



THE TORCH

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THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR BY LUXMY

On Tuesday December 10, the JK to Grade 3 performed at their annual Christmas concert. Every year they perform to their family and friends, and help bring the Christmas joy to everyone's life. This year they performed eight songs, each class performed their own song, and then came out together and performed their last song.

After the prelude of piano students and the choir, led by Mrs. Newsted, the grade 3 students performed their first song accompanied by the recorder players in the class. Their last song was choreographed by the girls in the class. Then the JK students sang their song and danced to it. The shy students did an amazing job with their perform-

ance and brought laughter to many of the parents in the audience.

The Grade one students told the Christmas Story, "The First Noel", with outstanding costumes. They memorized their parts and shared the Christmas story in a wonderful and creative way. The SK students performed two songs, "Mary, Did You Know?" and "Hallelujah" with a little dance that stole the hearts of many parents. The grade two students performed two songs, and told the symbols of Christmas in different languages. They explained the symbols in English, and then the students also told the story in the language they speak at home. And to end the concert all the students from JK—3 sang "A Christmas Carol With



Grade two angel, Abigail Valani recites her part. Photo by Luxmy

Carol Medley." All of the students did a great job performing what they worked hard on for the last couple of weeks.

On December 12th the grades 7-12 music students provided over an hour of lovely Christmas music for an enthusiastic and appreciative

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THE GIFT OF GIVING BY HANNAH



Nathan Kim and Tobias Pak are impressed with the results. Photo by Mrs. Crouse

They say giving is better than receiving - a truth that NTCS took to heart during the shoebox collection this year. This yearly initiative is part of Samaritan Purse's Operation Christmas Child, a project that collects shoeboxes for redistribution among children in places in need. The

shoeboxes are stuffed with small gifts and serve as a way to introduce their recipients to the message of the Gospel. This year, NTCS managed to pack 624 boxes - nearly 200 more than their original goal of 450!

It's a flattering statistic, and certainly one to be proud of. Grace Zhou, a

Grade 12 student and SaLT executive, mentioned that she was extremely impressed. "Last year we didn't reach our goal, so this year we didn't expect to reach it either," she said.

Danielle Lee, a Grade 11 student and another member of SaLT, was also very proud of this year's results. She hopes to continue to keep up the good work for next year.

They say giving is better than receiving, but all too often we forget that by giving, we can receive blessings in return. "I was happy watching the kids encouraging and helping each other to reach the goal," Danielle said. "It was encouraging to see them so willing to give to others, and that encouraged me to continue to work at SaLT."

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MRS. BABLER: PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY ACTIVE BY WENNEY

Mrs. Babler may be a new teacher, but she has easily adapted to the school environment by actively engaging with each student and spreading her positive energy throughout NTCS. Her passion for teaching and for Christ can be seen in each of her classes and in the warm, confident smiles she gives to each person that passes her by.

Mrs. Babler was born in Winnipeg but she grew up in Newmarket. She lived in a Christian home with strong-believing parents, and she regularly attended church and Sunday school. Mrs. Babler accepted Jesus as her Saviour and was baptized in eighth grade. Her home had a mini-indoor playground, where she would rock climb and play on the swings, and her backyard had a zip-line. She was very active and energetic as a child, and she still is now.

Mrs. Babler majored in drama at Queen's University, and she also has a minor in history. She is currently teaching grades 2 and 7-12 Phys. Ed., grade 8 Bible, and grade 11 History. When she was asked why she liked teaching, she stated, "I like to teach because I like working with

people - particularly young people. I have always found it easy to interact with youth and I want to see young people find their calling and passions. I especially want young people to understand how awesome Jesus is!"

Mrs. Babler is an extrovert. In her spare time, she likes to hang out with her friends and be active. She enjoys doing a variety of activities, such as hiking, apple picking, going to the beach, you name it! "I have a 'dramatic' side," she laughs. "I can be very... 'quirky' when I am with people I am comfortable with. My 'quirkiness' often involves loud and over-dramatized renditions of Disney songs (or musicals!)" If you want to see Mrs. Babler perform "Part of Your World" from *The Little Mermaid*, or any other Disney song, be sure to catch her at the drama club!

