



North Toronto Christian School The Yorkland School

DECEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

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

Calendar for 08/09 School Year

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

Christmas Music Night – TYS

TYS will be holding its annual Christmas concert on **Thursday night, December 11th** at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of The Garden Church across the street to the southeast from the TYS campus. Family and friends are invited to join with Mr. Birdsell and his band students, and Miss Baer and the TYS choir for an inspirational and entertaining evening and to enjoy the music of the Christmas season.

Aquatics Program – NTCS/TYS

Registration forms for private and group lessons are now available at both schools and online at www.yorkland.on.ca. The group lessons will begin on Tuesday, January 13th and the private lessons are scheduled to begin on Thursday, January 15th. Both programs run for 8 consecutive weeks. Please get your registration forms in as quickly as possible since space is limited and spaces are filled on a first-come first-served basis.

Registration - 2009/2010 School Year

If you have younger siblings ready for school next year, please register them soon as we are accepting applicants for the coming school year now. As well, since we have just two classes at each grade level at TYS, they often fill up quickly – especially grades 7 and 9, so registration should be started soon.

Christmas Programs – NTCS

Christmas is an important occasion in any Christian school. Our programs this year are scheduled for –

Grade SK	Wed.	Dec 3 rd	2:00 p.m.
Grade 2	Thu	Dec 4 th	2:30 p.m.
Grade 1	Fri	Dec 5 th	2:15 p.m.
Grade 6	Tue	Dec 9 th	2:15 p.m.
Grade 5	Wed	Dec 10 th	2:15 p.m.
Grade JK	Thu	Dec 11 th	2:15 p.m.
Grade 4	Fri	Dec 12 th	2:15 p.m.
Grade 3	Tue	Dec 16 th	2:15 p.m.

Please mark these dates on your family calendar now and plan to be present for this important occasion.

Donations

As a non-profit, charitable organization, donations made to the school are **tax-deductible**. To continue to meet our increasing operating expenses, to develop new programs and to provide the capital necessary to expand our facilities, we have budgeted for significant end-of-year donations from parents, relatives and friends. Some of you are not in a position to contribute more than you already pay for tuition, but others have been blessed financially and could help in an additional and significant way. Anything you feel led to contribute will be greatly appreciated. I am enclosing a donation card for your convenience. Receipts for income tax purposes will be mailed to you early in the new year.

Samaritan's Purse

Thanks to all the families who participated in this year's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox program. We could see that the students truly put a lot of thought and effort into making each shoebox special for a child far away. A thank you to the TYS Social Concerns Committee for organizing this and our other projects so far this year.

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

Outdoor Education – NTCS/TYS

Thanks to all the parents who helped supervise the outdoor education trips this fall. Without parental involvement, these trips would not be possible. The winter schedule tentatively is set as follows –

Grade 5L	Jan 12 – 14
Grade 5W	Jan 14 – 16
Grade 4A/R	Jan 21 – 23
Grade 6D	Jan 26 – 28
Grade 6C	Jan 28 – 30
Grade 7B	Feb 9 – 11
Grade 7A	Feb 11 – 13
Grade 9B	Feb 18/19
Grade 9A	Feb 19/20
Grade 8B	Feb 23 – 25
Grade 8A	Feb 25 – 27

Skating Schedule – NTCS

Our time to skate is unchanged from last year - 12:45 – 1:45 - the schedule at Bayview Arena is -

November 26	Grades SK and 1
December 03	Grades 3 and 4
December 10	Grade 2
December 17	Grades 5 and 6
January 14	Grade SK and 1
January 21	Grade 5 and 6
January 28	Grade 3 and 4
February 04	Grade 2
February 11	Grade 5 and 6
February 18	Grade 3 and 4
February 25	Grade SK, 1 and 2

Parents are very welcome to participate.

Winter Weather Policy

Snow, cold, slippery roads and the traffic congestion they cause will be with us soon. Our school policy, for **both NTCS and TYS**, is to remain open on all school days no matter what the weather (unless, of course, the whole city is closed down) - however you must decide for your own family whether it is safe and whether it makes sense to send or bring your child(ren) to school on any specific day. On **very bad weather days** when many schools within the city limits are closed, attendance will not be taken so students will not be penalized for an absence.

However, it is important that parents take the weather into consideration when dropping off their children in the morning and/or picking them up in the evening. Leaving earlier from home in the morning or, from work if possible, in the evening might be helpful to avoid unnecessary traffic problems and to avoid late pickup charges.

