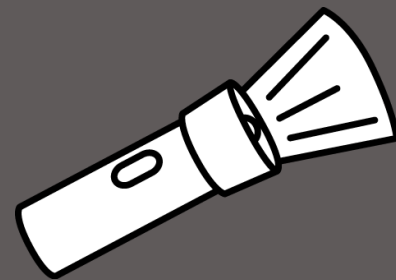


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The Torch



VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3

MARCH 7, 2019

Hearing and Doing God's Will *by Stephanie and Mrs Crouse*

On Friday, February 22th, all of the high school students went to the Willowdale Presbyterian Church for spiritual emphasis day. The students were excited about it because last year was the first time for this activity, and they were glad that they could have it again this year. It was a good day spent listening, learning, and experiencing our relationships with God. Maddisyn Wegner said that "spiritual emphasis day was eye-opening, and it was really helpful to my everyday life."

The day opened with worship led by the NTCS team and then Mrs. Gonske's father, Rev. Jong of Vaughan Community Church gave the opening talk. He shared his testimony and told us about coming to Canada when he was a teenager and feeling that life was unfair. However, when he became a Christian, he knew that God had a good plan for his life and that included coming to the cold mountainless city of Toronto!

Then the girls and boys went to separate sessions where they heard speakers discussing a variety of subjects. The girls participated in workshops about preparing for university, knowing God's will, hearing God, dealing with negative self-talk, and tackling fear. Naena Drazman

said the "self-talk seminar was very applicable; I've been thinking about that a lot lately."

The guys had workshops on a variety of topics including mental health, how to pray, dating, and knowing God's will. Steven Chan thought the workshops were quite relevant this year and the "session on stress was well-constructed," he said. Kris Thomas learned a lot in several of the sessions but thought it was cool when "the speaker on mental health was able to analyze people's feelings based on the way they answered her questions." Tobias Pak liked how the students could all get together and he learned four different things about God and his will.

After two workshops the students made their way to the gymnasium for a delicious lunch provided by the Watson family. It was a good time of fellowship, chatting with the speakers, and

Continued on page 3



*Grace Xia and Justin Cusato play for worship at the start of the day.
Photo by Mrs Crouse*



*Grade twelve students load up on lunch.
Photo by Mrs Crouse*

High School Art Update: Go Big or Go Home! *by Yilia*

Last week, the high school art class finished their Individual Study Unit project called “Go Big or Go Home”. You’re probably wondering how it was named. It was because the project has a limited minimum size and a free choice of topic and medium. Students were allowed to choose to create whatever form of art they wish, such as collage, mix medium, oil paint, or photography.

Mrs. Joo explained that the reason for doing something BIG was because “it’s a more interactive approach. When you look at it from a distance, then you go closer to it, you’re going to have a very different feeling as you approach the art piece. You’re immersed into it, just like becoming part of the image.” Instead of having everyone do the same medium and topic, having to do something more creative and conceptual allows every student to use their own strength to create an art piece that they are interested in and have more freedom of expression.

Daeyoung’s art piece “frustration” is the largest. The

whole art piece is in black and white, consist of arms and legs in different movements. Through the motions and placements of these body parts, you can clearly see the frustration going on. Other than the idea itself, “the use of Conté and materials was also really well done,” Mrs. Joo complimented.

Tiana Neogi and William Zhang both used wires for their ISU. The advantage of using wire is that it can play with light to create shadows that provide different effects. Tiana’s “Ballerina” was hanging from the ceiling, and as she twisted it and held a light source, it immediately created the shadow of a dancing ballerina. For William, instead of hanging his airplane up, he displaced it on the chair and moved the light source. As he was moving the light, the shadow was almost like an airplane was taking off.

Grace Xia’s artwork also contains wires. It is a layered project with the first layer of one line drawing of dancers, and second layer of wire sculpture on top, so that it appears to be a 3D outline.

She was inspired by “the way dancers move and how that could translate to art and lines and movements. So I wanted to express the two different kinds of movements you see in dance and art,” she said.

Natalie Chan’s “clouds” was the most abstract project. She painted clouds in different shapes and colors to express different kinds of emotions. She even asked other people how they feel about her paintings. A lot of research and many thoughts were put into it, making it very conceptual and interesting. “Sometimes I find it hard to describe emotions in writing, so I wanted to do this in my ISU to help my writing,” Natalie said.

Overall, Mrs. Joo was proud of these students who had worked so hard in a short period of time. After many hours of hard working, the “Go Big or Go Home” art pieces are now finished. If you are interested in seeing our art, please come and join us in the art room.



