



North Toronto Christian School

SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

The beginning of a new school year is always exciting as we reconnect with old friends and former classmates and begin to establish new friendships with others. We extend our warm greetings to those who are joining us for the first time, and we welcome back all of our returning students. We trust that you have had an enjoyable summer and are here intending to participate fully in the life of the school. To accompany our academic program, there are Chandos trips, all-school events, sports, and clubs to look forward to in the coming year!

Our theme for this year is "Live for the King!". The theme verse is from Matthew 6:33 (NCV). "Seek first God's kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well."

We look forward to being together again, learning together and participating in the school activities that we all enjoy!



Dr. N. Brouwer, Principal

School Wide General Information

Get Acquainted Night

Thursday, September 12th, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Track Area and Classroom Visits

Plan to join us for this opportunity to become better acquainted with the NTCS faculty and staff.

Family Information Detail Sheet

This document was sent to all school families by email on August 19th, 2024. As it is essential that we have accurate information for contacting you, especially in an emergency, please send an email to office@ntcs.on.ca to make any changes.

Please check the contact phone numbers to ensure they are current, and feel free to add additional emergency or other phone numbers. Please do not give your personal phone numbers as emergency numbers. We always call parents first, but we must have an alternate number of a friend or family member in the event that we cannot make quick contact with either parent.

Please ensure we have your up-to-date email address. This will be used to forward all future newsletters and other important information throughout the year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. BROUWER!

We are very pleased to inform our school community that our Principal, Mrs. Nicole Brouwer, has recently completed her Doctorate of Education degree (Ed.D.) from Western University. Dr. Brouwer has been studying, and writing, over the past three years to research and present her doctoral dissertation on the topic of 'Reconciliation, Decolonization, and pursuing Etuaptmumk (which is a Mi'kmaw word that translates to 'Two-Eyed Seeing'). This concept promotes the idea that Western society can be viewed from two perspectives, the Euro-centric and the Indigenous.

As an Indigenous woman from the Garden River First Nation community in Northern Ontario (near Sault Ste. Marie), Dr. Brouwer has investigated the ways in which the perspective and cultural traditions of the Indigenous people of Canada can be introduced and taught in elementary and secondary school curricula, especially in a faith-based school like NTCS.

In 2015, when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission published their 'Calls to Action', they included several ways in which education in K-12 schools can be used as a tool to move forward in a reconciliation process between Canada and its Indigenous people. Dr. Brouwer's dissertation focuses specifically on Calls to Action 62, 63 and 64. (see <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1524504501233/1557513602139>)

The Ontario Ministry of Education is changing curriculum expectations at many grade levels to require all students to study issues of relevance to Indigenous communities and the Indigenous way of life. With Dr. Brouwer leading the administrative team at NTCS, and with our active land-based education program at Chandos and Camp Ke-Mon-Oya, NTCS is uniquely positioned to respond to these changing curriculum requirements and to offer programming that is appropriate to our student body in the coming years. We heartily congratulate Dr. Brouwer on this significant accomplishment, and we look forward to the ways in which her research can be reflected in programming at NTCS.

Mrs. Barbara Dempsey, Chair, NTCS Board of Directors



School Picture Day Friday, September 6th, 2024

Look your best! All students must be in full school uniform. Grade 7 to 12 students need to wear the school Oxford dress shirt or blouse, tie, and vest or long-sleeved NTCS quarter zip sweater. Elementary students must wear their green polo shirt and navy pants or skirt.

Proofs will be sent home after photo day. You can sign up for notifications at edgeimaging.ca/photoday so you know when to expect them. You will be able to review your images and make your purchase online.

Absenteeism

When your child is absent from school, please call the office or send an email to aleung@ntcs.on.ca to inform us of the absence. A doctor's note or a note of explanation is required if your child has missed a test during their absence.

If you need to pick your child up early or at some point during the day for an appointment, please email Ms. Leung at aleung@ntcs.on.ca, call the school office at 416-491-7667, or send a note with your child to let us know. We need to hear from you before they can sign out.

High school students also need parental or guardian approval before they can leave the school premises, unless they have finished their classes for the day. If possible, please make arrangements ahead of time and inform the office if your child will be absent, arriving late, or leaving early.

BE PUNCTUAL!

The school day begins at 8:45 a.m. for all JK to Grade 6 students and at 9:00 a.m. for Grade 7 to 12 students, with the playing of 'O Canada'. Please have your child(ren) at school each day no later than 8:35 a.m. and 8:50 a.m. respectively, so they can be in their classroom to start the day.

Students who are late interrupt the class and miss important instructions and course material. High school students, in particular, jeopardize their course credit when they are regularly late for class, especially first period classes.

