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Embracing the Future

Graduates and Community both look ahead while celebrating the past and present

Embracing the Future: Project 2010

by Justin De Moor, VP Communications

At the May 8 Membership Meeting, the membership overwhelmingly supported a Board directive to begin a capital fundraising campaign for an expansion to the school facility. The members endorsed the directive with 97% approval after architect Roland Jonker delivered a presentation about a proposed expansion and John Meiboom outlined a campaign plan. Roland Jonker presented preliminary plans addressing the school's needs as identified over the past years by members of the staff, Board, and Association. These needs include new science rooms, space for the popular small engines program, more space for art classes involving different media such as ceramics and printmaking, quiet study spaces for students, and music practice rooms. The total estimated cost of the expansion is \$3,000,000. Principal Ren Siebenga shared the exciting news that a long-time supporter of the school had pledged a matching gift of up to \$1,000,000 over three years to kickstart the fundraising campaign. John Meiboom, contracted to lead the campaign after serving as Board Chair, outlined a plan in which the first million dollars would be raised in pledges by the summer and another million in pledges through a more extensive fundraising effort in the fall. The main goal is to have the necessary pledges in place to allow construction to begin in the spring of 2009. It is an exciting time at TDChristian as we seek to continue to provide students with opportunities and spaces in which they can grow, learn, and thrive. This is another important step in our mission to educate young people for service and citizenship in the light of God's Word.

Campaign updates are available on our website, www.tdchristian.ca. Watch for more information about the Embracing the Future: Project 2010 campaign in the September issue of @tdChristian.



On May 8, members and stakeholders of TDChristian assembled for the annual Spring Membership Meeting. In addition to the usual business items, this year's meeting presented the opportunity to remember the past, celebrate the present, and envision and embrace the future.

This issue of @tdchristian follows the same format. There is brief reflection on the school's past, particularly as it demonstrates God's faithfulness over 45 years. There is also a celebration of TD's wonderful present as a debt-free institution with stable enrollment and dedicated membership, Board, administration, and staff. Equally worthy of celebration are the 109 students graduating this month to take up their callings in many other places and ways. We wish them God's continued blessing.

Also in this issue is evidence that TD's stakeholders, unwilling to settle for a stagnant complacency, are embracing the future by working toward a building expansion. This process is beginning with the "**Embracing the Future: Project 2010**" campaign, introduced in this issue. Watch for more extensive coverage of the campaign, as well as the building expansion plans, in future issues.

Saloma Smith



Debbie (Smith) Sawczak



45 Forty-five Years of Blessing

Saloma Smith, a grandmother nearly 80 years old, reminisced about her family's involvement with TDChristian. She described first hearing about the fledgling school in 1963 from the Edelmans, whose son was a friend of her son David. David was entering Grade 9 that September, and when Saloma learned of the new Christian high school starting up in the basement of a Christian Reformed Church in Rexdale, she was excited.

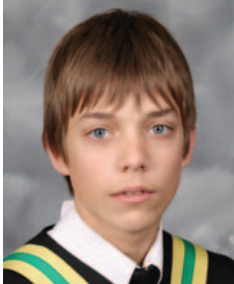
"Our church had no tradition of Christian schooling, but I was teaching in the public system and had reasons for being interested in a Christian school for my children," said Mrs. Smith. She described the first parents' night—short, dark-haired David almost hidden by the many tall, blond Dutch students—and how the words spoken there inspired her with confidence that her son would be taught in a Christ-honouring way. Many of the parents were poor then, but they knew their sacrifice would not be in vain. Mrs. Smith also gratefully recalled the willingness of TD staff to give extra time and energy to meet her children's academic needs, offering extracurricular classes in Greek and Latin. Her four children all attended TDChristian, and David even married a fellow student.

Saloma's daughter Debbie then shared her experience as a TD student in the 70s, almost the only one not of Dutch Christian Reformed background, and observed that it taught her adaptability and openness to difference. She appreciated that although TD was not pedagogically advanced in those days, staff managed to pass on a vision and cultivate genuine interchange with students. Debbie also related how, as a parent, she had been encouraged by the compassion and commitment staff had shown her own sons, Caspian and Luke, and how they had benefited from attending TDChristian. Her youngest son Aaron eagerly anticipates coming in September, having heard many choice stories about TD from his brothers. @TDC

