



# THE FRIDGE DOOR

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## Nota Bene

- W. Groot

My family and I love board games. Since Christmas is coming, here are some favourites you might like to purchase, give as a gift, and/or play: Bomb Squad Academy, Castles of Mad King Ludwig, The Settlers of Catan, Azul, Dominion, Ticket to Ride, King Domino, and Code Names. What I particularly like about Code Names is that it is a team game. People work together; it's fun to play with and against others. Generally, I prefer team games to individual ones.

Which brings me, ironically, to a game our daughter, Miraya, introduced to us a few years ago: Pandemic, a truly team game. No one competes against anyone else; all players win or all of them lose.

That's where we are in real life – a pandemic. We need to work together.

The Leadership Team decided that we should go to remote learning this week because our desire was to prevent a potential outbreak. The information we had last Friday led us to that decision. It was for the physical safety of our students and staff; we wanted to determine a path to complete as many days as possible in school by heading off a further spread.

We thank you for your support. However, as some wisely noted, we must be aware of the mental, emotional, spiritual, and social health of our students, too. Students and staff, generally, want to be at school where most of us learn better.

This week, as suspected last Friday, we learned of a third community-related case of COVID-19 in the school. It is classified as a probable case because despite testing negative, the student exhibits many symptoms. Please pray for the directly-affected students and families. Please pray for the Leadership Team as it sorts through this week's information to determine if it is wise and prudent to resume in-school learning next week, as outlined in Tuesday's Edsby message.

As we deal with our pandemic, COVID-19, I urgently remind you to redouble your efforts to follow public health safety protocols. Everyone needs to be diligent in order for school and our communities to be as safe as possible. When we return, the Lord willing, on January 4, 2021 (or earlier), we must help each other heed the public health guidelines to combat the spread of COVID-19. Students, as well as staff, must commit to supporting and, if needed, correcting one another.

May you experience God's love in Jesus Christ, as we celebrate his birth again this year, and as we begin 2021. We continue to look to God, our Rock and Redeemer, for strength, wisdom, and guidance.

## TDChristian Marketplace

The TDChristian Marketplace has officially launched on the TDChristian School Store (via the [Splash! Page](#)). The direct link is <https://splash.tdchristian.ca/store/product-category/marketplace/christmas-cards/>.

Order Christmas cards created by students in our art classes! They are arranged into thematic collections. Each box consisting of sixteen 5x7 inch cards (envelopes are included) is priced at \$20. If you wish you may pay more, as all proceeds go to **Kristina's Wish** which will fund retractable seating in our new Presentation Centre.

Order cards for this year on or before Sat., Dec.12, at midnight for pick up from Marg in the main office on Tues., Dec. 15.

Christmas Card orders after Dec. 12 will continue to be processed within 7 days from the date of purchase. You can do next year's shopping early!

## The Celebration and Dedication of the Project 20/20 Expansion



On Thurs., Nov. 26, there were two ribbon cuttings for the official dedication of TDChristian's newest expansion. During the morning assembly, grade 12 student, Natalie Glockner, and fifth year student, Kevin Hayward (see left photo), shared their excitement for the completed work and highlighted future opportunities.

Board Chair, Brad Van Laare, and Board Member, alumna, and parent, Liz Blaauwendraat (Class of '90), cut the ribbon during the evening celebration. Liz's devotions focussed on God's faithfulness through the years and generations. Live speakers included Brad, Councilor Tony Carella of Vaughan City Council, and previous Principal, Ren Siebenga (right). To hear their words, greetings from former Board Chair, Teresa Veenstra, OCA architect, Milena Belomorska, and Maple Reinders representatives Ken Kamminga (Class of '78) and Harold Reinders (Class of '83), and much more, view the event which can be found on our YouTube channel, [TDCH Woodbridge](#).

The evening was concluded with verses 20 to 22 from Psalm 33, read by Principal William Groot, "We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone."

### Have You Checked Out FlipGive Yet?

- Susan VanDenHoek, Parent/Halton Contact

The Lord calls us to be good stewards in all things and to use our resources to the best of our ability to further his Kingdom. Times are tough right now. However, helping does not have to be in the form of a financial donation. There are many ways to serve, big and small. Anyone who is not part of a FlipGive team elsewhere, including you, can help Christian Education at TDChristian by becoming part of our team.

