



**CREDENDA**  
COURAGE • LOVE • RESPECT

*Virtual Schooling ...*  
**Real Learning**

## Credenda Virtual School Newsletter

November 2011

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### *Principal's Message-Tyrone MacPherson*

Welcome back to the 2011 school year and we hope you enjoy this edition of the Credenda newsletter.

There are so many exciting things happening at Credenda this year that we want our students to experience. We hope that by taking advantage of all of the things that happen at Credenda – whether they are academic, extra-curricular and/or social, you will feel an important part of our school and find it an enriching place to be.

What will your “Credenda Experience” include this year? Will you be part of the Canoe Trip in May? Will you be part of our new Military Club? Will you be taking a new or different class you never had before? Will you be one of the students who correspond with the little children in the Amani School as part of our sister school relationship?

Or will you be someone who starts something new at Credenda?

However you choose to make your mark on Credenda this year, we always encourage our students to live out the meaning of our motto- be the change you want to see. Pursue those goals and ideals which are worthy of your efforts. Quaecumque Sunt Vera means “Whatsoever things are true”.

Things that reflect the truth, justice, purity, love and beauty are all noble and worthy goals. This is how we can be that change we want to see.

So welcome back to the familiar faces who have been part of our Credenda family before and a warm welcome is extended to all of our new students joining us for the first time. We hope your experience and time with us is rewarding and satisfying. So welcome to Credenda and best of luck to all of you this year!



# CREDENDA

## NEWSLETTER



### Eye on Careers - Why Not Score a Goal?

I love hockey...how about you? So you have dreams and desires and ideas of what you want to do in life and you may be wondering just how to I begin to accomplish your dreams? Why not consider setting some GOALS?



You have probably heard of the “Long-Term Goal” or the “Short-Term Goal”. In a Long-Term Goal you try to lay a hold of what it is you want

to do and then begin to move in the general direction. With the Short-Term Goal, you plan out smaller steps to move from where you might be right now to where you want to be.

GOALS need to be EFFECTIVE GOALS that are also REALISTIC and something that is SPECIFIC and CONCRETE. *“I want to work with kids” is way too general. “I will take Early Childhood Education” is more SPECIFIC and “DOABLE”.* If you do begin to set GOALS, you might consider

sharing what you have formulated for GOALS with someone you trust and can give you helpful hints and help clarify. It helps to have a second set of “eyes” to help walk you through this process.

If you need some help with setting GOALS or at least beginning to talk about this area why not contact the Credenda Guidance Counselor (Steve) he'd be **tickled pink** to help you out.. Really!!!

Steve Winkler, [steve.winkler@credenda.net](mailto:steve.winkler@credenda.net)

### A Virtues Triangle



#### Defiance

Affirmation: I boldly defy false authority.

Reflection: Are you surprised to see defiance listed as a virtue? The Egyptian Spring demonstrated this virtue as people defiantly demanded the end to corrupt regimes. What corrupt authority could you help end with peaceful defiance?

#### Devotion

Affirmation: I am passionately devoted to my purpose in life.

Reflection: Have you found an endeavour you can devote your life too? While you are seeking it, what service can you commit to wholeheartedly?

#### Dignity

Affirmation: I uphold my sense of dignity.

Reflection: Who do you know with great dignity to use as a role model in your practice of this virtue?

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### Storytelling– by Vince Hill, Director

I've been thinking a great deal about the importance of storytelling lately. We all know people in our lives that are great storytellers. We could sit and listen to them for hours. Their stories make us laugh, gasp, or even cry. But these people have a knack for telling stories because they usually make a point. There is a climax to the story. It engages you as a listener. You don't have to have the best voice to tell a good story, you don't have to look perfect either.

One of the best storytellers of our time is Malcolm Gladwell. He has the frizziest hairdo, his voice has a bit of a warble, but he is amazing at telling stories that draw you in as a listener. He rounds out of his stories with a point that doesn't sound preachy, but still gets a point across and makes you think. So what is the point I am trying to make you may ask?

I was at a conference recently, and the

speaker, Sir Ken Robinson said this, "Education has to be personal. Every student is an individual story. Unless education is personal, it is nothing." What piqued my interest is the phrase that every student is an individual story. I don't want our students coming to school each day as part of a mechanical process, but as an organic process. Learning must have a life of its own. With that life is a story. Each student at Credenda is a story. A story that I want told. I don't care about what any of us look like, or sound like, I care about the story that is told, and we all need to listen to each others stories.

