



# CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS CANADA 6<sup>TH</sup> LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 27 - 29, 2012 - CAMBRIDGE ONTARIO

## UNDERSTANDING *& Change*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY



From Issachar's descendants  
there were 200 **leaders**  
who **understood** the times and  
**knew** what Israel should do.  
1 Chronicles 12:32

**A Conference for School Leaders and Future Leaders**  
Principals, Vice-Principals, Heads of School, Financial Administrators,  
Development/Advancement Personnel, Curriculum Coordinators, Board Members, etc



[www.christianschools.ca](http://www.christianschools.ca)

# UNDERSTANDING & Change

SEPTEMBER 27 - 29, 2012

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## AGENDA

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2012

9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm  
1:30 pm – 2:15 pm  
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm  
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Pre-conference meetings

Lunch (on your own)

**OPENING CELEBRATIONS:** Welcome, Introduction, Worship Time

**KEYNOTE #1:** *Understanding and Change for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christian Schooling* - James Drexler

Refreshment Break

#### WORKSHOP SECTIONALS

- 1.1 Understanding and Change in Nurturing the School Community - James Drexler
- 1.2 Growing Our Schools – Understanding the Importance of Strategic Planning- Peter Meerveld
- 1.3 Leadership and Justice: Staying True to our Story - Dr. David Loewen
- 1.4 Finding Purpose and Place in the Classroom: A Teacher's Narrative - Justin Cook
- 1.5 Information Technology, Resources and Teacher Understanding: An Administrator's Responsibility - Mr. Brad Martens

4:00 pm – 4:45 pm  
4:45 pm – 6:00 pm  
6:15 pm – 9:00 pm

#### LEADERSHIP SMALL GROUPS

Free Time and Networking

#### CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS CANADA BANQUET AND ENTERTAINMENT

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2012

7:30 am – 8:30 am  
8:30 am – 9:00 am  
9:00 am – 9:45 am  
9:45 am – 10:00 am  
10:00 am – 11:30 am

Continental Breakfast (included with room registration; extra for commuters)

**MORNING DEVOTIONS** Welcome, Introduction, Worship Time

**KEYNOTE #2:** *Raising up Children of Issachar: Nurturing a Flourishing Faith* - Dan Beerens

Refreshment Break

#### WORKSHOPS SECTIONALS

- 2.1 Understanding and Change: Qualities of a Faith Flourishing Education - Dan Beerens
- 2.2 Understanding and Change in Communications - Peter Pula
- 2.3 Understanding and Change in Discipline Policy: Restorative Justice - A New Way Forward - Anne Martin
- 2.4 Teaching for Transformation: What is TFT? And How Do I Catch It? Part 1 -Doug Monsma
- 2.5 One School's Experience with Online Education - Alex VanDonkersgoed
- 2.6 Healthy International Development for Schools - Hank deJong, Edu Deo

11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm  
1:45 pm – 2:15 pm  
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm  
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Lunch (provided)

**KEYNOTE #3:** *Understanding What Christian Schools Want and Get* - Ray Pennings

#### LEADERSHIP SMALL GROUPS

Refreshment Break

#### WORKSHOP SECTIONALS

- 3.1 Spiritual, Cultural and Academic Outcomes – A Closer Look - Ray Pennings
- 3.2 Upward or Homeward: Leading Educational Change for Upward Mobility or for Homecoming - Dennis DeGroot
- 3.3 Understanding and Change: Promising Pedagogical Practices- Dan Beerens
- 3.4 Teaching for Transformation: An Invitation to a Better Story, Part 2 -Doug Monsma
- 3.5 Understanding and Change in Parental Influence in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - Mark Vander Vennen
- 3.6 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leaders - Henry Au

4:30 pm – 10:00 pm

#### FRIDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2012

7:30 am – 8:30 am  
8:30 am – 9:00 am  
9:00 am – 10:00 am  
10:00 am – 10:15 am  
10:15 am – 11:45 am

Continental Breakfast (included with room registration; extra for commuters)

**MORNING DEVOTIONS** Welcome, Introduction, Worship Time

**KEYNOTE #4:** *Understanding Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* - Walter Wright

Refreshment Break

#### WORKSHOP SECTIONALS

- 4.1 Designing your Leadership - Walter Wright
- 4.2 Understanding and Change in Financial Leadership - Jennie Das
- 4.3 Charting your Course: Following your School's North Star - Darryl DeBoer
- 4.4 Understanding Board Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century- Mary Lou McPherson
- 4.5 NEW PCCE: Becoming One - Elco VanderGrift
- 4.6 CSionline Academy: Models for Online Learning - Tim Krell

