



# PHYSICS AND OUR “AWE”SOME CREATOR



*We recently had the opportunity to sit down for an interview with Mr. Andy Bos, one of our beloved science teachers. This article contains excerpts of the interview. The extended interview is available to view at [www.Vimeo.com/YourPCS](http://www.Vimeo.com/YourPCS). You're encouraged to take some time to hear directly from a very formative #PeopleOfPacificChristianSchool.*

I've been at PCs for 30 years. It's a big year, year #30! Growing up in Medicine Hat, I didn't attend a Christian school, as there wasn't one at that time. I remember my parents being very passionate about Christian education and helping send me and my brother to Dordt College, a Christian college in Iowa. It was a real blessing to have their financial support and, upon graduating, I felt very convicted and challenged to work in a Christian school. That's been a blessing now for many years!

Today I'm still drawn to the ministry of Christian education and the area that I'm very passionate about, physics. The creation points to a Creator and I wonder how you can teach science or physics without talking about the Creator of it all. Besides, what other subject allows you to take your students over to Playland and enjoy a day on the rides? It gives students the opportunity to experience the laws of physics and yes, they do make some calculations on that trip as well!

My own three children have graduated from PCS and I've seen that it's been a real blessing for them. Over the years many things have changed and there continues to be challenges. Christian education and equipping our students to live out our vision statement will go a long ways to make a difference in the world.

“Educational Excellence to the Glory of God” is always a good challenge. I am very passionate about physics and I like to help my students come to understand how the principles of physics apply in their daily lives. For example, many students are getting their driver's license, so I talk about how physics applies. As I like to say to my students, “everything happens for a reason, and it's usually physics.” It's a very practical subject in their daily lives. Through this practicality, I love to have students come to see the Creator. The creation is amazing, something I like to highlight in a variety of ways in all my courses. Many of the equations that describe creation are actually quite simple and yet describe so much of the universe. That helps students develop a sense of awe of the Creator.

*Continued on Page 7....*

## Capital Campaign Information see pages 4-7



Updates available at  
[www.campaign.pacificchristian.ca/](http://www.campaign.pacificchristian.ca/)

## Pacific Christian School

“...nurturing students in Christ-like living,  
critical thinking, and joyful service  
to become faithful citizens in God's world.”

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## WE HAVE AN AMAZING, GENEROUS COMMUNITY - MANY WITH A LONG HISTORY WITH PCS!

After going on a tour of the school building and answering questions about various aspects of the programs at PCS, I'm sitting in my office with prospective new parents. They are clearly very excited about the possibility of their children attending PCS. It is obvious that they are thrilled with the concept of a Christian education that matches the values they seek to instill in their home, and that is supported through the teachings of their church. However, as I listen to them I'm noticing a little hesitancy creeping in, particularly after I show them the tuition scale. When I probe a little, they admit that they are quite uncertain about their ability to afford the PCS tuition rates.



anonymous) donors. We commend to your consideration our Tuition Assistance fund so that we can continue to support Christian parents who genuinely desire to have their children attend PCS but cannot afford it on their own. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will read about our Capital Campaign which is focused on our urgent need for financial gifts to support our Campus Renewal Campaign to upgrade and renew our aging facilities, but please also consider giving generously to our Tuition Assistance Fund this year.

Bill Helmus,  
Elementary School Principal

This is not an uncommon scenario. While some Christian families find our tuition rates quite affordable, for other parents it represents a huge stretch to their already tight budgets. So, what can we do?

For over 55 years now, PCS has been committed to providing a Christ-centered education to all Christian families in greater Victoria who are desiring this type of religious program and education for their children. I've often said that there exists a "healthy tension" between our Education Committee, which strives to provide the best quality educational program and staff, and the Finance Committee which strives to balance our budget and to keep Christian education affordable for all who desire it.

There is an old African proverb that says "It takes a whole village to raise a child". This truth can certainly be applied to sharing our communal responsibility for raising our children. We believe that we are called to "Bring up a child in the way he or she should go, and when older, he or she will not depart from it."

A very practical way we put this into practice at PCS is our Tuition Assistance support program. Within our annual budget, we set aside some funds to support families who run into short-term financial challenges so that they can keep their children at PCS, but this fund can only support so many families.

