



North Toronto Christian School

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

The NTCS Board of Directors, Administration and Faculty thank all parents and guardians for your wonderful support throughout the past year. We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO NTCS!

The Grade 7-12 Christmas music evening will take place on **Wednesday, December 6th, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**, in the track area. Come enjoy some festive instrumental and choral classics as the Christmas season draws near. A variety of ensembles and musical styles are included in this year's program, featuring NTCS's largest Senior Concert Band in a decade! You don't want to miss the talent that will be on display during this performance. All are welcome!

JK to Grade 3 class Christmas presentations will take place on **Tuesday, December 12th, at 2:00 p.m.**, and the Grade 4 to 6 class Christmas presentation on **Thursday, December 14th, at 2:00 p.m.** All presentations will be held in the NTCS track area.

Friday, December 22nd is a Christmas casual day where students may wear their favourite Christmas sweater.

Annual Christmas Card Sale

The annual Christmas card sale will be held Tuesday, December 19th to Friday, December 22nd during the high school and elementary lunch periods. Students will be given an opportunity to purchase seasonal and Christmas cards for their family members and friends if they wish. All cards are handmade and will be sold for \$1.50 each.

Thank You For Coming To Parent/Teacher Interviews!

Thank you to parents and guardians who attended the recent parent/teacher interviews through Google Meets and in-person. We want to ensure the very best success for each of your children and are grateful for opportunities to have direct contact with you. If at any time during the school year you require further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher through the school office or by email.

Winter Clothing Drive & Note-Writing Party

From December 11th to December 15th, SaLT (Service and Leadership Team) will be initiating a school-wide **Winter Clothing Drive**, accepting new or gently used winter clothing items (coats, jackets, toques, scarves, mittens, gloves, earmuffs, neck warmers, etc.) for The Scott Mission. The Scott Mission is a Christian organization here in Toronto offering support for the homeless, low-income families, and struggling youth. All items listed above are in high demand right now, and the need continues to grow. Please consider donating your outgrown or unused winter clothing for this urgent need in our community during the cold months ahead. Spread the word to family and friends who may be able to contribute to this cause. Items being donated can be brought to the collection bags located in each homeroom starting on Monday, December 11th.

Alongside the **Winter Clothing Drive** and in line with the festive spirit, The SaLT team will also be hosting a Note-Writing party for students from Grades 7-12. The Note-Writing party will be held on Wednesday, December 13th, from 3:40 pm. - 4:30 pm. Students must sign up at the office to participate as there are limited spaces available. The notes made by students will be given, together with the donated items from the **Winter Clothing Drive**, to those in need during this season. This is a great opportunity to "Be Like Jesus" and collectively apply our school's theme for this year!

Mr. C. Brown, SaLT Team

Travel and Absences during vacation times...

Families who choose to have their children take extended holiday time should be aware of several matters. First, for attendance purposes, please let the office know in writing (email to office@ntcs.on.ca) if your child(ren) will be away for an extended time, before and/or beyond the designated holidays. Secondly, students who take extended holiday time are considered absent and will be recorded as such. This could have an impact on high school students who jeopardize their credit in any course if they miss more than 15 classes in the school year.

Also, it is not practical for teachers to supplement and plan out individual programs for those on vacation. Students will need to use their Google classroom(s) and be in communication with classmates, to stay up-to-date with their studies. It is the responsibility of the student to "catch up" on work missed during their absence.

WINTER CHANDOS SCHEDULE

We are pleased to continue our outdoor education trips to our camp facility on Chandos Lake this winter. They will commence a week after school begins for students in Grades 3-9! The winter packing list can be found on our school website. Stay tuned for more information from your teacher(s).

Parents who wish to accompany an elementary class on their trip are required to have a Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) and fill out the Google form at <https://forms.gle/1C3LYQnbVA8t991a8>

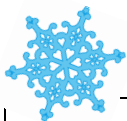
Please consider applying for the VSC as soon as possible, as the process can take some time and without sufficient supervision for our elementary classes, we may not be able to send the students at certain grade levels.

