



May 2018

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

This is Just Unreasonable: The Master Teacher Syndrome—Why it is burning us out and what we can do about it

I am going to ignore the pressure to be silent and say something out loud that most of us have thought to ourselves – expectations of what teachers should achieve each day in their classroom have ballooned to unreasonable and unachievable heights. I am witnessing a trend in education that I will call, "the master teacher syndrome". Let me define it for you, hoping that as I do you will recognize it too. Everyone is faced with a dizzying amount of new information every day now. The Internet has made it ridiculously easy to find information about anything. Static curriculum resources such as textbooks cannot keep up. Students expect higher levels of engagement and personalization in the classroom. We don't have a clue where the world is going and what jobs our students will need to be prepared for. Therefore, teachers now must be skilled at not only writing curriculum themselves but personalizing it for every student as well as being able to see the future clearly enough to know what skills and knowledge they will need for the future economy. Every teacher must be a master teacher to meet the minimum requirements of education today.

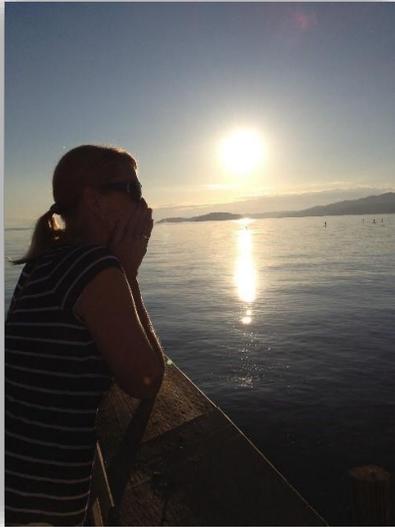
Let me add that our students are expected to become skilled at critical thinking and using information to come up with creative solutions to future problems while, ironically, being expected to uncritically accept more and more ideas (such as the settled science of climate change and the new belief in gender that is not rooted in our bodily functions, but a mindset). More than this, they are being taught to respect and accept others, tolerating all forms of gender expression and lifestyle

choice, while they witness the promoters of these values viciously attacking and dehumanizing anyone who dares ask critical thinking questions about these ideas.

This is an impossible environment for educators. No wonder the number of teachers applying for stress leave or early retirement is skyrocketing in public systems.

There is a way to recover sanity and restore an achievable job description for teachers, but it will take courage to do. I will spell out three principles that if followed will allow teachers to work under achievable expectations which will authentically prepare students for their future lives.

1. Understand that not all information is equal, and the most important information needed to flourish in life is already known.



Though this is obvious, so much of the rhetoric about the expansion of information rarely includes this idea, sometimes because of the denial of the existence of absolute truth and other times because of a refusal to do the hard work of filtering and weighting information. But intuitively we all know that information is not equal, and we all believe that some things are true for everyone for all time. The moral outrage about the abuse of women by powerful men is one example of this intuitive sense that there are some ideas that everyone should know and practice. Even if a teacher accepts that their primary role is to help students clarify their self-determined values and worldview and to help students develop effective problem-solving strategies, they cannot take on a completely neutral professional posture to achieve this. In life those who insist there are no absolute truths are often the most judgmental and intolerant of competing ideas. So, let's be honest about the fact that all of us hold some ideas that we think everyone needs to know and live by and let's identity and test them and make sure that our students know them. Let's also admit that they existed long before the Internet was developed. And let's also recognize that so much new information is trivial and (as the false news movement proves) wrong.

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2. Understand that students can't think critically without something to think about. It is impossible to be a great critical thinker without a solid knowledge and skill base. The best thinkers are the ones with the deepest knowledge foundation. Creative problem-solving rests on a footing of proven ideas. You observe this in the classroom every day. Students who ask the best critical questions are the ones with the deepest pre-existing knowledge. Our students still need to understand and recite basic math facts, and the structure of words and language. They need to be taught the Bible stories that define our worldview. They need to be told about previous scientific discoveries and they need to understand not only how scientific inquiry works but why it works (in other words how a Christian worldview is the foundation of the scientific process). In addition, they need to be taught how to reason and why they should always test assumptions, especially their own. Once a firm foundation of knowledge and thinking skills has been learned, then they will be in an excellent position to extend learning through the asking of informed and reasoned questions. We need to help them value expertise and aspire to become experts themselves. Teaching them that all they need to know is already in them is not only untrue, it will destroy human advances and return us to ignorance.

