



Christian Principals Association
British Columbia

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WINTER 2016

CURRENTS

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

So Who Is on the CPABC Board?

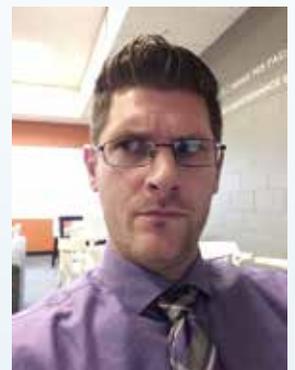
The CPABC Board is tasked to promote, encourage and develop servant leaders in Christian education. We do this by providing opportunities for fellowship and learning through our annual conferences and mentorship program. As leaders we are called to respond faithfully to the mission and vision of our schools. We want our members to maintain high standards of professional training, ongoing professional development and growth. With that in mind, CPABC, together with SCSBC, will be re-shaping the Leadership Certificate program this year. The Board will also explore ways to expand our mentorship program for International partnerships like Christian school leaders in China. Other projects we are working on include revising the constitution and bylaws for the new Societies Act, expanding our membership to new SCSBC schools like Kelowna Christian, and continuing to come alongside our members to support them in leadership through prayer support and visits. Let's introduce the CPABC Board team serving you this year:



Hello, my name is Kevin Visscher and I am the High School Principal at Langley Christian School (LCS). I moved to Langley three years ago after serving seven years as a K-12 Principal at Duncan Christian School on Vancouver Island. I grew up in Victoria where I attended Pacific Christian School. Currently I am in the last year of my second term, serving as Chair of the CPABC. I enjoy the outdoors and have fun teaching the Outdoor Course (SEEK 12) at LCS. This selfie was taken on a backcountry ski trip with my eldest son, Brandon, last winter break when we were exploring the *Fat Dog* trail in Manning Park.



Greetings, my name is Danny Nagtegaal. I am currently the interim principal at the elementary campus of Surrey Christian School. I've been at Surrey Christian School for thirteen years. I was born and raised in Langley, and reside in beautiful Brookwood. This is my fourth year on the CPABC Board. I serve as the CPABC representative on the board of Christian Schools Canada. This year, I am also filling the role of Vice Chair of CPABC. In my spare time, I enjoy playing with my five children, watching the Canucks (even if they are terrible – it will just make their Stanley Cup victory that much sweeter one day) and reading.



Hello, my name is Edith Walker and I am the Middle School Principal of Richmond Christian School. I have enjoyed this position for nine years. I love being surrounded by 250 hormonal students, who add to the surprise and unpredictability of my days at school. I was born in the Maritimes and still love to visit family there whenever possible. This is my fourth year on the CPABC and I am the representative on the SCSBC Board and Policy Committees. In my spare time, I enjoy spending as much time as possible with my five grandchildren, three who live close and two who live in Ontario.



Hello, my name is Joel Slofstra and I am currently serving in my second year as the Academic Principal for the Junior School at White Rock Christian Academy. In addition to this role, I am also the Primary Years Programme Coordinator for the International Baccalaureate Program. My journey of working in education includes serving as a school principal in two Christian schools in Ontario for seven years and as a science teacher with Grand Rapids Public Schools for nine years in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This is my first year on the CPABC Board. I love to spend time exploring God's amazing creation with my wife and three kids. When not thinking about education, my ideal scenario would be in a canoe on a lake or stream with a fishing rod in my hands and a fish on the line.



Hello, my name is Jeremy Tinsley. My family and I are thankful to call the beautiful Cowichan Valley home. After growing up in Abbotsford and attending Abbotsford Christian School, God led my family to teach in the USA and Kyiv, Ukraine before we landed in Duncan, BC in 2008. The experience of living and traveling abroad has significantly impacted how I see the world. Since 2008, I've served in administration at Duncan Christian School, and transitioned into the role of school principal in August 2013. I began on the CPABC board in 2015/16 and currently serve as treasurer as well as a CPABC representative on the SCSBC compensation committee. When it's time to put away school-related stuff, I enjoy exploring "The Island" with my wife and kids through hikes, camping, bike rides, or relaxing on a beach somewhere. My son would love me to fish more, but alas, I have limited giftedness in this area.

Hello, my name is Anne Ferguson. I serve at John Knox Christian School in Burnaby. I have been here for sixteen years. I grew up in Terrace B.C. This is my third year on the CPABC Executive. I am serving as principal's liaison and responsible for promotions. In my spare time I am interested in house construction and garden creation.