The schedule is as follows:

January 16-17	Grade 3
January 17-18	Grade 4
January 22-24	Grade 5
January 24-26	Grade 6
January 29-31	Grade 9
January 31-Feb 2	Grade 8
February 5-7	Grade 7

Dates are tentative and could change due to weather, teacher illness, etc.





Donations

It has been our custom each year to give you an opportunity to make an additional financial contribution to support the programs and facilities of North Toronto Christian School.

As a non-profit, charitable organization, NTCS is able to issue a tax-deductible receipt to you for the full amount of any donation. Donations can be submitted by cheque to the office or sent by e-transfer to admin@ntcs.on.ca. If you choose to send an e-transfer, please be sure to put the name and address you want to appear on the donation receipt in the message box. Also, an online donation may also be made by credit card from the 'donate' tab at the upper right side of our website homepage www.ntcs.on.ca. We would be appreciative of anything you would feel led to contribute.

We thank you for your ongoing support of the NTCS program through your involvement in school activities, your encouragement of the teaching staff and your support of your child in their daily school life. Please continue to pray for the health and safety of the students, staff, administration, and the Board of Directors as we continue to work together to build a strong and positive school community.

Elementary Cold Weather Policy

Our primary concern is always for the safety of our students. We will only take the children outside when it is safe to do so. The guidelines established are that when the combined temperature and wind chill are **-25C** or lower, the students will remain indoors due to the risk of frostbite. When temperatures with the wind chill factor are between **-20C and -25C**, we will shorten recesses to approximately 10 minutes depending on the local conditions, such as if it is sunny, windy, or currently snowing. The teachers on yard duty have also been instructed to use their discretion and to shorten recess to ensure student safety and welfare when necessary. At temperatures above **-20C**, students will go out for regular recess.



It is important that parents send their children with clothing that allows them to participate in outdoor activities every day during the winter months. Extra socks and mitts in your child's bag are strongly recommended. An extra set of clothing, especially for the younger children, is also a good idea. Please note that if you feel your child is not well enough to participate in recess due to recent illness or not feeling well, then it would be wise to keep them at home until they are able to participate fully in all aspects of the school program. Please label all winter clothing.

On especially cold days when the students are inside after school, students should be picked up at the north side track doors.

Winter Weather Policy

Snow, cold, slippery roads and the traffic congestion they cause will be with us soon. Our school policy 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 take 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.

It is important, however, 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 pick-up charges. Also, it is a good idea to have a back-up plan in place with a friend, a family member, or another school parent in the event that it is impossible for you to pick up your child on any given day due to major winter delays.



From the Guidance Office.....for Grade 12 students

As students work on their applications to university and college, please keep the following in mind:

An application is not processed until payment is made. No information is sent to the institution that a student applies to until OCAS and/or OUAC is paid. There are several payment options, but the easiest one is the online option.

Information in an application can be changed at any time, even after payment and submission. Changes to name, address and program selections can be done by the student. Changes in course information will need to be brought to the guidance office for processing.

Once universities and colleges have received an application, they will generally send the student an email asking them to create an account—this is an important step. They will use the account to communicate with the student about supplemental applications and special deadlines.

Please be mindful of deadlines for your child's specific program and scholarships. If your child has not heard from a school about specifics and they were expecting to, then a quick email or phone call can make a big difference.

If your child is applying to schools outside Ontario, there may be different deadlines, so please be aware of this and plan accordingly. They may need to submit transcripts. Please allow at least two school days for the school office to generate these and have them signed.

If your child has not attended an English speaking school for all four years of high school, they may be required to provide proof of English language proficiency. This is their responsibility. Please make sure they understand the directions for submitting these documents.

If you have any questions, please connect at cbrown@ntcs.on.ca to schedule an appointment.

Mr. C. Brown, Head of Guidance

The NTCS MCU (Monthly Chapel Update)

Primary Praise & Mini-Chapel:

We have enjoyed three gathering times in November. The entire school community joined in the track area to observe Remembrance Day, to which many classes and groups contributed stirring readings, artwork, and choral pieces. Mr. Vant Erve and Mrs. Newsted led both of these groups' other times together, this month, with live worship and further portions of Phil Vischer's hilarious and excellent video series, "Where Does Joy Come From?", based on the book of Philippians.

