

The Lynden LINK

~ Chairman Report ~

August 30, 2026 ~ Volume 25, Issue 1

Dear Cornerstone Family and Friends,
Welcome back to another year at CCS! I trust you all had a wonderful summer, enjoying perhaps a slightly slower pace of life with savored sunshine and warmer weather. With that, I hope our beloved staff and students are sufficiently well-rested and ready for another year of teaching and learning. While much work has already been done prior to our students' arrivals this coming week, we recognize our main objective of classroom instruction is still to come and humbly recognize our dependence on the LORD for his blessing as we co-labor in this shared educational endeavor.

While we officially open the school doors for business (class) this Tuesday, D.V., we do well to recognize all the prep work that has taken place over the summer. Over the past months, our committees, teachers, and administrative staff have been intermittently busy with lesson planning and school logistics. So much work goes on behind-the-scenes. Thank-you all for your work! I hope you see the desired fruit of your labor; namely, *another joy-filled generation of faithful kingdom workers.*

This year, we will continue to provide a high-quality education for each of our students. To accomplish that, we note with thanksgiving that we are fully staffed, with last year's (full-time) teaching staff returning along with a few new ones added. In other words, we're well set up for the school year. After giving it some thought, our staff decided on Philippians 4:8 as the 2026/2027 school theme verse (see the Principal's Report for more information):

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

These are excellent words for us to keep in mind especially at the start of another school year. By way of reminder, Cornerstone officially started in 2002. If you do a little math, you'll discover we're *beginning our 25th year. How exciting! That we can say this is evidence of God's faithfulness. We are where we are by his goodness to us, and we will continue in that by his grace.*

We all have much work to do this year - in class, at home, and in meetings. Let's do so with a perspective of thinking on things pure, commendable, and praiseworthy. I look forward, with you, to another year of rejoicing in God and depending on his blessing on our labors. Thank-you for your prayers, encouragement, and support. It's an honor and privilege to work with you as we seek to raise our children to fear the Lord!

- Lance Visser



Inside this issue

Chairman Report.....	1
Ed Comm Report.....	2
Ladies Aid Report.....	2
Principal Report.....	3
STAMP Report.....	4
Prof. D reflections.....	5
Calendar.....	6
Directory.....	6

Upcoming Dates

Sept. 1—First Day of School
Sept. 7—Labor Day
Sept. 9—Student Photo Day
Oct. 9— PD Day
Oct. 12 —Columbus Day

**Next LINK Submission
Due Date:**
October 21, 2026

Philippians 4:8-9: “Whatever is Godly, think about such things”

~ From the Ed Comm ~

Another edition of the *Lynden Link* means another contribution from the Education Committee.

You might wonder: just who is on the Ed Comm (as it's familiarly known) and what does it do?

The Ed Comm is made up of the principal, the lead high school teacher, a board member who serves as liaison to the board, and four other members of the school society.

Its purpose is to provide oversight and guidance concerning the academic and instructional life of the school. The Ed Comm considers matters related to curriculum, instruction, school policies, and staffing and makes recommendations to the school board as directed. It keeps itself informed regarding the academic quality and Scriptural character of the instruction provided and reports its findings and recommendations to the board. The committee also provides opportunities for the membership to be informed and engaged by hosting an Information Meeting each academic year on topics of interest and benefit to the school. In addition, the Ed Comm oversees the operation of the Library Committee and appoints its members as needed.

Every other month, an Ed Comm member, together with a school board member, visits all the classrooms in the school. This once a year visit for each member of the Ed Comm is always a real pleasure because in the classrooms we see where the talk turns into action.

Each year, the Education Committee focuses on one or two subject areas in its effort to review the curriculum. Last year, we reviewed Cornerstone's music and physical education programs, and this coming year, we plan to review art and memory work. The review includes examining what is cur-

rently being taught and, with input from the teachers, considering what could be done to strengthen and improve the course. If a course does not already have an overarching rationale, the Ed Comm will work to develop one.

Another area that receives attention from the Ed Comm is the senior projects. We provide input at the beginning of the process, when students submit their proposed plans, and again at the end, when they give their final presentations. The grading of the projects is up to the teaching staff, but we help by sharing our impressions and observations. In the years that I have had the privilege of participating in this process, I can tell you that we have been consistently impressed by the students' efforts and the quality of their work.

Incidentally, in December, two of our members will be retiring from their positions on the Education Committee. After hearing this brief review of the work we do, perhaps your interest has been piqued. If you think this might be something you would be interested in participating in, please let one of the Committee members know.

As we begin a new year of instruction at Cornerstone, we are reminded of God's gracious provision. He has blessed us with a full complement of dedicated teachers who faithfully serve, students who fill our classrooms and hallways with life, and a facility and play fields that provide a place for learning, growing, and fellowship. We give thanks to the Lord for His continued care of our school and for the many ways He provides for our needs. May we continue to trust Him and seek His blessing as we carry out the work He has given us.

