

SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT

DECEMBER news



Gateway Society for Christian Education

Working to Support Christ-Centered Education at Gateway Christian School

Who we are and what we do:

The Gateway Society for Christian Education began as a group of parents who desired to have what was being taught at home and church to also be taught at school. Together, in the 1950s, they formed a society and later opened Red Deer Christian School.

In 1999 the Society entered into discussions with Red Deer Public Schools about the possibility of becoming an alternative program. The decision was made that Red Deer Public School would add a Christian Alternative Program to their school community and thus began the journey of Public Christian Education for many students in the fall of 1999. Since this change, the society has gone from a governing board who managed and ran the independent Red Deer Christian School to a supportive board, supporting and encouraging the Christian alternativeness at Gateway Christian School as it carries out its mission to provide academic excellence through a Christ-centered education, equipping students to pursue lives of meaning and purpose.

The society has a vested interest in the distinct Christian Alternativeness at Gateway and works alongside the School Council to engage our community as well as coordinate fundraising initiatives to support GCS.

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Ways to be Involved:

We encourage our parent community to be involved with the School Council and the Gateway Society for Christian Education.

Ways you can be connected:

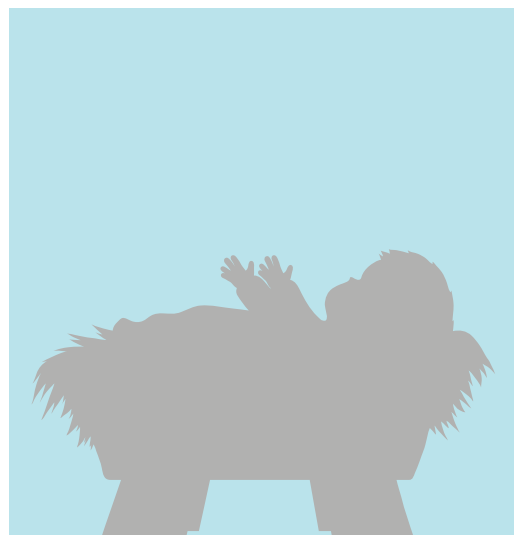
- Join our fundraising committee
- Sign up to be a Prayer Champion (you will be assigned one Gateway staff member to pray for throughout the school year)
- Attend and/or support community and fundraising events
- Attend our Annual AGM in the spring
- Become a board member (2 year term, voted in at our AGM)
- Attend monthly meetings

Upcoming Events:

- Please join us at Gateway's Christmas Village on December 15 where the Society will be serving hot chocolate and popcorn for a minimum donation of \$1 each. Proceeds will support the Co-Impact team. We look forward to seeing you there!
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Wishing the Families of Gateway Christian a Blessed Christmas!

The Society's prayer is that the everlasting love, peace and joy of this Advent season will be with each of you as you celebrate the birth of our Saviour; our greatest gift; who came wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger!



Meet our Board of Directors:

Carolyn Stolte



CAROLYN STOLTE - CHAIR

I became a part of the Gateway community in 2001 when I started teaching grade 5/6. Since then I have taught students in grades K-12 at Gateway as well as served as a Vice Principal for 5 years. Currently, I am a Vice Principal at Aspen Heights Elementary school as well as a Wellness Coordinator in Student Services for Red Deer Public Schools. While my husband Shane and I started and grew our family, I was away from the classroom and able to serve the Society as chair and later Executive Director. Our sons Jonathan, Christopher and Adam all attend school at Gateway. Outside of school our family enjoys movie nights, puzzling, snowshoeing, skiing, swimming and hockey. I am grateful for the opportunity our children have to receive a Christian Education within Red Deer Public Schools and am honored to serve on the Society in supporting GCS in equipping students to pursue lives of meaning and purpose throughout their academic journey.

