THE FRIDGE DOOR

April 1, 2020
Toronto District Christian High School
377 Woodbridge Avenue
Woodbridge, ON L4L 2V7

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(905) 851-1772
Toll free (855) 663-6632
Fax (905) 851-9992
Website:www.tdchristian.ca

Page 1: Nota Bene, Project 20/20
Page 2: What's Upcoming?, Praise & Petition
Page 3: School Culture, Board Matters, Transportation, Admissions
Page 4: Falcons' Perch, Music Notes
Page 5: Guidance Corner
Page 6: Centre Stage, Library Shelf, Grandparent Day Information

Nota Bene

- W. Groot

Learning for service in the light of God's Word looks new now! We live in an world altered by the spread of COVID-19. The way we live and move is vastly different than when we last published the Fridge Door – so much so that, in some ways, it is a challenge to find words to express the depths of the changes.

We are learning in a virtual world, Edsby, and not in the classroom. We are two-dimensional "Zoomers" instead of three-dimensional classroom co-learners. Though we are bowed, we are not broken. Together, under a Sovereign Lord who is changeless, we move forward, seeking a rhythm as we forge our way forward each day.

While I do not pretend to know why this situation has come upon us, I do know that we must be faithful in continuing our task as educators with gentle perseverance, constant hope, and steadfast love. We are thankful for everyone reading this edition – students, family members, supporters, co-workers in God's Kingdom – and your efforts in working with us.

When events make us anxious, we are acutely reminded of our need for God's nearness, guidance, and care – things easily forgotten when things are good. It is times of uncertaintly, that the arts often flourish. It is when humans are faced with questions, pain, and hurt that they write, create, compose and produce amazing masterpieces.

People who have chosen Christian education have promised, in community, to walk alongside one another in all circumstances. At TDChristian, we have been given the opportunity, privilege, and responsibility to lead in learning. We do so with each of our families in ways that will help their children grow in as world that sometimes feels "like sinking sand." We are called to follow Jesus: because our "hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness."

Take it away Norton Hall Band: youtube.com/watch?v=EVE-xXFDOwg

P.S. Thank you to the many people who have sent encouraging messages to staff, Leadership Team and me.

Project 20/20

- L. Fernhout, Campaign Fundraising Manager

How things can change so quickly and affect all facets of life!

- While March has proven to be a very challenging month for fundraising for Project 20/20, it has also been a time when we, at TDChristian, have delved into donor development. It is important, right now, to focus our time and efforts on stewardship, contingencies, and connecting with our TDChristian community.
- It is essential for the TDChristian community to pull together during this time. Many families and students are struggling. A key way to help, for those who are able, is by making a donation to our short-term **COVID-19 Contingency Fund** which will allow us to allocate monies to the area(s) of greatest need (e.g. tuition assistance, staffing, online tools, and Project 20/20) so that in the short-term, we can continue to help students learn for service in the light of God's Word. Please go to http://www.tdchristian.ca/giving if you would like to donate.
- Though there has been an understandable slow down in fundraising for Project 20/20, we are thankful for what we have received. We move ahead in faith and know that God is faithful. Interest rates on our loan went down to 2.45%.

Here is a brief construction update on Project 20/20:

- Construction continues during this time, at a slower rate. Under the leadership of Maple Reinders we are complying with the requirements set out by the Provincial Government with respect to Covid-19.
- The front curtain wall (i.e. the glass) is close to completion.
- Roof top heating and A/C units are being lifted into place.
- The concrete floor for the front foyer is scheduled to be poured in April along with the sidewalks.
- Please pray for the Project 20/20 construction site, the work that is ongoing, and for the continued safety of the workers.

What's Upcoming?

Phone calls to all TDChristian families continue until Friday. A team of TDChristian staff members are working at connecting by phone calls to find out how you and your children are adjusting to virtual schooling, ways in which we can help you, and to find out ways we might improve by listening to your ideas. If you have things you would like to share, questions or concerns, please let the callers know or email feedback@tdchristian.ca. If you requested a Learning Dialogue time, the teacher will connect with you to determine a time to call. We appreciate the work families have done to remain connected via Edsby.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) will NOT be written this year. Next year's grade 10 and 11 students (the current grade 9 and 10 students), along with those who need to rewrite the test or write it for the first time will do so in the spring of the 2020-21 school year. Next year, we will be able to advise what the options are for current grade 11 students who need to write or rewrite the test. Once we know more, we will let parents/guardians/ homestay families and students know for this year's students. Thank you for your patience.

