

CURRENTS

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

The Beautiful Picture

by Danny Nagtegaal, Vice Principal, Surrey Christian School - Elementary

About four years ago, Darryl DeBoer led a CPABC Pro-D day around the concept of “the beautiful picture.” One of my takeaways from that day was that, when thinking about “the beautiful picture,” we are essentially thinking about our dreams. What do we dream for our school? For our students? The beautiful picture is a picture of what things will look like when everything is as we want it to be. Essentially, it is a picture of wholeness.

In the past four years, I have done a lot of thinking about the beautiful picture. I think about it on a large scale – what is the beautiful picture of our world, what is the beautiful picture of Christian education? – and on a smaller scale – what is the beautiful picture of my Grade 7 classroom, what is the beautiful picture of my relationship with each student in our school, with each staff member, what is the beautiful picture of teacher evaluation, of chapel? Sometimes, dreaming of the beautiful picture is easy; other times, it is more difficult. Regardless of what we dream, our humanity often gets in the way. Our brokenness creates scars on the picture. It causes the paint brush to paint ugly lines rather than beautiful ones. It bleeds into the paint, into the brushes, and into the hands of the painter. The unfortunate reality is that, in a sin-filled world, the brokenness seeps into our school, and into the lives of our students, teachers, parents, and broader community. And yet, while there is

brokenness, there is also hope. There is hope in the knowledge that, as Abraham Kuyper says, “*There is not one square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry ‘Mine.’*” There is hope in the knowledge that our beautiful, messy, broken picture can be redeemed.

When I think about the beautiful picture of Christian schools around our province, I think about a picture that includes learning that is Christ centered. I think about a picture where students are not hidden beneath a protective bubble, but are engaging with difficult issues. I think about a picture where the question is often more important than the answer. I think about students using their bodies to praise God, whether that be in a gym, an outdoor play space, or a classroom. I think about a picture where teachers and school leaders reflect on what it means to teach Christianly, as opposed to being a Christian who is a teacher. To borrow a line that I first heard from Henry Contant, I think about how our job as Christian school leaders is to paint a beautiful picture of a school that is a signpost pointing toward the Kingdom of God, and that understands while complete wholeness may be unattainable until Christ returns, we will strive to get as close as we can, fully understanding that it is only by the grace of God that we can even begin to journey together down that path.

Upcoming Conferences

Fall 2015

We are pleased to announce that our Fall 2015 conference plans are well underway. Here are some details for you to be aware of:

When: Thursday, October 8, 2015 – this is the day before the one-day CTABC Convention

Where: Regent College

What: **ReFrame – Connecting Faith and Life**

ReFrame is a film-based discipleship course designed to address the gap that many Christians experience between their faith and their every-day living. TED Talk style presentations and interviews explore how Christ reframes our lives and our world.

We will be blessed to have a four to five hour day exploring some of these questions:

- Where is God in my Monday to Saturday?
- Does my work matter?
- How can I best serve God with who I am, the tools I have, and the passions He gave me?

Spring 2016

While we don't have a lot of the details ironed out yet for our Spring 2016 conference, here is what we do know:

When: May 4-6, 2016

Where: Cedar Springs Christian Retreat Centre in Sumas, WA

Keynote Speaker: Darrell Johnson

Darrell Johnson is currently the senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Vancouver, and former Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology at Regent College. We're excited to have him join us for a few days next year and to be able to learn from and with him.



Bridging Cultures Update

by Kevin Visscher

Bridging Cultures is a program initiated and supported by the CTABC, SCSBC and CPABC for over ten years. In 2006, CTABC and World Wide Christian Schools, now EduDeo, merged their efforts to *focus on providing professional, Christian educational support to five Christian schools in Honduras through organizing a three day teacher's convention and providing examples of pedagogy and curriculum to each school.* The benefit to member teachers is that they gain a cross-cultural educational experience with Christian teachers from Honduras. While the name *Bridging*

Cultures was discontinued in 2012, the aim is still the same – getting experienced teachers to partner with teachers in Christian schools in developing countries.

A joint fund, to which CPABC contributes, is made available for all CTABC and CPABC members to apply for financial assistance towards a cultural learning trip. Several educators from our SCSBC schools have visited Christian schools in Honduras, Nicaragua and South Africa and have received a subsidy for their travels. Stay tuned for an update.



Professional Development Opportunities

EDUC 624: School Leadership and Supervision

A review of the role of principals, assistant principals, coordinators and other educational leaders in a healthy professional learning community whose climate sustains effective student, teacher, and educational assistant's growth. Strategies for building positive school cultures, formation of an integrated model for continuous staff development, supervision and evaluation of school personnel on the basis of principles of Christian servant leadership and current supervision paradigms, effective methods of staff selection, induction, development and, where necessary, dismissal.

