



CONNECTING TDCHRISTIAN WITH OUR SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

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



IN APRIL, with excitement and delight, we welcomed guests into the school to share their daily work. The fair raised student awareness of over 100 options in the skilled trades, gaps that Ontario needs filled. Our guests, mostly current or past parents and alumni, represented professions as diverse as police officers and metal fabricators. Students were exposed to and learned about careers from people who are passionate about what they do. Parents and guardians reported their children came home excited about new possibilities for their futures.

# SKILLED TRADES and CAREER FAIR



## Make a Joyful Noise!



FROM THE DAY IN 1965 when our current building was dedicated with the singing of a community choir on the back hill, until the recent concert at the Vaughan Community Church to celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> Year, music has been an important part of the story of Toronto District Christian High School.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Year Concert featured performances by alumni, including cellist Dr. Cora Kuyvenhoven [79]; the band Straats (Annie Martin [21], Joel Porter [19], and Adrian Straatsma [20]); vocalist Trista Suk [14]; Kevin Hayward Jr. [20]; and vocalist Jenna Cowans [03]. Current Grade 12 student Simeon Hwang played a lovely piece on the piano. Staff members contributed their talents, too: Andrew Peterkin wrote and performed a spoken word piece, while Richard Peters and his wife Jane Miller sang a duet accompanied by Kris Van Soelen [07].

Former TDChristian music teachers Syd Hielema, Ed Hoekstra [79], and Karen Burke brought greetings and shared stories, wisdom, and memories. The concert lasted well over two hours.

You can experience or relive the event (or selected segments) on our YouTube channel or use the YouTube QR Code:





**Fiyi Adenuga**  
Gap year then University



**Naomi Allman**  
McMaster University - Engineering



**Paul Amanatides**  
George Brown College - Welding



**Daelin Andrews**  
5th Year at TD then ECE



**Francine Angulo Stehouwer**  
Gap year then University



**Jayden Asare**  
Gap year then Culinary  
Apprenticeship



**Janet Bae**  
University of Toronto - Humanities



**Soky Benjamin**  
Humber College - Hospitality and  
Hotel Management



**Gabriel Chan**  
5th Year



**Joshua Cheung**  
University of Toronto - Life Science  
Co-op



**Luke Christianson**  
Brock University - Data Science



**Chloe Chung**  
University of Calgary - Nursing



**Lucy Cripps**  
University of Toronto Mississauga  
- English



**Ben de Kleer**  
Working



**Gabriela De Oliveira**  
Gap Year, working



**Aaron Dey**  
Toronto Metropolitan University  
- Graphic Communications  
Management



**Thomas Hendriks**  
University of Guelph - Bachelor of  
Arts - Major Culture and Technology



**Hayley Henning**  
Brock University - Psychology



**Kayla Ho**  
McMaster University- Social  
Sciences



**Avery Hollander**  
Gap Year



**Simeon Hwang**  
University of Toronto - Life Science



**Stefan Iskender**  
Electrical Apprenticeship



**Mark Kania**  
York University - Commerce



**Eliaura Kiervin Starkey**  
YWAM Perth, Australia



**Ryan Little**  
Lighting in the Film Industry



**Stephanie Lloyd**  
Gap year - working and traveling



**Israel Loney-Wilkins**  
Gap year - working

# CLASS OF 2023



**Zach Maan**  
University of Guelph - Biomedical  
Engineering



**Rebekah Maas**  
Queens University - Psychology



**Heidi MacLean**  
Centennial College - Recreation and  
Leisure Services



**Elina Makrakis**  
Queens University - Psychology



**Kyle Maliakkal**  
Pipelayer Apprenticeship



**Mackenzie Markle**  
Fanshawe College - Fashion Design



**Wade McMillan**  
Capernwray Bible School



**Sarita Mejia-Gomez**  
Seneca College - Honours Bachelor  
in Behavioural Psychology



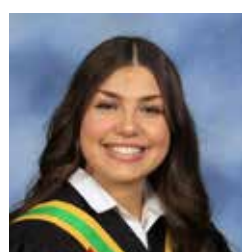
**Jemma Pascal van Alphen**  
York University - Bachelor of Fine  
Arts



