



CONNECTING TDCHRISTIAN WITH OUR SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

IN OUR 60<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

# @TD *hristian* HIGH SCHOOL

### Celebrations are great!

Not only are we back to school in a more regular way, with extracurriculars including choir, band, sports, and drama, we're also celebrating Year 60 at TDChristian! It's wonderful to see students' smiles and experience their energy. Teenagers were created to learn together in person and in community.

In Year 60, we will focus on Colossians 3:17. "And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father." We'll be using photos from our archives to highlight learning in action at TDChristian. If you have photos to share, send them to [info@tdchristian.ca](mailto:info@tdchristian.ca) along with details of who, when, and where.

Welcome to this special edition of @TD as we begin another year of helping students "learn for service in the light of God's Word".

**William Groot**, Principal



# GIVING THANKS

## A Reflection 58 Years in the Making



### *In September of 1964*

I started Grade 9 at TDCH. Classes were held in the basement of the Christian Reformed Church on Albion Rd. Despite the limited facilities we did not feel we were missing out; the parking lot was large

enough to permit baseball and touch football games, and during the winter months we played early morning shinny on the adjacent Humber River.

An air of excitement pervaded our school the following year when classes were moved to our new building in Woodbridge. We were proud of our new school building. In our own adolescent way, we realized that we were participating in the fulfillment of a generational vision.

My fondest memory of my four years at TDCH is the

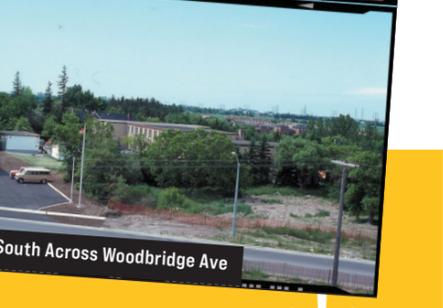
camaraderie and sense of common purpose among teachers and students.

I recall that when the students were invited to harvest carrots from a field in the Holland Marsh as a fundraiser for the school, our teachers joined us in the muck on that cold November morning and helped us fill the bushels with carrots. By late afternoon that field had been picked clean.

High school years occur during a formative and impressionable time in the life of students. We are little more than children

when we enter Grade 9, and in the next four years we transition to adolescence and then to the brink of adulthood. Clearly, the influence of these four years is significant. So...as I reflect on my time at TDCH, I ask myself how those years impacted my life.

I have retained my faith and continue to believe that as a Christian I am called to look at the world through a different lens. This part of who I am was nurtured and  
*(continued on page 2)*



## CELEBRATE WITH US!

**NOVEMBER:** Alumni Volleyball Tournament  
November 12 | Contact Colin Hoving: [having@tdchristian.ca](mailto:having@tdchristian.ca)

**JANUARY:** East-West Hockey Game (alumni, parents, and students)  
January 14, 7pm-9pm | Contact Colin Hoving: [having@tdchristian.ca](mailto:having@tdchristian.ca)

**APRIL :** Spring Concert, *Date TBA*

**JUNE :** Open House for former Teachers and Staff: *June 1, 2023*  
Open House and Program: *June 3, 2023*  
Alumni Play: *Date TBA*



Bella J. and Heny Y. Grade 10.

# Operation MacBook

## For many years

the big question we would hear from visitors to TDCH was, "Why are there all those computers in the hallway?" We would tell them, "Because learning can happen anywhere."

Now with the move to every student getting his or her own MacBook, that statement is truer than ever. We know a laptop

does not automatically make a student smarter. But what it does offer is even MORE opportunities for learning and connection. Teachers can share notes, assignments, and resources easily with students. Students have instant access to professional software and can collaborate more effectively. They can use it for schoolwork in the classroom, on the bus,

and at home (although we are incredibly grateful to be back to in-person learning!). And who knows what future possibilities it will bring?

So, why give every student a MacBook? Because learning can happen anywhere.

**Tim Buwalda, Teacher**

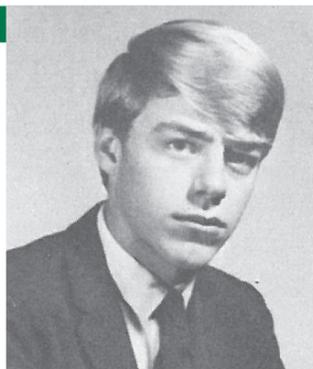
## A Reflection 58 Years in the Making

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strengthened at TDCH. In looking back, however, I realize that the most significant influence on who I am today resulted from the way the staff interacted with their students. Our beloved principal, Aukje Masselink, set the tone for student and staff relationships; she made each one of us feel special and valued. The consistent message conveyed by our teachers and administrators was that they respected us and genuinely liked us. When I graduated, it was their

belief in us that helped instill in me a desire to do well and pursue my goals and dreams with confidence.

