From the Director—Philip Hills
Preparing Students for What, Exactly?

Was this the future you imagined when you were in school? I grew up in the 60’s and 70’s, and I remember being promised a world where our work week would be short and our leisure time generous. Due to rising standards of living and increases in productivity, we would all have the resources to pursue activities we loved while putting in fewer work hours. In addition, advances in transportation, such as the Concord jet, would open the whole world up to supersonic travel. Though the cold war was raging at the time, there was guarded hope that diplomacy would eventually bring down the wall and the Berlin Wall did fall by the end of the 80’s, though more as a result of the bankruptcy of communism (economic mostly) than any diplomatic event.

During the 80’s computers were offered as the next great technological revolution which would change and improve lives worldwide.
In many ways, the world is a more affluent and borderless place than it ever was during the 60’s. The standard of living in Canada continues to be one of the very best in the world. So why is the biggest rights battle in our country at this time about our right to a state funded and facilitated murder? Right now the euthanasia law is very restrictive. But many are still clamouring for the law to expand to allow people to choose this ‘medical’ service at any time they choose, even if the only reason is they feel their lives are complete (which is a nicer way of saying they are simply tired of living and can think of no other reason to go on existing). If that reason for euthanasia sounds extreme and ridiculous to you, Holland right now is considering expanding the right to medical assisted death to this very scenario.

Something happened on our road to the future. In the process of inventing and innovating our way to an easier and more affluent life, we lost the reason to live. There are still reasons but they are focused mainly on unrestricted self-indulgence. Anyone who has fully given themselves to that lifestyle knows how dull and deadly it eventually becomes.

But our schools have not yet arrived at our promised future. We never really wanted a better world. We wanted a perfect one. And we are all still waiting for that world to appear. Our students who experience God and come to know Him will never choose an early exit from life, even though they are promised Heaven followed by the New Heavens and Earth. This is because they will have been schooled in hope. They will even forego the comforts of 21st century life to seek the oppressed and marginalized. Many of our graduates are serving on the mission field around the world already. They are choosing to become the oppressed and marginalized in order to bring hope to others. Our current students will leave our schools to alleviate suffering wherever they can and give their peers a reason to live that is bigger than a good party and a one-night stand.

Many of the promises the futurists made me in the 60’s never really happened as they promised. And those that did materialize offered convenience without increasing an understanding of why life actually mattered. The Prophet, Jesus Christ, whom we follow painted a radically different future, one in which some people will rise to eternal life and some will sink to unending despair. The difference between those who will rise and those who will fall is whether they trust man to deliver a good future or whether they trust God who became a man.

To me, the evidence is clear—people have not and cannot fully deliver on their promise of a glorious future, but I believe God will. Our work is to help our students know our God, both through the Word and through the world, and then to equip them to serve others so they choose to join the family of hope headed by Jesus. That is the only future worth preparing our students for.

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 Administrator/Board Conference will be November 25–26 in Canmore, AB. Check here for online registration and updated information.

Annual Meeting

This is official notification that the ACSIWC Annual Meeting will be held during the Administrator/Board Conference in Canmore, AB. All member schools of ACSI Western Canada are invited to send representatives to this meeting.

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 Highroad Academy, Chilliwack.

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.

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

ACSI members go to my.acsi.org to join the Teacher Convention group on ConNEXUS for discussion and information.

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

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.

PreView Days—November 11, 2016 come be a student for a day! Come experience our campus through classes and community! Come see for yourself what PRBI is all about before you decide! It is from 8:30am–3:30pm and totally FREE! Contact us today to register or for more information visit our website or call 1.780.568.3962

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 Youth Conference “Deeper” November 25–27, 2016: This year’s conference speaker is Joel Feddersen. Early bird registration ends on November 14. For more information or to register visit the website or email us.

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.

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 November or 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: November 25, January 27, 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: November 17–19 and 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

Live the Theatre in Rosebud!

Miracle on 34th St.—November 11–December 23 (student matinees November 25, 28 and December 2)

Frank Dickens’ Christmas Carol—November 26–December 17 (student matinee December 2)

Tickets are available through the Rosebud Theatre box office on our website or 1.800.267.7553. For added value, schools can contact us by email for details about Behind-the-Scenes opportunities and our “Rosebud in the Classroom” program.

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.

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.

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/tack-action. A promotional PowerPoint and a video is 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.

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.

Learning Revolution | Educator Event

The number one TED Talk speaker and the world’s most acclaimed expert on education reform, Sir Ken Robinson is coming to the Greater Vancouver area for the first time to inspire educators and business leaders to rethink education for the 21st century during the Learning Revolution event in Abbotsford on January 13.

Sir Ken Robinson is an internationally recognized authority on creativity and innovation in education and business, as well as a renowned author, speaker and advisor to educators, government bodies and arts organizations all over the world. His famous TED Talk speech, “Do Schools Kill Creativity?” is the most watched TED Talk of all time, viewed online over 40 million times and seen by an estimated 350 million people in 160 countries.

The Learning Revolution is being hosted by Abbotsford Christian School, a leading elementary and secondary school with a strong vision for the future of education, not only at its school but throughout the region. ACS currently offers 21st century learning and Project Based Learning programs for students as well as a Project Based Learning Residency for both independent and public school teachers.

Friday, January 13, 2017, 1:00pm—3:30pm at Gateway Community CRC, 2884 Abbotsford Mission Hwy, Abbotsford, BC
Tickets: $25 each (bulk rates available). For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the website, or contact Brian Koning at 604.755.8108.

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.

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.

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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.