



LEADERSHIP
Report on professional development courses from summer 2006; future opportunities

PAGES 2, 3 & 7



CURRICULUM
Teaching Toward the Invisible; What Do We Do About Graduation Portfolios?

PAGES 4 & 5



SCHOOL NEWS, BRIDGING CULTURES
 PAGES 6 & 7

CALENDAR, EVENTS, RESOURCES
 PAGE 8

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The LINK

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WHAT WE DID ON OUR SUMMER VACATION

*So maybe it wasn't all sandy beaches and surfing, but it has been an eventful summer season for many SCSBC schools, principals and teachers. This first issue of **The LINK** includes highlights of some of the exciting*

things that happened over the break. We've also included some events on the horizon for 2006-2007; be sure to mark your calendars now. Many blessings as another school year begins. Welcome back!

DON'T FORGET...

Christian Schools Canada's Third Leadership Conference



"Leadership in a Christian Mosaic" - a conference for principals, vice principals, curriculum coordinators, teachers, board members and superintendents

Sept. 21-23, Toronto ON

www.scsbc.ca/csc06.pdf

It's Better to Prepare than Repair

Henry Contant,
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
contant@twu.ca

John Maxwell wrote the above as he reflected on the importance of leadership training and the dangers of leading without adequate preparation. His words sum up what many new and aspiring leaders discovered this past summer as several SCSBC teachers and administrators enrolled in a variety of leadership courses.

It is important that on-going Christian school leadership development remain part of the leadership culture within every one of our Christian school communities. Principals and Boards need to both model and encourage the establishment of "professional learning communities" within their school. Christian school leadership is too critical to be entrusted to those who are well-intentioned, but ill-equipped for the task and challenges that are required of Christian school leaders.



for administrators, board members and teachers that took place this summer and others that will take place during the coming year. Is leadership development a priority in your school community?

leadership development a priority in your school community?

Dr. Bruce Hekman states in his paper *Communities of Grace*, "the center of a Christian school begins with a passionate commitment to be disciples of Jesus Christ and a development of a world view based on the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all of creation. A 'community of mind' will have

Listed on the following pages are several leadership development opportunities

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



a clearly understood theology and philosophy that becomes the touchstone for all activities of the school. Further, a community of mind requires that the members work together to define a mission, vision, and belief about the nature of mankind, of teaching and learning, and of all members as God's image bearers. A Christian school that is a community of mind will know what it is trying to get done and

how to use the diversity of gifts to reach these goals. It will devote its resources to developing its members into a learning community in which teamwork, collegiality, co-operation and the development and use of all gifts are being practiced."

Boards and administrators, what leadership goals will you be setting for your school community and yourselves as you launch a new school year?

SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES

Leadership of Educational Organizations (EDUC 622- TWU) – Nine administrators enrolled in a graduate level course in TWU's Master of Arts in Administrative Leadership program. Led by Dr. Lee Hollaar participants gained a deeper understanding of a biblical worldview, biblical concepts of authority, service and leadership

in contemporary educational organizations, including the meaning of a Christian servant leadership framework. The course built a foundation for contemporary leadership by providing a focused examination of applied school leadership necessary to serve students, staff, parents, and school board trustees. It also examined how leaders use moral and symbolic as well as administrative leadership to build a school covenant and an effective nurturing community rooted in a value-based mission and vision. SCSBC Board Member, Dr. Barbara McKenzie, and SCSBC Executive Director

CALLED TO SERVE, PREPARED TO LEAD

June 27-29, 2006

This SCSBC sponsored leadership seminar for new/beginning administrators brought together 9 educators (3 entering their first principalship; 6 beginning their first vice principalship) to spend three days reflecting on several areas of school leadership. Participants were challenged to confront the expectations they would likely face as new leaders. This often begins with the understanding that they may have three different job descriptions: the one they believe they have, the one others believe they should have, and the actual task that needs to be done.



Participants also reflected on how to develop and articulate their school's mission/vision with staff, board, parents, students and support community. Leadership issues with teaching and support staff, secretaries, business managers, and treasurers were explored. Practical strategies for staff evaluations, parent issues and school board decision making were examined by working through a series of real life scenarios. Time was also spent familiarizing new leaders with

aspects of school administration, time-management, budgeting, the Ministry of Education, and the administrative support resources of the SCSBC.

"I found [this] to be an excellent introduction into becoming a principal. Not only did we benefit from the wealth of knowledge and experience of the SCSBC staff, but it was also very beneficial to meet other new administrators beginning their journey as well...we were sent away with some valuable resources that we could use throughout the year as well as the knowledge that we have an organization that stands behind us when we have questions...I would highly recommend this process to all new administrators."

