

2022/23

# BRIERCREST ANNUAL REPORT



*As I talk with students and hear their stories, I hear over and over again how God provided for them. Just recently I was able to let a student know that they had received a scholarship. As she broke down in my office, she started to tell me how she had just prayed that morning telling God how worried she was about finances and within moments I had texted to ask her to come by my office.*

**Kathy Brandt, Student Financial Advisor**



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## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



**PRESIDENT  
MICHAEL PAWELKE**

Greetings friends and partners,

What inspired a handful of women to pray for the launch of a Bible School in Saskatchewan back in the 1930's? It was without question the burden to see continuing obedience to Jesus' command in the Gospels:

***"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20)***

Eighty-eight years later Briercrest continues as a partnership of three Christ-centred, Bible-anchored, ministry-focused schools that thrive in a dynamic spiritual community. Yes, we are three schools with a robust, quality education that is accredited and recognized.

However, the core reason for our existence; the "why" that gets us up every morning, is that deep commitment to fulfill Jesus' command to his disciples, "...make disciples!"

And so at Briercrest we are providing an Education that Disciples. The classroom experience is foundational, but it is supported by the wholistic “Briercrest experience” that is made up of meaningful relationships, dorm living, eating together, daily chapel, service learning, along with rich co-curricular opportunities including athletics, recitals, dramatic performances, conferences...I could go on.

This is our annual report and while we are pleased to hold ourselves accountable to you in providing fiscal, enrolment, and programmatic reports, we want to assure you that what drives us is the same thing that has motivated the Christian Church for over 2000 years – we are making disciples! I trust the attending stories and testimonies will inspire you.

I want to thank you for your partnership in support, prayer, and promoting the value of Christian education in our world. Yes, these are days of opportunity but they also continue to be days of challenge. We are committed to helping this generation keep their faith and become meaningful influencers for the sake of the kingdom. Your continued engagement with us is cherished.

Let’s press on in our shared vision of providing an Education that Disciples,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MB Pawelke', written in a cursive style.

Michael B. Pawelke

**President**

**Briercrest Christian Academy, College & Seminary**

# EDUCATION THAT DISCIPLES

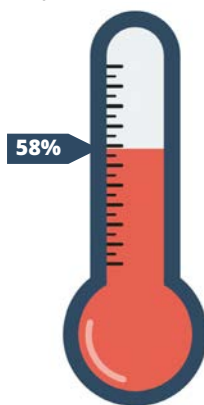


The rapidly changing global landscape is causing significant anxiety in today's young adults, leaving them uncertain about their future prospects.

These worries have left many young adults searching for a stable foundation to turn to in the midst of their struggles. Christian young adults have the added burden of staying true to their faith while navigating an increasingly secular world. This can prove difficult without a strong Christian community and sound discipleship.

Our mission is to help youth navigate the transition to adulthood through an Education that Disciples.

Our academic programs, dorm life, leadership opportunities and community are all designed to help young people explore and solidify their faith while preparing them for their future.



**Total Amount Raised**  
**\$3,970,173/\$6,800,000**

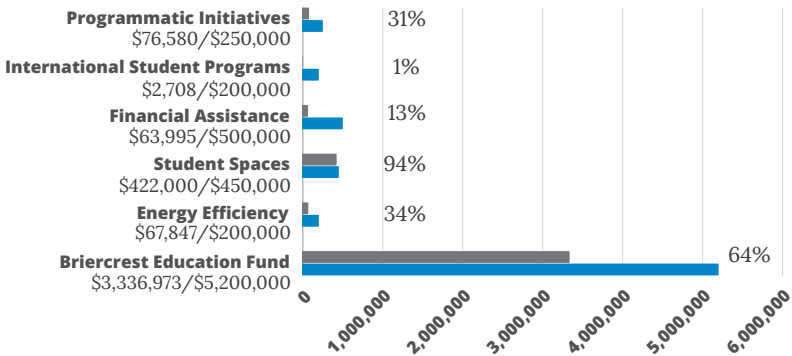
# CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We thank God for your partnership with us in providing an Education that Disciples!



We feel a deep and compelling sense of stewardship and privilege to be able to provide an Education that Disciples. Briercrest provides a vibrant and inspiring environment for students to build a spiritual foundation that will equip them for lives of service in both the Church and the marketplace. Students gain valuable knowledge and practical skills that prepare them to impact a changing world.