3. Understand that the most engaged classrooms depend on meaning and relevance more than method. Some of the most compelling evidence of our hunger for meaning comes from records of concentration camp survivors. Those who view all of life as meaningful have the will to live even through great adversity. Students need meaning more than anything. They also need to believe that what they are learning will contribute to a flourishing life. If students do not believe then, it does not matter how entertaining the classroom experience is; students will eventually tune out. When in Africa this summer, I encountered many

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students who viewed education as a privilege, an opportunity for a better life and a way to understand themselves, the world and God. They were deeply engaged in their learning even though many of their classes had the most rudimentary resources, featured up to 80 students and had no electricity and nothing more than chalk and a blackboard.

I am not in any way suggesting that we should not be innovative and seek out best practices and make the best use of the Internet and communications technology available to us. But let us not forget that we already know what our students need to know. As Christian teachers we have 'insider information' about what this world is heading toward (the glorious return of Jesus), who our students really are (fallen but redeemable,) and what a flourishing life looks like (loving God and loving their neighbor through living out our calling). Let's make sure that our students know these things. If we do this, we will have clear criteria for classroom success and then be able to sort and prioritize everything that is coming into our classrooms in a way that will be most useful to every student.

Don't give in to the 'master teacher syndrome'. Instead aspire to be your "Master's teacher" and let Jesus direct your heart and mind as you strive to prepare every student to discover our great and loving God and then dedicate their lives to preparing this world for His return.

Events

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

Administrator/Board Conference

The 2018 **AB Administrator/Board Conference** will be November 23–24 in Banff, with keynote Dan Egeler. Check [here](#) for registration and information.

Save the date, February 14, 2019 for the **MB Administrator/Board Conference** in Winnipeg.

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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.

Our **Summer Institute** for educators will be July 9–13. Watch the [website](#) for details.

Save the date for our 2018/2019 PD Days. Check our [website](#) often for information updates.

- **Island PD Day:** February 15, 2019, Comox, BC
- **PD North:** February 22, 2019, Quesnel, BC
- **SK Winter Conference Day:** March 5, 2019, Caronport, SK

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.

If you're in the Three Hills area on May 4, you are invited to our **Spring Musicale** concert to hear Jr. and Sr. High choir and bands from ten schools. The concert begins at 6:30 PM in the Rick Down Athletic Center at Prairie College.

Drama Xchange will be held May 15–16 at Rosebud School of the Arts in Rosebud, AB. This event for junior and senior high drama students presents an opportunity for your school's drama department to showcase the work of your students for their peers as well as to interact with professionals in the dramatic arts community, and to discover how to become redemptive influences in this essential industry. For more information visit our [website](#).

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Teacher Conventions

Our Teacher Conventions are focused on ways to continually improve as Christian schools. Save the date for our 2018/2019 conventions. Brochures will be sent to your schools. Check our [website](#) often for updated information or to register.

- BC: October 5, 2018, Abbotsford
- AB: October 18–19, 2018, Calgary
- MB: February 15, 2019, Winnipeg

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.

The King's University Events

Personal Visits—We can arrange for you to meet one-on-one with an Admissions Counsellor. Personal visits can be scheduled Monday–Friday between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Please contact Admissions at 780.465.8334 or [by email](#) to book an appointment.

Vanguard College Personal Visits

Are you curious to know what it is like to be a student at Vanguard? Contact us to book a personalized tour; we would be happy to arrange a visit. Please contact Enrolment Services at 1.866.222.0808 or check our [website](#).

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Rosebud School of the Arts

We're thrilled to host ACSI Drama Xchange May 15–16! We look forward to welcoming junior and senior high drama students to Rosebud for a couple days of workshops and shows!

Rosebud School of the Arts is accepting applications for September 2018. The application form is on our [website](#) and you can [email](#) to book your Scout Week! Be sure to like [Rosebud Theatre](#) and [Rosebud School of the Arts](#) on Facebook to keep in touch.

Bring your Drama Class out to Rosebud for a tour, a show and workshop through our Rosebud in the Classroom program. [Contact us](#) for more details.

