



THE TORCH

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 17, 2020



The Christmas Edition

KEEPING COVID AWAY ON CHRISTMAS DAY BY SISLEY



Our jolly and relaxing Christmas break is arriving soon! This year, students may celebrate their Christmas a little differently as our circle of celebration is limited to our own household. Despite the restrictions, there are still many ways students can have fun with their households without inviting COVID-19.

How has the year been so far? We've all returned to the company of our friends and are finally able to learn together. After these hard-working months, we can soon lay back and enjoy the Christmas season!

Christmas is truly a time to sit back and relax with your family while looking back at all your accomplishments throughout the year. It is also a time to celebrate the birth of Christ and the importance of his arrival. Take time to think about what's important about Christmas to you.

After a busy year, Christmas can be a time to catch up with one

another and create seasonal memories. It's important to strengthen the bonds within your family to improve your relationship as a whole. Indoor and outdoor environments hold unique Christmas activities that can be done. Baking, charades, skating and snowman building are great Christmas bonding moments and important memories to create! Are there any unique Christmas traditions that you can make? Exciting activities include hiking, decorating the Christmas tree, Gingerbread house competitions or fabulizing your house with Christmas decorations. How about hiking on a beautiful snow covered trail? These can all bring out a nice laugh and improve relationships in a joyous, exciting way.

Don't forget to take time and settle down too. After months of study, students need this time of rest to replenish themselves. Watching movies with hot chocolate, taking late afternoon naps and eating plentiful



Mrs. Cooke shows her grade three students some decorations on the tree. Photo by Mrs. Crouse

meals are important to both students and parents as they temporarily pause from their busy schedules.

Last but not least, families should take time to remember the birth of Jesus Christ. The Son of God who came to Earth as a man humbly born in a manger brought hope for everyone. Families can hold their own devotions, sing hymns and join their local church (online or offline). Let's all take a moment to relax and praise God for everyone in our household while enjoying a safe, and fun Christmas holiday.

MEET MRS. ETINGER BY NADINE



Mrs. Etinger is the new Junior Kindergarten teacher at NTCS, but teaching is not all that she likes to do. In her spare time, Mrs. Etinger likes to read, knit, and cook. She also enjoys being a girl guide leader and helping many kids learn new skills and gain independence. One of her favourite things to do

with her girl guide group is camping. She enjoys spending time in nature and in God's creation.

Growing up, Mrs. Etinger would get into mischief with her two brothers. She recalls when they would toss raw eggs back and forth in their backyard, resulting in lots of smashed eggs on the ground. Mrs. Etinger's

mother could always smell the broken raw eggs and get them in trouble.

Having grown up in a non-Christian home in Etobicoke, Mrs. Etinger was getting ready to pursue Biology and Psychology at Laurier because believed in evolution and science. Her future husband introduced her to the Bible and God through a book he was writing about Creation vs

Continued on page 2

A GLOBAL CHRISTMAS	2
FAMILY TRADITIONS	3
SATIRE NEWS	3
HOLIDAY OPTIONS	4
A HISTORY OF CAROLS	5
HE SAYS, SHE SAYS	6
SUDOKU	7
CONCERT PICS	7
OUR WRITERS	8

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE GLOBE BY CHLOE



Whether it is the lively lights or the smell of fresh baked goods, countries and cities around the world excitedly prepare for Christmas. From Tokyo to Paris, every city celebrates this special holiday differently.

Not only is Christmas in Japan a time for friends and family to celebrate, but Christmas Eve is the most romantic day of the year. According to Japanrail-pass.com, captivating Japanese Christmas markets and winter illuminations are a sight for sore eyes, where families often gather and spend their days. A popular dessert, *Kurisumasu Keki*, a light and spongy cake filled with whipped cream and strawberries, is commonly sold throughout the country, and KFC is a core part of their tradition as a holiday meal for Japanese families.

