



# THE FRIDGE DOOR

December 5, 2019  
 Toronto District Christian High School  
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TDChristian Christmas Concert will be live streamed on YouTube on Thursday, December 12 at 7 pm. See back page for details.

## Nota Bene

- W. Groot

As autumn turns to winter and the temperature drops, many students (and parents/guardians) become increasingly concerned about marks. It's understandable given that future schooling options depend on good grades. However, I would like to point out that it really ought to be "about learning" (for service in the light of God's Word). If the work that we put into what we do focuses on that type of "learning," the rest tends to take care of itself.

How can a student *focus* on learning?

The Ministry of Education requires teachers to assess students on responsibility, independent work, organization, initiative, collaboration, and self-regulation. These are called **Learning Skills**; practicing and mastering them leads to good learning. A group of teachers defined these skills in terms of work:

- Responsibility (*work ethic*): students take ownership, behave with integrity, and accept accountability
- Independent Work (*doing the work*): students engage in learning, invest in the process, and use all available resources
- Organization (*ready to work*): students prepare proactively, manage time, and meet all expectations
- Initiative (*getting to work*): students show interest and curiosity, advocate for self and others, and take risks willingly
- Collaboration (*working together*): students function as a team to share work, and build community
- Self Regulation (*keep on working*): students stay focused, show perseverance, and exercise self-discipline

My suggestion: focus on improving your learning skills – the grades almost always follow. Besides, what employer or what parent or guardian would not want to have their employees or children exhibit these Learning Skills?

P.S. The Gala Committee hosted a wonderful community and fund-raising event last Saturday with the Dinner Theatre & Silent Auction that featured the school production, *Charlotte's Web*. Thank you to those who made the event a success.

## Project 20/20

- L. Fernhout, Campaign Fundraising Manager

**Project 20/20 has surpassed the 50% mark!!**

**\$3,012,000**

TDChristian is thankful to the many donors who have supported Campaign 20/20. We thank God for his blessings and continue to pray for the construction and fundraising efforts to complete Project 20/20! Below is an update of the gifts that are still required to make that happen, please consider what category you can be part of:

Gifts	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
Gifts needed	133 (of 160)	55 (of 64)	28 (of 32)	16 (of 16)	7 (of 8)	3 (of 5)	1 (of 2)	2 (of 2)

*The chart was designed in September to raise \$3.6 million – see numbers in the brackets. As TDChristian receives gifts, the "Gifts Needed" numbers will be adjusted.*

## Giving Tuesday

Thank you to everyone who participated in 'Giving Tuesday' this week! TDChristian will potentially earn an additional \$400 from Canada Helps. Here's what we received:

Fund	# of Donations	Total
Project 20/20	37	\$5000
Tuition Assistance (Bursary Fund)	17	\$520
General	26	\$1790

## What's Upcoming?

**Coat Drive** from now until Friday, December 14. TDChristian has been asked by alumna Gloria Vandekemp to donate new or gently used coats to the Church of the Redeemer in Toronto (our Grade 11 students volunteer there twice a year). We are turning this into a friendly Homeroom Competition. We're calling it "Cram the Closet" as we'd like to fill Mr. Dykxhoorn's office from top to bottom with coats, hats, mittens and scarves. Please reach into your closets and storage boxes and send items in with your children. The homeroom who brings in the highest number of coats will be treated to a breakfast of bacon, eggs, hash browns and juice. Let's outdo ourselves and give to people who need to stay warm on our cold, Canadian winter streets.

**Presentations Day: Wednesday, December 18.** Over 30 of this semester's TDChristian classes from across the grades and curriculum will be presenting their learning on Presentations Day. We love it when parents and guardians come in and see the presentations. Volunteers enjoy, evaluate and/or provide feedback on students' presentations; it's very straight forward. No previous experience is necessary. Earn volunteer hours by volunteering for the morning, afternoon, or whole day (8:45 a.m. to 2:55 p.m.). If you are interested send an email that says "I'm Interested" to Communications Coordinator Tim Buwalda at [buwalda@tdchristian.ca](mailto:buwalda@tdchristian.ca). He will email you with details. For an idea of what Presentations Day is like go to [youtu.be/C3WgmhpS\\_zo](https://youtu.be/C3WgmhpS_zo).

