

@tdhristian

HIGH SCHOOL

www.tdchristian.ca

Year 51 and Beyond!

In this Issue

Introducing the Box	1
Flipped Classroom?	2
Edsby Gets Better	2
First Harvest	2
<i>The Pulse</i>	3
More Tablets!	3
New Programs, New Spaces	3
What's New at TD	4

Our school is a vibrant educational community that offers many exciting and engaging learning opportunities in diverse areas of life and of God's creation. To help this learning happen, we remember that each person is created in God's image and deserves respect, love, and encouragement: *"In humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."* (Philippians 2:3b, 4)

In this issue of @td, find out some of what's new or happening at TDChristian.

What's in the Box?

An exciting development this summer was the building of a two-storey black-box Drama room. This room was built on the north side of the Commons, in the space that contained a costume room and chair storage. We asked Drama teacher Richard Peters to tell us about how we "got here".

Holding Drama class inside a curtained-off section of a Commons room directly beside a gymnasium was a challenge. My classes were bumped to other rooms when special events were scheduled. Kitchen and custodial staff were constantly entering and exiting the Commons in the course of doing their jobs. And anyone who has heard a ball being bounced against the shared garage door between the gym and Commons can attest to feeling like they were on the inside of a kettledrum. While it was beneficial at times to learn how to maintain focus in a room with so much noise and stimulus, making me into a better teacher and possibly my students into better dramatists, all the distractions eventually began to wear on us.

The new Black Box will be used as a...

...**Drama classroom**; this will be its primary purpose, given how many Drama classes we have. The bare black box allows for greater focus and incredible flexibility, with more opportunities to explore set design, sound, and lighting.

...**performance area**. The room's size and interesting layout, including the second-storey balconies, allow for intimate performances. It's the perfect size for our Upper Level Drama productions, and we can finally bring back Lunchtime Improv.

...**backstage area**. During last year's production of *The Sound of Music*, we made do with rudimentary quick-change areas. We had to do away with any big movements on the balcony stage right due to safety and budgetary concerns. As for the balcony stage left, let's just say I prayed every performance for no accidents. Many of our productions have seen some pretty creative ideas fall by the wayside because we didn't have the physical infrastructure to enable us to build sets onto a back wall and ensure a safe, well-lit, sound-buffered backstage where students could get into costume and make-up. This new space solves these issues.

In short, the new black-box Drama room is brilliant!!!

*"IN SHORT,
THE NEW BLACK-BOX
DRAMA ROOM IS
BRILLIANT!!!"*

(below) The black-box Drama room as seen from the Commons



Another YEAR begins at TDChristian

What is a "Flipped Classroom"?

The flipped classroom model is a relatively new educational idea in which the traditional class structure is turned on its head. In a flipped classroom, a teacher records his or her lesson on video, which the student watches at home. The "homework" is then done in the classroom, allowing for more teacher-student interaction and collaborative problem-solving with peers. The videos allow students to go through a lesson with their teacher, but at their own pace and as many times as they need to in order to improve or review their learning. Students in the "flipped classroom" can also use the Internet to find other video lessons on related topics on sites like the Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org).

At TDChristian, teachers David Hagen and John Templeton often use the flipped classroom model. They create their own video lessons to teach Math to their students. Teacher David Robinson has created a series of videos for the Electricity unit of Grade 9 Science.

"I like it (the flipped classroom) better because we actually have the teacher when we need him, when we're in class working through the problems," says Grade 12 student Courtney Boelens. "It's easier than struggling through the homework at home when you're on your own."

EDSBY Gets Better and Better

You ask your teen, "What did you learn at school today?" "Nothing," is often the reply. However, Edsby tells a different story.

Edsby is our in-depth, student-parent-teacher, cloud-based information system. Each student can access Edsby to find class notes, reminders from teachers, grade information, school news, and other things. Teachers take attendance, do grading, attach handouts, and post their assignments on Edsby; students can also hand in many assignments directly through Edsby. Parents can access the system as well, even from a mobile phone, to get a clearer idea of what's going on in their teens' classes.

Edsby started in 2010 as a brand-new product created by a Canadian company called CoreFour. When the company went looking for a test school, CoreFour web developer and TD alumnus Robin Wallar suggested TDChristian. Because TD was the first school to implement Edsby, our staff has had a pivotal role in shaping, tweaking, and improving the platform—a role that continues to this day.

Edsby continues to evolve and is becoming increasingly robust; CoreFour has many new social learning initiatives planned for the future, and we will be there to help them in that development. Now running in more than 200 schools, Edsby was recently named winner of the 2013 "Start Me Up Innovation Campaign" by *Backbone* magazine. "Edsby and the team behind it impressed the judges at the campaign's competitive live pitch-off. Held May 6 in Toronto at the TMX Gallery of the Toronto Stock Exchange, the event was the culmination of months of work and multiple judging rounds." ("Edsby Takes Home the Top Prize", *Backbone*, June 6, 2013)



Community Garden Enjoys First Harvest

Last June, Vaughan Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua officially opened TDChristian's community garden. Maintained by our Grade 10 Environmental Block students as well as several members of the local community, the garden produced its first harvest this summer. Food was donated to both the Vaughan Hospice and the Vaughan Community Food Bank. Another harvest is expected later this fall.