I have been blessed in my life since graduating from TDCH in 1968. Today I am a married father of five and a grandfather of 10. I live in Parry Sound, Ontario, where I am completing my fourteenth year as a Superior Court Judge. I am fortunate to live in a beautiful area of this province; my wife Anita and I spend as much



time outdoors as possible. We attend the local Presbyterian church.

I am thankful for what TDCH has become. My hope and prayer is that the school will continue to benefit future generations the way it benefited the class of '68.

**Ed Koke (68)**

# IN THE HALL

Grade 9 students reflect on their first week at TDChristian.

## Reka – Belwood, ON

The best thing about my first week was getting to know lots of new people and learning about all the new opportunities I will get to have at TD, such as different clubs and more diverse classes.



## David – Newmarket, ON

The best things about my first week were getting brownies from Mr. Brown, doing the math assessment test, and getting my first laptop. My hopes for Grade 9 are to get over 90 in everything I do and to get into some good clubs.



## Kristen – Etobicoke, ON

I would probably describe my first week at TD Christian as unique and new. This experience of the first week of school gives me a thrilling feeling of excitement and the people are different. It's foreign and unfamiliar to what I have been accustomed to, yet welcoming and friendly at the same time.



## Samuel – Thornhill, ON

My hopes for Grade 9 are that I would learn and grow as a person but also as a Christian. I also hope to learn lots of learning skills and habits for my future. The best thing about my first week is that we did some ice-breaker questions and activities which really helps me make friends.



## OGRES ARE LIKE ONIONS...



"We can stay up late swapping manly stories, and in the morning, I'm making waffles!" says Donkey in the 2001 movie Shrek. Students might not be making waffles, but they will be creating music and drama in this year's production: *Shrek: The Musical*, announced last year to the great delight of the elementary school audience. Putting on the play is part of an elective course students can take.

In a time when everyone could use a story about friendship and acceptance, mark your calendars for **December 14-17** to come and roll with laughter in the aisles!



# ON THE STREET

**Annita Maat (Heidinga)**  
**(Valedictorian of 1967)**

I started Grade 9 in the Albion Road church basement. While those beginning years were instructive and fun, I cannot think of TDCH without being thankful for Mr. Bert Witvoet who taught Grade 12 English and Bible and who had a significant influence in forming who I was to become.



**Geoff Gleason (Valedictorian of 1990)**

The Lord has been very good to me, not least in my time at TD. Not only did I meet my wife there, but many of the teachers invested in my life in sacrificial ways. I thank the Lord for his kindness and the way he protected and preserved me, in part through my experience at TDCH.



**Alice Steggerda**  
**(Valedictorian of 1972)**

During my four years at TDChristian my biggest dream was to become a teacher. I learned skills and developed abilities that helped me achieve my goal. More importantly, I was taught to look at reality through the lens of a biblical world and life view, a perspective that never left me during my years at York University and later the University of Toronto.



**Amy Boven (Venema)**  
**(Valedictorian of 1999)**

As a student I didn't realize it, but each of the memories and experiences I value from my time at TD took a lot of planning, time, and effort on the teachers' part. I believe this is what makes TD stand out. The greatest gift we can give to others is our time, and TD teachers gave of theirs abundantly. I left TD feeling valued, inspired, and capable of taking on whatever life would send my way.



Building Dedication 1965



# STAFF UPDATES



**RACHEL PETRUSMA**  
**VICE PRINCIPAL**

☉ Rachel has been teaching since 2015 and started at TDChristian in 2021. She is now a Vice Principal. When she's not teaching World Cultures or Physical Education, you can find her playing with her dog Comox.



**TARA VANHALTEREN**  
**PSYCHOTHERAPIST**

☉ Tara is new to the team this year as a psychotherapist, but is not new to the building; she is a TD alumna who graduated in 2012. She enjoys connecting with students as well as singing, hiking, and playing volleyball.



**VICTORIA VEENSTRA**  
**COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR**

☉ Victoria has worked for a variety of not-for-profits and is excited to join the TD team in communications. In addition to working in that role, she likes to spend time reading, listening to podcasts, and road tripping.



## From the Archives

est. 1962

factoids from the early days

2022

**From the September 5, 1965 Sunday bulletin of Holland Marsh Christian Reformed Church:**

"We invite all our people to the opening ceremonies and feast day of the Toronto District Christian High School on Saturday, September 11, in Woodbridge, between 10 am and 9 pm. A program including ceremonies, sports, games, singing, picnicking, music, and a wienner roast will be enjoyed. We hope and pray for fair weather so we may celebrate under the open skies. Let us make this an unforgettable event. Arrangements have also been made to entertain the little ones; there will be parking facilities; food and refreshment can be obtained. With a thousand or more we hope to join in praise and thanks to God. COME WITH THE FAMILY."