Dates: August 17-21, 24-27 (9 days) 8:30 - 2:00

Location: TWU - Langley Campus

Instructor: Henry Contant

Website: www.twu.ca

Teaching for Transformation

Educators receive guidance in pedagogy that will enable students to be engaged in real work that meets the real needs of the world. This course will ensure that this real work is rooted in the Biblical story and that students are invited to develop "habits of practice" in Kingdom Building as presented through the through-lines. It is intended for all educators whether early in your career or looking to refresh your teaching with learning-centred, student-honouring pedagogy.

Dates: June 29 – July 3, 2015

Location: Surrey Christian School

Website: dflexp.scsbc.net

PBL Residency

The PBL Residency is an intensive one-week course of hands-on professional development for teachers who want to expand their understanding of Project Based Learning. The PBL Residency will challenge teachers 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 pedagogies to promote deeper learning.

Date: Monday, August 24, to Friday, August 28, 2015

Location: Abbotsford Christian School

Website: www.pblresidency.com

* *Wait-list applicants are still being accepted*

Experiencing Christ in the Classroom: Cultivating Practices that Promote Integration of Faith and Learning

Creating habits, cultivating disciples, fostering community

Each teacher's unique perspective, worldview, and spiritual journey shapes how they interact with their students and world. Teaching "Christianly" involves so much more than leading devotions and attending chapel. Each teacher has a responsibility to design learning that can lead students into a place where they participate in experiences that grow their faith. Examining the choices we make as teachers, everything from our schedule to our classroom layout, will help us move from faith as an intellectual endeavour to faith as a way of being. This course will examine a variety of biblical teaching practices and look to the elements of effective professional development in order to increase their implementation. New and veteran teachers alike will benefit from the hands-on, collaborative, relevant approach to professional development, which will include 11 months of teaching, coaching, and job-embedded practice.

Begin with a week-long course from August 17-21, 2015, held at Nanaimo Christian School. Connect with a community of practice who will help you inquire, engage, reflect and refine your daily practice. Following the summer course, expect to participate in regular conversation, collaboration, and scheduled touch-point sessions as you implement these biblical teaching practices. Finish with a culminating week-long session July 4-8, 2016, which will include reflection, the creation of a professional growth plan, and a celebration of learning.

Dates: August 17 to 21, 2015, continuing throughout the school year and ending July 4 to 8, 2016.

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

Website: ecc.scsbc.net



The Mosaic of Community: What the CPABC is All About

by Steve Onsorge

*"A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself. That is what our life in community is about. **Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: "I make God visible." But others who see us together can say: "They make God visible."** Community is where humility and glory touch." ~ Henri Nouwen*

Nouwen's mosaic metaphor speaks beautifully of the blessing of community. Most of us are involved in tremendous faith communities where we see the beauty of mosaic and of God's touch. We are blessed to be further connected as principals in the CPABC community.

The CPABC mission is to promote, encourage and develop servant leaders in Christian education. We desire to foster fellowship among education leaders, to consider what God is calling us to do in education, to shape a faithful response in our schools with a biblical worldview and to relay relevant information to Christian school leaders.

One of the best ways we accomplish our mission within the CPABC community is through amazing times of conference where we learn, grow and encourage both personally and professionally. We will gather in early May at RockRidge and in early fall at Regent College.

Additionally, the CPABC community is blessed by opportunities to mentor and to be mentored. Presently there are five pairs collaborating and conversing about the journey of leadership. We look forward to hearing updates from the Mentorship Program participants at RockRidge. As these mentoring relationships evolve, we see the greater community mosaic expanding. God's glory abounds and we give Him praise for what He is doing in and through each one.

CPABC exists to serve and to bless. As a member of the CPABC executive, I am delighted to serve the community and I am grateful to be the recipient of Godly leadership from the CPABC. I see the richness of talent and skill represented and I affirm the beautiful mosaic that God is creating in and through the CPABC.

CPABC Board of Directors

A big thanks to Gerry Goertzen as he ends his six years of service on the CPABC executive, the last two years as chairperson. Gerry has been passionate about the work of CPABC and in making it an effective organization of encouragement, support and fellowship. Gerry has been highly involved in getting our mentoring program off the ground, in getting Walter Wright and Steve Bell as keynotes for conferences, and in finally getting the spring conference at RockRidge Canyon. We have appreciated Gerry's leadership and will miss his presence on the CPABC. We wish Gerry all the best as he continues his leadership at Abbotsford Christian School and pray that he will feel God's presence and guidance daily. Thanks, Gerry!



*Back row: Edith Walker, Karen Erler, Gerry Goertzen.
Front row: Steve Onsorge, Jeanette Berkenbosch,
Anne Ferguson, Kevin Visscher, Danny Nagtegaal.*

CPABC Portfolios

- Chairperson – Gerry Goertzen
- Vice Chair – Jeanette Berkenbosch
- Treasurer – Kevin Visscher
- Secretary – Jeanette Berkenbosch
- Professional Development/Certification – Kevin Visscher
- Conferences – Gerry Goertzen and Kevin Visscher
- SCSBC, PDC & Miscellaneous – Edith Walker
- Principal's Liaison/Promotion – Karen Erler and Anne Ferguson
- CSC Representative – Danny Nagtegaal
- Mentoring Program – Steve Onsorge