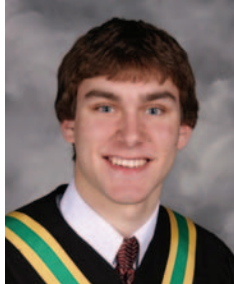
See "Reflections" continued on page 4



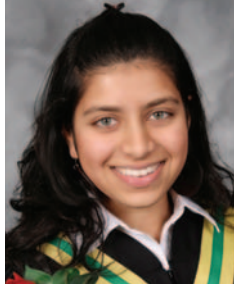
Jeneska Abano



Benjamin Adema



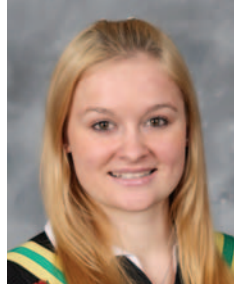
Colin Adema



Sephora Ahsan



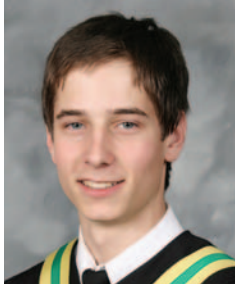
Jonathan Baker



Yana Barannik



Johanna Barrett



Stefan Bedard



Joshua Boyko



Kendra Brasz



Derek Broekema



Michael Broekema



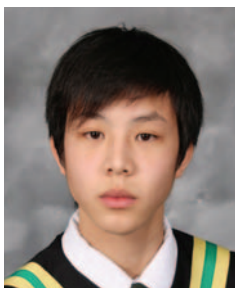
Aimee-Lee
Cascagnette



Laura-Lee
Cascagnette



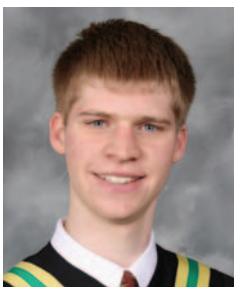
Jordan Case



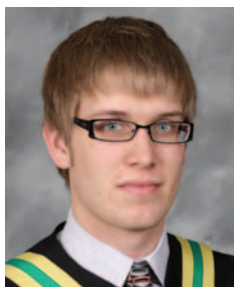
Abram Chan



Eric DeRuiter



Richard DeVries



Christopher Dewolde



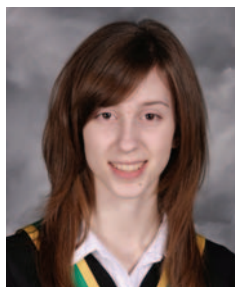
Jamie Doornbosch



Jesse Dykxhoorn



Beth Ellens



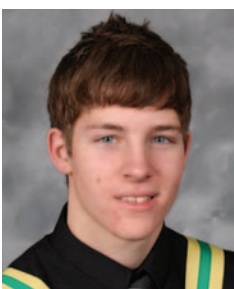
Kimberly Fiedler



Emily Giancola



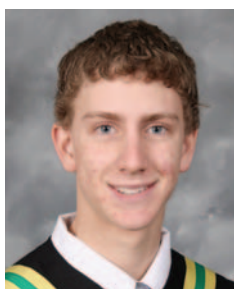
Nathan Kalk



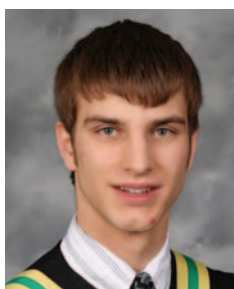
Sam Kamminga



Chelsea Kippen



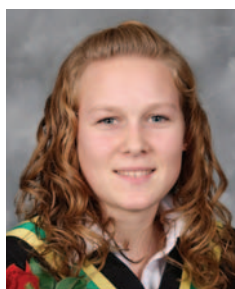
Thomas KleineDeters



Brent Knibbe



Elena Knibbe



Katelyn Kooy



JaeGyoung Ku

Congratulations! Class of 2008



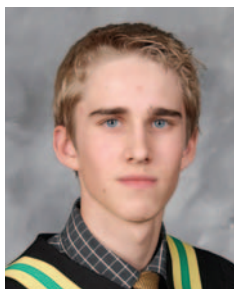
Robert Miedema



Greg Misir



ChanYoung Oh



John Olthof



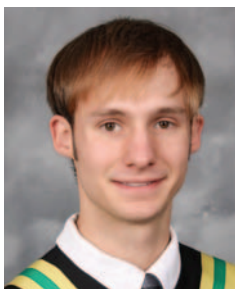
Ian Otten



James Park



Tae Kun Park



David Petrasovic



Phillip Roorda



Kyle Ryzebol



Amanda Sadler



Aleczandra Sallows



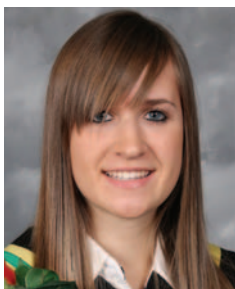
Desiree Sarris



Chantal Scholten



Julie Sikora



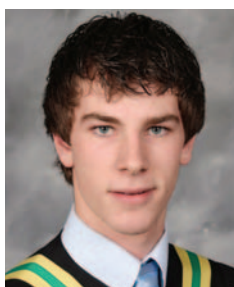
Chantal Sinclair



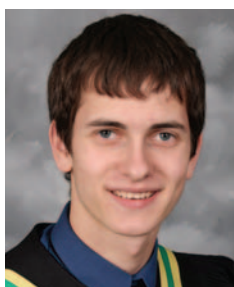
Meagan VanAndel



Kelli VanBolhuis



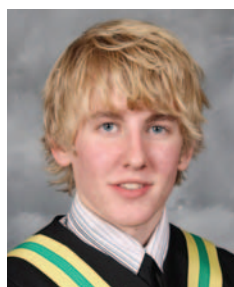
Jason Vanderburgh



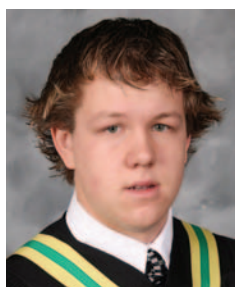
James VanderVeen



Monique VanHalteren



Philip VanTol



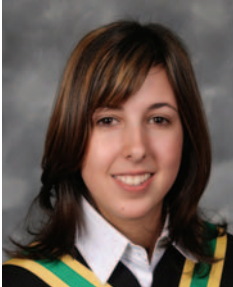
Matthew VanVelzen