Two grade eleven students were asked what they thought about Mrs. Babler. Felix An, a regular attendee of the drama club, said that she is "really good in drama club, very musical, and enjoys singing." Sophia Martin states that "Mrs. Babler was made to teach. I'm really glad that she's my

history teacher. She's one of my favourite teachers."

Whether you bump into her in the halls or you're in one of her classes, be sure to talk to Mrs. Babler! One of her goals this year is "to hear at least one funny story from every student I teach." Let's all take part in fulfilling her goal!



Mrs. Babler is excited to teach at NTCS. Photo by Wenney

CHRISTMAS BOXES CONT....



Joy-Marie Salama helps pack boxes after school.
Photo by Hannah



As a SaLT executive, Grace had the daunting task of organizing everything and encouraging everyone to participate and glorify God because He's given us so much. As a result, she learned a lot about teamwork and time management. Like Danielle, she was encouraged by watching everyone work together. "It was very heartwarming and

encouraging, and the Christmas spirit and joy was good to see," Grace explained.

After the boxes are counted and packed, they are loaded into trucks and shipped to a center in Calgary, Alberta. There, they are sorted and sent to different places around the world. It's exciting to think about since you never know how much your shoe-box gift will affect someone's life.

CONCERTS CONT....

audience. There were many special groupings including grade 7 and 8 bands and the senior class of grade 9-12 instrumental music students. Along with full band numbers, there were small ensemble groups (percussion, woodwinds, saxophone and brass), a guitar duet, and a solo violin arrangement of "All is Well and Silent Night" by Benjamin Yao. He was pleased with his performance. "I was a little nervous but it went pretty well," he said. "At least four people from the audience gave me a compliment which made me feel good," he added. It was obvious to all that there was a lot of time and effort rehearsing by all the students. Ms. Leung was in the audience and felt the Christmas spirit. "I really enjoyed the different arrange-

ments," she said. "Props to the solo and ensemble musicians for their great work."

On December 13, the grade 4-6 students welcomed their friends and families to see their musical entitled "The Christmas Dream Team Parade (the almost cancelled Christmas)" and it was amazing and enjoyed by all. Alessia Kaounis played a cowgirl named Dixie and did a great job. "I like the idea of the play - celebrating Jesus - and I liked showing off my cowgirl accent," she said. Ms. Yeung did a fantastic job directing the play and the students performed wonderfully. It was a funny script with a strong message of love and appreciation for the gift of Jesus at Christmas. A big thanks to everyone involved in all three concerts.



(top) The Carters learn the real meaning of Christmas.
(below) The saxophone and brass players filled the room with Christmas spirit! Photos by Mrs. Crouse

MR. PUN: FINALLY BACK HOME BY ATHENA

As the new school year begins, NTCS is proud to welcome Mr. David Pun to the staff team. He has many years of teaching experience overseas, and will be teaching grade 10 English, grade 2-3 ELL, and grade 7-8 Social Studies at NTCS.

Mr. Pun was born in Hong Kong, but grew up in Thornhill, Toronto. When he was younger, he played for a soccer team. He has an 11-month-old daughter named Adalyn, and hasn't had much free time since he had to take care of her. Mr. Pun follows her around to pick up the toys that she drops, and the books that she throws off the shelves at the library. When he isn't taking care of his daughter, he enjoys playing basketball. He has many nicknames including: RaPUNzel, Dan, and Punniful.

One of Mr. Pun's funniest childhood memories was when he was in grade three. One of his friends thought she had found oil, and everyone was eager to make money from it. However, as they picked it up, they discovered that the "oil" they found wasn't what they wanted. They had

picked up some dog feces by accident. Needless to say, Mr. Pun's mother wasn't impressed with what happened when he got home.

Mr. Pun went to the University of Toronto and the University of Ottawa, and studied economics and criminology. He wanted to become a contract lawyer once he graduated. However, God had other plans for him.

Mr. Pun was part of a Christian fellowship when he was in university, and was asked to join a Bible group. While he was in the Bible group, he was asked what he wanted his legacy to be. After thinking, Mr. Pun decided to change paths and become a teacher. He has taught in two



schools in Taipei for a total of five years. Both of the schools were Christian. After coming back to Toronto, he feels a sense of familiarity, and is happy to be back home.