**from a story in the Globe and Mail:**

"SEPTEMBER 13, 1965: THIS YEAR, 125 STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN GRADES 9 TO 12. ENROLMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE 250 BY 1967."

**FROM A 1965 SCHOOL OPENING AD IN THE WOODBRIDGE NEWS:**

"THE NEW SCHOOL HAS 8 CLASSROOMS, OFFICE SPACE, GYMNASIUM, AUDITORIUM SEATING FOR 350 PEOPLE. THERE IS A SCIENCE ROOM, LIBRARY, NURSING ROOM, AND TYPING ROOM, AND IT WAS ALL BUILT FOR THE SUM OF \$150,000."

**FROM THE HISTORY SECTION OF TDCHRISTIAN.CA:**

"THE 'HOLLAND ACTION' CAMPAIGN, CONCLUDED IN 1964, RAISED \$30,000 TO HELP BUY A BEAUTIFUL FIFTEEN-ACRE SITE IN THE WOODBRIDGE AREA. THE 'TROWEL ACTION '64' CAMPAIGN RAISED \$115,000 TOWARD THE BUILDING OF THE NEW SCHOOL."

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**FALL OPEN HOUSE**  
October 13, 6:30 pm

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
December 8, 7 pm

**GRADE 7/8 DAY**  
November 2  
Contact [admissions@tdchristian.ca](mailto:admissions@tdchristian.ca) for more info.

**SHREK: THE MUSICAL**  
December 14-17  
Contact [playtickets@tdchristian.ca](mailto:playtickets@tdchristian.ca) for more info.

**FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
November 24, 7 pm

See [www.tdchristian.ca/calendar](http://www.tdchristian.ca/calendar) for more events.



## Kristina's Wish

To date, the Kristina's Wish campaign has raised \$164,850, which represents 154 of the 220 seats that are needed. We still need 66 more seats to fill the Presentation Centre!

The seats are being installed starting September 26. It's not too late to join the over 250 donors that have already donated. Find out more about Kristina's wish at [tdchristian.ca/wish](http://tdchristian.ca/wish)



## Shine Bright!

As we celebrate TDChristian's 60th anniversary, we also celebrate and are grateful for the faithfulness of its community. We continue to ask for your prayerful support to keep the lights on and shining bright for another 60 years! Watch for info by mail or go to our Donate page ([tdchristian.ca/giving](http://tdchristian.ca/giving)) to find out more about the financial needs of the school.



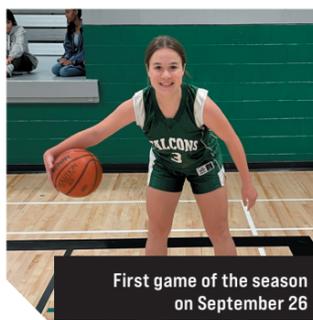
## IT'S A 'FIRE' SALE!

Yes, the Firehall Thrift store is OPEN!

How can I help, you ask?

- 1) Spread the word! Follow Firehall Thrift on Facebook and Instagram and like and share their posts. Encourage your friends to check out the store. Deliver flyers.
- 2) Come into the store! We would like to meet every student and every parent at least once. Come in, say hi, let us know who you are.
- 3) Make Firehall Thrift the place to donate your used items. Help a friend or neighbour by collecting their unwanted items and donating them to the store.
- 4) Volunteer! Students, parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles can all give hours of volunteer time. It's a win-win.

Contact [paul@firehallthrift.ca](mailto:paul@firehallthrift.ca).



## Sports bounce back!

We are thrilled to offer a fall sports season for the first time since 2019. Girls Basketball, Boys Volleyball, and Cross Country are starting up, while Esports and Intramural Hockey continue from last year. We are so thankful for the opportunities these athletic activities can give our students.



Students in art class the second week of school.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Derek Schuurman** [85] co-authored a new book, *A Christian Field Guide to Technology for Engineers and Designers*, released this year by InterVarsity Academic Press. Derek's story was the first one featured in TDChristian's "50 stories for 50 years". Read it under the Alumni tab of the TDChristian website.

**Hannah Van Schepen** [11] and **Brent Riedstra** [11] welcomed a son Kase Walker Riedstra, born January 20, 2022.

**Evelyn Prins** [07] and **Darren Hoekstra** welcomed their fourth child, Jonas, on April 15, 2022. A little brother to Ronan, Marek, and Talia.

**Dana Roffel** [11] and **Thomas Heming** [11] welcomed baby Noah John Heming on May 1, 2022.

**Marieka Berg** [13] married Derek Veenstra on June 4, 2022.

**Margaret Vander Mey** [83] and **Art Van Spronsen** celebrated 34 years of marriage on June 11, 2022.

**Brittney Stafford** [17] and **Evan Whiteford** were married on July 16, 2022.



### PRODUCTION TEAM

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Principal  
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