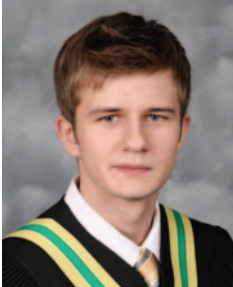
Emily Vellekoop



Charmaine Belder



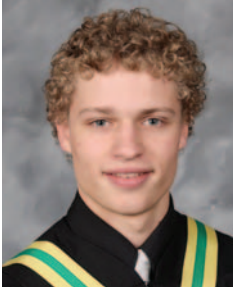
Alexis Bell



Jonathan Berg



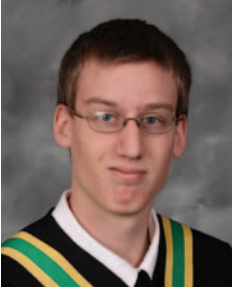
Brian Bergsma



Steven Biersteker



Jonathon Blydorp



Ian Boelens



Justin Boonstra



Jordan Chuba



Oskar Ciejek



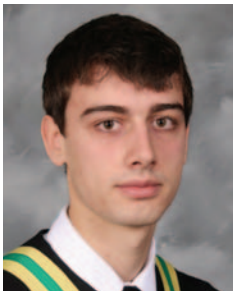
Samantha Cogo



Joshua Colucci



Bethany DeHaan



Peter DeHaan



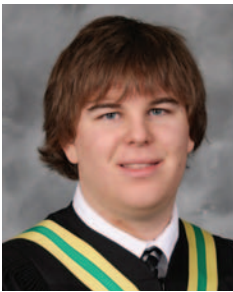
Jacklynn DeJong



April Dekkema



Remi Hazell



Justin Horlings



Pieter Huyer



Angelica Jacobs



June Jang



Yong Hwan Jin



Lenore Johnson



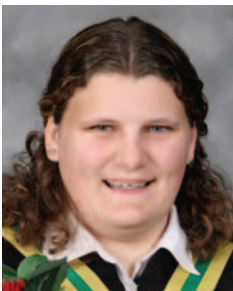
Claire Ka



Jennifer Lamont



MyungJi Lee



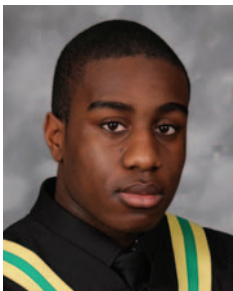
Angela Lise



Aaron Lott



Irma Mahmood



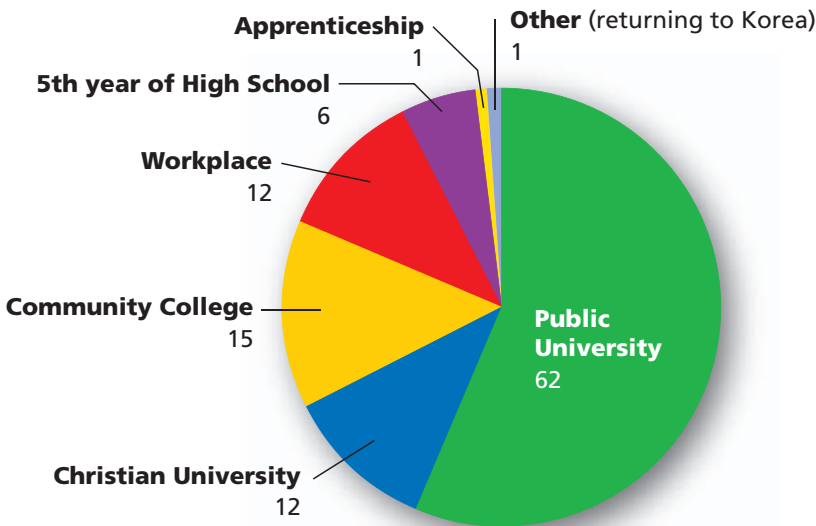
Tyler Manning



Emily Mau



Nicholas Meiboom



Where our grads
are headed
Total 109 Students



Andrew Philp



Rachel Postma



Jordan Radder



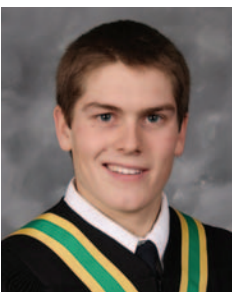
Molly Ratcliffe



Nicole Riedstra



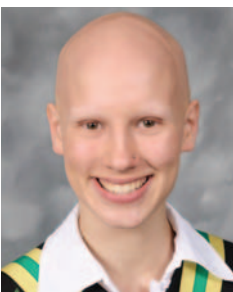
Elizabeth Rodell



Joel Roeleveld



Joel Roest



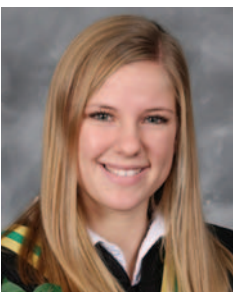
Kathleen Slofstra



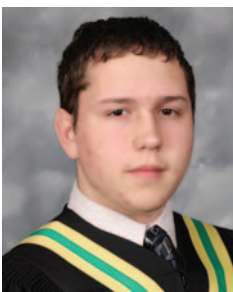
Il Hwan Song



Jennifer Steenwyk



Erika Straatsma



Michael Tughan



Tara Ubbens



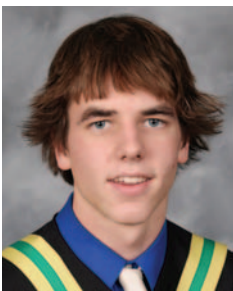
Samantha Ufkes



Aaron Vahrmeier



Rachel Vereecke



Nick Weening



Benjamin Westerik



Daryl Westerveld



Andrew Zondervan



Reflections

The 80's

Richard Vanderkloet



In the 1980s, TD was a school where clear boundaries separated different subject areas. We somewhat naively hoped that students by themselves would be able to integrate the various parts of their learning, inside school as well as outside it, with their Christian faith into a coherent and complete life. For the most part, teachers were expected to be the experts in a given subject area; their job was to deliver their knowledge to the students. I, for one, did nothing to alter this picture. It was comfortable, safe, and conformed fairly closely to what I thought a good school should look like.

Over the years, TD has become a place where we can afford to experiment with novel teaching ideas, unconventional instructional locations, and different relationships between students and subject matter. It has become a place where exciting and unpredictable things happen. It is a place where students are challenged and trusted with responsibility for their own learning. And it is thriving.

The 90's

Jerry Klompaker



On my first day as a student at TD, I was scared sick, my stomach turned, and I clung to a Grade 8 friend from John Knox Christian School in Brampton. But over time I learned that this place was safe. I learned how to fit in, where to rebel, and how to do school. And somewhere along the line, my faith and education began to meet. I was here from 1990-1995; there were a lot of lectures, notes, and tests, and it was a very typical high school in the academic sense, although perhaps slightly more rigorous than my other school options. My worldview was significantly shaped here. As a student, my teachers knew me; they pushed me, argued, disciplined, and befriended me. I loved this school as a student, and because of that, graduation was bittersweet.

I came back as a teacher in 2002. I see a school that is vibrant, experimental, academic, loving, and more diverse than in the 1990s. I see TDChristian as a school that embraces the "other." The administration pushes us to be different and try new things, but demands quality. I have totally changed my style, opinions, and methods of teaching in the last six years. I attribute that to the freedom and vision of our leadership.