Growing up in a Christian family, Mr. Pun thought he was a Christian. As he grew up, he realized that growing up in a Christian home didn't mean that he was Christian. During high school, Mr. Pun was a nominal Christian, and the gospel didn't impact him too much. When their youth pastor took him and his friends on a missions trip to a Native community, he went because all his friends were going. At the native community, there was a "spark" that truly changed him to becoming a Christian. "God used that time to change my life," stated Mr. Pun. He continued asking himself questions and worked towards becoming a true Christian. God continues to guide him today.

Whether it's as a teacher, or as a Christian, Mr. Pun is a great model for students, helping them grow in their faith in God as well as in their academics. As someone who was once confused about his faith, he definitely knows the feeling

Mr. Pun plays guitar at the Thanksgiving Chapel.
Photo by Sophia

THE MODEL UN CLUB BY ALEX



Joey Gianini makes a presentation at the Model UN club. Members listen attentively and take notes.
Photo by Mrs. Crouse

New to students this year is the Model United Nations. You might enjoy it if you like to express yourself to others and like to be a role model and leader.

Model United Nations is a simulation of the actual United Nations. Students take the place of world leaders to discuss and solve world problems. Club members first pick a country to represent. As a delegate of that country or nation, you will then research your country's economics, politics, geography, and national interests. Next, delegates will take turns speaking,

showing others your country's opinions on many things. Then, delegates will come together to talk about global issues and discuss how to solve them. Finally, the fun part is debating. Delegates representing different countries will vote on which resolution fits the best. That is what happens at the meetings.

MUN helps with public speaking, teamwork, and leadership skills. This really important for your future because it is very important to be able to express to others your opinion and work with the people around you. So consider MUN.

MUN is hosted by Mr. Pun and is available every Friday after-school to 4:00pm. New delegates (gr 7-10) are always very welcomed.

GAMES TO PLAY IN THE SNOW AT CHRISTMAS BY RAYMOND

Christmas and New Years are very important times of the year. When you hear about Christmas, do you remember the gifts or do you remember Jesus? If you remembered Jesus, good job! Christmas is all about Him. Some things people like to do outside during the holiday is to build snow forts, snowballs and igloos etc. The activities I recommend are to play tag in the snow. It's so fun when your friend tackles you (If you wear snowpants and gloves or else don't

play or tell your friend not to tackle.) I also enjoy playing toys that a lot of people play called Beyblades. You should put snow in the stadium (If your mom lets you of course). I would tell you to play these things at recess (or if high school students at spare or lunch with your friends). That's the stuff that I recommend doing and be safe when you play and of course **DON'T THROW SNOWBALLS** please! Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!



WHO IS SANTA CLAUS? BY NIDHI



Who is Santa Claus? We all know Santa always wears red and loves cookies and milk. He delivers presents to everyone, everywhere! He is very friendly and you can usually find him in malls and at job parties before Christmas. And if you're really lucky, you can see him go down the chimney, land in your fireplace, and unravel his magnificent bag of gifts. Oh! And kids can also write letters to Santa asking him to bring what they want.

Here are some secrets about

Santa Claus: Santa has 12 reindeer which pull his sleigh. One is named Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer. Santa likes to say, "ho, ho, ho!"

Did you know that the first Santa was Saint Nicholas who in the old days, placed baskets of fruit and essentials outside people's doors on Christmas morning? After his death, they picked one person in the town to continue his work. Soon "saint" turned into "Santa." As time flew by, Santa changed. Instead of fruit, he gives presents and instead of placing gifts on doorsteps, Santa now "goes down the chimney" and puts presents under our trees. It's interesting how traditions change over time!

THE BEST CHRISTMAS POEM BY RUTH FULLERTON



Winter is my favorite time of year.
 Gifts, and snow, and children's yells,
 And the colourful tree.
 Santa Claus comes down the chimney
 And you tip-toe down the stairs.
 He slowly eats the cookies;
 One by one he eats them.
 The smell of chocolate enters my nose.
 I scurry down the stairs to the kitchen.
 Morning time enters and we all wake up
 and all my wishes comes true.
 This is the poem of the best Christmas.