Similar to cities in Japan, the Yuletide season for Icelanders is more significant than a festive holiday, and is a time when respects are paid to departed loved ones. Although December is the darkest time of the year in Iceland, these days are lit up by countless Christmas lights, which make a clear pathway to see where winter's nature comes alive. Nanna Gunnarsottir, a writer for *Guide to Iceland*, says that spending the holiday at Reykjavik, the country's capital, includes endless blankets of

snow, indescribable views of the Northern Lights, angelic choirs, and festive decorations. Candle-making is a popular activity families often participate in, and cozy cafés provide sweet and warm hot chocolate with the companion of live music and board games.



Shopping mall lights in Paris Photo: Conde Nast Traveler

From the lights along the *Champs-Élysées* to the elegant Christmas markets at Les Halles and the Notre Dame, Paris, the City of Light, lives up to its name. In the beautiful city, there are endless possibilities of attractions and activities to do with friends and families. Conde Nast writer, Lindsay Tramuta, says Paris is home to the largest ice rink in the world, where ice skating underneath the glass-canopied nave of *Le Grand*

Palais des Glaces brings children and adults only joy, while in the distance lies the unparalleled views of the Eiffel Tower and the Opéra Garnier. In Paris' festive markets, nothing makes the shivering weather feel warm like their delicious hot chocolate, while fresh baked goods and sweets are essential for the ultimate holiday experience.

Christmas in Italy is a trip to remember, where the familiar smell of chestnuts, and Italian delicacies, and wine wafts through the air. Walkoffitaly.com notes that traditions in Italy uphold carolers harmonizing ethereal melodies and dishes like *pasta in brodo* and *panettone*, a traditional Christmas cake. The best tourist attractions during this holiday season are the markets filled with the sparkling lights, the melody of carousels, and endless rows of decorated Christmas trees. The Italian mountains provide a breathtaking view while skiing, and warm meals and beverages await in the joyful city below.

Christmas around the world is magical in every aspect, from the variety of festive meals to skating and skiing with spectacular scenery. Tourist attractions and delicacies are not what keeps the spirit of Christmas alive, but the company of friends and family, where people may come together on this special holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

MRS. ETINGER CONT...

Evolution. She then started searching for the truth and found it in the Bible.

It wasn't until she had kids of her own that Mrs. Etinger discovered her passion for children. Soon after, she got her Early Childhood Education (ECE) and started teaching in the Toronto public school system. Since teaching as NTCS, Mrs. Etinger has

enjoyed having a much smaller class, allowing her to focus on each individual child's specific learning needs.

Mrs. Etinger certainly has a passion for helping children to learn, grow, and know of the love of Jesus; this shows in the way she cares for each individual student in her Junior Kindergarten class. We're so glad she's here!



Photo by Kingston

SATIRE NEWS BRIEFS

BY MR. M. KIM

Student Gives 2-for-1 Greeting

A student was seen saying good morning to two teachers at the same time. The incident happened when the two Mr. Kims were walking side by side through the busy Central Square intersection close to the grade 8 lockers. A grade 8 student said, “Good morning, Mr. Kim” to both of them, which created an awkward pause between the two teachers not knowing to whom the greeting was intended. When later reached for a comment, the student said it just made sense to be efficient with her greeting, suggesting it was for both Mr. Kims.

Student Left Bewildered

A group of students was seen leaving a washroom without washing their hands. A grade 11 student who hap-

pened to witness the incident was left bewildered. “I follow our new hand sanitization rule to the T,” she said. “I mean, it just makes sense. But even during the pre-Covid time, I would always wash my hands after using the washroom,” said the witness. She considered stopping the group of non-handwashers, but was worried that they would put their hands on her, and decided to stay away. “When you are comfortable with breaking one rule, who knows what they’d do? They’re not afraid to use their dirty hands, I bet,” said the concerned witness.

Student Found Smelling Christmas Tree

A local student was found smelling the new Christmas tree in Central Square when a group of students was arguing



over whether the tree was real or not. Since the tree is not supposed to be touched by anyone, the student is suspected of trying to settle the argument by sniffing for a pine tree scent. A witness later said that the student was too dangerously close to the tree, and made him worry if the tree-smeller would be poked by prickly pine needles.