Stephanie Bareman

~ From the Ladies Aid ~

Summer is coming to a close and Fair week has come and gone. A HUGE thank you to the committee members for all of the organization that went into this big event. Also a BIG thank you to all of you who came out to help serve the customers!

The Apple Pie fundraiser will get under way soon. Please look out for announcements soon about how you can help with selling and making the pies!

Our Fall membership meeting is scheduled for Sept 28 at 7:30 in the Lynden ARC basement. We are

looking for 2 ladies to replace outgoing ladies on the board. Please prayerfully consider if you would be willing to serve in this way, especially if you haven't had an opportunity to serve on the board in the past! Please talk to Ang Davis, Lisa Pelleboer, Leanne Veldman, or Clarissa Chase.

On behalf of Ladies Aid,
Clarissa Chase

~ From the Principal ~

How is that twelve weeks of summer break have gone by already! There was a different group of staff members that were sitting around the table for meetings this past week, compared to those around the table at the end of the previous school year. While that stems somewhat from several new faces, here I'm referring to the refreshed and re-invigorated persons that are present, compared to the tired crew that walked out the doors after reports were finished in June.

Our daily meetings last week helped us get connected, or re-connected - with our curriculum, with our colleagues, with our task - and it is good! While summer break is great, and we get to fill our time with totally different things, it is also a blessing to be busy with what we love to do once again.

Our school theme this year is "Whatever is godly, think on such things". The theme comes from Philippians 4:8,9 *"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you."* There is a lot to unpack in this verse, and we will use our monthly 'front foyer assemblies' to do that. When Paul tells the Philippians to think about the godly things, he doesn't let it rest as merely a mental task, but rather that it is to be followed by practice. We want to highlight the concepts of gratitude and service. We are God's children seeking to learn and grow in our knowledge of our God, His wondrous works and how to rightly live before Him. We strive to develop a school culture where doing the right thing is the 'cool' thing, the option that is the only option. I don't mean to imply that isn't already happening. This text was chosen because a school theme causes us to reflect on and give attention to this thought. Any opportunity to help students make godly decisions on their own, and to help them to see that this choice pleases God, then that is an opportunity we don't want to miss.

So during the course of the year, we will talk with the students about what is right and pure and lovely and commendable. We will reflect on what is praiseworthy and how excellence is defined. There will be many opportunities to see how Paul's words to the Philippians also pertain to us.

*Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see*

*Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail,
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.
Hymn A25, Stanza 2, Keith Getty and Stuart Townend*

Welcome!

Joining us in this rewarding task of teaching are Kailey DeRuiter in third and fourth grade and Maddy Bouldman in various middle school classes and 7th grade homeroom. In the EdSupport department Grace Stevens and Linda Heeringa will join the team, providing support to students who need one-on-one instruction to experience success. To the four of them we offer a huge welcome, knowing their skills and talents will be a blessing to Cornerstone. We are blessed to have a full staff, without patching together but if you feel you could offer some volunteer time, please reach out. There is always a way for your skills and talents to provide benefit to our students.

Also new are a few students. We have a smaller number of first grade students, with Taysom Willis and Lucy Jo Bosscher being the first of their families to be CCS students. Joining them in first grade are Owen Thompson, Shaylie Lindeman, Caden Roosma, Arianna Vreugdenhil and Dane Wielenga. We also welcome a few new families. James denHartog is a new student in 9th grade. Ezra Hofman is increasing the numbers of 6th grade. The Meyer family has Emily joining us in 3rd, Kaylee in 5th, Kayden in 7th and Ashley in 9th. The Zandstra family will join us with Eden in 4th grade and Wesley in 7th. A big welcome to each and every one of these new students and their families. We understand there is always a bit of an adjustment time when one is the "new" student. We hope this adjustment goes smoothly and is short-lived. Some of these "new" faces have already met others during some of the community events, like the Cafe and school cleaning. We hope they feel 'at home' soon!



Notes to note

Considering many of our recent summers, this was a quiet summer in regards to school changes. This also applies to policies. There are only a few things to note, with the driveway protocol being the most edited. Considering we began using the new driveway as the year drew to a close, it isn't entirely new, but we have made some slight tweaks. The biggest thing to note is to please pull all the way forward to the gym entrance when the pick up line begins at the end of the school day. However, once those cars pull away, we won't "refill" those spaces as it gets challenging to manage safely when cars and students are moving around at the same time. Thank you for helping us manage the traffic and students safely. The full protocol is in the Parent Handbook, which will be distributed this week.

