

The Lynden Link

Vol. 10, No. 4

Communication Between School and Home

February 26, 2012

From the Chairman

Jim Bareman:

Welcome to the February, 2012 edition of the *Lynden Link*! We are now couple weeks shy of 2/3 of the way through the school year, and we can be thankful that, generally speaking, things have been going reasonably well. Staff members and students have mostly been in generally good health, and a positive atmosphere prevails at the school. One of our teacher's lives was recently spared during a serious car accident. Indeed, much reason for thankfulness!

This week we were saddened to hear that one of our teachers would be unable to continue her teaching duties at the school due to exhaustion. Obviously as board we have good reason to want the best for our teachers, and will be reviewing this situation. Combined with the need to hire new teachers for the coming year, it seems obvious to ask just what it takes to be a good teacher? It's a worthwhile question to ponder, as we have all been influenced by many teachers in our lifetime, and most of those reading this article have children that they are currently or have in the past entrusted to the care of teachers for instruction.

If you just do a Google® search on the phrase "what does it take to be a teacher" you will find a large number of web sites that offer either teacher training, or the steps that need to be taken to be certified as a teacher in a given locale. However, one site¹ offered the following perspective:

"If you want to be a good teacher here is what it takes:

- 1. A passion for teaching and*
- 2. a school or other teaching environment that supports you to express your passion for teaching.*

The passion for teaching can take two forms, a passion for helping students OR a passion for living from the perspective of your subject. "

While not endorsing the rest of the site's content, this summary seemed instructive to me because of the second point. A passion for helping students or a passion for the subject matter alone will not necessarily

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be sufficient to ensure the success of our teachers. A key part of what it takes to be a good teacher is a supportive school environment. According to our Parent Handbook, that is exactly what we want to provide at Cornerstone Christian School. For example, in Section 2.1 Expectations for Student Conduct, the following can be found:

Working Together to Promote Good Behavior

Our children need to be nurtured on the pathway of sanctification. As adults, we have to be patient with their weaknesses and correct them again and again. It should be visible to the children that their parents and teachers are working together to promote good behavior.

I would like to encourage all parents of students in the school, and all the teachers to refresh their memories of our vision for the school by rereading the Parent Handbook. We can be thankful that at Cornerstone Christian School our teachers are indeed passionate either for helping students or for their subject matter, or for both. Pray that the Lord bless our efforts to find similar enthusiastic teachers to fill upcoming vacancies. And, let's be sure that we as parents and broader community are doing all that we are able, in action and in prayer, to provide a supportive environment for our teachers. Our children will reap the rewards!

¹<http://www.teach-kids-attitude-1st.com/good-teacher.html>

From the Board

Short Report of the Cornerstone School Board Meeting held on January 9, 2012

The chairman, J. Bareman, calls the meeting to order and reads from Phil. 1 and leads in prayer. All are welcomed including the Principal. The minutes from Dec. 5 are approved. There were no matters from the minutes. For incoming mail, an e-mail was received from U.S. Immigration that Mr. Marissen's status was changed from the R-1 to a H1B effective Jan. 1st. This is a long term visa. The agenda is adopted. The Principal, O. Bouwman, gives his Principal's Report. A request was granted for some days off regarding two teachers. The Ed. Com. was reported on by B. Lodder. T. Faber reported for the CBM. D. Kruyswijk and A. Sytsma are added as new committee members. T. Faber also reports on the IT committee. J. Hensen is added as new member of the committee. J. Bareman reports on a school visit he had with D. Willis on Dec. 12th. Teacher contracts are discussed for the 2012/13 school year. Advertising for next school year is decided. B. Lodder (with J. Bareman) reports on a scheduled teacher visit. Next meeting is set D.V. for Feb. 6th. Short report is read and approved. Principal is thanked and leaves the meeting. The remaining minutes of Dec. 5th are approved. There were no matters from the minutes. The agenda is established. The finances are dealt with. Budgeting for next year is discussed. There were several items for general business. A committee will be set up to look into long term planning for the building and the property. B. Lodder closes in prayer.