Grade 11 Service Trip: The trip originally scheduled for next week, April 7, 8 and 9 has been postponed. Tentative new dates are June 2, 3 and 4. We remain in contact with our partners to determine ways in which we can provide support and "be among" as part of the Grade 11 English and Perspectives classes.

Grandparents Day will be done differently on Thursday, May 7. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be meeting onsite. However, we are planning a way to connect with grandparents on the morning of May 7 via YouTube or other means electronically or by phone. We will mail or email grandparents as we learn more. Grandparents, please send your email address and/or phone number to marg@tdchristian.ca. See page 6 for poster.

The Grade 10 French exchange in May which had the Val-d'Or group coming to TDChristian has been cancelled. Students in Grade 10 French will be updated in their class if anything else is possible for next year.

Praise & Petition

- E. Dengerink/M. Laswick

We are very thankful that Virtual Learning at TDChristian is going well. It has been a steep learning curve for everyone but by working hard and together we are able to keep moving forward in learning. We are learning new ways to communicate and connect with each other. Please pray for continued patience, energy, and motivation as we strive to keep learning for service in the light of God's word.

We may not always know what to do in trying circumstaces, but prayer is essential. Please pray for the safety of many parents, relatives, and friends who are heath care and frontline workers. Pray that they may be provided with the tools necessary to care for those in need. Please also pray for our leaders and their medical advisors.

We pray for our grandparents who are in long term care homes; isolation is a huge challenge to deal with. Pray for those who have been laid off or have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. These are difficult times, yet we know we have a God who loves us, upholds us, walks among us and hears us! If you would like to share prayer requests with the community, please email marg@tdchristian.ca and we will include them in future Praise & Petitions.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Hoving on the birth of a healthy baby boy. Auston Brock Hoving arrived 5 weeks early, on March 6, Intramural Hockey Day. He is doing well. Big sister, Avery, loves her little brother.

School Culture

- J. Dykxhoorn

Thanks to the many people who have submitted content for our daily assemblies. They can be seen daily, usually at 8:50 a.m., on the TDCH Woodbridge YouTube page. Watch them as a way to learn how we start the day together at TDChristian. If you have content or submissions that you would like to add, please send them to feedback@tdchristian.ca or Edsby message Mr. Dykxhoorn. Thank you Natalie for today's contribution. Here are ideas of how you can contribute: encouraging video messages to staff or students, pictures of your student work, a video of yourself singing a song or doing another cool talent. Better yet, come up with your own idea.

Board Matters

- M. Janse

If anything that separates us from others, it's our sense of community as a group of believers to support eachother as we do life according to God's purpose. After this past month, this resonates even more. We are excited to be starting a new program for TDChristian Parents!

"Chapters" have been an important part of TDChristian through the years. They were connected to Christian Reformed Church groups that helped establish and grow TDChristian. We are taking that idea and creating TDChristian Community Hubs in geographical areas throughout the GTA in order to foster more local community within our school and allowing for some unique experiences. TD Hubs will be a way to become familiar with the parents and guardians "next door" to allow for possible car pooling, support, new family orientations,and opportunities to accomplish volunteer hours closer to home.

Look for an upcoming presentation outlining the details so that you can sign up to your region to support others and be supported in ways that you need as a parent or guardian! The importance of maintaining the connection with our fellow humans ensures a thriving community. What a better way than being part of TD Hubs that will help build and ensure a thriving Christian school.

Read more about TD Hubs in the next Fridge Door.

Transportation

- J. Dykxhoorn

It is certainly been quiet on the transportation front over the past weeks. Hopefully everyone is enjoying their new "commutes." Routes for next year will start being planned in the coming weeks. We will update you in time.

Admissions

- P. Schuurman

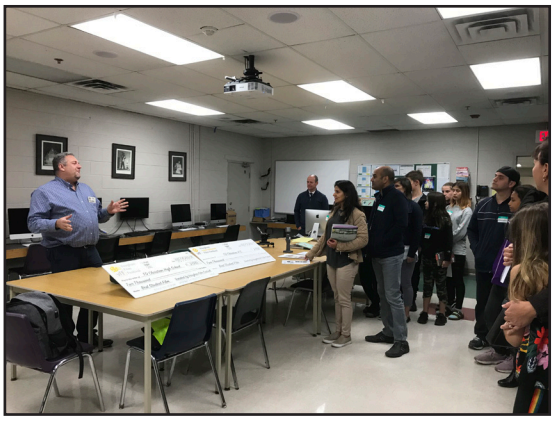
Despite a dramatic shift in our world over the past month and the advent of online learning which has changed how we teach and learn at TDChristian, we know that God's faithfulness is sure. Our Lord remains steadfast and unchanging. Knowing this truth, we are thankful and excited to continue planning for the 2020-21 school year. As we prepare for next year, your help is greatly appreciated!

