



North Toronto Christian School The Yorkland School

SEPTEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

(from the desk of S. W. Cooke, Superintendent of Operations)

Calendar for 08/09 School Year

Thanksgiving holiday	Mon	Oct 13
P/T Conferences (JK-Gr 2)	Wed-Thu	Oct 22/23
Interim Term 1 Report (TYS)	Fri	Nov 14
Prof Dev Day (TYS)	Fri	Nov 28
P/T Conferences (Gr 3 – 6)	Wed/Thu	Nov 19/20
P/T Conferences (TYS)	Wed/Thu	Nov 26/27
Start of Christmas holidays	Sat	Dec 20
School starts after Christmas	Mon	Jan 05
Prof Dev Day (TYS)	Fri	Jan 30
Family Day Holiday	Mon	Feb 16
March Break	Fri-Mon	Mar 13-23
Easter Weekend Holiday	Fri/Mon	Apr 10-13
Victoria Day holiday	Mon	May 18
TYS examination period	Thu/Fri	Jun 11-19
Last day of school (JK - 6)	Fri	Jun 19

Welcome

Welcome to all new parents and students in the schools this year and welcome back to all former parents and students for the beginning of our twenty-eighth year at NTCS and sixteenth year at TYS. I trust that you had an enjoyable holiday and that you are commencing the new year with the intention to participate fully in the life of the school.

Newsletter

Each month I send out a Newsletter to help keep you informed of school matters. Starting the end of this month you should expect your **youngest** child at NTCS to bring the newsletter home on the **last school day of the month**; for parents with children at TYS only, the Newsletter will be mailed to your home. If you do not get one, please pick one up at either school office. For your convenience, it will also be posted monthly on the school web site.

Lates – NTCS/TYS

The school day begins at 9:00 a.m. (8:45 a.m. at TYS) with the playing of 'O Canada'. Please try to have your child(ren) at the school each day no later than 8:50 a.m. at Page and 8:30 a.m. at TYS so that they can be in their classroom to start the day. I have asked the teachers to shut their doors after O Canada has been played and not permit entry to the room until the devotional time has been completed (with exceptions for bad weather days). Punctuality is a worthwhile virtue to teach our children; it is best taught by example. As well, with higher curriculum expectations, it is important that your child be present for the entire instructional day.

Absenteeism

When your child is absent from school, please call the office to inform us of the absence and follow that up with an explanatory note to the teacher upon the child's return. It is particularly important to do this if your children ride the TTC or walk to school.

Family Information Detail Sheet

Included with this Newsletter is a family information detail sheet that every family must check for accuracy, update as necessary, and return to either school office no later than **Friday, September 5th**. It is **absolutely essential** that we have accurate information about your family for administrative purposes. Please check the contact phone numbers to ensure they are up-to-date and feel free to add additional emergency or other phone numbers. In the event of an emergency, we **must** be able to contact you quickly. Note: please do not give your personal phone numbers as emergency numbers, since often the emergency can be yours and we are left not knowing what to do with your child or children. We will always call the parents first, but we must have an alternate number or numbers in the event that we cannot make contact with either parent.

Elementary Division; North Toronto Christian School, 50 Page Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2K 2B4; (416) 226-3366

High School Division; The Yorkland School, 255 Yorkland Blvd., Willowdale, Ontario M2J 1S3; (416) 491-7667

Outdoor Education Division; Chandos O/E Center, General Delivery, Apsley, Ontario KOL 1A0; (705) 656-2966

E-mail: admin@yorkland.on.ca Website: www.yorkland.on.ca

Accident Insurance

Supplementary accident insurance for all students is available through Reliable Life Insurance. I strongly recommend that you use this plan, or its equivalent with another insurer, unless you are satisfied that you have sufficient coverage elsewhere. At the very least, students who actively participate in the sports program should be covered by such a program. Sign up online at www.insuremykids.com

Staff Changes - NTCS

I am pleased to advise you of additions to our staff –

Mrs. Margaret Cooke – after a number of years supply teaching at both NTCS and TYS as well as working part time in the school office at NTCS, Mrs. Cooke is joining the NTCS staff on a full-time basis to teach a second class of **grade 1**. Mrs. Cooke has an Honours degree in English and History and a B. Ed. degree from the University of Toronto and a Masters degree in Education from Monash, University in Melbourne, Australia.

Mr. Caleb Lau - has joined our staff to teach the second **grade 5** class. He comes to us with a B. Ed. from York University and has a strong background in music, mathematics and sports. He has also been involved in numerous church related and community sponsored activities with youth. He replaces Mr. Dalton who left to teach in Northern Manitoba.

Staff Changes - TYS

Mr. Michael Broomer – is welcomed on staff to teach primarily mathematics. Mr. Broomer has a long history of commitment to Christian school ministry as teacher and principal at Durham Christian Academy and most recently as high school principal at Peoples Christian Academy. He has a B. A. from the University of Toronto, a B. Ed. from Toronto Teacher Education College and a Masters of Theological Studies degree from Tyndale Seminary.