11:45 am – 12:15 pm

#### CLOSING AND DEVOTIONS

# UNDERSTANDING & Change

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



James Drexler

### *Understanding and Change for 21st Century Christian Schooling*

James L. Drexler is the Dean of Education and Social Sciences at Covenant College in Georgia. He had a 23-year career in secondary Christian schooling as a teacher and administrator in St. Louis during which time he and his wife welcomed four children into the world. He earned his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Saint Louis University in 2000 and has authored two books: *Schools as Communities* (2007) and *Nurturing the School Community* (2012) both by Purposeful Design.



Dan Beerens

### *Raising up Children of Issachar: Nurturing a Flourishing Faith*

Dan Beerens is an author, international speaker, and educational leader. Dan has served as teacher, principal, and director of curriculum and instruction in urban and suburban public and Christian schools in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan, and in various roles for Christian Schools International. He is currently working as a self-employed K-12 educational consultant (DB Consulting) in the areas of teacher evaluation and professional growth, curriculum design, school improvement, and technology integration. He is the author of *Evaluating Teachers for Professional Growth: Creating a Culture of Motivation and Learning*, published by Corwin Press.



Ray Pennings

### *Understanding What Christian Schools Want and Get*

Ray Pennings is Senior Fellow and Director of Research at Cardus. He has been involved in the creation and building of Cardus as an emerging think-tank of influence focused on the renewal of social architecture. He has contributed to seven books, hundreds of journal articles, and you can find his opinions regularly shared through public policy punditry in newspaper, radio, and television appearances across Canada.

In addition to providing overall leadership to Cardus' research and publication program, Ray has been provided hands-on leadership to the Cardus study on outcomes of Christian education. His passion for Christian education has been life-long and his extensive resume of volunteer and community involvement include many years on boards and committees of local Christian schools as well as a term as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of Redeemer University College. Ray holds an undergraduate history degree from McMaster University and a Master's degree from Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary. Together with his wife Kathy and son Chris, Ray lives and works in Calgary, AB.



Walter Wright

### *Understanding Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

Walter Wright is a Senior Fellow at the Max De Pree Center for Leadership in Pasadena, where he served as executive director from 2000-2012. He came to the De Pree Center after twelve years as the President of Regent College, a graduate school affiliated with the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Prior to this, he served twenty years on the management team of Fuller Theological Seminary in California.

Dr. Wright is the author of five books, *Relational Leadership, Crossings, Mentoring: The Promise of Relational Leadership, Don't Step on the Rope! Reflections of Leadership, Relationships and Teamwork* and *The Third Third of Life: Preparing for your Future*. He has written many monographs, articles and chapters for edited volumes. He wrote a monthly column on Leadership Jazz for the New Digest of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

Walt lives in Pasadena with his wife Beverly. They have two sons, Damon and Aaron, three grandsons, Brendon, Lucas and Owen and a granddaughter, Tegan.

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## INFORMATION

### CSC BANQUET

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2012, FEATURING

EDUARD KLASSEN, a Paraguayan folk harpist, now living in Canada, has presented over 3500 music concerts in 23 countries since making a personal commitment to Christ. Mr Klassen presents a variety of Christian harp music from South America, North America and Europe, interspersed with personal testimony and stories of God's work in his life, from boyhood in the wilderness of Paraguay to the present.



**THE CSC BANQUET IS INCLUDED IN THE REGISTRATION FEE.  
FOR NON-REGISTERED GUESTS, THE BANQUET COST IS \$60 + TAX.**

### REGISTRATION

<b>CONFERENCE FEES*:</b>	\$325/person - member**
<i>*Taxes extra</i>	\$425/person - non-member
After May 31, 2012:	\$355/person - member**
	\$455/person - non-member
<b>SATURDAY ONLY</b>	\$50.00/person - member**
	\$60.00/person - non-member

**\*\*CSC member**  
Any person or school with membership in

- SCSBC, CTABC, CPABC
- PCCE
- OACS, Edifide, OCSAA

*Included with your registration is a copy of Walter Wright's book, don't step on the rope, which will be discussed during leadership small groups. A copy of the book will be sent to you upon registration.*

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 2012

#### CANCELLATION POLICY:

*Registrations cancelled more than 60 days before the event will be refunded 80% of the registration fees. Registrations cancelled less than 60 but more than 30 days before the event will be refunded 50% of the registration fees. Registrations cancelled less than 30 days before the event will not be eligible for a refund. Substitutions are permitted.*

REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.CHRISTIANSCHOOLS.CA](http://WWW.CHRISTIANSCHOOLS.CA)

### CONFERENCE LOCATION

**CAMBRIDGE HOTEL, 700 HESPELER ROAD, CAMBRIDGE ON N3H 5L8**

You are responsible for booking your own accommodations. Room rates including continental breakfast start at \$99 per night + applicable taxes (based on single/double occupancy). Call 1-866-622-1505 and quote "**Christian Schools Canada**" when booking. Online reservation is not an option.

