

The SCSBC website has a new look. Check it out!
www.scsbc.ca

(continued from page 1)

As we reminisced, I was able to remind him of and thank him for the gentle encouragement he gave to me—a rookie

high school teacher. At the end of a school day, Ralph would often walk over to my classroom and ask me the "right" questions: "Is our teaching distinctive? How are we making a difference?"

Ralph was nearing the end of his story here on earth, and was preparing to experience the full reality of the power of the resurrection. We talked about that and it reminded me again of the profound impact we can have as teachers when we share our faith journey with our students. I believe we must continually find new and fresh ways to do so.

Elsewhere in this issue of our new LINK, you will read about how members of our community are working to make a difference and have that impact in the lives of our students:

- Marlene Bylenga, coordinator of the SCSBC International Education Program, continues to build new relationships and foster partnerships that will benefit both the SCSBC community and students from around the world. Larry Simpson, principal at Vernon Christian School, writes about his school's exciting new partnership with Eagle Christian School in Korea, bringing five grade nine students to the Okanagan to study this year.
- Gerry Ebbers, the SCSBC's new Financial Stewardship consultant, reminds everyone about the importance of planning ahead for student enrolment and retention of new students. He also has some great advice about Planned Giving.
- Bob Koole, SCSBC Curriculum Coordinator, writes that a new school year is a good time to reflect on how our educational

work as teachers and parents builds on each child or young adult's previous learning experiences. He also shares some highlights from this summer's "New Dimensions for Christian High Schools." The three-day symposium was held in August and was attended by over 80 high school teachers reflecting on how we "do" high school.

I trust this newsletter will give you a sense of how we, as a community, can have the impact that Ralph was asking me to think about so long ago.

... it reminded me again of the profound impact we can have as teachers when we share our faith journeys with our students. I believe we must continually find new and fresh ways to do so.

Our office staff (Jean DeVries, Administrative Assistant and Office Manager; RuthAnn Raycroft, Communications and Publications; and Sheila Burkinshaw, Secretary/SCSBC Resource Library) continue to take your

calls and emails, find the resources you're looking for, direct you to others, and provide assistance in whatever way they can.

We pray that this will once again be a year where our community of schools will be witnesses of God's love and faithfulness.



Leadership
 for Christian Schools
 Saturday, November 15, 2003
 Langley Christian Middle/High School
 22702 - 48th Ave., Langley, BC

This intensive, one-day training session is designed for all those who are responsible for leadership within Christian schools (board, committee and administrative team members). Our goal is to equip Christian school leaders for effective service and to encourage them in this important work. To this end, several workshop "tracks" have been created to meet the needs of the various board, committee and administrative team members who will be attending.

Early Registration Fees:

Postmarked on/before Oct. 24, 2003
 \$49 (SCSBC members)
 \$129 (non-SCSBC members)

Late Registration Fees:

After Oct. 24, 2003
 \$59 (SCSBC members)
 \$149 (non-SCSBC members)

To Register:

Fax or mail your registration form to the SCSBC office (see below). If you have not received a registration form, please visit our website for more information (see below).

servicing a community of Christian schools



The Power of Community

by Henry Contant, Executive Director
www.scsbc.ca/services/leader/leader.html
contant@twu.ca

You may have heard the story about the fellow who slid his truck off the road and ended up in the ditch. A farmhouse was nearby, so he asked there if the farmer had a tractor he could borrow to get his truck back on the road.

"No tractor," said the farmer. "But I got my mule, Blue."

"I doubt a mule is strong enough to pull my truck out," the motorist replied.

"You don't know Blue!" said the mule's proud owner. Blue was hitched to the truck and he started to pull, but the truck didn't move. The farmer called out, "Pull Elmer!" and the truck moved a little. He called out again: "Pull, Biscuit!" Soon the truck was free.

"Thank you so much," the truck owner said. "But I have a question: why did you call your mule by three different names?"

"Simple," said the farmer. "Blue is blind. If he thought he was the only one pulling, your truck would still be in the ditch!"

Recently, there has been extensive media coverage of teamwork, community and pulling together. Communities in BC ravaged by forest fires report the power of community, neighbourhoods and people working together to support, encourage and rebuild.

The SCSBC is also a powerful community of people working together. It exists to do things that no one school could or should do on its own. As our mission statement declares: "... we are a community of Christian schools that share a biblical vision for Christian education in the province of British Columbia. Our purpose is to strengthen and promote Christian education by serving, supporting and encouraging our members and others in this endeavour."

