



THE TORCH

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STUDENTS AND TEACHERS EXCITED TO BE TOGETHER AGAIN



BY KINGSTON

North Toronto Christian School has decided to bring the students and teachers together in an off-line community. Principal of the school, Mrs. Brouwer, reported that "strict measures will follow." While most students were initially worried with the school reopening, others said that they were very excited to see their friends.

Teachers, on the other hand, were worried that students wouldn't follow the new rules and regulations. It turned out that most teachers were amazed at how well the students adapted to the new environment.

Mrs. Brouwer started to plan the school reopening in March of 2020 and she said that "it was no easy thing to figure out the school reopening plan because there was no play book for such a thing." She mentioned the difficulties that she faced while scheduling elementary and high school students.

Grade eleven student Andrew Chan said that he is "very excited about this 2020-2021 school year because he always looked forward to

studying overseas." He also mentioned that here "teachers do not force students to always get high-score, but mainly teach knowledge even if they are out of the syllabus."

Mr. Brown, guidance counselor, said how impressed he is with students not taking their masks off in school and also how organized the school is overall. He connected the current situation with Bible verses that tell us there always will be light. "We are currently on the darker side, but God will always shine the light on us. We should always trust in him and he will rescue us from the dark situation." (John 1:5)

While Mrs. Brouwer was overwhelmed with all the emails she was getting about the school reopening, she managed to organize the reopening plan to avoid traffic in the hallways. "Toronto Public Health was the number one place to refer to since our school is not a public school. I heard the school closure on the radio on my way home and the first person I called was Mr. Cooke (the Administrator)."

Mrs. Brouwer visits the journalism class for an interview. Photo by Sisley



Despite the fact that the students and teachers need to follow the strict rules and regulations to try and slow the spread of Covid-19, everyone is very excited to be back at school offline, and to meet some new people.

The school is prepared for a second wave or quarantining of specific cohort which could lead to a period of online learning. Students and teachers are praying to avoid online learning because they believe that it is important to bond together and have a trust in God to not lose hope during the hard times.

MS. ROSE: SEEKING GOD IN HARD TIMES BY SISLEY



A French teacher whose dream was psychology found herself serving God in her journey of teaching. This year, North Toronto Christian School welcomes yet another addition to their teaching staff: Ms. Rose. Ms. Rose is a devoted Christian who aspires to pursue God despite the ups and downs in life. Her admirable character is an encouraging example for

her students to continue seeking God through hard times.

Ms. Rose grew up close to Fairview Mall and lived in the neighborhood since she was ten years old. She continued her Grade 6 to 10 education in Scarborough before returning to North York. An event she particularly enjoyed in her childhood was beatboxing with her siblings into a mic

and recording themselves on a cassette. "We would make up sentences that rhymed and didn't care if they made sense or not," she said.

Ms. Rose studied at York University and later finished with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology at the University of Toronto St George campus. She also completed a Bachelor of Ed.

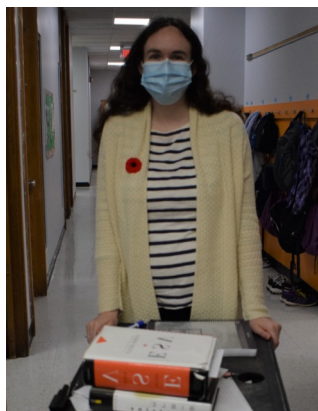
Continued on page 3

MRS. CORBETT	2
FINDING FUN	2
MS. TSE	3
POETRY CORNER	4
POETRY FROM WRITERS CRAFT	5
MEET MME CHEE	6
SUDOKU	6
MS. KIM	7
OUR WRITERS	8
NEXT EDITION: MEET MS. ETINGER	

WELCOME BACK TO NTCS MRS. CORBETT BY KINGSTON



Mrs. Corbett takes her cart full of books to class



Mrs. Corbett, a 2014 graduate, has returned as an English and Religion teacher to NTCS. After a long journey of education, she is excited to pursue teaching after her studies in Philosophy and English.

Mrs. Corbett grew up outside of Toronto, in a small town called Mount Albert. She attended Tyndale University for her first undergraduate degree and she majored in Philosophy because she loved taking Ms. Brooks' class when she was a student at NTCS. She also minored in English because she always loved reading, and she enjoyed her professor's classes. She finished her Education degree at York University last spring. It was no easy thing for her to decide what to minor in. She said she has "always loved reading. I switched around between Biblical

studies and theology, but eventually ended up with English."

