



North Toronto Christian School

# SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME to a new school year! We extend our warm greetings to those who are joining us for the first time, and we welcome back all of our returning students. We trust that you have had an enjoyable summer and are here with the intention to participate fully in the life of the school.

Our theme for this year is "Be Like Jesus". The theme verse will be Philippians 2:5 (NCV), "In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus."

Planning for an exciting school year has been happening all summer. From new academic courses to sports and a full schedule of Chandos trips, there is something for everyone!

We look forward to being together again, to learn together and participate in the school activities that we all enjoy!



Mrs. Brouwer, Principal

## *School Wide General Information*

### *Get Acquainted Night*

*Thursday, September 14th, 2023*

*7:00 p.m.*

*Track Area and Classroom Visits*

*Plan to join us for this opportunity to become better acquainted with the NTCS faculty and staff.*

### *Family Information Detail Sheet*

This document was sent to all school families by email on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. As it is essential that we have accurate information for contacting you, especially in an emergency, please send an email to [office@ntcs.on.ca](mailto:office@ntcs.on.ca) to make any changes.

Please check the contact phone numbers to ensure they are current, and feel free to add additional emergency or other phone numbers. Please do not give your personal phone numbers as emergency numbers. We always call 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.

Please ensure we have your up-to-date email address. This will be used to forward all future newsletters and other important information throughout the year.

## *Welcome to New Staff!*

We are very pleased that **Ms. Rachel Wong** has joined our staff to teach the Grade 1 class. Ms. Wong earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and her teaching certification, a Postgraduate Diploma in Education, from The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Ms. Wong has a strong background in competitive athletics and has been teaching in Hong Kong prior to relocating to Toronto.

We are also happy to welcome **Mrs. Caterina Ierullo-Gialone** to teach French and Music in our elementary grades. Mrs. Ierullo-Gialone is a graduate of York University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, specializing in music, and a Bachelor of Education degree, and has come to us from another Christian school in Toronto. She has wide experience teaching music, songwriting, and serving on worship teams.

We look forward to our new staff joining us and contributing their expertise to the NTCS program.

## **Updated Vulnerable Sector Check Policy**

The Toronto Police Service has informed the school that **starting Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, Vulnerable Sector Checks can be completed online. Please do not mail in any new requests as of today, as they will be processed faster using the new system. This change only affects those who have a postal code beginning with an "M".

What you **need to know**:

- Applicants applying for a Vulnerable Sector Check will be able to complete the **entire process online**, improving response times and giving applicants the ability to track submissions.
- You will need to provide an **agency code**; this has not been provided to the school as of yet.
- Applicants can opt to send their records checks to the school electronically.
- The total fee for volunteers is **\$26.72**.
- There is a new form for those continuing to use mail or visit in-person; this can be obtained by contacting Mrs. Brouwer.

## **Blanket Permission**

We assume that we have your permission to take your child on all school outings scheduled for their class throughout the year. If you want to refuse permission for your child to participate in any specific activity, you should notify the teacher and principal at the time.

Parents should still expect to receive correspondence about upcoming school activities or sports events in which your child is involved, but signed permission forms will not be required.

## **Security**

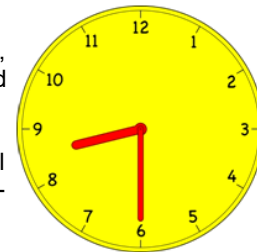
During the day, access to the school building will be minimized. All exterior doors will be automatically locked throughout the school day, except for designated times. An intercom system at the EAST entrance, connected to the school office, is to be used by any students arriving late or parents needing to pick up or drop off a child during the school day. This east access is the most direct route to the school office on the second floor.

## **BE PUNCTUAL!**

The school day begins at 8:45 a.m. for all JK to Grade 6 students and at 9:00 a.m. for Grade 7 to 12 students, with the playing of 'O Canada'. Please have your child(ren) at school each day no later than 8:35 a.m. and 8:50 a.m. respectively, so they can be in their classroom to start the day.

Students who are late interrupt the class and miss important instructions and course material. High school students, in particular, jeopardize their course credit when they are regularly late for class, especially first period classes.

Parents and students are strongly encouraged to review the late policy in the student handbook. Letters will be sent home with students to notify parents of accumulating lates.



## **Absenteeism**

When your child is absent from school, please call the office or send an email to [aleung@ntcs.on.ca](mailto:aleung@ntcs.on.ca) to inform us of the absence. A doctor's note or a note of explanation is required if your child has missed a test during their absence.

If you need to pick your child up early or at some point during the day for an appointment, please call to let us know or send a note with your child. We need to hear from you before they can sign out.