However, every year there are children attending PCS who can only do so through the generosity of other (usually

### GENERATIONS OF FAMILIES

In September of 1983, I was introduced to the PCS community as a kindergarten student in Mrs. Wolters' class. My parents had heard good things about the school through my aunt and uncle who had registered their daughter at PCS two years earlier. My parents' greatest hope for me and my brothers was that we would know Christ and walk in His truth, and that hope impacted their decision to send us to PCS. I'm so thankful that they chose this school for us. Since those first days of Kindergarten through to my Grade 12 graduation, I've always felt a sense of belonging here.

When I became a teacher, I knew where I wanted to work. I was blessed to be offered a job at PCS and welcomed back to a place that already felt like home. My former teachers who had nurtured my learning and helped shape my faith now became my colleagues who continued to support me and mentor me as I began my teaching career. In fact, I now job share with my Grade 3 teacher! In recent years, I've had the privilege of teaching many of my former classmates' children. These life-long relationships have influenced me in numerous positive ways.

When it came time for us to send our children to school, there was no question about where they would go. Of course, we would send them to a place where they would

*continued over...*

## TUITION ASSISTANCE – A CRITICAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

To tell you what the support of a Christian school means to me, I need to take you back to when I was nine years old.

My mom lost her battle with cancer the summer before I entered grade three, leaving me feeling vulnerable and adrift. Mrs. Selles, in whose classroom I'd be in just a few weeks' time, responded by thoughtfully inviting me to help her prepare for the new school year. Jumping on my bike I set out with pony tails flying. I felt excited and even a little important to be chosen for this task - the exact thing needed to ground me and help me to look forward. This teacher's gift of presence was like a calm in the storm. Being part of a Christian school, the community is like family.

The years following were trying for my now-widowed dad with eight children to raise alone and a construction



company to run. At times he was in financial constraints but a strong commitment to Christian education wouldn't allow him to consider pulling us kids out. In fact his parents, my Opa and Oma, had helped build the church I attended, the same church that in turn had helped start the school. When things were especially tight, tuition assistance, through the selfless commitment of a loving community, provided calm in the storm.

The school's mission and values continue to impact me today. The verses, "Train up the child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it..." (Proverbs

22:6) and "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path..." (Psalm 119: 105) are engraved on my heart and the Christian values I learned at home and at school remain the guiding force in my life.

Flash forward to the years raising my own children. My husband was in graduate studies at UVic and my young family was struggling financially. Thankfully, Christian education was still possible for my family, as the tuition help fund was extended when we needed it most. This was a humbling experience on many levels.

Now, my children are grown and out in God's world and I am able to commit to helping other families facing storms, today and in years to come. I am blessed to be able to give back to a community that has given so much to my family. God is good.

My passion for Christian education has never been greater. Proverbs 22:6 and Psalm 119:105 roll off my tongue and the experiences I've shared with you are part of what shapes me today. I'm thrilled to work as a development coordinator at PCS, as it combines two passions that are central to my life: Christian education and a commitment to giving back to the community. It's not simply a "pay it forward" philosophy. It's a desire to be part of the rescuing work of Jesus. The people that make up the families of our schools are meant to be loved and cherished: through their experience of education, through the dedicated teachers and staff they interact with, and especially through the chaotic storms of life, to the Glory of God!

Now that I've shared some of the landscape of my life with you, I encourage you to share your story and to share your gifts with the PCS community.

With pony-tails flying,  
Irene Fennema, PCS Development Coordinator



Me

be treated like family and nurtured in their faith. PCS has blessed three generations of my family. My mom is a teacher here and I've had the joy of working alongside her and of having her teach my daughter in Grade 3. My siblings, cousins and I all grew up together connected in our school life and are now able to share many wonderful memories of the things we learned and the people who influenced us at PCS. Many of them are also sending their children here and we are blessed to see the ways our kids are interacting with the children of friends from our own school days.



My Mom,  
Mrs Mann

PCS is a place where generations of families are being blessed and it's exciting for me to be part of a place that impacts lives in this way. It's amazing how God brings us together in community to work for His Kingdom, and that that work can continue on for generations to come.



My Daughter

Rachael Goodwin



## Equipping Future Generations One Campaign - Three Projects

In whatever way you are called to partner with this campaign, it's an invitation for a journey. A forward-thinking journey of Educational Excellence to the Glory of God.

We have seen thousands of young lives impacted through the work of hundreds of staff and volunteers at PCS. You are now being asked to partner to see this legacy continue as we look to equip future generations.