Intermediate & Senior Chapel:

In the high school chapel times this month, our classes were blessed to hear some excellent messages and to participate together in worship, led by the intermediate and senior worship teams. On November 1st, former NTCS teacher, **Mark Collins**, introduced the series of sermons he will be sharing throughout the year, which will dive into four crucial ways we can "Be Like Jesus". As always, we look forward to more of his visits. On Remembrance Day, the whole school gathered to reflect on this sombre occasion, aided by beautiful artwork, choral songs, and reflective readings presented by many different classes. On the 15th, we were joined by **James Bi**, who shared a reflection on Romans 8:37, encouraging us to be the "Hyper-Nike" or "more than conquerors" that we ought to be in light of the victory already won for us by Christ. Most recently, we had the privilege of a visit from **Wayne Johnson**, former NTCS parent and the director of Tearfund Ministries, who showed us some of the ways they are involved in equipping and supporting churches in the developing world to teach life-changing agricultural practices to those who are suffering from drought and famine. He challenged us to take up the calling of the Church to be leaders in caring for our neighbours, both in our own communities and around the world.



Aquatics Winter Schedule

Thank you to all participants in our Fall 2023 session. Lessons are currently scheduled to end on Saturday, December 9th.



Our winter session dates have been finalized and registration forms are now available on our website. For group lessons, click [here](#), and for private lessons, click [here](#).

Be sure to submit your form and payment early to secure your spot! Classes will begin the week of January 8th, 2024.

For up-to-date class schedules, families are encouraged to look at our Aquatics Google calendar which can be found on our website under the aquatics tab [here](#).

Thank you for your continued interest and support of our aquatics program.

Ms. Leung

SKATING—SK to Grade 6

Pleasantview Arena
545 Van Horne Ave. North York

Once again, our skating sessions will take place at Pleasantview Arena this winter. Please ensure that your child has a pair of skates that fit them properly so that they can enjoy participating in this winter sport with their classmates. All students must also wear a **CSA approved helmet**, a requirement of all Toronto arenas, and warm mitts or gloves and their snowsuit.

	<u>11:00 am</u>	<u>12:30 pm</u>
Thursday, January 18 (Day 1)	Gr. 2	Gr. SK/1
Thursday, January 25 (Day 2)	Gr. 4	Gr. 3
Thursday, February 1 (Day 3)	Gr. 5	Gr. 6
Thursday, February 8 (Day 4)	Gr. SK/1	Gr. 2
Thursday, February 15 (Day 1)	Gr. 4	Gr. 3
Thursday, February 22 (Day 4)	Gr. 6	Gr. 5



Parents who wish to attend to skate and assist the students with their skates and helmet are required to submit a Vulnerable Sector Check to Mrs. Brouwer. If you have done so and would like to help out, please sign up on the Google form at this [link](#).



Christmas Edition of *The Torch*

The Christmas Edition of *The Torch* will be available on Tuesday, December 19th! This edition will feature a special contribution from the high school French class, articles and activities created by our Journalism and Writer's Craft classes, as well as other members of the Torch club, and even an exposé about elementary 4-square! The Torch will be available for 25 cents at the drive-thru window. Get your copy!

You don't want to miss it!

2023 Beaver Computing Challenge

In the weeks between November 6th and 17th, NTCS students from Grades 5 through 10 participated in the Beaver Computing Challenge, created and administered by the University of Waterloo's Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing (CEMC). It is a brightly coloured, highly visual, 45-minute online multiple choice contest designed to introduce students to the kinds of problems often tackled by computer scientists and to gauge interest and aptitude in this exciting and high-demand discipline. We had many excellent results. Mr. Vant Erve hopes to see students who enjoyed this experience (maybe even if they didn't achieve an excellent score) taking his computer science classes sometime soon. If any just can't wait for computer science class, the code.org website should satisfy (or maybe intensify) their cravings!