WHAT'S YOUR CHRISTMAS MENU? BY KINGSTON



As Christmas is approaching, North Toronto Christian School students are busy getting ready for the season. Christmas has different meanings to everyone and family traditions are important.

Tobias Pak, a grade twelve student, said “I don’t have a traditional food that I eat on Christmas days, but I love spending time with my family.” Tobias’ family usually has Korean or Japanese food for the family meal. They

believe spending time with each other is very important.

Alisha Hasan feels a duty to remember the birth of Jesus Christ and she said that she “likes to sit down and think about the meaning of Christmas. I like how everyone is happy and how everyone is sharing the happiness for the same event.” She also mentioned that her family has a tradition to “drive around the neighbourhood and see other people’s Christmas decorations.” Reflecting on ourselves is also another important thing that we should all be doing. As Alisha said, “Christmas is something I look forward to every year and it’s a great opportunity to reflect on what I did this year and to spend time with God.”

Elementary students, on the other hand, love eating lime-flavored

ice cream or Christmas cake on Christmas according to Theodore Salama in grade two, and Austin Zhang in grade six. Theodore added that “Christmas is not about how many presents you get. It is a day to remember that our savior Jesus Christ was born. My family plays secret Santa and it is our family tradition,” he added.

“I like to spend time with my family. We might see family members for dinner. I like the stereotypical Christmas and how you feel cozy,” said Natalie Pak, a grade ten student. “When Jesus was born, it is a reminder of God’s grace for the world,” she added.

With alternative plans for Christmas this year, the homework now is to see if the masks are going up on the Christmas trees instead of the ornaments. Enjoy your family’s special Christmas traditions this year!

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS BY GRACE



This year is a different year because of the pandemic. Unfortunately, most people aren't able to visit their extended family members as they would in previous years. But, that doesn't mean we will have a boring Christmas holiday!

The high school students are going out and some are staying home, and during this time, it is hard to plan what to do during Christmas. Usually, you would like to hang out with friends to go shopping for presents or have family and friend gatherings. This year people are encouraged by public health officials to stay home and celebrate with the family. It is fun but not as fun as planning a Christmas party and getting together with loved ones.

Some people are going to keep exercising while some people are staying home and celebrating. Fredric Yoon is a passionate swimmer so he is spending some of his time swimming. "My plan for Christmas was to swim hard every day since that's the only thing I can do

with my winter camp at the Crescent town community center," he answered. Fredric would normally practice everyday but because of the pandemic, he might have limited swimming times.

Cynthia Lem likes to spend lots of time with her family so she is taking advantage of household celebrations. Although she likes spending time with them, she says, "It's really difficult to go out and have large dinner parties, and I can't meet up with friends to go skiing or Christmas shopping."

Nathan Kim's original plan was to fly over to Korea to meet his parents but wasn't able to because of the pandemic. He is now planning to stay home with his cousin and aunt and eat a wonderful dinner. He replied, "Maybe we'll have a nice dinner with my family and talk about what happened in 2020 and plan how we will spend 2021." He is also planning to find some presents for his relatives for Christmas.

Several grade nine students are planning to play video games while some are shopping for presents. Eunice Deng and Alex Watson say they will "play a lot." Magnus Chien is planning a 48-hour game marathon with friends online. Daniella Attalla is looking forward to shopping for Christmas presents, and she likes Fairview Mall, but might have to go further this year to find some bargains!

Despite the restrictions, students can still meet their friends and family on a video call or other online methods. Hopefully, everyone has a good time this year and stays safe!



GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST

The art students were busy designing and building gingerbread houses over the past several weeks and voting for the best one took place on Monday Dec 14. The elementary classes came by to look and gr 7-12 students and teachers were invited to cast votes. The winning house was created by grade ten artists Nezra Tagudar and Sophia Wu. Their house was very neatly decorated and included Shrek and a melted snowman. Congratulations everyone!



