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CELEBRATING

# CELEBRATING with the CLASS of 2020!

*In this issue, we pay tribute to the 91 students of our graduating class. We'll miss their many contributions to school life, and we appreciate how they've managed to stay strong despite having to learn from home to finish off their time at TDChristian. Here's to a bright future!*

## INTO THE WILD: JACOB LEA & ADRIAN STRAATSMA

by Joel Sjaarda

At TDChristian, we encourage students to take unique opportunities to learn and develop their skills. More importantly, we seek to have our students develop a heart for the Lord while they learn about and engage with his amazing world.

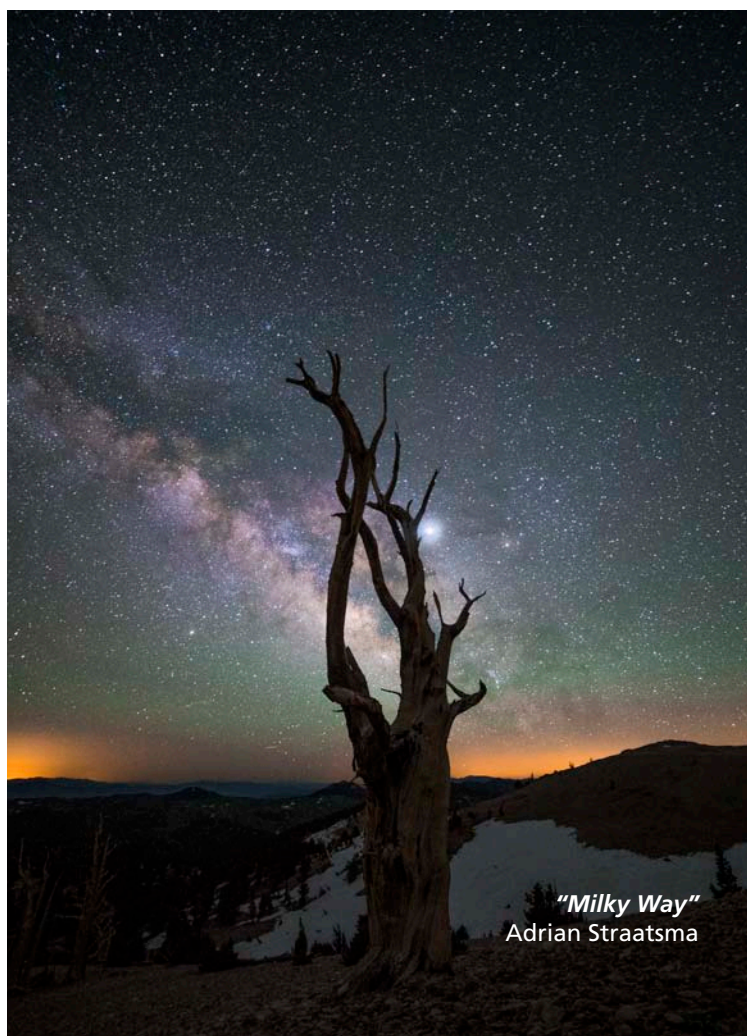
This past summer, Grade 12 students Jacob Lea and Adrian Straatsma spent a week with alumnus Jadon Pascal van Alphen (17) and me developing their photography and cinematography skills in the wilderness of California. We braved scorching temperatures, barren mountaintops, and all night shoots, going days without seeing other humans. While Jacob and Adrian definitely furthered their imaging abilities on that trip, that was only the beginning of their journey of learning.

After debriefing from the trip and editing images, Jacob and Adrian worked with Jadon and me to plan a photo exhibition. On the night of November 19, parents, students, and friends came to TDChristian to see Jacob and Adrian's work, engage them in conversation, and ultimately learn about their experience capturing images of God's creation.

