



THE FRIDGE DOOR

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Toronto District Christian High School
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Page 1: Nota Bene, Project 20/20
Page 2: Grade 7 & 8 News, Firehall Thrift Store Update, What's Upcoming?
Page 3: Praise & Petition, School Culture, Take Your Kids to Work Day
Page 4: Fall Food Drive, Transportation, Finance, Board Matters, Volunteering Opportunities
Page 5: Gr. 11 Mentorship, Falcon's Perch, Music Notes, Guidance Corner
Page 6: Centre Stage, Library Shelf, TDChristian Archives, Croquette Fundraiser

Nota Bene

- W. Groot

Today and tomorrow, students should work at home to ensure that their course work is complete. They should check Edsby, connect with teachers if needed, and prepare for final evaluations so that the final seven days of Quad 1 go well. It's about learning! Of course, taking time to be active and outside would also benefit many of them. Try taking a break from phones and social media. I am going to try to do so for a few days, myself.

Staff will attend the Edvance Annual Gathering (hosted virtually from TDChristian), go through a strategic planning session, prepare for the final days of Quad 1 (presentations, final evaluations), and get things lined up for Quad 2.

The main focus for TDChristian staff will be sessions hosted by David Brooks who writes, "... a key job of a school is to give students new things to love — an exciting field of study, new friends. It reminded us that what teachers really teach is themselves — their contagious passion for their subjects and students. It reminded us that children learn from people they love, and that love in this context means willing the good of another, and offering active care for the whole person." (NY Times Jan. 17, 2019. "Students Learn From People They Love – Putting relationship quality at the center of education")

As followers of God, especially in this time of disconnection, and especially as staff members of TDChristian, we will continue to share our love of learning, our passion for our work with students, and our love of God. It's not only about learning, it is about **learning to serve God and others in the light of his Word.**

P.S. For students who are struggling in this time of COVID-19, please reach out to a parent, guardian, or teacher to get the help that you need. Remember God listens to those who come to him in prayer.

Fall Membership Meeting (incl. Dedicating the New Build): Thurs., Nov. 26 at 7 p.m.

Project 20/20

- L. Fernhout

So far, \$3,347,156 has been raised for Project 20/20 plus more for Giving Catalogue items. Thanks to those who donated materials, their expertise, and time to construct the beautiful benches in the new Foyer space and outside our front doors.



If you wish to have a private, personal or family tour of the new Project 20/20 space on November 4, sign up by going to schoolinterviews.ca. Use the event code: tdctr. You will be safely escorted through the addition which will be fully opened to students on November 13, the start of Quad 2. See classes in action through the windows! If that date doesn't work for you, contact me at fernhout@tdchristian.ca to see if we can determine another time prior to Nov. 13.

Here are ways to support Project 20/20:

1. Project 20/20 Campaign: tdchristian.ca/giving (monthly giving option is available) or use the pledge form at tdchristian.ca/project2020
2. The Giving Catalogue found at tdchristian.ca/givingcatalogue.
3. Kristina's Wish seat campaign: \$28,821 has been raised for 27 seats at \$1,070 per seat. 200 seats are still needed. To donate please go to tdchristian.ca/wish.
4. Prayer: We humbly seek your prayers for the Lord's guidance and provisions for Project 20/20 to finish strong!



- P. Schuurman

Grade 7&8 News

Sadly, due to COVID-19, our annual Grade 7&8 Day will not take place this year. This all-day event is normally a highlight of our admission process as students and parents/guardians come to TDChristian for a school day.

But now we have an opportunity to bring TDChristian to YOU! Students in our feeder schools, you will be receiving "TD in a Box" to give you a taste of the learning experiences you would get here!

If there is someone who is NOT in one of our feeder schools who you think would like to receive one, please provide contact info to Patty Schuurman (schuurman@tdchristian.ca) by Friday, November 6.

Come for a tour or spread the news around! Just let Patty Schuurman know!