*Room availability guaranteed until August 27, 2012.*

*Cancellations must be made at least 48 hours before arrival or be subject to full charges.*

### GROUND TRANSPORTATION

We have arranged for transportation to and from John C. Munro Airport in Hamilton and Kitchener-Waterloo Regional Airport. **Please note that there is an extra cost involved.**

**Travelers using Pearson International Airport in Toronto will need to arrange their own ground transportation. Contact Airways Transit at 519-886-2121. Rates vary depending upon the number of people in your party.**



# FRIDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

Choose a Friday evening activity. The cost of the activity is in addition to the registration fees.

## THEATRE

**STRATFORD SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL** *The Matchmaker by Thornton Wilder*

“With his eye ever fixed on the bottom line, wealthy merchant Horace Vandergelder can’t see the value of love—even as he searches for a wife. His matchmaker, Dolly Levi, however, is making her own plans for him, while his clerks pursue their hearts’ desires in the big city.”

This musical is being presented at the festival theatre. With a 4:30 pm departure, guests will be transported to Stratford in time for dinner on their own in one of the many local restaurants. The play will begin at 8:00 pm. Following the play, the coach will bring guests back to Cambridge.

**COST: \$100 + HST (52 SPACES AVAILABLE)**

## SPORTS

**TORONTO**

*Toronto Blue Jays vs. the New York Yankees*

The Toronto Blue Jays meet the New York Yankees at the Rogers Centre in Toronto. The game starts at 7:07 pm. Guests will be transported to Toronto for dinner on their own and the ball game. Tickets are for Field Level seats.

**COST: \$77 + HST (52 SPACES AVAILABLE)**

## TOURS

**NIAGARA FALLS**

*Summit Suite Buffet Dining Room and Falls Attraction*

Casual yet distinctive Fallsview dining defines this Niagara Falls restaurant. The Summit Suite Buffet Dining Room offers the ultimate in family-affordable casual dining. Featured is their famous double-sided buffet. Located 775 feet above the Falls the Summit Suite Buffet provides both spectacular views and fine food for a truly uncommon Niagara Falls dining experience. Included with admission to the buffet is the Ride-to-the-Top and Indoor/Outdoor Observation Decks Niagara Falls attraction.

Guest will also have a chance to explore on their own as well as view the illumination of the falls and the nightly fireworks.

**COST: \$80 + HST**

*On your own*

We will provide you with transportation to the Falls, with drop-off at the Falls. You can explore the Falls and the attractions on your own.

**COST: \$35 + HST**

**NIAGARA FALLS**

## ON YOUR OWN

**LOCAL ATTRACTIONS**

*There are a number of local attractions that guests can arrange to see on their own:*

Local theatre - St. Jacobs Schoolhouse Theatre, Aberfoyle Inn, Drayton Festival Theatre, Galt Little Theatre

Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra

Shopping

Hiking, Nature

Cambridge Hotel’s 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Golf Simulator

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT TENA @ [cscconference@oacs.org](mailto:cscconference@oacs.org) OR 905-648-2100 X11**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2012**

## **KEYNOTE 1: UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CHRISTIAN SCHOOLING - James Drexler**

The mandate for Christian schooling is at least as old as Deuteronomy 6, but the realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century demand that educators grapple with not only understanding our times, but also demonstrating a willingness to change and grow so that students can thrive in their learning.



James L. Drexler is the Dean of Education and Social Sciences at Covenant College in Georgia. He had a 23-year career in secondary Christian schooling as a teacher and administrator in St. Louis during which time he and his wife welcomed four children into the world. He earned his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Saint Louis University in 2000 and has authored two books: *Schools as Communities* (2007) and *Nurturing the School Community* (2012) both by Purposeful Design.

