

SPRING EDITION

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A SHORT HISTORY OF APRIL FOOL'S DAY

BY SALLY KIM

What is the first holiday that comes to your mind when you think of non-religious holidays? The first one that comes to my mind is April Fool's Day! It is the most widely and broadly celebrated non-religious holiday in the Western world, according to history.com, and it is celebrated on the first day of April. Brandon Specktor, from Reader's Digest, defines it as an annual holiday consisting of practical jokes, pranks, and hoaxes. Britannia.com says that it is sometimes referred to as All Fools' Day. Joy-Marie Salama in grade 11 defined April Fool's Day as a "day where everyone can play harmless pranks on each other and enjoy the day." It is enjoyed by a lot of people because it is a day when you can relax from the strict world! It is similar to comic relief that comes in novels and movies during an intense plotline; it's a day when everyone laughs and enjoys silly jokes. Kenneth Wu in grade 8 said, "I enjoy April Fool's Day because my friends and I can play pranks on other people without harm and have a laugh about it." The pranks and jokes that are played are light-hearted and enjoyable, and it is unmasked by yelling "April Fools!"

Usually, the purpose of holidays are to celebrate or commemorate events or traditions from the past. However, not all holidays are celebrated for these reasons. Surprisingly, many people don't know why we

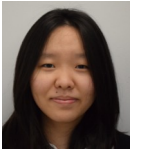
first started celebrating April Fool's Day. Although it has now been celebrated for centuries, the exact origin of April Fool's Day remains a mystery. According to history.com, the first recorded instance of April Fool's Day was on April 1, 1700. It seems English pranksters started celebrating April Fool's Day by playing jokes on each other.

History.com says that some historians believe that the celebration of April Fool's Day dates back to 1582. It is when France switched from using the traditional Julian calendar to the new Gregorian calendar. Charles IX decreed that the new year celebration would no longer be held on Easter, as had been common throughout Christendom, but rather in January, noted Britannica.com. This is because Easter was lunar, meaning it was a moveable date. And, those who were slow to this news of changing calendar continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1st, stated history.com.

According to Brandon Specktor, another suggested origin of April Fool's Day is the Roman tradition of Hilaria. Hilaria is a spring festival held around March 25th to celebrate the first day of the year that is longer than the night. The festival includes entertaining games and masquerades, during which the disguised participants can imitate the nobility to devious ends.

DANDELIONS IN EARLY SPRING

BY ALICE YAO



Spring has announced her coming.
You can peek through the emerald green,
Long leaves and golden plate,
The first bloom of dandelions.

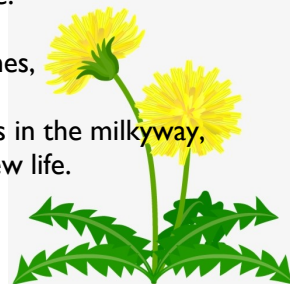
You may not be as rare,
As the Lycoris.
You may not be as beautiful,
As the rose.

Still you are unique,
Roots holding deeper in the ground.
The longing for life,
Has made you a brave warrior.

After weeks of hibernating,
Under the thick snow.
Every petal of the golden sun,
Turns into tiny but countless parachutes.

A prickly, fragile moon,
Full of soft arrows,
Waiting for the first blow,
Of the sweet breeze.

When the time comes,
They fly to the sky.
Like millions of stars in the milkyway,
Celebrating their new life.



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APRIL FOOLS CONT...



History.com added that some common and widely known pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being called the “poisson d’avril,” which translates to April fish. It is said to symbolize an easily hooked fish, or in other words,

someone that easily falls for pranks.

Different countries have different traditional pranks. In Scotland, April Fool’s Day became a two-day event. It starts with “hunting the gowk,” – gowk is a bird that symbolizes fool – this is where people were sent on phoney errands, tells history.com. Further, it is followed by Tailie Day, which includes pranks played on people’s derrieres, meaning behinds in English. For example, one could pin fake tails or put “kick me” signs on their friends.

