

# The Lynden LINK

## ~ Chairman Report ~

June 23, 2024 ~ Volume 22, Issue 6

This Link comes to you after we have completed the 2023-24 academic year. As such, it is fitting to give thanks to God for His blessing on our efforts. Many people have been part of this effort, more than we can name here. When you think about it, we are actually a large team; starting with parents, of course, who wear many hats. But we have many others who are not parents who help to make this organization function. All those efforts are appreciated, and thanks be to our Creator who gives each of us the ability and strength to complete our individual tasks.

With regard to staff, we have said goodbye to Lynette Van Hofwegen and Karen DeMooy and we now welcome some new teachers. You have been introduced to Paige Decker, who will be the full-time grade 5/6 teacher, and we have also hired Matt Phair, who will be teaching grade 5/6 math. Matt is an experienced math teacher who was looking for a part time position for this next year. He attends Christ the King church in Bellingham and lives in Lynden with his wife and young children. We also welcome Bea Sterk and Ranelle Faber to our teaching staff. Bea is an experienced teacher and has been substitute teaching at CCS this year. She will be teaching grade 3/4 art. Ranelle will be taking the grade 1/2 class every Friday. Welcome aboard, Matt and Bea, and welcome back to CCS, Ranelle!

The board recently created a policy to determine how the principal builds the academic calendar. We already had a policy to begin instructional days on the last Tuesday before Labor Day. We expanded this to include an end date as well, which will be either the first or second Friday of June. This varies by year based on the calendar, but the new policy states that instructional days will occur within the range of 284 calendar days. Within those calendar days, after deducting weekends, holidays, breaks,

and professional development days (totaling the same every year), we end up with 172 instructional days. Given that each instructional day is a bit more than 6 hours, we ensure that we have enough instructional hours to meet the state requirement (1027). In fact, we exceed that requirement, which allows us to have a buffer of about 5 days for unexpected school cancellations. If we consume that buffer, the board would have to consider special options, such as extending the school year, or reducing some break times. Hopefully this new policy will give more predictability to parents when making plans into the future. Just count 284 days starting the last Tuesday before Labor Day to determine which Friday in June will be the end date.

Thank you for your continued financial and moral support of the board, as we saw again at the spring membership meeting. We appreciate your input, which of course we require to make some decisions, such as approving our budget! We appreciate you making it a priority to attend these meetings.

I'm going to pause from explaining the goals listed in the Strategic Plan this time. The board continues to work on reviewing the plan, but we are focused on completing some items from Goal 1 first. These items coincide with our ongoing work to improve our documentation processes. Once that is complete, we'll move ahead with reviewing the other goals.

Congratulations to the staff and students on the completion of another school year. May you be refreshed and renewed by the summer break, and we look forward to your return in August!

Steve Hofford

Living

In The

Spirit

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### Upcoming Dates

Aug. 27- First Day of School 24-25  
Sept. 2 - Labor Day  
Sept. 11 - Student Portrait Day

Create in me a clean heart, O God - Psalm 51:10

**Next LINK Submission  
Due Date:**

August 21, 2024

## ~ From the Ed Comm ~

It's time again for another installment on behalf of the Education Committee. Coming to the end of another wonderful school year, we want to express gratitude to our gracious God for providing Cornerstone with everything needed to successfully complete another year of education.

This past year, the Ed Comm has been kept busy reviewing the school's Science curriculum. Our review resulted in a revamping of the curriculum for grades 7 through 10, at the recommendation of the Science instructor. This adjusted curriculum involves the timing of what gets taught, and does not result in a change of subject matter. The changes will be implemented over a four year period, starting next year in the 7/8th grades and encompassing a new grade every year for the following three years.

On an every other month schedule, a member of the Ed Comm and the Board make a visit to the school. The Ed Comm rep who visited in May reported positively on the visit. "It was extremely helpful and encouraging (not to mention fun) to visit the various classes and see the teachers (and students) in action. From interactive Bible study and devotional time to learning about Roth IRA's from a Dave Ramsey video podcast, it is clear that the important life skills are being fostered and nurtured at Cornerstone. Clearly, there is learning taking place at our school! The Lord is blessing the students through the dedication and skills of the various staff mem-

bers and volunteers. If you want to become encouraged and "pumped up" about the many blessings we have at our school, be a classroom observer for the morning."