## Focus Day 4: Wednesday, December 11

Mr. Freeman's Grade 10 E-Block class will be visiting the Toronto Metro Zoo to learn about endangered species, the Species Survival Plan and to enjoy a day learning about animals from around the world. The class will leave by school bus at 9 a.m. after all the buses have arrived and it will return in time for students to take their buses home. Students need to dress for the cold weather as they will be outside half the time. Students should bring a lunch and/or money to buy one. They should bring snacks as lunch will be at 12:30 p.m.

Mrs. Tenyenhuis' Grades 10,11 & 12 art students will be visiting the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art in Toronto. The school bus will leave at 9 a.m. and return in the early afternoon. Students are required to bring a sketch book, pencils and a lunch (as there will be no place or time to buy food).

Mr. Klompmaker's Grade 12 Law Class will visit the Superior Court in Toronto. Students are reminded that they will be going through extensive security. Please do not bring or wear metal items (jewelry, etc). This is an amazing trip where we will see the things we are learning about in criminal law. We will eat lunch in the cafeteria so bring a lunch along or money to purchase one.

Mr. Kim's Grade 12 Biology will be going to the Science Centre. They will leave at 9 a.m. by school bus and return around 2:30 p.m. Students may bring a packed lunch or purchase food at the cafeteria in the Science Centre.

## Praise & Petition

- E. Dengerink/M. Laswick

Grade 12 and 5th year students are working on decisions for next year while managing their course load and their lives outside of school. Please remember them in your prayers.

Please pray for our international students. As we get closer to Christmas some are feeling homesick and others are trying to get used to the cold weather. May they feel the warmth of homestay families and friends!

## School Culture

- M. Heinbuch/J. Dykxhoorn

As per the Family & Student Handbook, parents, guardians, homestay parents and students are reminded that Grade 9 students must remain on school property while they are at TDChristian. This includes before school and after school especially when students stay for homework club, sports, Christmas concerts, or other TDChristian activities. Please help us by reminding them.

Check out the following items in regards to vaping:

- Netflix: The series “Broken” produced, for its second episode, a show entitled “Big Vape” which details the U.S. vaping industry, its rise and its use of nicotine as it relates to the smoking industry. Several viewpoints are shared including people within the industry, former smokers, teens who currently vape, and health professionals.
- For a Canadian perspective, the CBC has provided numerous articles on vaping. The most recent being a series entitled “Vape Fail” which, over several articles, examines the intention and outcome of vape products.

Our assembly last week highlighted some fantastic student work.

- Grade 12 English students presented their magazine issues which, as a group, Mr. Vriend described as the best any such class has produced.
- Grade 10 Art students shared via a slideshow and commentary the work that they have been creating.
- The Senior Show Period class performed a short scene of this years production, *Charlotte’s Web*.
- “Front of the Line”, a student-led grade competition was won by grade 11 students Leah VanZeumeren and Ben Lewis. Students from the winning grade get to jump to the “Front of line” on the next chicken burger day in the cafeteria at lunch.

**Do you have School Spirit?** We want to bring some community and excitement to the TDChristian Halls and classrooms. Spirit Week is Monday, December 16 to Friday, December 20. There will be a theme for each day. Dig into your closets and dresser drawers and get your themed clothing ready. Monday: PJ Day, Tuesday: “Twin” Day, Wednesday: Plaid Day (we know it is Presentations Day but students can change if they have too), Thursday: Ugly Christmas Sweater Day, Friday: Team Jersey/Gear Day (Hats included as it is the last school day of December).

## From the Board

- Peggy Raspa, Board Secretary

Hello from the TDChristian Board! Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us at the Fall Membership meeting on November 19. It was a wonderful evening where we celebrated milestones, learned more about experiential learning, and discussed new ideas and possible new directions for ‘chapters.’ If you were unable to join us, the evening was live-streamed. A record of it can be viewed at [youtube.com/watch?v=n1a\\_YfByA6E](https://youtube.com/watch?v=n1a_YfByA6E).

As part of the evening, after a brief history on ‘chapters’ and an introduction to TDChristian Community Hubs by Board Member Liz Blauwendraat, each table group was given time to gather, share and submit its thoughts using the following talking points:

1. Share the three most important aspects of what the TDChristian Community Hubs should encompass along with reasons.
2. Is a TDChristian Hub something of which you would want to be a part?
3. Is the TDChristian Hub “host family” a role in which you would be interested?

