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Problem with faith-based schooling is faith
The Brampton Guardian
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BRAMPTON - Dear Editor,

Letter writer Henry Lise (Funding faith-based schools would not be divisive, Oct. 5) covers a lot of ground defending faith-based schools but manages to completely miss the point. The problem with faith-based schools is that they are faith-based! As one who was an educator most of my working life in the public secondary school system in Ontario and Uganda (Christian missionary founded) and in the community college system in Ontario and The United Arab Emirates (Muslim culture), I have experience with both systems. I always thought that my primary responsibility in the public system was to give my students (and my own children) as broad an experience as possible so that when the time came they could make their own choices -- not just parrot mine.

It is contrary to common sense to take a young person and expose him or her to one point of view and call it education. Young people are naturally curious and we should not stifle this by indoctrinating them with what we adults believe.

Faith-based schooling seems to be all about the parents when fairness, equality and choice are touted. It seems to me that some of us would like to return to a sort of "father knows best" society where a child is looked upon as being owned by parents instead of being an individual human being to be cherished and raised to think independently.

If there is a concern about such influences as Santa and the Easter Bunny surely there is ample time in the week outside of school to counteract these. Or is the real problem that faith may be too weak to be challenged?

J.B. Ross, Orangeville