The top few NTCS students at each level of the contest, as recognized in the official results, were the following:

Contest Level	Name	Grade	Score
Grades 5 & 6 Competitors: 10296 Maximum Score: 60 Average Score: 38	Charlie Chan	6	60
	Lael Kim	6	60
	Elliot Leung	6	60
	Alena Wang	6	60
	Esther Yang	6	60
	Kabeer Bhatia	6	56
	Cora Hackmann	6	56
	Kendra Ho	6	56
	Owen Kwong	6	56
	Amy Zhao	6	56
Grades 7 & 8 Competitors: 12897 Maximum Score: 90 Average Score: 65	Allison Chuang	8	90
	Lucas Li Yuan	8	90
	William Li	8	90
	Michael Sawires	7	90
	Rachel Zhang	8	90
	Kai Zou	8	90
	Carrie Chan	7	88
	Cathryn Kwok	7	88
	Arthur Mei	7	88
	Jaiden Ng	8	88
Grades 9 & 10 Competitors: 8369 Maximum Score: 90 Average Score: 66	Liam Lu	9	88
	Brandon Yip	11	88
	Alessia Kaounis	9	84
	Mars Sun	10	84
	Shannon Goligher	10	82
	Aiden Lau	9	82
	Priscilla Wang	10	82

Winter is coming! NTCS toques for sale!

We are happy to offer winter toques for sale with a new logo, designed by a Grade 12 student, **Joshua Delic** (pictured). All high school art students provided a suggested design for the logo, and Joshua's was selected to be used on the toque! Congratulations Joshua, and thank you to all the other art students who submitted interesting designs. The toque is an acrylic, double-layer knit construction, and is 'one size fits all'. If you would like to purchase a toque for your child(ren), or yourself!, please e-transfer \$10 to 'admin@ntcs.on.ca', and give your child's name in the e-transfer message box. We will deliver the toque to your child at school. Please put your child's name inside the toque in case of loss.



DECA Business Club

Twenty-nine enthusiastic business students of the NTCS DECA chapter took part in their regional competition at Seneca College on Sunday, November 12th. The individual and team events at the competition required the students to apply their ability to analyze and problem-solve a business case study and to give an oral presentation of their solution to a judge, all within 20-45 minutes of time.

With a big influx of 17 new members and 12 returning members, students had been meeting weekly to prepare for this event, led by the student executives, **Lydia Lu**, **Ally Yang**, **Eugenia Ma**, and **Arwyn Wallis**. We are excited to celebrate very high scores of 98% (Team **Joyce Lau** and **Eugenia Ma**) and 93% (Team **Emma Esho** and **Arwyn Wallis**) in oral presentations, as these two teams, along with **Lydia Lu**, are heading to the Provincial competition in February 2024.

Overall, it was a new and challenging experience for many, as they pushed themselves to step out of their comfort zone. We are proud of what all of the individuals have overcome and accomplished thus far and look forward to supporting their success in the upcoming years.

Mr. M. Kim, DECA Advisor

Uniform Items

Please take some time over the winter break to inspect your child's uniform ensuring that each item is in "good repair", in keeping with our uniform policy. Many clothing items become stained, torn, and discoloured over time. Please also check that uniform items fit properly so that shirts can remain tucked in and kilts hang to the knee. It would also be a good time to ensure that all school uniform items are **LABELLED** clearly with your child's name, including all school and gym uniform items. Many items are currently unclaimed because they are not labelled. Snowsuits, boots, toques, scarves, mitts, jackets, water bottles, lunch pails, backpacks, and school textbooks should also be labelled as they are often misplaced by students.

NTCS FLAMES—Cross-Country

OFSAA Cross-Country Competition

Michael Chan, Grade 9 student, represented NTCS at the 75th OFSAA Cross-Country Championships on Friday, November 3rd, in Etobicoke. Michael ran against the best of the best in Ontario and finished in the top 43% of the field of runners. He dropped an amazing 55.15 seconds off his previous best for the exact same course from a month ago. Congratulations on a wonderful race!

