

King's Christian Collegiate

DECEMBER 14, 2011



THE KING'S HERALD

World-class Christian educators passionately committed to student success...

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...



Gratitude is a matter of the heart. It is a mind-set that can influence decisions and choices. When we live thankful lives, we understand what it means to give without obligation or expectation. As Christmas approaches, we celebrate God's gift of a Son for the peace of the world.

At King's, one focal point for the last few weeks has been how to support Kerr Street Ministries. For \$300, we can support a person in need, a person who may not be able to make the same financial decisions we can due to a lack of resources. Imagine how we could bless others if each student brought in \$10. At that rate, we would raise \$4500 – enough to support 15 people living in the Halton Region. What if we each brought in \$20? For some, the decision to bring in \$50 would not be a stretch.

At the last two assemblies, I have asked students a simple question. Can we bother to remember the need of others? It is not a question of "can we help?" It is a question of listening to a cry for help and deciding to remember. My prayer is that we can hear that plea and respond with such grateful hearts that lives can be changed. Mr. Dave Di Sabatino, Executive Director at Kerr Street, will join us at our annual Christmas Chapel on Tuesday, December 20 to receive our gift. Friends of King's are always welcome to join us!

May this Christmas season be a special time of experiencing the depth of peace, comfort, and joy that is available to each of us through God's gift of Light and Life.

MR. JOHN DEBOER

The Word was first,
the Word present to God,
God present to the Word.
The Word was God,
in readiness for God from day one.

Everything was created through Him;
nothing—not one thing!—
came into being without Him.
What came into existence was Life,
and the Life was Light to live by.
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;
the darkness couldn't put it out.

John 1: 1-5 (The Message)



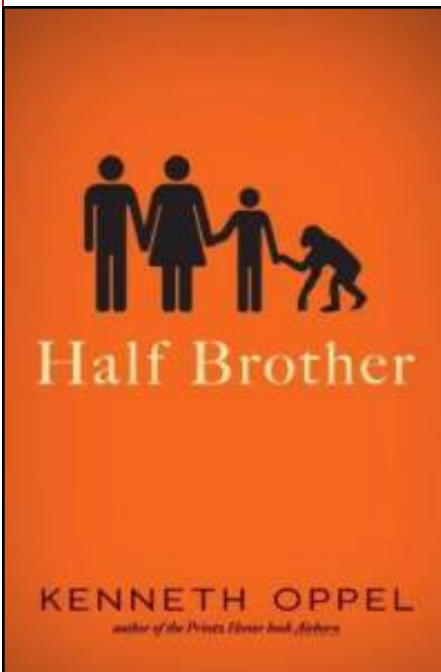
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- *Thurs, Dec 15* - Christmas Evening of the Arts 7:00 pm
- *Tues, Dec 20* - Last day of classes
- *Wed, Jan 4* - First day of classes
- *Jan 16 - 20* - Exams

IMPORTANT DATES

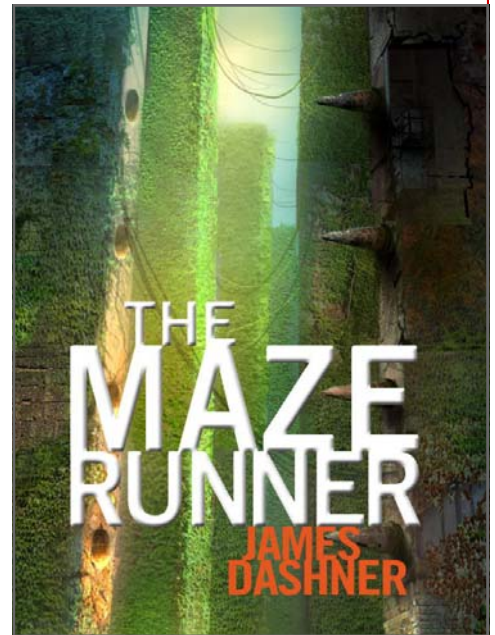
Ontario University
applications due January 11, 2012

Ontario College
applications due February 1, 2012



King's New Club... BOOKed for Lunch

King's has been blessed to have gained an exciting new club this year, the **BOOKed for Lunch** book club. This new group encourages those who love reading to come out to the library, eat food, and discuss favourite novels, authors and series. It is an eclectic group to say the least, as each student brings a different genre to the discussion table. The teacher leaders, Mrs. Terry and Mrs. Ralph, are now working their way through an extensive "must read" list! BOOKed meets every other Friday in the library to discuss the book(s) we are reading or have read!



