shortcomings will be evident, and discussions and punishments will be necessary; that's life on this side of Glory.

"Yet One in Christ" – that is meant to help us remind our students of how we live, how we treat each other, and how we approach our work. Stay tuned as we continue to develop this theme throughout the school year.

Tuesday Start

School starts in just two days. In the last issue of the *Link*, I wrote the following: *Once the season for back-to-school sales begins, please make sure you purchase binders, paper, dividers, pens, pencils, for your child if your child is in grades 9 – 12. The school will provide textbooks, but students are expected to bring all their own other materials. In elementary grades, the school does supply math booklets. Seven/eight students are expected to bring all their own other supplies. The school will supply regular school supplies to young elementary students who demonstrate responsible use of materials.*

Please make sure your children have all the needed materials for the first day, which begins at 8:15.

For those interested in numbers, here are a few statistics:

• 1 st grade	16	• 7 th grade	11
• 2 nd grade	12	• 8 th grade	7
• 3 rd grade	9	• freshmen	14
• 4 th grade	8	• sophomores	16
• 5 th grade	11	• juniors	9
• 6 th grade	6	• seniors	8

That means our total enrollment is 127, the largest to date. It is an increase of 12 since last year.

Welcome

We extend a hearty welcome to all new members of our school community. We have several families with their oldest child in first grade. We have a “new” family from Australia with students in 2nd, 6th, and 10th grades: welcome back! We have the VanHofwegen family with students in 6th and 7th grades. We have students new to our school in 9th grade. To all returning students, and especially to the new ones: Welcome! We hope you are all comfortable and enthused about the new year!

See page 6 of this edition to see a list of staff members. Returning staff members are heartily welcomed back. We extend an especially warm welcome to the new teachers in our midst, Mrs. Liliana Polinder (Spanish) and Mrs. Jenny Tiemeyer (primary and some high school math). As well, we are very thankful for the flexibility and willingness of Mrs. Sara Miedema and Mrs. Lynette VanHofwegen to help out until Mr. VanderHorst’s arrival. Wonderful!!!!

I’ll end with a prayer for the school community from Psalm 128:

*The LORD bless you from Zion,
And may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.
Indeed, may you see your children’s children.*

From The Ladies Aid.....

We hope everyone has enjoyed the summer! Fundraisers have still been happening even though we have had a break from our regular school work. Thank you to the ladies who helped with the strawberry pies. Also a big thank you to everyone who came to scoop and serve ice cream at the fair. This always requires many hands and we were able to fill all the shifts again this year! If you wanted to help out and didn’t get your chance over the summer don’t worry, we are still looking for 3 volunteers for our apple pie committee. Talk to Hannah if this sounds like a job for you. We have an available position on our kitchen committee please consider if you could help out here. Also we will be in need of 2 new board members. Stay tuned for details about our next membership meeting. It is great to have so many willing hands helping raise funds for our school.

Golf Tournament

Cornerstone Christian School is having its second annual **West Coast Homes Golf Classic** on September 29th, 2012! The event will be held at the beautiful Homestead Golf & Country Club in Lynden and will begin at 1:00 PM. Included with your sponsorship fee of \$175 is golf, cart, and the dinner/silent auction Emceed by Tom and Burke Vander Horst. A limited number of dinner/silent auction only guests can be accommodated for an additional fee of \$75. Everyone goes home a winner and with a prize! Top prizes include Kindle Fires, Bushnell Range Finders, Taylor Made hybrids, and much more. For more information or to register please go to www.westcoasthomesgolfclassic.com or contact one of the undersigned.

John, Harvey, Marty farm, Marty truck, Ryan, Karrisssa

School Calendar 2012-2013

Aug. 28 – First Day of School
Sept 3 – Labor Day
Oct 4 – In Service Day
Oct 5 – Fall Break
Oct 8 – Columbus Day
Nov 2 -High School 1st qtr reports
Nov 5 & 6 – High School P/T Conferences
Nov 12 – Veteran’s Day
Nov 21 – Elem Report Cards
Nov 22 – Thanksgiving Day
Nov 23 – Thanksgiving Break
Nov 26 & 28 – Elem P/T Conferences
Dec 24 – Jan 4 – Christmas Break
Jan 7 – First day of school 2013
Jan 21 – Martin Luther King Day
Jan 24 – High School 2nd qtr reports
Jan 25 – Prof. Dev. Day
Jan 28 & 29 – HS P/T Conferences
Feb 14 & 15 – Mid-winter Break
Feb 18 – President’s Day
Mar 2 – Fine Arts Evening
Mar 8 – Elem Report Cards
Mar 11 & 13 – Elem P/T Conferences
Mar 28 – High School 3rd qtr Reports
Mar 29 – Good Friday
Apr 1-5 – Spring Break
May 3 – Public Speaking Contest
May 27 – Memorial Day
June 7 – Eighth Grade Graduation
June 14 – Last Day of School /
Senior Graduation

Board:

Chairman: Jim Bareman
Vice-Chairman: Marvin Vreugdenhil
Building Liaison: Tim Faber
Secretary/ Treasurer: Marty VanDriel
Ed Com Liaison: Bob Lodder

Building/Maintenance Committee

Tim Faber Jan Kottelenberg
Dave Kruyswijk Al Sytsma
Marty Vreugdenhil

Education Committee

Otto Bouwman Hannah Buitenbos
John Doornbos Corrie Klos
Bob Lodder Ryan VanDriel

Finance Committee

Marcia Faber (book-keeper)
Jan Hensen Kyle Lodder
Marty VanDriel Marvin Vreugdenhil

IT Committee

John Bisschop Tim Faber
Jan Hensen Mark Kruyswijk
Jack Marissen

Library Committee

Hannah Buitenbos Antina Chase
Corrie Klos Bernice Vreugdenhil

Ladies Aid Committee

Hannah Buitenbos Lydia Faber
Lisa Pelleboer Sharon Veldman

Office Staff

Marcia Faber Kari VanDiest

Teaching Staff

Principal: Otto Bouwman
Gr 1/2 morning, Science Antina Chase
Gr 1/2 History, P.E. Gr. 3 LA Jenny Tiemeyer
Gr 1/2 LA, Music, Art Janet Faber
Grade 3-4: Laetisia Kleyn
Grade 5-6: Tom VanderHorst
Grade 7-8: Darryn Kleyn
Grade 9-12: Otto Bouwman
Wayne Chase
Jack Marissen
Liliana Polinder (Spanish)
Debbie Faber (Art)