High school students also need parental or guardian approval before they can leave the school premises, unless they have finished their classes for the day. If possible, please make arrangements ahead of time and inform the office if your child will be absent, arriving late, or leaving early.

## **Peanut Allergies and Medical Info**

We have students and staff in the school who have a potentially severe allergy to peanuts, tree nuts and food products containing peanuts and tree nuts. We want to ensure that our building is '**Nut-Safe**', where our staff and students with these allergies can be safe from nut exposure. Therefore, we request that you not send any peanuts, tree nuts or foods containing nuts, for example, *Nutella* or *peanut butter*, in your child's lunch or snack. Please note that items containing coconut are not part of the nut ban. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

If your child requires an epipen, please give one to the office at the start of the year even though your child may carry one in their backpack. We need to be able to access it immediately in the event of an emergency. If your child needs a puffer on a regular basis, it is also very helpful to have an extra one kept in the office.

Please do not send medicine to school with your elementary child. It is best if you arrange to give your child any required medicine prior to coming to school or at the end of the school day. Teachers and office staff are not authorized to administer medicine.

If your child has any other medical concerns of which the school should be aware of, please detail them in an email to Mrs. Newsted at [dnewsted@ntcs.on.ca](mailto:dnewsted@ntcs.on.ca).

## **Accident Insurance**

Supplementary accident insurance for all students is available through the Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada.

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](http://www.insuremykids.com)

## **Parking and Traffic**

We ask you to be vigilant as you enter and exit the parking areas. With smaller children on site, it is vital that we have your full co-operation in this matter. There are three driveways to the property. The **NORTH** drive can be used as an **entry or exit** point. The **MIDDLE** driveway is an **entry only**, while the **SOUTH** driveway is an **exit only**. Please ensure you complete the 'loop' by driving to the far west end of the parking area by the playground. Please do not park in undesignated areas or close to doors and do not stop or park in front of the roped off areas. Also, please **pull straight into parking spaces** as opposed to backing in.

## **Student Parking**

Parents, if you intend for your child to drive to school on their own, please have them pick up a *student parking form* from the school office which also outlines our school parking policy. This form should be filled out and returned to Mr. Cooke. Students may only park in the southern most lot. They are not permitted to drive other students at any time without written parental permission for each student. Any student driver who violates the rules or demonstrates an irresponsible attitude will have this privilege revoked.



## School Picture Day Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Look your best! All students must be in full school uniform. Grade 7 to 12 students need to wear the school Oxford dress shirt or blouse, tie, and vest or long-sleeved NTCS quarter zip sweater. Elementary students must wear their green polo shirt and navy pants or skirt.

Proofs will be sent home after photo day. You can sign up for notifications at [edgeimaging.ca/photoday](http://edgeimaging.ca/photoday) so you know when to expect them. You will be able to review your images and make your purchase online.

## **Uniform**

Each year, there are many uniform items that are misplaced by students and go unclaimed. **Please be sure to clearly label all uniform items with your child's initials and grade, especially athletic clothing and school uniform zip sweaters and vests.**

Please read thoroughly and ensure that you understand the uniform requirements as outlined in the uniform policy for your child's grade. These documents can be found on our website under "Downloads".

School athletic clothing may be ordered by filling out the PE uniform order sheet in the "Downloads" section of our website and sending it to school with your child or scanning to [msin@ntcs.on.ca](mailto:msin@ntcs.on.ca). Upon receiving payment by cheque or etransfer to [admin@ntcs.on.ca](mailto:admin@ntcs.on.ca), we will send your order home with your child. Athletic clothing may be ordered at any time throughout the school year.

Please ensure that your child has the necessary footwear, in good repair, to wear during the school day.

We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring your child comes to school in the proper attire each day.

## *Theme Verse for 2023-2024*

"In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus."

Philippians 2:5 (NCV)

## *General Information—Elementary—Grades JK—6*

### *First Day — September 5th, 2023*

On the first day, students are asked to be on time, ready to begin the school day. Upon arrival, students in grades JK to Grade 6 are to go to the playground entrance. Teachers will lead their students into the school building at 8:35 a.m.

Students arriving between 8:35 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. will be greeted at their designated door and allowed into the school building. Those arriving late, after 8:45 a.m., will need to use the intercom at the EAST entrance to alert the office of their arrival and have the doors unlocked so they can enter.



### *Every Day*

If students arrive between 8:00 a.m. and 8:35 a.m., they should be dropped off at the playground entrance. Teachers will lead students into the school at 8:35 a.m. After 8:35 a.m., the designated entry doors are: EAST Door—JK, SK and Grade 1; Main SOUTH Entrance Door—Grades 2, 3, 4, and 5B; WEST Door—Grades 5A and 6. Students will not be permitted to enter the building before 8:35 a.m.

