

BRIERCREST

2018

**ANNUAL
REPORT**





*Briercrest is the partnership of three Christ-centred,
Bible-anchored, ministry-focused schools that thrive
in the context of a vibrant spiritual community.*

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Dear friends,

On behalf of the staff and faculty of Briercrest, thank you for your continued prayer, encouragement, and support. We are privileged to partner with you to equip and commission another generation of disciples to serve our God globally.

It is no secret that now is a pivotal time for the Church in Canada and the West. Regular church attendance is declining, and higher education is wrestling with how to adapt to ever-changing social values. As Christian educators, we recognize that the world around us has not resolved cultural questions about religious freedom, among others.

Yet we know our calling is clear. Our way forward in these volatile days is to remain anchored to those meaningful traditions that matter: the authority of scripture; belief in the humanity and deity of Jesus Christ; salvation by grace through faith in Christ, leading to the repentance of our sins; respect for the sanctity and dignity of human life; and upholding marriage as a covenant between a man, a woman, and God. We trust so much in the faithfulness of our unchanging God that we hold fast to these truths no matter how unpopular they become—remembering that we must share them with the compassion and love of Christ.

My prayer is that we stay fresh and responsive as disciples of the Lord Jesus, committed to grace and truth and open to the significant ways God is going to use us.

Partnering together,



Michael B. Pawelke, President





Equipping the Church





BRIERCREST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Heart. Soul. Strength. Mind.

NEW NAME: As of July 2018, Caronport High School (CHS) was renamed Briercrest Christian Academy (BCA) in recognition of our commitment to Christ-centred, quality education and our strong partnerships with Briercrest College and Seminary. In an increasingly secular culture, we remain steadfast in our proclamation and worship of Jesus Christ. We believe our new name is a natural extension of the legacy of CHS.

SAME MISSION: Our students are led to grow in their faith through regular chapel services, Bible studies, prayer meetings, and accountability groups. Our residence staff personally minister to each student, encouraging them to

develop lasting friendships and spiritual disciplines for living faithfully in our complex world.

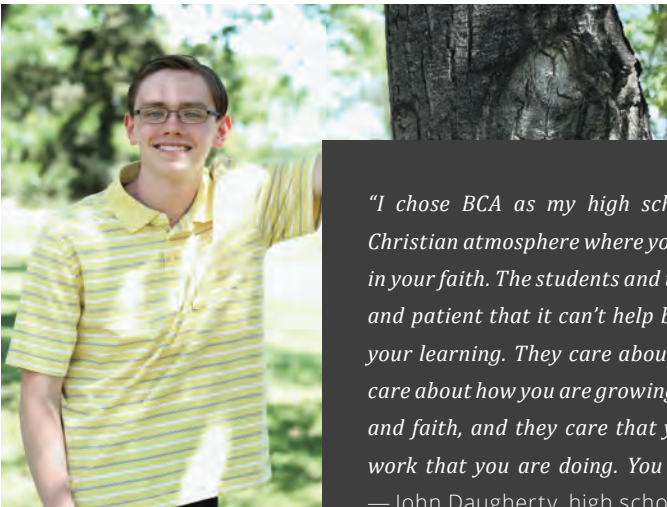
STUDENT LIFE: Caleb Willems, director of discipleship, was impressed with the spirit of unity that characterized student experience this year: “Half of the student body was new because of a recruitment spike and the addition of Prairie Hockey Academy. Our students created such a welcoming atmosphere that there were plenty of new friendships not limited to grade.” Such collaboration was on display during the 2018 Easter Tour, as BCA sent eight student dancers and 21 student singers to lead worship in three churches, two care homes, and a public school.