2000+

David Robinson



TD held a secret for me when I arrived as a teacher. Although nearly every branch of God's kingdom could be found at this school, there was one in particular that seemed to pop up a little more frequently than others. It was called "Reformed". This tradition that I've since gotten to know is systematic, innovative, and community-oriented. There has been a sacrificial and generous spirit alive and well at TD and I look forward with great anticipation to the next phase of growth and the potential it brings. I have the pleasure of teaching in a place where we're told to "dream big". Great ideas that might wither elsewhere grow roots at TD and flourish. As a result, our students get to explore education in ways (and even places) that I couldn't have imagined a decade ago.

It's a beautiful thing to be part of a Christian community that wants the best for our kids and is willing to sacrifice to make it happen. I have no idea what the years ahead hold, but I do know that God will continue to be faithful, and that my own children will be blessed when they come here a decade or so from now.

Alumni News

Attention Alumni!

Please keep us posted regarding reunions, marriages, births, career moves, and any other important milestones. Simply e-mail alumni@tdchristian.ca. Don't worry if you're late in reporting – we're still interested!

• Marriages

- **Julie Buisman (05)** and **James Roeleveld (05)**, April 26, 2008.
- **Marcella Knibbe (01)** and **Steven Haanstra**, August 25, 2007.
- **Shannon Rypstra (98)** and **Jeff Vandermeer**, October 28, 2007. They are living in Rockwood, ON.

• Births

- **Cody (03)** and **Melissa (Postma, 03) Menken** had a baby daughter, Kendra Faith, March 5, 2008.

• Reunions

Attention graduating Class of 1979!

Can you believe next year –yes, next year–it will be 30 years since we graduated from TDCH! Are you interested in celebrating this momentous occasion, meeting older friends and classmates? If so, and if you are interested in helping to set up the reunion, please contact Ed Sikkema by phone (905-775-0792; cell 416-550-0033) or email (kema@rogers.com). Looking forward to seeing all of you!

CONGRATULATIONS, EVERYBODY!

Please join us for TDChristian's 2008

Commencement

Thursday, June 26

Bramalea Baptist Church
9050 Dixie Road at Hwy#7, Brampton, ON

7:30 p.m.
Formal ceremony

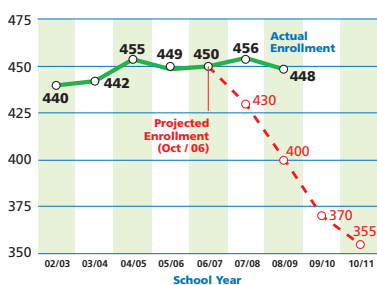
Valedictorian:
James VanderVeen

Join us as we honour these special young men and women.

How Student Enrollment Trends

are shaping TDChristian's future

Student Enrollment

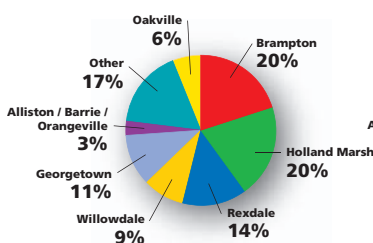


TDChristian's own detailed student enrollment projections had forecast a five percent drop in enrollment starting in 2007/08. Thankfully, it didn't happen.

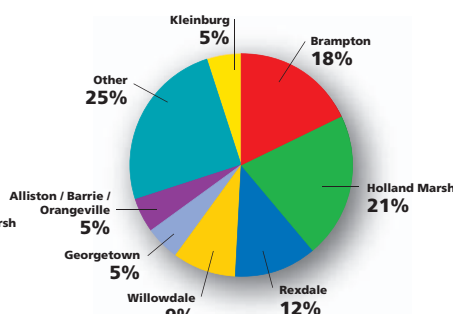
Instead, our student enrollment increased slightly from the 2006/07 level and is anticipated to stay strong for 08/09. There is increasing interest in the TDChristian brand of high school education from people beyond the founding community of Christian primary schools. This trend is encouraging as plans unfold for the new expansion.

Please join us in "Embracing the Future" through Project 2010.

Sept 1999 Enrollment
321 Students
(originating primary Christian school)



Sept 2008 Enrollment
456 Students
(originating primary Christian school)



Project 2010

EMBRACING THE FUTURE

www.tdchristian.ca



Students walk in support of cancer research on June 5 in the social justice class's "Live Free" walk.

The goal was to raise over \$4,000 for cancer research at the Princess Margaret Hospital.

@tdchristian

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demoor@tdchristian.ca

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To reach the TDChristian

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board secretary

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