



Communicator

November 2018

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

From the Director—Philip Hills

Fast and Easy vs Slow and Hard

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From the Director—Philip Hills

Fast and Easy vs Slow and Hard

When I began my position with ACSI 13 years ago, the iPhone had not yet been released and most of the time when we went online it was either with a CPU or a plugged-in laptop. At the time, we were all feeling overwhelmed about the emerging technologies and how they would shape our students. We were already feeling inundated at the new information available at our finger tips. But due to the wired-in nature of the internet and the fact that most of us only had one family computer, it was easier to tune out the expanding information super highway.

How the world has changed in those 13 years! Now, everyone can be online everywhere all the time. Next time you're out, count how many people are not staring at their smart phones. I did that recently while at a local outlet mall. The phoneless group was a clear minority. Apple just released its updated operating system with a new feature—'screen time'. This is supposed to help the phone addicted to limit how much they use their phones. The jury is out as to whether it will help or whether it will just increase people's guilt about their phone dependence.

LEARNING TO THINK
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One thing I have come to understand lately is that one of the consequences of the internet and devices that get us there is a disconnect between how education actually works most effectively and how computers shape us. I think we all sense that something is happening with the advent of miniature computers (our phones and related devices) in the way our students are learning. Computers can lead our students to a deeper level of engagement and personalization.



But there is also a major tension that we are unconsciously aware of—computers work on the basis of speed and a reduction of effort. Using a computer, one can put together a report with better and richer data, more quickly than doing things the old way. I was just remembering how I wrote my papers in high school. I had to go the library, read lengthy books, bookmark pages with relevant information, write an outline, rough draft and a final copy. My final copy was either handwritten (with a trusty side of white out) or typed on a manual typewriter (with a trusty side of correcting tape). It took weeks to complete a paper. I can remember taking hours to type out a 10,000 word essay.

Today all of that can be done in much less time. Who needs to write a rough draft when you can easily modify your essay! Finding online sources of good information is easy and cutting and pasting quotations is a breeze. I can generate thousands of words a day with much less effort than I did in the '70's.

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It is easy enough to produce an essay today but changing the way we think about ourselves and the world we live in is laborious and slow work. Learning to think deeply and critically takes a great deal of time and effort. New reading research is showing that though e-reading and page reading facilitates the same level of basic comprehension, those who read paper books remember details much better in the long term and are better able to draw deeper meaning from broader themes of the article or book. One of the reasons being posited for this is that a book does only one thing while digital articles feature more distractions and are easily clicked in and out of when reading online.

I know that I skim much, much more now than I used to, to the detriment of my understanding and deeper comprehension.

So, what are we to do about this? Are you aware that many Silicon Valley leaders send their students to pen and paper schools that do not permit devices? If the inventors of the technologies are doing this, maybe we need to pay attention. I don't think we can eliminate the use of online devices, but we can certainly curate them for educational use. The classroom is a great environment to cultivate a love for slow technology and slow learning. Books, printing and handwriting, storytelling that does not feature video—these old-style approaches still hold the power to positively impact students.

Let's continue to use the best of emerging technologies without becoming slaves to them. Let us also understand what leads to the deepest transformation. Wisdom cannot be learned in a fast and low-effort way. It takes a lifetime and titanic effort. But the reward is incalculable.

Events

Find information and register for events on our [website](#). The ACSI Events Calendar for 2018/2019 is posted on our Home page.

Event Resources

Looking for the resources from ACSIWC events? Send a request to the ACSIWC office by email to acsiwc@acsi.org.

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[Administrator/Board National Conference](#)

We look forward to the first ever Canada-wide ACSI Administrator Board Conference, November 23–24 at the Banff Park Lodge in Banff, AB.

Each year leaders from Western Canada have gathered in the Rockies to learn about excellent leadership practices for Christian schools. This year we look forward to colleagues from Eastern Canada joining us in Banff.

If ever Canadian students needed a clear and compassionate presentation of the biblical worldview, this is that time. Students are growing up in a fragmented and increasingly angry age. Christian schools offer Shalom, the promise of a fully harmonious world in which every element interacts without friction. We want to equip our students to live the Shalom lifestyle, bringing redemptive hope wherever God chooses to use them. Our conference will focus on this Shalom worldview.

[Check our website](#) for online registration and conference information. Brochures have been mailed to your schools.

[Annual Meeting](#)

This is official notification that the ACSIWC Annual Meeting will be held Friday, November 23, 2018, during the Administrator/Board National Conference in Banff, AB. All member schools of ACSI Western Canada are invited to send representatives to this meeting.

[District Meetings](#)

District Meetings are designed to connect, inform, and inspire. Each meeting features time for leaders to share the current realities of their schools. In addition, the latest information about educational trends is provided. This includes political, cultural, spiritual, economic, and legal data that is relevant to Christian schools. Guest speakers are also brought in to make presentations on current Christian educational practices. Administrators are encouraged to continually improve their schools for the blessing of their students and the glory of God.

The **BC meeting** will be held March 1, 2019, in Abbotsford and the **MB meeting** will be held February 14, 2019, in Winnipeg.

