

The Lynden Link

Vol. 9, No. 1

Communication Between School and Home

August 29, 2010

From the Chairman

Harry Faber:

A new school year is underway. Thankfully we could begin another year despite some hic-ups along the way. Mr. M. VanDriel is busy working with an attorney on working out the details of Mr. Marrisen's visa challenges. Many thanks to John Bisschop, who is able to help out for a few weeks. Also many thanks to Ellen Davis, for stepping in to help out in the 3/4 class. We also wish Ellen strength in being an encouragement to her husband.

We can also be thankful that the Lord protected each of the families through the summer vacation. We often take safety from accidents so far granted.

Many thanks to Mel Yonkman for the cement table and benches that were placed in front of school. This was purchased with the donations that were received at the funeral of Mrs. Yonkman. I'm sure the table will be put to good use when the weather is nice.

We welcome in our midst the John and Carolyn Tolsma family and their son David who will be attending the 9th grade.

It is exciting to hear that we have started our own Home Ec Course. A number of students will be taking sewing for starters. We have to thank our many volunteers who put countless hours into the school, in order to help our school financially.

It is good to hear that our principal Otto Bouwman had a good experience in Brazil and we pray that our principal's input will have been an encouragement for the teachers in Brazil. Just hearing Mr. Bouwman tell us about the struggles in Brazil made him even more excited and enthused about what we have here in Lynden. We hope and pray that that enthusiasm carries him through his important task as captain of the ship.

It is very important that we continue to encourage each other about the important task we are busy with, and that is the education of the covenant youth. Let us pray that we have a blessed year that serves our God and Father.

In This Issue...

From the Chairman.....	1
School Board	1
From the CBM	2
IT Committee.....	2
Principal's Report	2
Ladies Aid.....	4
SCRIP.....	5
Yearbook Committee	5
From the Library	5
School Calendar 09/10	6
Directory	6

School Board

Short Report from the Board of Aug. 16 -2010

The chairman H. Faber opened the meeting with reading of Eph. 5 and prayer. Everyone was present including the principal. The vision and curriculum portion of the Leo Kampen video was watched. A discussion was then held regarding these matters. Minutes of June 7 are approved as read. There were no matters from the minutes. The agenda was approved. The board notes with gratitude that the court this summer ordered a motion of "dismissal with prejudice" for the lawsuit that had been initiated against us. The principal gives his principals report. It is reported from the CBM that everything is settled regarding the septic overflow. Also from the IT committee it is reported that the computers are updated with "new" ones. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 20. The principal is thanked and leaves the meeting.

Finances are dealt with. A letter was received from a member. There was one item for general business. Short report was read and approved. M. Vreugdenhil closed in prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

From the CBM

Darren Leyenhorst

This past summer has been a very active one for the CBM. We are doing our best to use the resources allotted to us and utilize the talents of our membership to keep cost down. We are blessed by having a very talented and dedicated membership. You contribute greatly to the smooth operation of our school.

I would like to thank Dave Hofford for his years of service on the CBM. Your knowledge, expertise, and hard work are greatly appreciated! Your contribution to the school behind the scenes and during various projects is invaluable. Thank you.

We would also like to welcome Marty Vreugdenhil as the new addition to our CBM team. We look forward to working with you. I am sure that you will be a good fit and we will be able to find plenty of activities to fill any of your free time with.

The back up from the gym's sewage system has been mopped up and we have replaced the defective float in the tank as well as secured the switch from being tampered with. Damage that was caused by the leak has been fixed. Thankfully this was all covered under our insurance policy.

During the summer we updated the lighting system to make it more efficient. We also had the carpets cleaned throughout the school. New protective covers for items on the gym walls have also been installed to protect those items from damage. We are presently in the process of preparing a room upstairs by the gym for some classes. The furnaces have been checked and adjusted to run more efficiently. We have also prepared and poured a concrete slab outside of Wayne's classroom for a concrete table and benches that have been donated. A big thank you goes to Ed DeBoer and Ferndale Redi-mix for helping us with the concrete, as well as those who volunteered with last minute notice to pour the concrete. Thank you also to Tri-van for the use of their scissor lift, which was used to adjust lights, check filters, check basketball net hardware, as well as vacuum the dust of the purlins. Besides all these activities much work has been done behind the scenes in anticipation of this school year as well as many other of our routinely scheduled maintenance items.

I would also like to thank all the ladies who came out to clean the school at the end of this summer. It is greatly appreciated by the staff and students. It is nice to see how the members of our school take ownership of the facilities and an active role in maintaining our school. It helps greatly in minimizing repairs and costs.

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

IT Committee

Darren Leyenhorst

This summer has been a very busy one for the IT Committee.