Parents and students are strongly encouraged to review the late policy in the student handbook. Letters will be sent home with students to notify parents of accumulating lates.



Blanket Permission

We assume that we have your permission to take your child on all school outings scheduled for their class throughout the year. If you want to refuse permission for your child to participate in any specific activity, you should notify the teacher and principal at the time.

Parents should still expect to receive email correspondence about upcoming school activities or sports events in which your child is involved, but signed permission forms will not be required.

Security

During the day, access to the school building will be minimized. All exterior doors will be automatically locked throughout the school day, except for designated times. An intercom system at the EAST entrance, connected to the school office, is to be used by any students arriving late or parents needing to pick up or drop off a child during the school day. This east access is the most direct route to the school office on the second floor.

Peanut Allergies and Medical Info

We have students and staff in the school who have a potentially **severe** allergy to peanuts, tree nuts and food products containing peanuts and tree nuts. We want to ensure that our building is '**Nut-Safe**', where our staff and students with these allergies can be safe from nut exposure. Therefore, we request that you **not** send any peanuts, tree nuts or foods containing nuts, for example, *Nutella* or *peanut butter*, in your child's lunch or snack. Please note that items containing coconut are not part of the nut ban. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

If your child requires an epipen, please give one to the office at the start of the year even though your child may carry one in their backpack. We need to be able to access it immediately in the event of an emergency. If your child needs a puffer on a regular basis, it is also very helpful to have an extra one kept in the office.

Please do not send medicine to school with your elementary child. It is best if you arrange to give your child any required medicine prior to coming to school or at the end of the school day. Teachers and office staff are not authorized to administer medicine.

If your child has any other medical concerns of which the school should be aware of, please detail them in an email to Mrs. Newsted at dnewsted@ntcs.on.ca.

Accident Insurance

Supplementary accident insurance for all students is available through the Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada.

We strongly recommend that you use this plan, or its equivalent with another insurer, unless you are satisfied that you have sufficient coverage elsewhere. At the very least, students who actively participate in the sports program should be covered by such a program. Sign up online at www.insuremykids.com

Parking and Traffic

We ask you to be vigilant as you enter and exit the parking areas. With smaller children on site, it is vital that we have your full cooperation in this matter. There are three driveways to the property. The **NORTH** drive can be used as an **entry or exit** point. The **MIDDLE** driveway is an **entry only**, while the **SOUTH** driveway is an **exit only**. Please ensure you complete the 'loop' by driving to the far west end of the parking area by the playground. Please do not park in undesignated areas or close to doors and do not stop or park in front of the roped off areas. Also, please **pull straight into parking spaces** as opposed to backing in.

Student Parking

Parents, if you intend for your child to drive to school on their own, please have them pick up a *student parking form* from the school office which also outlines our school parking policy. This form should be filled out and returned to Mr. Cooke. Students may only park in the southern most lot. They are not permitted to drive other students at any time without written parental permission for each student. Any student driver who violates the rules or demonstrates an irresponsible attitude will have this privilege revoked.



Uniform

Each year, there are many uniform items that are misplaced by students and go unclaimed. **Please be sure to clearly label all uniform items with your child's initials and grade, especially athletic clothing and school uniform zip sweaters and vests.**

Please read thoroughly and ensure that you understand the uniform requirements as outlined in the uniform policy for your child's grade. These documents can be found on our website under "Downloads".

School athletic clothing may be ordered by filling out the PE uniform order sheet in the "Downloads" section of our website and sending it to school with your child or scanning to msin@ntcs.on.ca. Upon receiving payment by cheque or e-transfer to admin@ntcs.on.ca, we will send your order home with your child. Athletic clothing may be ordered at any time throughout the school year.

Please ensure that your child has the necessary footwear, in good repair, to wear during the school day.

We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring your child comes to school in the proper attire each day.

Theme Verse for 2024-2025

"Seek first God's kingdom and what God wants.
Then all your other needs will be met as well." Matthew 6:33 (NCV)

General Information—Elementary—Grades JK—6

First Day — September 3rd, 2024

On the first day, students are asked to be on time, ready to begin the school day. Upon arrival, students in Grades JK to 6 are to go to the playground entrance. Teachers will lead their students into the school building at 8:35 a.m.

Students arriving between 8:35 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. will be greeted at their designated door and allowed into the school building. Those arriving late, after 8:45 a.m., will need to use the intercom at the EAST entrance to alert the office of their arrival and have the doors unlocked so they can enter.



Every Day

If students arrive between 8:00 a.m. and 8:35 a.m., they should be dropped off at the playground entrance. Teachers will lead students into the school at 8:35 a.m. After 8:35 a.m., students must use the intercom at the EAST entrance to gain entry into the building. Students will not be permitted to enter the building before 8:35 a.m.