The prize-winning house by Nezra and Sophia JK students take a look, mouths watering. Sophia Wu and Kingston Lee cast their votes. Photos by Sisley and Mrs. Crouse



ALL ABOUT CHRISTMAS CAROLS BY VICTOR



As Christmas approaches, carols can be heard anywhere aside from churches, where they are commonly used for worship. But what is the history of these cheerful Christmas tunes? How and when did they emerge as a tradition of the Holidays?

Carols were first sung in Europe hundreds of years ago; according to whychristmas.com and wikipedia, the earliest Christmas carols can be traced to 4th-century Rome. These were not Christmas carols, but songs of pagans, written in Latin. These carols were sung at Winter Solstice celebrations, which celebrated the shortest day of the year.

By the 13th century, carols were already in development, with the use of sequences of rhymed stanzas—often heard in today's traditional Christmas carols—formed in the 9th and 10th centuries; and the derivation from medieval popular songs that brings the sound of traditional Christmas carols in the 12th century. In this period, Christmas carols in native local languages developed and became popular under the influence of Francis of Assisi, an Italian Catholic deacon.

The first appearance of English Christmas carols was in a work called "Caroles of Cristemas" by John Aewdly, a Shropshire chaplain, in 1426. They were sung by groups who went from house to house to sing the carols, called "wassailers."

After the Protestant Reformation and the Protestant churches became prominent, carols gained popularity and began to be sung in churches after Reformers such as Martin Luther wrote carols and encouraged their use in a church environment. In the 19th century, carols gained widespread public appeal with publications of Christmas music books, such as the first printed versions of "The First Noel", "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" in William Sandy's 1833 *Christmas Carols* collection. Christmas carols have a long and interesting history.

To see if carols are popular with the students of NTCS, I interviewed high school music students about their favourites.

"Deck the halls is my favourite. I like to compete with my family to see who can sing 'falalalala' the fastest," said Michelle Abraham (10).

"Maybe *Jingle Bells*? It's the only one I can think of right now," said Sarah Zhou (11).

"I don't really have a favourite Christmas carol, since we don't listen to them in my family," said Judha Sivakumar (10), "We don't receive gifts, but we pray together on Christmas Eve."

"My favourite carol is *O Holy Night* since I like the meaning behind it," said Danielle Newman (12).

"*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* is my favorite Christmas carol," said Mr. Brown, "Why do I think it's my favorite? One of the stanzas really speaks to me. It talks about the story of salvation, involving the fall of evil and peace to the righteous. It also talks about how humanity would have no peace without God's salvation."

In Christian worship services today, carols are frequently sung. But works without a religious theme are sometimes also referred to as carols. As we enter the last week of school before Christmas Eve, expect to hear these highly Christmassy melodies played in the morning from the school speakers.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Lyrics by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

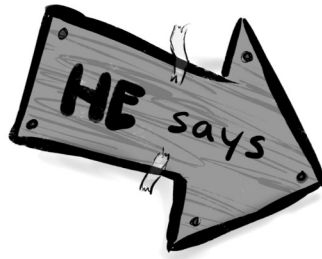
....And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."



CLIPARTBLACK.COM

Eugene



Nadine



Which is better—a real tree or a fake one?

He says...

Many people are preparing to buy a Christmas tree. For me, an artificial tree is always better. In terms of cost, based on the data from the National Christmas Tree Association, the average price per real Christmas tree in 2018 was \$78, while the average price per artificial Christmas tree was \$104. It seems the real one is cheaper, however, the artificial one can be reused more than once. People can disassemble and rebuild it next Christmas so it will then be more cost-effective than buying a real tree every Christmas. The size of the tree can be an issue. Sometimes, it will be difficult to find a real tree that fits your home but when going with artificial, you can choose the tree that suits your home perfectly. Moreover, there are many types and colours of artificial trees to choose, so why not choose an umbrella look artificial tree? It's weird but special. Lastly, the most important reason to choose an artificial tree will be safety. Safety should be the primary concern for choosing any sort of decoration. Real Christmas trees can become fire hazards as they dry out. Even though an artificial tree is safer than the real one, we should still keep those flammable things away from fire in order to prevent any accidents.