Rosebud School of the Arts is pleased to host the BUDDING PLAYWRIGHT'S FESTIVAL May 27–28 in the Akokiniskway Gallery. Join us for two days of plays staged by Rosebud artists for their debut readings!

Catch a show in Rosebud!

Rosebud School of the Arts presents a dance show by our Theatre Foundations class FOLLOW THE SUN in the BMO Studio Stage May 3–5. Tickets are available [online](#) or by calling Rosebud Theatre box office at 1.800.267.7553.

Rosebud Theatre has kicked off it's AMAZING 2018 season. Join us for DRIVING MISS DAISY until May 19. We're pleased to offer a family fun-filled musical JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT this summer, June 1–September 1. Our thought-provoking, and empathy-activating drama THE AMISH PROJECT runs in the BMO Studio Stage July 6–September 1. Contact Rosebud Theatre box office for information on group rates, student matinees or a family holiday. You can book [online](#) or call 1.800.267.7553.

Summit Pacific College

Campus Tours—Want to check out our campus? We'd love to show you around and tell you more about our school! Book a tour on our [website](#) or contact our Recruitment Department at 604.851.7222.

Guest Speakers—Looking for a guest speaker for your next event? SPC has quality speakers to share at your chapel service, assembly, or other special events. Contact Nathan Boldt by [email](#) or call him at 604.851.7222 for more information.

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Peace River Bible Institute Campus Visits

Plan a campus visit that compliments your schedule and get a full experience of our campus life! To arrange a campus visit, please [email](#) us or call Anne Laursen at 780.933.4144.

Prairie College Events

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 9:00 AM–5:00 PM all year round to serve you. For more information or to arrange a visit [email](#) us or call 1.800.661.2425.

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.

BCS Serve Week

Bears paw Christian School, Calgary, kicked off their third annual Serve Week on April 16. This is a service project in which the entire school takes part. Event coordinator Karen Nagel said, “Too often, even with fundraising, we see people that just want to give money – they don’t want to put their time in. We want to go out and make a difference as well and see what we can do to get kids to think outside of the box of just themselves.” Check the links to watch or read more about Serve Week 2018. [Watch CTV News Story](#) [Read Rocky View Weekly Article](#)

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2017–18 Classrooms for Africa Project

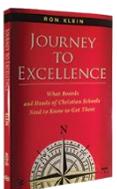
Each year ACSI Western Canada selects a project to support. For the 2017–18 school year our project will be to continue raising funds for the Dust to Desk Project. The goal is to raise \$20,000 which will provide seating for over 1,000 students. The cost per student works out to approximately \$20. Donations collected at some of this year’s ACSI Teacher Conventions will go toward this goal. [Click here](#) to donate online. 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.

We Want to Serve You

ACSI Canada Bookroom

As we get closer to spring, have you been thinking of updating your curriculum or trying something new? Remember that as a member school, you can get a Teacher’s Edition **FREE** with the purchase of a class set of (10 or more). Also, if you are interested in any of our products, we can send you a FREE sample text to preview. This too is a benefit of ACSI membership! If you have any questions or need more information, please let us know.

In addition, we have some new products available:



Journey to Excellence: What Boards and Heads of Christian Schools Need to Know to Get There (SKU# 6541)

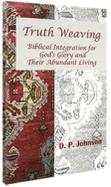
The subtitle of this book is all you need to know to make this a must read. Written from the experience of a business entrepreneur, a Christian school board member and a head of school, this book is a practical guide for schools that want to *Journey to Excellence*. Price \$14.95

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PIVOT: New Directions for Christian Education (SKU# 6671)

This book, emanating from the 2017 Global Christian School Leadership Summit, is a valuable resource for Christian education leaders at all levels. Each chapter, written by thought leaders in the movement, includes questions for thought and discussion to open the door for continued dialogue and professional development. Price \$12.95



Truth Weaving: Biblical Integration for God's Glory and Their Abundant Living (SKU# 6658)

As a Christian teacher, do you strive to show your students the living God in the world around them? Have you struggled with how to weave God's truth into your daily lessons? Whether you teach English, algebra, biology or art, whether you work in a Christian school or public, whether you teach eight-year-olds or eighteen-year-olds, you will profit from *Truth Weaving*. Price \$11.99

For more information or to get a review copy, please visit our [website](#), contact us via [email](#), or call 778.809.2274.

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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](#).

Contact Us

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