Finally, our Winter Open House is on Thurs., Jan. 14, 2021 and the Spring Open House is on Thurs., May 13, 2021.

Fire Hall Thrift Store Update

- P. Haffenden

Things are moving slowly but they are moving as we work with the city to open safely. Here are two notes:

1. Great opportunity for purchasing winter auto safety equipment like booster cables and snow brushes! Fantastic early stocking stuffers!
2. Interested in volunteering? Please contact Paul by emailing 325@tdchristian.ca. We will need students to help when Fire Hall Thrift opens.

What's Upcoming?

Friday, October 30 is a PD Day for staff to assess how things are going and make adjustments in this new way of schooling. Students are encouraged to use it to finish Quad 1 work and to prepare for final evaluations.

Grade 9 Take Your Kids to Work Day is Wed., Nov. 4 (if plans for an offsite visit have been made). Because of the pandemic, we have set up Take Your Kids to Work Day activities at school for Thurs., Nov. 5. See the article later in the Fridge Door for more details.

Strategic Planning Meeting for Parents/Guardians on Thurs., Nov. 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. Identify ways to help TDChristian move forward into the future. To be part of and contribute to this exciting and significant process, email marg@tdchristian.ca for the Zoom link. This event will replace the High School Culture night. If you are interested in having the school reschedule this event later in the year, please email dykxhoorn@tdchristian.ca.

Last Day of Regular Classes for Quad 1 is Monday, November 9.

Note the following important changes made today. The primary reason is to provide four full days between Quads 1 and 2 as the cohorts will be changing. We also believe since this is the first time many Grade 9 students will have final evaluations, it is good to give them a Study Day. We will determine in Quad 2 if this practice will continue or not. Thanks for your understanding in these uncertain times.

1. Final Evaluations Days for Quad 1 are Tues., Nov. 10 and Wed., Nov. 11 BUT for most students Quad 1 will end on Wed., Nov. 11. Some students will be at school (no buses will run) on Tues., Nov. 10 provided they have obtained permission via their teachers and/or resource given their accommodations. On Thurs., Nov. 12, teachers will complete Quad 1 marking and write Learning Reports.

2. **Turnaround Day is Fri., Nov. 13.** Students stay home. Teachers prepare for Quad 2.
3. **First day of Quad 2** is Mon., Nov. 16
4. **Quad 2 Remote Learning Day** is on Fri., Dec. 4. This allows for the Strategic Planning Team to meet at school.
5. **Quad 2 Project Day** is on Fri., Dec. 11.
6. **Quad 2 ends** on Thurs., Jan. 28.
7. **Quad 3 begins** on Tues., Feb. 2 and March break will likely begin on Mar. 13 instead of Mar. 12.

Praise & Petition

- E. Dengerink/M. Laswick

Today, Christian School teachers from all over Ontario and many places across the world attended the Edvance Annual Gathering 2020, virtually from the TDChristian foyer (see Instagram #tdchristianhighschool). The theme was "Opening Doors." Please pray that much good may come from this incredible event.

Please pray for the Grade 12 students as they investigate, ponder, and plan for their post-secondary education. As they journey through this process may they feel strengthened by God's love and guidance.

It is challenging being a teen in today's culture. As our students navigate their academics, interests, social activities and the pandemic, we pray that they may find their place at TDChristian and make positive, affirming choices and when they don't, we may be able to help them learn from their mistakes, as we all should.

School Culture

- J. Dykxhoorn

The Good: Cohort Competitions wrapped up last week. They were exciting to watch and students enjoyed participating. See highlights and which cohort won in yesterday's Good Morning TDChristian show put on by the Grade 9 Pulse class. The live shows have gone very well; it is impressive that the class can produce live content having just started communications technology this quadmester! The students are always looking for more content. Edsby message Mr. Dykxhoorn, Mr. Buwalda, or email goodmorning@tdchristian.ca with ideas.