### **1.1 UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE IN NURTURING THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY - James Drexler**

Professional Learning Communities may prove to be a rich blessing for Christian schools. In this workshop, we will discuss how new and veteran teachers alike can learn to collaborate and grow together through new leadership models and paradigms for schooling, all of which will enable students to learn more.

### **1.2 GROWING OUR SCHOOLS - UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING - Peter Meerveld**

Is your school experiencing declining enrollment or about to experience a drop in enrollment? Is your school competing against other Christian schools or other choices for education? Is the quality of education at your school not always meeting the demands of parents, students and their future careers? Is the school's revenue stream not keeping pace with the programs you would like to put in place? Is your school lacking the vibrancy of a first rate Christian community of learning that parents and students are attracted to or come to expect?

If you answer 'YES' to any of the above, other organizations in the same situation opted to undertake a Strategic Planning process to better understand how to manage their challenges, increase the vibrancy of their school and attract more parents and students. Schools with clear goals and strategies are now benefitting from the success of their Plan.

This 1 ½ hour workshop will help you understand what makes a good plan, how to determine what factors are limiting your success as a school and how to develop concrete actions to deal with them. This session goes beyond describing your mission and vision. It is intended for educators to better understand the process to actually realize your vision, describe the common mistakes made in implementing your plan, and having the administrator, board and your community develop and own a spiritually vibrant Christian school that nurtures a student's faith and develops a love for life long Christian stewardship.



Peter Meerveld has spent most of career working as a senior executive with the Ontario government providing a wide range of services to a number of ministries in the area of natural resources, environment, agriculture and human resources. He received his education in the area of negotiations from the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario. Although his skills as a leader were developed within the civil service, he honed most of his skills with non-profit organizations (including Christian schools) in the area of strategic planning, mediation and human resources planning.

### **1.3 LEADERSHIP AND JUSTICE: STAYING TRUE TO OUR STORY - Dave Loewen**

Christian Schools in Canada exist in a culture in transition from modernity to postmodernity. Often we decry the influence of the story of postmodernity on our students (and ourselves?). However, we tend to do so with our feet planted firmly in the story of modernity and with subtle longings for premodern simplicity. We do this in the way we think about curriculum, the way we describe our leadership roles and by the very language we use to define reality for our school communities. We need to have a more nuanced understanding of "the times" in order to ensure changes that are both effective and faithful. The goal of this workshop will be to expose the contested spaces within which our school communities exist and to raise questions as to how we are to be faithful to the Biblical story within that context.



Dave Loewen served as a teacher, vice principal and principal at Abbotsford Christian School for 13 years, as a principal at White Rock Christian Academy for 5 years and is in his first year as superintendent of Surrey Christian School. He has a PhD in Educational Administration and Leadership Studies from the University of Victoria. Dave is married to Lisa and they have two daughters: Chloe in grade 8 and Olivia in grade 4.

# UNDERSTANDING & Change

SEPTEMBER 27 - 29, 2012  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## 1.4 FINDING PURPOSE AND PLACE IN THE CLASSROOM: A TEACHER'S NARRATIVE - Justin Cook

If my work is to pursue a narrative intelligence and imagination with teenagers, what has my own professional narrative revealed to me about my role? I've always wanted to be a dynamic leader in the classroom. But what did I think I knew and what do I know now? How did my educational leaders help me along the way? What have become my priorities for Christian school learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? Tracing my professional identity through three incredible schools might help us to consider where teachers come from and where they should be going.

After teaching at high schools in British Columbia and Toronto, Justin Cook returned to his alma mater Hamilton District Christian High School in Hamilton, Ontario, where he is the Head of the Languages Department. In his classes, he hopes to cultivate a communal narrative intelligence and imagination as a way to organize life for meaning. At home, Justin and his wife Rachel (and their three beautiful children!) love trying to live intentionally in their neighborhood: sharing and restoring a multi-unit house, practicing hospitality, buying and growing food locally, walking to church with their children, feasting with friends. Justin attended Redeemer University College and Calvin College, and is currently an M.A. candidate at the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto.



## 1.5 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, RESOURCES AND TEACHER UNDERSTANDING: AN ADMINISTRATOR'S RESPONSIBILITY - Brad Martens

Administrators can no longer sit idle and watch technology pass their schools by. The need for strong, confident leadership, where the administrator assumes an active role in the development of IT in the school is essential. Come and join me as we take some practical steps in planning for a more complete understanding of technology in our schools.

