

The Lynden Link

Vol. 10, No. 1

Communication Between School and Home

September 4, 2011

From the Chairman

Jim Bareman:

Welcome to the first *Link* of the 2011-12 school year! This year marks the 10th year of our school's operation. God has provided 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!

As you read these words the first week of classes will already be behind us. There is much preparation 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 and network systems come to mind. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Another reason for thanks is that we once again have a full complement of capable staff to handle the workload. In connection with this, I would like to welcome aboard our two new staff members. As previously announced, Mrs. Ellen Davis is our new fifth and sixth grade teacher. She is familiar to most of us, as she was filling in at the third and fourth grade level last year. The Davis's are members of the American Reformed Church, and their son, William, attends Cornerstone Christian School. Our other new teacher this year is Mrs. Sara Miedema, who will be handling third grade Language Arts, a number of subjects at the First and Second grade level. Mrs. Miedema grew up in Whatcom County, graduated last spring from Redeemer University in Ontario, Canada, and is a member of the Bellingham United Reformed Church. Welcome to both of you, ladies!

At the School's opening assembly on August 30, Mr. Bouwman introduced the theme for this school year: "Each One Unique." I'm sure you will hear more about the theme elsewhere and over the year, but I want to highlight a couple of areas where this theme ties to our school's Parent Handbook. In Section 1 of the Handbook, under the heading Our Purpose, one of the stated aims

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of the school is to *"Encourage every student to develop a love for learning, to enjoy the pursuit of knowledge, and to achieve his or her academic potential."* Later on in the handbook, under Section 1.3 "Expansion of Vision and Educational Goals", we find the following elaboration: *"The teachers will encourage each student, recognizing each child is an individual with unique gifts and talents given by the Creator, adapting the learning environment to best aid the child in reaching his academic potential."* Another tie is found under the goal to *"Provide education that: recognizes the position of our children as members of the covenant and communion of saints; strives to make a place for all of those children..."*. Under the expansion of that goal we find the following: *"God has endowed men with a variety of talents and gifts. This diversity is also evident within the covenant community. To all parents comes the calling to prepare their children for a life of service, regardless of their children's abilities. Our school recognizes that there are different abilities among the covenant children, and strives to provide appropriate education for each of them. There is much to be gained when the children learn to develop their talents in the context of a community with varying abilities."* It is encouraging to see our staff focusing on a theme that ties so directly to the stated aims of the school. There are many challenges to moving forward in this area, but I'm convinced that consciously operating with a perspective that honors the different characters and abilities with which God has endowed our children will already go a long way towards helping our students develop a love

for learning!

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!

From the Board

Short Report of the Cornerstone School Board of August 23, 2011

The chairman, J. Bareman, opened the meeting by reading from 1 John 5 and prayer. He welcomed everyone present including the Principal. The minutes of May 31st are approved. Matters from the minutes are put on the agenda. The agenda is established. The Principal, O. Bouwman, gives his Principal's Report. Staffing and enrollment is discussed. The CBM and the IT committee are reported on by D. Leyenhorst. Next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 3rd. Short report is read and approved and the Principal is thanked and leaves the meeting. The remaining minutes of the May 31st meeting is approved. The minutes of June 20th are approved. There were several matters from the minutes. The agenda is established. Finances are dealt with. The pledge drive is discussed. The budget for the upcoming year is gone over. General business is taken off. A letter was received and is tabled for discussion. Medical benefits and insurance is discussed. Short report is read and approved. M. Hicks closes in prayer and meeting is adjourned.

From the Treasurer

Mark Hicks:

I trust everyone enjoyed a relaxing summer break!

I am thankful to report that this past year our needs were met financially. We can be very thankful for God's provision.

At the Spring Association meeting, the budget presented for the upcoming school year was approved by the membership. On that budget our Pledge Drive Goal was \$88,000. To date we are about \$18,000 short of this goal. However, the Board feels comfortable that this amount will be raised via various other means, including our new Golf Fund Raiser.

Something worth noting....last year our photocopier broke down leaving us with an unexpected, large expense. We did not have the necessary funds to buy a new one, but with a generous donation from Mr. Bron, and donation from the Scrip Program, and some extra budget funds, we were able to acquire a beautiful ma-

chine.

Thank you to all involved!

As we begin a new school year, may we serve God and each other gladly and wholeheartedly.