In Charles Ringma's reflections on the writings of Deitrich Bonhoeffer, he writes that "community is never a gray uniformity, but a colourful participation where male and female, rich and poor, young and old, abled and disabled, can find a common, but diverse life together in Jesus. Community is a fellowship that celebrates harmony rather than conformity, and it has a vision of life that is large enough to make room for all who wish to serve God in a variety of ways in the world."

I trust this definition will not only describe each of our Christian schools, but also our SCSBC community of schools working together. We have much to learn from each other and offer each other, whether in school leadership, governance, curriculum, financial stewardship, international education, promotion and recruitment or government/media relations.

As you read our newly formatted LINK I trust that you will get a sense of the value of belonging to and living and working within such a Christian school community.

Recently, I visited with a former high school colleague, Ralph Huizenga, who was on his deathbed in the hospital in Abbotsford (as I write this, I have heard that Ralph has passed on to the full presence of our Saviour). We taugth across the hall from each other for seven years.

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The SCSBC International Education Program continues to build new relationships and foster partnerships that will benefit both the SCSBC community and students from around the world. One of these new relationships was recently confirmed between Vernon Christian School and Eagle Christian School in Korea. Larry Simpson, Principal at Vernon Christian, reflects on this exciting new venture:

It all started with an email from Marlene Bylenga, the SCSBC International Program Coordinator, during the 2003 spring break.

She asked if anyone would be interested in partnering with a small Christian school in Korea to bring their students to Canada. Only a few years before that, as part of our school's strategic planning, we had discussed the idea of opening our doors to international students as a way to heighten our own students' awareness of their role in the Christian global community. I answered the email, little realizing at that time the amazing ways in which God would move in the next few months. Our school had not enrolled International Students before so we were unaware of the work involved in setting up a program, but the work was minor in view of the relationship that has developed between Eagle Christian School in Korea and our school here in Canada.



We discovered Eagle Christian's amazing commitment to teaching their students from a biblical perspective (bucking the entire educational philosophy and system of Korea, receiving NO government funding). It was refreshing and encouraging to hear ECS principal Helen Dan describe their intent in becoming involved with Vernon Christian School: to give students a cross-cultural experience AND give them the opportunity to learn that the Christian culture all believers are a part of transcends the various world cultures in which we participate. ECS also requested that there be a rich expression of Christian fellowship in the community where their students would be located. This seemed like a tall order, but it challenged us: could we provide these things? Was our community already providing our own students with these opportunities? We believed that it was; acting on that belief we began our relationship with ECS.



Six months later, we have five students from Eagle attending VCS. We have met face to face with the principal and a Board member of ECS, and learned more about their school. We have established our own International Student Program, complete with our own Coordinator and homestay families. We have had our share of victories and defeats, joys and heartaches, but through it all we have richly experienced God's love and the guidance of His Holy Spirit. We have just begun our journey with Eagle Christian, but we look forward to working with them so that together our school and students might come to know how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God (Eph. 3:17-19).

Our prayer is that as these schools continue their journey together, God's name will be glorified as they learn from each others' cultures and develop a deeper understanding of how they can become effective co-workers in God's Kingdom.

For more information on the SCSBC International Education Program, please contact Mrs. Marlene Bylenga, Program Coordinator, (604.533.4513, ieprogram@scsbc.ca, website: www.scsbc.ca/internationalel/index.html).

Noteworthy

WELCOME WESTSIDE!

An official welcome to our newest member school, **Westside Christian**. They are located on University Boulevard in Vancouver. Check them out: www.westsidechristian.ca/.

SCSBC CURRICULUM UPDATE

1. Elementary Curriculum Team – October 1: will do a final review of some material to assist school with 'differentiation' - helping all children learn well. We will also consider priorities for the coming year, including a review of language arts needs.
2. Middle Level Curriculum Team – Sept. 24: continued its work on collecting examples from schools to develop a resource for Middle Level schooling – subsections on vision/rationale, relationships, structure, and curriculum.
3. Secondary Curriculum Team – Sept. 26: followed up action plans developed at the August symposium and continued SCSBC work on the Ministry of Education's changes to BC's Grad. Requirements.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORS NETWORK

The first meeting of the Development Directors Network will take place on October 23. Details of time, place and travel will be emailed.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COORDINATORS NETWORKING MEETING

International Education Coordinators will meet at the SCSBC office on October 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

NEW PRINCIPALS MEETING

This meeting will take place at the SCSBC office on October 6, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

ABBOTSFORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

November 7 - 9, 2003, the Abbotsford Christian School community will be celebrating their **50th Anniversary**. They also look forward to the construction of a new middle school.