Senior projects are another matter that occupies the Education Committee. Listening to presentations given as a project is wrapped up is always a highlight for committee members. However, we don't just get to hear the results of the projects, we also get to weigh in on the plans. Most of next year's seniors are getting a jump start and have already submitted letters of intent. We've seen a lot of great ideas come forward and we're confident that the next year's projects are going to be worthwhile and will allow lots of growth opportunities for our students.

The Ed Comm would also like to congratulate our seniors on their graduation. We are thankful that another group of students could be clothed with graduation caps and gowns. We pray that they will be blessed in all their future endeavors. In the not too distant future, we plan on sending out an exit interview to our graduating class of 2024 as well as to certain groups of past alumni. Sometimes you can learn a lot from someone who has left the building. So alumni -- when a CCS exit interview comes into your email's inbox, please take the time to respond and thereby help improve the education that is offered at Cornerstone Christian School.

Stephanie Bareman, for the Education Committee

## ~ From the CBM ~

Hello everyone from the CBM committee! We hope everyone is enjoying the sometimes beautiful weather we have been having.

Lately we have been focusing on a few issues including a leak in the boy's locker room, which is now fixed, a faulty alarm sensor also fixed. We have been in touch with the Health Department to make sure the school meets the proper requirements including having enough pea gravel to keep the kids safe on the playground.

The big item we are working through is helping Inspire move in for the summer and making sure everything runs smoothly so that they will be happy to rent

from us again next year. They have started the move in process already and things look great!

When their time comes to an end, we hope we can wrangle a few volunteers to help with moving furniture back into the school rooms they used. We are hoping to do so on August 17. More details to come.

Thank you to all the hardworking teachers for keeping our kids educated and in one piece! We also want to especially say thank you to Mrs. Lynette Van Hofwegen and Mrs. Karen DeMooy for all their hard work as this is their last year at Cornerstone.

## ~ From the Cornerstone Education Scholarship Committee ~

The Education Scholarship Committee was happy to receive two applicants for the 2024 CCS Education Scholarship. Once we received these applications, we put out a call for donations and our membership responded with great generosity. Thank you very much to all who gave so freely! \$4500 was donated,

and consequently we could award \$2250 each to our alumni, Jackie Brown and Seth Kleyn (class of 2023). We pray that God will continue to bless them both as they continue their studies on their path to becoming Christian educators.

Stephanie Bareman & Melanie Kottelenberg

## ~ From the Ladies Aid~

Another school year is complete and we are thankful for the successful fundraisers Ladies Aid could have this year! Many hours of hard work went into various committees and fundraisers and the money generated greatly benefits the school - including helping fund the field trips which many grades could enjoy at the end of the year!

The plant sale has wrapped up for another year and they generated \$17,973 in profit! We are very grateful for the committee and everyone that volunteered for shifts at the plant sale.

The Cornerstone Cafe is just around the corner! We can't do it without your help so stay tuned later this summer and please sign up for a shift or 2 if you are able.

We are looking for several more ladies to be on the Apple Pie Committee this fall. Please talk to Bea K. or Malorie if you are able to help.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and safe summer!

On behalf of Ladies Aid, Jessica Chase



**Congratulations to our 8th grade graduates!**

**All the best as you move on to high school!**



## ~ From the Principal ~

The school year 2023-2024 is complete! The Lord, in His faithfulness and with His blessing, has allowed us to conclude another school year. As we gave specific focus and attention to the idea of “Living in the Spirit”, we took on our tasks as teachers and students with that in mind. With the ‘fruit of the Spirit’, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; as a guide for what this looks like, we were able to think about this theme and put it into practice. Looking back over the past ten months, it is clear to see that God has been at work in our lives and in our school. We saw love when a student asked a lonely classmate to come join their game. Joy was expressed when a cheer went up for a successful completion of a hard race for a struggling runner. We showed peace when a relationship was restored between two students in conflict. Patience was demonstrated when teachers had to work with students who took longer to understand concepts of proper behavior. Kindness became clear when students cleaned up for someone else when they saw the other had forgotten. Goodness was clear when students shared their supplies. Faithfulness came out when students found school hard, but kept busy with what they were called to do or students coming alongside other students who needed a friend to be with them on a hard day, or with a challenging assignment. And self-control benefited all of us when we made the conscious effort to do better today than the day before. Of course, these examples barely scratch the surface of what the fruit of the Spirit looks like in our lives, but I tried to find a real example of what we saw this year at Cornerstone. Living in the Spirit is real! God is at work in our lives. We can’t ever forget that we are ambassadors for Christ, who sent His Spirit as our Helper. This makes all the difference. God at work in our lives has impact!