The overall feedback from those gathered was very positive! The top four reasons to move forward with TDChristian Hubs were:

- Foster a regional (local) TDChristian community based on where people live.
- Create better opportunities for car pooling.
- Provide support and personal contact to TDChristian families.
- Provide new family orientation support.

Over the next few months the Board will glean from your feedback and work at providing greater clarification on what TDChristian Hubs are and what they do. Our aim is to work towards creating Hubs that truly unfold, engage and empower TDChristian families to better help students learn for service in the light of God’s Word.

## Transportation

- J. Dykxhoorn

**School Closure:** The decision to cancel school is usually made between 6 and 6:15 a.m. A snow day notice is posted on the website and the automated text/call system is initiated so that families receive notifications via a text (cell phone) or a voice message (landline). If in doubt about a school closure, check the website, do not call the school. Please do not reply to the automated text as this incurs an extra charge to the school.

Because TDChristian buses come from many different areas the weather can be wildly different. Some areas may receive several centimetres of snow while other areas may receive little or none. In order to determine if it is safe for students to come to school, we look at and consider the following:

1. Accumulation in Caledon and Newmarket/Bradford, the locations of our two Parkview hubs. If driving conditions near either hub are unsafe, school is cancelled as having half the student body missing is counterproductive.
2. Accumulation in Woodbridge which makes getting to the school difficult or unsafe.
3. Decisions made by the Peel, Toronto, Caledon, Halton, and York school boards. If two of the school boards close or Peel or York do, there is strong chance we will.
4. Timing of the weather affecting the commute to or from school due to road conditions or poor visibility.
5. The amount of predicted or actual precipitation; a few centimeters on the ground usually does not in itself mean the school will close.
6. The type of precipitation: freezing rain, blizzard, fluffy snow.
7. Temperature: extreme cold weather alerts in combination with poor road conditions may mean that waiting at some of our stops is not safe.

Occasionally buses are late to school. If it is a particularly slow morning and several buses are late, the start of the school day and length of classes are altered to minimize the number of students who will be late to class.

Sometimes, due to weather alerts, we may decide to end school early in order for buses to get ahead of the potential traffic chaos.

Ultimately, if buses are running and the weather is bad in your area, we trust you, as parents or guardians, to decide whether or not to send your children to school. In those cases, students should access Edsby (check the feed, message the teacher or a classmate) to stay abreast of school work.

Teachers will post work for each of their classes for any further school closures this semester and starting with the second one in second semester.

## Admissions

- P. Schuurman

### Winter Open House and Celebration of Learning

Mark Thursday January 9 on your calendars for our Winter Open House beginning at 6:30 p.m. This event is for current and prospective families. We would love to see YOU there!

For current families, it is an opportunity to see and celebrate the work of our students (while earning volunteer hours). See and hear their learning, whether it is on display in the commons, the classroom, or during one of the four Presentations times.

For prospective families and guests, it is a wonderful opportunity to see and hear some of the learning that happens in our building - to possibly imagine their children at TDChristian. As they meet and interact with our students and passionate and qualified staff, they will get a sense of why Christian education is invaluable. They can also find out about our academics, transportation, fees, and perspective.

Please RSVP so that we know you are coming or to find out more by e-mailing [schuurman@tdchristian.ca](mailto:schuurman@tdchristian.ca).

## Mentorship (for Grade 11 students)

- S. VanEerden

The first semester dates for Mentorship have passed. However, if students are still working out the details of the project, they may hand in work as it gets finished. Please continue to communicate with Mr. Van Eerden while working through the process. The official dates for doing the Mentorship are January 22 to 28, though students may make other arrangements. Presentations will happen early in second semester and be applied as a percentage of the mark for each of the student's second semester classes.

## Falcons' Perch

- C. Hoving

The Senior Boys volleyball team had a great finish to its season at OFSAA two weekends ago. The team played some great volleyball and ended up finishing fourth taking the eventual champions from Smithville Christian to a fifth set in a great semi-final match. Thank you to Ms. Dibbits and Ms. Weening for coaching and to Mr. Dykxhoorn for his work at OFSAA.