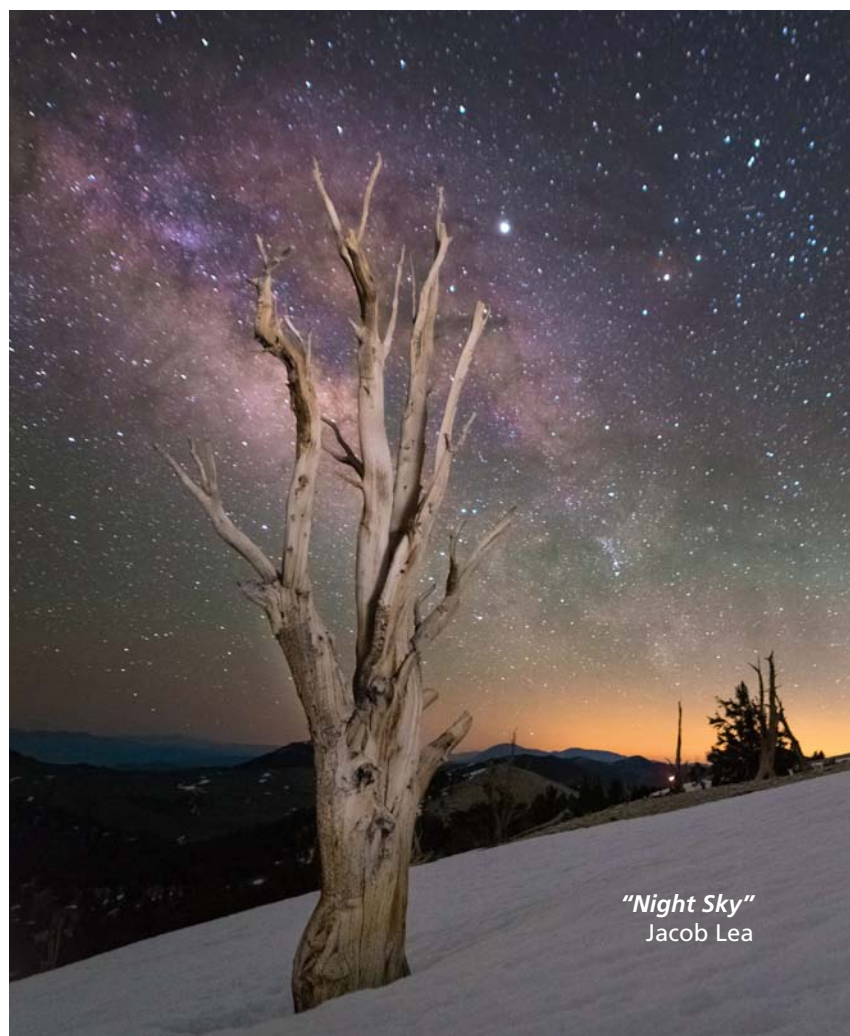
It was a pleasure to work with Jacob and Adrian on this project. Throughout the process, they demonstrated maturity and growth in their approach to their craft, both on the trip and in the execution of the exhibition. More significantly, the conversations Jadon and I had with them revealed that Jacob and Adrian understand their learning and passion for photography through a thoughtful and informed perspective that acknowledges God's direct involvement in our experiences. **There is truly no learning more valuable than that which involves a greater understanding of and closer intimacy with our Creator.**



Adrian Straatsma (left),  
and Jacob Lea



"Milky Way"  
Adrian Straatsma



"Night Sky"  
Jacob Lea

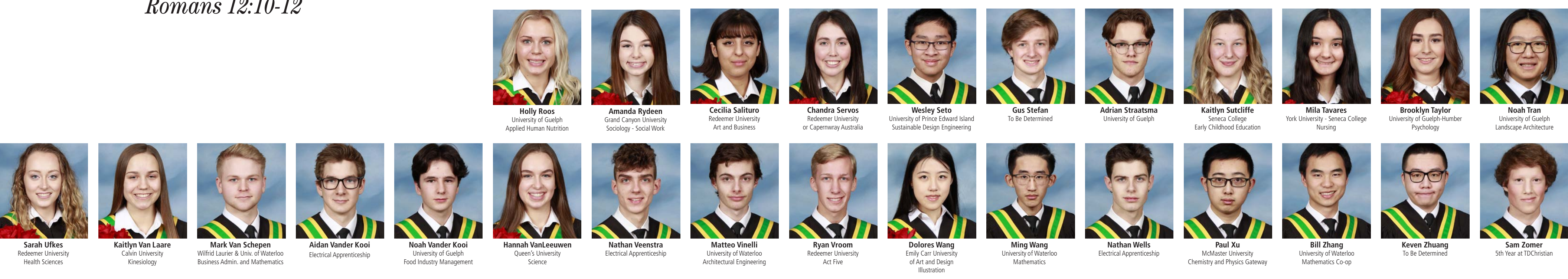


*“Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honouring each other. Never be lazy but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope, be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.”*

*Romans 12:10-12*



*The Class of 2020 is intrigued by and involved in all facets of learning. As a group, they are diligent, quiet seekers of growth and skilled in a wide variety of disciplines. Many of them understand the importance of speaking up, willingly and calmly presenting their insights, thoughts, and opinions in a direct and clear manner; they have demonstrated the ability to speak the truth in love. Able to listen and respond, they are often playful while remaining focused on achieving their goals. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, they have learned to face obstacles and persevere, which we pray will benefit them as they move forward in an unusual and uncertain time. One thing we are certain of is our desire for them to “rejoice in our confident hope, be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.” (Romans 12:12)*



# In the NEWS at TD

By Luke Sawczak

*"It was a challenge, but the positive feedback from our families was our constant motivation."*

## MEETING THE CHALLENGE

Our March Break started just as the provincial government announced a two-week school shutdown. What we didn't know was that we would spend the remaining 14 weeks of the year learning from home.

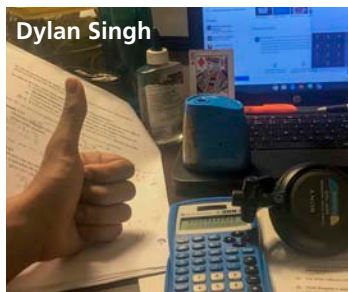
In the first few weeks, staff, students, and families worked hard to adjust and to use a wide range of tools in innovative and effective ways. From live Zoom classes to collaborative art, from hands-on projects to classic-style written work, teachers found many ways to deliver content with 50% more learning time than public schools (4.5 hours per course per week vs. 3 hours per week). The school came together as a community for a virtual video assembly each morning that featured devotions, student work, and fun segments on cooking, pets, pandemic research, and more. It was a challenge, but the positive feedback from our families was our constant motivation.