We also appreciate your attention to the student dress code. It's challenging for teachers to make calls on whether or not some attire is considered modest enough. Shorts length is one such item where it can get challenging. Thigh length shorts can be difficult to find in the stores, so we do appreciate your attempts to find suitable choices. Please remember that professional sports team logos and swag from other local schools is not permitted according to the school dress code. We really do appreciate your attention to this.

Cell phones also should be mentioned here. Students must keep them off their person during the school day. They may not keep them in their pocket. Cell phone use, other than requested by the teacher, results in an automatic detention. Should there be a specific need for a student to use their cell phone during the day, all that is needed is a quick chat with their teacher to arrange this. Smart watches will be treated in the same manner as cell

phones when they are misused in class. They should not be used as communication devices while students are at school.

School begins this week! The staff has worked hard to get things ready. The volunteer cleaners have been in to make things clean and tidy. The various committees have supported staff in their preparations in a variety of ways - furniture and IT needs being the prominent items. We sure did and do appreciate all of this. We are ready and can't wait to see you all in the church for the opening assembly on Tuesday at 8:15, to begin another year of learning about God's world, all He has done for us and how we can best serve and honor Him. May God bless our efforts! Whatever is godly. . . Think on such things!



~ From the STAMP Team ~

At the end of last year, I introduced who the leaders for STAMP would be. However, some people may be wondering what STAMP is all about.

What is STAMP? STAMP stands for Students working Together at Achieving a Mutual Purpose and that purpose is:

- To give students a voice and face in the school
- To encourage school spirit in all students
- To give leadership opportunities and experience to high school students
- To encourage relationships across all grades at school

To help organize this, students are divided into 4

teams each with a different focus, namely the Whole School, Elementary, High School and the Finance team. However, all high school students are encouraged to help out with different events and activities throughout the year.

One regular activity that STAMP organizes each month is the pizza days. These are typically the third Tuesday of each month (September often is the fourth Tuesday to allow all the forms to be collated). This is the only fundraiser that STAMP profits from, and these funds are used when arranging all other events, including the pancake breakfast, spirit week and games afternoons.

~ Professional Development Reflections ~

During the summer, I completed two three-credit courses as part of Dordt's Master of Education program. The first dealt with curriculum development and review, including aligning curriculum to standards, using the well-known *Understanding by Design* formats, and conducting curriculum audits.

My second course was titled Academic Research in Education. In this course, I learned how to engage in action research, using established academic research to inform my practice as a teacher. The highlight of this course involved a major action research project of my choice – and I chose to tackle the beast that is generative AI (ChatGPT, Gemini, Grok, etc.). I can confirm from my research that Cornerstone is not the only school wrestling with this topic! AI is being actively researched throughout academia, particularly in universities but also in high schools; I read dozens of academic papers discussing how various institutions are adjusting to this new reality. As you can guess, there are many perspectives. Some see AI as the greatest new thing in academia: a personal

tutor for every student, instant creative genius for every child, individualized education at its finest. Others are more cautious: how might AI usage impact a child's development? What ethical considerations must be addressed? How can schools effectively address the temptation to plagiarize using AI?

What became clear from my studies is that AI is definitely not going anywhere, and that the next generation is quickly becoming AI-literate. There is no doubt that AI has the potential to radically change what school looks like – likely sooner rather than later. The question I left with is how we as a school can effectively teach students in spite of, around, and with AI. I thoroughly enjoyed engaging in this research, developing a better understanding of the many considerations that need to be addressed regarding AI, and using what I learned to inform and improve my practice as a teacher

~ Stephen Chase.

Forensic Science: Secrets of the Dead (Red Comet)

Over the summer, I enrolled in a Red Comet course (online) about forensic science. Despite it being a high school course (for half a credit), I enrolled in this for a few reasons. 1) It sounded super interesting to me. While I cover aspects of forensic science in the different courses that I teach at school (particularly Chemistry & Biology), a course that is focused on just forensics sounded intriguing to me. 2) As a high school teacher, and a subject selection advisor, I wanted to be able to give practical advice to students regarding courses on Red Comet including what it all involves. Our high school students are able to enroll in Red Comet courses for credit, although these courses can't be ones that are offered in person at school (e.g. they cannot take Algebra 1 via Red Comet). 3) As a member of Ed Com, I wanted to give a brief report to Ed Com about some of the potential ethical concerns that we may have with such courses. I wanted to find out how well they accept answers from a Christian perspective (particularly creationist viewpoint).