March Break Daycamp at TYS

We are planning to offer a week-long daycamp program at TYS for NTCS students (and elementary aged friends and relatives) from **Monday, March 16th** through **Friday March 20th**. It will be a full day program from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with extended care being offered from 7:30 a.m. in the morning to 5:30 p.m. in the afternoon. The cost will be \$100 for the week with a small additional charge for those using the extended care service. Recreational swimming will be included in the program each afternoon along with a variety of activities including sports, music, arts and crafts, group games, devotions and a worship time. If you are interested in enrolling your child in this program during the winter break, please **contact the NTCS office** and leave your name, and we will send you a registration form in the new year.

Camp Ke-Mon-Oya!!

Although it is early to be thinking about next summer, many of you make holiday plans early in the new year, so I want to advise you that we plan to operate the camp as usual next summer. Application forms will be available from both schools early in the new year. It is important that you get your application in early for the week(s) you want to avoid the disappointment of the weeks being full later. We plan to keep the application form off the web site and available to our own parents only until the end of January, but after that registrations will be received on a first-come, first-served basis. For your advance information, the first three weeks will be **kids camp** starting Monday, July 6th (for students entering grades 3 - 6 in September); the last four weeks will be **youth camp** starting Monday, July 27th (grade 7 – 9 students). When you make your summer plans, consider a week or more at camp for your son or daughter – it can truly be a life-changing experience.

The summer camp experience also provides opportunity for a select group of students who are entering grade 11 to participate in an LIT (**Leadership in Training**) program. For more information, contact either school office.

Business Competition - TYS

On November 16th, thirteen TYS students participated in a regional DECA (a business marketing, management, and entrepreneurship organization) competition at Laurier University. The team performed exceptionally well, with twelve students (ranging from grades 10 - 12) qualifying for the provincial championships. We are especially proud of grade 12 student, **Juil Yoon**, who finished first in his division!! The DECA team will be making a trip to the provincial championships on February 6th and 7th. Congratulations to all who participated and thanks to Mr. Brooks and Mr. Côté for sponsoring this business club.

Boys' Volleyball - TYS

On Tuesday, November 18th, the grade 7/8 boys' volleyball team participated in the annual ACSI tournament which was held at Philopateer Christian College in Mississauga. The team played extraordinarily well all day, defeating Peoples CS, Niagara CS and Oakville CS. The result was a fourth place finish in a round robin competition. Congratulations to the team who played with a positive, enthusiastic and determined spirit throughout the day. Thanks to coach, Mr. Schenk, for his inspirational leadership.

Trevonne Scott-Thompson	Justin Tang
Jason Newsted	Stephen Sin
Sam Tucker-Yates	Andre Luk
Tiam Halajha	Gordon Allen
Sam Boden	Jeffrey Yu
Mark Awad	

University Applications – TYS

The Grade 12 graduating students have started making their applications to Ontario universities and colleges. All students who wish to attend an Ontario university or college must make application to the centralized application centres (OUAC or OCAS). Applications have been done online, during school time, to help the students through the process. If your son/daughter is applying to schools outside of Ontario, they will need to submit individual applications, and the information required to do so can usually be found on the university's website. As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact Miss Lee in the guidance office.

Safety Measures - TYS

We try to ensure that the school is a safe and comfortable place for students to learn each day. However, we are always looking for ways to make the property and building safer and free from various kinds of potential threats. Unfortunately we hear in the news about "lockdowns" and evacuations or other similar situations. We would like to inform you that policies are in place to guide the administration, staff and students to respond to various emergency situations, whether health related, property and building related, or from external threats. These policies are proactive measures and have not been developed in reaction to any specific incidents that have occurred. The Wyndham hotel (just south of The Yorkland School at 185 Yorkland Blvd.) has agreed to be our primary evacuation site for our student body and staff in the event a safe location away from the school is needed. We appreciate the cooperation of all members of the TYS community, and thank the management at The Wyndham Hotel for their support.

Property Improvements - TYS

You will hopefully have noticed some of the significant improvements that have been made to the TYS property over the last few months. The summer was a busy period of capital projects at TYS to enhance the property and make the facilities more useful. The most visible project of course was the removal of the tennis court complex and the creation of a new soccer field and playground. We have further plans to work on the field to allow the Phys Ed and intramural programs to use this large area for a variety of sports in the future. Fencing will be installed in the spring. Some exterior landscaping improvements have already been completed, with more to come, including the planting of some new trees and shrubbery. After a winter windstorm seriously damaged the roof over the pool area, a new pool roof was installed over the summer months.