She says....

Live trees are a better option than fake trees during the holidays. It really is a good experience every year to go and pick a live tree. Whether you get it from a tree farm or from a local store that sells live trees ready to go, the beautiful smell of the tree will be all throughout the house. It is a special Christmas tradition for many families, creating a nostalgia factor as well. Yes, live trees require a little bit of care to water them so that they don't die right away, but the benefits far outweigh the drawbacks. For instance, live trees are actually more environmentally friendly than fake trees because live trees are a renewable resource. According to Tree Canada, fake trees have to be replaced about every seven to ten years. Fake trees also can't be recycled, resulting in many fake trees ending up in landfills after they are no longer usable. Thus Live trees are better than fake trees.

The best way to spend a snowy Christmas day is....

He says...

A snowy day during the holidays means staying inside where it is warm; it is a good idea to spend a whole day with your best friends playing video games at their home, or playing soccer or basketball till the end of the day, or watching whatever sports are on TV (except figure skating and curling). Sometimes, staying at home with family is also a good way to spend a snowy Christmas day. Enjoying Christmas dinner, especially the delicious turkey will be the greatest thing ever. Time spending with people who are close to you is always fun and unforgettable.

She says...

There are many things you can do on a snowy Christmas evening. If you are looking to keep warm inside, you could make a hot cup of cocoa and watch the snow fall through your window. You could also pass the time reading a book, watching a movie or TV show is always a good option. You could also play board games or card games with family. If you wanted to see friends or family in a covid-friendly way, you could connect with them online and keep up each other's spirits. You could make or buy a gingerbread house and decorate it and see who can do the best decorating within your social bubble or with a video call.

If you are looking for a more active option, you could gear up and have some fun outside. You could build a snowman or have a snowball fight with family and friends in your social bubble. You could even hold a competition with people in your social bubble and see who can build the tallest snow fortress. There are many fun things to do over the holidays, but let's remember to keep our distance this year!





					3		8	5
		1		2				
			5		7			
		4				1		
	9							
5							7	3
		2		1				
				4				9

1	7		8					9
		6		1				7
					7		5	
		4	9		5			8
	8			6			9	
9			4		3	5		
	5		7					
7				9		6		
8					6		2	1



Concert Cuties

The elementary students worked hard to prepare for their recordings for the Christmas concert video. They looked and sounded great! We hope all the parents and students enjoyed seeing the video! Here are grade five, one, and two students at their recording sessions.

Photos by Mrs. Crouse



THE JOURNALISTS: OUR FAVOURITE PART OF CHRISTMAS IS....



Choirs gently sing
Candles push the dark away
Christ the Light has come

Mrs. Crouse

Advisor, editor,
photographer



A city of snow
Laughter and a cup of cheer
Bundles of cozy

Chloe Hung

Reporter and writer



A long year that ends
To reflect on what we've done
Silence...remember.

Sisley Hung

Reporter, writer,
and photographer



Snow on the porch
Family Christmas dinner course
Some of the best things

Kingston Lee

Reporter, writer,
and photographer



Sleeping in till noon
Playing lots of games with friends
Buffet and turkey

Eugene Li

Reporter and writer



Nadine Martin

Reporter and writer



Victor Wang

Reporter and writer



Open presents
Spending time with family
Drinking hot cocoa

Grace Zhang

Reporter and writer

Merry Christmas!



THE TORCH is published by:



**NORTH
TORONTO
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL**

255 Yorkland Boulevard
North York, Ontario
M2J 1S3

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:

newspaper@ntcs.on.ca

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:

yearbook@ntcs.on.ca

acrouse@ntcs.on.ca