Mrs. Cottrill

NTCS FLAMES—Soccer

Grade 5/6 Co-ed Soccer Champions!

On Thursday, the 23rd of November, the Hangar Sport and Events Centre hosted an 18-team co-ed soccer tournament which our very own NTCS 5th and 6th grade team came out the victors. Our diverse team comprising of eight boys and six girls faced off against stiff competition but easily outscored their first three opposing teams. The Flames showcased amazing dribbling, passing, and shooting, helping them advance comfortably to the top eight.

The next phase of the tournament started with another decisive victory. However, the last game proved to be the most challenging and truly tested the team's determination. The game ended in regulation time with a 1-1 draw, which remained that way even after two 5-minute golden goal periods. The outcome of the game was to be decided by way of penalty kicks. Our first kicker, 6th grader, **Theodore Nassar**, showcased his striker skills with a decisive first goal. **Cora Hackmann**, our goalkeeper, made an incredible save, putting our team in the lead. Our next attempt was a miss while our opponents made theirs. Undeterred, our third kicker, **Theodore Youssef**, put us in the lead with a successful kick. It was down to the last kick by the opposing team that would either result in the NTCS victory or the game continuing with another set of penalties. Our opponents faltered, kicking the ball up and over the net! The victory was ours!

This tournament had some amazing and unforgettable moments that showcased not only the talent of our boys and girls but their dedication and teamwork. It was also great to see the support from some of the parents who attended the tournament. They were very welcome and contributed tremendously to the team's morale.

Thank you to: **Piper Brooks, Charlie Chan, Ademidun Eleso, Cora Hackmann, Elias Jara, Curtis Leung, Glen Li, Victoria Li, Zachary Liu, Theodore Nassar, Maely Ouegnin, Theodore Salama, Michael Shenouda, Theodore Youssef, and Amy Zhao.** You brought home a tremendous victory for NTCS! GO FLAMES!

Mr. Garay

Grade 7/8 Boys' Soccer



The NTCS 7/8 boys' indoor soccer team participated in a tournament at The Hangar (Downsview Park) on Thursday, November 30th. It was an exciting time when our boys displayed enthusiasm and teamwork. Kudos to our team for the big effort and for playing intensely to represent our school in the best possible way. We won 1 game, tied 1, and lost 1.

Team members included: Grade 7: **Damola Eleso, Ian Goligher, Mena Matta, Brian Song, Luke Yeo, Baarmaan Ghiasi-Esfahani**; Grade 8: **Arthur Chan, Judah Flynn, William Gomes-Sierra, Terrell Lam, and Kai Zou.**

Mr. Galvez

NTCS FLAMES—Tripleball

Grade 5/6 Tripleball

On Wednesday, November 29th, the Grade 5/6 co-ed tripleball team competed at Brampton Christian School. The team honoured God in every set they played. The tournament was full of fierce competition! After a hard fought round robin, where we finished third in our division, the team was defeated in the quarter finals by John Knox Christian School. Thank you to all the schools, athletes, referees, and coaches who helped make the tournament a success.

Team members included: **Kabeer Bhatia, Piper Brooks, Cora Hackmann, Colwyn Gao, Madelyn Gomes-Sierra, Ezra Kok, Owen Kwong, Avin Lai, Curtis Leung, Elliot Leung, Jocelyn Wong, and Amy Zhao.**

Mr. teBokkel



NTCS FLAMES—Volleyball

Grade 7/8 Girls' Volleyball

The Grade 7/8 girls' volleyball team participated in an all-day tournament on Thursday, November 23rd, at Brampton Christian School to wrap up their season. Despite only having just over an hour of practice a week for three weeks, the girls demonstrated how much they had improved in their volleyball skills at the tournament. They were nervous but also excited! They were calm on the court and their enthusiasm shone through, both on the court and the bench. They always tried their best and demonstrated great sportsmanship. Ms. Jones and Mme. Wall are incredibly proud of the team and hope that they will continue to develop their skills for next year and grow the new friendships they made. Go Flames!

