



North Toronto Christian School The Yorkland School

SEPTEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

(from the desk of Mr. Michael Broomer, NTCS Principal and Mr. Kevin Ko, TYS Principal)

Calendar for 09/10 School Year

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL | Tue | Sep 8 |
| Thanksgiving holiday | Mon | Oct 12 |
| P/T Interviews (JK-Gr 2) | Wed-Thu | Oct 21/22 |
| Interim Term 1 Report (TYS) | Fri | Nov 13 |
| Term 1 Report (NTCS) | Fri | Nov 13 |
| P/T Interviews (Gr 3 – 6) | Wed/Thu | Nov 18/19 |
| Prof Dev Day (NTCS) | Fri | Nov 20 |
| P/T Interviews (TYS) | Wed/Thu | Nov 25-26 |
| Prof Dev Day (TYS) | Fri | Nov 27 |
| Start of Christmas holidays | Sat | Dec 19 |
| School starts after Christmas | Mon | Jan 04 |
| Prof Dev Day (TYS) | Fri | Jan 29 |
| Family Day Holiday | Mon | Feb 15 |
| March Break | Fri-Mon | Mar 12-22 |
| Easter Weekend Holiday | Fri/Mon | Apr 02-05 |
| Victoria Day holiday | Mon | May 24 |
| TYS examination period | Thu/Fri | Jun 17-25 |
| Last day of school (JK - 6) | Fri | Jun 25 |

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-ninth year at NTCS and seventeenth year at TYS. We trust that you had an enjoyable summer holiday and that you are commencing the new year with the intention to participate fully in the life of the school.

Newsletter

Each month we will 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.

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 11th**. 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. We will always call the parents first, but we must have an alternate number of a friend or family member in the event that we cannot make quick contact with either parent.

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 Student 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.

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.

First Day - NTCS

Students are asked to be on time ready to begin the school day. Students will enter the school at 8:50 a.m. Students will be asked to line up outside in their respective grades when instructed (watch for signs). The grade teacher(s) will lead students into their classrooms. For grades 5 and 6, once inside, the teachers will assign students to their particular homeroom classes.

Entry to the school will be from the two north doors by the gym. These will be the entry and exit points through the course of the year and no other doors should be used except in emergency situations.

Child Care - NTCS

We have limited resources to care for your child(ren) before and after school. The school building will normally be opened at 7:30 a.m. with limited supervision beginning at 8:00 a.m. All students (except JK) will be supervised outdoors by a teacher starting at 8:30 a.m.

After school we would ask students to be picked up no later than 4:00 p.m. (there will be outdoor supervision until then). Those requiring later pick up will need to complete the form which will be sent out the first day of school. No student will be allowed outside after 4:00 pm without proper supervision. Students will have limited access to the building and will be placed in a designated room(s) until such time as they are picked up. Parents will be required to come into the school to get their child (you will need to use the main entry – see **Security** below for exiting).

There is a **change in the fee structure** for this year. Due to anticipated numbers both before school and after school and the type of program being offered there will be a \$1 fee per each half hour (or any part of) beginning at 4:00 p.m.

In consideration of the limited parking at NTCS, we urge parents to come as close to 3:30 p.m. as possible and then leave immediately afterwards. This will allow some relief in the parking area.

Security - NTCS

To address concerns of safety and security, all doors will be locked during the course of the day except for the main east entry by the school office. During recess times the two double doors on the north side by the gym will remain unlocked.

Parents are asked to use only the **main EAST entry** (at all times) and not the student entries. The door leading directly to/from the parking area will be

locked at all times. This may be used as an **exit only** for the Child Care Program (after 4:00 p.m.).

Parking and Traffic at 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. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.

Please do not come into the school to visit with the teachers before the start of the school day as that is a very important preparation time for the teachers

TYS General 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.

Morning Drop-off

When dropping your child off in the morning, please proceed cautiously through the parking lot. If dropping off at the south doors, please proceed towards the soccer field and drop off next to the doors. Please do not turn around but proceed to the back of the parking lot where you can drive through the southern most lot. A one way flow of traffic will allow for a faster and safer parking lot.

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.

Student Parking

Parents, if you are allowing your child to drive to TYS on their own, please have them pickup a student parking form available in the school office. They may only park in the southern most lot, in the section closest to the road. This keeps vehicles away from student traffic. Students are not permitted to drive other students at any time (even at lunch) without written parental permission for each student.

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 NTCS and 8:30 a.m. at TYS so that they can be in their classroom to start the day. Punctuality is a worthwhile virtue to teach our children; it is best taught by example. It is important that your child be present for the entire instructional day.

Absenteeism – NTCS/TYS

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

School Picture Day

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

NTCS - Wednesday, September 16th.

TYS - Thursday, October 22nd.