Kelsey Pelzer from parade.com says that one of the earliest documented references of April Fool’s Day is from Eduard de Dene. He was a Flemish writer who published a poem in 1561 about a man who sent his servant on crazy trips delivering messages all day long on April 1st. The servant even-

tually realized that he was part of the joke.

Everyone has a story or a two about April Fool’s Day. You both play pranks and also get pranked by other people. Ashlee Yan (6) said, “Once, Mrs. Cooke said she would prepare brownies for our class, but she actually prepared brown Es for us!” Joy-Marie Salama (11), who has a twin named Grace-Marie said, that “usually, Grace and I try to switch on people and get them mixed up! We like to switch on teachers.” Like this, a lot of funny and creative prank ideas are available on the next page of this Torch! Look for Anna’s article!

EASTER LILLIES BY ELISSA



It’s 9:30 on a Sunday night, and instead of studying for my upcoming English quiz, I’m following a 6 minute and 50 second Youtube tutorial on how to fold an origami lily. When my mom walks in 20 minutes later to find four origami flowers laying on my desk, she gives me the side eye and I look up at her and say, “uhhh... I’m doing research for my Torch article”.

One day, over the Christmas break, I asked my sister if she wanted to take a break from studying and fold some origami flowers with me so we could surprise our mother. I showed her the video and she seemed skeptical at first, but then she agreed. Not only did we make our mother very happy, but we were both pleasantly surprised at our own paper folding abilities. Now that I have the instructions memorized, folding these lilies has become therapeutic for me and I love folding a bunch of these lilies in my free time.

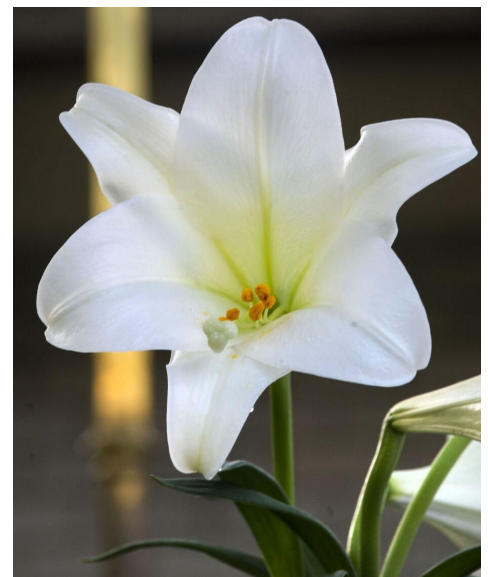
Spring is finally here, and although the snowy and rainy weather may indicate otherwise, we should

remind ourselves that April showers will bring May flowers. It’s always exciting to see the first flowers of spring. In the late days of April to early May; the flowers in my front lawn begin to bloom, and it always brightens my mood to see them everyday before I head to school.

These flowers are such simple reminders of the beauty of Spring and its blessings. It’s no wonder that flowers are the most popular gift to give to others. According to an article written by the University of Nevada, Easter lilies symbolize peace, hope, purity, rebirth, and a new beginning– just like the opportunities we are given in Christ through His death and resurrection. The acceptance of Jesus’ death and resurrection are the central aspects to our faith. Through His death we were given salvation, and in His resurrection, we are saved and given hope and new life. So as Easter approaches, I cannot help but think of the white Easter lilies which are often

seen in churches during this time to remind us of Christ’s triumphant victory over death.

If you’re interested in folding some of your own lilies this Easter, here is the link to the video I used: <https://youtu.be/PWylGb8EyQw>. May you have a blessed Easter holiday with your family as you reflect on the meaning of Christ’s death and resurrection.



TOP 5 HARMLESS PRANKS BY ANNA



Don't we all share a love for bright, bubbly, humorous people, and secretly wish to be like them? Pranks are the ultimate fool-proof lifehack to befriend someone new or head a step closer to being the life of the party. Knowing that some people are sensitive and not a big fan of pranks, the pranks mentioned will be totally harmless. No vinegar faces!