From the CBM

Darren Leyenhorst:

This past summer has been full of activities for the CBM. There have been many challenges this year to work though to try to keep within the budget. We are thankful to all the members of the CBM team who have contributed to maintaining our facilities while keeping costs down.

The CBM has recently completed the data room upstairs. This enclosed, insulated room isolates the data equipment from the rest of the attic. With money donated from the Ladies Aid we were able to purchase an air conditioning unit to install in this room to protect the items in the room from being damaged. Thanks to the Ladies Aid for providing this.

Before the summer we also used funds generously donated by the Ladies Aid to complete the shelving in the science room as well as book shelves for the Library. Shelving was also installed in the gym storage room.

During this summer blinds for the windows on the south side of the gym were also received by donation. Thank you to those who contributed to this. They are up and work beautifully. I am sure the basketball players will appreciate it.

It seems that over the years the septic system from the school was forgotten about. It was only after we had problems with the gym's septic system that it was brought forward. We reviewed plans and asked many people but no one seemed to remember where we buried this 6' x 10' tank. A search party was brought out which included 3 people and an excavator. After more than half a day of searching for this integral part of our school's inner workings we gave up for the day. Our misadventures were communicated to others and one individual took it upon himself to look for this buried "treasure?". After searching for a time Ron Faber hit the jack pot. We were notified and in short order we dug up and exposed the lids. The tank was full but it was found before any damage was done to the system. It was then pumped out and risers were installed so that this "treasure" would never be lost again. Thanks again Ron! Now this area has been smoothed out and re-seeded. The tanks will also be able to be serviced every year for years to come.

The carpets were also cleaned this summer and the ladies came out to clean the school. Thank you

ladies for doing this! Also thank you to our head cleaning organizer lady for her organization of this and the good work that she continues to do in helping to keep our school clean.

There are also a great number of little projects, jobs, fixes, and repairs that have continued to be done in order to keep the school running smoothly.

A great deal of thanks goes to all the members of the CBM for their efforts throughout this year to maintain the school while keeping in a very tight budget. Your work and ideas have saved the school thousands of dollars this year alone! The membership is very grateful for this!

We are blessed with a beautiful school and we appreciate the dedication of all the members who contribute to its continued maintenance and operation.

From the Ed Com

Ryan VanDriel:

In these last few days of summer, our thoughts shift from tent trailers, family barbecues and Moo-wiches to school supplies, alarm clocks, responsibilities and a return to the annual routine of “back to school”

Your Education Committee

As your Education Committee, the five of us (Hannah Buitenbos, Corrie Klos, Derek Willis, Jim Bareman and Ryan van Driel) typically meet with Otto Bouwman every 4 to 6 weeks. At these meetings, we receive updates and provide direction on school & classroom activities, parent & student academic requests and curriculum and academic challenges. We enjoy the reports from Principal Bouwman, as well as from the curriculum director, Darryn Kleyn. This coming season we look forward to much of the same!

Senior Projects:

Back in May, the senior students presented their senior projects very capably to the EdComm (and other interested audience members, including friends, employers and family) The senior projects covered a range of topics including (but not limited to) organizing a community run in Lynden, restoring an antique International tractor, producing memoirs based on Oma’s tape recordings and the engine install/rebuild of a wrecked Subaru WRX. The seniors were challenged to consider how their Christian world views were brought to the fore through their projects. At the end of each presentation, students fielded questions and comments from the audience, and EdComm members were given a chance to provide feedback to each of the students about their projects. Well done, students! We look forward to next year’s presentations, and wish the 2011-2012 seniors everything they need for this time-consuming assignment. May all your time & effort be for the glory of our God who generous-

ly gives us the necessary passion & skills to undertake these projects.

Understanding by Design:

Under the leadership of Darryn Kleyn, staff members continue to prepare detailed course outlines for the courses they teach, right from 1st grade to senior grade courses. The common thread of these course outlines is that staff are using the “UbD” (or Understanding by Design) templates to plan their teaching units. Teachers consider questions such as “What are the “must-have” takeaways that students should be able to grasp or understand after this topic or unit is taught?” or “Is our Christian heritage sufficiently evident in the unit planning? etc etc.” Staff members also meet to review & critique each other’s course outlines. The process is beneficial to all involved, as it provides real focus and direction for the staff members in their course planning.