In order to reduce contact and congestion after school, we ask that you promptly pick up your child(ren) from the playground area if you are able to do so. JK to Grade 6 will be dismissed at 3:15 p.m. In case of inclement weather, students will be picked up from the track area doors at the NORTH side of the building.

### *Extended Care (JK—Grade 6 only)*

We have limited resources to care for your child(ren) before and after school. Supervision begins at 8:00 a.m. and will be held outside only until 8:35 a.m. in the playground and soccer field, weather permitting. If inside, it will be held in the track area with students moving to their classrooms at 8:35 a.m. Students dropped off after 8:00 a.m. are to go directly to the field/play areas and NOT into the building.

Outdoor, after school extended care will be held from the end of the school day until 4:30 p.m. The fee is \$5.00 per half hour beginning at 3:45 p.m. If the program does need to be brought indoors due to inclement weather, the track area will be used, and parents will pick up their child from the track area doors at the NORTH side of the building. Please ensure that your child has the proper outdoor clothing for outside play.

Elementary students must be picked up from extended care no later than 4:30 p.m.

Please notify the office via email, note, or phone call if another friend or family relative will be picking your child up on any given day or from time to time.

## *General Information—Middle/High School—Grades 7-12*

### *First Day — September 5th, 2023*

Students in Grades 7 to 12 should arrive at school for 8:50 a.m. and enter through their designated doors. Grades 10 to 12 will use the NORTH door and Grades 7 to 9, the EAST door. Students will proceed directly to their HOMEROOM where they will receive their schedule, locker combination and student agenda.

Middle and high school students who must come earlier because they are coming with younger siblings must go directly to the SOUTH entrance and proceed directly to their designated rooms for study hall (Grades 7–9 in the Forum Room and Grades 10-12 in the Café). They will then be dismissed to their HOMEROOM at approximately 8:50 a.m.

### *Every Day*

#### *Arriving and Departing*

The day begins at 9:00 a.m. with HOMEROOM and ends at 3:30 p.m. The school will be open by 8:00 a.m. each morning for access to Study Hall in grade designated areas.

Students will use their designated entrance to enter the school each morning and to leave the school each afternoon. Students arriving before 8:50 a.m. will go to the SOUTH doors and proceed directly to the Study Hall location for their grade for supervision. Designated doors for those not in Study Hall will be open at 8:50 a.m. At the end of the day, the expectation is that all middle and high school students will be gone from the building by 4:30 p.m. Students will not be permitted to be in classrooms, hallways or other areas of the school building, either before or after school, unless they are involved in a teacher-directed activity. Students will be encouraged to leave the building promptly following their last class and not loiter in the hallways.

### *Courses*

Senior students need to be aware of pre-requisites for all courses, be familiar with their OSSD requirements, and have a clear understanding of their future requirements for post-secondary education. All students need to read the student handbook and course calendar which contains valuable information for planning their high school program. Mr. Brown, Head of Guidance, will be available to meet with students.

Changing a course is permitted during the first week of school only provided there is space in the class and a student has the necessary pre-requisites. Students must speak to Mr. Brown before changing courses.

### *Homeroom*

Every class will have a designated homeroom teacher. Students will have a regular homeroom class from 9:00 a.m. to 9:12 a.m. when general announcements will be made, housekeeping matters will be taken care of, and devotions will take place. Senior students who have a spare first period are required to be at school on time for their homeroom class.

### *Chapels*

For both middle and high school students, chapels will be held approximately three times per month on Wednesdays. The schedule will be announced at a later date. The first chapel for Grades 7/8 and for Grades 9 to 12 students will be on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

### *Textbooks*

Our official textbook supplier is **The Batner Bookstore**. They provide an easy to use online system, securely accessible from the NTCs website, that allows you to purchase our books with a credit card and ship them directly to your home or to the school. Please ensure that your child's name is written in each textbook in case of loss.





## FALL CHANDOS SCHEDULE

We are pleased to conduct our outdoor education trips to our camp facility on Chandos Lake this fall. They will commence a week after school begins for students in Grades 3-12! Stay tuned for more information from your teacher(s). The fall packing list is on our school website. The schedule is as follows:

September 11-13	Grade 11
September 13-15	Grade 12
September 18-20	Grade 9
September 20-22	Grade 10
September 25-27	Grade 7
September 27-29	Grade 8
October 02-04	Grade 5
October 04-05	Grade 3
October 10-11	Grade 4
October 11-13	Grade 6



## *Camp Ke-Mon-Oya/Chandos Outdoor Education Centre*

Camp Ke-Mon-Oya operated for five successful weeks this summer. Under the supervision of Camp Director, **Mr. Garrett Brinkman (Ducttape)**, Program Director, **Genesis**, and an enthusiastic group of staff and counselors, the campers enjoyed a memorable experience.