144
STUDENTS

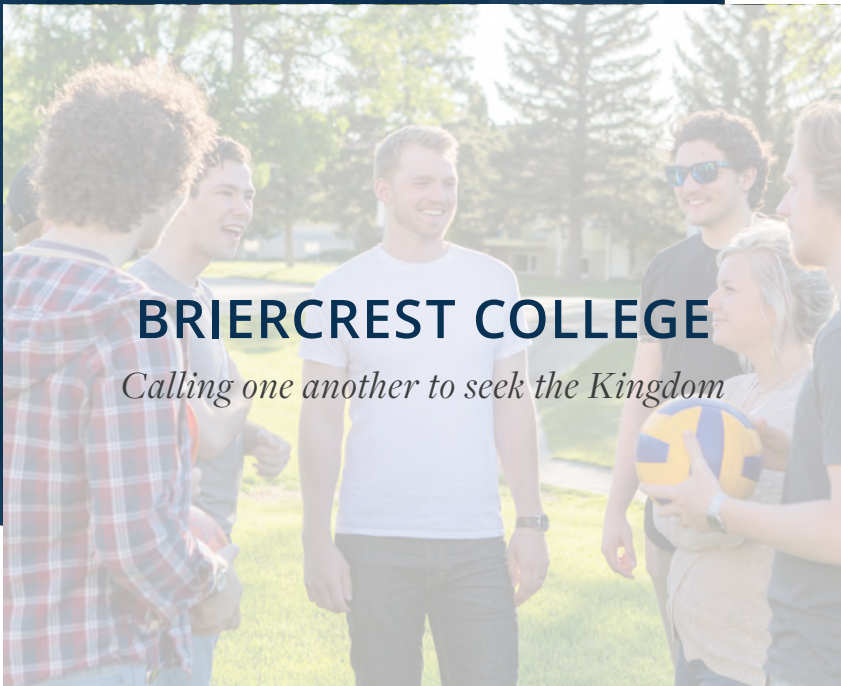


48
2018 GRADS



“I chose BCA as my high school because it’s a Christian atmosphere where you get to grow freely in your faith. The students and teachers are so kind and patient that it can’t help but positively affect your learning. They care about your studies, they care about how you are growing in your knowledge and faith, and they care that you understand the work that you are doing. You just feel welcome.”

— John Daugherty, high school student



BRIERCREST COLLEGE

Calling one another to seek the Kingdom

ACADEMICS: In May 2018, the Ministry of Advanced Education in Saskatchewan granted Briercrest the authorization to award the Bachelor of Arts Psychology (with conditions). We are also pleased to announce that the Bachelor of Arts Youth Ministry with the Coalition for Youth Ministry Excellence will launch in fall 2018.

DISCIPLESHIP: The privilege of equipping tomorrow's leaders requires increasing wisdom and discernment. Today's youth and emerging adults are confronted by conflicting perspectives in the media about identity, values, and rights—debates that often question the enduring significance of Christian faith and practice.

Cody Matchett, campus pastor, recognizes the crucial role Briercrest fills in ministering to students at an age when they are making decisions that will affect the rest of their lives: “The opportunity to walk alongside our students, to grow together, to seek Jesus together, and to negotiate faith together is a beautiful privilege. We watched some students follow other ways, while many began to follow Jesus and the majority dove deeper into their faith.”

Last fall, Briercrest invited alumni from the graduating classes of 2017, 2015, 2012, and 2007 to share their post-graduation experiences. Over 90 percent of survey respondents indicated that Briercrest contributed to their spiritual growth and walk with the Lord.

MISSIONS: In addition to the applied ministry credits for their degree programs, Briercrest students formed a dedicated Service Committee to expand community engagement. Throughout the year, student-led teams served at soup kitchens, shovelled driveways, and coordinated events at retirement communities, among other activities.

Briercrest also sent 21 Kaléo students to serve in Vancouver and Mexico, and the TESOL program commissioned 25 teachers (students and team leaders) to serve in four countries.



512
STUDENTS



107
2018 GRADS

A photograph of a person's hands holding a blue book in a library setting. The background shows bookshelves filled with books, slightly out of focus. The person is wearing a dark-colored t-shirt.

BRIERCREST SEMINARY

Accessible and relevant education for the Church

ACADEMICS: This year we submitted a proposal to the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and received approval to offer a Master of Youth Ministry degree in partnership with the Coalition for Youth Ministry Excellence.