During the Christmas break, there are many activities to enjoy outside. If it's too chilly out there for you, here are some recipes to try indoors! Sophia's grandmother's baking has long been treasured by NTCS students and staff. Now you can try your hand at baking with some of her recipes during the Christmas break!

Fudge:

Ingredients:

- 1 cup butter softened
- 1 can Eagle Brand (sweetened condensed) milk
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1 cup white choc. Chips

Instructions:

Combine first three ingredients and microwave for 12 mins, stirring every 3 mins. [In 8 cup glass bowl]

Add white chocolate chips. Whip with hand mixer for 2 mins on medium speed.

Fill greased 8x8 pan and refrigerate until firm. Cut into squares and enjoy!

Combine first three ingredients and microwave for 12 mins, stirring every 3 mins. [In 8 cup glass bowl]

Add mint chocolate. Whip with hand mixer for 2 mins on medium speed. Fill greased 8x8 pan and refrigerate until firm. Cut into squares and enjoy!

Tasty Treats

BY SOPHIA

Church Windows

Ingredients:

- 1 pkg mini-marshmallows (coloured)
- 2 cups chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup butter.

Instructions:

Melt chips and butter. Let it cool.

Stir in marshmallows when cool.

Wrap in tinfoil sprinkled with icing sugar.

(roll into a log shape.)

Place in fridge for 2 hours.

Cut and slice 1/4 inch thick.



CHURCH WINDOWS

WELCOME MRS. STEPHEN SINGH! BY ELISSA

In this new school year, we are joined by many new faces and among them is Mrs. Stephen Singh who moved to Canada this April from Delhi, India. We are privileged to have her teaching us at North Toronto Christian School this year.

Mrs. Stephen Singh grew up in a Catholic background in Delhi, India. She speaks Hindi and English and understands Punjabi and Urdu. She studied at Delhi University taking history as her major where she learned Indian and ancient medieval history. "History is one of my first loves!" she said. Without taking history she felt incomplete. Mrs. Stephen Singh is passionate about teaching and thoroughly enjoys working with children. This year will be her fifth year as a teacher. Teaching has always come naturally to her as she states, "I love learning myself!"

In Delhi, Mrs. Stephen Singh worked at a Catholic school teaching English to grades 3, 4, and 5. At NTCS she teaches Drama, ESL, and

ELL to high school students. She does not think there is a big difference between NTCS and the Catholic school she taught at except that this is her first time teaching away from her home country.

Mrs. Stephen Singh chose to work here at NTCS because she likes to work in an environment with "like-minded people." She thinks that Christian values are important and can help young people become better people. She went on to say that she discovered this when she became a Christian, at the age of 13, at her church camp. It was then she understood that if she became a Christian she would have to change her lifestyle, the way she acted, and make good decisions. She also shared that her eldest sister is her biggest inspiration and has always helped her to make the right decisions, and that she always knows the answer to her questions.

Aside from her school life, Mrs. Stephen Singh enjoys reading and cooking which are very therapeutic

to her. Her favourite novels to read are fantasy or classics such as *Wuthering Heights*, *Lord of The Rings*, and *Narnia*. She eagerly proclaims, "The classics make my heart happy!" As for cooking, Mrs. Stephen Singh enjoys cooking soul food consisting of, non-vegetarian food, chicken korma, and Mughal cuisine. Mrs. Stephen Singh's bubbly personality and dedication to the LORD will have a great impact to the staff and students at NTCS.