Currently, BOOKed members have collectively read *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner, *Half-Brother* by Kenneth Oppel, and are finishing up with *A Spy in the House* by Y.S. Lee.

King's Yearbook 2011-2012

Your yearbook is going to a whole new level! Put more of YOU into your yearbook by using Josten's new program, "Yearbook Yourself!" Memorialize your wonderful year at King's by adding four pages that are custom designed by you! There are multiple design options, it is easily accessed online, and you can make your yearbook unique to you. For more information, contact Mrs. Emma Ralph or visit <http://www.yearbookyourself.com/>

And don't forget - yearbooks are still on sale for \$40. Cash or cheques (made payable to King's Christian Collegiate, subject line "Yearbook") can be brought to Mrs. Ralph before Christmas break. Yearbooks are great gifts to give your son(s) or daughter(s) to allow them to treasure the time they spent at the best school in the world.

Be Part of the Solution – Spread Awareness

Submitted by Andrew Roberts (Grade 12 student)



Genocide, defined as the murder of an entire ethnic group, has plagued our world in years past, and in some countries, is still active today. On

November 15th, Yannick Tona, survivor of the Rwandan genocide, and influential speaker, came to tell his story to the students of King's Christian Collegiate.

"I didn't know my life would change forever," says Tona. The genocide started when the main ethnic group within Rwanda, the Hutu's, started to kill Tutsis, the ethnic minority. On April 6th 1994, Hutu extremists killed Rwandan President Juvénal Habyarimana – escalating the beginning of the Rwandan genocide. "The media started encouraging Hutu's to kill Tutsi's," says Tona. "It was like a movie," he says, describing the large Tutsi crowds running through the streets.

Organizer Peter Oussoren (pictured, above, left, with Yannick Tona and his colleague), a Grade 9 teacher at King's, believes it's important to have speakers like Tona come to speak to the student body. "Genocide is still alive today, yet recent genocides are not always brought to our attention" he says. Having been to Rwanda himself in 1997, Oussoren understands the horrors that took place there three years prior to his visit. "I also knew that most of the world did not take much notice" he says.

Tona's story enlightens Ofure Okaka, a Grade 12 student at King's. "His story showed me the importance of spreading awareness, so that horrible things like the Rwandan genocide won't be repeated by younger generations," she says.

Three weeks after the murder of the Rwandan President, Tona was forced to run for his own life. "I was 4 years old at the time" says Tona, "I only remember things happening to me and my family." He says that his mother took him and his younger sister to his Grandmother's house to escape the violence taking place in southern Rwanda. It was here that Tona and his family devised a plan to avoid capture. "We decided to go separate ways, because that way, should one part of the family get captured, then maybe another part would survive," he says. Tona was paired with his mother. "We walked more than three weeks trying to

reach the safety of the Congo, and it was the most horrible journey of my life," he says.

Despite the perils of his journey, and the injustices against him and his family, Tona says he has forgiven those who have hurt him. "I feel like it's important to forgive. I have forgiven everybody and it's a process, but with God's help you can achieve it." Tona is amazed with the way that people can change. "I love how human beings can change not only in a negative way, but in a positive way as well."

It was ultimately his Christian faith that gave Tona the hope necessary to carry on. "Hope and faith were the keys that helped to make my life successful, but without one or the other, I wouldn't have been able to survive."

Marc Habib, another Grade 12 student at King's, was reminded of an important life lesson reflected in Tona's story: "If you're not part of the solution then you're part of the problem," says Habib. This lesson expresses Tona's ultimate goal in telling his story. He says "Our responsibility as youth is to positively impact the present and the future of our communities, and that all begins with us right now." He believes that governments should invest in young people as they are the future leaders of our communities.