Math Courses:

On the topic of senior math requirements, we have discussed and reviewed alternatives to senior Pre-Calculus, which does create challenges for next year. For now, the EdComm’s solution is a pre-calculus alternative is to allow senior math to be done, online, in the particular course as requested by the student. In the future, we may also consider changing our graduation requirements for Math, but for now we continue to consider/seek other options.

School visits

Throughout last year, members of the EdComm were able to make classroom visits with members of the School Board, to observe the interaction between students and teachers across various grades. It’s a great way to get a feel for what goes on during the course of a typical day at Cornerstone, whether it’s a senior Physics class, second grade language arts, or listening to the junior band producing sweet strains of Beethoven. We are thankful that we can observe that real learning is taking place in our classrooms and that our students are engaged & growing. We look forward to another round of interactive classroom visits this coming season and to reporting on them.

Looking forward....

We continue to be reminded of how much we have to be thankful for, and that God continues to provide for our kids, the students, the staff & volunteers and the society of Cornerstone Christian School.

Principal’s Report

Otto Bouwman:

A few days ago we began the tenth year of operation of Cornerstone Christian School. We thank God for the opportunity to enthusiastically begin another

year of working together in our Father's service.

This year we welcomed 114 students to grades 1 – 12. I understand that there will also be 17 students in attendance in Kindergarten, though that is technically not part of the school. Nonetheless, that suggests total numbers are likely to rise slightly in the near future.

School Readiness

Each year when another school year begins, I'm amazed at all the different things that need to come together in order for the year to begin as smoothly as it did again this year.

People need to contribute and/or collect finances – probably not the most pleasant job around. Since that's a part of the background of our school's operation that I'm not involved in, I hasten on to other topics – though I note with gratitude this is an essential cog in the wheel. (Having said that, though, have you all put September 17th in your day-planner as a special day?)

People prepared the building and grounds. Carpets were cleaned, extra repairs were completed, some grass was reseeded, the lawns were taken care of, and then many ladies gave the school a good cleaning and dusting again. Thank you to all who helped to prepare the school so that it could be a good teaching and working environment for us. I'm well aware of the many hours that many people have put into getting the school ready. In particular, the head of our CBM and the cleaning coordinator are to be commended for their dedication and evidence of ownership of their departments. Thank you very much!

The IT committee is also to be highly commended for their work that they did at Cornerstone this summer. Not only did they facilitate the arrival of a new photocopier, the committee members also saw to it that many computers throughout the school were replaced and made functional. As well, as the myriad of emails I saw during the last month about "Barracuda" demonstrated, much work was done in getting a good filtering and reporting software system in place. I'm well aware of many of the frustrations and hurdles that needed to be overcome, and really appreciate your efforts and expertise. It is heartwarming to see so many evidences of a service mindset at work; keep it up!

The school's website has been updated (www.cornerstoneschool.us) and looks current. Thank you very much!

The teachers are also to be commended for the work done prior to the beginning of the school year. Some might argue that since teachers are paid employees, they better be working on getting ready for the school year during the summer. However, I note the thoroughness of the preparation, the commitment to excellence in the work, the team spirit that is so much in evidence, and the willingness to be of assistance to each other. Cornerstone's teachers clearly are willing to

go substantially above and beyond what might be expected, thereby again giving evidence of that "kingdom service mentality." It's a privilege to work with you, colleagues!

Then there is also the secretarial staff that has done so much to ensure the timely arrival of necessary school supplies, the orderly payment of them, the thoroughness of much of the communication that goes to the homes, all the while putting up – seemingly cheerfully – with my eccentricities. What can I say besides a heartfelt "Thank you!"

And of course, I also need to mention the preparation that parents completed prior to the first day of school. Wandering through the classrooms or observing activities on the playground, I can't help but notice all the new tennis shoes – a little indicator that parents are doing what they can to not only deal with the relentless growth that our children demonstrate, but also to ensure that children start the year off on the right foot. Great to see; keep it up, please, parents!

School Theme

At the opening assembly I introduced the school theme for the year: "Each One Unique: giving visible recognition that individuals are gifted differently." Stay posted. As the year goes on, we hope to unpack that in a variety of ways and experiences for our staff and students.

Moving Forward

We all begin the year with great intentions. Let's be sure to make the great intentions visibly translate into great actions as time goes on. Please keep up the channels of communication so that everyone can experience what it feels like to be a hand and a foot to each other. Keep up too the prayers for a blessed year together; only with our Father's blessing will the year be a profitable and enjoyable one.