The Not-So-Good: We continue to have concern for our students and the amount of time they spend on their phones, and the content they are engaged in while on their phones. Despite the good that may come from instant "connections" phones create, there are also many undesirable consequences that occur. Distractions from learning, loss of face to face communication (and the issues this causes in relationships), and the dangers of pornography/explicit content at the finger tips of phone users, are just a few examples.

If you would like us to reschedule our Teen Culture night so we can share resources and converse about these things, email dykxhoorn@tdchristian.ca. Until we hear more from families, I recommend "A Tech-Wise Family" a book written by Christian writer, Andy Crouch. Here's a link to find out more: youtube.com/watch?v=Pi695iYXKKc.

Take Your Kids to Work Day – Pandemic Virtual Edition

- M. Heinbuch

This year the national day for the Grade 9 Take Your Kids to Work Day (TYKTWD) is Nov. 4. However, due to the pandemic, TDChristian will conduct the TYKTWD activities the next day, Nov. 5, at school.

Due to restrictions put in place for schools and many work places, especially in the GTA, the TYKYWD program has teamed up with the Learning Enterprise to provide a virtual experience. Rather than students visiting a place of work, the Learning Enterprise is bringing students the opportunity to visit up to four different career sectors (Health, Business, Technology and Skilled Trades) in one day through virtual tours and online interviews.

The TYKTWD experience gives students a glimpse into the realm of the work and career opportunities. Because the day is online, it is not as personal as a one-on-one day in a work place but students get to learn about four sectors.

Because the live program does not fit within our school day and we can get access to the videos, TDChristian has chosen to do the same activities on Nov. 5 in a manner that fits our school day. TYKTWD activities will be facilitated by Grade 9 teachers. Therefore, Grade 9 students are expected at school on Nov 4 and 5. While every student will have the same experience for most of the day, students will be given the opportunity to further examine the career pathway that interests them the most, via video research and post secondary options, for their chosen industry.

Written assignments associated with TYKTWD will be assigned to Grade 9 students who will be expected to complete and submit them to their teachers. Assignments will be included in Quadmester 1 class marks.

A final note: If, as a family, you already have a TYKTWD experience planned for your child, that is supported by your place of work, please let email marg@tdchristian.ca. Students who choose this option should still do the assignment with their classes on Thursday. If the experience is taking place outside your home and/or involves people from outside your household, we expect that COVID-19 safety protocols are followed. Please remember that if you choose this option, students will need to find out the work missed on Nov. 4.

Fall Food Drive for the Good Shepherd Centre

Thank you, TDChristian community, for the part you played in making the Fall Food Drive a huge success. The staff at the Good Shepherd Centre were thrilled when almost 500 pounds of canned food and non-perishable items were arrived. Thank you Evan and Mr. Terpstra for bringing the food and spending with the staff at the Good Shepherd Centre in Hamilton.



Transportation

- J. Dykxhoorn

Please let us know your intentions for where your child will learn from during Quad 2 if they changing from remote to in-person learning or vice-versa. This information allows us to determine who can learn on-campus and who can learn remotely. Cohort size depends on knowing this information. Email marg@tdchristian.ca and dykxhoorn@tdchristian.ca.

Finally, a reminder that masks must be worn for the duration of the bus ride and students must remain in their assigned seats.

From the Finance Office

- M. Rosie

A reminder to please keep track of your volunteer hours. Use the form on the Splash! Page or keep track on your phone and send it to me. It's helpful in case we miss something!

Board Matters

- Rodney Falconer

Twice a year, the TDChristian community is formally invited to hear from the Board and the Leadership Team about what is happening at the school. The first opportunity for the 2020-21 school year year is at the Fall Membership Meeting on November 26, God willing, 10 days after the students begin Quadmester 2. Parents and guardians can earn 2.5 volunteer hours for attending.

The good news is that you can hear what is happening at school from the comfort of your home. The Membership Meeting will take place virtually as we navigate through this pandemic.

