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We encourage you to forward this update to faculty, staff, board members, or other interested parties.

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From the Director—Philip Hills

The Problem with Information and Having Too Much of It

One of many growing frustrations with the new BC Curriculum is the lack of designated resources. The reason for this is the belief that with all the information available on the internet teachers will be able to find their own resources to match the new curriculum. More than this, prescribing texts runs the risk of cutting against the ideals of flexibility and individualization as well as inquiry based learning. It is moving away from giving answers in a canned classroom experience toward equipping students to ask relevant questions and finding the best answers to those questions.

Teachers are discovering that finding good resources and directing students to trusted websites is full time work—and it's endless work. The internet changes continually.

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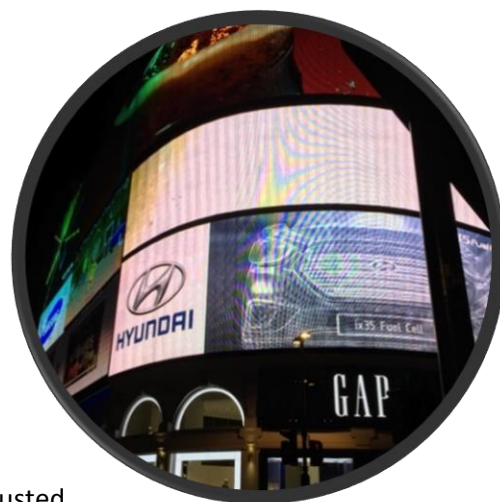
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Worse than this, research is revealing a growing loss of objectivity as a result of too much information. Feeling overwhelmed, people are gravitating to a few websites they trust and are developing their understanding of the world through fewer sources. The growth of the false news movement is the worst example of both the unreliability of the internet and the warped perspectives it can foster.

People are coalescing into smaller thought groups which view the world with greater inflexibility. This accounts for growing intolerance and more open hostility expressed toward others. People are becoming thinner skinned, more easily offended and unable to empathize with other points of view.

How can Christian schools counter these trends? This is not going to be easy, but recognizing the problem is the place to start. How do we help our students find truth? How do we help them break out of the virtual thought echo chambers? How do we help them develop vigorous tests for truth? And finally, how do we develop in them a love for others regardless of their ideologies? These are the questions we should be asking as we refresh school curriculum to prepare our students for their era.

I cannot answer all these questions, but I do want to consider the first. How do we help our students find truth? Becoming a school wide echo chamber where we edit the ideas to which we expose students is not the way to do this. We need to teach our children to follow reality, not ideology. The Bible encourages this. Our faith is not, as people like Richard Dawkins claimed, a leap into non-reason. We should not simply believe because of a conviction that "Jesus lives in my heart". Our belief should rest on real events. If you doubt this, consider Paul's assertion in 1 Corinthians 15, that if Jesus did not rise from the dead (in a genuine bodily and historically verifiable way) then our faith is futile. We are the most pitiable and deluded people on earth.

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The Bible is not an echo chamber but a bracing call to compare the world as it is to the way that the Bible describes it to be. J Richard Pearcey states,

There are no privileged truth claims under this theistic mobilization of mind, and that includes an affirmation as central to Christianity as the space-time resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile," states 1 Corinthians 15:17. Some people may balk at the linkage of fact to commitment, but the dynamic worldview set forth in the biblical data welcomes the connection. (<http://www.nancypearcey.com>)

We need to lead our students to understand the Bibles' representation of reality and then challenge them to consider the world around them. If Jesus is who He claims to be, then life should work out the way He characterizes it. If it does not, we need to question our understanding of what He said, or our understanding of what is happening around us (or both).

If everything has equal merit then nothing matters except for the information that feeds our fragile egos.

The information problem is not about quantity as much as it is about priority. If everything has equal merit then nothing matters except for the information that feeds our fragile egos. But, if there is truth and there is falsehood, then our lives should be a lifelong pursuit of distinguishing between the two. We should teach our students to believe what is true (not that believing something makes it true).