Mrs. Corbett now teaches grades seven, ten, and twelve English and Christian Studies. She shared her experience with the age group that she works with and said "I love working with grade sevens because they can be fun. I also like grade ten and twelve because these students are more mature and I can have a deep discussion with them about their Christian lives."

Her decision to become a teacher wasn't until the end of her first degree. Professors taught me so many interesting facts and knowledge, but also how to really love the Lord with your mind," she said.

Mrs. Corbett was born and raised in a Christian family, but she said she never really felt anything until she got to university. She said "I first heard the prayer when I was around 5 years old but my church service was basically lip service—I wasn't actually serious. I really considered becoming a committed Christian in the first year of university. For the first time in my life, I was actually convicted of my sin. I felt like I was drifting away from God and just wanted to be closer to Him."

She shared her experience working in a couple of different

schools—public and private. She felt that the other Christian private school was much stricter, whereas the public school was a very different experience. She said the public school she worked in had a lot of students with larger class sizes.

Mrs. Corbett explained how she chose to work at NTCS. "I had such fun memories at NTCS and it has been such a great advantage knowing how things work. The way it happened was a huge blessing and God orchestrated it. I always envisioned myself teaching at a Christian school because of my experience at a public school it can be so tough. We need Christians in every single field but this definitely suits me right now."

In her spare time, Mrs. Corbett likes to read or do embroidery. "Something that I picked up not too long ago was embroidery and it came handy during the pandemic. I didn't make anything that I can wear, but I made small things that could go on the wall. I did one for my friend's baby; I embroidered her name on it and gave it to her."

Mrs. Corbett said that it feels good to be back at NTCS in person and is looking forward to an exciting school year.

PRAISE THE LORD BY CHLOE



Despite the current circumstances, God has shown He has stood beside us and continues to do so during the school year. His wonderful works have been shown through the teachers at NTCS, as they have applied their dedication and tireless efforts to make the school as enjoyable as it can be when we are restricted by Covid-19 protocols.

With the team's creative minds, Mrs. Babler is excited to find

different solutions as they begin SaLT. "Although there are many Covid-19 regulations put into place," she said, "I am delighted to get to know each member of my team better, and to help them learn more about God and being student leaders at NTCS."

During lunches, Mr. Hoover's ping pong intramurals have provided students a chance to jump back into sports and actively interact with others. While maintaining social distancing

and wearing masks, the athletes are able to compete against one another and they are excited for other upcoming intramurals.

Mr. Brown's commitment in altering his music program to best fit these times was shown through the engaged students who are eager to perform their ukuleles during class. "Our perspective, along with our ability to adapt and get creative are key right now to not missing out on the continued faithfulness and goodness of God

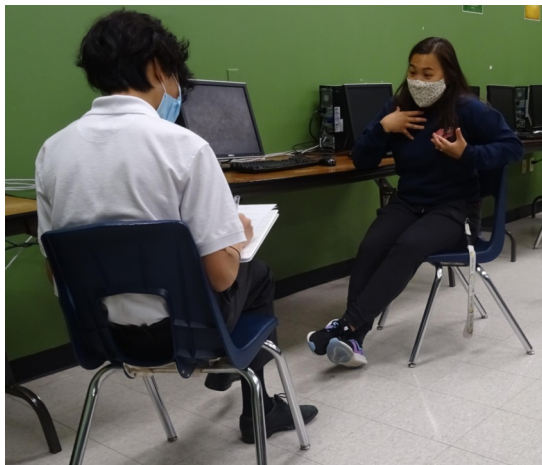
Continued on page 4

MS. TSE: FIRMLY PLANTED AT NTCS

BY EUGENE



Eugene interviews Ms. Tse when she visited the journalism class. Photo by Kingston



Ms. Tse, your new physical education teacher, was born and grew up in Hong Kong. She said that she wanted to be a teacher when she was in kindergarten. In the summer after grade 8, she de-

cided to accept Jesus in her heart and was baptized when she was 14 years old. When she was in grade 10, she wanted to be a physical education teacher. So she came to Canada and studied at the University of Toronto. She achieved the Master of Teaching degree and majored in physical education at university.

Before coming to NTCS, Ms. Tse taught some grade 9 to 12 after school programs in other schools. But she said that “NTCS is the first school that I’m teaching at for a whole year.” As this is the first year for her at NTCS, she wants her students to have fun in physical education lessons, and also wants the students to do their best.

