

# Prayer and Thanksgiving

## Thirty Days of Prayer

*"We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts."*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A Grade 12 student helps a new Grade 9 student open his locker. A teacher sits with a group of students to eat her lunch. A mechanic agrees to take on a Grade 11 student as an intern. Every day at TDChristian High School, we have so many ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts for which to be grateful. In short, we have many reasons for thanksgiving!

We humbly ask you to join us for **thirty days of prayer** surrounding our school. In this issue, you'll find thirty topics for thanksgiving and supplication specific to TDChristian; it will be a concert of prayer as we pray about them together. Our 21 homerooms, 45 staff, and 454 students will be participating in these **thirty days of prayer**, and we've invited our students' parents to join us. Many of our supporting churches and elementary schools will be praying as well. *Turn the page to find out how you can take part. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support!*

*"Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.*

*For the Lord is good, and his love endures forever;*

*his faithfulness continues through all generations."*

Psalm 100:4-5

# PRAYER and

# Thanksgiving

Grade 12 student and Prayer Group leader Katie Vandekemp

*Katie Vandekemp is a Grade 12 student and this year's leader of Prayer Group, which usually meets on Wednesdays during Period 5. We asked her a few questions about it.*

**Why have a Prayer Group?**

Because prayer is important. It's a chance to get together in a different way than regular school and to learn more about God.

**What happens at Prayer Group?**

Well, we pray. But we also share in devotions, and we sometimes watch inspirational videos; ones that make you think. We talk about spiritual issues.

**How many students come out?**

Anywhere from 10 to 40, depending on the week. We have students from every grade.

**What do you pray for?**

We pray for students, student concerns, families, our spiritual walk, things that are happening around our school, things in the news. Social justice issues too. We give thanks for things. Basically, the things people bring up when we meet.

**How can the greater TDChristian community support Prayer Group?**

Come and join us sometime. Or just pray for us, and for the school.

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.  
II Cor 12:9

# THIRTY DAYS OF P



## DAY 1

Monday, Oct 12

### Thanksgiving

Join us in thanking God for the blessings he has poured on our school time and time again. We thank God that 52 years since the school began, we are thriving, with over 450 students this year from near and far. We thank him that in our school we have the freedom to praise his name.

## DAY 2

Tuesday, Oct 13

### New students & Grade 9s

We thank God for all the new students he has brought to our school this year. This includes 96 Grade 9 students and 23 in Grades 10 through 12. Pray that those students will be enfolded and engaged in learning and make significant social connections with others at TDChristian.

## DAY 3

Wednesday, Oct 14

### The Board

We thank God for our dedicated board, which guides our school so faithfully. As our staff and board meet for their annual dinner tonight, pray for unity as we strive to evoke a strong vision for Christian education at TDChristian for the present and the future.

## DAY 4

Thursday, Oct 15

### Cross-grade homerooms

We thank God for the positive school spirit that flows through our classrooms and hallways. Pray for our "family-style" homerooms as bonds are formed and strengthened across grades as well as between teachers and students. We thank God for the opportunity to pray together.



## DAY 5

Friday, Oct 16

### Terry Fox Run & Walk

(Today)

Pray for our school and community members as we take part in the 35th Annual Terry Fox Run & Walk today. Pray for our Physical Education Leadership class as they organize the event, and for hope and healing for the many families coping with cancer, some of whom are in our own school.

## DAY 6

Saturday, Oct 17

### Fall Rummage Sale

(On today from 9 am to 1 pm)

We thank God for our dedicated volunteers who make the Fall Rummage Sale a success year after year. We thank God for opportunities to interact with our local neighbours as well as our longtime supporters. We are thankful for the wonderful atmosphere that weaves its way through the school this day.

## DAY 7

Sunday, Oct 18

### International students

We thank God for the 59 international students he has brought here from China, Korea, Nigeria, Vietnam, Angola, and the Dominican Republic. We thank him for the blessings they bring to our school. Pray for these students who are so far from home, and also for our dozens of homestay families who are hosting them. Look around; you may see one of our international students in your church this morning. Be sure to say hello.