Miss Maja Topalian – Maja joins the TYS staff to teach English and History. We are delighted to welcome her back since she is a TYS graduate from 2001. A graduate of the University of Toronto with an honours degree in History with minors in English and American Studies, and from OISE with a Bachelors degree in Education, Maja is very interested in athletics and summer camp programs.

Mr. Alain Côté is joining staff to teach French and some of the senior level Business courses. Mr. Côté has taught high school French in Quebec, and has extensive translation experience in private business as well as the federal government. Mr. Côté has a B. A. in French Literature from the Universite du Quebec at Trois-Rivieres, a B.A. in Business Administration from the Universite du Quebec at Hull and a Public Relations Certificate from Ryerson University.

Mr. Keith Brooks also joins the TYS staff to teach Business and a variety of Humanities courses. We are particularly pleased to welcome Keith back to TYS, as he spent his high school years here as a student, graduating from TYS in 2000. Keith has an honours degree in History from York University, almost three years of seminary studies in Philosophy and Religious Studies from Tyndale Seminary, and a Masters in Education from Niagara University.

Picture Day

It is important that every student gets a picture taken. The schedule is –

NTCS - Tuesday, September 9th.

TYS - Wednesday, October 15th.

Shuttle Bus

In the morning the shuttle bus will leave NTCS for TYS sharp at 8:10 a.m. and will leave TYS for NTCS in the evening at 3:45 p.m. so it will arrive at NTCS shortly before 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$275 for the year. Please pay the school office directly to get your child(ren) on the bus list. The bus will also run after school from Page to TYS every evening at no charge to take students to afterschool programs.

Parking/Traffic Problem – NTCS

Traffic around the school both morning and evening has always been a problem. Please note that there should be no parking in front of the school going South. A stop in the morning to drop off children by the sidewalk leading to the main entrance has always been ignored by the police but they do ticket cars parked there (or even stopping there if the parents get out of the car). If you come a bit early in the morning and a little after 3:30 p.m. in the afternoon, you will avoid the traffic chaos on Page in front of the school. Particularly in the morning when so many parents arrive at the last minute, would you please clear your car out of the parking lot quickly to make room for others. Thanks so much for your cooperation in this important matter.

Please do not come into the school to visit with the teachers about any matter, school or otherwise, before the start of the school day as that is important preparation time for the teachers.

Chinese Language Classes - NTCS

As usual, the Cantonese classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and the Mandarin classes will be held on Thursday afternoon at NTCS from 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Classes will begin the week of September 8th. Mrs. Lau, Chinese School Principal, will be giving further details to the students on the first day of classes.

Daycare Policy-NTCS

Our plans for extended care at NTCS are:

- the school will open at 7:30 a.m.
- the school closes at 5:45 p.m. but you should aim to be here no later than 5:30 p.m. to allow for delays particularly during bad winter weather
- tuition includes a total of one hour of extended care, divided between morning and evening.
- a fee is charged for more than one hour of care
- there is a \$25 charge for late pickup.
- the school reserves the right to withdraw extended care privileges of any student that poses a serious supervision problem.
- The kindergarten children will be cared for separately, using a classroom teacher in the morning and our kindergarten teaching assistant, Miss Chang, in the evening. More details will be sent home on the first day of school.

Blanket Permission – NTCS/TYS

Please see the enclosed form that enables you to give us a blanket permission to take your child on all school outings scheduled for the class throughout the year. If you want to refuse permission for your child to participate in any specific activity, just write a note to that effect. Please return the signed form to your child's homeroom teacher immediately. For TYS parents, these documents are included in the TYS Handbook that accompanies this mailing. The Handbook should be reviewed by both parents and students and the loose page should be completed and returned to the school during the first week of school.

Get Acquainted Nights

The schedule is as follows. Please be on time.

Tues. Sept 09 - JK / SK only 7:30 p.m.

Tues. Sept 16 - Grades 1/2/3/4R 7:30 p.m.

Tues. Sept 23 - Grades 4A/5/6 7:30 p.m.

Get Acquainted Night for **TYS** (grade 7 - 12) is Tuesday, **October 7th** at 7:30 p.m.

All parents should plan to meet with the teachers of their children at this important time of the year.

The Yorkland School Information

Arriving and Departing Students may use the east or south entrances to enter the school each morning and to leave the school each evening. Parents should use the east entrance for the most direct access to the main school office. The school will be open by 8:00 a.m. each morning and closed by 5:00 p.m. Classes begin at 8:45 a.m. and end at 3:04 p.m.

After School Policy

At TYS, students may arrive before 8:00 a.m. and may remain until 4:00 p.m. only if they are involved in some after-school activity or studying in the study hall in the cafe until 5:00 p.m.