**Malachi-James Patterson**  
Gap Year - Working



**Natasha Peens**  
Trent University - Biomedical



**Alexia Peraza**  
Gap Year - traveling



**Gianmarco Piacente**  
University of Toronto - Chemistry



**Samuel Raspa**  
5th Year



**Adrian Rejante**  
5th Year



**Esteban Riveros-Yopez**  
Sheridan College - Bachelor in  
Photography



**Nathaniel Soh**  
Act Five



**David Stewart**  
Working



**Rhylan Taylor-Zelaya**  
University of Guelph - International  
Development



**Amy Thomas**  
McMaster University - Social  
Sciences



**Judah Todd**  
Western University - English



**Iwinoswa Uwagboe**  
York University - Digital Media



**Nicholas van Donkersgoed**  
5th Year at TD - then on to pursue  
teaching



**Allison Van Zeumeren**  
Acadia University - Kinesiology



**Isaac Berkelaar**  
Gap year - working

**Lukas Bi**  
University of Toronto Scarborough - BBA Management Co-op

**Lucas Bokma**  
Working then University

**Rona Broadway**  
University of Guelph - Marine and Freshwater Biology

**Alex Brown**  
George Brown College - Electrical Apprenticeship

**Hope Buccella**  
Gap year - working

**Naomi Cattle**  
Algonquin College - Health and Culinary Science

**Julia Cao**  
OCAD - Environmental Design

**William Didiano**  
Western University - Computer Science

**Seth Dreyer**  
McMaster University - Bachelor of Social Work

**Timothy Faul**  
Fanshawe College - Broadcasting - Film and Television

**William Ge**  
University of Toronto - Biochemistry

**Aemilia Groot**  
Algonquin College - Business Management and Entrepreneurship

**Abbey Grootenboer**  
Trent University - Teacher Education

**Victoria Habenschuss**  
Brock University - Business Administration

**Curtis Hay**  
Durham College - Mechanical Technician- Elevating Devices

**Diane Kolyer**  
Dalhousie University - Bachelor of Science - Marine Biology major

**Lucas Krale**  
Lambton College - Restoration Construction Technician

**Ava Kuyvenhoven**  
University of British Columbia - Bachelor of Science

**Julie Lavigne**  
Georgian College - Pre-Health Sciences

**Jake Lawrence**  
Gap year- trades

**Paul Lee**  
Seneca College - Chemical Laboratory Technology - Pharmaceutical (CLP)

**Iris Leung**  
University of Waterloo- Physical Science

**Brandon Lewis**  
University of Alberta- Bachelor of Education - Dramatic Arts and Social Sciences

IN SEPTEMBER 2019, the Class of 2023 experienced a “regular” start, with an Orientation Week that included Grade 9 Toronto service trips and a “normal” first semester of high school. However, February 2020 brought the difficult loss of classmate Kristina Pazic to cancer, and March the COVID-19 pandemic. The next two years of high school were flush with questions: online or in-person, what about masks or vaccines, when can I be with my peers, and what about extracurricular activities? Thankfully, together in their groups and with staff, students forged ahead in ways that now help define them: practical, wide-ranging, adaptable, competent, and forward-focused. Since March 2022, with high school finally resembling what it did pre-pandemic, the Class of 2023 has ended its time with a flourish. We send them off with the assurance that our faithful God never leaves or forsakes his children.

AND WHATEVER YOU DO OR SAY, DO IT AS  
A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LORD JESUS,  
GIVING THANKS THROUGH HIM TO GOD  
THE FATHER. - Colossians 3:17 NLT

**GRADUATION:**  
JUNE 28, 7PM

Visit [TDChristian.ca](https://www.tdchristian.ca)  
for more details.



**Sophie Miles**  
Nipissing University - Concurrent Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education - Primary/Junior History

**Elias Moes**  
Redeemer University- Business

**Olivia Montagner**  
York University - Integrative Arts Program

**Sofia Montagner**  
5th Year

**Ayden Mulhern-Little**  
Metalworks Institute - Audio Engineering

**Samantha Nomani**  
University of British Columbia - Bachelor of Science

**Noah Panaro**  
Trades

**Soojin Park**  
George Brown College - Dental Technology

**Julia Robinson**  
5th Year at TD - then on to pursue education

**Olivia Roos**  
Conestoga College - Paramedic

**Matthew Sanita**  
York University - Bachelor of Commerce

**Christopher Schasmin**  
University of Guelph-Humber- Honors Bachelor of Applied Arts in Media and Communication Studies

**Tom Senkereke**  
Entrepreneur

**Rebekah Shaw**  
Wilfred Laurier University - BBA Business Administration

**Simon Singh**

**Mia Siu Chong**  
Dalhousie University - Bachelor of Science - Marine Biology major

**Amber Vroom**  
Gap Year

**Andrew Walraven**  
Redeemer University - Health Sciences Pre-Med

**Morgana Wang**  
University of Toronto - Art and Humanities

**Aiden Ward**  
Working

**Kathy Whiteside**  
Gap Year

**Peter Zhang**  
UNSW Sydney - Commerce

**Annalise Zomer**  
McMaster University - Kinesiology

**Megan Zomer**  
Working then University



# Dive Deep

*STUDENT MIA SIU CHONG*, inspired by a TDChristian leadership course, started the volunteer-led, not-for-profit organization Dive Deep ([divedeeporg.ca](http://divedeeporg.ca)) out of a passion for ocean conservation. Dive Deep's mission is to spread awareness of marine conservation issues and provide opportunities for citizens to take direct everyday action.