Now using his dark past to bring light to the future, Tona says, "My priorities will concentrate on areas where we can make a difference in youths' lives, and contribute to a better world."

In this way, Tona extends his love, a word he describes as the sharing of peace. "Love is when you have peace inside you, but you also give it to others," he says. Today, Tona uses that love to inspire others to make a positive difference in the world. "Change your thoughts and you can change your world – believe you can, and you're already half way there," he says.



Tona (centre) with King's Grade 10 students

Grade 10 Challenge Learning Conference

By Erin Homer, Gr. 10

We face challenges every day. They come in all different shapes and sizes, but no matter how old you are or where you live, problem solving will always be a part of daily life.

Luckily at King's we have teachers who go out of their way to help us establish strategies which can prevent some avoidable troubles. Rather than telling us what our problems are, the staff and students of The Grade 10 Challenge came up with a solution that went the extra mile: a learning conference.

The conference had a variety of King's faculty who counseled students on common realities of high school life. We started by hearing Mr. Seidenberg's inspirational story of a golden eagle, which taught us that we are all individual and unique. Because of our individuality, differences in opinions, methods, thoughts, and ideas are going to come up in our school life. Mr. Ford explained to us many factors that can cause stress, or difficulty, in the life of a teenager. Among these factors were depression and sleep - pivotal and decisive when it comes to our moods and how we handle things. We also learned about how our brain develops, works, and how it processes information. By learning about how our intelligence can be developed, it became clearer and clearer that everyone learns in different ways. For some, it is better to hear information out loud, for others reading silently really gets the job done, but all in all it was stressed that in order to meet our educational goals, we need to understand how we (as individuals) work and how to communicate with our teachers. Mrs. Brodie spoke to us about how to deal with distractions, and urged us to think about how we can set up a home environment that will help us focus on completing our school work.

The Grade 10 students also welcomed four teachers (Mr. Zietsma, Mr. Lee, Mrs. Ralph, and Ms. Manninen) to a "teacher panel." Austin Jones and Clara Sidrak asked them a variety of questions, ranging from "What were you like in

high school?" to "What should a student keep in mind when writing emails to teachers?" to "How can students best communicate difficulty understanding a concept?" The teachers shared insightful and - in some cases, humorous - answers, and cleared some - common questions that are sometimes hard to answer.

Cole Heideman and Paige Thomas, Grade 12 students, shared "senior" perspectives. Cole Heideman and Paige Thomas talked about their school experiences in the past and leading up to the present. In response, a Grade 10 student shared:

I admired that Cole was able to balance both his school work and his athletic endeavours. I admire Cole's organizational skills and the fact that he prioritized various aspects of his life and set out to achieve his goals. At this point, I am trying to determine what I want to do with my life and what God's will is for me.

Another Grade 10 student commented that:

One characteristic I noticed in both Cole and Paige was not thinking of "work" as "work". I am going to try to see "work" as a privilege."

By the end of the conference I think we all left with one common goal and question: How can I better my learning experience, and take what I learned today to improve it? Though the information presented was hard to forget, the staff involved in the Grade 10 Challenge devised a plan to push the lessons even further into our memories. After the conference we were to have a conversation with our parents on what we had learned that morning. All in all, the learning conference taught us things we need to understand in order to be successful. It took the every day question of: "Why am I having such a hard time in school?" and changed it to: "How can I start improving my learning at school?" The lessons we can take from this are that we are all unique, we learn differently, and there's a lot more to school than just grades. It's also about understanding ourselves (and others) and communicating.

Pictured right: Grade 10 Leaders

Back row: Mr. Seidenberg, Kulbir Gill, Tristan Homer, Austin Jones, Michael Bergman, Sean Brooks, Jenna Hebb, Ernesto Smiley, Dr. Kahama *Front row:* Andrew Butera, Clara Sidrak, Hannah Keith, Mrs. Conlin *Missing:* Celine Aziz, Gabby Brancalion, Larissa Chang, Erin Homer, Ryan Prager, Mrs. Vatcher



Clockwise from right:

Cole Heideman shares his academic journey; a happy table group; **Kulbir Gill** leads a stretch break; **Mr. Ford** teaches about Emotions and Learning