## DAY 8

Monday, Oct 19

### New opportunities

We thank God for the exciting opportunities new technology brings to our school. We thank God for the work of our two enthusiastic IT experts, and for all the high-tech tools found inside TDChristian. Pray that students will exercise discernment while making use of technology.

## DAY 9

Tuesday, Oct 20

### Learning Dialogues

(Tonight)

We thank God for strong home and school communication. Please pray for tonight's Learning Dialogues, to which we invite students as well as their parents. Pray that God will give wisdom to parents, guardians, homestay parents, and teachers so that every student can meet his or her potential. Pray that students can find the discipline and determination to work to the best of their abilities.

## DAY 10

Wednesday, Oct 21

### Focus Day

(Today)

We thank God for Focus Days, where students have the benefit of an entire day concentrating on one specific subject at school. Pray for safety as students are involved in all kinds of activities today, including experiments, projects, service trips, and field trips.



## DAY 11

Thursday, Oct 22

### Internship Block

We thank God for our new Internship Block program. Pray for the 14 students in the program who spend two days a week working for a mentor in a variety of businesses and occupations. Pray for our community mentors as they invest so much time, encouragement, and training in our students.

## DAY 12

Friday, Oct 23

### Grade 10 students

We thank God for our 107 Grade 10 students and their energy, creativity, and joy of life. Pray for our Grade 10 Environmental Block students as they inquire in depth into what it means to care for God's beautiful creation, and for Grade 10 French and History students as they explore history, language, and culture next semester.

## DAY 13

Saturday, Oct 24

### Administration Team

We thank God for our Staff Leadership Team. Pray for Principal William Groot as he guides the school, serves the students, and inspires the staff. Pray for our vice principals Patty Schuurman and Matt Heinbuch in the important work they do with students, service, athletics, admissions, and transportation.



## DAY 14

Sunday, Oct 25

### Alumni

We thank God for our alumni. Pray for the thousands of them who can be found across Canada and around the world, many of whom are still connected to us. Pray for our recent graduates that they may know God's will and feel equipped for the next exciting adventures in their lives.

## DAY 15

Monday, Oct 26

### Transportation

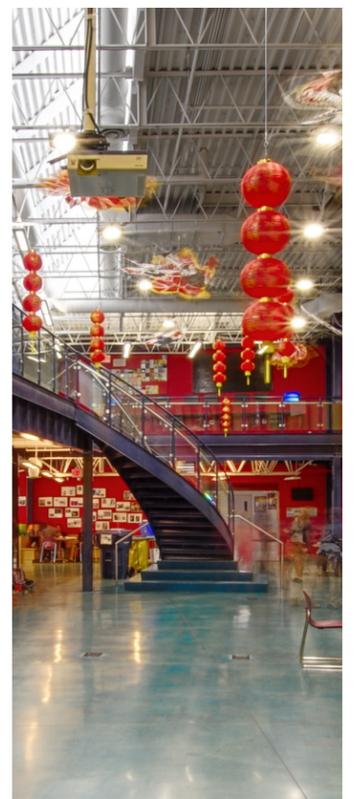
We thank God for our bus drivers, who safely and cheerfully bring students to school from all corners of the GTA. Pray for the transportation challenges our school faces as we seek to bring students in from as far as Mississauga, Orangeville, Barrie, and Stouffville.

## DAY 16

Tuesday, Oct 27

### Enfolding

We thank God for those students who readily enfold others, for our Guidance counsellors Alice Vanderkooy and Evelyn Dengerink, and for our personal counsellor Robyn Godber. Pray for students who are lonely, depressed, or going through a difficult time. Pray that our students will carry out the work of Jesus by deliberately reaching out to those who desperately need a friend.



# PRAYER

and

# Thanksgiving



## DAY 17

Wednesday, Oct 28

### Parents

We thank God for our students' parents. We are humbled by the sacrifices many parents make to send their children here, and we are blessed by the hundreds of parents connected to our school. Pray for our families, who must balance busy lives.

## DAY 18

Thursday, Oct 29

### Project Day

We thank God for making us curious, creative, thoughtful beings. We are so grateful for God's gift of knowledge. Pray for our students at home today doing projects for their Period 3 classes. Pray that we make good use of the opportunities to learn more about God's world.