1. The Popular Peek-A-Boo Prank

Let me start with the peek-a-boo prank as outlined in *mashable.com*. "It's an iconic prank that doesn't require any materials—other than a profound lack of empathy, of course." Simply hide behind a wall, hold your breath, and wait for your target to come to you. As footsteps approach, take a moment to hope that you won't be slapped in the face shortly. When your target appears at the corner of your eye, rush into their faces like a bullet, and shout "boo!" Perhaps you've done this timeless prank before,



wickedly letting off a mocking laugh, or scared to death screaming in the hallways that one time.

2. Eyes in Disguise

Another prank is the googly-eyes prank, a hilarious suggestion from *safety.lovetoknow.com*. Finally, the leftover craft supplies from grade three art projects can be put to use! Dust away the cobwebs, fish out the googly eyes from the deepest ends of your cupboard, and

head over to the fridge. Specifically aiming for jars that have printed faces, stick the googly eyes accordingly. Friendly reminder: take out your favourite guacamole so that you don't get an accidental revenge. After careful preparations, pretend you can't find something in the fridge, and ask for help. The little jumps of shock or screams are the funniest reactions to see. "But they are sure to get a laugh out of this funny, practical joke," the writers at *safety.lovetoknow.com* noted. So don't worry!

3. Stick the Tape

Here comes a prank from *longisland.com* that might come in handy when you want to put a stop to your family's googly-eyes-gaze to the TV (just to watch that cranky show—your guilty pleasure). As the name implies, stick a piece of tape on the TV remote, and "watch as the unsuspecting victim scratches their head in confusion." Then grab your spot on the couch as they leave the living room helplessly. A similar version was done by Brayden Kwan (11) when he was in grade 8. He bought a projector remote identical to the one in his class. When his teacher turned the projector on, he would sneakily turn it off, holding in a mischievous laugh along with his classmates. Recalling the puzzled look on his teacher's face, he said between laughs, "It's still so funny to me."

4. A Fluorine Treat

There's no reason not to put toothpaste in your oreos when your family's sugar cravings are higher than gas prices. "It's a classic prank, but one that never fails," said *bestlifeonline.com*. The prank is pretty self-explanatory: scrape off the frostings off the oreos, stuff them in your mouth (the most important part), and replace them with perfect-white

toothpaste. Make sure the edges are round and smooth to resemble oreos. And when the "unassuming little thief" tries to steal another piece, they will learn their lesson whilst brushing their teeth at 4pm. What a great (and unconventional) way to secure your snacks!

5. Frozen Fun

As they say, breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Help out your siblings and prepare breakfast for them! Such an act will require considerable preparations the night before: generously pour your sibling's favourite cereal, then add whatever milk that agrees with their stomach. Stick a spoon for authenticity, stuff the bowl into the freezer and wait for the next day. When the morning comes, kindly wake them up and tell them that their breakfast is ready. And if you get bruises all over your body, blame *goodhousekeeping.com*.

Perhaps the invention of cell phones made certain pranks harder to pull. Let's travel back in time when smartphones weren't invented yet. One fine Saturday, Mr. Hoover's sister slept in until 1pm. "I switched all the clocks in the house to say 9am, including the clock on the video game system," he said. He convinced his sister that she hadn't slept in at all, and was up much, much earlier than usual. Well, the truth always prevails, and his sister was not pleased. With the prevalence of smartphones, this prank is harder to execute, but it's not totally impossible. Finding out passwords of people's phones is a challenging task, which requires some spying and peeping, but once you acquire your key information, you'll nail this prank. And now you've learned the secrets to becoming the life of the party, what are you waiting for?



AN EGG-CITING AND EGG-CEPTIONAL TRADITION BY GRACE



Running through hallways or fields, the suspense builds up as you look into every crook and corner you can find. You feel excitement and satisfaction when you find the hidden treasure and place it in a basket among the others with a loud clunk. Do you remember the laughter and immense joy you felt as you showed off your colourful egg collection? An Easter egg hunt is a lot of fun. “I like finding them, and the stuff in them, like candy and toys. I also like keeping track of how many I found,” exclaimed Elinor Yeddu (Grade 4). How did this engaging activity begin?