A Vow of Silence ***Hannah Keith, Gr 10***

My experience in taking the Vow of Silence was rewarding. I found not talking for an entire day very difficult because at times I wanted to stand up for myself or speak out, but then I realized this is what children have to go through everyday. I realized having rights and a free country protecting them could be taken for granted easily, and worst of all I found out I am a culprit of taking these things for granted. It's so easy for me to have what I want or even sometimes what I don't want. I'm given education from my parents, I'm given the freedom to choose my work, I'm given clean water, etc. Some of these things I don't even think of I just take part in using them. The vow of silence wasn't only a day of not speaking, it was a day to raise awareness for children who don't have what we have and would be grateful for a 1/4 of what we are given. When I talked by accident and was pointed out by others I became disappointed in myself for not fulfilling my commitment in being silent, but after contemplation I realized the point of the vow of silence is not just to stay silent, it's to raise awareness. If I slip up or not is not the purpose of the Vow of Silence it is raising awareness for children that speak up and die. For children who are at gunpoint as soon as the words escape their brave mouths. As I think about it more I become aware of the sin the world around us.

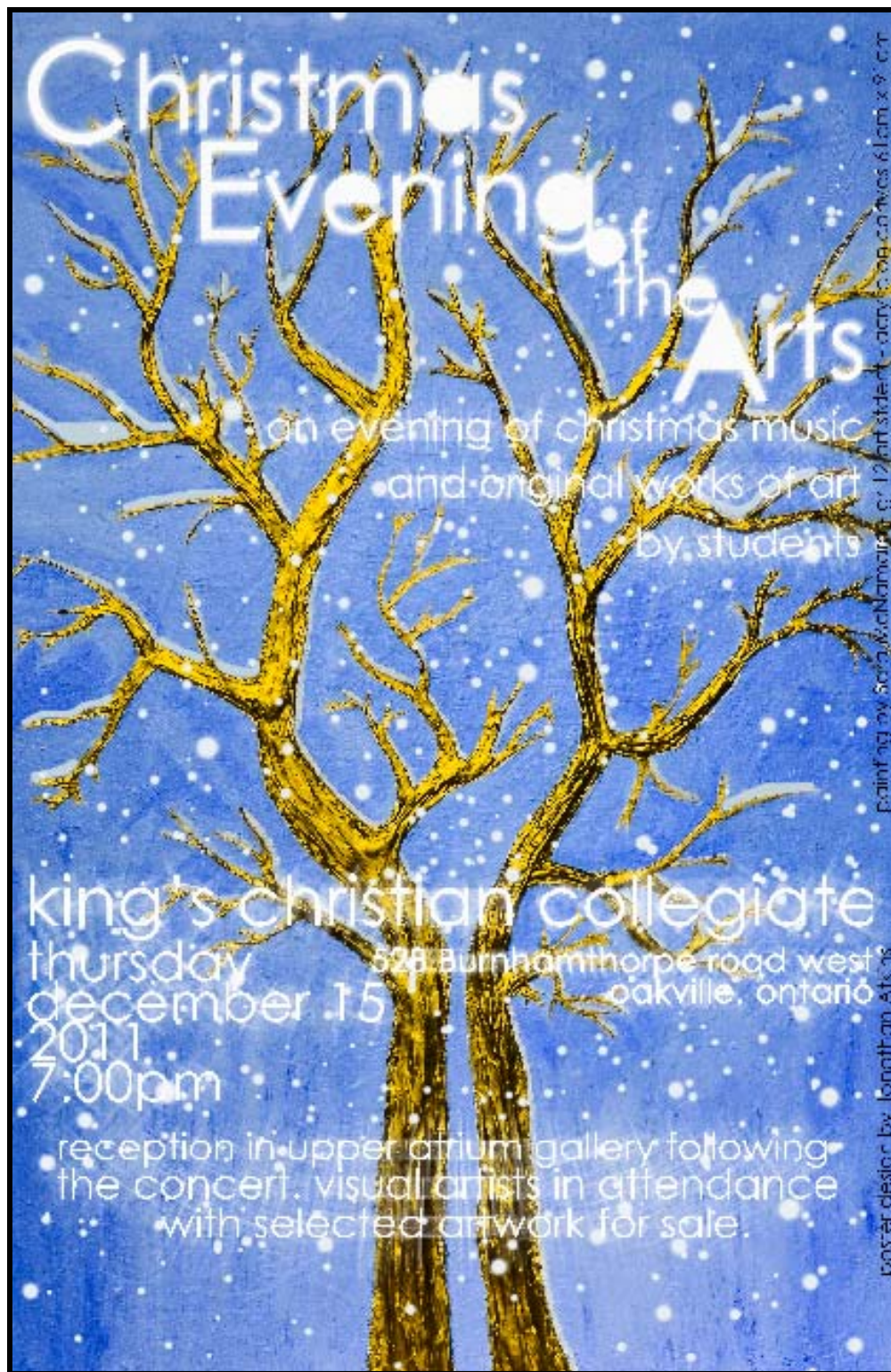
I made a webpage with the company to help fundraise