**Terry Downton, Principal
Vernon Christian Middle/
High School**

Henry Contant were guest presenters during the course.

Christian Approaches to Assessing and Evaluating Student Learning (EDUC 545- TWU) taught by Elaine Brouwer enrolled over 30 SCSBC teachers this summer. Recognizing that student assessment is more and more driving provincial curriculum, the course raised the important question, "How can teachers see and implement teaching, learning, and assessment holistically as part of an integrally Christian approach?"

Teaching in a Christian Kindergarten (EDUC 490- TWU) taught by Wilma Van Brummelen saw a keen group of teachers plan and implement a Christ-centered kindergarten program, developing materials and strategies for their own classrooms.

Worldview Foundations of Education (EDUC 621- TWU) taught by Dr. Mike Goheen in Victoria remains a crucial perspectives course for those teachers who have not had opportunity to take Christian perspectives courses in their undergraduate teacher training.

ELDI provides an exciting opportunity to help teachers consider God's call to administration.

Co-sponsored by Calvin College and Christian Schools International, this week long institute, held on the campus of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, allowed participants to learn from practicing administrators and explore their potential interests, abilities, and gifts in administration. Five educators from SCSBC were accepted into this summer's Institute. In addition, SCSBC Executive Director, Henry Contant was invited to be one of the instructors/facilitators in the program, with a view towards leading a "West Coast" version of ELDI in the summer of 2007.

"I feel very blessed to have been a part of ELDI this summer. It was a great way to explore my gifts, to stretch myself professionally and to seek God's direction in my life...I came back inspired and filled with many practical and valuable ideas. As participants, we had many opportunities to discuss issues, to share our thoughts and to learn from each other. I also appreciated the variety of speakers who came in to share their experiences with us. They told us stories about their transition into leadership and the struggles and joys

they encountered along the way... I came back with a stronger desire to follow God's direction and to see where he leads me."

**Simone Scholing,
Vice-Principal,
Abbotsford Christian
Elementary**

"Having had no experience in administration and hearing the loud sound of knocking knees at the prospect of stepping into the role of Vice Principal in September, I was so very grateful for the opportunity to participate in ELDI in July!...My heart was impacted just as much as my mind, and I came home full of anticipation for my upcoming season of growth".

**Andrea Wiebe, Vice Principal
Vancouver Christian School**

"Leadership: intentional servanthood whereby I can set others up for success." I hadn't really looked at leadership from this perspective until taking the [ELDI] in Grand Rapids, Michigan

this past summer...by far, the best, most practical and relevant professional development I have taken during my professional career...The discussions, interactions and learning opportunities over the course of the week were varied, practical and extremely relevant to me in my role, not only as an administrator, but also as a Christian educator...

**Mary deBoer, Assistant Principal,
Vancouver Christian
School**



Teaching Toward the Invisible

Robert Koole,
DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM koole@twu.ca

It's been more than 10 weeks since children and young people filled school hallways and classrooms. During that time they engaged in a wide range of activities, including vacations, work, travel, visits with relatives, etc. They likely listened to music, read books, played a wide variety of games, watched movies, and/or moved to another home. Many were involved in celebrations and touched with tragedies or major illnesses among family and friends.

How are their summer experiences shaping their understanding of themselves and their world? Will what they experienced and learned during those weeks remain invisible to those who now lead their learning in school? Or will the learning settings they experience enable them to connect those experiences into a larger picture?

In the coming weeks and months, will the explicit curriculum of school be truly life-connected or will it remain focused on formulaic textbooks which are written about another place and other people?

Will the explicit curriculum be focused on learning outcomes written for provincially-generic students while often remaining irrelevant to children, young people, and communities in a specific place and time?

Will staffroom conversations turn to all the subject content that's been forgotten by students and at the same time neglect the life-shaping experiences of the summer and the previous year?

As we begin a new school year, it is important to remind ourselves and each other—teachers, principals, board members and parents—that much of what children learn in school serves a larger purpose.

Biblical, faith-based learning and teaching “means striking out, with no clear end in sight and perhaps even no clear view of the next step. It means following, trusting, holding out a hand to an invisible Guide.” (P. Yancey, p. 47) All our daily preparations for helping children and young people learn at home and at school must be open to, and draw upon, our trust in God's leading hand. It's an open hand that is invitational, that beckons us to join God in helping his rule grow in every person's heart, in every community, in every people, with or without their own nation.