She teaches grade 4 physical education lessons, one of her students, Aria, said that “she is nice and

firm, so we don’t slip up.” Ms. Tse also teaches them how to be better teammates in class, as well as how to respect others.

During her spare time, Ms. Tse likes to garden. She said “it feels cool when I see how plants grow” and she also likes to take pictures of them. She said that watching them grow is similar to teaching. Plants grow from small to big after two months, and it is similar to watching students or children grow over the school year. She also thinks that plants teach her a lot of lessons, for example when plants are going to die, she will try very hard to make them alive. This is similar to humans, she said that we should also face the difficulties and not give up.

MS. ROSE CONT....

degree at Tyndale University.

Initially, Ms. Rose had aspired to become a psychologist or perhaps “the next Dr. Dobson,” founder of the Focus on the Family organization. Her decision to teach was discovered through “God’s calling and prompting.” During her church volunteering, her nephew approached her and encouraged her to pursue teaching. He mentioned how he enjoyed her class and it was the best class he has attended. She volunteered in different teaching opportunities after receiving encouragement from her father. She started developing a love for teaching kids not long after that.

Ms. Rose taught at many public schools before North Toronto Christian School in Durham Region and in Toronto. She enjoys the class sizes at NTCS compared to the larger number of students in public classes. She also

enjoys talking about God freely, which is unwelcome in public schools.

Netflix, exercise, and going out with friends or family are a few of Ms. Rose’s hobbies. She mentioned that “these are things that I don’t have to think about much, they relax me and are easy to do after a long, and sometimes stressful, day at work.”

Ms. Rose became a Christian through the influences of her mother and church. By the time she was a pre-teen, she had received a calling from God to be obedient and close to Him. Ms. Rose said that “I chose to accept Him in my life that morning.” She was baptized at her church not long after. Despite ups and downs in her journey, Ms. Rose continues to allow God to guide her in every aspect of her life. She trusts that God is with her and that she is “saved through Jesus’ blood

alone, destined for heaven.”

Ms. Rose’s inspiring journey to Christianity encourages students in North Toronto Christian School to continue seeking God through all circumstances.



Ms. Rose tests Aidan Untalasco during French class. Photo by Mrs. Crouse

Praise cont...from p 2.

during these times.” Mr. Brown highlights that it is important to remember that even though much is limited, God is always good and faithful to us.

As Mr. Brown said, “God knows what is best, and I take heart in knowing that I do not walk through this school year alone.” This reminds us that although Covid-19 has many downsides, it is important to remember that God never leaves our side. Thankfully because of Him, He has provided a way for NTCS to safely organize clubs like SaLT and activities like intramurals throughout the school year.



Ethan Berhardt returns the ball. Photo by Mrs. Crouse



Damian Salama keeps his eye on the ball while playing table tennis at lunchtime intramurals. Photo by Nadine

Table Tennis News

In the senior division, Ethan Berhardt (10) placed first and Damian Salama (2) came in second.

Steven Efram (8) placed first and Lee Jasper (7) was second in the junior division.

Great job athletes!!!

The Poetry Corner

LEAVES

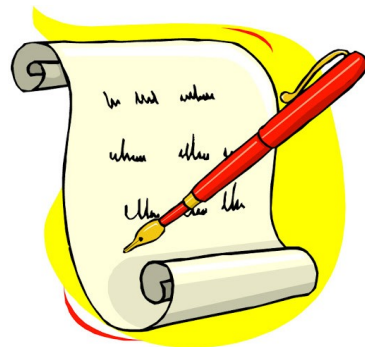
*Once on an autumn afternoon,
I spied a dancing group of leaves,
Fluttering to a timely tune,
Along the roof and window eaves.*

*A-waltzing with the wind went they,
And tango with the branches' tree,
Happily joining in new play,
For everyone their joy to see.*

*They landed down among the grass,
And rustled salutations fair,
Then on to creeper bare they pass,
Making the two a lively pair!*

*Twisting orange, yellow, and red,
The autumn colours spin and leap,
Making when all's done and said,
A memory for me to keep!*

BY JACQUELYNE GOLIGHER



Revenge

Bang, bang, bang goes the gun
Firing with deadly accuracy.
Loud, sharp pained cries filling the dark,
broken air.
Blood, seeping everywhere,
With eyes looking for life to spare.
Triumphant sounds, fill the air,
As the person falls down to the rock, hard ground.
Families crying with grief,
For their son they'll never see.
Like a kick in the stomach,
A bang to the head,
An image of their son, falling to the ground dead.
Kids aching for help,
Mothers shouting angrily for revenge,
Fathers banging their fists,
Breaking the tables.
Sisters yelling for justice,
Brothers wishing for a chance,
To show what they can give,
To get back for their big brother's death.