Volunteers Needed

As in previous years, we have an ongoing need for many volunteers at Cornerstone. The area of greatest need at this time is for people who can help out either marking some math in 3rd – 8th grades or working with students in those grades. Please contact Miss Kleyn if you are able to help out with the 3/4 program, Mrs. Davis in the 5/6 program, or Mr. Kleyn in the 7/8 program. Volunteering is a rewarding way for you to contribute to the success of Cornerstone and to your child's education. Thank you heartily!

Yearbooks

The yearbook team worked hard last year to put together a fantastic yearbook. The theme was IDENTITY and it is definitely a unique yearbook, full of fun spreads and pictures. It is (finally) completed and should be at your disposal soon. We have worked hard again to keep the cost down as much as possible; this year books will be available (again) for only \$7.00 each. We hope that at that price each student is able to order their own copy for their own "memory collection." Please submit your order to the school by Friday, Sept, 9, checks payable to CCS.

If you did not receive a regular order form through the school channels, but would like a copy of our yearbook, please contact Otto Bouwman by phone or email to request your copy.

From the IT Committee

Darren Leyenhorst:

This summer has been a very busy one for the IT Committee. There have been many changes made to maintain and improve our existing network.

At the end of the school year the photocopier made its last few copies. A temporary machine was lent to us for the remainder of the year while different options were looked into for purchasing or leasing a "new" machine. After much research a suitable fit was found. This photocopier was be connected to the school's network and allow the staff to print items more efficiently. A big thank you goes to those who donated to this worthy cause. It is a tool that is used everyday by the staff and it is greatly appreciated.

The CBM enclosed the data room upstairs and installed an air conditioner. The data equipment shouldn't operate in conditions above 80 degrees and throughout the summer, because of its location, the data room would often be around 100 degrees. This could cause the equipment to malfunction. The air conditioner keeps the data room at a consistent 70 degrees or lower. The IT committee is also looking into installing a device that will alert them if the temperature rises above 80 degrees to further help avoid putting items in the room at risk.

As was planned the IT committee also purchased a Barracuda Web Filter. This item should give

more accurate web reporting of the internet accounts. This item will also reduce the cost of this service by 2/3 of what we were previously paying. The implementation of this item has proven to be a challenge but we are convinced that once the bugs are worked out it will be a great asset to the school.

Used computers were also bought this summer to replace some of the old computers. Last year it was the computer lab, this year it was the rest of the old computers throughout the school. All computers are now equipped with flat screen monitors. The staff and administration are very appreciative of this development because their previous computers were moving as fast as the local economy. The new monitors have also increased the desk space by large amount.

The committee is currently looking at different options to insure that all the school's information is backed up properly. This is done on site as of now but for security and peace of mind we are looking for a method of backing everything up off site.

At the beginning of summer Jeff Brown's time on the IT Committee finally came to an end. It has been a few terms and many years of work that he has dedicated to this committee. Jeff, we are very thankful for your contributions through all these years. It is great to have someone with these talents to serve the school so many years. There aren't too many people in our community with your knowledge in this area, so you will be missed. I do have a feeling that you may be called on to respond to an e-mail from time to time.

With the end to Jeff's time on the committee, we welcomed a new capable member to our team. John Bisshop was found willing to serve on the committee. We thank him for accepting this job and look forward to utilizing your skills and abilities.

It should be taken note of by the society of the exceptional work the committee members. I would like to mention their names so that you can give them a pat on the back if you get a chance. Eric Brown and Mark Kruyswijk have spent an enormous amount of time after work getting the kinks out of the Barracuda system and installing the computer hardware. Thanks for your hours of dedication. A big thank you also to Jack Marissen for being the resident IT guy. He has been called upon by the staff on many, many occasions to fix different problems that they have had with their computers, besides all the other IT committee work. Your work and dedication is noticed and appreciated.

Ladies Aid Report

Helena Van Driel:

First of all, a big thank you to the many who came out to help with the fundraisers during the summer. Thank you to Sara DeBoer, Irene Hicks, Faith VanDriel, and Jolene Vreugdenhil for organizing the Strawberry/Rhubarb Pie Fundraiser. Due to your committee's efforts, we were able to fill our freezers with delicious Strawberry-Rhubarb pies.

We would also like to thank Stephanie Bareman, Hannah Buitenbos, Debbie Johnson, and Corrie Klos for serving as a committee for the Dairy Women's Booth at the Fair. Beautiful weather was enjoyed while scooping ice cream at the Fair!