It was Hemingway that said, "when people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen." I want the students of Credenda to know, that we are listening. We want to hear your stories of hopes, challenges, failures, successes, and more. That is what makes our lives richer. So when you do your

assignments, or come to class, approach your learning as you are telling your story. I'm listening, and so are our teachers.



Vince and Dora (Her graduation story on page 4).

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### Credenda Celebrates Graduation

Credenda celebrated the graduation of thirty-four people from their college programs at a gala event in October. Twenty-six graduates and their families traveled from northern communities such as Ile a la Cross, La Ronge, Wollaston Lake and North Battleford to accept Educational Assistant, Office Administration, Library Technician certificates and Early Learning and Childcare certificates and diplomas.

Vince Hill, Credenda's Director of Education hosted the event and explained, "Credenda has had over 150 graduates since our first grad in 2008. In our Library Technician program alone we had fifteen graduates in March this year with a total of forty-eight in 2011. When our students don't have to leave their communities and their lives to learn, we have a 92% success rate."



Dora Sha'Oulle demonstrated this success when she gave the Convocation Message. Dora earned her Library Technician certificate while working in the high school library at Hatchet Lake. In her opening remarks she shared, "My kids really respect me for what I am doing."

She continued to tell her story, "It was nice that I was able to do this without leaving my community... Having a full-time job, plus a family to look after was a struggle. There were times when I wanted to give up. With the encouragement from my Instructor and classmates, I never gave up and that is what helped me continue on with the online course."

"Last year I was diagnosed with cancer on September 4, I was in shock and everything seemed to collapse. That was

the day I gave up on my course. I thought all the studying and struggling was for nothing. While I was in the treatment, I thought about my course. I only had eight assignments and I thought 'I can do this'. At the time I was really sick from all my treatments, but I kept studying. My dear friends, education is never too late. I struggled to succeed and I have achieved my goal." Dora received a standing ovation for her speech and many in the crowd were moved to tears.

"Our goal is to help build capacity in northern communities, whether First Nations or Non-First Nations. If our students can live, work and learn in their communities by using the latest technology, that's a good thing," says Hill.

Pictures from the event can be found on the Credenda Virtual High School and College facebook page.

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### Virtual School Practices Real Service



Credenda has established a relationship with Amani School in Tanzania, Africa. Both schools are looking forward to learning together.

In the Amani School's reply to Credenda's invitation, they wrote, "For this letter, as Amani Primary School we are very happy, also we are inviting you to be Amani's Sister School, is blessing to us, because we are going to learn many things from you." The Amani School motto is "Together We Can".

The school is growing by a grade a year. In 2012, they will add Standard Four and are now approved to teach English. In Tanzania, secondary school is taught in English so students need it to succeed.

Credenda is a virtues based school. Director Vince Hill explains, "We are thrilled to be their sister school. We know the importance of Ghandi's 'be the change you wish to see in the world'. It is amazing how their school philosophy matches ours. They are very holistic and student centered. I also love their motto, 'Together We Can' because the best way to learn is together."

Guidance Counselor Steve Winkler is excited, "We've already been able to make a donation of \$2000 from the staff "Casual Friday" fund. This will go a long way towards the desks and texts needed for Standard Four when it begins in January." Credenda and Amani students will be

exchanging letters and learning about each other. Credenda students will have the opportunity to practice service and generosity as they raise funds for their sister school.

### Upcoming Events

#### NOVEMBER

- 1 - 4 Midterm Week
- 9 Report Card Day
- 10 FN Unity Day – No School
- 11 Remembrance Day – No School
- 16 Student Assembly
- 26 Buy Nothing Day
- 28 Nov to 9 Dec Climate Change Talks in South Africa

#### DECEMBER

- 10 UN Human Rights Day
- 21 Student Assembly
- 22 - 31 Christmas Break – No School

# CREDENDA

## NEWSLETTER



To register, visit [www.credenda.net](http://www.credenda.net) and click “Register”!  
Questions? Call 1.866.910.2847.

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@Credenda School

### Adult Education

Credenda is excited to announce that they are offering a series of evening classes online. We recognize that many of our students are trying to further their education while holding a job. The evening classes will be a series of eight classes offered over a two year plan. Students will be able to take all of the required classes needed to complete the Adult 12 Graduation requirements. Courses will be offered in:

1. Introductory Studies
2. ELA A 30
3. ELA B 30
4. Math 20
5. Biology 20
6. Native Studies 30
7. Life Transitions 30
8. Elective at 20 or 30 level TBA



For more information, contact Tyrone MacPherson, Principal or Lori Gay, Registrar at 1.866.910.2847.