Short Report of the Cornerstone School Board Meeting held on February 9, 2012

The chairman, J. Bareman, opens the meeting by reading from Matthew 15 and prayer. All are welcomed including the Principal. The minutes of Jan. 9th are approved. Matters from the minutes are dealt with. There was one item for incoming mail. The agenda is established. The Principal, O. Bouwman, gives his Principal's Report. Current staffing is discussed. B. Lodder presents the Ed. Com. report. Classroom allocation for next school year is decided. Classroom visit is scheduled. T. Faber gives the CBM report. The playground equipment is ordered. The IT committee report is given by T. Faber. The online backup is now being done off-site. New laptops will be sought for next school year. The old computers will be distributed throughout the school. The needs for staffing for next year are discussed. Next meeting is scheduled for March 5th. Short report is read and approved. The Principal is thanked and leaves the meeting. The remaining minutes of the meeting without the

Principal of Jan. 9th are approved. There were no matters from the minutes. The agenda is adopted. Finances were taken care of. Next school year's budget numbers were approximated. Full time teacher's salaries are finalized. Teacher visits are scheduled. Short report is read and approved. M. Vandriel closes in prayer.

Staffing Needs

Jim Bareman:

"Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose."

Those in our community who read a lot, or who remember their French instruction from schools north of the border, may recognize that expression. Translated, it means "the more it changes, the more it's the same thing." While it may not be an exact fit, it is what comes to mind when comparing where we are at this February compared to last year. Once again we are faced with a level of uncertainty about staffing for the next school year.

In the *Contact* this week, it was noted that Mrs. Ellen Davis is not able to teach any more this year due to health considerations. By extension that means we are looking for a teacher to fill the 5/6 position again next year. We are thankful for the contribution that Mrs. Davis was able to make through the first part of the year and pray for a time of refreshing as she steps away from the daily teaching demands. We are also thankful that in God's providence, he has provided what appears to be a workable interim solution for this circumstance, through the willingness and availability of Mrs. Sara Miedema and Miss Amy Kirkland to take on extra teaching duties. As parents, let us do what we can to support them in their expanded teaching roles.

Though it seems only a short while since we welcomed Miss Laetisia Kleyn to our school in last February's *Link*, due to an upcoming Visa renewal requirement and lengthy advertising lead times, the board already made the decision to advertise a potential opening in her position back in December. The board and Miss Kleyn would both love for her to stay on here to teach and be part of the community, but there are additional factors we are still working through to make that possible.

The same ads currently running indicate that we anticipate an opening at the high school Spanish position. Miss Kirkland, who has done a great job of developing and teaching these courses over the last three years, continues to be interested in moving away to be closer to her family and to pursue other career interests. This is approximately a 1/3 position, involving courses that are prerequisite for graduation. *¿Hable español?* anyone?

Mrs. Debby Lodder has also let us know that

she will no longer be available to teach the assortment of alternative math courses that she has been providing at the high school level for a number of years now. We're grateful for the work Mrs. Lodder has been able to contribute in this area of growing need for us, and will be looking to find someone to fill this role as well.

We are, of course, also very thankful for the continued work and dedication of those staff members who plan to continue with us next year! Please pray that the Lord provide for our future needs as he has so abundantly provided in the past, and for ongoing health and strength for our teachers, so that the important work going on at the school can continue unhindered. If you or someone you know would be able to contribute to fulfilling the needs mentioned above, please contact either the principal, Mr. Otto Bouwman, the Education Committee liaison, Mr. Bob Lodder, or the board chairman, Mr. Jim Bareman, to discuss the possibilities.

From the CBM

Tim Faber:

So far 2012 has gone very smoothly as far as the building maintenance needs are concerned. We are always amazed at how much the facilities get used almost every day and most evenings. Short of a few odds and ends that are in need of our attention, things seem to be holding up just fine. Something to be thankful for indeed!

Planning is beginning to take shape for the relocation of the existing playground equipment. We can also report that the Ladies Aid has agreed to purchase two additional playground structures that will be combined with the existing pieces. One of the pieces has two slides and some activity areas and the second is a large climbing structure. We have just received word that the equipment is already on its way here and should be delivered towards the end of this month. Thank you ladies for this purchase, we can be sure that this equipment will see much good use. However... before this can happen we will need some volunteers for this effort. We are targeting two Saturdays for this work, March 17th and 24th. We will need help re-locating the existing equipment, assembling the new structures, clearing sod, installing the border and pea gravel surfacing. If you are willing and able to help with this please contact one of the CBM members, we would love to hear from you. The location for the structures still needs to be finalized. It is looking like the most preferred location, and least disruptive to the playfields, will be at south end of the south parking lot.