Early this summer "new" (previously used) computers and monitors were acquired for the computer lab. All the computers in the lab were replaced for the first time since the start of the lab. This provided the committee with a tremendous amount of work. The new computers had to be set up and installed with new software. Many hours were spent imaging the computers and setting them up so that they could be ready for school. Several work parties were set up over the summer in order to make this happen. There is no doubt that students and teachers alike will appreciate these faster computers. The flat screen monitors will also be a hit because it has opened up the desk space to allow for more elbow and text book room.

New anti-virus software has also been added to all the computers in the school. Many other software and hardware issues were also worked on. We hope in the near future to update the library computers and server to insure speed and continuity.

It should be noted that we have some very talented IT volunteers in our school community. They get called on constantly to solve problems that baffle most people. They are a very small group of people who get called upon often to solve these challenges. If you get a chance please let them know how much that they are appreciated. A tip of a hat to these individuals.

Principal's Report

Otto Bouwman:

Welcome, readers, to the first issue of the ninth year of this publication. By now the school year has started and everyone is quickly becoming used to the routines of a new school year. In the last issue of the *Lynden Link*, the chairman mentioned something about my anticipated trip to Brazil, and indicated that a formal report could possibly be forthcoming. Indeed, the trip provided me with an experience of a lifetime. Those of you who participated in the church worship service in the ARC on August 15 caught a bit of the flavor of my experiences while in Brazil. In this column, I'd like to reflect on a few lessons I learned this summer.

Brazil

I was in Brazil for 13 days. Four days were spent giving leadership at a Teachers' Symposium at the Aldeia Training Center near Recife; the other 9 days were spent in contact with missionaries, Reformed native Brazilian pastors, educational leaders, teachers, and numerous others. The whole experience was tremen-

dously inspiring.

Upon my return home, I am overwhelmed by the enormity of the task and opportunity in Brazil. (Young people, consider opportunities to serve in Brazil as you develop your talents.) In North America we have had countless discussions in the past years about unity between home, church, and school. Great discussions. But consider something with me, please. Which Canadian/American Reformed congregation has cheerfully flourished without the existence of a school with a confessional and covenantal character? Not one. In every place, either a school has been established for the children, or there are plans to establish one now, or the congregation has really struggled. There is an implicit understanding that it takes homes, and schools, and churches to together mold the next generation. Take one of those legs away, and things begin to fall apart.

What do we have in Brazil? Homes – to paint with a broad brush – are a mess. Parents don't have a tradition of knowing how to live according to Reformed principles. Some families have only one parent faithful in church. There are many children in the schools who might not even be members of the church, but who would love to receive a good education (public schools are a chaotic mess in the Brazilian northeast – I had the opportunity to visit one of those too) and also appreciate being exposed to the Reformed faith. So it's fair to say that one of the legs underpinning the healthy development of young Reformed Christian people is almost completely missing. The task of the school is exponentially more difficult than in our situation, because it cannot be built on the back of faithful homes. Those homes just aren't there. The preachers are doing marvelous work, and the elders are energetically visiting the homes and fostering more and more awareness of what Reformed families look like, and what Christian upbringing feels like, but family development is so necessary. And if the families don't learn to function faithfully as families, then we know what happens to the next generation – it will almost certainly fall away. Then our mission field will be like it has been for the past 35 years – a mission field focused on saving individual souls, and watching the next generation be lost again to the devil. So the development of Christian families is absolutely essential to the continued vibrant growth of the church on the mission field.

The state of homes means, in general, that there are just two legs under the tripod: the church and the school. But that's not the end of the problem, because the Christian teachers have very little awareness of what it means to think Christianly, what it means to have Christian practices in the classroom, what a Christian work ethic means, and so on. My communication with them made it clear to me and to the leaders in the

schools that the teachers need to grow so much and embrace the Christian faith at so many more levels than they currently do, that we're almost overwhelmed. I think I encouraged them – I know I did – but they really shared with me the urgency of their need. They need serious help in the continued development of Reformed schools in Brazil.

Lynden

What do we have here in Lynden? We have mostly, thank God, stable homes. We have faithful preaching in the worship services. We have a smoothly functioning school. In Brazil they look to us as the example to follow. They want to be like us, in the sense that they would love to have stability and generational transfer of that covenant awareness from parents to children. Do we have any awareness of the privilege that we have? Do our students have appropriate appreciation for the tremendous riches that they can enjoy every day? Do parents show gratitude for the support and encouragement of their parents? Are we pumped, excited, enthused – to be allowed to be associated with Cornerstone Christian School, where God's name is praised and where the next generation learns about the wonderful deeds of the Lord? I hope you are, because you need to be! You need to be enthused about this blessing; the alternative is to be ungrateful, and ingratitude does not fit in the Christian's walk of life.