NANAIMO & BEACON CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS: JOINT GRADE 9 CLASS

A new school bus operated by Nanaimo Christian provides a necessary service, drawing Grade 9 students from the central island. This cooperation enables students graduating from Grade 8 at Beacon Christian to continue their education in a Christian school environment nearby. What a blessing!

What's going on in your community? Sports teams, bands or other music groups, new programs or initiatives, academic achievements, important dates: we want to know! Send us an email : scsbc@twu.ca

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER, 2003

- Oct. 1 Elem. Curric. Team meeting
- Oct. 6 New Principals meeting
- Oct. 6- 8 CPABC Conference
- Oct. 7 Int. Ed. Coordinators meeting
- Oct. 9-10 CTABC Convention
- Oct. 13 Thanksgiving Day
- Oct. 23 Development Directors Network: First meeting

NOVEMBER, 2003

- Nov. 11 Remembrance Day
- Nov. 15 SCSBC Leadership Conference (see pg. 8)
- Nov. 15 SCSBC Annual General Meeting

DECEMBER, 2003

- Dec. 19 Schools close for Christmas

www.scsbc.ca/calendar.html

Community News

- Welcome back to Pauline Worsley-Brown, the new ESL teacher at Centennial Christian School in Terrace. Pauline and her husband have been overseas for the past few years; prior to that Pauline was the first ESL teacher at Langley Christian.

- Langley Christian School and Haney Pitt Meadows Christian Schools have voted international students to their Student Councils. It is great to hear that these students are becoming active members of their schools communities.



- Pacific Christian School is completing a new high school expansion project.
- Comox Valley Christian School has expanded to a second campus site: a former SDA school campus.
- Agassiz Christian has opened a playschool for 3- and 4-year-olds. Currently they have 9 children enrolled.
- Vernon Christian School hopes to be in its new Middle/High school complex by Christmas.

- The SCSBC community of schools welcomes six new principals this year:

- Rick Janzen - *Comox Valley Christian*
- Wynn Moodie (Interim) - *Delta Christian*
- Arlene Stegeman - *Surrey Chr. (Primary)*
- Curtis Tuininga - *Centennial Christian*
- Deborah Wall - *Gibsons Christian*
- Bob Haskins - *Penticton Community*

new RESOURCES

www.scsbc.ca/services/curric/curricnews.html

NEW PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE

(available on loan from SCSBC)

Understanding by Design (videotapes, handbook) (ASCD)–Experts Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe explain the six facets of understanding and guide you through the steps of designing curricular units that promote deep understanding of content. Interviews with teachers describe real-world applications; classroom scenes show how the design process helps improve learning experiences.

Tape 1: What is Understanding? (ASCD video, 1998) The program presents Wiggins and McTighe's multifaceted model of understanding, which is based on the premise that people can demonstrate understanding in a variety of ways.

Tape 2: Using the Backward Design Process (ASCD video, 2000)–The second tape in the Understanding by Design video series takes you step-by-step through the three-stage process for designing curricular units that promoting deep understanding of content. (55 mins.)

Tape 3: Refining Unit Designs (ASCD video, 2000) Use the tips and advice from the third tape to ensure that your curriculum units are more apt to lead to greater student understanding of content. (25 mins.)

Understanding by Design Handbook by Jay McTighe and Grant Wiggins, (ASCD book, 1999), 8 1/2" x 11", spiral-bound, 287 pages–Unit planning template, worksheets, exercises, design tools, design standards and tests, and a peer review process.

SCSBC

NEW RESOURCE COMING!

The SCSBC is developing a comprehensive resource for preparing school-based curriculum. We will be revising both the *Core Statements binder* and *Curriculum Planning*. The new resource will be both text-based and web-based. During September and October we will gather materials for developing a draft document in November. Final revisions will be made in December; available to schools in January.

BC MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

What's new in Curriculum Implementation? (www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp_implementation/ciwhatsnew.htm)

- *Essentials of Mathematics 12 Resources*
- *English Literature 12* IRP Implementation information
- *Revised Implementation Schedules for:*
 - Drama 11 and 12
 - Music 11 and 12
 - Visual Arts 11 and 12
 - Technology Education 11 and 12
- *Implementation Information for Teachers of core French 5 to 12*

Draft IRPs for:

- English 11 and 12 (response by Oct. 31/03)
- Planning 10 (response by Nov.7/03)

(www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/drafts)

DEVELOPMENTS

by Gerry Ebbers, Financial Stewardship

(www.scsbc.ca/services/finstew/finstew.html)

ENROLMENT

Not Satisfied with Your Enrolment This September? The Time to Plan for Next Year is NOW! Do you know who your target market is, where they are, and how to reach them? Do you have a plan with specific objectives, goals and a timeline? Do you need to ask some tough questions about your work in this area thus far?