We would like to heartily thank Michelle VanDriel for helping to organize this past year's hot lunches. Michelle's term is complete and Lydia Faber has offered to take on this task, along with Karla Leyenhorst for this coming year.

We look forward to a new year of fundraising and would like to kick off the year with a Ladies Aid General Meeting towards the middle of September. Please come out and join us as we will be discussing financials, as well as planning for future fundraisers for Cornerstone Christian School.

Our Ladies Aid Board is in need of two new board members. If you are willing and able to serve on our board and wish to enjoy a fun and rewarding experience, we would love to hear from you. Your willingness to serve will be greatly appreciated!

Upcoming events include the Veggie Pack and Apple Pie fundraisers, which are usually held in the end of September, beginning of October. We still need some volunteers to sign up to help out on these committees. Watch for further info from these committees in your weekly Contacts!

If any of the above positions could be filled by you, we encourage you to please contact Hannah Buitenbos, Lisa Pelleboer, Jolene Vreugdenhil or Helena Van Driel.

Golf Tournament

Cornerstone is having its first annual **Peoples Bank Building Legacies Golf Classic** on September 17th! We would love for you to be part of what will be a fun event with prizes for everyone! The event will be a best ball affair and will be held at the beautiful Homestead Golf & Country Club. Included with your sponsorship fee of \$150 is golf, cart, dinner and the opportunity to be part of our silent auction. Everyone goes home a winner and with a prize! We need you so please go to www.peoplesbankgolfclassic.com and register!

School Calendar 11/12

August	30	First Day of School
September	5	<i>Labor Day</i>
October	6	<i>Inservice Day</i>
	7	<i>Fall Break</i>
	10	<i>Columbus Day</i>
	14	PSAT Test Date
November	4	High School First Quarter Reports
	7, 8	High School P/T Conferences
	11	<i>Veterans Day</i>
	23	Elementary Report Cards – Term 1
	24-28	<i>Thanksgiving Days</i>
	29, 30	Elementary P/T Conferences
December	16	Last Day of School
	19-2	<i>Christmas Break</i>
January	3	Return to school
	26	High School Second Quarter Reports
	27	<i>Prof. Dev. Day (with Canada)</i>
	30,31	High School P/T Conferences
February	16, 17	<i>Mid-Winter break</i>
	20	<i>President's Day</i>
March	2	Science Evening
	9	Elementary Report Cards – Term 2
	12, 14	Elementary P/T Conferences
	30	High School Third Quarter Reports
April	2-6	<i>Spring Break/Good Friday</i>
May	4	Public Speaking Contest
	28	<i>Memorial Day</i>
June	1	Sports Day
	8	Eighth Grade Graduation
	15	Last Day of School
	15	Senior Graduation

Italicized days are days on which students are not expected at school.

Directory

Board:

Chairman:	Jim Bareman
Vice-Chairman:	Marvin Vreugdenhil
Building Liaison:	Darren Leyenhorst
Secretary:	Marty VanDriel
Treasurer:	Mark Hicks

Building/Maintenance Committee

Dave Hofford	Jan Kottelenberg
Darren Leyenhorst	Ryan Veldman
Marty Vreugdenhil	

Education Committee

Jim Bareman	Otto Bouwman
Hannah Buitenbos	Faith VanDriel
Ryan VanDriel	Derek Willis

Finance Committee

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

IT Committee

John Bisschop	Eric Brown
Mark Kruyswijk	Darren Leyenhorst
Jack Marissen	

Library Committee

Hannah Buitenbos	Antina Chase
Corrie Klos	Bernice Vreugdenhil

Ladies Aid Committee

Hannah Buitenbos	Lisa Pelleboer
Helena Van Driel	Jolene Vreugdenhil

Office Staff

Tracy Bosscher	Hannah Buitenbos
Marcia Faber	

Teaching Staff

Grade 1-2:	Antina Chase (mornings)
Grade 1/2 &	
Language Arts 3:	Sara Miedema
Language Arts 1/2:	Janet Faber
Grade 3-4:	Laetisia Kleyn
Grade 5-6:	Ellen Davis
Grade 7-8:	Darryn Kleyn
Grade 9-12:	Otto Bouwman
	Wayne Chase
	Jack Marissen
	Amy Kirkland (Spanish)
	Debbie Faber (Art)