## DAY 19

Friday, Oct 30

### Teachers

We thank God for the caring, involved, and passionate teachers who work at the school. We are blessed by their willingness to serve and to connect with students. We are grateful for the myriad talents they bring to our school, going far beyond the classroom. Pray for the teachers as they are challenged and invigorated at today's Edifide Teachers' Conference.



## DAY 20

Saturday, Oct 31

### Show Period

We thank God for the gift of theatre. Pray for our Show Period class as students from Grades 10, 11, and 12 come together to rehearse this year's main stage production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol". Pray for all the work that has to happen behind the scenes for a well-run show.

## DAY 21

Sunday, Nov 1

### Support Staff

We thank God for our dedicated support staff. Pray for our custodians, educational assistants, librarian, plant manager, school store manager, substitute teachers, counsellors, finance staff, and secretary as they all go about their tasks while being a part of so many students' lives at the school. Pray for our entire staff as we work to enfold, engage, and empower our students.

## DAY 22

Monday, Nov 2

### Grade 11s

We thank God for our Grade 11 students. We are grateful for the many talents they share with the school and the countless ways they are involved in school life. Pray that all of our Grade 11 students will find caring adult mentors to work with during our Mentorship Program in January.



## DAY 23

Tuesday, Nov 3

### Service Trips

We thank God for the many opportunities our students have to serve our neighbours and our God. Pray for safety, compassion, and empathy as our students travel to shelters, food banks, construction sites, drop-in centres and other places this year. Pray that we will indeed carry out the mission statement for our school: Learning for Service in the Light of God's Word.

## DAY 24

Wednesday, Nov 4

### Grade 8 Day (Today)

We thank God for the 150 Grade 8 students visiting TD-Christian today. Pray that they have a great day experiencing all that our school has to offer. Pray for the Christian elementary schools that partner with us in promoting our school to future students.

## DAY 25

Thursday, Nov 5

### Resource

We thank God for our Resource staff who work so tirelessly with many of our students, in school and at our after-school Homework Club. Join us in thanking God for the four decades of service given by our Resource teacher Cathy VanderHeide, and pray for a smooth transition to other teachers as she retires this year.



## DAY 26

Friday, Nov 6

### Assemblies

We thank God for his presence during our Friday assemblies. Pray for our Praise Team and our Pulse Television Show class as they prepare their regular contributions. Pray for all of our student speakers, performers, and guests who share with the audience. We are thankful that we have the freedom to praise God and worship him openly in our school.

## DAY 27

Saturday, Nov 7

### Future Plans of the School

We thank God for the opportunities our school has for development in the future. Pray for us as we plan ways to make good use of the adjacent fire hall property, and for the new courses and programs we envision including our new Fifth Year program, Bridge. Pray for us as we seek new partnership opportunities with other organizations. We thank God that the future is in his hands.

## DAY 28

Sunday, Nov 8

### Healthy Active Living Education curriculum

Pray for wisdom and creative insight for our teachers who are tasked with carefully and prayerfully implementing the updated Ministry of Education curriculum into our Phys Ed and Perspectives classes. Pray that it will be helpful to our students in developing lifelong healthy habits and honouring God with their bodies.



## DAY 29

Monday, Nov 9

### Grade 12s

We thank God for our Grade 12 class. Pray for our Grade 12s as they prepare for what comes next and as they listen for God's call. Pray for them as they demonstrate leadership in our school. Pray that they will not be anxious about their future, and that they will know they are always welcome here at TDChristian.

## DAY 30

Tuesday, Nov 10

### Mid-term report cards

Today is the day students receive their mid-semester report cards. Pray for students who are struggling in their studies. Pray for teachers as they work alongside these students so that every one of them may truly "Learn for Service in the light of God's Word."

### THAT'S IT!

Thank you for praying along with us these 30 days! **We ask that you continue to uphold us in prayer as we strive to help students learn in the light of Proverbs 15:33, "Wisdom's instruction is to fear the Lord, and humility comes before honour."**



# What's New at TD:

## CULTURE DAYS VAUGHAN

On September 26 a group of our students took part in Culture Days Vaughan. The public was invited to join us at the school to watch students at work and try their hand at painting, printmaking, photography, and videomaking. TDChristian's Improv Team performed at noon.