Inside the building the most obvious improvements were a commercial cleaning and re-grouting of all the ceramic tile in the boys' and girls' changerooms, and in all the washrooms throughout the school. This included the walls in the pool and the pool deck, which had been stained from leaks in the damaged pool roof. Those of you who walk the second floor hallways will also notice the new ceramic tile that was installed in the summer in the main rectangular hallway throughout the school.

In addition to these visible improvements, there has also been much work done on the mechanical parts of the building, particularly in the boiler rooms and the pool filtration systems that are very important to keep the building energy-efficient and the pool operating smoothly.

Parking Lot - TYS

Now that winter has arrived to produce more dangerous driving conditions, we ask parents to use extreme caution --- please drive slowly while driving through the TYS parking lot to drop off and pick up your child(ren). With the accumulation of snow, and the need to have easy access for the buses to enter and exit the parking lots, please be prompt in dropping off your child and please park in the normal parking spaces when waiting for them to exit the building. Please --- no idling near the doors as there is a continuous stream of students entering and exiting the building and we want to keep the vehicles as far away from entrances as possible. Also, after entering the south parking lot, please use the loop at the west end (towards the 404) to enter the southern most parking lot to exit the property back onto Yorkland Blvd. Do not turn your vehicle around in the parking lot closest to the school to return to Yorkland Blvd. You will notice our buses point towards the 404, and we ask you drive in that same direction and loop through to the other exit. Although many students are dropped off at the south entrance

to the building, remember that the east entrance is also available to enter after 8:15 a.m. You may find there is less congestion there. If you use this entrance, please enter at the south entrance and exit the property via the northernmost driveway. Exiting via the northernmost or southernmost driveways allows our buses to enter unhindered from the middle driveway. Thank you.

Girls' Volleyball - TYS

The grade 7 and 8 girls' volleyball team recently completed a strong season after spending several weeks practising and preparing for what turned out to be an exciting and successful tournament against other Christian schools. On November 11th, the team of thirteen hard-working and talented girls played six round-robin games and finished in **2nd place**. Through perseverance and a commitment to win, the girls showed great improvement and teamwork throughout the day. As well, thanks to Michelle Yau and Emma Chin who came out to every practice to coach and help. Great work ladies! and thanks to the coach, Miss Topalian, for her work with the team.

Nickisha Forde-Morgan	Claudia Chan
Jillian Chan	Fiona Sun
Niquesha Norris	Emily Cooke
Mindy Kim	Melanie Yu
Allison Wong	Florence Ip
Madeline Jong	Bethany Kon
Carly Holmstrom	

Winter Study Tour for Korean students

We are planning a month long program of classes and activities throughout Toronto for a group of Korean junior high students during the month of January 2009. From January 5th to the 30th, we are inviting a small number of Korean students at the grade 7 and 8 level who are on their school holidays to come to Toronto for a month of education and tourism. If any of our school families have Korean relatives who might be interested in such a program this winter, please contact Mr. Cooke at TYS for more details.

Change of Personnel - NTCS

Mrs. Rosefield, grade 4 teacher, left the employ of the school on Friday, November 21st since she and her husband decided to adopt an infant into their family.

It is unfortunate to have to change teachers during the school year, but sometimes these matters are out of our control. Fortunately, we had several suitable candidates to replace her. We have chosen to give the position to **Miss Sharon Cheng**. She has been supply teaching for the school in several grades so we have come to appreciate both her capabilities and her enthusiasm, qualities that are essential to be an effective teacher. As well, you will be interested to know, I am sure, that Sharon was a student at NTCS from grades 1 – 6 some years ago. It is so exciting to hire former students to join staff – she joins Mr. Derr, Mr. Brooks and Miss Topalian as former students who are now staff members – we hope many more of our current students will consider education, especially Christian education, as a career in the future. More recently she graduated with a B. A. (Honours) from York University and a B. Ed. degree from the University of Ottawa specializing in the primary/junior elementary divisions. She is musical, athletic and has instructor level swimming credentials. In fact, she has been a swimming instructor at our TYS swimming school for many years. She will work closely with Miss Anderson, the other grade 4 teacher, to provide a quality educational program for the children.

Miss Cheng began her duties full time on Monday, November 24th.

The Board of Directors, the Administration and the Faculty and Staff of the school thank all the parents for their great support throughout the past year and wish all of you a very enjoyable Christmas season and a blessed and prosperous New Year.
