

# NCA Advance!

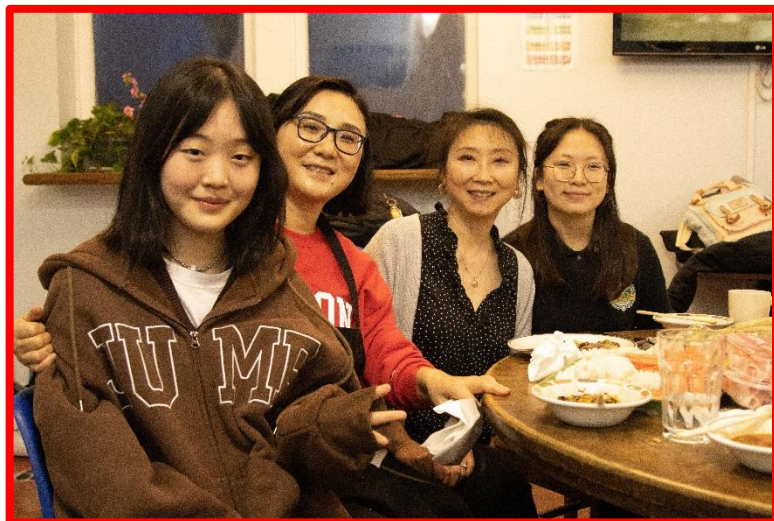


## *A LITTLE TASTE OF UNITY*

Our Dear NCA Community, we have another delectable helping of "A Little Taste of Unity" for February, with everything from the truly epicurean—hot pot, pie eating, and coffee tasting—to the food of the soul—the bonds of true friendship and artistic expressions created at Wildfire. All things numeric and robotic also feature right up there with the other fare. Enjoy!

### **Celebrating Chinese New Year**

NCA is a school for the world, where students of all nationalities gather, and where diverse cultures collide to create an international atmosphere. During the traditional Chinese holiday, the Year of the Rabbit, on February 4th, the school organized a very Chinese dinner to celebrate--a dish called hot pot, with two different bases, catered to different tastes. Both meat and vegetables were prepared by cooking them in the pot. After school the students helped in the kitchen, washing and preparing vegetables, moving tables, etc. Then everyone sat together and enjoyed the food while chatting. At the end of the day, we cleaned up together. We had a great day together. – Shelly L.



## Student Council Takeover!



Let's Get Ready To Rumble!! For student council takeover week, we ended the week off in a good ole pie eating competition. Two people from each grade were paired to represent their group. One was the eater and the other was the feeder. But here's the trick. All feeders were blindfolded, and the eater had to rely solely on their own eyesight for the challenge. Representing the groups, we had Zane and Lucas for grade 12, Max and Mam-Mary for grade 11, Ferehan and Jose for grade 10, Tyler and Tristan for grade 9, and lastly, Fahm and Massi for the grades 7/8.

It started off hot and it quickly turned into a sticky gooey mess. The year 12s and the grade 7/8 were unfortunately disqualified because of their pie bits landing flat on the floor, putting the grade 7/8s in last place and the 12s in 4th place. Meanwhile, things were starting to pick up between the grade 9s and the grade 11s, with the grade 10s following along nicely. It was a close call, but the contest resulted in the grade 11s winning the competition overall. The grade 10s came in third place and the grade 9s sadly came second because of their pie crumbs falling to the ground. All of the grades did a wonderful job and the only thing going through our minds is. When is the next one? And should we up the stakes and let teachers participate? I guess we'll have to find out next time. – Britney P.



## Black History Month



For Black History Month, our plan was to educate and remind students from other backgrounds why February is so important. We chose to acknowledge the contributions black minorities have made to society, whether that's in the USA or Canada. We held a special assembly and presented a brief video on contributions black individuals have made to the world, whether through music, technology, or slang. Afterwards we facilitated a group discussion on everyone's idea of what black history month meant and why it was important.

The committee held another discussion at a different assembly on racism within friendships. We divided the students into breakout groups where they discussed the theme. The theme encouraged the students to reflect on their own friendships and to see if they were creating a positive or a negative impact on their community. It was so powerful that it continued to be talked about outside in our own personal conversations!

The last week of black history month the grade 7's and 8's created powerful presentations on black artist like Bob Marley and Childish Gambino, to historical figures like Malcom X and Harriet Tubman, to the first female Black figure skater, Mabel Fairbanks. Not only is February a month about celebrating black history but it's also about remembering the injustices black individuals went through and fought so that we could have a better world. Although some of these problems are still ongoing, we have made a huge step in the right direction. Our school's motto is "unity in diversity" so we want to make the extra step to educating the future generation to being better people and giving the students the platform to teach their fellow peers.

Happy Black History Month! And let's continue to remember all the people that have died and went on for us to be here. Let's remember Ruby Bridges, let's remember Martin Luther King Jr, Let's remember Harriet Tubman and let's remember so many more individuals that have molded and shaped our society. - Britney P.