Zoe Dean poses with her latest art project. The art students won a lot of awards in the Legion’s Remembrance Day Poster contest. In a recent chapel they were awarded their certificates and prizes. Sisley Hung received recognition. Photos by Mrs. Crouse

endless pasta! Then there were two more sessions. At the end of the day, we gathered in the sanctuary to sing another song and hear Rev Jong give some final thoughts on sharing our faith with others. Natalie Chan said she liked listening to the keynote speaker and his message because it was really engaging and interesting. She thinks it is nice to take a day off of school and have a spiritual emphasis day. Sam Berzi was glad to have reminders of specific points of his faith and was challenged again to trust God.

After a great day, the students jumped on the buses and returned to NTCS with lots to think about. Thanks to Mrs. Brouwer for organizing a great day and to the Watsons for the lunch. We really appreciate it!



The grade ten girls enjoyed a seminar with Charissa—she taught them a new Bible study method called Lectio Divina—“Read, Meditate, Pray, and Contemplate”

Our New Grade Four Teacher *by Rachel and Charis*

Mrs. Seenaraine is the new grade four teacher at NTCS. She came to the school after the Christmas break, in January 2019. We got to sit down with Mrs. Seenaraine one afternoon and chat with her about her impressions of NTCS.

“I find the staff members very friendly,” she said with a cheerful smile. Since her time in the grade four classroom, she speaks fondly of the students and said, “I really enjoy the conversations in the class and how the fourth grade students like to share their point of view.”

Mrs. Seenaraine loves to learn. Over the years, she has learned how to sign language. Sign language is a special way of communicating. Instead of talking, you would use your hands to make different actions and gestures for each word. As a teacher, her favourite subjects to teach are math and writing. She also loves theatre!

Prior to teaching at North Toronto Christian School, she taught at another school called, *Signet Christian School*. Did you know that Mrs. Seenaraine has a good friend from her childhood who also teaches at NTCS? Can you guess who it might be?

As students in her grade four class, we are very happy to have her teach us. When you greet our newest staff member, just know that she also likes chocolate!



Mrs. Seenaraine pauses for a moment from her work for a picture.
Photo by Mrs Crouse

Did Jesus Really Resurrect from the Dead? *by Alex*

Food for thought as we head into Passion Week



Easter is almost here. For many believing Christians, it is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. However, there are still many non-believers who still question and argue, 'Did Jesus really die and resurrect from the dead three days later?' There are a lot of different cases and theories that have been brought up over the course of history. For instance, some people have said that Jesus did not actually die, but only fainted.

Let's list and then discuss some of those theories. One theory claims that Jesus did not actually rise from the dead, but that the disciples simply stole Jesus' body to make it look like Jesus resurrected. Looking in the book of Matthew, it says that the tomb was guarded by

Roman soldiers and a large disk-shaped stone blocked the entrance to the tomb. If the disciples really wanted to steal the body, they would have had to quietly sneak past the soldiers and roll the stone away to enter into the tomb. If the disciples were even successful in sneaking past the soldiers, they would have to move the stone, which was extremely heavy. It would have taken lots of strong men to move that cover away. That does not seem probable at all.

Another theory claims that Jesus did not actually rise from the dead, but that robbers took the body. The same problem arises as with the previous theory. What about the Romans? What if it was the Romans who actually took Jesus' body? Well, probably not, because they were the ones who put the body into the tomb

in the first place. Why would they want to take it out again?

If the Romans did not take it, maybe the Sanhedrins took it, as some have claimed. Once again, it begs the question: Why would they want the body?

Finally, we return back to the first theory: What if Jesus did not die, but had simply fainted. This theory can be more complex. Some people have said that you can technically survive a crucifixion, but the chances are extremely slim. When a person is crucified to the cross, the nails that keep the person on the cross damages the main nerves near the wrists and ankles. The person would have to push his body up to breathe. Soon, he would get too tired to push himself up. Once that happens, fluids would rush into your lungs, and you basically drown in your own body. Often, Roman soldiers would break the person's legs to prevent them from pushing up to get more air, which would quicken the dying process. In scripture, it says that when they got to Jesus, they speared his side and water and blood flowed out, meaning that he had already died.

These are some popular theories that question the resurrection of Jesus. I hope this article will get you thinking before Easter about this very important topic.