Many of you have heard this before, but our students are moving toward an echo chamber that will close them from anything except what they want to hear. Intervene before that happens with a vigorous dose of reality-based teaching and challenge them to consider Jesus as the best describer of reality. In the process they might begin to trust Him more than they trust themselves. And eventually that will lead them back to the universe as it is, and grow in them a passion to bring everyone they encounter out of the deceptive self-made echo chambers these people live in, into the real world of the God who calls Himself Love. This has always been the challenge of the Christian teacher, but in our era it is more urgent than ever.

Events

Find information and register for events on our [website](#). The ACSI Events Calendar for 2016/2017 is posted on our Home page.

Administrator/Board Conference

This year's MB Administrator/Board Conference will be February 16–17 at Linden Christian School in Winnipeg, MB. Check [here](#) for online registration and updated information.

District Meetings

District Meetings have been scheduled for this winter/spring. Agendas will be sent to member schools approximately one month before the scheduled meeting.

MB administrators will meet February 16 at Linden Christian School, Winnipeg.

BC administrators will meet March 3 at Cornerstone Christian School, Abbotsford.

Updated information will be available on our [website](#).

Professional Development

In keeping with our mission to enable Christian educators to effectively prepare students for life, ACSI offers professional development specifically designed to benefit teachers and administrators within our member schools. It is also a good opportunity to meet with colleagues and continue to build a support network for your school.

The **Island PD Day** will be on February 10 at Phil & Jennie Gaglardi Academy in Comox, BC. The **BC North PD Day** will be held February 24 at Maranatha Christian School, Williams Lake, BC. Brochures and registration information will be sent to your school. Go to our [website](#) for online registration and more information.

Student Activities

The foundation of a good life is both an understanding of God's Word and a commitment to live in a way that reflects His character. The most important thing we can do is to equip our students, then give them a life-applicable understanding of the Word.

Our annual **Spring Musicale** for Jr. and Sr. High choir and bands will be held May 11–May 12, 2017, at Prairie College in Three Hills, AB. For more information visit our [website](#).

Teacher Conventions

Our Teacher Conventions are focused on ways to continually improve as Christian schools. Brochures for all conventions will be sent to your schools. Check our website for more information or to register online:

MB Teacher Convention is at Linden Christian School, Winnipeg, on February 16–17. [MB Teacher Convention](#)

ACSI members go to [my.acsi.org](#) to join the Teacher Convention group on ConNEXUS for discussion and information.

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College Corner

If any of our member colleges have an upcoming open house or other event that would be of interest to our students, please let our office know so that we can include the information in upcoming issues of the Communicator.

Peace River Bible Institute Events

eView—Come get a sneak peek into college life at PRBI! Experience Friday Night LIVE, Coffee House, Gym Activities, Dessert Social, the Classroom and much more. An absolutely FREE youth event on March 9–11, 2017, for Grade 10+. We offer a \$500 campus visit bursary to ALL who attend!

REACH Travel Program—Want to REACH out and live your faith in different cultures? Expand your understanding of the impact Jesus is having around the world? The REACH Certificate is designed to lead you into a deeper faith through study as well as practical hands-on experience. Visit our [website](#) or call 1.780.568.3962 for more information.

PRBI Campus Visits—Plan a campus visit that compliments your schedule and get the full picture of our campus and college life! To arrange for a campus visit, please [email](#) us or call 780.568.3962.

Prairie College Events

Prairie College Personalized Visits—we will personalize your very own **FREE campus visit** and create a customized experience that will meet your needs. Our Admissions Office is open Monday–Friday from 9:00am–5:00pm all year round to serve you. For more information or to arrange a visit [email](#) us or call 1.800.661.2425.

Prairie College Preview Days—**FREE** one-day events that allow a prospective student to experience a day in the life at Prairie. Preview Days include information sessions, campus tours, a demo Bible class, a chance to meet with Admissions staff, faculty,

coaching staff and enjoy some Prairie hospitality. Preview Day dates are: Friday, March 10, 2017, or Saturday, April 8, 2017. To register visit our [website](#).