Again thank you to all who contribute in the regular maintenance and janitorial work of the school facility. Your diligence is appreciated by all. Please keep up the good work!

From the Ed Com

Bob Lodder:

Your Education Committee has been engaged with good things and we would like to relay two of them to you.

Curriculum Development

- This has much of our attention and interest. What we teach our children, is of course our top priority.
- Our Curriculum Coordinator, Mr. Kleyn continues to lead the charge in our teaching staff with the documentation of all curriculum using the UbD template.
- UbD (Understanding by Design) is a good method of thinking through curriculum, and applying it to each student with their unique attributes. By adding variety to teaching methods, evaluation and activities, it is hoped that the various learning styles will be better met.
- It is our hope that the changes in teaching methods proves to be beneficial for our children, fitting with our "Every one unique" theme.
- Parental feedback to teachers and Ed Com is always welcome.
- Additionally, we can report that a subcommittee is reviewing the Saxon Math program, seeking input from a lengthy list of teachers and parents and will be reporting their findings to the Education Committee soon.

Classroom Allocation

- We expect to have an increase of 17 students in first grade for the 2012/2013 school year. That means that we can expect to have as many as 29 students in the grade 1/2 classroom in the coming school year, which is a large number for a single classroom.
- The staff proposed, the Ed Comm recommended to the Board, and the Board decided to use the Computer Lab room for this purpose.
- The computers and tables will be removed, and laptops will be purchased to allow the computer courses to continue in other rooms.
- Students of the same age group will stay in the same area of the school building, and the costs are kept to a minimum

We are blessed to be busy with preparing our children and grandchildren, fellow members of Christ for "a life of Christ-centered service and stewardship in the kingdom and Church of God." (CCS Mission Statement)

Please continue to keep the students, parents, staff, volunteers, committee members and board in your thoughts and prayers.

Principal's Report

Otto Bouwman:

We have encountered all kinds of new realities since the last time I reported to the membership via the pages of the *Lynden Link*. Some of the realities are tremendously encouraging and give us cause to rejoice and thank God. Other realities are less encouraging, and give us cause to remind ourselves and each other to increasingly lean on our Father's care. In all circumstances we do well to give God the glory.

Cornerstone News

As was reported in the most recent *Contact*, Mrs. Davis came to the regrettable conclusion that her level of exhaustion was such that she will be unable to continue her work at Cornerstone for the remainder of this school year. We were very sorry to hear that as we have been and continue to be very grateful for the good work she has been able to do here. We are also very thankful for the willingness of Mrs. Miedema and Miss Kirkland to take on new (and additional) roles for the remainder of the school year. We pray that God will provide abundantly for Mrs. Davis, and restore her to her former levels of energy and enthusiasm in life.

Mrs. Miedema is the new home-room teacher of the 5/6 class, and she will teach those students until 1:40 each day. On Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday I will normally spend the last hour of the day in the 5/6 classroom teaching geography and science. On Wednesdays and Fridays Miss Kirkland will be teaching history. So the 5/6 class will be getting used to a few small changes, I'm sure, even though the three of us will strive to make that as smooth as possible.

Since Mrs. Miedema will be in the 5/6 classroom all day, she is no longer able to teach the third grade LA program. Again, Miss Kirkland comes to the rescue! Miss Kirkland will be working full time at CCS for the remainder of the year, learning to appreciate teaching at different levels. Besides continuing with the regular Spanish work she does at the junior/senior level, and the 5/6 history and third grade LA, she will also be taking over my British literature course at the high school level.

I'm very grateful that Mrs. Miedema and Miss Kirkland have been found willing to transition to full-time roles here. Both are familiar with how things are being done here, and I'm confident both will do an excellent job of helping our students increase in knowledge, skills, and good attitudes. Please continue to pray that all teachers receive the energy and dispositions that are needed to have enthusiastically do our work in

the classrooms.