## WINTER WILDFIRE



Staff and students had a marvellous time at Wildfire Lodge Feb. 13-17. We enjoyed excellent bonding over games, outdoor snowball fights and activities, a coffee house and a dance party! A lively moral dilemma capped off the week; the hypothetical situation involved a company that was helping grow small-scale family businesses internationally but was alleged to be promoting child labour. The catalyst for the week's focus and energy, though, was the theme "Becoming Our True Selves."

Time was scheduled every day for group study and discussions of readings, led by Grade 12 facilitators, that deepened the students' understanding of the theme. These study sessions got everyone in the right mindset to get their creative juices flowing in their artistic groups, where they explored the theme in their artistic productions. The following student reflections of the artistic groups capture the excitement and concentrated efforts of these hothouses of creativity.





## **Music Group**

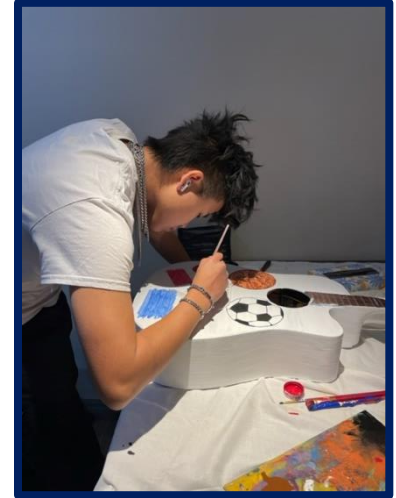
During our stay at Wildfire, the music group worked tirelessly on their performance. Bonding through sound and harmonies, the group worked together to create beautiful and addictive melodies that would live long in our hearts, but to pull this off, they had to work incredibly hard. There was an estimate of 17 students in the music group so to make sure everyone was included into this project, we began by splitting the group into smaller circles that would then go on to create their own song for their group. Everyone in their respective groups then defined what becoming your true self really meant. Once they figured out which route they wanted to take, they proceeded to create their pieces. In just a short



time, the music group was able to create 5 beautiful songs that would live on in hearts until the next wildfire. We are incredibly grateful for our Alumni, Dorian and Amelia, for helping to mentor and participate in any way needed this Wildfire. Rock on Music Group! –Britney P.

## **Visual Arts Group**

After students arrived at Wildfire Lodge and got settled in, students were sorted into five different artistic groups for this winter session of the 2023 Wildfire. The Visual Arts group, led by Dr. Walker and Ms. Soderstrom, was tasked with either decorating masks sculpted from paper mâché face casts from a student's face or painting a dysfunctional guitar. This year's theme encouraged students to discover their true selves, and students worked with their art medium to create artwork based on the theme. The majority of visual art students diligently worked on transforming guitars into artwork that represented their own interpretation of this year's theme. One student chose to work instead on decorating a paper mâché mask while another created a face from tape and paper mâché to show their interpretation of their true self. When Showcase rolled around a few days later, the art group was ready to showcase all their beautiful interpretations of 'Discovering Your True Self'. – Bronwyn J.



## **Dance Group**



The Wildfire dance group was just as fun as always. We had a rough time choosing our songs, but once we had, the creative energy was flowing. Mr Sejour used his expertise to guide us and give us a framework for the dance, and then we came up with dance moves to add to our performance. The purpose was to let our confidence shine through to tie it to the theme of Becoming Our True Selves. The best part was when we put Zodeet on Ellowyn's back at the start of the dance. They were spectacular. It was really exhilarating; Mr Sejour kept pushing us to be bigger and spend more energy. It didn't feel at all like we were dragging each other along; we were all invested. I definitely

recommend the dance group and we're going to have a lot of fun at Showcase. -- Miriam H.

## **Photo/Film Group**

The photography group this year was led by Mr Gutierrez, Mr Sarr and Mr. Bennet Naylor. In accordance with the theme, finding your true self, Mr Gutierrez and Mr Sarr were inspired to help us take pictures of each other showing different variations of emotions. Whilst outside, Mr. Naylor and the majority of the group were hard at work filming 'Sap' the third and final part of the legendary maple syrup franchise which ended up being a major hit during showcase. On the side, Livia and Emiko decided to complete a film project on the people who help us become our true selves, the teachers. All in all, although filming was tedious and tiring, we all left Wildfire with incomparable joy because of the pieces we made. -- Emiko O.

## Clubdate...

Clubs have begun again with some new additions and changes. Chess club has grown exponentially since the Wildfire trip as new students learned to play the game. The math club recently wrote the University of Waterloo grade 9-11 math contest as a fun challenge.

CollaborARTS has been working on a multitude of art pieces from music and writing to visual arts.

A new club, The Science of Wellbeing, has students taking a free course from Yale University on the true meaning of happiness and focuses on increasing our understanding of the thought patterns and behaviours that increase our personal happiness.

The Current Events club started off this semester discussing the first anniversary of the Russo-Ukraine war and has moved into discussing some famous philosophers like Nietzsche, Plato and Foucault and their viewpoints and ideas.