FlipGive can be used easily for online shopping from any smart phone. Alternatively, people can print and use FlipGive gift cards as payment in store. Examples include grocery stores and gas stations. Using FlipGive is free. It does not cost anything extra. The best part is that using FlipGive ensures that a percentage of each purchase goes towards TDChristian.

Join now at: <https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?joincode=6KGYX6>

Questions? Send an Edsby message to the contact person in your area: Johanna DeGier in Brampton, Sondra Burton in Orangeville, Mary Fantilli in Toronto, and Susan VanDenHoek in Halton. Not on Edsby? Contact Leanne Fernhout by emailing [fernhout@tdchristian.ca](mailto:fernhout@tdchristian.ca).

Contact Leanne Fernhout at [fernhout@tdchristian.ca](mailto:fernhout@tdchristian.ca) if you'd like more information or to become a FlipGive contact for one of the following areas and earn one to two parent/guardian volunteer hours per month: Richmond Hill, Mississauga/Oakville, Woodbridge/Kleinburg/Bolton, and Bradford/Springdale/Holland Marsh.

### Fire Hall Thrift: Members Only Days Next Week

- P. Haffenden

We will be open to TDChristian Members, Alumni, Parents, Guardians and Home Stay Parents on Thurs., Dec. 17 (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.), Fri., Dec. 18 (11 a.m. to 8 p.m.), and Sat., Dec. 19 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.). To reserve a spot so that you can purchase items from our vast inventory, go to [schoolinterviews.ca](http://schoolinterviews.ca) and use the code "pbg8w". Bring along people from your "bubble" (the maximum number of people in your party is FOUR). You will be required to sign in at the door when you arrive, you must wear a mask, and you must physically-distance. **We look forward to seeing you!**

## What's Upcoming?

1. **Quad 2 Project Day** is this Friday (Dec. 11).
2. **Quad 2 Mid-term Learning Reports** will be posted in Edsby on Tues., Dec. 15 after 2 p.m.
3. **The Christmas Program** will premiere at 7 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 17 (YouTube channel, TDCHWoodbridge).
4. **Christmas Break** starts on Sat., Dec. 19 and ends on Sun., Jan. 2, 2021.
5. **First Day of 2021 at TDChristian** is Mon., Jan. 4, 2021.
6. **Quad 2 ends with a Final Evaluations Day** 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.

## Admissions

- P. Schuurman

We are accepting applications for September 2021!

If you have a child coming to Grade 9 or if you know of a new family who would like to attend this fall (any grade), start the process by going to our Student Admissions page found at <https://www.tdchristian.ca/studentadmissions> and then clicking on "Admissions Application." Beginning your online application is that easy!

If you have any questions at all, please contact Patty Schuurman by emailing [schuurman@tdchristian.ca](mailto:schuurman@tdchristian.ca). With the new expansion and our incredible staff -- you belong HERE!

## Praise & Petition

- E. Dengerink/M. Laswick

- Please pray for our international students. At this time, some are feeling homesick, wishing they could be with their families at Christmas, while others are still waiting to get their student visas so they can join us in person.
- Last week, Andrada Milea's 19-year old sister, Estera, died tragically due to heart failure. This is a very difficult loss for Andrada, who is in grade 9, and her oldest sister who is also in Canada. Please pray that God may be with them as well as Andrada's parents, her other ten siblings, and Estera's boyfriend, who live in Romania, as they mourn and grieve Estera's death. As Andrada continues to attend school and do her work, she asks for wisdom for living and strength to do her school work every day.
- Please pray for those who have family in other parts of the world who are missing the physical connections.
- Please pray for our seniors who are so vulnerable to COVID-19 who live in nursing homes and are lonely or feeling isolated. Pray for the staff who take care of and feed them thereby putting themselves and their families, at home, at risk daily.
- COVID-19 is taking a toll on the mental, emotional, and spiritual health of people of all ages. Please pray for the health of our students and their families. By God's providence, may we all get the support and love needed to stay safe and be well.
- Our Grade 12 and fifth 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.
- We thank God for the gift of Jesus, our Saviour and Lord. May we all feel and share Christ's love this Christmas!