A Long Quote

With the title "Nature and Purpose of Reformed Education" Judy Kingma succinctly wrote up some years ago a basic primer that captures key fundamentals about our school(s). When guests come to our school to ask me about possible enrollment of their children, I often will structure my answer around the four characteristics she identifies. Consider the following summary:

Canadian Reformed Schools were established by a generation of parents who were convinced that their children had to be educated in schools that were distinct in character and purpose not only from the public schools, but also from other Christian schools. The Reformed school assists parents in providing education that is:

1. confessional in character.

The Scriptures are not only foundational for the content of the instruction given in a Reformed school, but are also the basis for the context within which teachers and students interact and work. All that goes on in the Reformed school is under the normative authority of God's Word. Reformed education is a constant learning to say "I do" to all that God reveals about Himself in His Word and works as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of life. The confessional task of the school is show the children that all things in the created world have their being and purpose in God and can be truly known only in relation to Him. The Scriptures as they have been faithfully summarized and interpreted in the Three Forms of Unity are the foundation for Reformed education and give it its confessional character.

2. covenantal in character.

Reformed education is for covenant children who have been claimed by God and have received the sure promises of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as signed and sealed in their baptism. The covenant, therefore, is the Scriptural context or framework within which Reformed education in the school, the home, and the church takes place. The school assists the parents in educating covenant children by equipping them with skills and knowledge and by nurturing them in godliness that they might love God above all else and their neighbour as themselves. Teachers and students, therefore, do their work before the face of God within the relationship of love which binds them to their God.

3. antithetical in character.

By means of the covenant God binds His people to Himself; at the same time He separates them from all who submit to the rule of Satan. In recognition of the antithesis which God Himself put down (Genesis 3:15), the school, together with the home and the church, instructs and equips covenant children in and for the service of the LORD in all areas of life as prophets, priests, and kings (LD 12). In the education of covenant children, therefore, the LORD ordains praise for Himself and silences the foe and avenger (Psalm 8). Within this context, the school, like the home, seeks to recognize God's claim on His children by remaining faithful in its task to educate.

4. characterized by a unity of purpose that is shared by the home, the school, and the church.

The task of the school can be distinguished from that of the home and the church, but it shares in a common purpose with them "to tell the next generation about the deeds of the Lord so that they, too, may set their hope in God" (Psalm 78). When home, school, and church are united in this aim, the work of the one institution has life-giving consequences for the spiritual well-being of the others. The task of the school, therefore, is closely bound to the church's confession about the communion of saints (LD 21, Q&A. 55).

If ever someone asks you how Cornerstone differs from the myriad other independent (and often Christian) schools in the state or county, remind yourself of confessions, covenant, right/wrong, and home/church/school. Such an answer will give you a good start articulating what makes CCS tick.

A Short Quote

Rev. J. D. Wielenga, in a speech to teachers almost 20 years ago, passed on this gem: *Far out the greatest influence on a child comes not from the school, and not from the peer group, but from the family. It is said that a good school cannot correct the damage caused by a bad family, and a bad school cannot destroy the good built up in a good family.*

I pass that on as an encouragement to us all to focus on the family in the first place. There is so much that can be said about the roles that we parents can and must play in the home; I'll leave those things unsaid for now. I do encourage parents, though: read widely, listen carefully, discuss frequently, and especially: pray fervently as you create and sustain an atmosphere of godliness, joy, and love in your home.

Enjoy a blessed Sunday and week.

Ladies Aid

Sharon Veldman:

Recently we had our Ladies Aid General Membership meeting, thank you to all the ladies that attended. We are looking forward to the arrival of our new playground equipment! As always we have upcoming fundraisers as well. Look for the announcements for our Family Volleyball night! Get those teams together and put your game face on. With recent sunny days it also reminds us of our gardens. The upcoming plant sale is in need of some volunteers, talk to Hannah if you would like to be part of this. Other events are Sports Day, we have enough volunteers for this and Strawberry rhubarb pies, talk to Lisa P. if you would like to assist with this one.

Gramma V's hat box went around at our last membership meeting. If you missed out, there are plenty left. There is quite a variety of hats to choose from. Her latest creation is an owl, dog or sock monkey hat...super cute for little ones and they make great gifts too! If she doesn't have your size, don't fret she takes custom orders! She also has been knitting scarves and those are available as well. Contact her at 988-9116 and she'd be happy to whip something up for you. Proceeds benefit the Ladies Aid, which in turn benefits the school! We received a thankyou card from the teachers at CCS thanking us for our contributions to their classrooms. This would not be possible without your enthusiasm and help.