By Grace-Marie Salama

Monkey Bars

As a child, my family and I spent a lot of time at the park.
This was one of the only things,
In my quiet neighborhood,
We would take my dog Atlas for walks,
And just enjoy the sun,
These days were extremely enjoyable.

I always loved going to the park,
Playing in the sandbox,
Flying down the slides,
And climbing the monkey bars.

During the summer of my 2nd school year,
My dad remained at home with me,
We went to the nearby park almost everyday.

We would laugh, and I would take my scooter down
The rubbled side walks.
One Saturday morning my entire family,
Headed to the park, and I climbed those red and yellow
monkey bars.

On this hot July summer day,
My hands were particularly sweaty,
My fingers slowly lost their grip,
One by one,
Pinky to index finger,
Losing my grip.

My dad noticed and tried to catch me,
Though missed by a hair.
I floated in the humid air for half a second,
Then lay flat on my back on the hard pebble ground,
I couldn't breathe, the air couldn't get to my lungs.

This being my second time winded
You would think I would be used to the feeling,
Though I panicked and tried to scream,
No sound came out.

I sat up with my parents by my side,
Instructing me to try and relax and take a deep breath,
Until finally I did,
I took in one massive breath of that perfect oxygen.

Looking back,
This story may sound over dramatic,
This is not my intent.
Those monkey bars bring back so many memories,
Days spent with my dad,
Those carefree perfect days of childhood.
Oh how they were so good.

I still dream and reminisce fondly,
Of when I thought disney princesses were real,
When my dog and I would make movies together,
And when life was worryless.

These ups and downs of life,
Have made me the person I am today,
I could never have imagined all that life would bring,
But those monkey bars remind me of the person I've become,
And the beautiful life experiences I've had.
I am glad,
To still see those monkey bars,
And remember it all.

POEMS FROM WRITERS CRAFT

MEMORY

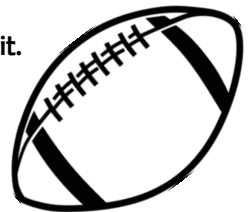
Memory is
A fleeting wind
Temporal as
The foaming sea
As it washes
Onto the shore

You grasp at smoke
Misty, murky images
Dead shadows of events
Long past
Echoing voices
Fading yellowed pages
Crumble away to dust
That is what we forget.

on the other side of the spectrum, there is Remember
here the faded images burst in colour
revitalized with sound
as emotions and sensations come flooding back in a
relentless torrent of warm fire and rain
details are sharpened
faces come into focus
splashes of ink spill on the graying canvas
revealing patterns previously unseen and forgotten
brought back from the recesses of the mind

FOOTBALL

When I was young
We spent most of our summer Sundays
Playing football in the backyard
Before the game came on in the afternoon.
God help anyone who made us miss one,
Especially if the Patriots were playing.
You would throw, I would catch;
I would throw, you would catch;
Sometimes missing it,
Sometimes getting hit in the face with it.
We worked together
To score the final touchdown
against the invisible opposing team.
The invisible crowd would cheer for us
In our invisible grand stadium
With the invisible announcers announcing our victory.
Now, you're the invisible one.



MME CHEE BY VICTOR



offer from Sweden, since one of her best friends lives there. "I've always liked travelling. My family moved around a bit when I was young, so it was nice to find a job overseas," said Mme Chee, "My other international options out of university weren't as appealing since I didn't already know anyone there."

As a teacher, Mme. Chee taught in a number of schools in Sweden. "I taught in Sweden for 8 years, and in 4 different schools. They were all very different! At the first three schools, I worked with at-risk youth, and I really enjoyed it. Sweden is nice; it's really pretty and it has a great social system in place to take care of its citizens," said Mme. Chee. "Of course, nowhere is perfect, and it has its problems as well. Sweden is also where I met my husband, so it will always be special to me," she added.

There are some differences between the Swedish schools and NTCS says Mme Chee. "There are quite a few differences between education in Sweden and Canada in general. At NTCS everyone wears a uniform, and that's quite a difference as there are no required uniforms for students in the education system of Sweden. It's also different that the school days here start and end at the same time every day."

Aside from her career as a teacher, Mme Chee enjoys reading, baking and swimming. "I like to read because I like to get into different stories. When I bake, I like to give stuff away. I

enjoy baking since it's cool to see how the different ingredients become something awesome." And she likes to swim.