## School Culture

- J. Dykxhoorn

Remote learning, even for a relatively (we hope) short time, causes some students to feel joy and others to feel heightened levels of anxiety and frustration. Earlier this week, a student reminded me that when David was in isolation and hiding, living in fear for his life from King Saul, Jonathan stood firm in his friendship. Read about it in 1 Samuel starting at chapter 18. Jonathan made a covenant with David because, "he loved him as himself." What a reminder of the beauty of friendship and of "being there" for each other. I encourage all of you, students, staff, and readers, to look for those to whom you can be a "Jonathan" – to reach out to others in their time of struggling.

Next week is our Christmas Spirit Week. It was planned by a group of students. We will celebrate it at school or at home. Read the Edsby announcements for each day's theme. We would love to see as many students as possible participate as it a way to unify us and to have some smiles. Send photos to UUploadit, our Yearbook Photo App!

Finally, we look forward to celebrating Christmas with our entire school community via our annual Christmas Program. It will premiere at 7 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 17 on our YouTube channel, [TDCH Woodbridge](https://www.tdchristian.ca). I am so excited for the student involvement in this event!

## Transportation

- J. Dykxhoorn

Despite the current cases of COVID-19 which have affected or will affect three buses, I am thankful that it is limited to three. It indicates that the safety protocols on our buses are working well. I encourage students to remain vigilant in their mask wearing and commitment to sitting in their assigned seats. While we battle the pandemic, I am thankful that we are working as a team.

## From the Finance Office

- M. Rosie

Tuition payments and donations to the school must arrive or be in the mail by Dec. 31, 2020 in order to qualify for a 2020 tax receipt. Cheques or cash received in 2021 will be put towards the 2021 tax receipt.

## Board Matters: Strategic Planning

- Jordan Kuyvenhoven, Board Member

The Strategic Planning team met on the morning of December 4; consistent with 2020, our plans were disrupted shortly after the meeting started with the confirmation of a COVID-19 case, the second one in our school. As always, the Lord provides. We were able to pivot to meeting online for the balance of the day and then, again, on Saturday.

In spite of the initial setback, the two days were filled with dreaming, challenging norms, and sharing insights. We made excellent inroads into creating a three to five-year strategic plan for TDChristian. During our next meeting on December 11, we intend to gain further clarity. Your continued prayers and support are greatly appreciated!

Finally, on behalf of the Board, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone in our TDChristian community!

## The Learning Commons

- M. Jaworski

The second quadmester is well underway. Hopefully, students are enjoying and understanding the material covered in their courses. Students, parents, guardians, and homestay parents are reminded that ALL students can come to the Learning Commons to study, to work and to receive help and support from teachers and EAs who are present.

1. **Come in person to school and learn here.** During remote learning, you have instant access to teachers and EAs willing and able to support you in doing your work and helping you answer any questions you may have.
2. **Attend Homework Club:** in person or virtually, homework help is available from Monday to Thursday from 1:45 to 3:15 p.m. Virtual Homework Club Zoom links can be found in the daily announcements.

## Music Notes: Christmas Concert 2020

- K. Hayward

In spite of COVID-19, lock downs, and remote learning, we are still working to bring music to you, our community. It will come in the form of an event largely recorded live at TDChristian. Parents and guardians of students involved in the concert should note that we are hoping to start recording on Friday. Most of them will take place in the new foyer, which sounds almost as good as it looks.

Questions about the Christmas Concert, which will premiere at 7 p.m. on Dec. 17 on our YouTube channel TDCH Woodbridge, can be directed to Mr Hayward at [hayward@tdchristian.ca](mailto:hayward@tdchristian.ca).

## Grade 11 Mentorship

- S. Van Eerden

Due to the pandemic, Mentorship looks different this year.

First and foremost, it is connected directly to the Grade 11 English and New Testament courses. Only students who are presently enrolled in these classes are required to complete the Mentorship project this quadmester.

Secondly, it only requires a five-hour placement, and the hope is that this can be completed in one day. In discussion with the students, we recommended December 4 (last week, Friday) or December 11 (this Friday). Alternatively, students may complete their Mentorship hours during the Christmas Break.