Brad Martens is the Vice-Principal of the Secondary Campus at Vernon Christian School. For the past 11 years, Brad has been instrumental in developing and implementing an IT plan at a school wide (K-12) level. It is Brad's desire for school administrators to have a proactive understanding of IT and to know how their leadership plays an important role in implementing a technology vision.



## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2012

## KEYNOTE #2: RAISING UP CHILDREN OF ISSACHAR: NURTURING A FLOURISHING FAITH - Dan Beerens

How can we develop a new vision of Christian education that raises up students who are strong and passionate seekers of the kingdom? Why not re-define our desired student outcomes around the concept of flourishing? Might it be an approach that is reflective of what we have learned recently about student faith development, brain development, 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, as well as reflect a sounder Biblical basis? Might it assist us with redesigning our school structures to better empower students and meet our missions?

Dan Beerens is an author, international speaker, and educational leader. Dan has served as teacher, principal, and director of curriculum and instruction in urban and suburban public and Christian schools in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan, and in various roles for Christian Schools International. He is currently working as a self-employed K-12 educational consultant (DB Consulting) in the areas of teacher evaluation and professional growth, curriculum design, school improvement, and technology integration. He is the author of *Evaluating Teachers for Professional Growth: Creating a Culture of Motivation and Learning*, published by Corwin Press.



## 2.1 UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE: QUALITIES OF A FAITH FLOURISHING EDUCATION - Dan Beerens

Explore seven critical features of an educational experience that promote student flourishing at all grade levels. Specific examples and resources will be shared that elaborate on, and help us to shape, our vision for students.



## 2.2 UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE IN COMMUNICATIONS - Peter Pula

How we understand change and leadership has changed significantly in the past few years. The most successful change efforts are deeply democratic, emergent, and self-organizing. Just as educators and journalists are moving from lecture to conversation, from content expert to convenor and connector, communicators are also seeing their role change.

Moving from command and control, message management, and branding to co-creative communications provides a way to create expansive understanding and discover innovation, champions, and energies. What is co-creative communications? How do we do it? How can it enliven your social ecology? How can we move the emphasis from story consumption to story creation? Words create worlds after all. What are the implications for your communications, change, and leadership strategies?

During this session we will explore the links between co-creative communications, community creation, discovery, and a narrative of possibility. You will take a journey through trends and assets. We will identify together a new story taking shape. We will also prototype ways we could work together to create a life-giving news network for renewal and reinvention in education.

Peter Pula, CEO of Axiom News, has been a student of change and society throughout his career. He has served on community boards in the arts, children's services, granting organizations, and a Christian School. Axiom News provides co-creative communications services to organizations across Canada and in the US. The combined readership of Axiom News-enabled sites exceeds 100,000 unique visitors and hundreds of thousands of stories downloaded each month. Every week, Axiom News produces 70 written stories, video and audio productions, manages multiple social media accounts, and curates leading commentators. AxiomNews.ca is an expression of the company's commitment to "Co-Create a Life-Giving News Network for a Renewed and Thriving World."



## 2.3 UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE IN DISCIPLINE POLICY: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE - A NEW WAY FORWARD -

### Anne Martin

Participants will be introduced to Restorative Practice in the context of understanding discipline in schools. We will: 1) consider ways Restorative Practice is a framework to create and sustain healthy relationships, challenges traditional understandings of discipline, and 2) learn some restorative practices to provide opportunities for nurturing respectful behaviour in the classroom and the staffroom.

Anne Martin is Director of Restorative Practice Services at Shalem Mental Health Network in Hamilton, Ontario. Anne's work includes developing Shalem's Restorative Practice network and providing Restorative Practice services for schools, faith communities and the workplace.



## 2.4 TEACHING FOR TRANSFORMATION: WHAT IS TFT? AND HOW DO I CATCH IT? PART 1 -Doug Monsma

If you agree that the "primary goal of Christian education is the formation of a peculiar people—a people who desire the kingdom of God and thus undertake their life's expression of that desire" (James Smith), then there are some questions that need answering!

How peculiar are your students? How strong is their desire for the kingdom of God? How effectively have they been equipped to undertake this call? Is there a better way?

This session will provide an overview of the TFT curriculum design model—a model that offers some interesting new ideas about formative Christian education. This project provides a framework for the development of authentic and integral Christian learning experiences, grounded in a transformational worldview with a focus on the Biblical story. Come to hear some wonderful stories of how teachers are using the TFT model in their classrooms. Hear how TFT has transformed learning experiences and the excitement that it has brought to the classroom and curriculum planning. Find out how the TFT project has united over 25 schools as teachers collaboratively build units using the TFT process. Learn about the components of the TFT process as you enjoy the stories. This session is a great introduction to the TFT project.