## Campaign Update (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024) **Total Amount Raised \$3,970,173/\$6,800,000**



Updated as of January 12, 2024.

# YOUTH QUAKE



God taught me to take a lead in teaching others about Him, and that life has challenges, but Jesus is with us the whole time.

Student, Sr. High YQ Retreat Attendee

In the early 1960s, Henry Unrau had an idea that would change countless Canadian teenagers' lives. The event, then named the Midwest Youth Retreat, took place in November of 1963. Drawing an astonishing 500 attendees, it far exceeded expectations. The name "Youth Quake" emerged in 1972 from that year's earthquake theme.

In 2022, the Youth Quake team hosted YQatHome in February and organized in-person events for different age groups. Senior high students gathered at Briercrest from April 29th to May 1st, while junior high students met on May 6th and 7th. Unrau's original vision to empower and inspire Canadian youth was realized in all three events, which were highly successful and well-attended.



**We had over 2,000 guests join us on-campus over the two YQ Retreat Weekends!**



YQ is a two to three-day Christian youth retreat where young people across Western Canada come together to worship and learn about God. YQ events feature engaging speakers, interactive activities, informative workshops, live worship bands, and group discussions. Youth Quake attendees are encouraged to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ and build meaningful relationships with other Christian community members.



This year's YQ events theme was Psalm 23 and The Good Shepherd. Guest speakers unpacked the meaningful passage during the main events, while the workshops and small group sessions provided practical applications and discussions on how to apply the teaching in daily life. In between the learning sessions, students had time to have loads of fun! Activities included laser tag, gaining tournaments, wall climbing, and horseback riding.

# YOUTH QUAKE



## The Senior High Retreat sold out in attendance!

Another wonderful highlight of YQ is the scholarship giveaways. This year, six scholarships (worth \$13,904) were rewarded on stage in a celebration with the whole crowd. During the Senior High Retreat weekend, 23 attendees submitted a scholarship form. Among them, nine were new applicants to Briercrest College. Six of the 23 received an on-stage scholarship. The other 17 will receive a \$500 award when they enroll, thanks to generous donors who enabled us to offer \$500 bursaries (total value of \$10,000) to anyone who applies to Briercrest College or Christian Academy while at YQ.

Each weekend also involved worship services and opportunities to draw closer to God. Attendees could respond to the message by committing to Jesus Christ or renewing previous commitments. AJ Crocker, VP of External Relations, later shared with the staff and faculty a special moment that happened as the junior YQ weekend was ending:





“As many of you were tearing down and starting to clean up, we saw dozens of kids raise their hands to receive Jesus as their Saviour for the first time. It was an incredible sight to see. Our speaker, Colin Lancelot, then allowed the others to consider rededicating their lives and commit to following the Good Shepherd with their whole life. Even more, hands went up. It was a calm, reflective moment with dozens and dozens of kids committing to follow our Lord at such a key time in their lives.”



YQ is a vital event for Christian youth, offering a safe environment to learn about God, build relationships, and explore their faith. With vibrant worship and captivating activities, it nurtures spiritual growth and embodies Christ’s love.

***This year’s Youth Quake brought immense joy and excitement, leaving a lasting impact on attending youth.***

# BRIERCREST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



This year Briercrest Christian Academy was excited to welcome 147 students to campus. Fifty-three of those are dorm students and 10 are international. We have welcomed students from China, Ethiopia, Bulgaria, Austria, Nigeria, and Hong Kong. In addition, students transferred in from seven provinces.

The fall welcomed a facility refresh in addition to a new staff member. The facilities staff worked hard painting and updating our space this past summer for which we are incredibly thankful. With great excitement, Crystal Gray joined us to focus on our Fine Arts Dept. Crystal brought together an all-star team to stage BCA's first musical in a decade and they did it with class. We are very proud of all that were involved.

In addition to our association with ACSI, the staff are embarking on a deep dive into the



**Kavis Drake**  
Grade 12 Student

BCA is pretty good about helping me balance academics with my rodeo pursuits; they are so supportive of what I want to do.





work of “Flourishing Schools” and focusing on how we can live in the fullness of where God would desire us to be. This is providing a space for healthy conversations as we strive to move forward.

BCA’s desire for greater family and community involvement has given us the opportunity to establish a School Community Council. Though we are in the infant stages of getting this off the ground we are excited for the direction it is going. Opening up our campus to the Provincial Association of Christian Schools International conference as well as the Historic Schools of Saskatchewan conference has allowed us to show off our space and all the opportunities our students have on campus.