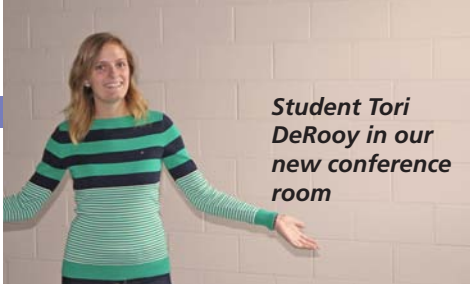
Students Melissa Bruinooge and Hanna Sikkema tend TDChristian's community gardens.

Food was donated to both the Vaughan Hospice and the Vaughan Community Food Bank.





The Pulse control room



Student Tori DeRooy in our new conference room



Students Avery Germain and Chris Henein look out from Mr. Bentum's new office.

The Pulse Stays on the Story!



In TV lingo, our school's television show *The Pulse* has been renewed for a second season! The Pulse class is made up of Grade 9 students who write, shoot, edit, and produce a television show that covers what's happening at TDChristian. It's seen at assemblies and on the web. After students spend several weeks creating segments and crafting stories, the show is assembled live-to-tape in our new control room and updated green-screen studio. "What makes the learning so effective is the instant feedback we get from showing our work to a live audience," says video teacher Tim Buwalda. "Students work harder because no one wants to have a bad show."

New Office Space

The school's south entrance is currently undergoing a facelift: a new office is being constructed above the entrance for Vice-Principal Tim Bentum. This is in preparation for the arrival of our newest Vice-Principal, Patty Schuurman, who will come to us from Oakville's John Knox Christian School in January.

Introducing FOCUS DAYS!

Sometimes there just isn't enough time in a single period to get everything done! Starting this year, each course will get its own Focus Day once per semester. For example, a student taking Grade 11 English will spend one entire school day involved in Grade 11 English activities. This gives teachers a great deal of flexibility, allowing for different kinds of learning, projects, and even trips, without the problem of students missing other classes! In a future issue, we'll tell you more about what our classes are up to on Focus Days.

Greater Tablet Rollout

The tablet pilot program continues this year as all Grade 11 students begin using a brand-new Google Nexus 7-inch tablet as part of their learning. The tablets come loaded with office software, a full graphing calculator, and numerous educational apps; future plans may include moving from physical to digital textbooks. The tablets allow students more and faster ways to connect to their teachers, course notes, assignments, and information related to whatever subject they are studying. The tablets will be maintained and managed by the TDChristian Tech Department in the sense that the apps are curated by the school; apart from that, the students will use and take care of them as if they were their own. The intent is to help students improve their education in the present while preparing for the future.



New Courses Going Strong

Last year, several new courses made their debut at TD. In Grade 11 and 12 *Photography*, students learn to balance art and technique as they strive to capture just the right image. This year, teacher Phil Vriend is looking for opportunities for his students to serve others through photography; if you know of an organization, club, or charity he could connect with, please email him at vriend@tdchristian.ca.

Show Period brings students together from a number of grades to put on a major drama production for the school. Last year's class took on the challenge of mounting a full-scale production of *The Sound of Music*. This year's class will be presenting *Anne of Green Gables* (not a musical) from June 5-7, 2014.

Drawing on elements of biology, chemistry, physics, and math, *Earth and Space Science* is where students explore the earth and its place in the universe. The highlight of the course is the annual field research trip to Algonquin Park, which happens in mid-to-late September. "Learning from the back of a canoe always trumps learning from a desk," says teacher David Robinson.



Photography studio work

Online Courses

For the first time, TDChristian is offering its own online courses! Students can sign up for Grade 12 Advanced Functions with Mr. John Templeton and/or Grade 12 Studies in Literature with Mr. Sean Van Eerden. These online courses allow students to learn weekly class material whenever it best fits their schedule. Today's technology allows students to learn through videos posted by our teachers through Edsby, discuss content with other students and their teachers over the Internet, and receive assignments and notes digitally. Students outside TDChristian may also enrol in these courses, which are scheduled from September 9 to January 29.

Guidance Office Gains Space

TDChristian's Guidance office is a warm and inviting place, but the space has often been a little tight. Over the summer a second floor was added above half of the school's wood shop, allowing the adjacent Guidance department to gain three new spaces: two private one-on-one offices plus a conference room to hold small group meetings.



Guidance teacher Alice Vanderkooy in the newly renovated Guidance department offices

Sports Field Renewal Project

The school is renewing its cooperative agreement with the City of Vaughan for use of our sports field in the valley behind the school. Part of the agreement includes the revitalization of the field; the City has been busy slit-seeding and fertilizing it this summer. Future plans include improved levelling, grading, and drainage.

What's Happening with the Fire Hall?

Currently there are no new details to report. However, we anticipate providing a detailed fire hall update in a future issue of @TD, likely next spring.