I have a new sense of urgency to the work we are doing. I also have a new sense of privilege – I'm privileged to have been called to leadership; you are privileged to have been called to leadership; together we need to model and lead in a self-sacrificial way that makes it evident to everyone that we understand we are privileged to be working in God's kingdom and for the advancement of that kingdom. And if we have just a tiny sense of awareness of privilege, then we'll all joyfully accept the work that has been set before us, and we'll do it eagerly and do it to the best of our ability. How is everyone called to leadership? Board members are leaders to the entire school association. Teachers are leaders to our students. Committee members are leaders giving practical application in specific situations. Parents are leaders in your homes. Young couples are leaders to the teenagers. Older students who read these words are examples to younger siblings. Everyone is a leader in some way. Are we inspiring each other to positive leadership? Or do we tolerate – or even promote – negativity in various ways?

As we embark on a new year together, it is my prayer that we are all filled with a new sense of appreciation for the gifts that God has given us. No, Cornerstone is by no means perfect, nor is anyone who works here. That's reality in a broken world. But let's help each other become the most effective we can be

as faithful workers and leaders in God's kingdom. Gratitude to God will result in generosity and love to each other. May generosity of spirit and genuineness of love be abundantly evident as we take up our tasks again this school year.

Okay, that's the part of my report linked to vision. There are also a few practical matters that I should note here. There is a connection. ☺ First of all, thank you again to the plethora of volunteers who got the school ready for this past Wednesday. It's no surprise: we need volunteers at the school again this year. In addition to the numerous people who already help the school operate smoothly in a wide variety of ways, including cleaning duties, secretarial tasks, teaching various classes, etc, the teachers are also asking for the following assistance this year:

- **1/2** – occasional art instruction assistance
- **3/4** – in class assistance 5 days per week during math class and assistance in PE class
- **5/6** – math helper 4 days per week during math class and math grading 2 evenings per week
- **7/8** – math grading 4 evenings per week, in class assistance 5 days per week during math class, creative writing editor / tutor, oral reading 1 day per week during language arts instruction, and we still need relief for history instruction
- **in general** – we need someone to make math and LA booklets, a person to prepare the Cornerstone Contact on the first day of the school week, a manager for our school's Schoolwires page, (and please note the request from the librarians elsewhere)

If you are able to help out in some ways with these tasks, please send the relevant teacher or me an email this week. Teachers are always so thankful for the many hours that parents volunteer at the school and we hope that this will again continue this year.

Secondly, thank you to the yearbook staff for job done. I really appreciate your work. Good job.

Third, letters went home to parents about specific class expectations, *Cornerstone Contacts* went home (and are available also on our website – www.cornerstoneschool.us) and other forms should have arrived at home as well. We know we're flooding you a bit, but there are numerous bits of the puzzle we wish to get out of the way early in the year. If we get off on the right foot, the rest of the year goes well. If you have questions or concerns about developments in the school, please don't hesitate to share them with the staff.

I wish you all God's blessing in the coming year.

Ladies Aid

Helena VanDriel:

First, a big thank you to all who helped with fundraising throughout the summer! Many were busy making Strawberry Rhubarb pies or helping out in the Dairy Women's booth at the Fair. Whether chopping fruit or filling pies, scooping ice cream or remaking "MooWiches", we can be very thankful for the support shown by all who helped to lend a hand in the fundraising efforts for our school.

Also, a big thank you to Janet Brown who has helped out with organizing hot lunches for the last few years and welcome to Karla Leyenhorst, who will be taking her place. These lunches are always a highlight for the students!

We look forward to a new year of fundraising and would like to kick off the year with a Ladies Aid General Meeting on Tuesday morning, Sept. 14. We will be discussing financials as well as voting in two new Ladies Aid Board members.

If there is anyone interested in putting their name (or someone else's) up for nomination on the LA Board, please let us know. We know there are many willing and eager ladies out there who can't wait to try their hand at fundraising for their child's school!!

Reminder:

Apple Pie Committee – Kari Van Diest, Alyssa Brown, Beatrix Kleyn, Faith Van Driel, Janice DeMooy and Helena Van Driel(Board rep)

Veggie Packs Committee – Karla Leyenhorst., Rianne Kruyswijk, Janice Dykstra, Jolene Vreugdenhil (Board Rep)

Hot Lunches – Michelle Van Driel and Karla Leyenhorst.

These events should be taking place soon so watch for further info from these committees in your weekly Contacts!

Note: Don't forget to vote for Cornerstone Christian School, Lynden WA, at Kohl's Cares for Kids, <http://www.facebook.com/kohls>. You may each cast 5 votes for our school. So far, Lynden Christian is a contender with 10,500 votes, but with your votes and links to Facebook we could also be a contender! The winning schools will receive \$500,000! Voting ends Sept 3.