Summer is typically a time of transition. Farewells to staff have to be said once again, too. This time we bid a formal adieu to Mrs. DeMooy, though she remains local, and we look forward to meeting the new addition to your family. May God make all things well. Thank you for your contribution to the Art Curriculum at Cornerstone. The students have greatly benefitted from your approach to this course, and many lovely art projects have been displayed on the school walls as testament to your efforts.

After 11 years, we also say good-bye to Mrs. Van Hofwegen. It’s hard to say farewell to a colleague who has been such a vital, steady part of the CCS staff for so long. Mrs. “Van” will definitely be missed

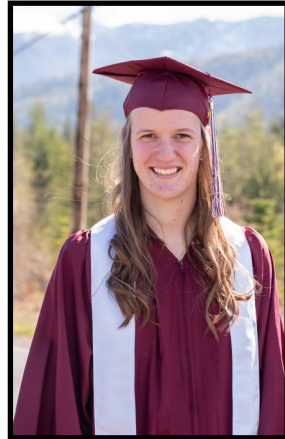
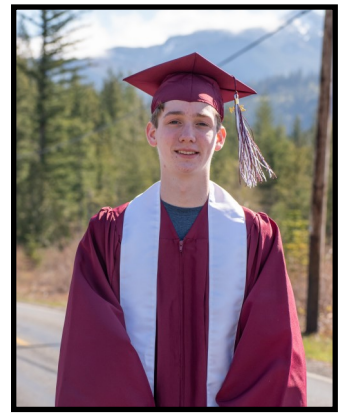
when we start school again in August, but we wish her and her husband God’s blessing as they settle into their new home and community.

At the end of a school year it is appropriate to express thank you to the community for all the support given by you for our work. As staff you have given us the opportunity to be a part of your children’s lives. We do our work as educators to “assist parents in educating the children of the covenant as part of their preparation for a life of Christ-centered service and stewardship in the kingdom and Church of God”. That’s an honor! We are thankful to be a part of a community with such a richness of parental engagement, with a very high volunteer rate. Thank you all for your prayers and encouragement as we did our tasks again this year.

The final events have wrapped up, the classrooms are ready to receive the summer tenants, and the graduates have walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. The school year is officially complete. May God continue to bless us all in this time of refreshment. A time with a different focus. We look forward to seeing you all again in August, when the CCS Staff will once again be ready and eager to take on our tasks again.

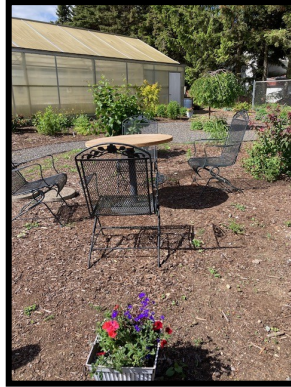
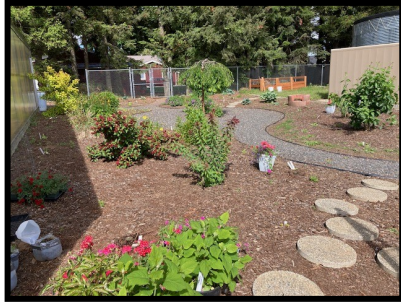




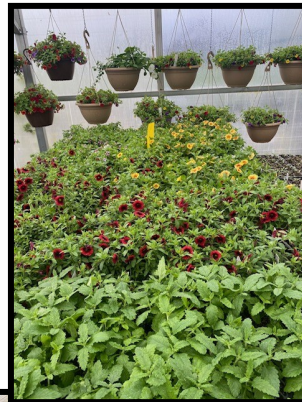




## ~ From the Horticulture Class ~



Horticulture students had a hands on educational experience. Check out all the beauty they created in their own gardens, the plant sale/greenhouse and fellowship garden (great place to have coffee with someone or watch your kids on the playground...pack out your garbage and pull a weed if you see one!). Thanks for enjoying creation and honoring the Creator this year students! Well done!