The High Tea Association held a 'Coffee Cupping Competition' over the course of a few weeks. This competition started in teams and narrowed down to just a few students in the final rounds. Our very own Mona R. beat out the rest as she was able to blindly distinguish between a multitude of varieties of coffee and earned herself the title of Caffeine Queen. Congratulations, Mona!

## Robotics, big things in the works...



And build season is on! A kickoff, a build session, discussion and marketing over the break meant that team #8765 Parallel Units hit the ground running. Over the break we



stayed in touch continuing to have video chats and texting with news about various upcoming robotics events. We kept the buzz alive, and upon arrival at school we set to work building and investigating established strategies designed by our inspirations from team 118 The Robonauts. With a quick build at the parts supplier Studica on the horizon, we were excited to see how far we could get in the early stages.

Then we learned that the Studica Build was actually due for the second weekend back and our team did not have any of the required assemblies done! The Friday night before the weekend the entire team kicked into overdrive and from 4 to 9pm we worked non-stop, though a few of us grabbing bites to eat and a few drinks during the process. By the end of the night we had half of all the required assemblies complete, but of course we weren't going to stop there so the team rolled up at the crack of dawn, 7am the next morning ON A SATURDAY to get this bot finished for the quickbuild session at 1pm that day.



The trip to Studica Mississauga was a massive success. There we managed to complete our drive base, machine and rivet our superstructure, and squeeze in a marketing promotion as well! A big thank you to Thomas Steele and William Neal for being there to help us with the construction and provide insightful advice.

Amazingly, only a week later our new head of Marketing Gebu (Gloria) Yan made contact with a very important person. The VP of Business Development from Little Lakes



Machine and Tool, John D. Window. Mr. Window came in on Thursday the ninth of February and, after an exchange of presentation by the robotics team and himself we toured him around our school and workshop to show him what we were all about. He seemed very impressed and after some talks with our staff left us satisfied that we gave him a good show.

The Saturday immediately following Wildfire, even as we were tired from presenting in our artistic groups, the robotics team still got up on a Saturday morning to receive Mr. Window at our school for a discussion. It. Was. BIG. Together with Mr. Window the robotics team formulated and organized a full plan for the construction of the robot, a timeline and contingencies with which to follow, and inventoried and created a parts reference sheet that we would use to receive and order the parts we needed. For the first time in a long time, we had a concrete reference and guide to construct our bot and put ourselves on the robotics world map. Since then we've pounding out success after success, ordering parts, organizing materials and planning out coding and marketing to complete our goals. Together we are united, together we are Parallel Units. –Sebastian T.

## Residence

Residence has had some new additions to the space to help increase student enjoyment. Mr. Rushdy outfitted the common room with both Foosball and Pool tables and they have been very well received. The boys' dormitory received a new range and cooktop so they are able to cook together more often.

Students in residence are encouraged to get out and enjoy the city of Stratford and nature on their weekends. Mr. Rushdy organized a sledding excursion where students enjoyed this beloved Canadian winter activity.



Residential students and staff meet every Monday evening and this past week, Mr. Rushdy and Mr. Gordon Naylor made this week's meeting focus 'the vision of residence' where staff and students were able to share their ideas of how residence should feel and function.

Sunday night, the Student Council organised an Ayyam-i-Ha celebration at the residence! Ayyam-i-Ha is a Baha'i celebration of joy, service, and gift-giving. There was a communal dinner between the boys' and girls' residences in the common room, followed by a night



of games, and to close off the evening, a very energetic and enjoyable gift auction was held. Highlights included extremely intense games of rock-paper-scissors, the entire iced tea stall being bought out, and one of our lucky students winning a cheese grater for their entire wallet's worth of Monopoly Money. All in all, it was a most enjoyable night!

## Awards Ceremony



On February 28 we held our awards ceremony where students in each grade received awards for the Fall 2022 semester. Light Upon Light, Honour Roll and Principal's Honour Roll were awarded to students with exemplary grades and commitment to a spirit of service. Students enthusiastically supported one another and cheered one another on, making the event joyful and fun for all. Light Upon Light Award recipients earned a \$750 scholarship for their next year's tuition bill. Congratulations and well done! Everyone "earned" a treat afterwards: we had donuts, tea and lemonade.

### Uniform Crack-Down

We expect our students to wear their uniform with pride and are looking forward to improving our overall attention to the uniform. Many of our students seem to have outgrown or misplaced some of their uniform items. Please review their "outfit" with them over March Break and ensure they have all necessary pieces. Please see below for examples of students in full dress 1, dress 2 and PE uniforms. Please note: shoes need to be ALL black.



### **Upcoming Events**

March 1 - Midterm and Progress Reports

March 4 - Residence closes at noon

March 6 – 21<sup>st</sup> - March Break

March 21- Residence reopens at noon

March 22 – First Day of School after March Break



April 5 - End of Term 3

April 7- School Closed for Good Friday

April 10- School Closed for Easter Monday

**Save the Date:** May 7<sup>th</sup> - Spring Showcase