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Vanguard College Preview Days or Personal Visits

If you are interested in experiencing a day in the life of a Vanguard student, you have two options; you can come and have a personalized visit anytime during the school year, or you can come for one of our preview days in March. It is free to attend and travel assistance is available. Please contact Enrolment Services at 1.866.222.0808 or check out our [website](#).

The King's University Events

Open House Events—Join us for our Open House Event on **March 4, 2017**, to see why students thrive at King's. Take a tour. Talk with an Admissions Counsellor. Meet faculty and current students who are ready to answer your questions. Have your application fee waived when you apply at this event and enter to win a \$1,000 tuition rebate. This is a drop-in event. No registration required. For more information, contact Admissions at 780.465.8334 or [by email](#). See you there!

King's View Fridays (KVF)—King's View Friday features a full day of sessions on admissions, financial aid, and student life. Students have the chance to sit in on classes, tour the campus, meet with Admissions staff, current King's students and faculty. KVF is free of charge and includes a hot lunch. Students can also register to spend a night in residence. Upcoming KVF dates: **February 10, March 24, and April 7**. For a sample schedule and to register, please visit our [website](#). Registration cuts off one week prior to the event.

King's Encounter Weekend (KEW)—Join us on campus for a full weekend and experience what being a King's student is really like. Sit in on classes, ask our professors questions about the programs you're interested in and talk to current students about their first year experience. Stay in our student residence and see what life will be like away from home. There is also an optional off-campus excursion to check out West Edmonton Mall or Whyte Avenue. Upcoming KEW dates: **March 16–18**. For a sample schedule and to register for this event, please visit our [website](#). Registration cuts off one week prior to the event.

Personal Visits—If none of the above-noted events work with your schedule, we can arrange for you to meet one-on-one with an Admissions Counsellor. Personal visits can be scheduled Monday–Friday between 9:00am and 4:00pm. Please contact Admissions at 780.465.8334 or [by email](#) to book an appointment.

Rosebud School of the Arts

Rosebud School of the Arts is already accepting applications for September 2017. Check out our [website](#) for more details and our application form. Or contact our Recruitment Officer via [email](#) for more details.

Be sure to like Rosebud Theatre & Rosebud School of the Arts on Facebook to keep in touch!

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School News

We would like to encourage you to [email](#) newsworthy information about your school to be included in this section of the monthly Communicator.

Bearspaw Christian School—Servathon

In early December Bearspaw Christian School (BCS) performed a servathon event, a dual event where the students are involved in service activities in the community while at the same time providing a background for a fundraiser. Service opportunities included packing lunches for homeless, assisting at the Airdrie and Calgary Food Banks, multiple Senior's Lodges, Hope Mission, Cochrane Pregnancy Care Center, and Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child. Our youngest student disciples were included and enthusiastically baked thousands of cookies which were distributed to the homeless through the Mustard Seed.

In advance of the week of serving, we were blessed with immense support for our mission of providing discipleship infused education. This fundraiser utilized an online pledge system and event coaching provided through Influencing Generations for Christ. Our families were able to “tell” their BCS stories, their BCS testimony, through the online system to their close friends and families, inviting them to partner with the mission of BCS.

Through the efforts of our parents, staff and extended families, as well as through tremendous support from many corporate partners, God provided over \$150,000 during this 5 week campaign.

The event was concluded with a praise celebration attended by the full school body, many parents and invited guests including Councillor Joe Magliocca of the City of Calgary, Eric Lowther from the MD of Rockyview and our MLA, Mr. Prasad Panda representing the Provincial Government.

In addition to the tremendous provision to our ministry, the event was a great success from the perspective of growing our student disciples' hearts for servanthood. It reached our community, showing the love of the Lord to many organizations who resoundingly felt blessed, and it increased the awareness of the amount of good work that comes from a body of believers aligned in Mission. Those who participated from the school body, the parent community and the community at large expressed tremendous appreciation for BCS, and want to participate in what we believe will become an annual event.

