

## VISITING FOREIGN EMBASSIES

In our efforts to bring students from all over the globe to the school, NCCI continues to meet with ambassadors of Latin American countries to share with them our world-embracing vision. Such meetings allow us to introduce NCCI to their countries and describe to the ambassadors the excellent education and diverse environment our school can offer to their youth.



These photos were taken in February when NCCI's Executive Director, Gordon Naylor, and Mr. Wilmer Pulido visited a number of foreign embassies in Ottawa. The photo on the left shows Mr. Pulido and Mr. Naylor meeting with the Ambassador of Panama, Ms. Romy Vasquez, and the Councillor Minister for Panama, Ms. Xiomara Perez. The above photo shows Mr. Naylor meeting with the Ambassador of Mexico, Ms. Maria Teresa Garcia Segovia de Madero.

## Heart to Art

This January, we began to offer a new extra-curricular program for our elementary students called Heart to Art. By participating in Heart to Art, students work on virtues acquisition and character development through the arts.

Heart to Art adopts methods similar to the NCCI Workshop model, but allows the children to focus on the virtues by analyzing and exploring the evolving relationships they encounter within their communities everyday. The program offers a stimulating environment for the students to explore the arts through dance, drama, music, crafts, poetry and storytelling. They meet every Wednesday after school and are gaining a repertoire of songs, skits and stories to perform for the school and selected venues.

Heart to Art was created by NCCI graduate, Andrea McLean. The program is supported by dance teacher and Workshop Coordinator, Leslie Switzer, and Andrea is assisted by Grade 12 students Bronwyn Proctor and Denissa St. Laurent.

## New Developments in NCCI's Early Years Program

We are very excited about our newly accredited Child Care Centre, which is licensed for up to sixteen children between the ages of 2 1/2 and 5. The Child Care Centre and our Junior and Senior Kindergarten make up NCCI's Early Years Program, which combines intellectual, character, social and physical development in a nurturing and stimulating atmosphere. We offer a Monday to Friday full-time program with before and after school care available.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### April:

21 – School Closed (1st Day of Ridvan)  
29 – School Closed (9th Day of Ridvan)

### May:

2 – School Closed (12th Day of Ridvan)  
23 – School Closed (Victoria Day)  
May 26 - June 1 – Exams

### June:

3 – Undergrad Awards - 10:00 am  
Grad Performance - 7:00 pm  
4 – Graduation Day: Diplomas - 10:30 am  
Dinner, Awards and Dance - 6:30 pm

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**NANCY CAMPBELL**  
COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

# NCCI NEWS

NANCY CAMPBELL COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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## They braved, they froze, they conquered: Dog sledding in Algonquin Park

Congratulations to the first group of NCCI Duke of Edinburgh adventurers who completed a successful 3-day dog sledding trip into Algonquin Park in December. The temperature dropped below -30 degrees Celsius but Ashley Lowndes, Kristen Lowndes, Joanna Thornley, Matt Stapylton, Oscar Gonzalez, Cesar Gonzalez and Andrew Hewitt, along with Ms. Lisa Flynn-Lobb, their chaperone and fellow-trekker, braved the weather and returned to the school tired, but ready to do it again.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Program, which is an international youth challenge, started this past September in the school and now has over 70 of our high school students enrolled. The program calls on the students to complete a requisite number of hours engaged in four areas – doing community service, developing skills, exercising and participating in an adventurous journey. By achieving the goals of the program, the students learn responsibility, acquire new skills and increase their level of physical fitness, in addition to demonstrating a high level of commitment and motivation.



Having completed their journey, these seven students are now very close to completing the requirements for the Bronze Award. Everyone will be invited to the ceremony at which they will receive their awards. Everyone else in the program is working toward a canoeing trip into Algonquin Park in May.

The following journal was written by Grade 11 student Ashley Lowndes who hopes that, even though you weren't running behind 6 dogs for 3 days, you will still get an idea of what it was like to experience a frigid Canadian winter.

