



Christian Principals Association
British Columbia

7600 Glover Road
Langley BC V2Y 1Y1
www.cpabc.ca

SEPTEMBER 2012

CURRENTS

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

A BOY NAMED JOE

By Karl Boehmer, Principal, Penticton Christian School

Recently, during a sunny lunch break, a little boy named Joe made my day, in every way.

Joe is a student in Grade 1. He has grown up, for the most part, with his caring grandparents. His mom has had a few mental health issues and his father is not present in his life. Joe and his grandparents have become a vital part of our Christian school community. Not a day goes by without Joe greeting me in the friendliest way, with a big smile and a high five. He is so loveable!

I am the father of four boys; it has been bothering me that Joe has not had his father in his life. Sure, his grandfather is there for him and loves him unconditionally. Yet, it is different. You see, I am convinced that grandfathers are to play a different role in their grandsons' lives, a different role from that of actual fathers.

So, I feel a little bit responsible to be somewhat of a role model in Joe's life. I am not his dad, but, I sort of could be, age-wise and experience-wise. I guess as a father and as a school principal, I might have something to offer to this young boy, something he will forever remember beyond his grade-school years.

When I saw him recently, sitting on a picnic table during a lunch break, I thought I would just sit beside him, on the picnic table and see how he was doing. Crazy thing is, it was not the words that would follow this decision to sit down beside him, but a quick decision by Joe to snuggle right into me after I had sat down! The high level of trust this little boy had just expressed to me overwhelmed me with pure joy and humility. Right away I thought, "aha, this is what it is all about" and "what a blessing you have poured out on me today, O God!" Forget about the rest of the day and its frustrations. Just enjoy this moment and let it carry you throughout the rest of the day! And learn from it.

Christian schools are not only places of *learning to learn*, but places of healing as well. I love our little Christian school. God has blessed me personally by allowing me to serve Him here and to make a difference in my students' lives. Let's not forget this calling in all of our lives! Go, get to know your students and look beyond their weaknesses and their challenges. Love them as God loves you, and do not be afraid to be more to them than just a teacher. Let the Lord's love shine through you, and allow Him to catch you by surprise every once in a while.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Full membership in the CPABC is open to all educational leaders who subscribe to the constitution of the CPABC Society and are committed to the purposes of the society. Lifetime honorary membership is granted to retiring members. CPABC members are entitled to access CPABC resources, to attend and vote at CPABC general meetings and to a discounted registration fee for any CPABC conference.

DUES

Membership dues for 2012-2013 are \$105 CDN.

TO APPLY

Fill out the 2012-13 application for membership, available on our website at www.cpabc.ca/membership.html. Fill out your information, print the form and mail it with a cheque for payment to:

Christian Principals Association of BC
7600 Glover Road, Langley, BC V2Y 1Y1

Make cheques payable to:
Christian Principals Association of BC.

CPABC PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENTS

Executive Portfolio Groupings:

- Treasurer / Pro D Certification / Conference
– John / Darryl / Matt / Kevin
- Secretary / Promotion / Principal Liaison
– Gerry / Jeanette / Karl
- SCSBC Liaison / Chairperson – Ellen / Matt

For a complete list of the CPABC executive board members and their contact information, go to www.cpabc.ca/executive.html

WALKING THE MAZE OF PRAISE

adapted by G. Goertzen from *Dealing with Difficult Parents* by Todd Whitaker and Douglas J. Fiore

Giving praise to people around you is like putting money in a relationship bank account. As you watch it grow, the odd withdrawal doesn't bankrupt the relationship. And, praise will make your relationships grow strong and robust. The trick though is to make sure your praise for the people around you (staff, students) is done effectively.

1 Authentic – praise can't be given too much if it is true. Don't fall into the temptation of saying things to people that aren't completely true just to make them feel better. It doesn't work. Instead, think about all the things people are doing well and write a few of them down. Then share them with the people around you.

2 Specific – find things, even if they are small things, that people are doing and make a comment of praise for that specific thing. They won't forget that you noticed the details and made a point of mentioning it to them. Parents are sometimes amazed by our noticing their children doing things right.

3 Immediate – the sooner we can make the connection between our praise and the action, the better it reinforces to the person that we really noticed. Referencing something that the person can barely remember isn't nearly as effective.

4 Clean – clean means two things. First, it means we don't give someone praise with the expectation that we're going to make them change something in the future. We just comment on the here and now, and even if they disappoint us later on, we don't say to ourselves, "Oh, I guess that didn't work because this week the guy was rude to me." The events are probably not related at all. Second, clean means we don't use the word *but* in our praise. "You did great getting this project done today, but last week you sure were not responsible." The final criticism will always overshadow the praise. This isn't to say that you shouldn't correct people or keep them accountable. It just means that you don't mix messages.

5 Private – as tempting as it is to praise people publicly, it isn't wise. Praise should be private. It takes the pressure off the person, doesn't cause a stigma and shows respect to everyone on the team.

Walking through the maze of encouragement is a big part of leading any team effectively. Make yourself some goals this year to impact your team by using praise to build one another up.



CSC Conference September 27-29, 2012

We want to thank everyone who made the effort to attend this excellent conference in Cambridge, Ontario, during such a busy time of your year. We have an excellent representation from the west at this conference and we know the conference organizers are appreciative of our involvement. CPABC was pleased to subsidize travel costs for those members who applied in the spring. We will provide some highlights from the conference in upcoming newsletters.

CPABC Spring Conference 2013

We talked about a new location for our spring conference next year. After getting feedback from the membership and discussing this at length as an executive, we have decided that we just can't beat the Cedars Springs location and experience. We may review this in the future, but for the time being we're staying at Cedars Springs in Sumas.

Suggested Reading and Listening from the CPABC

Dealing with Difficult Parents and Parents in Difficult Situations, by Todd Whitaker and Douglas J. Fiore

Crazy Love, by Francis Chan and Danae Yankoski

Zealous Love: A Practical Guide to Social Justice, by Mike and Danae Yankoski

You Are Not Special - Commencement Speech from Wellesley High on YouTube (interesting thoughts)