Even better news is that the opening of the new building will be celebrated at the start of the meeting! It will be an historic event.

After the opening, the Board will discuss the school's current financial position, give an update on the Fire Hall Experiential Learning Centre (which includes the new thrift store), vote for two new Board members, celebrate the tenures of three staff members, and share an exciting new initiative involving the development of a strategic plan for the school.

We would love to see you there. Please mark November 26 at 7 p.m. in or on your calendars. A package including reports and an agenda will be sent to school families and TDChristian members two weeks prior to the meeting.

Volunteer Opportunity – Strategic Planning Prayer Group

TDChristian has begun a strategic planning process that involves many people contributing in different ways. The Board has formed a Strategic Planning Team and with the assistance of Chris Bosch, our external facilitator. He will engage students, parents/guardians, and staff through surveys and workshops. Our hope and our assurance is that the Lord will reveal a new future for TDChristian.

Members are: Jordan Kuyvenhoven (Board, Parent, and Chair of the Strategic Planning Team), Liz Blaauwendraat (Board and Parent), Steve Martin (Board and Parent), William Groot (Principal), Joel Dykxhoorn (VP and Teacher), Colin Hoving (VP), Judy VanSchepen (Teacher), Leanne Fernhout (Fundraising Manager and Parent), Meg Rosie (Finance), Patty Schuurman (VP and Admissions), Tim Buwalda (Communications Coordinator and Teacher), and Henry Eygenraam (Member and Former Board Chair).

As we participate in this process, we want it to be bathed in prayer. The Strategic Planning Team will be praying and devoting time to biblical reflection throughout the process.

We need community members (parents, guardians, members, students, supporters, staff members) to intentionally remember this process by gathering virtually or in-person to petition and listen to what Jesus is saying to this community about its future.

Would you consider being part of a prayer team that will commit to the following encouragements?

Meet regularly as you determine

Be open and available to the Spirit's guidance for the school

Receive updates from the Strategic Planning Team and pray over them

Provide feedback to the Strategic Planning Team on what you've heard Jesus say

The first formal meetings of the Strategic Planning Team will take place on December 4 and 5. In the meantime, there will be a host of consultations taking place with various members of the TDChristian community. We would appreciate the coverage of your prayers now and throughout the process, which we believe will conclude around the end of February 2021.

Thank you for thoughtfully and prayerfully considering this request.

If you wish to be part of this process, email Lynne Elliott at elliott@tdchristian.ca.

Grade 11 Mentorship

- W. Groot

This is part of Grade 11 English and Perspectives. Many first quadmester students have completed them already. Some are doing so today and tomorrow. To learn more about this program, read the previous Fridge Door.

Falcon's Perch

- C. Hoving

I will meet with other Christian Schools (OCSSAA) on Thursday of this week. We will talk about on what other schools are able to do and how that might impact our Winter and Spring Championships. We will examine options, if any, for them. York Region Athletics seasons are cancelled for the foreseeable future.

Since we draw students in from three of the current regions in Stage 2 (York, Peel, and Toronto), we continue to exercise caution by avoiding mixing students from different cohorts, even for athletics outside of school hours. We will continue to assess as changes are made.

TDChristian Clothing: TDChristian now offers an e-store year round with printing being done throughout the year as minimum requirements are met. Check the store at tdchsestore.com or click the link on the Splash! Page under Family Information.

Music Notes

- K. Hayward

Music at TDChristian is slowly emerging beyond the classroom. Grade 9 classes are learning the art of percussion and guitar technique. *Ascension*, our praise band, has launched and is preparing to make its first appearance in an upcoming "Good Morning TDChristian." At present, Jazz band, Choir and Concert Band are still "on deck." With much of the TDChristian supporting community coming from areas still under Stage 2, we don't expect to begin until 2021, if at all. We move forward with hope.

There are some opportunities for students wishing to share their piano or guitar skills. If you have some repertoire ready for performance and you are interested in playing in the new foyer (or in an assembly), contact Mr. Hayward.