Hello, my name is Chris Steenhof and I currently serve as the principal of Bulkley Valley Christian School. My wife and I moved across the country in 1993 to the beautiful town of Smithers and never left. It's been a whirlwind 23 years of filling many different roles at the school and, along with my wife, raising five wonderful children. I'm happy to join the CPABC board this year and am getting to know principals from across the province. I love sports of all kinds, musical theatre, spending time with my family, and house construction.

Thank You to Steve Onstage

Steve served on the CPABC Board for two years and was unable to finish his term this year. We want to thank Steve for providing leadership by initiating a conversation and review of our joint Leadership Certificate Program with SCSBC. Steve was also responsible for overseeing the CPABC Mentorship Program. We appreciate his genuine care for our members by ensuring leaders were growing in their craft. As a strong relational leader, Steve was transparent and honest. We were always glad for his wisdom and insight when there were issues to be discussed. Steve represented the Okanagan region well.

We will be seeking a new representative from the CPABC membership to serve the same region beginning 2017-18.



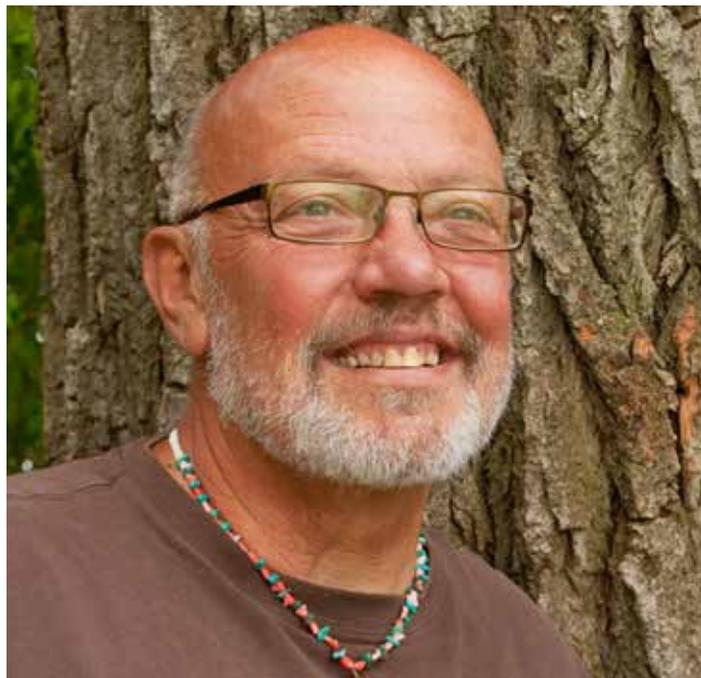
Conference Conversations

by Danny Nagtegaal

For those who were fortunate enough to attend the Christian Schools Canada conference in Banff this past September, you hopefully experienced a time of fellowship, renewal, professional development, networking, and creation-enjoying. I hope that you, like me, had a number of “take aways” from the three day conference, and that you are walking in the world slightly differently today because of the time you spent in Banff.

One of the ideas that Andy Crouch talked about in his keynote sessions was that of “symbolic action” and “symbolic inaction.” It left me wondering what I communicate, either intentionally or unintentionally, through my actions? In the context of school leadership, what do we communicate when we open car doors for families in the morning, or greet each student by name when they walk in? What do we communicate about what we value based on how we organize a staff meeting agenda? What do we communicate when we are in our office all the time? What do we communicate when we are never in our office?

Reflecting on this, I am aware that I have been more conscious of my way of being at school, and specifically, what my actions might symbolically be communicating to the students, staff, and other members of the community. If, as former SCSBC Executive Director used to say, one of the roles of a Christian school is to be “a sign post pointing towards the Kingdom of God,” I’m forced to ask myself how my actions and inactions might be impacting the direction the sign post is pointing.



Our next chance to gather as CPABC will be from May 3 to 5, 2017, at Cedar Springs Christian Retreat Center in Sumas. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. James Schaap, a retired professor from Dordt College in Iowa. The conference will take a slightly different tone this year, as Dr. Schaap will be using the medium of story telling as a way to lead us through the idea of what it means to live in the black/white/grey. Below is an introduction from Dr. Schaap on the idea and importance of story, as well as a biography.

JAMES CALVIN SCHAAP BIOGRAPHY

James Calvin Schaap taught literature and writing at Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa, for 37 years before retiring four years ago. He is the author of many books – fiction and non-fiction – and hundreds of stories and essays. He blogs at siouxlander.blogspot.com, and contributes bi-weekly to The Twelve (blog.perspectives-journal.org).

He’s published two books since retiring, *Up the Hill*, a collection of short fiction, and *Reading Mother Teresa*, meditations on the life of the woman recently canonized by the Roman Catholic Church.