Agendas will be sent to member schools approximately one month before the scheduled meeting. Updated information is available on our [website](#).

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[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. Watch for details about our PD days coming up in February in Comox and Quesnel.

[Student Activities](#)

We want our students to find peace with God, peace with each other, and peace with themselves. We want to equip our students to live the Shalom lifestyle, bringing redemptive hope wherever God chooses to use them.

The Spring Musicale, May 2–3 at Prairie Bible College in Three Hills, is an opportunity to motivate your Junior and Senior High band or choir. Watch for brochures being sent to your school soon or check the ACSIWC [website](#) for information.

[Teacher Conventions](#)

The theme for this year's conventions is *Shalom* (Isaiah 9:6). We will consider what the Shalom worldview is and how we can reveal it to our students in all areas of school activity. We are excited at the prospect of being able to help our students see the real glorious future God will soon bring upon the earth and how they can prepare that world through their faith, gifts and works.

Brochures will be sent to your schools. Check our [website](#) for more information or to register online.

ACSI members, join the ACSI [Community](#) for discussion and information.

- MB: February 15, Linden Christian School, Winnipeg | [MB Teacher Convention Info](#)

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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. The deadline for submissions for the December Communicator is November 23.

Rosebud School of the Arts

Join us in Rosebud for a Scout Weekend, November 15–18. Live in Rosebud for a couple days and experience classes, rehearsals, shows and Rosebud hospitality. You'll live with students and have opportunities to chat with faculty. Email recruitment@rosebudschoolofthearts.com to register. For more information check out our website www.rosebudschoolofthearts.com.

Peace River Bible Institute

Freshmen \$3000—PRBI's donor and friends strongly believe in investing in young people and want to support their desire to attend PRBI by giving them \$3000 towards their tuition. We have removed some of the financial barriers so that anyone can attend the 2019 school year! For more information go to our website prbi.edu or call 780.568.3962.

March 8–10/19 eView College TakeOver—Come experience more of PRBI by moving in for a few days! Come enjoy dorm life, classes, the college night life, and our annual Friday Night Live. More information to come!

School News

Hearing about what other member schools are doing helps us feel connected as an association. We encourage you to [email](#) newsworthy information about your school to be included in this section of the monthly Communicator and on our Facebook page. The deadline for submissions for the December Communicator is November 23.

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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 highlight your stories to encourage one another. Please [email](#) stories and pictures to our office from recent mission trips and/or mission projects 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.

2018–19 ACSI Western Canada Project

Each year ACSI Western Canada chooses an education-based service project to support.

For the 2018–19 school year ACSIWIC will continue to support the Dust to Desk Project. The goal is to raise \$20,000 which will provide seating for over 1000 students. For example, the cost of a four-student desk is approximately \$80.

The donations collected at the ACSI Teacher Conventions will go toward this goal. More information will be available at the conventions.

To donate online go to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/6391>. Under the Funds option choose "Classrooms for Africa Desks".

A promotional PowerPoint and a video are available for schools and teachers to use for their students and school communities. For more information please [email](#) or check out the C4A [website](#).

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We Want to Serve You

ACSI Canada Bookroom

This year ACSI has moved away from printing a paper Purposeful Design catalogue and is providing an online version only. Please visit our [Google site](#) to download the order form, catalogue, and samplers of new product. You can also visit our [website](#) to order online.

The Bookroom hours are Monday and Wednesday: 8:30–4:00 PST and Friday: 8:30–3:00 PST. If you need assistance outside of these times, please call the BC Office—604.851.6983.

ACSI Community

Connexus has been replaced with Community. Your new easy-to-use Community opens the door to ideation, collaboration, and innovation with your peers around the world making us all Stronger Together. Take a moment to check out the [new site](#). Please note that you will have to log in and reset your password.

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Technology in Education

Technology in education is here to stay whether we like it or not. As Christians, we may view technology as a panacea, or we may view technology as being nefarious at best. I believe there is a case for both views. The world has done a great job of shaping how we and our students view and use technology; and a lot of what is out there is not great.

Therefore, it is *imperative* that we as Christian leaders seek an understanding of the biblical view of technology in education and work with detailed intention to bring this understanding to our schools, our staff, our students, and our community at large. By creating a biblically-based technology vision, setting strategic plans of implementation, and providing needed support at all institutional levels, Christian schools can be at the forefront of not only innovation but also revolutionizing how technology is viewed and used.



How can your school use digital tools to inspire students to take action to further the Kingdom of God? Do you believe that digital tools can be leveraged to further the Kingdom of God? If so, what do you need to do to model that belief?

Sandra Paetkau had eighteen years in the classroom as an educator before becoming a Digital and Instructional Coach, Technology Integration Specialist, and now Independent Consultant.

Sandra can facilitate the generating of a customised technology vision for schools, collaborate with administration and lead teams in developing and executing a strategic implementation road map, and offer inservice training and coaching.

Please visit Sandra's website: thetotaltechover.com.

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 phil_hills@acsi.org.

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