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Alberta Youth Call 2 Prayer

ACSI is partnering with the **Alberta Youth Call 2 Prayer** to host a province wide day of fasting and prayer. The invitation is being extended to all our K–12 schools and Colleges and Universities to gather on their campuses on **Wednesday, February 15th** for a concentrated time of prayer for our Provincial Government leaders. You will be partnering in prayer with a student prayer team from Fort Saskatchewan Christian School, who will be on site at the Legislature that day. Let us commit to gathering together whether it is in our individual classrooms or in a school assembly, to seek God on behalf of the government leaders of Alberta.

If your school would like to commit to praying could you indicate this by responding to the following questions and forwarding them to [Elaine](#):

(school name) will be participating in the Alberta Youth Call 2 Prayer on their campus Wednesday, February 15th.

(number of students) will be participating.

Global Outreach

School Global Outreach News

One of the reasons our schools are so strong is because of their passionate concern for exalting Jesus among the nations. We will be highlighting your stories in the Communicator to encourage each other with how our schools are doing this. Please forward stories to our office from recent mission trips and/or mission projects if you would like to share what your school is doing in support of reaching the world for Christ.

School Mission Trips

Many of our schools will be sending student groups on mission trips this year. Please send us your school name and the dates and destination of your trip so we can pray for you as you travel and spread God's love around the world.

2016–17 Classrooms for Africa Project

Each year ACSI Western Canada selects a project to support. For the 2016–17 school year ACSI Western Canada has decided to focus on raising funds for the Dust to Desk Project. This year's goal is to provide 2,000 students with desks. The cost is \$80 per desk (each desk seats 4–5 students) or \$800 per classroom. The donations collected at the ACSI Teacher Conventions will go toward this goal. More information on this will be available at the conventions. To donate online go to www.classroomsforafrica.org/take-action. A promotional PowerPoint and a video are available for schools and teachers to use for their students and school communities. Please [email](#) us or check out our [website](#) for more information.



Classrooms for Africa—Teacher Tour: Summer 2017

A team of educators is being put together who will travel to Uganda in July 2017 to conduct teacher training for teachers in Christian schools in that country. If you want more information or are interested in joining the team, please [email](#) us or check out our [website](#) for more information.

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We Want to Serve You

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Check out the Bookroom website at acsicanadabooks.com for the latest prices and ordering information. Thank you for allowing us to continue to serve you.

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Serve as a Teacher with Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada

Teachers are needed to provide an education for the school-aged children of MAF families and those of our ministry partners overseas. As a qualified teacher, you can play an essential role as part of a team seeking to share the love of Jesus Christ in remote areas. MAF teachers provide quality instruction for the children of MAF missionaries, enabling families to serve in strategic locations where quality education is not otherwise available. What's more, many of our teachers also have an opportunity to provide Christian witness to the children of parents serving with non-Christian development agencies overseas and to the local people. MAF places teachers in a number of school settings all around the world, ranging from small one-room, multi-grade classrooms to larger, traditional accredited international schools. Teacher needs vary from year to year. If you have a Canadian Provincial or ACSI (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) teacher certification, you can qualify for a short or long-term role; the minimum commitment is one school year. Find out more at:

<https://www.mafc.org/recruiting/teachers>

Professional Development for School Leaders

Van Lunen Center: Executive Management in Christian Schools: a year-long professional development course. For more information please visit their [website](#), or contact [Henry Contant](#), 778.808.7776.

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Keep Us Informed

Please notify us ASAP of administrative changes (principals, heads of school, email addresses, addresses, phone numbers, and fax numbers) in your school. This is very important in helping us keep in contact with you.

Your Feedback is Important to Us! We welcome your feedback concerning this newsletter or any of the information in this newsletter. Please contact us with questions, comments, or suggestions by sending an email to acsiwcexdi@gmail.com.

Contact Us



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Unsubscribe—We hope that this newsletter is a valuable source of information for you and your school; however, if you would like to be removed from the email list, please send a request to info@acsiwc.org.

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