1. If you have a child planning to attend TDChristian for the first time in any grade next year and have not yet registered your child, please contact Patty Schuurman by emailing schuurman@tdchristian.ca or by filling out an online application at www.tdchristian.ca/studentadmissions. Families who have used it find the process smooth. Please note that **this is ONLY for new students to TDChristian**. Families who are *only* re-enrolling current students will be sent paperwork automatically in May.
2. We are committed to learning for service in the light of God's Word. God is in this place. If you know someone who wants to be or should be a part of this Christ-centered community, please let them know about TDChristian. Word of mouth is the best way to tell friends, neighbours, or colleagues about what TDChristian has to offer. Send them to the website, have them email schuuurman@tdchristian.ca, or let Patty Schuurman know so that she can connect with them!

Here are a few things you can tell them about:

- The school kept going through virtual learning despite the recent pandemic.
- We run annual, meaningful service trips to Toronto and Central America.
- Innovative programs such as Grade 9 Science quarters, Grade 10 Environmental Block, Grade 11 Perspectives Block and Grade 12 Physics Block, Band, Choir and Improv are offered.
- We have a dynamite committed, Christian staff who are talented educators and relate well to teenagers.

If you refer a family to us who did know about TDChristian and did not attend a feeder school, you can earn ten parent/guardian volunteer hours if and when they enrol their child(ren). This is our community, and we are in this together. Thank you for working with us!



Falcon's Perch

- C. Hoving

It was another great year for Intramural Hockey at TDChristian. We had three teams with games scheduled weekly on Friday mornings. The season concluded with a tournament on Friday, March 6 at the CAA Centre in Brampton. Congratulations to Team Blue who won the final against Team Silver. Thank you to Mr. E. Vrieling and Mr. Terpstra for their continued work in running the league, as well as the teachers and staff members who supervise and play.

Junior Girls Tier 2 Volleyball wrapped up their season in the week before March Break with their final playoff tournament hosted by G.W. Williams SS. It was a great year of learning and development for the girls, winning games along the way. Thank you to Mrs. Van Schepen for coaching. Thank you to Ms. Weening for giving her time and working with a group of Grade 9 and 10 girls who practiced and played some exhibition games to improve their skills and offer volleyball to more girls.

The Senior Girls Volleyball team competed at the OFSAA Championsips in Walkerton from March 9 to 11 and had a great week! The girls competed as one of the top 20 Single "A" schools (500 students or less) and came home with a bronze medal after defeating Smithville Christian in four sets. Congratulations to the girls on a great season. Thank you to Ms. Dengerink and Mr. Dykxhoorn for coaching.

Although school sports and your own sports are on hold at this time, we encourage you to still be active!

It doesn't have to be much; a walk, a run, stair climbing, an online workout, shooting hoops or kicking the soccer ball around. It is great for both your mental and physcial health to give yourself a break and get moving. We encourage you to continue to glorify God with all of your gifts!

Music Notes

- K. Hayward

Learning Music as a group "online" is a challenging proposition but we are doing our best to continue to learn positively and with integrity. Choir meets on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 3:15. Concert band meets at 8:15 on Tuesday and Thursday.

Band and Choir students are reminded of the following:

1. All students are required to check in to these classes and complete the attendance tasks at the scheduled times
2. Attendance at Zoom classes is mandatory
3. Any absences must be cleared with Mr. Hayward

Concert Band students who have not picked up their instruments and music need to do so as per the instructions in Edsby. Parents or guardians who need to make arrangements to pickup instruments and music for their children are encouraged to contact Mr. Hayward if the currently available times aren't workable.

Choir parents are reminded that the Choral Festival scheduled for May 1 is cancelled.

Any questions regarding the Music program should be emailed to Mr. Hayward at hayward@tdchristian.ca.

Guidance Corner

- E. Dengerink

College and University Applicants

- Colleges and Universities are still processing applications – admissions personnel are working from home. If you have a question or concern regarding your application you can contact your guidance counsellor and/or connect with the university or college via email.
- Please continue to check university and college emails, mail and websites for information on scholarship deadlines, personal information forms, auditions and mandatory information or testing sessions. Some requirements may have changed. Missing a deadline may mean missing an opportunity to be accepted to a program of choice.
- Students should make sure they set up an account with each school to which they applied to in order to get all the information needed to make decisions by the provided deadlines.
- All Univeristy and College tours and open houses have been postponed. Many institutions have a virtual tour. Check out the campus and residence virtually to help you decide which school you would like to attend.