There is a wonderful history of support and care at PCS. We are seeing this continue as we look to fund the current capital campaign. Many community members are partnering in prayer, with volunteer time and with finances. As a result, we have seen great progress on the Elementary Campus Upgrades, and a phenomenal under-budget Secondary Science Lab renovation. We are stepping forward now to ask you to continue in support as we work toward the final phase of the campaign, the new Campus Gymnasium on the Elementary building.

I have always been excited about the athletics program here at Pacific Christian School. Watching our kids develop into student athletes throughout their middle school years and continuing to see them progress into successful young men and woman of faith, both on and off the court, is an extremely rewarding experience. From committed coaches to supportive parents, our students have come to expect an enriching experience from our athletics program at PCS. It is my vision that that we see even greater heights through athletics at PCS, and a key component to this is the necessity of a facility upgrade.



As it currently stands, there are many challenges that our elementary gym presents. It is only a 2/3 size court, so we are limited in our ability to host any games of importance throughout each season of play. The ceiling height is extremely low for an athletics facility, which consistently creates issues in both volleyball and badminton. There

is minimal space for coaches, spectators, and proper scoring tables along the side lines. And last but certainly not least, during PE class the gym is surely undersized with 25 middle-schoolers participating at the same time. I share these concerns, not from a posture of lack, as we have done extremely well with our current facility; we have consistently put very competitive teams on the court and are able to run a very successful PE program. But I share this with you to simply make known the challenges that our program faces on a daily basis as a result of our current facility.

That being said, we do have the greatest asset of any successful athletics program – people – and we look forward to upgrading our facilities to match our great people!

Blessings,  
Adam Price, PCS Middle School Athletics

***“We have always felt that the Lord blessed our decision to enroll our children at PCS. We wanted our children to feel the support from the extended Christian community in Victoria. Knowing that teachers and Admin staff were praying for our children every day was so encouraging and comforting! The mission statement of PCS came to mean so much to us as parents (‘Nurturing students in Christ-like living, critical thinking and joyful service to be faithful citizens in God’s world.’) We continue to want our children to have a deep love for Jesus, be able to reason out their faith and serve Christ joyfully while living in this temporary world. The Christian guidance and knowledge our boys received during their years at PCS has served them well and continues to ground them as they finish University and take on adult responsibilities.”***

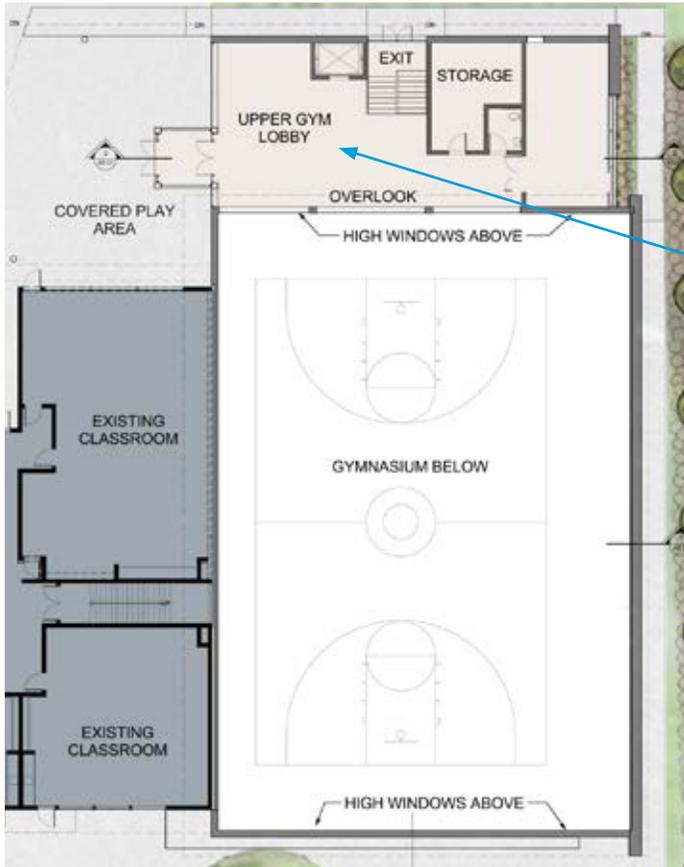
***A PCS alumni family and supporters***

We have been using the Salvation Army Church gym for the past 13 years to provide appropriate PE classes for the students of Pacific Christian School, as the on-site elementary gym is simply too small to meet the curriculum requirements for Physical Education. Not only will a new gym greatly enhance our Physical Education Program, but also our Middle School Athletics Program will have a much improved space for both practices and games. No longer will our volleyball players see a rainfall of white snow as a volleyball hits our low ceiling of sprayed-on insulation! Our staff and administration look forward with great anticipation to the construction and completion of the new elementary gym.