Aaron Miles



Dayna Pitcher



Dylan Singh



Mikka Ward



PE class



Wade McMillan



"Mrs. T."

## GOODBYE TO JUNE IN JUNE

We are bidding farewell to a much-loved teacher who's retiring after 12 wonderful years with us: June Tenyenhuis, a.k.a. "Mrs. T." June has taught art with passion, dedication, and love. In the tribute given to her at this year's Membership Meeting, attention was drawn to her broad and deep knowledge of many artistic media (reflected in her extraordinary classroom), her innovative projects—such as the annual Recycled Runway in which students literally make new clothes from old to live out our stewardship of the planet—and above all June's championship of every student: she has always both pushed and supported, challenged and upheld, and every year proudly sends student work to competitions where they routinely win prizes. But the showcase she seems to treasure most is the wall right outside her room, where the creations she taught students to make were always on display. She is happy to take a well-earned rest and pass the torch to Christina Sanita, who will begin teaching art in September. We'll miss you, June!

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING GOES VIRAL

Well, it didn't really go viral, but this year our community had its official meeting in much the same way the rest of the world has had to: over Zoom. Over 200 attendees came together virtually on May 14. Among other things, principal William Groot addressed the question of what makes a school (hint: way more than just a building)—and as the meeting itself showed, our core mission of learning for service in the light of God's word continues, even in today's circumstances. We are also excited about September's opening of Firehall Thrift, God willing.



Zoom meeting

## Still Spaces in All Grades

We understand that these are uncertain times. Know that we are planning for every contingency for Fall 2020. No matter what, whether in school or online, we plan to deliver an unparalleled enfolding, engaging, and empowering experience for your student & your family. You belong here!

[TDChristian.ca/Admissions](http://TDChristian.ca/Admissions)



# Alumni News

**Attention Alumni!**  
Please keep us posted regarding reunions, marriages, births, career moves, and any other important milestones. Simply email [alumni@tdchristian.ca](mailto:alumni@tdchristian.ca). Don't worry if you're late in reporting – we're still interested!

## • Births

- Stephanie Vandenberg (02) and Peter Findlay welcomed Marie Grace on December 17, 2019. A little sister to big brother Sebastian.
- Caleb Vandenberg (07) and Chelsey Hiemstra (07) welcomed Cora Marie on March 5, 2020. A little sister to Abby and Lydia.
- Rebecca Vos (07) and Kris Van Soelen (07) welcomed Carson Knox on March 22, 2020.

- Carl Roeleveld (11) and Caitlyn Horlings (10) welcomed Deacon Luke on April 28, 2020.
- Colin Hoving (07) and Bailey Girard welcomed Auston Brock on March 6, 2020. A little brother to Avery.
- John Olthof (08) and Elena Knibbe (08) welcomed their twin boys Peter William and Reuben John on May 4, 2020. Little brothers for big sister Deanna.
- Brad Kooy (07) and Laura Nyholt welcomed Hudson Samuel on March 27, 2019.
- Marcella Knibbe (01) and Steve Haanstra welcomed Zachary Tristan on April 9, 2019. A brother for Nicholas, William, and Brielle.

## • Weddings

- Sarah Vos (15) and Sam Routley married July 6, 2019.
- Amy Vandekemp (12) and Collins Ojete married May 9, 2020.

# Project 20/20

Before:



June 2020:



## Project 20/20

The official opening of Project 20/20 is planned for our Back in the Groove night on September 3.

In 2020 so far, \$210,000 has been raised towards the building, bringing the total in gifts and pledges to \$3,250,000. In addition, \$90,000 in donations has been received through the Giving Catalogue to furnish the many spaces of Project 20/20.

TDChristian is thankful to God for the provisions received through a strong and faithful community.

You can help by giving or giving again to the campaign ([tdchristian.ca/giving](http://tdchristian.ca/giving)), or by purchasing an item from our giving catalogue ([tdchristian.ca/givingcatalogue](http://tdchristian.ca/givingcatalogue)).

Feel free to contact Leanne Fernhout, Campaign Fundraising Manager, at [fernhout@tdchristian.ca](mailto:fernhout@tdchristian.ca).

Project 20/20 is another faithful step in helping students learn for service in the light of God's Word.

Let's keep BUILDING together!

@TDChristian

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Help us celebrate the Class of 2020 ONLINE

# GRADUATION

Tuesday, June 30, 7:00 pm  
at [Youtube.com/tdchwoodbridge](https://www.youtube.com/tdchwoodbridge)

Frank Romp Award Recipient: **Nathan Bellsmith**, *Valedictorian*  
(Entering University of Waterloo, Mechatronics Engineering)

[www.tdchristian.ca](http://www.tdchristian.ca)