The SCSBC can help by assessing your program and materials, and offer suggestions. Remember, if you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there.



RETENTION

New Families in Your School:

I trust you have a plan for ongoing contact with the new families who have registered students in your school this year. New families are like new customers in a business: it is easier to keep them than to replace them so they deserve some additional attention.

That should include phone calls from the person who recruited them originally. Some schools have adopted a buddy system matching new families with current families who can assist in the transition, answer questions and offer support. Your school should have a specific person assigned to this task of follow-up with new families. It could be the principal or a teacher, the development director, or a committee member. Records should be kept of contacts and concerns so that a new person assigned to this task has some background. And your school should have a specific plan for contact: frequency, method, follow-through.

Don't assume these families will automatically register their children for a second year. Asking them to do so is both appropriate and good customer relations.

PLANNED GIVING

Charitable Gift Annuities are an attractive investment option and gift opportunity for your senior supporters. The annuity advantage should be highlighted frequently. And the advantage to schools is that you don't have to do any of the administration of these gifts.

As member schools of SCSBC, you are also members of Christian Stewardship Services which handles charitable annuities. All you need to do is put your donor in touch with Harry Boessenkool, the BC representative, and CSS will do the rest.

You can contact Harry at 604-543-6184 or harryb@cssservices.ca. While you're at it, talk to him about doing a will and estate planning seminar in your community. Follow that up by setting up visits between Harry and specific supporters. Now you have a planned giving program (or one facet of it, at least.)

GREETINGS TO ALL DEVELOPMENT STAFF & COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

It's great to be working in Christian education again after five years working for the Elim Housing Society (Surrey, BC) in the development of a seniors retirement and care complex. I look forward to meeting many of you during this school year. I am available to help SCSBC member schools with their marketing, public relations, financial stewardship, fundraising, and development concerns. Help could be a phone call, a visit, a presentation to your board or committee, a speech to your society, or even a significant commitment as your consultant for a capital campaign. Contact me at the SCSBC office or my home office at 604-853-9657. You can also email me at geraldEBBERS@shaw.ca.

Building on Strengths

by Robert Koole,
Curriculum
Coordinator

(www.scsbc.ca/services/curric/curric.html)

Now that the school year is well under way it is a good time to reflect on how our educational work as teachers and parents builds on each child or young adult's previous learning experiences.



The SCSBC Team

(www.scsbc.ca/aboutus.html)

- **Henry Contant, Executive Director**
Responsible for the overall mission, vision, and function of the SCSBC as an organization; school leadership (boards and principals); and government relations.
- **Robert Koole, Curric. Coordinator**
Responsible for encouraging, providing resources for, and facilitating the development of school-based, biblical, PreK-Grade 12 curricula, with reference to Min. of Ed. requirements.
- **Gerry Ebbers, Financial Stewardship**
Responsible for consultation on issues relating to Financial Stewardship and Development, relationship with Christian Stewardship Services, facilitation of Annual Development Conference and Stewardship Committee, and fundraising.
- **Marlene Bylenga, International Ed.**
Responsible for placement of international students, promotion of the program, development of SCSBC International Education resources, and in-services for school staff.
- **Jean DeVries, Admin. Assistant**
Responsible for administrative support to the director/Board/Standing Committees, finances, conference planning, and more.
- **Sheila Burkinshaw, Secretary**
Responsible for secretarial support for the SCSBC Curriculum Coordinator, office reception, and the SCSBC Resource Library.
- **RuthAnn Raycroft, Publications**
Responsible for website, newsletters, brochures, editorial support, layout/design, conference planning, and admin.support.

After a few weeks teachers develop a good sense of the capabilities of many children and with some further diagnosis, begin to understand the challenges of some children. From here on in the school year, a teacher's work focuses increasingly on supporting and/or extending children's learning.

- How can I best support the learning of children whose previous learning experiences did not challenge them sufficiently for the level they were in?
- How can I best extend the learning of children whose previous learning experiences moved them well ahead of the level they were in?
- How can I help each child move forward from where they currently are so that by the end of the school year they've grown in their understanding and are able to do more than what they can do now?

In many ways, education needs to be seen as building on strengths. That does not mean that everyone will become strong in the same way, nor does it mean that everyone needs to reach the same capabilities. Teachers will need to help children and young people identify areas of strength and at the same time discover the things they need to strengthen.