### CIVIX FILMING

In mid September, Civix, the national organization for teaching students about politics and voting, filmed our Civics students as they responded to the National Leaders' Debate. The finished video can be seen on studentvote.ca and will be shown to the 6,500 schools participating in the Canada-wide Student Vote this month. Our school will be holding its Student Vote on October 15.



### HOCKEY'S BACK!

For more than a decade, students and teachers have been lacing up to play in the TDCHHL. This year, 68 students and 9 staff members (male and female) will hit the ice as part of the TDChristian High Intramural Hockey League.



### LEARNING FOR SERVICE

Once again, Grade 9 students began their year with an overnight service trip to various shelters, drop-in centres, and food banks in downtown Toronto. We are always impressed by our students' enthusiasm, hard work, and empathy on service trips, and this year was no exception.



Serving and working in downtown Toronto

# Alumni News

### Attention Alumni!

Please keep us posted regarding reunions, marriages, births, career moves, and any other important milestones. Simply email [alumni@tdchristian.ca](mailto:alumni@tdchristian.ca). Don't worry if you're late in reporting – we're still interested!

### • Births

- Amy (Maas, 96) and (teacher) Joel Westerhof welcomed baby daughter Isabelle Janice on September 4, 2015.
- Jay and Christy (Huizenga, 95) Hayashi welcomed twin girls Kaylee Grace Hanako and Lily Lynne Mariko on June 17, 2014. The twins are sisters to Carter (2009) and Max (2011). God is good all the time!

### Upcoming Events 2015

**TDChristian's Terry Fox Walk & Run**  
Friday, Oct. 16

**Fall Rummage Sale**  
Saturday, Oct. 17  
9:00 am–1:00 pm

**Grade 8 Day**  
Wednesday, Nov. 4

**Alumni Volleyball Tournament**  
Saturday, Nov. 14  
9:00 am start

**Open House Night**  
Tuesday, Nov. 17  
7:00 pm–8:30 pm

**Fall Membership Meeting**  
Thursday, Nov. 26  
5:30 pm–7 pm  
*This is the same night as Learning Dialogues. Food will be available at 5 pm for those who sign in. RSVP to [cate@tdchristian.ca](mailto:cate@tdchristian.ca).*

### • Marriages

- Michael (06) and Kimberly (Janssen, 06) Beishuizen were married August 25, 2012. They welcomed their first child, Wesley James, on September 2, 2014.
- Bethany (Frieswick, 13) married Daniel Klassen on August 16, 2014. They are both currently attending Memorial University in St. John's, NL.

## GRADE 8 DAY

Wednesday, Nov. 4

9:30 am - 2:00 pm

**ALL GRADE 8 STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS ARE WELCOME.**

Lunch is provided.

RSVP: [heinbuch@tdchristian.ca](mailto:heinbuch@tdchristian.ca)



SEE YOU

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TDCHRISTIAN

WITH THE CLASS OF 20/20

## From the FINANCE Office

*Through the blessings of a faithful God and the thousands of supporters who give their prayers, time, and money, great things continue to happen at TDChristian every day.*

We are aware of the sacrifices that many of our families make to send their children here. That's why one of the main goals of the Finance Office is to help make Christian education a reality for those who desire it. Here are a few ways we do that:

- In the 2014-2015 school year we awarded \$650,220 in bursaries and grants.
- Our five-year average for tuition increases is only 2.28%.
- Families contribute 25 volunteer hours per year, helping to lower tuition costs.
- The school pursues grants, partnerships, rental income, and other avenues for funding other than tuition.
- We exercise strong financial oversight and controls.
- Staff, board, and school community take a positive and collaborative approach to setting staff salaries through the Contract Partnership Committee.

*We are also grateful for the fundraising work done by so many people through our local chapters and churches. Your gifts do make a difference. Thank you for your continued support of TDChristian!*

@tdchristian

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