Who created this wondrous activity that we call the Easter egg hunt? According to *easteregg hunts and easter events.org*, originally, the word “Easter” came from the name “Eostre,” meaning “spring.” Eostre is also the name of the Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility. Surprisingly, early Germanic cultures proclaimed that the Easter Egg Hunt started as a pagan tradition dating back to the 1700s. They believed that the goddess and her egg-laying rabbits hid eggs to celebrate the beginning of spring, as explained by a writer at *sophisticatedwoman.com*.

Contrarily, the Pennsylvania Dutch didn’t believe in the goddess of spring; instead, they believed in Oschter Haws: an egg-laying hare. The children would build nests for Haws’s eggs, and the day after, they would search with the hope of finding the precious presents, according to *sophisticatedwoman.com*. Doesn’t Oschter Haws sound familiar? Yes! Eventually, Oschter Haws became the famous Easter Bunny – representing hope, innocence, and a new beginning for all

children. Over time, the Easter Bunny’s story became that he began laying chocolate and other candy and gifts alongside the eggs, and the nests were replaced with decorated baskets. According to *history.com*, children left out carrots for the bunny if it ever got hungry. Wouldn’t that be fun to do too? But instead of carrots, you can lay notes of encouragement and messages of love to celebrate Christ’s resurrection and love for us.

In an article on *bustle.com*, around the 15th to 16th century, Christianity adopted this tradition and made Easter eggs symbols of the resurrection – the hard-boiled egg represents the sealed tomb and cracking the shell represented Jesus’ resurrection. But why do we use



eggs? Why not apples or bananas? According to *english-heritage.org*, eating eggs was forbidden during Lent, the 40 days fast before Easter during the medieval period. This was true especially for the poorer class, who couldn’t afford meat or eggs regularly. After Lent, eating eggs during the feast represented the joy and merriment of finishing the fast and celebrating Jesus’ resurrection.

Searching and finding the egg wasn’t the only fun part of the tradition. Do you remember the stained, colourful hands? The fun and unique designs? Yes! Preparing and decorat-

ing the eggs for the hunt was an essential and memorable part of the Easter Egg Hunt. Decorating eggs marked the end of fasting while also celebrating the joy of the risen Christ! According to *goodhousekeeping.com*, the bold colours were used to symbolize different aspects of the resurrection: yellow for resurrection, red for the blood of Christ, and blue for love. Christians also “painted scenes from the Bible on eggs and hid them; the child who found the egg would come back and tell the story painted on that egg.” This is an incredible addition to this exquisite tradition, allowing children to have fun while learning about the Bible.

However, detailed or symbolic paintings are not necessary for this Easter tradition. Instead, have fun and remember what and who this tradition is for: Jesus Christ’s immense and unmeasurable love for us when He died on the cross. The importance of the Easter Egg Hunt is to remind us of Jesus’ huge sacrifice and boundless love for us. As Theodore Nassar (Grade 4) explains, The Easter Egg Hunt “is very important to me because I know that Easter is when Jesus died on the cross and rose again. To me, it’s very important to understand what it is and why we celebrate it.” Searching for the egg was also a big part of the hunt. It provides excitement, suspense, and hope as you look for the special, decorated eggs. Elinor Yeddu (Grade 4) gave an interesting thought: “when you look for the egg, you are looking for God.” This explanation shows that even though God is always reaching out to us, we should reach out to Him.

SPRING 2022 FASHION TRENDS BY NEZRA

Spring has us springing into action. Winter days are almost over so it's time to pack away those chunky, heavy coats and bring out our light jackets. With the new season comes new fashion trends and with the help of social media, we can find the best outfits and clothing that will make you bloom.



To start off, we need to put away those dark colours of the cold days. It's time to say hello to spring colours! Stylecaster.com says "according to fashion's top designers, we're in for a very lemon-lime 2022." Colours like kelly green, cerulean, and hot orange are some of the popular colours that are to be seen on this year's season runways. These spring colours will for sure get you in the spring spirit and influence you to

take photos in the lovely weather that we will hopefully soon have.