Will Wild, PCS Elementary Assistant Principal

**Gymnasium - Top Floor View**



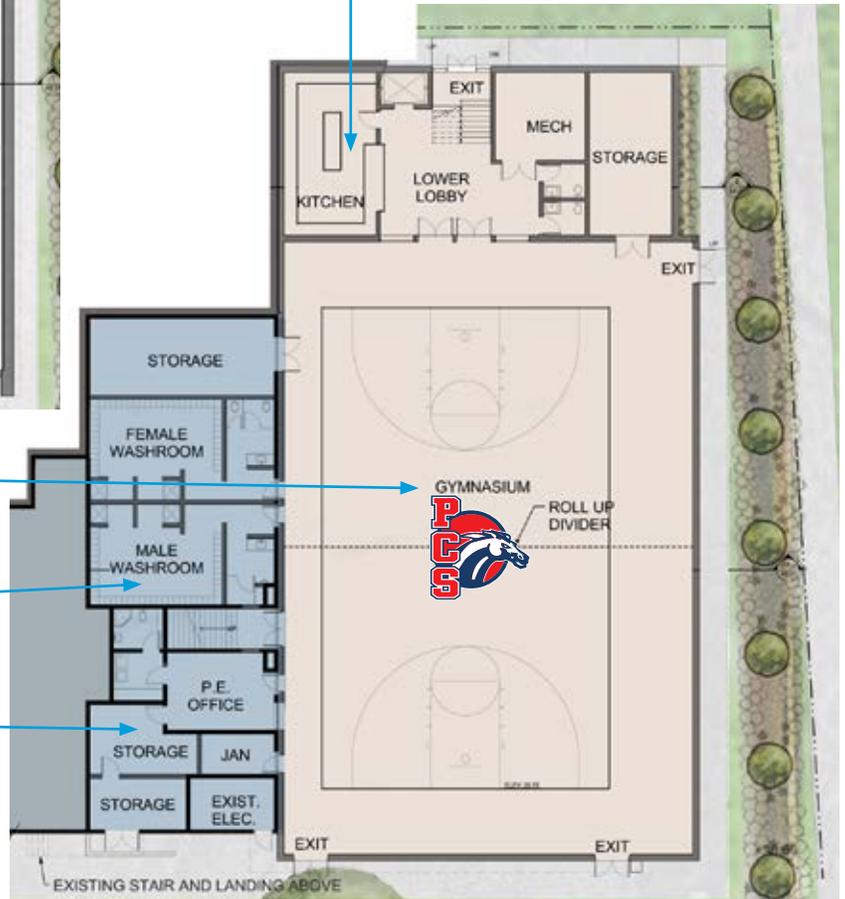
**“Our adult children’s closest and dearest friends remain their PCS friends from school days. They worship with one another still!”**  
 - long time PCS supporter and grandparent

**Proposed Gymnasium Floor Plan**

Mezzanine and Special Education Room

New Kitchen and Service Area

**Gymnasium - Main Floor View**



9340 sq ft Gymnasium

New and renovated Washrooms and Change Rooms

Phys. Ed. Office, Prep and Storage Area

On-line pledge form available through [www.campaign.pacificchristian.ca/](http://www.campaign.pacificchristian.ca/)

## WONDERFUL WINDOWS



I hadn't even stepped two feet in my Grade 6 classroom, and I was already grinning ear to ear. My gaze was fixed on one thing alone: the gorgeous new windows that had been installed over summer vacation.

If anyone had walked past my room during that first moment, they would have seen one enthusiastic and mesmerized teacher, who had her nose practically touching the glass, as she marveled at the window renovations.

Allow me to explain the context. If you were a student of mine last year, or a rotary teacher of Room 212, you would have known how difficult it was to open the former, outdated windows. The joke at any opportunity when more than two people were in the room, would always be how warm the classroom became and how treacherous a task it was to even attempt to open the windows. Our default usually consisted of someone running to find Mr. Wild to lend a strong and helping hand, while we all waved our Math textbooks at our faces like fans.

I can't help but think that God knows us so individually that He even caters his sense of humour to match ours. He used the window renovations to remind me of how generous and encouraging our PCS community truly is.