Knowledge about children's strengths can make a significant contribution to day-to-day teacher planning. Generic curriculum topics and learning strategies can now be adapted and rearranged to meet the needs of this year's students. Selection of materials can now be made more wisely and time allotments can be shortened or lengthened based on this year's students' needs.

As you move forward into the year build your day-to-day teaching and learning on the foundation whose builder and maker is God. May you receive the strength you need to build on the strengths the children and young people in your school have been given.

- "Because he loved ..., he brought you out ... by his Presence and his strength,..." (Deut. 4:37)
- "Look to the Lord and his strength, seek his face always, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength." (I Chron. 16:11)
- "The Lord is my strength and my song, he has become my salvation." (Ps. 119:14)
- "If anyone serves he should do it with the strength God provides so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ." (I Peter 4:11)

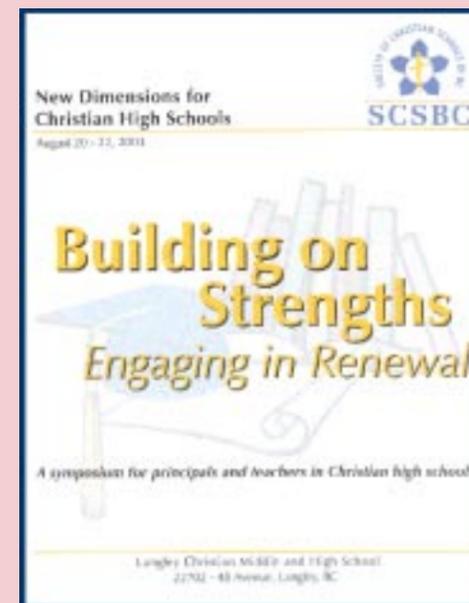
Engaging in Renewal

New Dimensions
for Christian
High Schools

In the spring of 2003, someone said to me "If you offer it, they will come." That was all the SCSBC Secondary Curriculum Committee needed to hear in response to its plan to host a three-day high school symposium.

During the three days, 85 principals, teachers, and committee members joined in dialogue about the strengths, challenges, and possibilities for Christian high schools. The total included representatives from most SCSBC Christian high schools as well as four people from 2 other Christian high schools.

Wednesday was a day of challenge and time of getting to know colleagues in other Christian high schools. The three sessions stimulated our thinking about high school included "Living the Questions of Life" by Elaine Brouwer, "Who is My Neighbour?" by Dennis deGroot, and "Reshaping the Box Called High School" by Robert Koole. Each of the sessions was followed by small group discussions to share ideas and dream possibilities.



The following quotes capture some of the thoughts:

We yearn for a way of 'doing' secondary education that truly and effectively serves to help young people participate in God's shalom-driven STORY.
Elaine Brouwer, 2003

What does it mean to be a neighbour to the person with whom we share a staff room? What does it mean to be a neighbour to the person with whom we share a locker? What does it mean to be a neighbour to those who live near your school? How do the families of your neighbourhood experience your school's presence?
Dennis deGroot, 2003

We need a framework for education that sees high school as a place of learning that connects young people with all aspects of life in society. This year, will young people in your school experience learning primarily as preparation for life in the future or will they also experience learning as participation in life today?
Robert Koole, 2003

Thursday was a day for sharing featured activities in the schools. Topics included portfolios, chapel, media, outdoor wellness, gifts and talents exploration, advisories, enrichment, scheduling for learning, recreational leadership, Haida Gwai, etc. School teams also had time to meet to discuss plans for their school.

On Friday, participants divided into working groups to generate ideas and suggestions toward action plans on topics such as portfolios, advisories, Planning 10, Graduation Program Exams, Locally-developed courses/Independent studies, service opportunities, apprenticeship/work experience/internship, student leadership, scheduling alternatives. The symposium concluded with each of the working groups presenting a summary of their action plans to the full group.

All in all, three very successful days of interaction and dialogue. The SCSBC Secondary Curriculum Team will be doing follow-up work during this year as we continue to meet the challenge of developing vision and mission-based Christian high schools in connection with new Graduation Program requirements.

Summary notes have been sent to all participants via their schools. If you were unable to attend and would like further information, give me a call or send an email to koole@twu.ca

SCSBC Community-at-a-Glance

- 32 different communities
- 43 separate schools
- 17 high schools
- 9000+ students
- 900+ Teaching & Support Staff
- 250+ Board members
- 5500+ parents
- 1200+ different churches