Grace Marie Salama and Joy Marie Salama display their science fair project about twins!
Photo by Mrs Crouse

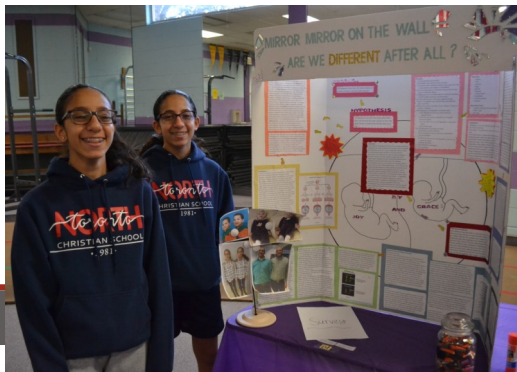


Table Tennis Triumph! Tim Zhang warms up before the tournament. The team dominated and won 12 of 14 medals. Good job team!

Blab with Berzi: March Break Activities in T.O. *by Sam*

As some of you know, March Break is coming up real soon. Even though March Break is only one week long, there are many things to do instead of sitting at home all week and watching Netflix all day. There are many typical things to do such as going to the movie theater with your friends and family, eating at a nice restaurant, playing laser tag, and many other activities. Whatever you do, make this March break extraordinary and special.

The weather during March is still quite chilly, but if you're up to the challenge, you and a group of friends can go to a Toronto Raptors game. I understand it is getting closer to the playoffs so tickets may be a bit pricey. The ScotiaBank Arena has opened an outdoor venue with a big 500-inch screen for everyone to enjoy together called Jurassic Park - located at 15 York St. If the weather is a bit too

harsh, there are some indoor activities such as a board games cafe that goes by the name of "Snakes and Lattes." This cafe has all the board games you can think of. It's an eight dollar entrance, but it's worth the fun for a day of games with friends. Snakes and Lattes is located at 45 Eglinton Ave E.

Another option that could be checked out during the break is to go to the Ontario Science Centre which is a science museum for all ages. It is located at 770 Don Mills Rd, North York. Another fun activity you can do is go to the Toronto Comic Convention. The Toronto Comic Con is an annual comic book convention held in Toronto. The idea originated in 2003, and ever since 2012, the event has been up and running and

getting bigger. This year it will be held from March 15-17, 2019. It is a fun event that can be attended with those who love comic books. Dressing up is also part of the Comic Book Convention. If you are unable to do any of these, some really good movies on Netflix are: Shawshank Redemption, Indiana Jones and The Temple of Doom, Coach Carter, and Moneyball.



Jurassic Park is a fun place to watch the game with fans.

Grade 5-6 Girls' Basketball Tournament? *by Samantha*

The grades five and six girls had a very successful tournament this year! The team consisted of: Stephanie and Amayah from fifth grade, and Eva, Hannah B., Hannah X., Emma, Samantha, Pooja and Eugenia from sixth grade. They played extremely well at the tournament, winning us the first place trophy since 2013!

The girls are very grateful to their coach, Madame Moore. She had a lot of fun coaching the team and said, "All the hours that I spent coaching the team was very worthwhile." She confessed that she did not think that they were going to win, and that winning was just a pleasant surprise for her. She also said that the team improved the most on working together as a team.

The game was hosted by Philopateer Christian College. NTCS

versed Brampton first, and won 24-11! The girls were really excited after that, having been told that Brampton was a really good team. After that, they faced Oakville, Peoples, Westminster, and Richmond Hill. Those were all successful games for NTCS.

It was all down to the last game against the hosting school, Philopateer, and at this point they were pretty confident that the trophy was theirs. However, to their surprise, Philopateer turned out to be a strong team. Although they were all worn out and tired, they were SO close to winning, and in the end, they pulled through.

The team worked well together, and it was everyone's effort that helped. Everyone on the team managed to score at least one basket, and they've improved a lot since they first started practicing. We wish the best to the girls' junior basketball team next year! (Totally no pressure though.)



The girls get silly with pizza at their celebration party. Photo by Mrs. Crouse

Sports with Sai



On Wednesday, February 20, the high school boys basketball team secured a spot in the SSAF playoffs after crushing PACE 67-29. They entered the playoffs as the 3rd seed after finishing the season 5-3. They played Toronto Prep School (TPS) on Monday, February 25 in the first playoff game. NTCS had not played TPS before, so it was interesting to see how the boys would do on this occasion. If they were successful in their endeavour against Toronto Prep, they would be playing against the victor of People's Christian Academy (PCA) vs. A.R.S. Armenian School (ARS). The NTCS boys lost to PCA earlier in the season, but looked to avenge their

loss and attain the glory of the SSAF finals. They looked forward to reaching the finals and engaging in a rematch with Metro Prep, who took the championship last year.