From the hands that freely labored in the window installing, to the hands that give financially, and to the many hearts that pray for the continued longevity of PCS and making Christ known to our students' lives here – your generosity is seen and valued. You continue to make PCS the wonderful place that it is today.

Sarah Eng, Elementary Teacher: Grade 6 & 7

We're pretty thrilled with all of the improvements to the buildings at PCS. We know that people are what make the difference but improved facilities are certainly a blessing!  
We're celebrating a lot of athletic, academic and artistic achievements by the students as well.  
We'll have a Pacer Press in the New Year to celebrate that!



Proposed Main Gymnasium Entrance from Parking Lot

## Secondary Science Lab Renovations and Upgrades - ~~Summer 2015~~

~~\$950,000~~ **\$750,000**

*completed!*

PCS is identified as a “Group 1 Independent School” by the Province of British Columbia. This means that in addition to having fully qualified and certified staff, we also offer the complete ministry curriculum - including a robust science program. From Junior Sciences to AP Physics, we are fully engaged in developing young minds as they grapple with the intricacies of a phenomenal physical world.

### The science lab upgrades include:

- new chemistry laboratory and teaching area
- new physics lab attached to science wing
- new and upgraded junior science teaching area
- upgraded biology lab
- expanded and improved storage and teacher prep areas

**Construction was completed  
on time for school!**



*Andy Bos continued  
from front cover...*

One of my favorite quotes is “the laws of physics are the canvas God laid down on which to paint his masterpiece”. I hope students can develop the sense of masterpiece and that God is ultimately the one whose fingerprints are seen all over creation.

I think teachers all play a small role in “raising up children”. As a team of staff working together, we recognize that each student is on a journey, as we all are. We have the opportunity to come alongside the students and enter into the journey with them. Staff are able to encourage students, sometimes in devotions, sharing what’s on our heart, walking alongside in tough times and in times of celebration. It happens inside and outside of the classroom. I love helping with the Junior Boys’ Volleyball Team and getting to know the students in that different way. You get to know their personality and it provides great opportunities to speak into their lives in a wide range of teachable moments.

Now that I’ve been at PCS for 30 years, I sometimes teach children of former students. It seems a little weird, but it’s very special! It’s great meeting with parents, having a good rapport and working together to support current students. I don’t think I’m teaching any grandkids of former students yet! Hopefully I’ll be retired by then.

It’s been great to see the changes in the buildings at PCS, and recently the wonderful upgrades to the science labs. Students are very keen with lab work and the facilities are really meeting our needs. I’m looking forward to using the new set up as we continue using the labs. Thank you to the community for the support to make the renovations happen.

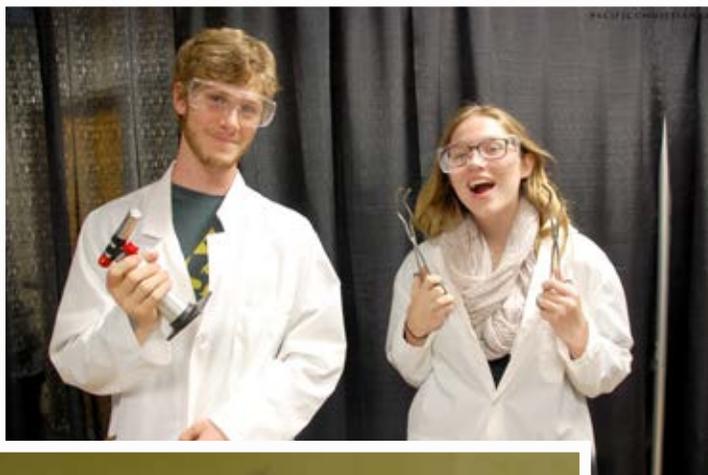
It’s exciting to talk with PCS graduates. It’s a blessing to chat with them and recognize that PCS was blessing to them. I hope to see more alumni send their children to PCS.

Andy Bos.



Scan this code for  
the video interview.

[www.vimeo.com/YourPCS](http://www.vimeo.com/YourPCS)



### Did you know?

- PCS added Advanced Placement (AP) Physics to its other AP offerings in 2014/15
- Our students consistently score above average on the provincial science exam
- We offer Outdoor Education as a combined physical education and science program for Grade 9 students.



**MORE CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS, VIDEOS  
AND INFORMATION AT  
[WWW.CAMPAIGN.PACIFICCHRISTIAN.CA/](http://WWW.CAMPAIGN.PACIFICCHRISTIAN.CA/)**