## COLLEGE: TESOL INTERNSHIPS



This summer saw the TESOL program's first post-internship. A post-internship is an opportunity for students who completed their internship the previous summer to serve on one final

internship before they graduate. The Mexico post-internship team was hosted by an evangelical church in a town in Oaxaca. The church had realized that many of the people in their town had never (and perhaps might never) come inside their church, so they decided to offer English language classes in the church building taught by our interns. Around 60% of the people who came to the classes had never stepped foot inside the church before. Almost everyone who took part said they would take more classes if they were offered in 2024, something the Briercrest TESOL program is now planning as part of our exciting internship plans for the coming summer.

**Student Teams: 5** 

**Teaching Hours: 450** 

**English Learners: 500** 



The pre-internship is an opportunity for students at the end of their first year of TESOL studies as well as students from other Briercrest programs to teach conversational English. This year's pre-internship team served in Germany teaching English for two hours per day at a Bible camp for German teenagers run by our program partner, Neues Leben (New Life). This was the tenth year we have sent a team to serve at the camp. Apart from the English classes, which included Bible memorization and daily, faith-based topics, the highlight was the evening chapels where the Word was preached and everyone worshipped together. Our team had the opportunity to talk with the teenagers afterwards and to pray with them. Almost half of the

## COLLEGE: TESOL INTERNSHIPS

teenagers attending the camp are unchurched and register simply to improve their conversational English. For this reason, it is significant that they also hear the gospel for the first time.

The main internship is a required part of the Briercrest TESOL program and students do this at the end of their second year of study. Our three internship teams served in Cambodia, Thailand, and Mexico. The Cambodia internship was in partnership with a ministry in Phnom Penh called Amazing Grace Association (AGA), an organization the Briercrest TESOL program has been partnering with since we sent our first team back in 2016. This year's team taught English to over 100 English major students at AGA Institute, a private higher education college run by AGA, while another member of the team taught kindergarten to grade 5 students at AGA's elementary school.

The students teaching at the Institute had opportunities outside of class to share the message of Christ with English learners who were mostly nominally Buddhist, and the team often found themselves addressing fears of spiritual darkness. They also encouraged the Christian students who attended the young adults group meeting in AGA's church by sharing their testimonies and talking about their journey with Christ. The contact with the elementary school was also about sharing the gospel with the Cambodian teachers, many of whom are not yet believers, as well as encouraging those who already are.

The Thailand internship was in a university city and ran as part of our first collaboration with Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF).





OMF has an outreach centre near one of the university campuses but had never been given the opportunity to work inside the university before this summer. So the fact that our team was invited by the university to teach English classes was of great strategic importance. The team members were also able to connect with the students who came to spend time at the outreach centre, sharing the gospel over meals and games.

The Mexico intern was a mature student who already had a lot of experience in Mexico, having served as a missionary there for a number of years together with her family. The internship provided her with opportunities to teach at a pedagogical university and a private language school while reconnecting with the people she used to know in northwestern Mexico. She was able to also test out opportunities for future ministry once she graduates.

# SEMINARY: GOSPEL IMPACT



*Douglas Moo, an adjunct faculty member of the Seminary, was on-campus in November to teach Pauline Epistles.*

This year we received a significant increase in Seminary applications. Notably, we processed a surge in international students choosing Briercrest as their spiritual and academic home.

This growth is a testament to the dedication of our staff and faculty, your continued support, and God's blessing, which have been pivotal in shaping our institution into a beacon of theological excellence and spiritual transformation. We are profoundly grateful for your investment in our mission.



**Samuel Jung**  
Seminary Enrolment  
Services Coordinator

As I continue to serve our students, both domestic and international, I am reminded of the blessings that come with being part of the Briercrest family. Our students experience the enriching journey of theological exploration that equips them to impact the world with the truth of God's Word. Your partnership enables us to provide an environment where students can thrive academically, grow spiritually, and build lifelong connections.



## 35 SEMINARY GRADS IN 2023



In light of these exciting developments, we humbly request your continued support in two significant ways. First, please keep our students, faculty, and staff in your prayers. Pray for their spiritual growth, academic excellence, and a deepening understanding of God’s calling for their lives. Pray for the Lord’s guidance and wisdom as we navigate the challenges and opportunities that come with growth. And secondly, the increase in applications also brings increased financial needs, especially for scholarships and resources that ensure a high-quality education for our students. Your financial contributions empower us to continue providing top-tier theological education in a nurturing Christian environment.