TTC Student Photo Day - TYS

TTC Student ID Photos will be taken at TYS on Wednesday, September 16. Students must be in full uniform (oxford shirt and tie and sweater/vest).

Get Acquainted Nights

The schedule is as follows. Please be on time.

Tues. Sept 15 - JK / SK 7:00 p.m.

Tues. Sept 22 - Grades 1/2/3 7:00 p.m.

Tues. Sept 29 - Grades 4/5/6 7:00 p.m.

Get Acquainted Night for **TYS** (grade 7 - 12) is Tuesday, **October 6th** 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 format of these evenings typically involves a short group meeting at the beginning in the gym (at NTCS) or the Forum Room (at TYS) after which you will have the opportunity to visit the classrooms. The evenings are for parents only and therefore you should make the necessary arrangements for your child(ren) to be cared for.

Accident Insurance

Supplementary accident insurance for all students is available through Reliable Life Insurance. We 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

Chandos Outdoor Education Schedule

Our plans include outdoor education trips for grades 3 through 9, according to the following schedule -

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| September | 14-16 | Grade 8A |
| | 16-18 | Grade 8B |
| | 21-23 | Grade 7A |
| | 23-25 | Grade 7B |
| | 28-30 | Grade 9A |
| | 30 – Oct 02 | Grade 9B |
| October | 05-07 | Grade 6C |
| | 07-09 | Grade 6D |
| | 13-15 | Grade 4 |
| | 15-16 | Grade 3 |
| | 21-23 | Grade 5L/5W |

The teachers are making plans to ensure that these trips are worthwhile with a solid combination of educational, recreational and spiritual emphasis. If you are available to go with a class **to help** supervise a cabin and assist with an activity, please advise the homeroom teacher. We anticipate another series of enjoyable and worthwhile trips to Chandos this fall and winter. The cost is \$25 for each trip this year.

Winter season trips are scheduled for NTCS students during the month of January and for TYS students during the month of February. The schedule will be published later in the fall.

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 2, and run for eight consecutive weeks with lessons available on 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 2009, Winter 2010 or Spring 2010 sessions. It is of no value after June 2010 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 we encourage all our parents to make use of this important school program.

Cantonese/Mandarin Classes - NTCS

A registration form was sent out to interested families in June. For further information, including registration forms, you may drop by the office. Classes operate on Monday/Wednesday (Cantonese) and Thursday (Mandarin). The classes begin Sept. 14. Mrs. Lau continues to be the principal of this program.

Note: Time Change – classes will begin at 3:45 and conclude at 5:00 p.m. Please ensure your child is picked up promptly at 5:00 p.m.. Students who are not picked up immediately following their class will go to the designated classroom for Child Care (a fee will be charged accordingly).

Summer Activities Report

We had a great summer program of activities. We want to personally **thank all the parents** who supported one or more of these programs – we 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 –

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Monica Edward | Victor Crivianu-Gaita |
| Nathan Tsang | Katie Alexander |
| Lauren Chan | Shane Ignatius |
| Claudia Chan | Elisabeth Langford |
| 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 also taught an English Skills Development course to a number of our international students in both July and August and there was a full workload of cleaning and maintenance work done on the buildings and properties at both campuses.

Chandos Residential Camp – Camp Ke-Mon-Oya operated for seven successful weeks this summer. The camp was enjoyed by all who attended under the supervision of Camp Director, Mr. Ron Moncur. Thanks to Lois Gray, Doris Cooke and Esther Robins who headed up the cooking staff and to their weekly assistants Mariah Moncur, Beverly

Douthwright, Sharon Sutherland and Carolyn Gray. This year our camp counselors were an enthusiastic group who worked hard to make the program both exciting and worthwhile. Thanks to the counselors who supervised the cabins, the waterfront and the other activities –

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Tim Clutton | Josh Boden |
| Faye Villanueva | Danielle Langford |
| Samuel Moore | Daniel Korpala |
| Katherine Bailey | Kevin Bailey |
| Katie Alexander | Aruna Vithiananthan |
| Rachel Appadurai | Matthew Moncur |
| Alysha Parkins | Tyler Van Halteren |
| Bithiah Lee | Victor Crivianu-Gaita |
| Avery Wilson | |

Another worthwhile program at Camp Ke-Mon-Oya this summer was the **LIT (Leader in Training) program**. 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:

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Emily Boden | Lauren Chan |
| Lucius Cheung | Tim Cooke |
| Rachel Lin | Peter Newell |
| Hansel Chu | Jonathan Leung |
| Jasmine Wilson | |

Any student who will complete grade 10 in June 2010 will qualify for consideration for the summer LIT program of 2010.

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.

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, we are asking parents to cooperate with the teachers if your child's class has a student who is affected this way. If your child has any other medical concerns of which the school should be aware, please detail them on the enclosed Family Information sheet and return it to the office as soon as possible.