

# THE PRAIRIE PAGE

Prairie Centre for  
Christian Education

THE PRAIRIE CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

# DEEPER SEEING ANEW

TEACHERS' CONVENTION  
OCTOBER 24-25, 2024

**Convention 2024:** Expanding on our "Deeper" theme that we've used for the last several Teachers' Conventions, this year we'll be looking at "**Deeper: Seeing Anew**" and our keynote speaker will be [Carolyn Arends](#). You may be familiar with her work as a Christian singer and songwriter. While she continues to work in this area, she is also the Director of Education at Renovare and it is that work that will be the focus of her keynotes. You can find more information about the theme, Carolyn Arends, accommodations and the convention format at the [PCCE Convention website](#). More information will be added over the summer and registration will open on September 1.

## LIVING

We want to thank all of you for the passion and dedication you committed to your school communities this year and send a special blessing to all of those that are moving on to a new chapter in God's story next year. In their book, "Living in Christ's Presence," Dallas Willard and John Ortberg have an entire chapter called, "Blessing." They define blessing as:

*"Blessing is the projection of good into the life of another. It isn't just words. It's the actual putting forth of your will for the good of another person. It always involves God, because when you will the good of another person, you realize only God is capable of bringing that. So we naturally say, 'God bless you.'"*

So, to those moving on, we start by saying, "May God bless you," and now hope that you find some time to embrace that,

*"Blessing is an act of grace. It isn't an act of indebtedness. We just receive it, but we have to have time to do that. We have to be able to be calm in our soul to receive the blessing."*

After receiving that blessing may you also find new ways and places to continue being a blessing:

*"That's how you're identified. ...Who am I? I am a person of blessing. Blessing comes from me because God is living in me...just keep that blessing flowing."*

And to everyone, may you also receive the blessing in the words of Numbers 6:24-26:

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."*

## LEARNING

### Some Summer Reading/Listening Recommendations:

1. ["Every Square Centimetre" Podcast](#) - Some new episodes will be released this summer, which includes celebrating two teachers from the PCCE family: Sara Douma of Rocky Christian School and Tyler Capton of Gateway Christian School. The ESC podcast offers some light listening while being introduced to some of the best educators in Christian schools across Canada and beyond.
2. [Beyond Biblical Integration: Immersing You and Your Students in a Biblical Worldview](#) - Jillian Jackman, teacher at Ft. McMurray Christian School says that reading Roger Erdvig's book and listening to some of his interviews on podcasts has "made [Christian education] all practical and made it click."
3. [Just Teaching: Feedback, Engagement, and Well-Being for Each Student](#) - Dan Beerens, a key leader in the Christian Deeper Learning community, wrote [a blog post last spring](#) highlighting many reasons for why all teachers/school leaders should read [Jon Eckert's](#) book.

## LEADING

**End of the Year Reflections:** As you lead your staff through the end-of-the-year activities, consider setting aside some time for them to reflect upon the year. Here are some questions to consider: How has your Deep Hope impacted the teaching and learning in your classroom? How might you revise your Deep Hope next year? List three highlights from the year. Describe one "game changer" (an unexpected event that shifted your priorities). What didn't go as well as expected and what will you do differently next time?

**Farewells:** As the year draws to a close, we want to thank all of you who have served in leadership roles this past year.

- **Board Members:** Your commitment to Christian education and your willingness to use your gifts, skills and time in the governance of your school are appreciated. If your term is finished, enjoy finding other ways to play your part in God's unfolding Story.
- As mentioned at our Leadership Cohort gathering in May, one of our principal colleagues is retiring. Hugo, we wish you well in your retirement as you rest from the formal work of school leadership and discover what God has in store for you in the next phase of your journey. Additionally, we also have leadership colleagues who are moving on to other opportunities.
- **Retirement:** Hugo VanderHoek - Providence Christian School
- **New Opportunities:**
  - Ken DeWyn - Calgary Christian School Society
  - Brett Seatter - Neerlandia Public Christian School
- **Assistant Principals:** We also have several assistant principals who are moving to new positions and opportunities. We wish you well as you continue to use your leadership skills in new places.

**Reminder:** Gayle is currently on Professional Leave. Please send your requests or questions to Ruth ([office@pcce.ca](mailto:office@pcce.ca)), Jeremy ([jhorlings@pcce.ca](mailto:jhorlings@pcce.ca)) or Hugo ([hvanderhoek@pcce.ca](mailto:hvanderhoek@pcce.ca)). Gayle will be periodically checking her email, so if you need to contact her, please send an email but be aware that there may be a bit of delay in responding.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**September 25-27** Christian Schools Canada Leadership Conference

**October 23** 2024-2025 TtT 101 Cohort: Day 1 - *Taber, Alberta*

**October 24-25** 2024 PCCE Teachers' Convention - *Taber, Alberta*

**March 8** PCCE Governance & Leadership Conference and AGM

**May 7-9** Leadership Cohort Gathering

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