Paddle mementos of Algonquin Park field research trips

What's New at TD:



MRS. ROBYN GODBER HAS JOINED THE TDCHRISTIAN STAFF AS OUR NEW PERSONAL COUNSELLOR



Robyn holds a Masters degree in Counselling, a B.A. in Psychology, and a diploma in Child and Youth Work. She has worked as a counsellor in many settings and currently operates a private practice in child, youth, and family therapy. Robyn is available to meet with any student who finds himself or herself in a difficult situation or would just like someone to talk to. Robyn is the proud mom of Elijah and Kara, and is married to

TDChristian teacher Kevin Godber. "I'm really excited to be back in a school environment again," says Robyn. "I am so impressed with the community atmosphere at TDChristian, and I'm looking forward to getting to know the students and supporting them with some of the challenges they face."

GRADE 9 STUDENTS DISCOVER SCHOOL'S MISSION FIRSTHAND

For Grade 9 students, the school year began once again with a two-day service trip to downtown Toronto. Students served food, sorted donations, made beds, and learned about poverty. In addition to having a great bonding experience, students were



given the opportunity to discover firsthand the meaning of the school's mission statement, "Educating teens for service in the light of God's Word."

TDCHRISTIAN, PART OF "DOORS OPEN VAUGHAN" ONCE AGAIN

On Saturday, September 28, TDChristian was once again a tour stop of Doors Open Vaughan. Our Grade 10 Environmental Block students enthusiastically led public tours, pointing out our school's many green features inside and out.

A NOTE FROM THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Did you know? Since 2010:

- We have helped families reduce tuition with \$370,000 in bursaries.
- 72% of our families qualified for discounts on tuition (children also in Christian elementary school, long term supporters, or both).
- 38 families have hosted international students from China. For many families, the monthly homestay fee has helped with their tuition.

We work hard to make Christian education a reality for families who desire it.

GRADE 8 DAY

Experience a day in the life of TD!
All Grade 8s (and parents) are invited.
Lunch is provided.

Wednesday, October 30

For details and to register, email Tim Bentum at bentum@tdchristian.ca.

10.30.13

Have a Gr8 Day!

{ Class of 2018 }



Alumni 50 stories

To celebrate five decades of TDChristian, we've been collecting dozens of fascinating alumni stories! You can read them online—or better yet, submit your own story!

For details, look for the "Alumni Stories" tab when you go to www.tdchristian.ca.

Your Local TDChristian Chapter

Alumni News td

Attention Alumni!

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

• Marriages

- Stefanie Ligterink (05) and Brian Johnson, August 25, 2012.
- Elisha Wielinga (11) and Natalie Hartman, August 30, 2013, in Carson City, Nevada. The happy couple will be living at Fair Havens Christian Camp until Elisha finds more permanent work. He graduated from Metalworks Institute this past summer.

• Births

- Allison (Olthof, 05) and Paul Dekker were blessed with their first child, Bennett Solomon William, September 15, 2012. The Dekkers live in Hamilton, ON, where Allison teaches Grade 6 at Calvin Christian School.
- Brian and Stephanie (de Boer, 03) McKenzie and big sister Audrey Renee welcomed Georgia Grace on June 30, 2012.
- Matt (02) and Hollie (Scholten, 04) Hollander had their first child, Bryce Berend, on January 24, 2013.
- Kyle (03) and Leah (Hoving, 06) Venema had a baby girl, Brianna Madelyn, on October 27, 2012.

Upcoming Events 2013

Grade 11/12 Quesbec trip
October 4-10

Grade 11 Toronto Service Trip #1
(Semester 1 English students)
October 8-11

Fall Rummage Sale & Silent Auction
October 19 (9 am to 1 pm)

Grade 8 Day
October 30

TD Alumni Volleyball Tournaments
November 9
(contact dengerink@tdchristian.ca)

- David (03) and Debbie (Miedema, 05) Dietrich were blessed with their first baby, Charlie David, on January 25, 2013.
- Jake and Jackie (Miedema, 03) VanDam welcomed their second child, Nadine Hope, on January 27, 2013.

- Ben (04) and Erin (Hesselink, 04) Vandenberg welcomed their first child, Dylan Rudy, on December 13, 2012.

• Updates

- Gilbert Huizinga (67), who attended TD the first year it opened in the basement of the Second Christian Reformed Church in Weston, now lives in Belleville, ON with his wife Helen, where they attend Maranatha CRC; Belleville has been their home since 1980. Gilbert and Helen have been married 41 years and have three sons and 11 grandchildren.
- Nat Halbert (12) is thrilled to be playing Defense for the Blainville-Boisbriand Armada, a Quebec Major Junior Hockey League team thirty minutes north of Montreal. His team has won their division two years in a row and averages over three thousand fans in attendance for each game.



@tdchristian

Editor: Tim Buwalda

Email:

Buwalda@tdchristian.ca

For further information on TDChristian, please contact the school.

TDChristian

377 Woodbridge Avenue
Woodbridge, Ontario L4L 2V7

Tel: 1 855.663.6632

905 851.1772

Fax: 905 851.1992

www.tdchristian.ca

Email:

info@tdchristian.ca

To reach the TDChristian Board
board secretary
@tdchristian