for Free the Children (website: <https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/welcome.aspx?EventID=79029&LangPref=en-CA&RegistrationID=1324185&Referrer=direct%2fnone>).

I set a goal of \$200.00 to start with because I felt optimistic about the project, but after realizing that I only had three days to collect the money I decided to lower my goal to \$100.00. According to the website running the event (<http://www.freethechildren.com/vowofsilence/>) \$100.00 gives a family clean drinking water. I sent out letters to family members and friends and in the end I raised \$148.00, which helped go towards children's rights. It was exhilarating to see that I would be helping as well as raising awareness, because it made the vow of silence feel more than just a regular day without talking.

I would recommend to others thinking about taking the vow of silence. It is not a one-day task though; it requires preparation, days in advance, to receive funding and to prepare yourself physically and emotionally. It requires self-control and persistence throughout the day as you silence your urges to talk. The experience is rewarding and I think would be more fun if you had friends participating as well to support you. The vow of silence is silence for those who have no freedom do otherwise.





Join the King's family for an evening of artistic celebration this Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 pm, featuring the King's Concert Band, Choir, soloists, Jazz Ensemble and an exhibit presented by the Visual Art students. Enjoy a Christmas concert, complete with Christmas readings and carols, and then meander upstairs to the Upper Atrium Gallery for refreshments and an art exhibit, including select pieces for sale. Please be our guest at 7:00 - no admission charge.

EXAMS JANUARY 2012

Monday January 16: Block B
Tuesday January 17: Block C
Wednesday January 18: Block D
Thursday January 19: Block A
Friday January 20: alternate day

Exams begin at 8:40am each day; students will be in proper uniform for exams

Café will be open for lunch; Buses will run each morning at regular times and leave at approximately 12:30 pm
Grade 9 &10 exams will be written in classrooms; Grade 11 and 12 exams will be written in the gym

Only bring required material to exam room:

- ◆ Pens, pencils, erasers
- ◆ Calculator if necessary
- ◆ Bottle of water (with the label removed) and unwrapped candy if desired

Students are not permitted to bring backpacks, pencil cases, cell phones, ipods, etc. to the exam room

Teacher-escorted bathroom breaks are permitted in urgent cases only

Students arriving late for an exam will report to the main office and will then be escorted by the Principal to the exam room.

Students are reminded to be available on Friday - in the event of a snow day, exams will shift by one day. If there are 2 snow days, the last exam will either occur the afternoon of Jan 20th or on Jan 30th

Textbooks:

- ◆ Grade 11 &12 classes will drop their textbooks off in the hall outside the gym prior to entering for their exam
- ◆ Grade 9 &10 classes will drop their textbooks off outside the designated exam classroom prior to entering for their exam
- ◆ Mrs. Terry will collect any late textbooks in the library until Friday, January 20th. Invoices will be mailed out for textbooks that are not returned by Friday.

**Mon
Jan
16th**

**Tues
Jan
17th**

**Wed
Jan
18th**

**Thurs
Jan
19th**

**Fri
Jan
20th**

**Block B
exams**

**Block C
exams**

**Block D
exams**

**Block A
exams**

Alt. day