Mia's first event, in 2022, was an interactive exhibit at a community centre that feature different stations, each addressing a key topic in ocean conservation. This spring, the City of Markham invited Mia to host interactive exhibits at their Earth Day Celebration and at the Markham Mayor's Youth Council Expo. TDChristian students volunteered with Mia in running all the interactive activities. A highlight was a visit from Mayor Frank Scarpitti.

Lisa Siu Chong, Mia's mom, shared, "It was so nice to see TDChristian student volunteers using their unique gifts and strengths: those who were more comfortable just speaking on the content at the booth did that; those who were comfortable stepping into the crowd to encourage passers-by to stop by the booth did that; those who worked better with children did that!"

One of TDChristian's goals is to empower students as they "learn for service in the light of God's Word". Mia's Dive Deep initiative is an example of how we can care for creation, each other, and the wider community simultaneously.

## Life Skills

We are excited to share our Ontario Secondary School Certificate and Life Skills program! Is your child in a specialized or modified elementary school program? Are you looking for a high school that can prepare them for college? At TDChristian High School, we will provide your child with the support needed to succeed in high school. Janice de Boer, who has worked for 20 years with students at both elementary and high school, will be overseeing the program. Janice understands that with the right support, students can discover and develop their passions, skills, and interests—and achieve their maximum academic potential. Share this new opportunity with someone you know!



## ALUMNI NEWS

### BIRTHS

**Adrian Elzinga** [09] and Lareina Schenk welcomed Adaline Marie on September 7, 2021, sister of Levi.

**Rebecca Vos** [07] and **Kris VanSoelen** [07] welcomed Coen Aarden on June 6, 2022, brother of Carson.

**Elena Knibbe** [08] and **John Olthof** [08] welcomed Emily Victoria on June 16, 2022, sister of Deanna, Peter, and Reuben.

**Garrett Goodison** [02] and Shauna Cowden welcomed Lochlan David Scott on June 27, 2022.

**Rhiannon Knibbe** [11] and **Taylor Straatsma** [11] welcomed Audrey Jane Renae on October 20, 2022, sister of Wesley.

**Bethany Frieswick** [13] and Daniel Klassen welcomed Katharina Rose on January 1, 2023, sister of Lila and Penelope.

**Eric Knibbe** [02] and Elina Baelde welcomed Heather Anne on March 8, 2023.

**Marcel Vanderkloet** [02] and Jenn Stillman welcomed Gabriel Richard on March 11, 2023.

**David Feddema** [11] and Rachel deBruyn welcomed twin boys Reuben and Darcy on March 18, 2023.

**Amanda Koerssen** [14] and Jordan Mateljan welcomed Cohen Emerik on March 23, 2023.

**Suzanne Knibbe** [05] and **Wayne Veenstra** [05] welcomed Casper Miles on June 4, 2023, brother of Lucy, Henry, and Ransom.

### MARRIAGES

**Lorissa Van Gorp** [17] and David Tenorio on March 11, 2023.

## CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

We have been on an amazing 60-year journey of helping students learn for service in the light of God's Word!

As TDChristian supporter Jody Keats notes, "As a family, we have been richly blessed with community. As we reflect on the journey thus far, from the day we became part of Christian Education 20 years ago one thing has remained constant in the lives of our children: they have been raised, loved, and supported by community."

Thank you for making this shared journey what it is. We invite you to continue your journey of support for the learning at TDChristian!



**EDITOR/PRINCIPAL:**  
William Groot [78]

**COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR:**  
Victoria Veenstra

**PRODUCTION/ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR**

Leanne Fernhout [95]  
[fernhout@tdchristian.ca](mailto:fernhout@tdchristian.ca)

**DESIGNER:** Julie Van Huizen [04]

**COPY EDITOR:** Debbie Sawczak

For further information on TDChristian, please contact the school.

**TDCHRISTIAN**

377 Woodbridge Avenue  
Woodbridge ON L4L 2V7

**TEL:** 1.855.663.6632  
905.851.1772

**EMAIL:** [info@TDChristian.ca](mailto:info@TDChristian.ca)  
[www.TDChristian.ca](http://www.TDChristian.ca)