Grade 11 Students: April is the month when Mrs. Dengerink and Mrs. Van Schepen meet with grade 11 students to discuss their future plans. We will do so this year via Zoom. Please check your Edsby messages to find out when a meeting with your counsellor will be scheduled.

SUMMER IDEAS

Summer School information for local public and Catholic School Boards will be coming in the months ahead. Information may be out a bit later than usual due to COVID-19. Students can attend or take an online course to recover a credit or to take a new course. You must check with guidance prior to signing up for a course!

Studying Abroad: To earn a credit while studying abroad see:
- blythsummers.ca/
- meiacademy.com/mei-international-academy-high-school-study-abroad-programs/summer-travel-programs-high-school/
- www.edutravelforcredit.com/for more information.

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority is once again offering the **Boyd Archaeological Field School** in the summer of 2020 from August 7 to 23. This two week interdisciplinary program offers a Grade 12U (IDC4U) credit and a DCO3O Creating Opportunities through co-op. Days alternate between working in the field and in the classroom. Check trca.ca/boydfieldschool if you would like to know more about this exciting opportunity.

Redeemer University will be offering a one-week intensive summer research fellowship for high school students. Selected students will have the opportunity to research alongside some of Redeemer's science faculty and undergraduate students, unpacking real-world research questions and contributing to different areas of study. The fellowship is open to students who will be entering grade 11 or grade 12 in the fall of 2020. There are up to 16 spots available. See www.redeemer.ca/academics/non-degree-programs/research-fellowship/ for more information.
- Application Deadline: April 17, 2020
- Successful candidates to be informed: Early May 2020
- Fellowship Week: July 27 – July 31, 2020
- Costs: $150 to cover part of food and lodging

Centre Stage

- R. Peters

The improv team continues to meet (now almost daily) via Zoom. Physical distancing protocols throw a massive wrench into our gears, but we carry on bravely, because we know how to IMPROVISE! We are stretching ourselves through our learning in ways we never imagined these past weeks, and are excited about what this means for our team when this ordeal is over.

I used to run marathons, and a common tactic of runners is to workout wearing winter clothing or to run carrying weights ... and I believe our team is doing the equivalent; once we lose the impediments, we will be just that much stronger, faster, and joyous! We have also committed as a team to our final "Firehall Performance"; we just have to find out when. So as soon as groups are once again allowed to meet, we will send you details!

The "Alumni Show" has been cancelled this year, but we have two interesting developments to share:

1. Brenton Huxtable ('11) has offered to host an online alumni "Dungeons & Dragons" and
2. Divan Meyer is gathering a group of interested grads to put together a live performance via Zoom or Facebook Live. Check out our Facebook alumni group, or contact me (peters@tdchristian.ca) for more info.

Library Shelf

- J. Knibbe

In spite of the disappointment of having to cancel "The Final Word" event scheduled for April 9, we, as the TD-Christian Book Club, enjoyed our discussions of the 10 books that we read this year. Find these titles along with a short synopsis in previous Fridge Doors. Our group of Christian high school librarians are actively seeking titles to build the book club reading list for next year. If you have any great titles you can recommend, please send them to me at knibbe@tdchristian.ca.

TDChristian Archives

- J. Knibbe

Do you know someone who has photos, slides, movies or videos of past TDChristian events?

Are you in the process of downsizing and wonder what to do with your TDChristian yearbooks or other TDChristian souvenirs?

Do you have copies of our "TDCHS News Bulletin" and "TDCHS Talon" newsletters (especially issues from the 1980s)?

They would be a welcome addition to the archives. We would be grateful to get them but also happy to scan and return them to you.

Please contact me by emailing knibbe@tdchristian.ca if you have or know anyone who has any of these items.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY 2020: WE STILL HOPE TO CONNECT!!!

This year, we were to meet on Thursday, May 7 here at the school. With COVID-19, we will not be meeting in person. However, we are planning a way to connect with you that morning by YouTube or other means electronically or by phone.

We will mail or email you as we learn more.

Please send your email address and/or phone number to marg@tdchristian.ca

We thank you for your prayers and support and wish you God's safety and strength as well during this trying time in our world.