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”
(II Corinthians 4:18)

Biblical, faith-based learning and teaching cannot be reduced to a formula, to memorizing seven steps and answering them correctly in an end-of-the-week quiz. If “...the gospel of Jesus is just some formula I obey in order to get taken off the naughty list and put on a nice list, then it doesn't meet the deep need of the human condition, its doesn't interact with the great desire of my soul, and it has nothing to do with the hidden (or rather, obvious) language we all are speaking. But if it is more, if it is a story about humanity falling away from the community that named it, and an attempt to bring humanity back to that community, and if its is more than a series of ideas, but rather speaks directly into this basic human need we are feeling, then the gospel of Jesus is the most relevant message in the history of mankind.” (D. Miller, p 45)

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT GRADUATION PORTFOLIOS?

Last July the political nature of education once again took centre stage: hearing many voices across BC grumbling about problems with completing graduation portfolios, Education Minister Shirley Bond announced that portfolios would not be mandatory for this year's Grade 12 graduates. (See news release July 25, 2006, http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2006EDU0079-000960.htm)

Why pull the plug on something that was known about and included in Graduation Program changes initiated four years ago? Why pull the plug on something that is educationally sound and experientially valuable? Were the voices of parents, students, principals and teachers complaining about the portfolio requirement/design louder and more persistent than the voices of parents, students, principals and teachers who dedicated hours of preparation, support and energy in developing portfolios?

As you probably know
from your school



Jesus “is the image of the invisible God. The firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and

invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.” Colossians 1:15,16

Biblical, faith-based learning models a living faith that engages in a “... steadfast pursuit of God through all that disguises, disfigures, demolishes and seeks, so to speak, to abolish him.” (Jean-Pierre de Caussade, quoted in Yancey, p.60) Through and through, biblical, faith-based learning and teaching demonstrates that what we really need is God. “What we really need is somebody who loves us so much we don’t worry about death,

about our hair thinning, ... about whether people are poor or rich, good-looking or ugly, about whether we feel lonely or about whether or not we are wearing clothes. We need this; we need this so we can love other people purely and not for selfish gain, we need this so we can see everybody as equals, we need this so our relationships can be sincere, we need this so we can stop kicking ourselves around, we need this so we can lose all self-awareness and find ourselves for the first time, not by realizing some dream, but by being told who we are by the only Being who has the authority to know, by that I mean the Creator.” (D. Miller p. 110)

May our homes, classrooms, and schools be filled with life-connected learning that uncovers the deep human longing for communion with God, with each other, and with creation. “By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.” (Hebrews 11:3)

References

- Philip Yancey, 2000. *Reaching for the invisible God*.
Donald Miller, 2004. *Searching for God knows what*.

community, implementation of graduation portfolios has many challenges. Many people see the educational value in having senior students sharing some of their life and learning experiences during grades 10-12. Many others see nothing but problems in ‘adding’ one more thing to what teachers and students have to do. No doubt the portfolio-as-currently-designed can be better. Hopefully this fall’s review of the portfolio by the Ministry will lead to improvements that will capitalize on the strengths and minimize the managerial headaches that some experience with the current version.



A more important issue for Christian schools involves dialogue around whether your work-to-date on the portfolio and the rationale given for it to students and parents—as with any other Ministry of Education requirement—clearly connects it to, and places it within the context of, your school’s mission.

One of the excellent features of the current portfolio was its CHOICE component—worth 50% of its value. The CORE component (worth 30%) clearly indicated the minimum requirements that

the province wanted to see in all BC graduates. however, the CHOICE component is wide open for students, teachers and parents in school communities to explore/develop/interpret in terms of their perspectives, values and principles. What an opportunity for Christian schools to exemplify their distinctives! Has your school developed the CHOICE component in line with your mission?

But you ask, ‘what about the boxes?’ In response, I can only ask you to look again at the Graduation Portfolio Program Guide: it has requirements but most of it consists of examples of what could be done. I encourage each school to focus more on what your vision points toward, what you and I should do, and subsequently consider what is required. Continuing with some type of graduation portfolio and senior presentations has rich potential for demonstrating the impact of Christian secondary education—both its successes and its challenges.

(Note: for Ministry of Ed direction for 2006-2007 year see the Portfolio website - <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/portfolio/>)

- Penticton Christian School held a ground-breaking ceremony on April 17th for their new campus construction...



- And over the summer, Valley Christian School moved the former Penticton Christian School building to their new home in Mission.