In order to reduce contact and congestion after school, we ask that you promptly pick up your child(ren) from the playground area if you are able to do so. JK to Grade 6 students will be dismissed at 3:15 p.m. In case of inclement weather, students will be picked up from the track area doors at the NORTH side of the building.

Extended Care (JK—Grade 6 only)

We have limited resources to care for your child(ren) before and after school. Supervision begins at 8:00 a.m. and will be held outside only until 8:35 a.m. in the playground and soccer field, weather permitting. If inside, it will be held in the track area with students moving to their classrooms at 8:35 a.m. Students dropped off after 8:00 a.m. are to go directly to the field/play areas and NOT into the building.

Outdoor, after school extended care will be held from the end of the school day until 4:30 p.m. The fee is \$5.00 per half hour beginning at 3:45 p.m. If the program does need to be brought indoors due to inclement weather, the track area will be used, and parents will pick up their child from the track area doors at the NORTH side of the building. Please ensure that your child has the proper outdoor clothing for outside play.

Elementary students must be picked up from extended care no later than 4:30 p.m.

Please notify the office via email, note, or phone call if another friend or family relative will be picking your child up on any given day or from time to time.

General Information—Middle/High School—Grades 7-12

First Day — September 3rd, 2024

Students in Grades 7 to 12 should arrive at school for 8:50 a.m. and enter through their designated doors. Grades 10 to 12 will use the NORTH door and Grades 7 to 9, the EAST door. Students will proceed directly to their HOMEROOM where they will receive their schedule, locker combination and student agenda.

Middle and high school students who must come earlier because they are coming with younger siblings must go directly to the SOUTH entrance and proceed directly to their designated rooms for study hall (Grades 7–9 in the Forum Room and Grades 10-12 in the Café). They will then be dismissed to their HOMEROOM at approximately 8:50 a.m.

Every Day

Arriving and Departing

The day begins at 9:00 a.m. with HOMEROOM and ends at 3:30 p.m. The school will be open by 8:00 a.m. each morning for access to Study Hall in grade designated areas.

Students will use their designated entrance to enter the school each morning and to leave the school each afternoon. Students arriving before 8:50 a.m. will go to the SOUTH doors and proceed directly to the Study Hall location for their grade for supervision. Designated doors for those not in Study Hall will be open at 8:50 a.m. At the end of the day, the expectation is that all middle and high school students will be gone from the building by 4:30 p.m. Students will not be permitted to be in classrooms, hallways or other areas of the school building, either before or after school, unless they are involved in a teacher-directed activity. Students will be encouraged to leave the building promptly following their last class and not loiter in the hallways.

Courses

Senior students need to be aware of pre-requisites for all courses, be familiar with their OSSD requirements, and have a clear understanding of their future requirements for post-secondary education. All students need to read the student handbook and course calendar which contains valuable information for planning their high school program. Mr. Brown, Head of Guidance, will be available to meet with students.

Changing a course is permitted during the first week of school only provided there is space in the class and a student has the necessary pre-requisites. Students must speak to Mr. Brown before changing courses.

Homeroom

Every class will have a designated homeroom teacher. Students will have a regular homeroom class from 9:00 a.m. to 9:12 a.m. when general announcements will be made, housekeeping matters will be taken care of, and devotions will take place. Senior students who have a spare first period are required to be at school on time for their homeroom class.

Chapels

For both middle and high school students, chapels will be held approximately three times per month on Wednesdays. The schedule will be announced at a later date. The first chapel for Grades 7/8 and for Grades 9 to 12 students will be on Wednesday, September 18th.

Textbooks

Our official textbook supplier is **The Batner Bookstore**. They provide an easy to use online system, securely accessible from the NTCs website, that allows you to purchase our books with a credit card and ship them directly to your home or to the school. Please ensure that your child's name is written in each textbook in case of loss.



Camp Ke-Mon-Oya/Chandos Outdoor Education Centre

Camp Ke-Mon-Oya operated for five successful weeks this summer. Under the supervision of Camp Director, **Mr. Garrett Brinkman (Ducttape)**, Program Director, **Beacon**, and an enthusiastic group of staff and counselors, the campers enjoyed a memorable experience. Many people are involved in looking after the campers during their stay at camp. Thank you to all of the counselors who worked hard supervising their campers in the cabins and at the waterfront and organizing and teaching the activities. The counselors included **Penny, Pearl, Pekoe, Gecko, Meta, Mega, Disco, Pingu, Maple, Rover, and Lava**.