Tiktok is a great place to look for the latest trends. It is very open and the community is not afraid to blow an item or style up. @miks_tiks on Tik Tok is an account where you can find the latest spring/summer 2022 fashion trends. According to this site, we will be seeing a lot of skirts this spring - maxi, mini and even low to mid-rise skirts. Along with the low-rise skirts are low-rise jeans. Many don't like the typical 2000s low-rise jeans, but with longer shirts, they could make a great comeback. Tube tops are also getting popular along with corset tops and baby tees. There are so many amazing combinations that you can make with these new trends. Clothing sets like blazers and skirts and 2000s tracksuits are also popular with some communities. Depending on your aesthetic, there is definitely something for everyone.



As we all know, the 90s to 2000s trends are slowly coming back under the aesthetic Y2K. Low-rise and cut-out tops are all the rage and many chunky shoes like platforms have been popular lately. On today.com, it says that mary jane and sandal platforms are

great and simple additions to your Y2K closet. 'Dad sneakers' are also a casual addition to your outfits. Clogs are surprisingly popular and look great with wide-legged pants.

Don't worry men, there are spring fashion trends for you as well. gq.com has some items for men to spice up their closets. 90s varsity jackets are famous for men and women. The rugged college look is great for an everyday casual. Another popular trend is men wearing glasses and there are many trending glasses that are high fashion and good looking. Along with the women's vest trend, vests are trending within the male population. An oversized knit vest with a t-shirt and straight-cut pants is a simple yet cool outfit.

Big bags are a must in today's society; they are not only fully functional but they are also in style. Simple canvas tote bags are great for students as they are very minimalistic and simple. There are also designer bags like the Balenciaga tote or the Kate Spade Manhattan Houndstooth tote bag, but these are just a bit over budget.

Now you know the trendiest clothes coming this spring. Have fun looking for these newest trends and even make your own combinations! Hope you have an amazing season wearing the most fashionable outfits! Keep on blooming!



SMARTY & SPORTY! WELCOME MR. HOPKINS BY MRS. CROUSE

The grade five students started 2022 by welcoming Mr. Hopkins to their classroom as their teacher. He is very happy to be at NTCS and brings with him a wealth of education and experience. Mr. Hopkins has had an interesting journey around Ontario and abroad to Sweden in his career.

Mr. Hopkins studied at three different post-secondary institutions: Seneca College (business administration and accounting), Brock Univer-

sity (sports management), and Trent University (Education). He developed his organization skills when he worked as an accountant for a school board, managed a Pizza Hut, created a business plan for new boxing clubs at Ontario Boxing, and helped manage Basketball Ontario. But he realized that he really loved coaching basketball to teens and decided to get his Education degree. After working for two years as an education assistant helping special needs students, he

heard that there were jobs in Sweden for Physical Education teachers. He got one of those teaching jobs and packed his bags. It was in Sweden that he met Ms. Chee and they got married in 2016.

Mr. Hopkins loves teaching because he can have a positive impact on people's lives. "I still keep in touch with the kids that I coached at Don Bosco Catholic Secondary School twelve years ago," he said. "For many teens, relationships are as important as



the curriculum,” he added. Mr. Hopkins loves basketball but also plays lacrosse; he even played on the Swedish Indoor National Lacrosse Team! He loves the competition and staying in shape. We look forward to getting

to know Mr. Hopkins and seeing how his experiences can help all of us. If you love sports, you should definitely have a chat with Mr. Hopkins.



What? Earth Day? BY SOPHIA

“Climate change, existential dread, and ecological grief.” Living in 2022, we see these terms used a lot and often experience them ourselves. As the end of April rolls around, Earth Day gives us an opportunity to educate ourselves about environmental issues. This time allows us to reflect on the significance of the health of the planet and why it is so important.

Earth Day has been celebrated annually on April 22 by people all over the world to encourage respect for life on our planet. The first Earth Day, in 1970, was successful in raising awareness about environmental issues and transformed public attitudes. In 1990, Earth Day went global, and today, more than 6 million Canadians join 1 billion people from over 170 countries to participate in Earth Day activities!

