

# CURRENTS

UPDATE ON THE CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF THE  
CHRISTIAN PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION OF BC

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## A THING OF BEAUTY

by Gerry Goertzen, Principal, Abbotsford Christian School – Secondary Campus

I'm 50 and I've begun to skateboard. But, this board isn't anything that you could imagine.

My nephew, Kyle Doerksen, in California graduated from Stanford with multiple degrees in engineering and then went on to work eight years for an innovative design and consulting firm called IDEO. For eight years he invented things that never existed before. On the weekends he played around with his own invention – a one wheeled, computer controlled, electric skateboard.

I know, it sounds crazy. But last year, he quit his job and set out to raise money through Kickstarter.com to build a factory and produce his invention. He set out to raise \$100,000 in two weeks but instead raised \$630,000. My wife and I supported his company a year ago through Kickstarter and, at Christmas, received a Onewheel.

It is awesome. **But more than that, Kyle's story may give us a glimpse into the future of education.** He set out to learn through multiple disciplines, collaboration, trial and error, and great personal investment how to make something which had never existed. He is an innovator. Among other things, our Christian schools set out to teach students to not only consume information but to use information to create beautiful things. **Over time, we become beauty-creators.** We strive to teach students how to learn for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We hope our students will explore their learning through multiple disciplines, collaboration, trial and error, and great personal investment.

**Our ultimate goal is to lead students toward engaging learning while immersed in the Biblical worldview.** As we look to the future of Christian education, we hope to see all our schools with engaged learners who are interested, excited, involved, and invested in their learning as they pursue ways to shape God's world with a servant heart.

Several weeks ago, our Presentation of Learning night at ACS showcased some incredibly innovative and engaging learning. Our students have become so much better at presenting ideas. We were moved by the quality of so many presentations that evening by students for the community. The energy, enthusiasm, pride, and creativity in the building were inspiring. This kind of engagement is the future. And, we think it is a thing of beauty.



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATORS

## *Project Based Learning*

In partnership with Abbotsford Christian School, CPABC, SCSBC, CTABC, and Edu-Deo Ministries, work is under way in planning for the upcoming Project-Based Learning (PBL) Residency West. Congratulations to Mike Reizebos who was recently hired as the Residency Director. He will give leadership to the planning team in developing the program for August 24-28, 2015. The PBL Residency will challenge teaching professionals to re-imagine educational practices in Christian schools. Participants will explore design principles of project-based learning and will be guided through the process of developing their own project-based learning experiences to promote deeper learning and student engagement.

## *Educational Practices that Promote Learning and Faith Formation*

### *An Eleven-Month Session for Teacher ProD*

This professional learning experience is designed to work through the many elements of the teaching profession in order to assist teachers in seeing all aspects of their profession as avenues for learning and faith formation. It examines pedagogy, instruction, management, curriculum, scheduling and classroom design with faith formation in mind. The learning experience will be hands-on and practical for each teacher's individual situation, and

the work done throughout the year will be designed to enhance real time learning experiences in the classroom.

This program is for teachers in Christian education who would like the opportunity to reflect and reexamine their practice in order to increase meaningful learning in their classrooms. As well, it will benefit teachers who have been trained in public universities and need to meet contractual obligations with Christian perspectives courses (upon board approval).

**Dates:** This learning experience will begin in the summer of 2015 with a week-long session from Monday, August 17 to Friday, August 21. It will continue throughout the school year with online touch points around specific areas of practice. The learning experience will end formally with a week in early July 2016.

**Location:** Nanaimo Christian School, Nanaimo, BC, and online throughout the year

## *Teaching for Transformation*

This summer, there will once again be an opportunity to take a one week course on Teaching for Transformation. The course will be held at Surrey Christian School, and will run from June 29 to July 3, 2015. The course will be quite different this year compared to previous years. Keep your eyes out for more information about how to register as we near the date!

## LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE

*"The purpose of the CPABC/SCSBC Leadership Certificate is to encourage ongoing professional development in the area of Christian educational leadership. Leadership development is a journey that does not end with the earning of a degree, but rather is an ongoing activity of deepening one's understanding of self, the role of a leader in serving schools, and knowledge of leadership and educational issues."*

(CPABC/SCSBC Leadership Certificate)

Last year, we acknowledged fourteen professional certificates and four interim certificates at our 2014 Spring Conference. The CPABC encourages its membership who have not yet applied for a Leadership Certificate to do so **before March 15, 2015**. We want to celebrate more of our members receiving a Leadership

Certificate at our upcoming Spring Conference at RockRidge Canyon from May 6-8, 2015.

An **Interim Certificate** is awarded to those who have completed two years of administrative experience (with a minimum of 25% administrative time) and have completed two of the approved courses.

A **Professional Certificate** is awarded to those who have completed five years of administrative experience, either as principal, vice or assistant principal, and have completed four of the five approved courses.

Both certificates need to be renewed after three years.

For a list of approved courses, please check out our online application form: [cpabc.ca/leadership-certificate.html](http://cpabc.ca/leadership-certificate.html)

## SUGGESTED READING

*God in My Everything* by Ken Shigematsu - excellent reading for personal Sabbath)

*Vanishing Grace* by Phillip Yancey - looks at the place of the church in our current culture

*Switch on Your Brain* by Caroline Leaf - good read for any educator with interesting challenge

*Planted: A Story of Creation, Calling, and Community* by Leah Kostamo



educational leadership conference

# AN ADVENTURE TOWARD WISDOM



## Guest Speaker Barbara Mutch

Dr. Barbara Mutch, director of the Doctor of Ministry program at Carey Theological College, invites us to look into the wisdom literature of Proverbs and James. Dr. Mutch will lead us in the shared exploration of the meaning of wisdom, the role of kindness, and the implications for leaders and educators. What does it mean for us who lead Christian schools to be wise and to hold before teachers and students the task of gaining wisdom and Christian character?

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Wednesday, May 6, 2015**

Departure from Abbotsford CS at 1 pm  
Registration at RockRidge 4pm

**Friday, May 8, 2015**

Departure by coach at noon  
Arrival at Abbotsford CS 3pm

**ROCKRIDGE  
CANYON**

**ROADTRIP!**



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Register Online