Remember there are still some apple pies and veggie packs in the freezer. Get your apple pies at a reduced price of \$7.00.

Thank you once again for helping out the Ladies Aid with our different fundraisers.

Athletic Report

Darryn Kleyn:

High School Basketball

Tonight (as I write this report) the Northwest Youth Basketball League will host championship games for each division. This year we had a girls division (4 teams), a boys B-division (4 teams) and a boys A-division (5 teams). We've had many close-fought games in each division and everyone has had a lot of fun along the way. Tonight the Cornerstone girls and JV boys will play in a championship game. If you want to know the results log onto www.nwyouthbb.com to see how they fared.

A BIG thank-you is in order to Janice Dykstra and Bernice Vreugdenhil for taking charge of our high school girls' team and to Marty Vreugdenhil for coach-

ing both high school boys' teams. It's always a big time commitment on their part; your expertise is very much appreciated! You continue to give our students a very positive experience in learning skills and Christian attitudes as they relate to basketball and sport in general.

I would also like to thank the many volunteers who helped out during the season as referees, scorers, timers, and cleaners. Many students and community members stepped forward to fill these roles.

We should also congratulate our high school girls for winning first place at the Agassiz Basketball Tournament recently. They played games on a Friday and Saturday and won all their games. Congratulations!

Middle School Basketball

The grade 7/8 girls and boys teams have 3-4 games left on their schedule yet. We have once again played games with local Christian schools including Ebenezer, Bellingham Christian, Oak Harbor Christian and Skagit Adventist. We are indebted to our enthusiastic coach: Mr. Ken Bosscher. Yes, he took charge of both the boys and girls teams this year and he was ably assisted by his son Kyle.

Thank-you, gentlemen, for your leadership and your willingness to share your expertise in helping our younger students grow in the game of basketball.

Volleyball

The sports season rolls on into volleyball. The Cornerstone-managed Northwest Youth Volleyball League begins on March 8. This year, we are again trying for a boys division; there are some 18-20 boys from our own high school that want to play! That could mean that we have 4 volleyball teams in the league from Cornerstone alone.

If you would like to help out as a referee, scorer or timer – please let me know. If you wish to catch a game or follow the progress of our teams check out the league website: www.nwyouthvolleyball.com.

Blessings

As the basketball season winds down, we can reflect on a wonderful season. We have been blessed in so many ways: diligent coaches, quality competition and the opportunity for our students to develop their God-given talents to His glory. Continue to give the Lord thanks for the manifold blessings and opportunities he allows us to be involved in at Cornerstone.

Secretary Needed

After 10 years, Mrs. Bosscher is retiring. Therefore:

Needed: School Secretary

Beginning date: Summer 2012

Types of tasks that need to be done:

- phone reception
- greet visitors
- handle mail and email
- maintain office records, including report cards and transcripts
- complete government forms
- prepare schedules
- prepare school bulletin
- maintain and organize inventory
- operate office equipment
- demonstrate proficiency with MS office programs

This is a volunteer position.

Please contact the school principal before the end of March if you feel you might be able to help out the school's administration. Everyone will be grateful.

Thank you!

Science Fair

A Science Fair is coming to Cornerstone! Participating students are nearing project completion. Almost all students from the entire school will be participating. Students are working on projects and will be presenting them at the Cornerstone science fair on March 2 from 7:30 - 9:00 PM. The Elementary students will be working on science projects in class with their teacher and will be sharing them on that evening. So reserve that evening for a visit to the school to see your student's work.

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, 9	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:	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

Tracy Bosscher	Hannah Buitenbos
Marcia Faber	

Teaching Staff

Gr 1/2 morning, Science	Antina Chase
Gr 1/2 History, P.E.	Sara Miedema
Gr 1/2 Lang Arts, Music, Art	Janet Faber
Grade 3-4:	Laetisia Kleyn
Grade 5-6:	Sara Miedema
Grade 7-8:	Darryn Kleyn
Grade 9-12:	Otto Bouwman
	Wayne Chase
	Jack Marissen
	Amy Kirkland (and 3 LA, 5/6 History)
	Debbie Faber (Art)