Mrs. Stephen Singh hams it up in drama club with some improv. Photo by Wenney

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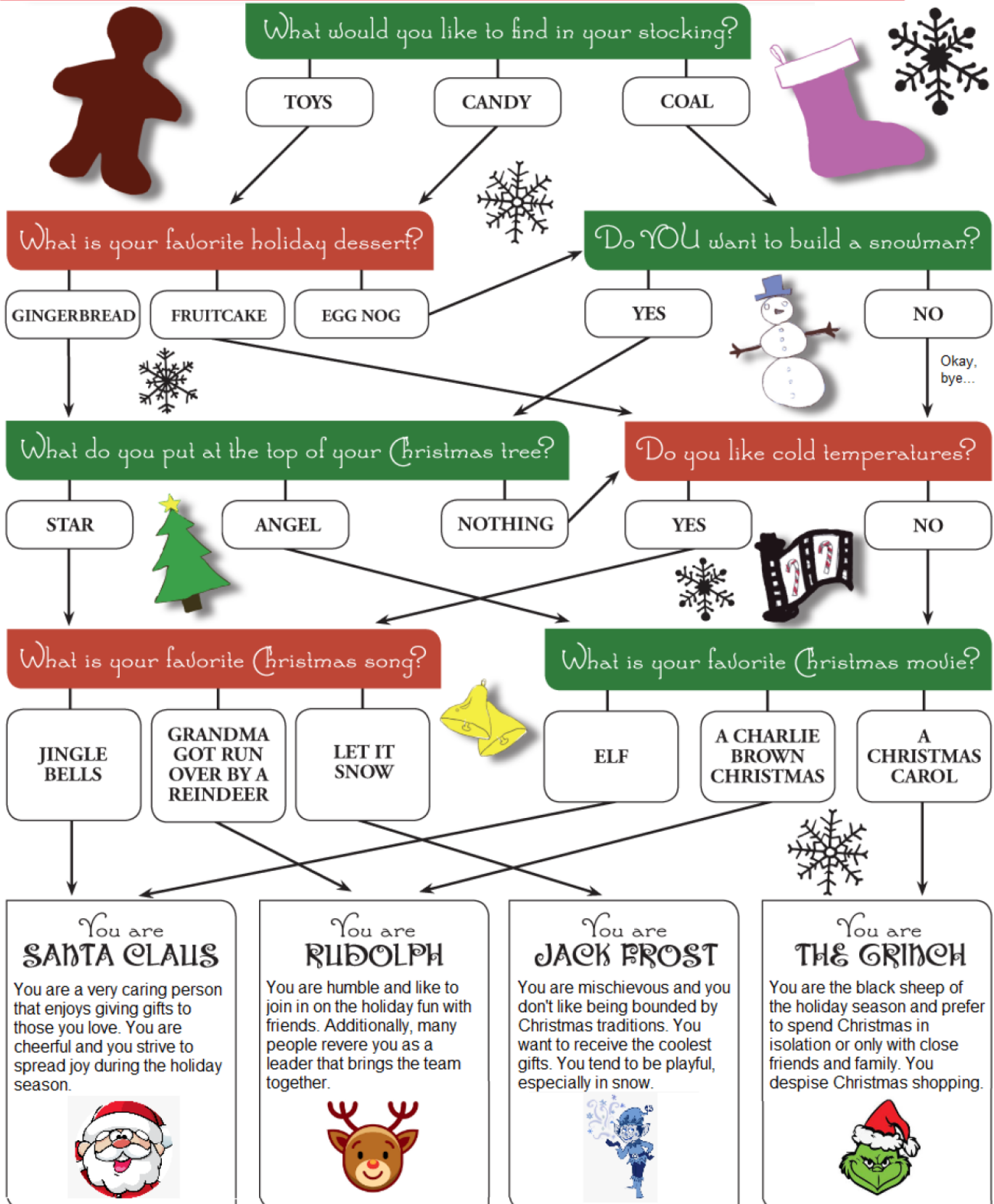
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CHRISTMAS QUIZ

ADAPTED BY WENNEY

Which Christmas icon are you?

As the holidays approach us, we tend to channel an icon that symbolizes the spirit (or lack thereof) of Christmas. Take this personality quiz to discover which icon best represents you! Start with the question below and then follow the arrows! Enjoy!



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM OUR JOURNALISTS:



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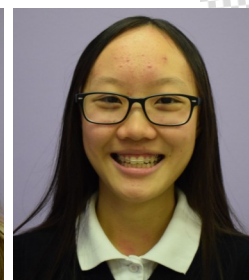
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Send us an email at:

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We will answer your questions in an upcoming edition of *The Torch*. Also, the journalists are working on the NTCS 2019-20 yearbook! Throughout the year, send your high-quality photos (jpeg files) to:

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