

CURRENTS

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

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A Leadership Leap of Faith

by Kevin Visscher, Principal, Langley Christian High School

Welcome to a new school year! The CPABC Executive trusts you all had a fantastic summer, full of rest and play. We pray you are rejuvenated for the year ahead, with all its undiscovered joys and challenges.

I did one crazy thing this summer! I dove in a glacial lake! The water temperature had to be less than 5 degrees celsius. The best part is that I convinced my eldest son, Brandon, to jump in with me. Hand-in-hand we jumped in with two feet into the green coloured unknown. The cold water shocked our system. It literally took our breath away. I came out feeling alive!



Perhaps as a new principal or assistant principal, you are jumping into something new with two feet. But know as an organization, the CPABC is here to support that leap. Our mentorship program is a great way to connect with an experienced leader who can “jump” with you.

If you are returning to a school community that you have been a part of for some time, maybe there are “leaps” you need to make. You might be jumping into

a capital campaign, a building project, or difficult staffing situation. Leadership is about making leaps. Sometimes they are small, and other times they are large! Either way, each is a leap of faith. The comfort is we know what we are jumping in to. God promises he is with us in all our leadership leaps.

*“And my [our] God will meet all your [and our] needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 4:19, NIV)*

I love the biblical definition of faith from Hebrews 11:1; “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” There are some keywords in this verse. First of all, faith is not blind. It does not tell us to take a leap in the dark. Faith is assurance. It is a know-so and not just a hope-so. It is a conviction of things we have not seen. The word “conviction” is the same word used in trying and convicting a criminal of a crime. A conviction comes about by a set of irrefutable facts that convinces a judge or jury to assess a penalty, fine, or imprison someone. The decision is made because of evidence that has been provided. The “heroes of faith” in Hebrews 11 developed their faith on something tangible. Their faith was convicted. Being “certain of what we do not see.” (vs. 1b) Even today, “by faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible” (Heb 11:3).

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope [to make those leadership leaps], encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word this upcoming school year.

In faith we leap.

CPABC Board of Directors

At our business meeting at the May CPABC Conference, the CPABC executive bid farewell to Gerry Goertzen as he ended two terms serving on the board. We welcome Jeremy Tinsley, principal at Duncan Christian School, to the executive. Our first meeting will be at the SCSBC Offices on September 21, 2015. At this time we will update our portfolios and look forward to finalizing plans for our October 8th conference at Regent College, which is based on their ReFrame program.

Membership Renewal Information

Full membership in the CPABC is open to all educational leaders who subscribe to the constitution of the CPABC and are committed to the purposes of the association. 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 2015-2016 are \$125 CDN.

To Apply: Register by filling out the 2015-16 application for membership available on our website at www.cpabc.ca/membership.html, then 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

Summer Professional Development

Many administrators and teachers were involved in some great summer professional development. The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time to hear about those learning opportunities and to see the excitement and eagerness to put that learning into practice. Here are some of the activities that many of our educators were involved in:

- Educators Leadership Development Institute (ELDI)
- Experiencing Christ in the Classroom
- PBL Residency
- Restorative Justice Workshop
- School Learning Redesigned
- Teaching for Transformation
- various other workshops or courses

Upcoming Conferences

Fall 2015

The upcoming fall conference promises to be one you won't want to miss, so mark these details on your calendar:

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

Where: Regent College, 5800 University Blvd. Vancouver

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

Our Spring 2016 conference is just around the corner.

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.

Mentoring Program

We are accepting applications to our mentoring program. If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile program, please see the website (www.cpabc.ca/mentoring.html) for more information and necessary documents. We've had a number of pairs go through this process and have heard very positive responses from it. Here are a couple of testimonials.

John Zuidhof

Mentoring other principals over the past two years can best be summarized as OPPORTUNITY...

- To share insights on leadership, generally a humbling experience, because my own shortcomings were soon exposed.
- To share administrative ideas, school policies, and leadership strategies, with the corresponding exposure of my/our own deficiencies in these areas.
- To listen and to share—heart to heart—a very reciprocal relationship and benefit.
- To visit another school and share life with another school principal.
- To read a book and consider applications towards growth with another professional.
- To hear someone's response to my journey/ suggestions—helping me question my own leadership routines and initiatives.
- To be surprised by God's provision and blessing!

Jeremy Tinsley

My mentor was someone I could go to at any time in the school year, someone I knew wouldn't be inconvenienced by my call, someone who I knew had committed to spending the time needed to serve as my mentor, a coach, an encourager, a great listener and a friend. I'm grateful for the ongoing relationship I have with my mentor and his wisdom in guiding me in my early years as a Christian school principal.

Suggested Reading

Curious by Ian Leslie

"The most fundamental reason to choose curiosity isn't so that we can do better at school or at work. The true beauty of learning stuff, including apparently useless stuff, is that it takes us out of ourselves, reminds us that we are part of a far greater project, one that has been underway for at least as long as human beings have been talking to each other." (Leslie, 2014, p. 20)

Leaders of Their Own Learning

by Ron Berger, Leah Rugen, Libby Woodfin

"Leaders of Their Own Learning points the way toward a dramatically better system for assessing the skills that matter most and motivating our students to achieve mastery. This important book should be read by every parent, educator, and policy maker." (Tony Wagner, Harvard University; author, The Global Achievement Gap and Creating Innovators)

Guerillas of Grace by Ted Loder

A book of prayers - a great resource for staff devotions. *"For nearly two decades, this classic collection of tough, beautiful, and earthy prayers has lightened hearts and dared spirits to soar." (Goodreads)*

Every Good Endeavor by Timothy Keller

Connecting your work place to God's work place: *"This book is theologically rich and philosophically informed, yet accessible and filled with practical wisdom." (Comment magazine)*