In September 2017, Briercrest Seminary was pleased to host Dr. John Barclay, Lightfoot Professor of Divinity at Durham University (UK). Dr. Barclay shared a lecture based on his 2015 monograph *Paul and the Gift*, which many scholars consider one of the most important books in the field of New Testament studies in the last several decades.

Among other notable guests, The Honourable Dallas K. Miller taught an upper level course entitled “Human Rights,

Justice, and Global Mission.” Justice Miller has served as a federal trial judge for 10 years in Lethbridge, AB and holds degrees in history and theology, exemplifying Briercrest’s commitment to deliver high academic standards alongside practical experience for ministry.

ANNOUNCEMENT: At the commencement ceremony in April, Dr. Paul Magnus was honoured and commissioned as the first Paul E. Magnus Chair of Leadership and Management. The chair was established to honour, perpetuate, and expand Dr. Magnus’s significant contribution to the field of leadership, management, and discipleship.



226
STUDENTS



32
2018 GRADS



“I am thankful for the people God has placed in my life, who have come alongside me with encouragement, support, enthusiasm, and suggestions during my thesis writing. Theology, putting our convictions about God into words, is a community event and I’m thankful for mine.” — Stephanie Christianson (Seminary Validictorian, 2018)



Engaging our World



BRIERCREST ATHLETICS

Ambassadors for Christ through sport

SPORTS CAMPS: A partnership of schools, club teams, churches, and volunteers, Briercrest Sports Camps have provided young athletes with an environment to develop their skills and learn the connection between faith and sport for nearly 40 years. Campers join us from across Canada and are encouraged to grow in their faith through daily chapels and dorm meetings. In summer 2017, Briercrest Athletics hosted over 300 boys and girls for basketball, volleyball, and hockey (with Hockey Ministries International).

TEAM AWARDS:

- Silver medal at ACAC finals (Varsity Women's Volleyball)
- Bronze medal at ACAC finals (Varsity Men's Volleyball)
- Provincial champions (Junior Varsity Men's & Women's Soccer)
- Gold medal at provincial finals (Senior High Girls Volleyball)
- Silver medal at HOOPLA finals (Senior High Girls & Boys Basketball)

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:

- CCAA Coach of the Year: Nolan Weinmaster (Women's Volleyball)
- CCAA Player of the Year: Sam Zacharias (Women's Volleyball)
- ACAC Men's Volleyball South Coach of the Year: Nigel Mullan
- Men's Volleyball South Rookie of the Year: Jordan Schnitzer
- Basketball Women's South Rookie of the Year: Moriah Williams
- Men's JV Basketball Coach of the Year: Andrew Quiring
- Women's JV Volleyball Coach of the Year: Richelle Vigeant

YOUTH QUAKE 2018

The power of focusing our eyes on Jesus

OVERVIEW: Youth Quake (YQ) looks like a festival but feels like a retreat. YQ requires a year of planning, months of preparation, and weeks of set-up, culminating in three days of concerts, various activities, and—most importantly—world-class preaching and teaching. After each main session, time is allotted for leaders to meet with their youth to discuss the message and how to apply it to their lives.

THEME: The theme of YQ 2018 was “Focus” and drew attention to the multitude of things that compete for our focus. When we focus on Jesus, we can live according to the purpose for which we were created. When we allow other forces to distract us, we risk losing everything.

FEEDBACK: “We are thankful for an incredible God who lets us play a role in seeing hundreds of lives move closer to Him in our midst. With so many stories of kids accepting Jesus for the first time, recommitting their lives, and recognizing that they are not alone in this anymore, we have such significant evidence that our God chose to take our offerings and use them to glorify Himself.” – AJ Crocker, YQ Director

WEEKEND AT A GLANCE:

- 1110 REGISTRATIONS
- 1250 TEENS & LEADERS
- 72 GROUPS
- 63 APPLICATIONS
- 81 EXPERIENCE BRIERCREST ATTENDEES

PERFORMING / WORSHIP ARTS

Glorifying God through arts and music

OVERVIEW: Briercrest's performing and worship arts students maintain a full schedule throughout the year. Worship students led at weekly chapels, youth events, and churches. In January, worship teams also recorded original pieces under the mentorship of Ken Dosso (worship arts pastor, Evangelical Free Church of Lethbridge). Performance students and faculty were featured in recitals, opera scenes, musical theatre workshops, and Summer Stage (*Anne of Green Gables* and *Oklahoma!*). Resonant, Briercrest's a cappella ensemble, thrilled audiences at churches, schools, and retirement communities.

A BRIERCREST CHRISTMAS: The Christmas musical continues to grow, with attendance reaching 4000 this year. The production, *Lost in the Snow*, was based on the Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7) and was written by alumnus Michael King in collaboration with artistic director Ron de Jager. Featuring an original score, the cast included college, high school, and elementary students and was accompanied by a mass choir and orchestra.

VOICES FROM THE FRONT: Held in an original World War II Caron air force base building, Briercrest's annual Remembrance Day tribute was attended by 500 guests, including a veteran in his 90s. Students and faculty performed wartime songs and read letters that were written during World War I and II.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Brenden Friesen



Briercrest continues to produce market-ready graduates of character, such as Brenden Friesen (bass-baritone, BA Music 2015). Friesen has since graduated with a Master of Music in Opera Performance from the University of Toronto.

Crediting his success to his mentor, Ron de Jager, Friesen had this to say about his Briercrest experience: “At a school like the University of Toronto, undergraduate students could never receive the performance opportunities that they do at Briercrest. My



Brenden Friesen (Masetto) and Emma Johnson (Zerlina) in the Saskatoon Opera’s 2017 production of Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*.

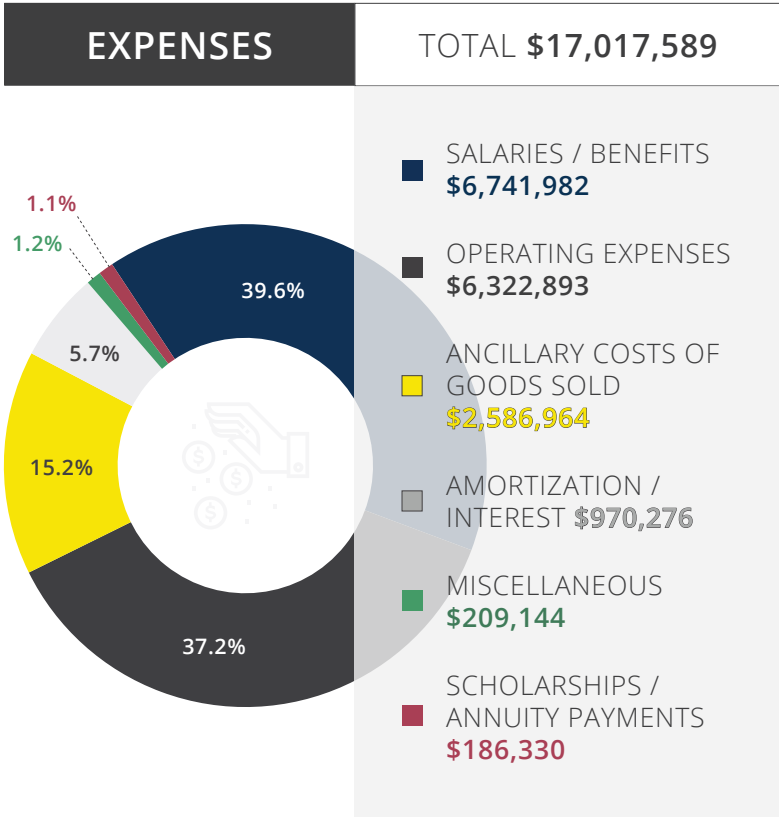
Briercrest professors were able to work one-on-one with me as I entered into the world of opera and classical singing. At Briercrest I built a solid foundation of knowledge, technique, and repertoire, and left with an exceptional performance resumé.”