To sum up, I loved the course. The course was split into 8 units, and I tried to tackle one a week, with a few weeks between for a mid-term and a final exam. The units went over all different aspects of crime scenes, as it relates to murder cases. I learned how to collect and tag evidence, how to preserve a crime scene, how to analyze different types of evidence that is collected, including DNA, blood evidence, drugs, fingerprints, weapons (including a lengthy unit on ballistics and different sorts of guns), arson related material and explosives. I also learned about the original body farm project and the others that exist and autopsies and about giving evidence in

court as an expert witness. One particular fascinating assignment that I needed to complete towards the start of the course was to set up a fake crime scene at my house, including a masking tape outline of a victim. This assignment was extended in each further unit. Other things that I needed to complete and cover included writing a fictional story (for the first time since I was in high school myself!), researching major cases from the past, fingerprinting a scene and listening to multiple podcasts and TED talks.

Some of the takeaways that I have from this unit, apart from appreciating the justice system a little more and the work that forensic scientists are busy with was a greater appreciation for Red Comet and the units that our students can take, should they choose to. In addition, I also have a few ideas about possible forensic science or labs that I could do with students in high school as we study in particularly either Chemistry or Biology.

~ Jeanette Janssen



2026/2027 School Calendar

September

1- First Day of School
7 - Labor Day
9- Student Picture Day

October

9- PD Day
12- Columbus Day

November

6- PD Day
11- Veteran's Day
13 - HS 1st Qtr report Cards
16,17 - High School P/T Conferences
26- Thanksgiving Day
27- Thanksgiving Break

December

4 - Elem Report Cards Term 1
7&9 - Elem P/T Conferences
18 - Last Day of 2026
21 -Jan 1 – Christmas Break

January

4 - First Day of 2026
18 - Martin Luther King Day
29 - HS 2nd Qtr Reports

February

1,2 - HS P/T Conferences
12- PD Day
15- President's Day

March

4,5 - Mid Winter Break
8 - PD Day
19- Elem Report Cards Term 2
22 & 24 - Elem P/T Conferences
26 - Good Friday

April

5 - 9 -Spring Break
16 - HS 3rd Qtr Reports
23 - Grandparents Day

May

14 - PD Day
21 - Sports Day
24 - Sports Day Backup
31- Memorial Day

June

4- Eighth Grade Graduation
11- Last Day of School
11- Senior Graduation
14-16 - Teacher Work Days
16 - Report Card Distribution

Board

Chairman:	Lance Visser
Vice-Chairman:	Ryan VanDriel
Secretary:	Stephanie Bareman
Treasurer:	Ian Davis
Ed Comm Liaison:	Stephanie Bareman
Staff & Membership Admin	Ryan VanDriel
Building Liaison:	Harvey Pelleboer
IT Liaison:	Aaron Bosscher

Building/Maintenance Committee

Rick DeMooy	Will Kingma
Brian Kooiker	Harvey Pelleboer
Kam Veldman	John Vreugdenhil

Education Committee

Debbie Johnson	Kaylene Hafford
Jeanette Janssen	Jon Dykstra
Rianne Kruyswijk	Liana Faber
Stephanie Bareman	

IT Committee

Caleb Bareman	Aaron Bosscher
Johan Sterk	Nathan Burger

Finance Committee

Brian Hendricks	Harvey Pelleboer
Kolin Veldman	Gavin Willis

League Advisory Committee

Katrina Lodder	Stephen Chase
Aaron Bosscher	Jeff Brown

Ladies Aid Committee

Pres - Malorie Burger	VP - Ang Davis
Sec - Clarissa Chase	Treas -Leanne Veldman

Staff

Debbie Johnson - Principal, Art 5-10
Kari VanDiest- Secretary
Karla Leyenhorst - Bookkeeper

Full Time

Jeanette Janssen -Science 7-12, Math 9-12, Comp-Program 9
Kailey DeRuiter - Gr. 3/4
Paige Kooiman - Gr. 5/6
Maddy Bouldman - Gr.7/8, PE5-8
Stephen Chase - PE 5-11 Boys, HS Eng & Hist, His. 7-8,
Stephen Houweling - Gr.7/8, Writing 6
Tricia Hitchcock - Gr. 1/2
Wayne Chase - HS: Bible, Math, English, History

Part Time

Bea Sterk - Math 4, Math 6
Christine Hafford - Ed Support
Connie Kooi - Spanish 11/12 (Monday)
Grace Stevens - Ed Support
Janice Dykstra - Ed Support Director
Jolene Faber - Yearbook
Jolene Vreugdenhil - Culinary Arts 11/12
Karen Martin - PE1-4, PE Girls 9-11
Kathleen Stevens- L.A 4, Geometry 9/10
Katrina Lodder - Athletic Director
Linda Heeringa - Ed Support
Melanie Kottelenberg - Music 3-6
Naomi Bormuth - Spanish 11/12
Sharon Veldman - Culinary Arts 11/12
Tessa Kooiker - L.A. 1/2
Trina Visser - Yearbook