This past weekend concluded the festivities of All-Star weekend (taking place in Charlotte) in the NBA. During this time, the league's best and brightest come together to display their basketball greatness in different competitions, as well as a star-studded game. On the Friday, there was a celebrity game, which contained some familiar faces outside of basketball, such as Aziz Ansari, Quavo, and even Dr. Oz!, as well as some retired players, such as hall of famer Ray Allen. Later that night there was the Rising Stars Challenge, in which first and second year players play a game together (teams are split up by World Vs. USA). On the Saturday, there are the more relaxed, fun competitions, such as the skills challenge. In this, players voted in run through a short course that contains a chest pass into a hoop, a layup and a three pointer, and the first to do it wins. It is a 1v1 competition. Later on was the 3 point competition. One



by one, players line up to test their skills behind the arc. Last, but not least, is the famous dunk contest. This year's winner, Hamidou Diallo, stunned the crowd and the judges when he managed to jump over Shaquille O'Neal and dunk his whole arm in the net. This is no easy task as Shaq is a gigantic 7'1! (see the picture!) This is one of the most exciting times of the basketball year, as the highest flyers in the league gather on the court and not only show off their vertical, but also their creativity, as their dunks are rated out of 50. Finally, on the Sunday, is the legendary all-star game. The very best players around the league are voted (or selected, as this year) into 2 teams who go head-to-head. Though the game is meant to be light and friendly, it is a good opportunity to see the utmost talent play. All-Star weekend is a very exciting time of the year and NBA fans are eager for next year's festivities.

One, Two, (Skip a Few), Ninety-Nine, One Hundred *by Grace and Bethany*

On February 6, 2019, the JKs and SKs had their 100th day of school and they had lots of fun! The JKs did various activities. They played games, watched a movie, and had a party! They each brought one hundred things from home. Some examples of what they brought: macaroni, cars, ponies, Hatchimals, etc. Some of the JKs brought food: macaroni and cheese, Rice Krispies, candy, and more!

Isabel Wan says, "I had a lot of fun on the 100th day of school!" We think everyone agrees with her!

As mentioned earlier, the SKs also celebrated the 100th day of school. They did similar activities. We asked one

of the SKs a few questions: What was one activity you did on the 100th day? She answered, "We counted fruit loops cereal by 2s, 5s, and 10s."

Were you excited for the 100th day and why? "Yes, I was, because I knew we would do fun activities." Overall, the JKs and SKs really enjoyed it and they had lots of fun. Congratulations on this exciting milestone!



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Tips with Tiana

Well it's finally that time of the year we've all been waiting for since Christmas - March Break! From March 8 to 18, you can finally unwind and take a week to relax and rejuvenate. However, if you're anything like me, and did not make any plans, then here's a few tips to have productive, yet a refreshing week. Before I get into a few tips, it is important to realize the importance of this break. From September to June, students can often find themselves "burned out" especially with their schoolwork and spirit. So, in order to regain motivation and enthusiasm, take some time out of the break to reflect on yourself mentally, physically, and spiritually.

Mentally: Now that school is out of the way, take some time out of your day to think about everything that needs to be accomplished before March 18. This could range from homework, studying, laundry, errands, and organization. By completing a few tasks a day, you will feel less stressed

since most of your homework or errands are completed. This allows for relaxation time to focus on yourself through sleeping in, hanging out with a few friends, going out or even staying home and watching Netflix.

Physically: It is a known fact that exercise releases endorphins which make you feel much more happier and active. This is a much needed mood booster since the winter months are cold with not much Sun around to brighten spirits. Physical activity also helps with endurance and motivation traits within a person while boosting the immune system. So even if you plan on going to the gym, running, participating in at-home workouts, or even walking the dog you will feel much better afterwards.

Spiritually: With all the stress from school, extra curriculars, errands, or even just life, it's hard to keep a healthy balance between all of that and your relationship with God. It is important to keep prayer in mind especially during the overwhelming parts of the year. So during this march break, take some time to reflect on your faith and yourself to connect with your spiritual life. If you haven't attended church in awhile, that can be step one, or if you haven't had a one to one prayer with God in a while, then begin with that.

Even though March Break is only eleven days, use this time to refresh your mind-body-soul connection. Once you work on that, you'll find yourself ready and prepared to finish off the last three months of school on a good note. Have a fun and safe break!



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Since our newspaper is written for our school readers, we want you to get involved! Do you have any questions about God for our Devotions column? Do you want to comment on any articles? Send us an email at:

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We will answer your questions in an upcoming edition of *The Torch*.

Also, the journalists are working on the NTCS 2018/19 yearbook! Throughout the year, send your high-quality photos (jpeg files) to:

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Enjoy March Break!