Friesen has spent the past two summers performing for the Saskatoon Opera and was featured in a November 2017 edition of *Opera Canada*, a magazine dedicated to Canadian opera. He is currently attending L’Atelier lyrique de l’Opéra de Montréal, a prestigious artist-in-residence program that accepts roughly 10 students per year.



Finances

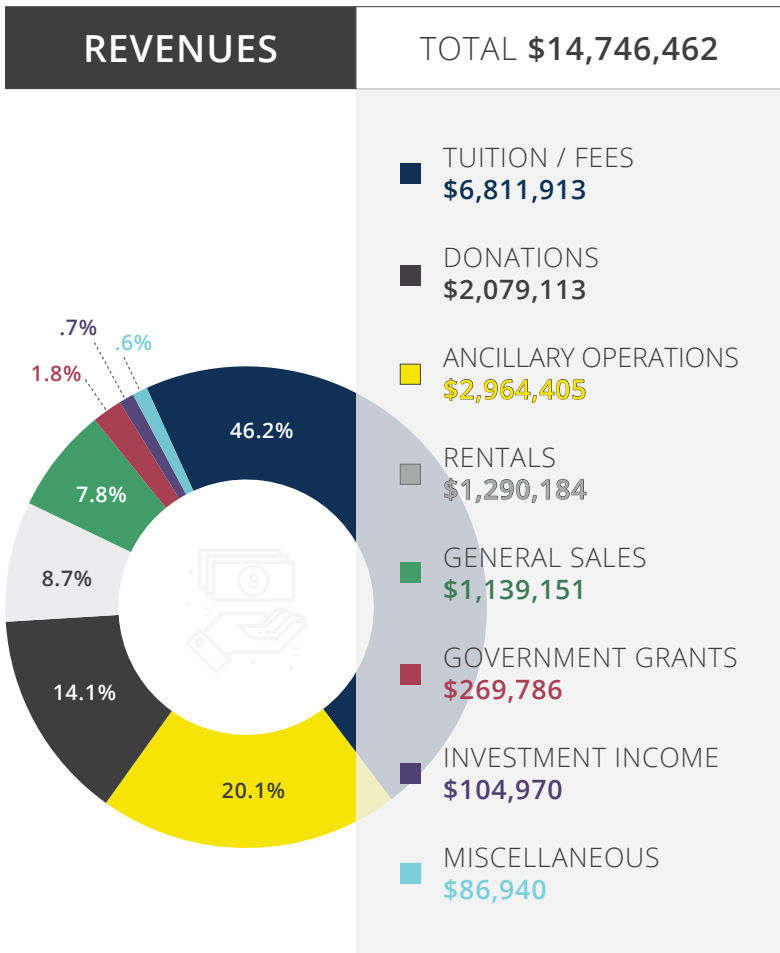




In keeping with last year’s strategic investments, we ended this fiscal year (June 30) with an operating deficit, as anticipated. While we are deeply committed to fiscal responsibility, we wish to steward God’s resources in a trusting way that maximizes our missional impact. For this reason, we budgeted for this year’s deficit with the future in mind and are excited to share some updates with you.

Added staff to our high school and seminary recruitment offices helped to increase enrolment by 7% and 15% (respectively) in 2017/18. Thanks to key facility upgrades, student satisfaction has improved, resulting in higher

retention and registration numbers for all three schools. 24 students across various programs participated in specialized internships, and many more served in ministries ranging from camps to churches to teaching English abroad. These are only a few of the ways God has confirmed that we are tracking in the right direction as we prayerfully seek Him. We are filled with a spirit of thankfulness for His grace and mercy and for His blessing us with many faithful partners in the Gospel. To Him be the glory!



*“The Word of our God
shall stand forever.”*

ISAIAH 40:8

Briercrest is a community of learning that calls students to seek the kingdom of God, to be shaped profoundly by the scriptures, and to be formed spiritually and intellectually for lives of service.

BRIERCREST.CA

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