Junior Boys Basketball have begun its season, playing three league games. Although winless in YRAA play, the team is improving. It had a great weekend tournament at Brampton Christian School winning two of three games.

The Senior Boys Basketball team has lost its first two YRAA games. It continues its season with a game this evening against St. Joan of Arc CHS. The team is also participating in the Senior Tournament at Brampton Christian School this weekend.

Junior Girls Volleyball has wrapped up its tryouts and begun its practices. League play is during February. The girls will enter tournaments beginning next week at Stephen Lewis HS.

Senior Girls Volleyball has had a strong start to its season, sitting at four wins and no losses. The girls hosted the TDChristian Invitational this past Friday, advancing to the semi finals before losing to the eventual champions from Thornlea HS. The girls are in a tournament on Friday at St. Jean de Brebeuf.

## Music Notes

- K. Hayward

The TDChristian Music Department will present its annual Christmas concert on December 12 at 7 p.m. It will feature *Ascension*, the Concert Band, the Choir, the Jazz Band, soloists and the Grade 9 Music classes. At the conclusion of the concert, everyone will have the opportunity to enjoy some Christmas treats especially prepared for the occasion.

Sound Check Schedule:	3:10 Jazz band	3:30 Soloists	3:50 <i>Ascension</i>
	5:00 Grade 9 Band	5:30 Concert band	6:00 Choir

Students participating in the concert (especially those in Grade 9) who are staying after school may purchase a pizza dinner provided for a nominal fee. Further details will be provided as we get closer to the event.

Students taking Grade 9 Music will perform that night. Dress for the concert is formal/dressy attire: black skirts or pants (no leggings, jeggings or yoga pants), black tops, and black shoes. Tops must have sleeves.

Concert Band students will have their performance evaluations on the Tuesday and Thursday following the concert. Details will be posted on Edsby.

Please email any questions about the music program to Mr. Hayward at [hayward@tdchristian.ca](mailto:hayward@tdchristian.ca).

## Centre Stage

- R. Peters

Our school show season wrapped up today with our final performance of "Charlotte's Web" for the entire student body of John Knox Christian School, Brampton. Yesterday, we had the pleasure of performing for almost 100 Holland Christian Homes seniors and about 120 elementary schools students from Halton Hills Christian School and Timothy Christian School, Rexdale, in the same performance ... pure joy!

On the improv front, the Canadian Improv Games season officially begins this Friday with our "X-Week" performance at Iona Secondary in Mississauga. If you have never seen a Canadian Improv Games show and are curious, we'd love for you to join us, and cheer on this year's team. Tickets are available at [facebook.com/events/2382106528585085/](https://www.facebook.com/events/2382106528585085/)

If you love improv, then DO NOT miss Thursday, December 19 at 7 pm. TDChristian will host our second annual "Christmas Invitational," with this year's theme of "A Hallmark Christmas!" We have FIVE Canadian Improv Games senior teams and two junior teams thrilled to perform for YOU! See our Black Box Theatre packed to the rafters with improv insanity! Tickets are only \$5. All proceeds go to our improv team as we aim to maintain our title as the top team in all of the Toronto Region (a feat only achieved twice in its history!).

Mr. Peters only has three "Must See" shows in the improv season: "The FireHall Show," "The Toronto Regional CIG Finals" and the "Christmas Invitational." See you there!

## Guidance Corner

- E. Dengerink

Grade 12 Students are encouraged to apply for university and college before the end of the Christmas break. Students who need assistance/have questions regarding the applications should speak with their guidance counsellor.

Students applying to post-secondary programs that need a portfolio should check the websites carefully for portfolio deadlines so they are not taken by surprise.

Students applying to Christian universities or university or colleges outside of Ontario must let their guidance counsellor know. Transcripts will have to be e-mailed or mailed directly to those schools.

### Scholarships

**Applying to Redeemer?** Students who do before December 15 will get a \$250 textbook credit for the 2020-21 school year. They apply directly to [apply.redeemer.ca/apply/](http://apply.redeemer.ca/apply/)

**Presidential and Chancellor Scholarships:** Student should check the University they are considering applying to for information on their Presidential and Chancellor Scholarships! Each university has scholarships unique to their school and to specific programs.