- The SCSBC community extends congratulations, best wishes and prayers of support to the following administrators

as they begin this 2006/07 school year with new administrative responsibilities:

- Terry Downton–Middle/High School Administrator, Vernon Christian School
- Jan Neels and Dan Oostenbrink–new Vice Principals, Mount Cheam Christian School
- Ed Noot–System Principal, Unity Christian School in Chilliwack
- Bill deJager–Interim Principal, and Jack Boersma–Assistant Principal, Abbotsford Christian School’s Secondary campus

- Sandra deJong–Assistant Principal, Abbotsford Christian School’s Middle campus
- Donna Stelpstra and Roy Van Eerden–Interim Co-Principals, and Simone Scholing–Interim Assistant Principal, Abbotsford Christian School’s Elementary campus
- Daryl Verbeek–Executive Director of the Abbotsford Christian School Society
- Dave Loewen–Principal, White Rock Christian Academy
- Kevin Visscher–Principal, Duncan Christian School
- Marnie Spencelayh–Principal, Lighthouse Christian Academy in Victoria
- Klaas Kort–Principal, Bulkley Valley Christian Elementary School in Smithers
- Andrea Wiebe–Vice Principal, Vancouver Christian School
- Karen Vreugdenhil–Principal, Langley Christian Middle School
- Henry Au and Greg Gerber–joining the administrative team at Richmond Christian Secondary

- The SCSBC community expresses our deep condolences to:

- SCSBC Financial Stewardship consultant Gerry Ebbers, and the extended Ebbers family, in the death of Gerry’s father, Mr. Ralph Ebbers, on August 1, 2006.
- the Van Biert family in the July death of Mrs. Pauline Van Biert, long serving SCSBC educator who had retired from the Abbotsford Christian School system.

IMAGINE . . . that you could take the parts of your coursework that translate best to online learning and combine them with the parts that are best done in a traditional in-seat format.



CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL (CSI) HYBRID LEARNING

A TRAINING COURSE THAT WILL TAKE YOUR CLASSROOM TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

<http://christianhighonline.org/hybrid/index.html>

EDUCATING FOR LIFE TODAY AND TOMORROW: RESOURCE MANUAL FOR HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE

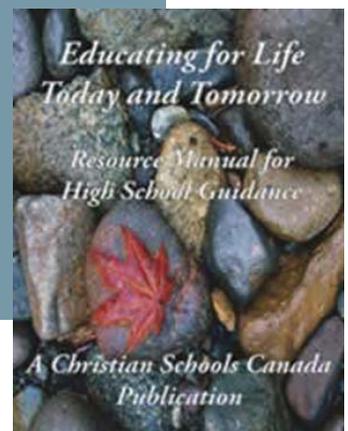


A new publication from Christian Schools Canada–now available!

Each SCSBC member school will receive a complimentary copy.

For more information:

www.scsbc.ca/resources/handbooks/guidance.html



BRIDGING CULTURES: *Serving in Honduras*

Bridging Cultures is a subsidized professional and spiritual development opportunity for BC teachers to share their expertise with, and learn from, their counterparts in Honduras. This year's team consisted of Melissa Moore (Timothy Christian School), Annette Ng (Maple Ridge Christian School), Rita Bot (Abbotsford Christian Middle School), and Heidi Kerssies (the CTABC coordinator for the project).

Here is an excerpt from a letter of thanks received from Emmanuel School in Juticalpa:

"Our best wishes for you are that our Lord Jesus Christ is blessing you. We want to express our thanks for your valuable



collaboration with our schools. We hope that our Lord continues to abundantly bless your lives. You are definitely a great blessing to our school and to us."

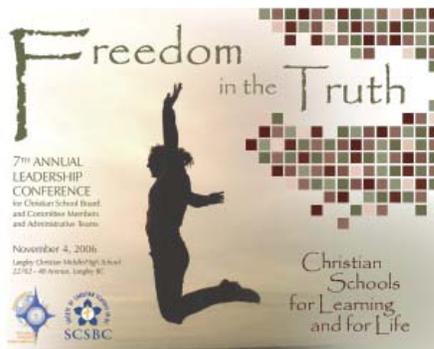
Emmanuel School is one of several schools that participated in a teachers conference facilitated by the BC team. The focus of the conference this year was not teaching English as much as working with the teachers in their individual classrooms to disseminate ideas, help with projects, give demonstrations and focus on the integration of faith and learning in the various subject areas.