By: Sandy Smith, Duke of Edinburgh Award Coordinator

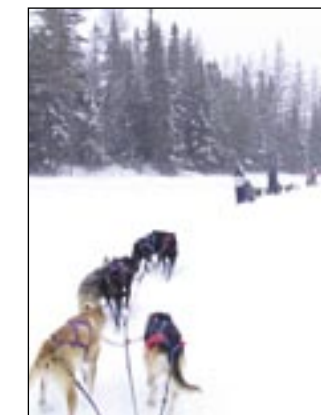
### The Dogsled Diaries, by Ashley Lowndes

#### Day 1

On the first day no one knew exactly what to expect. We arrived at the Chocpaw dog sledding centre expecting to see tons of dogs and sleds. No such thing. Going inside, we were met by our guide, Lisa, who explained to us what we'd need to know on the trip. We learned about everything from the sled and the dogs to staying warm in the -35 degree weather. Still slightly apprehensive, we visited the kennels where the dogs were kept. Imagine our disbelief at seeing row upon row of hundreds of dogs. Here we met our second guide named Russ, who showed us how to tie up our sleds. Next, we harnessed the dogs and brought them to their positions. This was not as simple as it sounds, especially when you're dealing with dogs that are excited out of their minds! You try holding them by the collars and walking as they hop along beside you. However, it gets easier as you go along. Then we partnered up and were off to our campsite. I went with Russ who taught me how to drive and lean to steer the sled. It really isn't much harder than a car; you just have to pay extra attention to the dogs. Four hours later we arrived at camp, slightly frozen, and did the reverse of what we did earlier. We unpacked.



Now it was time for chores, like wood chopping and sawing, water fetching and dinner cooking. These took several hours as well, and by the time we were finished it was 10 o'clock and bedtime. All together in a tent, with some small stoves for warmth, we fell asleep.



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## The Dogsled Diaries...cont.

### Day 2

The second day was much like the first. We did the same amount of dog sledding and chores. We still became semi-frozen, one of us bad enough to get an express ride back to camp. However, we were all fine in the end. This was also the day we learned not to leave things on the stoves, that there was actually an outhouse, and what happens when the driver falls off the sled. Don't worry, no one was seriously injured; however, it was all hysterically laughed at by everyone. On this day we learned to appreciate our dogs more and began to really bond with them. We also learned that campfires outside in the wintertime, when it's snowing, are much harder to sustain than in the summer. By the time that it was lights out, we had used more muscles than we knew we had, but we were surviving! Not to mention that our guides made the best hot chocolate with cinnamon in the world!

### Day 3

On the last day of our trip we slowly packed up everything we brought and tied it all to the sleds. We had all tightly bonded with our dogs and did not wish to part with any of them. If you were kind and respectful to them, they always listened to you like loyal companions. We chose our last partners and headed back. I had partnered up with our guide, Lisa, who let me drive the lead sled, which was exciting because I got to tell the dogs the directions. "G" for right! "Ha" for left! However, our fellow dog sledders behind had a few bumpy encounters with one another and, as a result, decided on a race for second place. Russ, having the fastest team, decided to attempt to beat us all, which left some of the group to fend for themselves. Upon arriving back safe and sound, we unloaded, and sadly returned the dogs to their houses. We then went inside for a hot bowl of chili and said our final goodbyes. We completely forgot about all the harsh weather and conditions we went through, thinking about how fast it all went by, and wishing we could stay longer.



From left to right: Andrew Hewitt, Russ (guide), Lisa (guide), Ashley Lowndes, Oscar Gonzalez, Ms. Flynn-Lobb, Cesar Gonzalez, Joanna Thornley, Matt Stapylton. Front: Kristen Lowndes

## Grade 12 Art Class Visits Toronto

Modigliani. Picasso. Moore. Three of the most influential artists of the Twentieth century and their art were brought together in the city of Toronto. Our Grade 12 Art class was given the privilege of viewing these works at the University of Toronto and the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO). Our journey was exciting and educational, and most students wore expressions of awe as they examined our Art History icons' works from a mere metre away.

We all piled into the NCCI shuttle at 8:30 in the morning, bound first for the University of Toronto's Picasso ceramics. While most recognize Picasso for his fragmented cubist paintings, he was also an accomplished potter. Kept safe in a cage of glass, these works were some of Picasso's favourite to create. Lining the walls were exhibition posters that the artist himself had signed.

