

CURRENTS

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

COMMUNITY LIVING AND LIVING IN COMMUNITY

By G. Goertzen, Secondary Principal, Abbotsford Christian School

I was working late one day during my third week in my new job at ACS when a little girl from the middle school gently knocked on my door. I looked outside at a beautiful fall day with the wind gently blowing through the trees, thought again about how much I loved my new school and then I opened the door and said hello.

"Mr. Goertzen, I just got back to school to pick up my bike and someone has wrecked it. My handlebars are bent and my brake cables are broken," she said gently as she held back her tears. I walked outside with her to take a look. Sure enough, there was her bike, all alone on the long bike rack and it was wrecked. I didn't exactly know what to tell her but I assured her that we would look into it the next day and see what we could do. I wasn't hopeful that we would find the vandal who had wrecked a perfectly good bike on a beautiful fall day.

The next day was secondary school chapel and it was my second chapel of the year in my new school. The chapel's theme was "Testify Your Love" and it was meant to give opportunities for students to share how God's love was making a difference in their lives. The chapel was extraordinary as student after student shared their commitment to Jesus Christ with specific experiences from their summer to highlight their growth and discipleship. I sat there praying in my mind throughout this chapel. I prayed a prayer of thanksgiving that God had given me this opportunity to work in this school. I prayed for the students who came to the microphone and shared. And finally, I prayed that God would show me what to do about the broken bike.

Near the end, I went up to the open microphone and told the story of the little girl and her bike. Then, I said, "Now, look, we've been testifying our love today in chapel and I'd like to encourage you to think about what it means to live in this Christian community. It would be great if the person who wrecked this bike would come forward, apologize

and make things right but I'm not going to hold my breath today until it happens. I think we need to fix the bike together. Let's testify our love for this little girl, together. I'll take the bike to a bike shop myself if I have to, but wouldn't it be better if a couple of you mountain biking enthusiasts would take this bike and fix it for her? I'd pay for the parts. Come see me after chapel if God is tugging on your heart to build our community stronger by fixing a bike you didn't break."

About ninety seconds after chapel, two tenth grade boys came up to me and said that they would fix the bike. I asked, "Are you guys really mountain bikers? How many times have you broken your collar bone?"

"Three times for me and Josh here broke his arm twice!" they said, grinning up at me.

By the time I made it back to my office, a different student had placed a jar in the office window which had a handwritten note on it, "Fix-the-Bike Money". By lunch time the jar was full of money.

On Monday, the bike came back better than new because the boys had tuned up all the gears as well. They had spent their whole weekend working on the bike. They were grinning from ear to ear as they presented it to me outside my office.

When the little girl picked it up, she was crying with tears of thankfulness for a couple of boys whom she didn't know, who had stepped up and built a stronger community. An incident which seemed to be a community breaker, turned out to be a community builder. Isn't it amazing how God uses simple things to transform complicated places?

He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" and, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

At the CPABC Spring Conference

The CPABC leadership conference in Cedar Springs is upon us. We want you to know that this year's conference will involve some planned activities on the first day which will encourage getting to know one another better. We have heard from participants in the past who have mentioned that newcomers find the conference excellent but they have felt lonely without knowing anyone on the first day. Please do your part to welcome people you do not know, include people in your conversations and learn as many names in our community as you can. Let's continue to make our CPABC community a warm and friendly place to be.



Spring Conference 2013

We are considering a new location for our spring conference next year. We are certainly open to feedback concerning this idea. One tentative plan would be for two separate coach style buses to pick up at two locations on the Wednesday afternoon (one near the airport and ferry, one in the Fraser Valley) and then travel by coach to Young Life's brand new Rock Ridge Canyon near Princeton. This would allow for some incredible getting-to-know-you time on the bus, take us to a completely new location with tons to do (lake, canoeing, Frisbee disc golf, hiking, zip line, water sports, basketball, volleyball) and enjoy a world class facility. We have another great speaker planned for next year's conference. Please feel free to speak with an executive member with your thoughts about this tentative plan.

CPABC Portfolio Assignment Update

Executive Portfolio Groupings:

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

CPABC Offers Conference Subsidies

Did you know that members who are unable to attend a CPABC/CSC conference due to financial constraints can apply to have CPABC subsidize up to the full amount of the conference registration fees? A limited number of subsidies are available every year.

Possibly this could tip the balance for your decision if budget constraints have been holding you back from signing up for the **Christian Schools Canada** conference in Cambridge, Ontario, on **September 27- 29, 2012**. CPABC is offering up to 20 grants of \$325 to cover the early registration fee for members. Schools are eligible to receive more than one grant.

The subsidy application was recently emailed to all of our members. To apply, please complete the form and send it to jvanderleek@langleychristian.com.

Grant Application Deadline - Wednesday, May 23, 2012



Suggested Reading and Listening from the CPABC

1. *What Great Principals Do Differently: 15 Things That Matter Most* by Todd Whittaker
2. *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand
3. *On Mended Wings: Transforming Lives and Communities in Nicaragua* by Carol Van Klompenburg
4. *The Unlikely Disciple: A Sinner's Semester at America's Holiest University* by Kevin Roose