Team members included: Grade 7: **Stephanie Duran Pacheco, Auvine Fateh Nemati, Cathryn Kwok** Grade 8: **Allison Chuang, Naomi Croft, Eden Hackmann, Jane Li, Nala Pinsent, Toni Viterbo, Emily Wan, and Paige Young.**

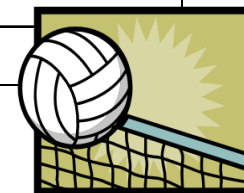
Ms. Jones

Grade 7/8 Boys' Volleyball

The Grade 7 and 8 boys' volleyball team played in a tournament on November 23rd at Oakville Christian School. It was a fun-filled day of competition, with every set against teams from Brampton, Halton Hills, John Knox, and Oakville having good competitive balance. Our serves were consistent, and we played a good, controlled defense with a few epic attacks, but the other teams were largely larger:) In the end, NTCS only came out on top in one of the eight sets we played, and we missed the playoffs but had a great time giving it our best! Mr V could not be more proud of the boys' teamwork, sportsmanship, and perseverance.

Team members included: Grade 7: **Alvin Deng, Damola Eleso, Hyeonbo Shim, Brian Song, Luke Yeo, and Ivan Zeng** Grade 8: **Judah Flynn, Jaiden Ng, Caleb Wang, and Kai Zou.**

Mr. Vant Erve



Senior Boys' Volleyball

On November 28th, the high school boys' volleyball team traveled to Toronto Waldorf School for their playoff tournament. After a successful regular season which saw them finish with a 7-2 record, belief that they could win it all was at a high. The first match of the day saw the Flames take on PACE and come out victorious with a quick 2-0 win. They followed up that win by eliminating the defending champion Whitefield team also 2-0. With a semi-final spot locked up, they rested their starters in a losing effort to PCA. In the semi-finals, they faced the host school and last year's silver medalist, TWS. Unfortunately, they fell short but still were able to achieve a top four finish for the first time in the last five years. Congratulations on a highly successful season. The improved play from last season was remarkable. The future of this team is bright!

A special thank you to the Grade 12s - **Haydrian Cheung, Magnus Chien, Alan Lu, and Joshua Ma**, who will not be returning next year.

Team members included: **Ildi Angjeli, James Awadalla, Tristan Boertjes, Haydrian Cheung, Magnus Chien, Curtis Gao, Jeffrey Jun, Martin Lem, Alan Lu, Liam Lu, Joshua Ma, Josiah Oladiran, Jeffrey Tao, Aidan Untalasco, Brandon Yip, and Austin Zhang.**

Mr. Hoover

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*It is the purpose of
NTCS to provide a
sound academic
education inte-
grated with a
Christian view of
God and the world.*

Today in the town of
David a Saviour has
been born to you; he
is Christ the Lord.'

Luke 2:11 (NIV)



OPEN HOUSE—February 15th, 2024



Do you know of family and friends who may be interested in sending their children to NTCS in September of 2024? We have already conducted many tours for families who have seen our website or heard about us from a school family or someone at their church.

Often, families begin to prepare in the New Year for next September. Even now we are accepting students for the new school year in 2024. Our annual Open House is a wonderful opportunity for interested families to come and visit the facility and observe some of the activities that take place every day. As in the past, our music students will be involved singing and playing their instruments and other activities and clubs will also be represented. It is always an enjoyable and informative evening for our guests. Thank you for the part so many of you play in promoting NTCS!

NTCS Calendar 2023-2024 (major dates)

Dec. 25-Jan. 5, 2024	Christmas Break-No school
February 16	PD day-No school
February 19	Family Day
March 8-18	March Break-No school
March 29-April 1	Good Friday/Easter Monday-No school
May 17	PD Day-No school
May 20	Victoria Day-No school
June 10-20	Exams (Gr. 7-12)
June 21	Last day of school



Newsletter

The next newsletter will be sent via email on February 1, 2024.

The newsletter and other information can be found on our website at www.ntcs.on.ca.



Classes will resume on Monday, January 8th, 2024!