“As I embark on this journey, I am mindful that it is through your partnership that we are able to impact lives for eternity. Your support creates a legacy that will touch countless lives, not only within our institution but also in the communities where our graduates will serve. Thank you for standing with us and for believing in the transformative power of theological education. May God bless you abundantly as you continue to sow into His Kingdom,” says Jung.

# BRIERCREST ATHLETICS



Last year was Nigel Mullan's 19th as head coach of Briercrest Men's Volleyball. Even though league rules only permit the team to dress 14 players for games, he assembled a roster of 24. From an outside perspective, it might seem like a hard sell to recruit athletes when they have a 40% chance of sitting out any given match. Moreover, his program does not receive additional funding, so he cannot award competitive scholarships to many of his players. But there is something undeniably special about Mullan's coaching and leadership, cultivating a strong family atmosphere in which he, his staff, and older players can invest in future starters. To accomplish this, he and his wife, Natalie, find creative ways to reduce travel costs, such as preparing and packing meals for road games. "We do sacrifice, but we see that as an opportunity to have more people involved with Briercrest because we think that Briercrest is a huge component in changing a life's trajectory," he says.

As much as Mullan believes that every game is an opportunity to be an ambassador for Christ, Briercrest was delighted to cheer on





Men's Volleyball as they clinched their second league championship under Mullan's tenure. Reflecting on the experience, Mullan says, "Heading into the ACAC championship, I spent some time with the team beforehand to remind them that how we prepare matters, not for the medal but the fact that we're chasing a platform to have an impact for the Lord."

Mullan's team would take their witness to the big stage at CCAA Men's Volleyball Nationals. En route to earning their first national medal (bronze), Briercrest had to face Providence University College. "That was unique because their coach is an alumnus and used to play for me. There are all types of emotions to navigate that space and be competitive, but still there's love between us," says Mullan.



After defeating Providence, Mullan felt led to pray with them. "As we huddled, you could just hear the cameras going off taking pictures. For those that know, I'm not a very public person, but the fact that we were on a platform getting to witness to a national audience was pretty cool."

# ATHLETIC CAMPS & SEASON STATS



We are thrilled to share that we hosted over 700 youth at our 2023 Briercrest Summer Sports Camps.

Please keep our athletic teams in your prayers during the summer. Their work continues even when league play concludes!



## ATHLETIC YEAR STATISTICS

The 2022-23 season saw multiple first-time achievements for Briercrest Athletics, including:

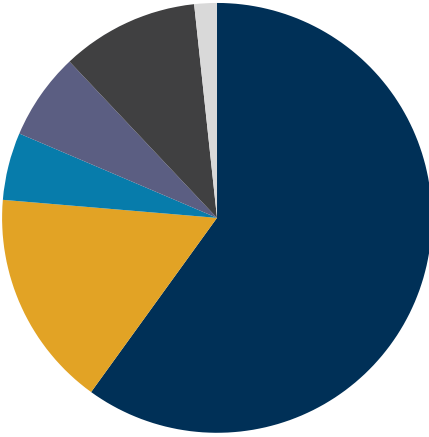
- hosting an ACAC Women's Basketball play-off home game
- hosting an ACAC Men's Hockey home playoff series
- ACAC medal won by Women's Basketball
- ACAC Athletic Director of the Year
- one of our student-athletes winning the ACAC Top Scholar Award for Men's Hockey
- hosting ACAC home playoff games for four different sports in one season

For a full list of highlights and achievements, please visit [briercrest.ca/blog/athletics-season-recap-2022-23](https://briercrest.ca/blog/athletics-season-recap-2022-23)

This summer we hosted just under 400 female volleyball athletes on campus. Many came because of the volleyball but had the opportunity to learn about Jesus and His love for them. During each of our four camps, we saw these gals grow in their confidence, volleyball skills, and understanding of Christ's love for them. Between 40-50% did not previously have a relationship with Christ.