Thank you to **Ballen** who looked after the campers' medical needs. Thank you as well to **Mrs. M. Cooke (Mrs. Cook), Mrs. J. Cottrill (Roadrunner), Ms. I. Roeleveld (Tulip), Ms. M. Sin, (Focus), Mrs. S. Anderson (Hummingbird), Mrs. C. Barker (Mrs. B), and Mrs. D. Newsted (Mrs. Sugar Cookies)** who cooked in the kitchen various weeks throughout the summer and to **Hannah Xu (Yukon) and Chloe Hung (Cherry)**, the kitchen assistants, who also worked various weeks. Special thanks to **Eric Kim (Remy)** who was our resident cook for all six weeks of the camp season. **Hydro's** assistance in various leadership capacities, as well as his handyman skills, was also greatly appreciated throughout the summer.

A special thank you is also extended to the various speakers who participated during the morning and evening chapel sessions during the different weeks: **Fez, Janner, Fender, Kowalski, and Major**.

Another program at Camp Ke-Mon-Oya this summer was the LIT (Leader in Training) program held for three weeks in July. This involved a combination of Bible study, leadership theory, and practical application by participation in kitchen duties, activity support, and cabin junior-counselor responsibilities. Under the leadership of **'Rei'**, the LIT participants this year were **Blaze, Cola, 7Up, Fanta, Sharpie, Dr. Pepper, and Chip**. Some of the LITs returned after the program was over to volunteer around camp, assisting with activities and whatever needed to be done, and their help was greatly appreciated! We were happy to see some of our own NTCS students participate in the program this summer.

Any student who will complete Grade 10 in June 2025 will qualify for consideration for the summer LIT program of 2025. Both LIT and counsellor application forms are available in the new year on the school and camp websites.

FALL CHANDOS SCHEDULE

The fall class trips to our camp facility on Chandos Lake are always memorable and one of the highlights of the school year. Commencing early in the school year, these trips enable the students to enjoy both new and old friendships while learning new skills and enjoying God's creation in the great outdoors. We hope all students in Grades 3 to 12 will be able to participate. Stay tuned for more information from your teacher(s). The fall packing list is on our school website. The schedule is as follows:

September 11-13	Grade 12
September 16-18	Grade 11B
September 18-20	Grade 11A
September 23-25	Grade 9
September 25-27	Grade 10
Sept. 30-Oct. 02	Grade 7B
October 02-04	Grade 7A
October 08-09	Grade 3
October 09-10	Grade 4
October 16-18	Grade 5
October 21-23	Grade 8B
October 23-25	Grade 8A
October 28-30	Grade 6B
October 30-Nov 01	Grade 6A



NTCS

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*It is the purpose
of NTCS to
provide a sound
academic edu-
cation inte-
grated with a
Christian view
of God and the
world.*

"Guide me in your
truth and teach
me, for you are
God my Saviour,
and my hope is in
you all day long."

Psalm 25:5

***NTCS Board of Directors***

North Toronto Christian School is a non-profit, charitable organization that is currently governed by nine individuals who form its Board of Directors. Please remember them in your prayers as they meet to discuss, plan, and make significant decisions about the school. Please contact any of them if you have questions or concerns. Their names and email addresses are posted on the school's website, but we make them available here as well for your information.

Mrs. Ann-Marie Crouse (acrouse@ntcs.on.ca)

Mrs. Barbara Dempsey (bdempsey@ntcs.on.ca) Chair

Mrs. Rachel Goligher (rgoligher@ntcs.on.ca)

Mr. Ken Hung (khung@ntcs.on.ca)

Mr. Jason Kwok (jkwok@ntcs.on.ca) Secretary

Mrs. Leona Lee (llee@ntcs.on.ca)

Mrs. Benita Pak (bpak@ntcs.on.ca)

Mrs. Sarah Wan (swan@ntcs.on.ca)

Mr. Don Watson (dwatson@ntcs.on.ca)

2024-2025 School Calendar

The following is a list of the key dates until the end of the Christmas break.

Monday, September 2	Labour Day – No school
Tuesday, September 3	First day of school
Friday, September 6	Photo Day
Thursday, September 12	Get Acquainted Night
Friday, October 11	PD Day - No school
Monday, October 14	Thanksgiving Day – No school
Wed/Thurs, November 20/21	Parent Teacher Interviews
Friday, November 22	PD day – No school
Monday, Dec. 23-Jan. 3, 2025	Christmas Break – No school

Newsletter

Newsletters will be sent via email on the first day of each month. Please take the time to peruse the newsletter as it provides interesting and important information about events taking place in our school. Please ensure you provide the school with your current email address and, if it changes, please notify the office. For your convenience, it will continue to be posted monthly on the school website.

WELCOME BACK!