Session 2.4 and 3.4 are sponsored by the Prairie Center for Christian Education and will be hosted by Doug Monsma, who serves as the Centre's Director of Learning. In this role, Doug is responsible for the development and implementation of the TFT project. The sessions will be led by real life school leaders/teachers who have a passion for, and extensive experience with, the Teaching for Transformation project.





# UNDERSTANDING & Change

SEPTEMBER 27 - 29, 2012

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## 2.5 ONE SCHOOL'S EXPERIENCE WITH ONLINE EDUCATION - Alex VanDonkersgoed

Halton Hills Christian School in Georgetown, Ontario has been experimenting with teaching online in an asynchronous, authentic, project-based model. In the school year of 2011-2012 we launched a pilot project we called "Christian Education in a Digital Age". We enrolled a small, select group of grade 8 students from 6 different schools in this program. This workshop will outline our experiences from this past year, both our joys and our failures. If you are interested in online education and all the other buzzwords in this description please join this workshop.

Alex van Donkersgoed attended Calvin College for his BA and graduated in 1995. He spent some years trying out various careers before attending Redeemer University College to earn his teacher's certificate in 2000. He's spent the last 10 years in the most challenging and fun schooling he could imagine, teaching in elementary classrooms! His childhood love of computers and technology has morphed into part of his career as he is now the technology coordinator at Halton Hills Christian School as well as the project coordinator for the Christian Education in a Digital Age pilot project.



## 2.6 HEALTHY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SCHOOLS - Hank DeJong, EDU DEO

Description to follow

Hank de Jong is the Executive Director of Edu Deo Ministries. He joined the organization in 2003, working 15 hours a week while maintaining full-time employment at Mission Services in downtown Hamilton. This lasted a short period of time and Hank was soon fully committed to this amazing cause. Hank has seen the ministry in action many times. He has personally met many students in developing countries who have been touched by the Gospel through Christ-centred education. Hank is deeply convinced that Christ-centred education is an amazing tool of transformation. Hank is married to Michelle, and together they are blessed with four children. He is currently working on his M.A. in Leadership at Trinity Western University with expected completion in 2012. For fun, Hank enjoys hockey, running and stamp collecting.



## KEYNOTE #3: UNDERSTANDING WHAT CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS WANT AND GET - Ray Pennings

Is there an alignment between the motivations and outcomes for Christian education, especially in the areas of academic achievement, spiritual formation and cultural engagement? Cardus has examined this question, relying in part on a representative survey of graduates in the United States in 2011 and Canada in 2012. This keynote will highlight some of the key findings and explore some of the questions this data provokes.

Ray Pennings is Senior Fellow and Director of Research at Cardus. He has been involved in the creation and building of Cardus as an emerging think-tank of influence focused on the renewal of social architecture. He has contributed to seven books, hundreds of journal articles, and you can find his opinions regularly shared through public policy punditry in newspaper, radio, and television appearances across Canada.

In addition to providing overall leadership to Cardus' research and publication program, Ray has been provided hands-on leadership to the Cardus study on outcomes of Christian education. His passion for Christian education has been life-long and his extensive resume of volunteer and community involvement include many years on boards and committees of local Christian schools as well as a term as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of Redeemer University College. Ray holds an undergraduate history degree from McMaster University and a Master's degree from Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary. Together with his wife Kathy and son Chris, Ray lives and works in Calgary, AB.



## 3.1 SPIRITUAL, CULTURAL AND ACADEMIC OUTCOMES - A CLOSER LOOK - Ray Pennings

In this session, the results of the Cardus Education Survey will be presented in more detail.

**3.2 UPWARD OR HOMEWARD: LEADING EDUCATIONAL CHANGE FOR UPWARD MOBILITY OR FOR HOMECOMING -**

**Dennis DeGroot**

Writers Wendell Berry and Wes Jackson suggest that there is only one Major to be engaged with in our universities and that Major is called Upward Mobility. I believe we can conclude that in many ways this can also be said about our schools, even our Christian schools. These two poets suggest a new Major called Homecoming. How ought we as Christian educational leaders be molding our schools toward deep connection to the creation and its care, deep satisfaction and gratitude for God’s good gifts and away from the destructive upwardly mobile, consumer-oriented life we are immersed in? Do the new learning tools form faithfulness in our students or bring them further away from it? We need radically different starting points for our curriculum and programs which lead us toward our true Home.