"Swimming is just really fun. I'm not very coordinated, so a sport with lots of repetition and little reaction time (just getting off the blocks!) was to my advantage," said Mme Chee.

Last but not least, Mme Chee has an interesting and funny story of one of her teaching memories. "In my first year of teaching, I pulled the projector screen clean off the wall during the middle of a math lesson. I was too short (Swedes are tall!) to reach the handle, and had to jump to pull it down. My constant jumping resulted in it crashing to the floor, along with all the electrical wires that ran behind it. Thankfully, my school had a no cell-phone policy, so there was no evidence circulating about my students' very eventful math lesson on exponents," she laughed.

After many years of teaching experience, Mme. Chee is just getting started at NTCS. She continues to adapt to her new teaching environment in Canada amid the coronavirus pandemic.



Mrs. Chee explains the negative to her grade 8 student. Photo by Mrs. Crouse

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WORKING IN A NEW ENVIRONMENT: MS. KIM

BY GRACE



*Ms. Kim gives tips to a shy grade ten artist.
Photo by Grace.*



Ms. Kim, an art teacher for all grades, had pursued art since she was a little girl. As she grew up, she not only wanted to do art but also to serve God through it. She initially wanted to pursue an interior design path but she chose to be an art teacher.

Ms. Kim lived in a popular city in Korea called Seoul. When she was little, she was a very kind and obedient child. She started to use a lot of colours in her art and her parents encouraged her that she was good at using colours. Ms. Kim later moved to Montreal when she was in grade 3-5 because of her dad's business. "Before coming to Canada, I was a shy girl. I would be nervous to stand in front of people. But from that day on, my character has changed," said Ms. Kim. She changed a lot since she was little which is one of the reasons why she has wonderful memories in Canada.

Ms. Kim first studied in Korea and majored in textile and ceramic design for one year at Yonsei University. Right after she entered Yonsei University, she wanted to study abroad for design at the Art Institute of Chicago for another year but "my mom passed away so my dad wanted me to study at a business school because he did want me doing art." She thought doing business school was out of her comfort zone and didn't get too used to it. After a discussion, her dad agreed with her going into the arts and study in Canada because she had also made memorable moments there. She then went to York University to study ergonomics and has also double majored in art history. She also studied art at Seoul Women's University.

Ms. Kim continued to pursue her career as a part-time teacher at an art studio in Seoul. "I found myself having fun with teaching students and still being able to do art," she said. She later opened her own private art lessons. One of her friends who had a connection to NTCS told her to apply there to be an art teacher. This year is the first time teaching in a school as she would either teach privately or at the art studio. She found out that it is easier to teach at NTCS because the students are nicer and it is easier communicating with them.

Ms. Kim mentioned her love for craft because she has experience teaching all levels of students. Even though some grades are required to do art, craft is more personal. When she is working on an art project, a mixed medium is something that she really likes to play with.

Interior design is also one of her interests so she likes to change up her room once in a while. She often goes to furniture stores to look at the displays. This hobby started when she asked to change up the living room and go out to buy furniture. She really liked to go out to shop at furniture stores, especially during University.

Ms. Kim became a Christian because her family had a Catholic background. She says that Protestants are more outgoing and Catholics are quieter. Since she was a quiet and shy girl when she was little, her dad wanted to find a way to open up more so he decided to send her to a different church. She is now convincing her dad to go to that church himself.

Ms. Kim has loved art ever since she was little. Although there was trouble in the middle of her journey, she still got up and continued. Ms. Kim is a wonderful role model for our school because she is not only nice, but she is very encouraging to everyone.



*Grade two students sing along and do the actions in their praise and worship time on Friday mornings. Photo by Mrs Lew-Ong
Grade elevens join a zoom call with Mrs. Brouwer for chapel. They watch a number of videos and discuss Biblical topics. Photo by Mrs. Crouse*

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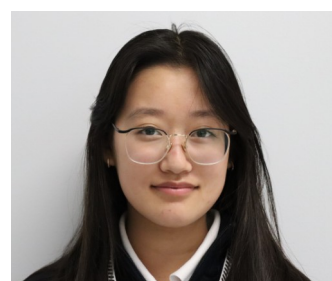
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Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

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CONTACT US:

Since our newspaper is written for our school readers, we want you to get involved! 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 2020-21 yearbook! Throughout the year, send your high-quality photos (jpeg files) to:

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