**Rhonda Schmuland,**  
Briercrest Women's  
Volleyball Head Coach

# 2022-23 FINANCIAL UPDATE



**Other Revenue**  
\$1,476,597

**Government Grants  
& Assistance**  
\$242,600

**REVENUES**  
\$14,368,896

**Tuition & Fees**  
\$8,651,718

**Donations**  
\$2,338,528

**Business Sales**  
\$725,028

**Non-Dorm Housing  
Rentals**  
\$934,425

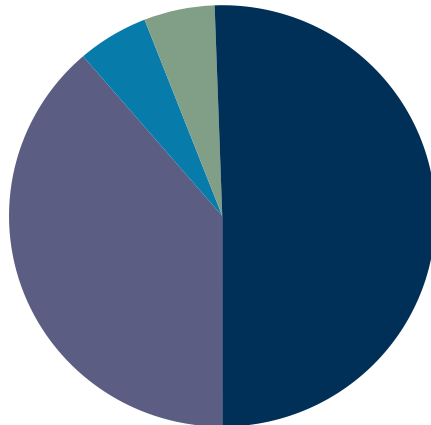
**EXPENSES**  
\$14,940,897

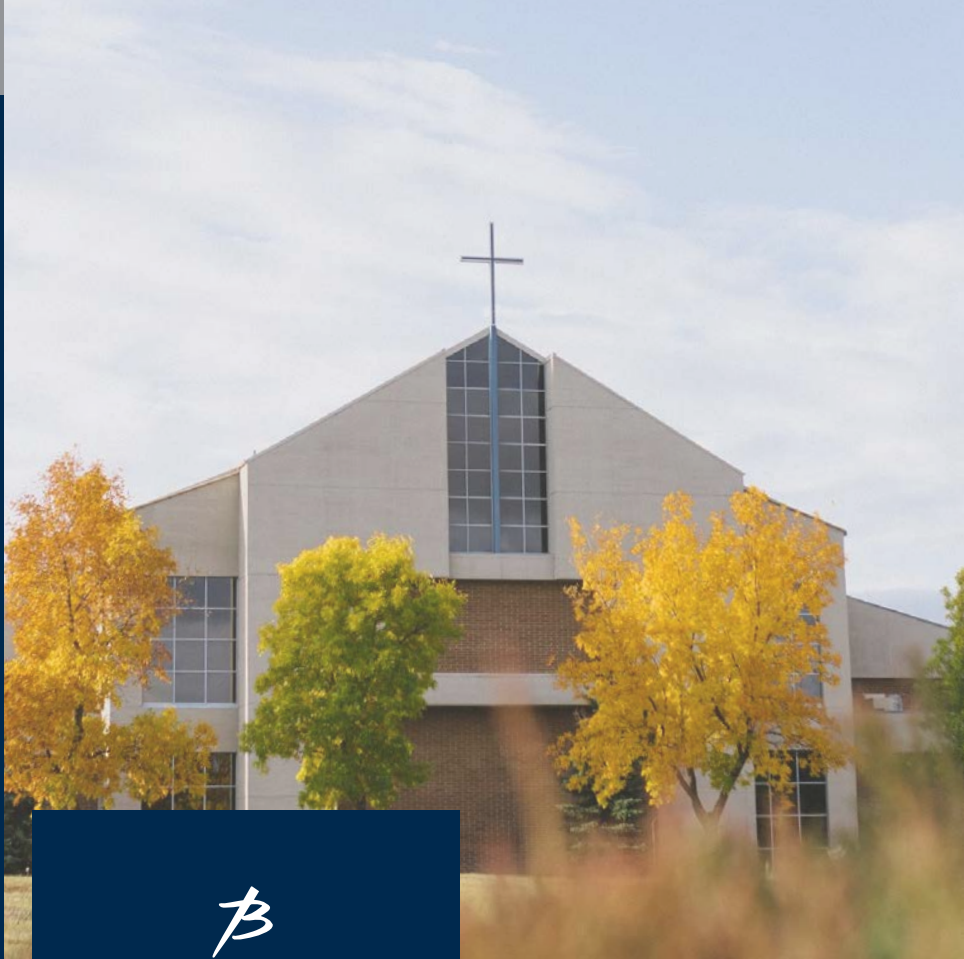
**Salaries & Benefits**  
\$7,555,879

**Operating Expenses**  
\$5,779,334

**Business Purchases**  
\$801,577

**Scholarships & Bursaries**  
\$804,107





## **BRIERCREST**

Christian Academy • College • Seminary

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***Thank you for reading the 2022-23  
Annual Report.***

***To find out ways to give to the mission  
of Briercrest scan the QR code.***