SCRIP

Lydia Faber

Back to School 10% Scrip Blitz

We are excited to kick off the year with a 10% Gift Card promotion for "The Markets", (Brown and Cole). Gift cards will be available in \$50 and \$100 increments and available for ordering September 1-22. This is a once a year event and a great way to help offset tuition costs. You will receive 8% towards tuition and 2% will go into the Scrip Fund. You can order by turning the attached order form into the office, ordering online at CCSscrip@gmail.com or by contacting Helena (354-5668) or Lydia (354-7568). We will be placing our first order on Sep. 1 and are looking forward to a great response and are thankful to "The Markets" for their generous support of our school and community.

Thank-you
Scrip Committee

Yearbook Committee

Janita Willis

While the first day of school traditionally comes with some excitement, this year's excitement was doubled. This came with the arrival and handing out of the 2009/2010 Cornerstone yearbook. It is hard to imagine what it is like not to own one of these precious keepsakes, but there are some of you out there who are majorly missing out! Maybe you don't know what you are missing out on....a green collection, focused on quotes, captions, copies, and pictures! Lucky for you, our school has graciously bought extras from the Lynden Print Co, and one of these rare mementos could be yours! We still have an amazing bargain of only \$10 dollars for a forty-eight page memory-filled souvenir. Order yours today by calling Cornerstone Christian School at 318-0663, or stop in and our cheerful secretaries will be happy to help you! Don't waste time, splurge, before we run out!! Thanks again for your support!!!

We're down and out,
The 09/10 Cornerstone Yearbook Team

Library

The Library Needs Your Help!

We are back to work again at the library & have plans for another successful library program for our students. We have several part-time library workers but really have need for a few more. The only qualification necessary is a love for books. If you have a willingness to learn and attention to detail we could really use you. Your commitment could be as simple as working one Wednesday per week helping students choose their books, check books out on the computer or you could step out of your comfort zone and learn to present to the classes as they come through the library. You will always be working with a more experienced library worker. This is a great opportunity for you to learn more about children's literature and you'll have lots of fun while you're at it!

If you are interested please call or talk to Corrie Klos (354-7559)

School Calendar 10/11

August	25	First Day of School
September	6	<i>Labor Day</i>
October	7	<i>Inservice Day</i>
	8	<i>Fall Break</i>
	11	<i>Columbus Day</i>
	14	PSAT Test Date
November	5	High School First Quarter Reports
	8, 9	High School P/T Conferences
	11	<i>Veterans Day</i>
	24	Elementary Report Cards – Term 1
	25, 26	<i>Thanksgiving Days</i>
	29, 30	Elementary P/T Conferences
December	16	Christmas Program
	17	Last Day of School
	20-31	<i>Christmas Break</i>
January	3	Return to school
	27	High School Second Quarter Reports
	28	<i>Prof. Dev. Day (with Canada)</i>
	31	High School P/T Conferences
February	1	High School P/T Conferences
	17, 18	<i>Mid-Winter break</i>
	21	<i>President's Day</i>
March	4	Fine Arts Evening
	11	Elementary Report Cards – Term 2
	14, 16	Elementary P/T Conferences
April	1	High School Third Quarter Reports
	4-8	<i>Spring Break</i>
	22	<i>Good Friday</i>
May	6	Public Speaking Contest
	30	<i>Memorial Day</i>
	?	Sports Day
June	3	Eighth Grade Graduation
	10	Last Day of School
	10	Senior Graduation

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

Total days: 180

Directory

Board:

Chairman:	Harry Faber
Vice-Chairman:	Marvin Vreugdenhil
Building Liason:	Darren Leyenhorst
Secretary:	Marty VanDriel
Treasurer:	Mark Hicks

Building/Maintenance Committee

Dave Hofford	Jan Kottelenberg
Darren Leyenhorst	Ryan Veldman
Marty Vreugdenhil	

Education Committee

Otto Bouwman	Hannah Buitenbos
Harry Faber	Faith VanDriel
Ryan VanDriel	Derek Willis

Finance Committee

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

IT Committee

Eric Brown	Jeff Brown
Mark Kruyswijk	Darren Leyenhorst
Jack Marissen	

Library Committee

Antina Chase	Corrie Klos
Melissa VanBeek	Hannah Buitenbos

Ladies Aid Committee

Stephanie Bareman	Helena VanDriel
Bernice Vreugdenhil	Jolene Vreugdenhil

Office Staff

Tracy Bosscher	Hannah Buitenbos
Marcia Faber	

Teaching Staff

Grade 1-2:	Antina Chase (mornings)
Grade 1/2 &	
Language Arts 3:	Dana Klootwyk
Language Arts 1/2:	Janet Faber
Grade 3-4:	Ellen Davis
Grade 3-4:	Stephanie Bareman (Friday)
Grade 5-6:	Melissa VanBeek
Grade 7-8:	Darryn Kleyn
Grade 9-12:	Otto Bouwman
	Wayne Chase
	Jack Marissen
	Amy Kirkland (Spanish)
	Debbie Faber (Art)