Outdoor Education Schedule

Our plans include outdoor education trips for grades 4 through 9, according to the following schedule -

September	08-10	Grade 8A
	10-12	Grade 8B
	15-17	Grade 7A
	17-19	Grade 7B
	22-24	Grade 9A
	24-26	Grade 9B
	30-Oct 2	Grades 4A/4R
October	02-03	Grade 3M
	06-08	Grade 6C
	08-10	Grade 6D
	20-22	Grade 5W
	22-24	Grade 5L

The teachers are making plans to ensure that these trips are worthwhile with a solid combination of educational, recreational and spiritual emphasis, so I hope you will agree to allow your child to participate. If you are available to go with a class **to help** supervise a cabin and assist with an activity, please advise the homeroom teacher. **Garrett Brinkman** (Ducttape) is returning to live on the grounds to care for the camp site and to assist the teachers with the program. **Marie Clarke** is returning to live on the property as cook and nurse, so we anticipate another series of enjoyable and worthwhile trips to Chandos this fall and winter. The cost is \$25 / trip this year.

Winter trips are scheduled for NTCS students during the month of January and for TYS students during the month of February. The office can give you the date for your child's class trip upon request.

Swimming School Program

The Fall swimming schedule and registration form is now available at both school offices and on the school's website at www.yorkland.on.ca. Fall lessons begin on October 14 and run for eight consecutive weeks with lessons available on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. Private lessons are offered only on Thursday for those in need of one-to-one instruction. Register soon before the available spaces are taken. Note that swimming lessons are conducted according to their own schedule of days regardless of the school schedule – i.e. lessons are held even if there is a PD Day. Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross classes as well as Assistant Water Safety Instructor classes will be offered later in the Fall and registration forms for those programs will be available in early October.

We are pleased to give all students in **JK through grade 2** a free swimming session – a total of 8 lessons **at no cost**. The coupon for this offer is included with this Newsletter – please keep it in a safe place and attach it to your application when applying for lessons at the Yorkland pool. The coupon is valid only if used for this Fall 2008, Winter 2009 or Spring 2009 sessions. It is of no value after June 2009 and is not transferable. Swimming is a large part of our recreational program at the school and is a valuable skill that students can enjoy the rest of their lives; we are blessed to have a great pool, strong leadership and very competent instruction at all levels so I encourage all our parents to make use of this important school program.

Summer Activities Report

We had a great summer program of activities. I want to personally **thank all the parents** who supported one or more of these programs – I hope you found them to be convenient, worthwhile and enjoyable activities for your children.

Swimming School – **Mr. Ryu** had a very busy and successful swimming lesson program teaching many children how to swim. A special thanks to Mr. Ryu and his staff for their hard work all summer. The summer swimming instructors were –

Katelyn Potter	Elisabeth Langford
Emily Boden	Hannah Moore
Natalie Cross	Lindsay Mueller

Other Summer Activities – With the swimming program and the Chandos program all based at TYS this summer, the TYS campus was a hive of activity. Miss Jenna Glover taught an English Skills Development course to a number of our international students in both July and August and Mrs. Douthwright spent a week at the end of August with a number of students entering high school to give them a ‘Head start’ on grade 9 math.

Chandos Residential Camp – Camp Ke-Mon-Oya operated for seven successful weeks this summer. While the weather was unpredictable at times the camp experience seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks to Lois Gray and Debbie Newsted who headed up the cooking staff and to their weekly assistants – Carolyn Gray, Esther Robins, Sharon Sutherland, Bithiah Lee, Mariah Moncur, and Danielle Langford. Mr. Ron Moncur was the junior camp speaker for three weeks and helped out in numerous capacities throughout the summer. Garrett (Ducttape) Brinkman kept the facilities functioning well and assisted with the program when needed. This year our camp counselors were an enthusiastic group who worked tirelessly to make the program both exciting and worthwhile. Thanks to the

counselors who supervised the cabins, the waterfront and the other activities –

Meagan Doyle	Erica Gerber
Tim Clutton	Josh Boden
Emily Robbins	Daniel Korpall
Alysha Parkins	Kevin Bailey
Matthew Moncur	Sam Moore
Rachel Appadurai	Bithiah Lee
Rachel Goudie	Tyler Van Halteren
Roh Park	Monique Claybo
Danny Tsang	

Another worthwhile feature of the Camp Ke-Mon-Oya summer program is the **LIT (Leader in Training) program** led by a former TYS student, Tim Clutton. The program involves a combination of Bible study, leadership theory and practical application of the theory by participation in kitchen duties, activity support and cabin junior-counselor responsibilities. The LIT participants this year were:

Katie Alexander	Jackie Pare
Aruna Vithianathan	Avery Wilson
Christopher Chiu	Danny Oh
Felix Lee	

Any student who will complete grade 10 in June 2009 will qualify for consideration for the summer LIT program of 2009.

Piano Lessons

Mrs. Judy McKinnon is pleased to offer the convenience of piano lessons during school hours at both NTCS and TYS. She is a well qualified and experienced teacher. If interested, please contact either school office.

Skate Exchange – NTCS

Our annual skate exchange will be held in October in preparation for our skating trips that start in November. You may bring in equipment you want to sell on Tues. or Wed. October 14/15th and then purchase items on Thu. or Fri. October 16/17th.

Peanut Allergies

We have several students in the school who have a potentially severe allergy to peanuts or any product containing peanut oil. While we are not insisting on a totally peanut free environment, I am asking parents to cooperate with the teacher if your child’s class has a student who is affected this way.