Dennis deGroot is Principal at Surrey Christian School – Secondary Campus, and this has been his career home for 35 years. Dennis tries to love and care for his wife Jenny and the various chickens, beef cows, cats, dogs and other living things that call Swallowfield Farm their home in Langley BC.

**3.3 UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE: PROMISING PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICES - Dan Beerens**

If we want to produce flourishing students, we must examine practices that provide deep engagement and strong mission connection. How can we purposely plan for, and develop staff to engage in these practices? What kinds of leadership is needed by principals and teachers to effectively incorporate innovative practices that promote student flourishing?

**3.4 TEACHING FOR TRANSFORMATION: AN INVITATION TO A BETTER STORY, PART 2 - Doug Monsma**

If you agree that the “primary goal of Christian education is the formation of a peculiar people – a people who desire the kingdom of God and thus undertake their life’s expression of that desire. (James Smith), then there are some questions that need answering!

How peculiar are your students? How strong is their desire for the kingdom of God? How effectively have they been equipped to undertake this call? Is there a better way?

This session will explore the TFT process in more depth by looking at a TFT unit exemplar and the actual design process used to create it. Hear stories about how schools are using the TFT process to build teacher learning teams and create a culture of collaboration. Spend some time getting to know the TFT Share site, where all this great TFT work is being shared. Consider the invitation to join in this collaborative project!

**3.5 UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE IN PARENTAL INFLUENCE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY- Mark Vander Vennen**

The dynamics of parental influence in schools appear to be shifting in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. One example is the emergence of “helicopter parents”. These shifts seem much more pronounced in “parent-led” Christian schools. Are they a bane or a blessing? How do we work with them? In this interactive workshop, we will listen to your stories and focus on strategies and approaches that seek to develop genuine collaboration between parents, students and teachers.

Mark Vander Vennen, MA, M.Ed, R.S.W., is the Executive Director of the Shalem Mental Health Network. Shalem is engaged in a three-way partnership with Edifide and the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools to support the embrace of restorative practice in Christian school settings. Mark is a certified trainer with the International Institute of Restorative Practices. Prior to his work at Shalem, Mark was Children’s Case Coordinator for Northumberland County, where he spent many years working with children and youth identified with multiple exceptionalities in the school systems. Mark also served as the Chair of the Board of Northumberland Christian School and has been a marriage and family therapist for 25 years.



**3.6 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY TECHNOLOGY FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LEADERS - Henry Au**

21<sup>st</sup> century technology offers tools that can make a leader’s day more organized and more productive. Come and explore tools for communicating, monitoring, social networking, learning and sharing. Integrate practices that will transform the way you work while modeling 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and, more importantly, digital citizenship to your staff and students.

Henry Au is the Director of Technology at Richmond Christian School and the Vice Principal at the RCS Elementary campus. His vision is to model and teach practices which lead to technology integration and educational transformation. He believes that it is part of our responsibility as Christ’s disciples to become strong digital citizens so that the values and beliefs of our faith are evident and pervasive in the digital realm of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



# UNDERSTANDING & Change

SEPTEMBER 27 - 29, 2012

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2012**

## **KEYNOTE #4: UNDERSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY - Walter Wright**

What is leadership? Who leads? Who follows? Who cares? The leadership relationship is about influence, about vision, and values, about shaping the beliefs and character that form behavior. How shall we design leadership to replicate itself in the decades ahead?

Walter Wright is a Senior Fellow at the Max De Pree Center for Leadership in Pasadena, where he served as executive director from 2000-2012. He came to the De Pree Center after twelve years as the President of Regent College, a graduate school affiliated with the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Prior to this, he served twenty years on the management team of Fuller Theological Seminary in California.

Dr. Wright is the author of five books, *Relational Leadership*, *Crossings*, *Mentoring: The Promise of Relational Leadership*, *Don't Step on the Rope! Reflections of Leadership, Relationships and Teamwork* and *The Third Third of Life: Preparing for your Future*. He has written many monographs, articles and chapters for edited volumes. He wrote a monthly column on Leadership Jazz for the New Digest of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

Walt lives in Pasadena with his wife Beverly. They have two sons, Damon and Aaron, three grandsons, Brendon, Lucas and Owen and a granddaughter, Tegan.



### **4.1 DESIGNING YOUR LEADERSHIP - Walter Wright**

Description to follow.