The Mentorship Project is due on January 6. Details of Mentorship can be found in Edsby in the English class library. Feel free to contact Mr. Van Eerden directly with any questions that arise.

## Falcon's Perch

- C. Hoving

Although the snow and cold weather is upon us, continue to stay active. Be creative: go for a walk, go for a run, spend time outside, or work out inside. It doesn't need to be fancy: sit ups, push ups, even yoga. Get yourself moving; move away from the screens and take a break from everything else.

When remote learning ends, look for announcements about the Ping Pong tournament. It will begin next week or after Christmas Break. We look forward to it as it's a wonderful competition and can be done safely.

## Guidance Corner

- E. Dengerink

Grade 12 Students are encouraged to apply for university and college before or during the Christmas Break. Students who need assistance or have questions regarding their applications should contact their guidance counsellor.

Students applying to post-secondary programs that need a portfolio should check the appropriate program websites carefully for portfolio deadlines and submit them on time.

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

**Community Involvement Graduation Requirement:** For students graduating in the 2020-21 school year, the requirement to complete 40 hours of community involvement has been reduced to a minimum of 20 hours by the Minister of Education.

**Literacy Graduation Requirement:** Students who did not have the opportunity to complete the literacy requirement in 2020 have been informed that: "For students graduating in the 2020-21 school year, the Minister of Education has waived the literacy graduation requirement." Please note that all students who did complete successfully will have it marked on their official transcripts.

### Scholarships

- **Applying to Redeemer?** Students who do so before December 15 will get a \$100 textbook credit for the 2021-22 school year. Apply directly to <https://apply.redeemer.ca/apply/>.
- **Presidential and Chancellor Scholarships:** Students should check the websites of universities they are considering for information on their Presidential and Chancellor Scholarships! Each university has scholarships unique to their school and to specific programs.

### Summer Opportunities

Students in Grade 11 or 12 should consider taking **EXPLORE**. This five-week intensive immersion program is adapted to all skill levels. It is an opportunity to travel, learn and practice French while discovering a new culture. The \$2800 bursary (available to all applicants) pays for most of the cost. Student can also apply to Languages at Work, which provides opportunities to work in the host community following the Explore program. Check [www.myexplore.ca](http://www.myexplore.ca).

**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 [www.myexplore.ca](http://www.myexplore.ca).

## Centre Stage

- R. Peters

Improv teaches flexibility and the skills to adapt. I am writing this update just hours after our first Zoom practice of the year – one filled with joy and laughter, even though we couldn't meet in person.

- We played games we can't play easily in the Black Box, where we need to wear masks, like "serious scene" where points are scored by making scene partners smile. It was so good to see each others' smiles again.
- We used being at home to our advantage by playing "show and tell." Each person had to go outside during our break and bring back an item to prove it. Thomas M. won by bringing back an entire tire!
- And we played games where the chat function on Zoom works to our advantage. "Most obvious" is a game in which one member asks a question with hundreds of possible answers. Everyone else on the team must answer with the SAME response in order to win.

We hope to be back in person sooner than later to gear up for this spring's modified Canadian Improv Games!

## Library Shelf

- J. Knibbe

**Outstanding Textbooks and Library Books:** Return any library books and textbooks that belong to TDChristian.

**Book Club:** Our next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2021. The next few books on our list include one with a dystopian sci-fi theme, a historical novel based in Scotland during WWII, and another mystery. We look forward to meeting again in the new year.

## TDChristian Archives

- J. Knibbe

**Photos and Videos:** Anyone who has photos or videos of past TDChristian events is encouraged to send them our way. We would be happy to scan and return them.

**@TD Newsletter:** We love to keep in contact with all of our alumni and send them the @TDChristian quarterlies! We encourage you to send us your email address via [alumni@tdchristian.ca](mailto:alumni@tdchristian.ca).

**Everything else:** If, while reorganizing and cleaning up files, your home, or a closet, you come across anything from TDChristian, such as Newsletters, play programs, graduation programs, posters, school clothing – in other words, just about anything that we could add to the archives – please let us know. Email [knibbe@tdchristian.ca](mailto:knibbe@tdchristian.ca).