According to the World Health Organization, air pollution kills an estimated seven million people worldwide every year. The effects of air pollution are alarming. It can lead to respiratory infections, heart disease, and lung cancer. In 2019, 99% of the world population was living in places where the air exceeds WHO guideline limits, containing high levels of pollutants, with developing countries suffering from the highest exposure. In addition to the threats to our health, air pollution can also cause a number of skin issues, from age spots and wrinkles to acne breakouts according to dovepress.com. Lucy Liu (11) says, “I’ve noticed that when I travel back and forth from China to Canada, my skin gets irritated a lot more easily, and it’s a lot more sensitive. Any small change in the environment around me, like the dust in the air, doesn’t go unnoticed by my body.” Pollution is not only ambient; over 3.8 million people a year die



prematurely from illness attributable to household air pollution caused by the inefficient cooking practices paired with use of solid fuels like wood and charcoal said writers on the WHO website.

There’s a lot to be worried about when it comes to environmental problems, but we shouldn’t feel hopeless. Here is some positive environmental news for a change! According to nature.com, making conferences virtual can significantly slash a considerable amount of global carbon emissions. Shifting conferences from in person to online platforms can reduce the carbon footprint per person by 94% and energy use by 90%! The little carbon footprints left during virtual conferences stem from things like home electricity consumption, even though it is just a tiny fraction of what’s used for an in-person event.

World changing environmental goals require cooperation among governments and international organizations; it seems unattainable that the average person can make an impact. Should we just give up? No!!! Change starts with us. Seriously. Fortunately, there are some super, super easy ways we can adapt into our daily routines.

1. Don’t wash your clothes as often. A single load of laundry generates 600g or CO₂, even if you wash on 30° and air dry. Tumble drying triples this! The United Nations Environment Program says you can wear trousers, skirts, wool, synthetic fabrics, etc. up to 5 times before washing. Think twice before you wash your sweater, maybe it’ll go with tomorrow’s outfit! Always remember to do full loads of laundry

to avoid wasting electricity and water and hang the clothes to dry.

2. Save electricity by plugging appliances into a power strip and turning them off completely when not in use. Hairdryers, laptop chargers, all sorts of appliances should be unplugged from the wall. Remember to turn off lights and taps.

3. Buy snacks in bulk. Food packaging adds up quickly- especially if you’re buying snack packs and individually wrapped bars. These generate more trash and more unnecessary waste. Consider buying reusable water bottles, and snacks with smart packaging.

4. Using reusable plastic containers for food. Plastic bags and aluminum foil waste can be reduced by simply packing lunch a little differently!

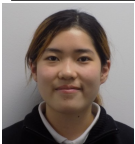
5. Use the Dishwasher! Let this be your new excuse to not do the dishes! Washing dishes by hand actually uses more water than running full loads in the dishwasher! A hand washing session can generate 8kg of CO₂, compared to 1kg for a dishwasher cycle at 65°. Using the ‘eco’ feature can reduce the carbon footprint by another 20%. Reminder, dishwashers are only efficient when they are fully loaded.

In all seriousness, the health of our planet is a critical and urgent issue - collective action is essential. Psalm 24:1 says “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;” As stewards of the earth, we must manage the environment not simply for our own benefit, but also for God’s glory. We were not put on this Earth to destroy the world, but to preserve it- every single creature, every insect, and every plant is a part of God’s kingdom.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES



Find 10 distinct differences in these photos. Submit your list (fill out the purple slip inside this Torch—add your name) to Ms. Leung in the office by Wed April 13 @ 3:30 pm. All 100% correct entries will go into a basket and we'll draw three names for prizes and announce them Thurs April 14.



FOR OUR DREAMS BY ALLY YANG

The sun has risen and shown.
The trainees prepare for the day.
For their dreams! They said, they have to train hard.
Sweat and stress fill the room.
"Again! One more time!"
To put on their show,
Hard work must be used to glow.
No one will know,
No one will know,
the effort put on for a good show.
Audience only see the stage, not the train.
At the end of the day, they are drained,
But they have to practice again.
They are in pain,
But they gain.
Seeing the trainees perform on stage,
they shine.
They stand in a line,
Smiling fine.
All this starts with one word: dreams.
The fans scream,
for the team.
"Good luck! See you on debuton day."
And each story starts here.