### **4.2 UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE IN FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP - Jennie Das**

The principal is an “ex officio” member of every committee, including Finance! Do you ensure that “right of office” is understood by your board? Put the “3 Rs” on hold while we talk about the “3 Bs”: Budgets, Bursaries and the Big Ask. In this session, we’ll highlight some key financial concepts that affect a school’s viability and explore the importance of the principal’s involvement. The stewardship of resources (human and financial) is faith in action. Providing leadership to your board, your parents and your community in this area is part of your job, is it not?

Jennie Das is the Director of Finance at the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools. Before joining the OACS team in 2008, Jennie was Toronto District Christian High’s first Development Director. As a Certified Management Accountant (CMA), she put the school’s books in order and managed other portfolios. She has been instrumental in shaping and implementing the OACS Financial Accountability Framework.



### **4.3 CHARTING YOUR COURSE: FOLLOWING YOUR SCHOOL'S NORTH STAR - Darryl DeBoer**

When a Christian school has a deep understanding of “why” they exist, their decisions surrounding “how” they educate and “what” they do moment to moment becomes very clear and results in a solid sense of identity, purpose and responding to the call to build the Kingdom. Come listen to one school’s story in which weekly professional development has become essential for establishing a North Star for staff to chart their course as they invite their school community to be part of a better story.

Darryl DeBoer is the Vice Principal of Curriculum and Instruction at a K-12 school, White Rock Christian Academy. His education experiences span Christian and public schools in both Canadian and International settings. When not at school, he can be found with his family on a trail, in a kayak, or combing the beach.



### **4.4 UNDERSTANDING BOARD LEADERSHIP IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY- Mary Lou McPherson**

With knowledge comes understanding. In this interactive session, you’ll be introduced to the seven disciplines of governance excellence—those areas that, when executed well, position your school to be the impactful, life-molding force it is called to be.

Mary Lynn McPherson of Strive! is a passionate advocate of healthy organizations. With over ten years as a STRIVE! consultant and a distinguished career at the Royal Bank in her background, Mary Lynn brings experience in strategic organizational development to her talent for tailoring a course of action to build healthy boards for client organizations. She thrives on helping organizations become more effective, be it through board training, performance management and team coaching, or strategic planning facilitation. Strive! is a consulting firm known for its best-selling governance book, *The Imperfect Board Member*, by Consulting Partner, Jim Brown. Strive! helps boards across North America.

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## 4.5 NEW PCCE: BECOMING ONE - Elco VanderGrift

Can a principal's organization, teacher's organization and school society's organization co-exist under one organizational structure?

The Prairie Centre of Christian Education opened its doors in August of 2011. Formerly known as the Prairie Association of Christian Schools {PACS}, PCCE is a community of 17 Christian school communities in Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. PCCE represents approximately 6000 students from K-12, 400 teachers, and 40 administrators. PCCE is the joining together of Christian School Societies {PACS}, teachers {The Christian Educators Association}, and administrators {The Prairie Christian Principals Association}.

Why did the Prairie region move in this direction? Come out and hear the PCCE story.

In January, 2003, Elco was appointed as the curriculum coordinator for the Prairie Association of Christian Schools (PACS). He has 20 years of Christian school experience as a teacher/administrator in Alberta and BC. Elco presently serves as the executive director for the Prairie Centre for Christian Education. Elco graduated from Dordt College (1982) with a degree in Elementary Education and has completed a Masters Degree in Leadership and Training with Royal Roads University in Victoria, BC (2004). Elco has served as a teacher and administrator in several Christian schools in Alberta and British Columbia.



## 4.6 CSIONLINE ACADEMY: MODELS FOR ONLINE LEARNING - Tim Krell

CSionline Academy began offering courses for Christian Schools International member schools this fall. Online learning can take on various forms in junior high and high schools. Help shape future program models for CSI in Canada through a lively dialogue about online learning and find out how your school might augment its current program with online courses from CSionline Academy.

Tim Krell has been an educator for over thirty years. Over half of that time has been at Bellevue Christian School where he taught mathematics, biology, chemistry, and technology courses in the high school. He worked in administration for five years, first as high school assistant principal and then as junior high principal. In 2004, with the help of a colleague, he started an experimental, nontraditional program in the junior high. Currently he teaches as an adjunct in the School of Education at Seattle Pacific University and is the Administrator of Online Programs for Christian Schools International. He holds degrees in chemistry (BA) from Seattle Pacific University and biology (MAT) from the University of Washington.