Many people are involved in looking after the campers during their stay at camp. Thank you to all of the counselors who worked hard supervising their campers in the cabins and at the waterfront and organizing and teaching the activities. The counselors included **Baymax, Beacon, Cocoa, Cora, Disco, Delaware, Gecko, Kowalski, Penny, Pingu, Rhythm, Scooby, Steeles, and Teamo.**



Thank you to **Ballen** who looked after the campers' medical needs. Thank you as well to **Margaret Cooke (Mrs. Cook)**, **Jay Cottrill (Roadrunner)**, **Ingrid Roeleveld (Tulip)**, **Shannon Anderson (Hummingbird)**, **Chris Barker (Mrs. B)**, and **Mrs. Newsted (Mrs. Sugar Cookies)** who cooked in the kitchen various weeks throughout the summer and to **Diane Ye (Almond)** and **Deborah Shih (Cashew)**, the kitchen assistants, who also worked various weeks. **Hydro's** handyman skills and assistance in various capacities was also greatly appreciated throughout the summer.

A special thank you is also extended to the various speakers who participated during the morning and evening chapel sessions during the different weeks: **Major, Jive, Fender, Jan-ner, Rei, and Hydro.**

Another program at Camp Ke-Mon-Oya this summer was the LIT (Leader in Training) program held for three weeks in July. This involved a combination of Bible study, leadership theory, and practical application by participation in kitchen duties, activity support, and cabin junior-counselor responsibilities. Under the leadership of **'Rei'**, the LIT participants this year were **Daisy, Koopa, Luigi, Maple, Peach, Pixar, Rosalina, and Yoshi**. Some of the LITs returned after the program was over to volunteer in the kitchen and around camp with activities and whatever needed to be done, and their help was greatly appreciated! We were happy to see some of our own NTCS students participate in the program this summer.

Any student who will complete Grade 10 in June 2024 will qualify for consideration for the summer LIT program of 2024. Both LIT and counsellor application forms are available in the new year on the school and camp websites.



## NTCS

255 Yorkland Blvd  
Toronto, ON  
M2J 1S3  
416-491-7667  
www.ntcs.on.ca

Mrs. Nicole Brouwer  
Principal  
nbrouwer@ntcs.on.ca

Mr. David Vant Erve  
Vice Principal  
dvanterve@ntcs.on.ca

Mr. Gordon Cooke  
Administrator and  
Treasurer  
gcooke@ntcs.on.ca

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

"Guide me in your  
truth and teach  
me, for you are  
God my Saviour,  
and my hope is in  
you all day long."

Psalm 25:5



## NTCS Board of Directors

North Toronto Christian School is a non-profit, charitable organization that is currently governed by seven individuals who form its Board of Directors. Please remember them in your prayers as they meet to discuss, plan, and make significant decisions about the school. Please contact any of them if you have questions or concerns. Their names and email addresses are posted on the school's website, but we make them available here as well for your information.

Mrs. Barbara Dempsey ([bdempsey@ntcs.on.ca](mailto:bdempsey@ntcs.on.ca)) Chair

Mrs. Rachel Goligher ([rgoligher@ntcs.on.ca](mailto:rgoligher@ntcs.on.ca))

Mr. Ken Hung ([khung@ntcs.on.ca](mailto:khung@ntcs.on.ca))

Mr. Jason Kwok ([jkwok@ntcs.on.ca](mailto:jkwok@ntcs.on.ca))

Mrs. Benita Pak ([bpak@ntcs.on.ca](mailto:bpak@ntcs.on.ca)) Secretary

Mrs. Sarah Wan ([swan@ntcs.on.ca](mailto:swan@ntcs.on.ca))

Mr. Don Watson ([dwatson@ntcs.on.ca](mailto:dwatson@ntcs.on.ca))

## 2023-2024 School Calendar

The following is a list of the key dates until the end of the Christmas break.

Monday, September 4	Labour Day – No school
Tuesday, September 5	First day of school
Friday, September 8	Photo Day
Thursday, September 14	Get Acquainted Night
Friday, October 6	PD Day - No school
Monday, October 9	Thanksgiving Day – No school
Wed/Thurs, November 22/23	Parent Teacher Interviews
Friday, November 24	PD day – No school
Monday, Dec. 25-Jan. 5, 2024	Christmas Break – No school

## Newsletter

**Newsletters will be sent via email on the first day of each month.** Please take the time to peruse the newsletter as it provides interesting and important information about events taking place in our school. Please ensure you provide the school with your current email address and, if it changes, please notify the office. For your convenience, it will continue to be posted monthly on the school website.

# WELCOME BACK!