### Community Service Hours

Christmas break is a good time to get some community service hours done. Students need to get their forms signed and then hand them in to Marg in the office. The Splash! Page has all the guidelines and forms. Students should keep track of their hours on myBlueprint in the High School section.

### Summer Opportunities

- If you are in Grade 11 or 12, consider taking **EXPLORE**. This five-week intensive immersion program is adapted to all skill levels. It is an opportunity to travel, learn and practise French while discovering a new culture. The \$2,200 bursary (available to all applicants) pays for most of the cost. You could also apply to **Languages at Work**, which provides opportunities to work in a host community following the Explore program. Websites to check are [myexplore.ca](http://myexplore.ca) and [languagesatwork.ca/en](http://languagesatwork.ca/en)
- **YOUTH EXPLORE** is a three-week intensive French-immersion program that is offered during the summer for people with any skill level in French. Explore (ages 13 to 15) participants are awarded a place and funding which covers tuition fees for the course, instructional materials, meals, and accommodation. Participants will discover another region of Canada while learning French in classes adapted to their language level. Check [myexplore.ca](http://myexplore.ca) for more information.
- **SUMMER SCHOOL ABROAD:** Thinking of going abroad this summer and earning a course credit at the same time? Check out Blyth Academy International Summer Programs at [BlythSummers.ca](http://BlythSummers.ca). or MEI International Academy at [meiacademy.com](http://meiacademy.com).

## Library Shelf

- J Knibbe

TDChristian's Book Club will be meeting once more before the Christmas break. The next book on our list is *The Mosaic* by Nina Berkhout. Main character, Twyla, grows up in Halo, Montana, close to an air force base. She wants to leave town after graduation, but must first fulfill her 40 hours of community service. She is assigned to help Gabriel Finch, a veteran of two tours of duty as a Marine in the Middle East. Gabriel lives on his parents' farm and spends hours working in a decommissioned nuclear missile silo on the property. At first she believes he is a "Doomsday prepper," but then finds out that he is creating art on the walls as a way to deal with his PTSD.

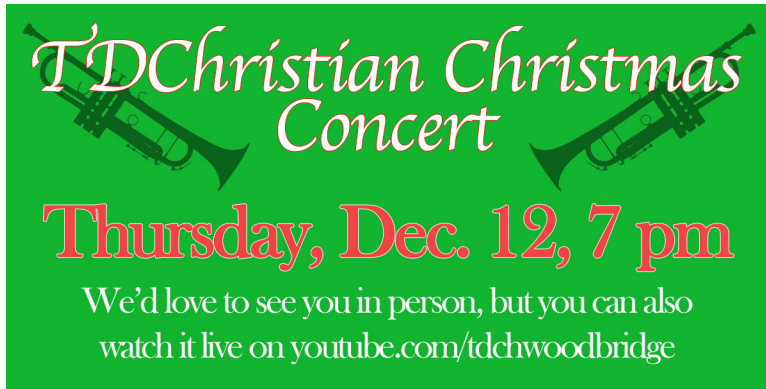
## Volunteer Opportunities

Looking to help students effectively demonstrate and explain their learning while earning volunteer hours at the same time? Contact Ms. Contos at [contos@tdchristian.ca](mailto:contos@tdchristian.ca) in the Resource Department. We are looking for parents and/or guardians to act as scribes (writers) for different students completing their Final Evaluations on January 17 and 21. In your email, please refer to the days and times that you are available (time slot #1 from 8:45 a.m. to 11:50 p.m., time slot #2 from 11:45 p.m. to 2:55 p.m.) Additionally, we need scribes for January 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Croquette Fundraiser

If you would like croquettes for the holidays, please email [marg@tdchristian.ca](mailto:marg@tdchristian.ca) and place your order. They are going fast. A box of 36, precooked beef costs \$45. All proceeds go to support our friends in Belize.

## TDChristian Christmas Concert



## P2C (Power to Change) Youth Conference: December 28 to January 1

In Toronto, in the middle of the Christmas break, discover a great opportunity to explore the relevance of Jesus in all of life, including future vocations. Students will experience four days of sessions, workshops, prayer, art, worship, and conversations. Check [p2cplus.com](https://www.p2cplus.com) for more details and to purchase tickets. Students from sister Christian high schools highly recommend the conference.