Blair Nielsen



BLAIR NIELSON - VICE CHAIR

My name is Blair Nielsen and my family and I have been a part of Gateway Christian School since I attended Red Deer Christian school as a kid. I currently have 3 children at Gateway, two of whom are in the highschool partnership program with Lindsay Thurber. Providing a place with strong Biblical values for our children to learn is so important and we are privileged to have this opportunity with the RDPSD to partner together in this. I am excited to be a member of the Society, and to work with the school to help carry this out.

Meet our Board of Directors:

Carla Berger



CARLA BERGER - TREASURER

Our family has been part of the Gateway Community for the past 11 years. This is my second term as treasurer on the Society board. Our family enjoys the great outdoors and we spend our free time hiking, fishing, cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

Susan Gessleman



SUSAN GESSLEMAN - SECRETARY

Hello, my name is Susan Gessleman. My husband, Jeremy, and I have been married for 20 years. We have 4 children who are all attending Gateway Christian School. I work part time at the hospital and I'm a busy mom of 4. My hobbies include being my kids #1 fan, chauffeur extraordinaire, coffee, reading, hiking, skiing, music, and napping. When I get a few moments to myself I try to enjoy a good cup of coffee, read a book, play the piano or nap. I chose to serve on the board because I first became the Prayer Champion Coordinator and through working closely with the board I saw how they supported the school both spiritually and financially and wanted to be a part of that process.

Meet our Board of Directors:

Geannette Lehman



GEANNETTE LEHMAN - PRINCIPAL

I have been a member of Gateway's staff for over 20 years, starting way back when we were still a private school. I am married and have 4 adult children who all attended Gateway Christian School, with our youngest 2 having graduated from the Gurber (Gateway / Thurber) High School Program. Our 2 oldest sons are married and we have 1 grand-daughter. I am so privileged to be the current Principal at Gateway Christian School and to work with such an amazing admin team, staff, and students. I love it here! In my free time I enjoy cheering for my kids as they coach or play sports, camping, hiking, biking, reading and spending time with family and friends!

Cherilyn Strom



CHERILYN STROM- WORSHIP COORDINATOR

I've been a part of the Gateway community for over 10 years now and am in my 10th year as Worship Coordinator. This position started as a result of a Society initiative to support Spiritual Formation at Gateway. I happened to be on the Society board at that time and since this position started as a contracted Society position, I had to step down as a Board member. The position changed to a District position about 5 years ago and I returned as a Board member as a Staff Rep. I have been married to my husband Gary for 27 years and we have 2 adult children, Zac & Tessa, who both attended Gateway. When I'm not working I enjoy either reading or being outdoors; walking, hiking, SUP, gardening, etc.

Meet our Board of Directors:

Kevin Braun



KEVIN BRAUN - DIRECTOR

I have been on the Society Board since 2018 as a director. It is great to be involved with my kids' education and a good way to be connected with other parents in the school. Christian Education is very important to us and a part of teaching our kids where they fit into Gods Big Story. My wife Jena and I married in 2005. We have 2 awesome kids both at Gateway Christian. As a Family we are very active. We love the outdoors , camping , hiking , biking , golf, and of course, Hockey!

Faith Plunkett



FAITH PLUNKETT - DIRECTOR

Faith has four daughters that attend Gateway: Evie, Naomi, Josephine & Rachel. This will be Faith's 6th year serving on the Society Board of Directors. During this time, she has held the position of Director, Secretary and Chair. Faith and her family attend Living Stones Church, and she works in the Red Deer Public School District as a School Social Worker. Faith is passionate about Christ-centered education, kids and families!

Meet our Board of Directors:

Erlend Slatten



ERLEND SLATTEN - DIRECTOR

I am a father of two children attending Gateway and husband to Noelle Slatten. I have worked for Red Deer public schools as a teacher for the last six years. In my free time, I love skiing, running, and helping out with the youth at our church. I wanted to serve the Christian Society because they do such an important job supporting the Christian education at our school.

Do you have questions or need more information?
Please contact Carolyn Stolte (carolyn.stolte@rdpsd.ab.ca).