A series of his short historical essays from the region where he lives, *Small Wonders*, are presently being aired weekly on a public radio in Iowa, KWIT, and are available on the station’s website www.kwit.org.

INTRODUCTION BY JAMES SCHAAP

Don’t be thinking I’m a preacher. I’m not. What your people have explained to be their recipe for your retreat blessing did not include sermons. “Stories,” they said. “Tell us stories.”

Good choice, methinks. Stories create worlds, sometimes alternative and sometimes not, very real places where we live with characters we come to recognize by way of our own flesh and blood and heart. Stories generate narratives that keep us on the edge until they resolve themselves (or don’t) and therein prompt ideas that make us think. Stories generate their own unique lessons, their own special genre of, well, sermons.

Just don’t be thinking I’m a preacher.

We look forward to seeing you in Cedar Springs!

YOUR BOARD UPDATE

- The Board approved seconding Peter Roukema (retired high school principal and CPABC member) to review the CPABC Constitution and Bylaws to align them with the new BC Societies Act. The goal will be to have the new draft constitution and bylaws reviewed by the Executive Directors in the new year, with final approval from the membership at the Business Meeting during the CPABC Conference at Cedar Springs in May.
- The Board will continue to partner with SCSBC in reviewing the Leadership Certificate Program. The CPABC Board has agreed in principle to explore how to integrate the model the superintendents are using with Rod Wilson. The goal is to present a revised "Growth in Leadership" program at the May conference.
- With the growth of Christian education in China, Central America, and Africa, the Board continues to explore how our organization can support leadership. There have been informal conversations with partners like Leadership Development International and EduDeo. We will share some stories at the Spring Conference.
- We currently do not have any new Mentorship Relationships. We encourage our members to seek a mentor. Upon approval of your mentorship application, CPA members can benefit from reimbursement of meetings, travel expenses, and even a book! Learn more our website at cpabc.ca/mentoring.html.
- We have made improvements to our Annual Membership Renewal process by going digital with contact information and payment. Thank you to those who paid their membership dues.
- Each Director has a "Care Group" of administrators that they connect with and pray for. This new initiative was adopted a couple of years ago to help the Board live out its mission and vision one leader at a time.
- The Board passed a motion to add a third three-year term of service for a Director, if required. This option can be used to help maintain continuity on the board during heavy turnover of Directors. It can be served one year at a time.
- To help save cost, the Board will hold two Zoom meetings a year. Zoom allows us to meet virtually from our offices. The Board still values visiting schools and its members. A spring trip is planned to visit Kelowna Christian School (new to SCSBC) to introduce CPABC.
- In January the Board will be working on the details of our spring conference at Cedar Springs. Keynote speakers have been lined up for the next two years. We will also be working on organizing the fall one-day conference on October 4, 2017. Details to come.

CPABC Membership Update

Membership in the Christian Principals Association of British Columbia provides you with access to support and programs offered by the CPABC. As a community of Christian school leaders in BC, this support can be invaluable, particularly during the inevitable ups and downs that come within our leadership roles.

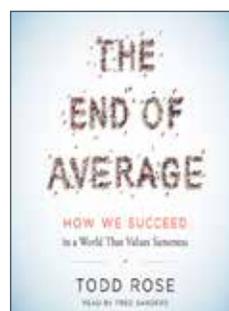
CPABC works with organizations like Christian Schools Canada to help plan the CSC conference that takes place every other year. In addition, CPABC also plans yearly conferences that occur every spring and every other fall. CPABC represents principals on the SCSBC Compensation Committee. Additional benefits of membership include the Mentorship Program, and Board visits to schools in different regions of the province which are intended to be both community strengthening and to encourage you. As a board, we also spend time in prayer for each member of the CPABC community and do our best to provide one on one support as needed.

Thank you for the many dues payments that we have received at this point in the school year. We appreciate your timely payment of dues, which can be paid by cheque or PayPal. cpabc.ca/membership.html

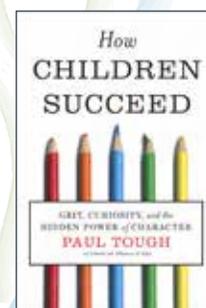
If you have questions about CPABC membership or fees, we would love to hear from you; please connect with me or any of our CPABC Board.

~ Jeremy Tinsley, Treasurer

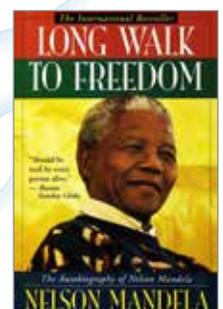
Recommended Reading



The End of Average
Todd Rose



How Children Succeed
Paul Tough



Long Walk to Freedom
Nelson Mandela