

CTABC

ctabc

improving Christian education



Promoting high standards of professional development and working conditions for Christian Educators

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CHRISTIAN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF BC

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ctabc update

"Summer's Coming! Rest, Leisure and Professional Development!"
Let's be honest, June is a tough month to be a teacher. Maybe not when it's raining, but when the sun is out, who wants to be in school? Most students want to get out. And so do you! Your body craves the freedom that comes with summer. Soon and very soon a "teacher's Sabbath" will welcome you. Many of your non-teaching friends and acquaintances took on with any when you can say on the long July weekend that "There's two sweet months coming my way!" Who wouldn't want a teacher's job in July and August?

If I could have it my way, I'd say the school year should be organized like it is in Australia or South Africa. Four blocks of ten weeks of school and three blocks of two weeks of and during summer extend this to six weeks. Teachers need to be re-charged periodically; but the two months Canadian teachers get for time off, is too much. That is, if all we do is use the time to relax and take on some other work.

Professional teachers, who take their vocation and vacation seriously, will ensure that at least two weeks of July and August, will be used to prepare themselves to be more effective in the new school year. My prescription might look like this: Set as a goal by taking one course every three years, the other two years write up a course of study or curriculum unit, that you could share with your colleagues or at a convention and read two books each summer that can challenge you as a teacher.

For this summer, consider reading Doug Blomberg's "Wisdom and Curriculum: Christian Schooling after Post-Modernity" (Dordt Press, 2007) Doug will be our main speaker at the convention. Another suggestion is to give thought to the convention theme. The question McInerney raises is especially relevant today. "What does the Lord require of us?" (Micah 6:8). Check over the website and do some spiritual self-reflection. Write a unit for your class.

Have a well deserved summer Sabbath; but don't neglect to equip your mind, heart and curriculum toolbox for the ten rigorous months ahead.

www.christianteachers.ca
We have a new and improved website. Check us out. The convention details are there in complete detail. As well, the services of the CTABC are described. Please give your suggestions.

Summer School for Teachers

- Trinity Western University: www.twu.ca/glo/program/teachers/summer
- Regent College: www.regent-college.edu/academics/summer/summerCourses
- Institute for Christian Studies: www.icscanada.edu/students/course_distance

Strategic Planning
The Board of Directors of CTABC has approved a new strategic plan for the organization. The plan is on the website. Check the "Current News" link. The Board is eager to have your input.

Prayer Concerns

- Jean DeVos: SCIBC Administrative Assistant, donated her kidney to her husband Irwin on June 9. Pray for a successful transplant and a speedy recovery.
- Sam Goertzen, 11 year old son of Garry Goertzen, High School Principal at Cedars Christian School in Prince George and Debbie Goertzen, Kindergarten teacher at Cedars Christian School, has been diagnosed with leukemia. Please continue to pray for Sam's healing.
- Pray for our "Bridging Cultures" team who will be spending three weeks in Honduras. Check the website for details.
- Appreciation for all teachers and supporting educators who have served our family of schools so faithfully this year. A special prayer for those who are retiring.

Calendar See website for more information
August 18th: CTABC office opens.
August 25 - September 15: (last day of convention registration)

Liaisons
The Board has approved a new plan to resource the Liaisons. In the fall the Executive Director will meet with Liaisons in their regions. This will be a half day seminar, beginning at 1:00 pm and ending at 4:00. Lunch will be provided. TOC costs will be covered. Schedule the following dates for your liaison in-service.

- September 17: Vancouver Island In-service: Nanaimo
- September 20: Lower Mainland: Richmond
- September 26: Lower Mainland: Abbotsford
- October 15: Northern Liaison Meetings: Vanderhoof
- October 16: Northern Liaison Meetings: Smithers

The Interior and Sunshine Coast Liaisons will get a personal visit.

Teachers Retiring
CTABC honours those Christian School Teachers who have served our schools for many years. Those retirees who can demonstrate 25 years of service are entitled to become Honorary members of the organization. Please let the office know of retiring teachers in your schools who we may honour. To date the following teachers have indicated that they are retiring:

- Thae Ewald and Linda Vroom from Bulkley Valley Christian School, Smithers BC
- Donna Ferguson, from Nanaimo Christian School
- Marie Adams and Lynette Crosswell from Duncan Christian School
- Mary Beth Merch, from Delta Christian School
- Harry Tuninga, from Powell River Christian School
- Merlie McGee, from Pacific Christian School, Victoria

Scholarship
This year's scholarship winner is Cristina Nelson from Shoreline, Washington, State. She is enrolled in the Teacher Education program at TWU for 2008-2009. Congratulations, Cristina. Recipients of the scholarship will have \$500.00 applied to a reduction in their tuition.

Employee Relations Committee
The CTABC office is interested in being linked by e-mail to each teacher that sits on the school's Employee Relations Committee. The SCIBC-CTABC representative groups will be meeting in early September 2008 to prepare the 2009-2011 Compensation Report. The CTABC Board has approved the creation of an advisory committee that will resource the CTABC representatives on the Compensation Committee.

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