www.scsbc.ca/bridge.html

2006-2007 Leadership Development Opportunities

- **Annual Leadership Conference for Christian School Board and Committee Members and Administrative Teams**, Nov. 4, 2006 (see *Upcoming Events*, page 8)
- **Regional Board/Committee Leadership Training Seminars**
 - Sept. 15-16, 2006 in Smithers
 - Jan. 19-20, 2007 in Vernon
 - Feb. 16-17, 2007 in Nanaimo
- **Strengthening the Heartbeat: A Leadership Renewal Program for Christian School Administrators.** Calvin College and Christian Schools International are planning a three year leadership renewal program for seasoned school administrators. Committing themselves to a number of professional development activities including two 4-day sessions annually (January & July) an invited cohort of experienced school administrators from across North America will join together in a learning community to grow in their understanding of Christian school leadership. Candidates in this renewal program will become better equipped to serve in new leadership roles as superintendents and mentors of new principals.
- **On-line Leadership Courses from Trinity Western University, during the 2006-2007 school year**
For more information see: www.twu.ca/glc/program/summer/courses/teacher-fall-spring.aspx
 - *Worldview Foundations for Educational Leadership* (Sept. 11–Dec. 4, 2006) EDUC 620 (3 sem. hrs.), Dr. Ray Klapwyk
 - *School Leadership & the Dynamics of Change* (Sept. 11–Dec. 4, 2006) EDUC 625 (3 sem. hrs.), Dr. Harro Van Brummelen
 - *Developing Educational Programs* (Jan. 2–March 28, 2007) EDUC 623 (3 sem. hrs.), Dr. Harro Van Brummelen
 - *School Leadership & Supervision* (Jan. 2–March 28, 2007) EDUC 624 (3 sem. hrs.), Dr. Ray Klapwyk
 - *Legal, Political, and Social Contexts of Education* (April 2–May 28, 2007) EDUC 626 (2 sem. hrs.), Dr. Rod Wickstrom

Upcoming EVENTS



7TH ANNUAL
LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE
for Christian
School Board
and Committee
Members &
Administrative
Teams

Keynote speaker: Dave Koetje,
President/CEO, Christian
Schools International (CSI)



November 4, 2006
Langley Christian Middle/High School

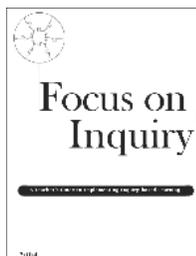
www.scsbc.ca/services/conferences/blc/blc.html

RESOURCES

Curriculum

Focus on Inquiry. Edmonton, AB: Alberta Learning. 2004. ISBN: 0-7785-2666-6. www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bysubject/focusoninquiry.pdf – This document provides supports for implementing inquiry-based learning activities in the classroom; intended for teachers working on their own or in teams, with or without the support of a teacher-librarian or other library personnel.

Learning Resources Centre
12360 - 142 Street
Edmonton, AB T5L 4X9
Ph: 780-427-2767; Fx: 780-422-9750
Web: www.lrc.learning.gov.ab.ca



UBC Museum of Anthropology – two unique programs for fall. Contact: Karen Benbassat (kbenbass@interchange.ubc.ca)

- “Dancers of Damelahamid” – masked dances, stories, and songs belonging to Hagbegwatku, the highest-ranking chief of the Gitxsan House of Dakhumhast. Nov. 3, 17, 24
- “Acts of Transformation: War Toys to Peace Art” – tour of the exhibition, interactive workshop

6393 N.W. Marine Dr., Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2
Tel: 604-822-5978, Fax: 604-822-2974

CALENDAR

September

- Sept. 5 Schools open
- Sept. 15-16 SCSBC Regional Board and Cmte. Training Seminar - Smithers, BC
- Sept. 20-21 Christian Schools Canada (CSC) 5th Annual Leadership Consultation - Toronto, ON
- Sept. 21-23 CSC 3rd Leadership Conference, “Leadership in a Canadian Mosaic” - Toronto, ON

October

- October 4 CPABC Meeting (mini-conference)
- October 5-6 CTABC/NWCSI Teachers’ Convention
- October 9 Thanksgiving Day
- October 24 SCSBC Compensation Cmte. Meeting

November

- November 3 SCSBC Business Administrators/Charitable Tax Receiving Workshop
- November 4 SCSBC/NWCSI Leadership for Christian Schools Conference, “Freedom in the Truth”
- November 13 Statutory holiday in lieu of Remembrance Day

December

- December 22 Schools close for Christmas vacation

January

- January 8 Schools reopen after Christmas vacation
- January 19-20 SCSBC Regional Board and Committee Training Seminar - Vernon, BC
- January 26 Sunshine Coast CTABC Pro-D Day - Gibsons
- January 26-28 MissionsFest Vancouver - Vancouver

www.scsbc.ca/calendar.html



7600 Glover Road
Langley BC V2Y 1Y1

Located in Fosmark Centre on the
Trinity Western University campus

Telephone: 604.888.6366
Fax: 604.888.2791
Email: scsbc@twu.ca
Website: www.scsbc.ca