# 2024/2025 School Calendar

## August

27- First Day of School

## September

2- Labor Day

11- Student Picture Day

## October

11- PD Day

14- Columbus Day

## November

7- HS 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr report Cards

8 - PD Day

11 - Veteran's Day

12,13 - High School P/T Conferences

27 - Elem Report Cards Term 1

28- Thanksgiving Day

29 - Thanksgiving Break

## December

2 & 4- Elem P/T Conferences

20 - Last Day of 2024

23- Jan 3 – Christmas Break

## January

6- First Day of 2025

20 - Martin Luther King Day

24 - HS 2nd Qtr Reports

27 & 28 - HS P/T Conferences

## February

14- PD Day

17 -President's Day

27& 28- Mid Winter Break

## March

13 - Elem Report Cards Term 2

14- PD Day

17 & 19 - Elem P/T Conferences

31 - April 4 - Spring Break

## April

11 - HS 3rd Qtr Reports

17 - Grandparents Day

17 - Easter Concert

18 - Good Friday

## May

9- PD Day

23 - Sports Day

26- Memorial Day

27- Sports Day Backup

30 - Eighth Grade Graduation

## June

6 - Last Day of School

6 - Senior Graduation

## Board

Chairman:	Steve Hofford
Vice-Chairman:	Jan Kottelenberg
Secretary:	Stephanie Bareman
Treasurer:	Kolin Veldman
Ed Comm Liaison:	Stephanie Bareman
Staff & Membership Admin	Jan Kottelenberg
Building Liaison:	Harvey Pelleboer
IT Liaison:	Dave Hofford

## Building/Maintenance Committee

Joshua Burger	Andrew DeMooy
Rick DeMooy	Jon Kruyswijk
Harvey Pelleboer	Terry VanDiest

## Education Committee

Stephanie Bareman	Janice DeMooy
Jon Dykstra	Debbie Johnson
Rianne Kruyswijk	Ryan VanDriel

## IT Committee

Caleb Bareman	Ian Davis
Dave Hofford	Dustin Wielenga

## Finance Committee

Janice DeMooy	Brian Hendricks
Harvey Pelleboer	Kolin Veldman
Gavin Willis	

## Athletic Committee

Katrina Lodder	Stephen Chase
Harvey Pelleboer	Kolin Veldman
Gavin Willis	

## Ladies Aid Committee

Pres - Bea Kleyn	VP - Malorie Burger
Sec - Jessica Chase	Treas -Jolene Vreugdenhil

## Staff

### Office Administration:

Debbie Johnson - Principal, Art 7-10  
Kari VanDiest- Secretary  
Karla Leyenhorst - Bookkeeper

### Full Time:

Jeanette Janssen - Science 7-12, Math 9-12  
Jolene Groves— PE, Bible, Hist. 3/4, L.A., Math 3, PE, Science Gr. 1/2  
Lynette Van Hofwegen - Gr. 5/6  
Stephen Chase - PE 5-8, Eng 9-10, Hist, 7-10, Per Fin 9  
Stephen Houweling - Math 4,& 7/8, Bible, L.A., 7/8  
Wayne Chase - Bible 9-12, Math 11, English, & History 11/12

### Part Time:

Christine Hofford - Ed Support  
Hannah Gonzalez - Spanish 11/12, Sci, Music, Geog. 3/4  
Janice Dykstra - Ed Support Director  
Jolene Vreugdenhil - Culinary Arts 11/12  
Julie Thompson - Ed Support  
Karen DeMooy - Art 3/4  
Kathleen Stevens— Yearbook, L.A 4  
Katrina Lodder - Ed Support  
Kaylene Hofford - Ed Support  
Kristina Wendt - PE HS  
Melanie Kottelenberg - Music 5/6  
Shari Kruyswijk - Gr.1/2 Bible, Math, Music, Art, History  
Sharon Veldman - Culinary Arts 11/12  
Tessa Kooiker - L.A. 1/2

### Library:

Debbie Johnson  
Michelle VanDriel  
Rianne Kruyswijk  
Sarah Wielenga