Email questions about the music at TDChristian to hayward@tdchristian.ca.

Guidance Corner

- E. Dengerink

Colleges and Universities

- The Ontario Virtual College Fair is on November 4 and 5. Go to ontariocollegefair.ca to register. There are a multitude of sessions and possibilities to explore!

- Now is the time to visit post-secondary institutions for Virtual Fall Tour Days! November is the busiest time for Open Houses at Colleges and Universities. You can also sign-up for specific program information sessions. Check the Grade 12 Edsby Guidance Group or the university and college websites for dates and times.
- Christian University and Colleges in Canada and the USA are hosting a Christian College Virtual Fair which is live until November 6. Check out 125 college booths NOW through November 6 at VirtualChristianCollegeFairs.com. Starting on November 9, and running through February, there are webinars available which focus on specific schools, topics or programs. Registration is required.
- **Grade 12 Students:** Application time is here! You have received or will receive your PIN number in the next two weeks. This will allow you to begin applying for Ontario Universities during November and December. Guidance will hold an information session with each cohort so you know how to proceed. There will also be an information session for students applying to college the first or second week of November.

Contact your guidance counsellor now if you have any concerns or questions. Remember that private universities and colleges or out of province institutions have their own websites where you can apply.

Volunteer Opportunity: Project Tech Conferences is a non-profit organization that runs technology conferences for students in grades 7 to 12. Their purpose is to provide opportunities for Canadian students to experience and learn more about the exciting opportunities the STEM field has to offer, by connecting them with professors, industry leaders, and university students. For more information see www.projecttechconferences.com.

This organization is searching for volunteer ambassadors to promote the events to their fellow students and friends. The link to sign up is projecttechconferences.com/ptc-toronto-ambassador. More information can be found on Instagram @ptctoronto.

Shad Canada is a STEAM and entrepreneurship program for students in grades 10 and 11. Shad Canada's program attracts students with high aptitudes for risk taking, curiosity, excellence and resilience, and prepares them to take on social and economic challenges. The month-long program includes a real-world design challenge that asks students to work on issues such as food security, water management and waste. For more information see shad.ca/about-shad for more information.

Centre Stage

- R. Peters

Stage Door: The Junior and Senior Improv Teams are in full swing, learning "long-form" improv which can be up to half an hour or more! Our dynamic duo, "4funzies" (Mia VanLeeuwen and Charlotte Kiervin-Starkey) have created their own long-form called "Slay the Tap-Dancing Jellyfish," which they will be performing Monday, November 9 at 2 p.m. Email peters@tdchristian.ca if you wish to see their work of mayhem and madness.

Library Shelf

- J. Knibbe

There are several textbooks, classroom novels and a few library books still outstanding. Return any books that belong to TDChristian. Emails and/or Edsby messages have been sent to families as a reminder. Do it today.

TDChristian Archives

- J. Knibbe

Recently a former student shared an archive of photos taken at TDChristian in the 1970s. If you have photos or videos of past TDChristian events, please share them. We would be happy to scan and return them.

We love to keep in contact with all of our alumni and send them the @TDChristian quarterlies! Send your email address to alumni@tdchristian.ca. We are looking for information about drama presentations at TDChristian for these years: 1964-67, 1968-69, 1975-78, 1981-84, 1987-88. Any play programs, particularly for these years, would be great additions to the archives. We can scan and return any items that you wish to keep.

Croquette Fundraiser

- M. Laswick

It's fall and time for some comfort food. Next week 50 cases of pre-cooked, all-beef croquettes will arrive at TDChristian. Although a team will not be travelling to Belize in March 2020, we look forward to the day we can be together again with our friends. In the meantime, we will continue to raise funds and pray for them. Cost is \$50 for a case of 36 (we had to increase the price as COVID affected the costs incurred by our supplier). If you are interested in purchasing croquettes, email marg@tdchristian.ca to work out payment and pick up or delivery.