After sufficiently viewing the ceramics, we headed over to the famous AGO to be witness to the main event: Modigliani. Modigliani's portraits are extremely elongated, with linear outlines and eyes that stare out at you, eyes that are simply filled in with colour with no pupils. He was so poor that many of his portraits are deteriorating, as they were painted on cardboard. The class's breath was taken away standing in front of these stunning pieces of art. We stopped briefly in a portrait studio section of the exhibition, because the longing to pick up our sketchbooks after seeing these works was almost overwhelming. Then we continued on our adventure to next view the sculpture of Henry Moore, the most famous sculptor of the Twentieth century.

His works were grandiose and gently curved, some bigger than all of us combined. It was amazing to see the real thing, taken right from the pages of our textbooks, sitting calmly in front of us.

On our way out, we casually passed by a Cezanne and two Monet paintings, making the trip complete. Even though it took five hours to get back to London, after Toronto traffic and a couple of wrong turns, the journey was worth every hour spent, just to be part of the incredible experience of original art.

By: Marianne Vanderdussen, Gr. 12 student



## SEMESTER 1 Awards Ceremony

On February 22nd we celebrated the achievements NCCI students made during the first semester. Among the awards presented were the Elementary Virtues & Public Speaking Awards, Honour Roll (for achieving an average of 80-84%), Principal's Honour Roll (for achieving an average of 85% and above), Light Upon Light Awards and Moral Leadership Capability Awards.

In December, our Lower school students demonstrated their public speaking abilities by participating in a Recitation Day. The students spent many hours memorizing and practicing their poems, prayers and speeches so that they would be prepared to recite them in front of their peers and parents.

The following students received congratulations and certificates for their public speaking at the Awards Ceremony:

### JK/SK

Laura Forster – Gratitude Prayer  
Zoë Kerhoulas – I Have a Little Garden  
Haydar Neal & Toren Smith – Children's Education Prayer  
Andres Pour-Ahmadi – Say God Sufficeth  
Adib Sedig – Humpty Dumpty

### Grade 1 & 2

Nyasha Charles – This Tough Spun Web  
Taylor Fletcher – Christmas Poem  
Sebastian Leon – Counting Poem  
Umer Muhammad – Respect  
Arash Pour-Ahmadi – Sweet Scented Mud

### Grade 3 & 4

Shannon Balsillie – Music  
Michael Forster – Harry Potter  
Jefferson McNally – The Human Body  
Jack Parkin – My Trip to Australia  
Austin Picard – Grand Bend's Summer Holiday  
Kimia Sedig – My Mother

### Grade 5 & 6

Victor Anastasiadis – A Wonderful Place I Know  
Skye Collishaw – Choices  
Katie Rumaya – My Friend Erin

At NCCI we recognize students who combine excellent academic performance and admirable behaviour and attitude through our Light Upon Light Awards. This award was based on the following quote by Abdu'l-Baha, which states, "The child who conducts himself well, even though he be ignorant, is of benefit to others, while an ill-natured, ill-behaved child is corrupted and harmful to others, even though he be learned. If, however, the child be trained to be both learned and good, the result is light upon light." Each teacher presented a Light Upon Light Award to the students in their classes who best exemplified these qualities.



Students in Gr. 5/6

Another award unique to NCCI is the Moral Leadership Capability Award. These Awards correspond to the 19 Moral Capabilities which serve as a guide for staff and students alike, such as "Evaluating one's own strengths and weaknesses without involving ego," "Managing one's affairs and responsibilities with rectitude of conduct based on moral and ethical principles" and "Contributing to the establishment of justice." The staff consult together to decide which students best demonstrate each of the 19 Capabilities.



Recipients of the Moral Leadership Capability Awards

## "Creating and Cultivating a Sense of Beauty in Every Endeavour"

In line with NCCI's Moral Capability #19, "Creating and cultivating a sense of beauty in every endeavour", Mrs. Reshef's Grade 12 Art class will do one project each semester to help beautify the school and leave an artistic legacy behind.

The beautiful piece below is the first in a series of four murals which will decorate the main school lobby, a project that will be completed over the next couple of years. This piece is entitled "Unity in Diversity" and it illustrates various forms of diversity, including age, gender, culture, education and occupation. The class decided on the theme and student Hee Sung Kim did the artwork as her Independent Study Project. The medium she used was acrylic paint on plywood, and the earthy colours she used were chosen to fit in with the setting of the school entrance.