LET'S GET TECHY! BY KINGTSON

It's not a big surprise that technology makes our lives easier and more convenient if used correctly. Technology has certainly come a long way since the first computer was invented or the very first iPhone (also known as the smartphone) came out. Since then, technology has been developing rapidly to fulfill our needs in a modern world. I asked staff and students at NTCS about technology and its application in the Christian life.

The responses I got from people were 50/50; some had positive opinions and views on the technology whereas some had fewer positive impressions. Mr. Kim complimented the positive aspects of technology stating that it's "useful because there are aspects that will help us." However, he acknowledged that some people may be disadvantaged if they are not as fluent with technology as others. "The rate of computer education for people is happening very slowly compared to how fast the technology develops." Mr. Kim also added that "just because you know how to

do it does not mean you know how to control. It might be overwhelming and a distraction factor." The massive downside of the advancement of technology is also digital literacy. "False information can be believable and spread the wrong message to people." Wrong messages can vary from propaganda to base-less facts to completely degrading the meaning of a religion. Mr. Lau believes that "God intended us to use our God-given intelligence for good, to develop ways to serve his people." Mrs. Crouse said that radio has been a tool for spreading the Gospel to communist countries for years (HCJB World Radio Missionary Fellowship).

The efficiency and rapid growth of technology cannot be denied and Mr. Hoover praises it saying that the "modern phone has more technology than the first spaceship that flew to space." He admitted there is potential for corruption: "some people with power can use technology to hide what is bad about them," he said. Dr. Jay agreed that there are problems.



“There is a tendency (of technology) to be used for evil and it can be used for harm,” he cautioned.

Without technology, it’s inevitable that there’ll be fewer eye-straining childhood activities. Today, many children grow up with “online games, TV shows, and YouTube” are the new norm. “In some ways, technology should make our life easier but it has put more demands on our time. It is almost becoming oppressive,” said Dr. Jay. He also preferred the old method of communication, “Email reading takes lots of clicks and time to read. It is also bad for the eyes because you are staring at the screen for too long,” he added.

Technology has shown through the pandemic to be an efficient learning and teaching tool. Ms. Kim has seen the effect of technology on art saying, “it helps connect people in the field of art. Information is more accessible and “many modern artists use software programs to draw artwork. They have opened up a new opportunity to the field of art,” said Ms. Kim. Mrs. Tse praises its convenience of being easily accessible “at the comfort of” both student and teacher’s homes. Both teachers can agree though that online cannot replicate offline learning. Ms. Kim worries about the colour tone differences on screen versus in person while Mrs. Tse worries that many who have taken advantage of online church and academic services will have trouble re-transitioning to an in-person setting.

The high school students view technology as an opportunity for increased convenience for services but it also comes with dangerous risks. Grace-Marie Salama, a grade 11 student, looks at the slow development of phones each year and how models rarely vary from each other. She also seconds Mr. Lau’s worry about children’s exposure to more “explicit content on the internet.” This inevitably creates a bigger challenge for newer generation parents. Grace also agrees that the Internet can easily “decrease Christianity due to negative videos and false information online about religion. It is setting a bad reputation for Christians.”

Grace Zhang, a grade 12 student who recently discussed the issue of “AR (augmented reality), AI (artificial intelligence), and VR (virtual reality)” in sociology, wonders about the changes robots will bring to our everyday lives. Despite this, she says “I think it has more positive implications because VR has been a big thing in nature. It has helped people with mental and physical health, interacting with people in a different world.” Grade 11 student, Jack Hyun, believes that technology “has been changing a lot over the years” but “IT companies should focus on security because clients are not educated well enough to have a safe online footstep.”

As tech companies tempt consumers to purchase newer items, we are being pushed further into a technological age; it’s important that we take proper precautions in educating ourselves and others about both the benefits and risks that come with it. Christians must also ensure that false messages spread through the Internet should not affect their own faith or the reputation of Christianity. Whatever the situation, it’s important to stay strong in this new technological age.

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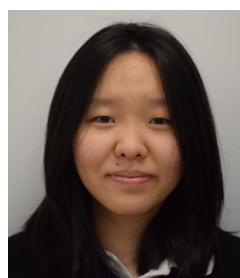
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