

NCA Advance

A LITTLE TASTE OF UNITY

APRIL 2023 EDITION



Our dear NCA community, April can be a messy month. It's impossible not to notice the garbage and grit that stubbornly cling after a winter of being concealed by snow. Yet, as many poets over the centuries have noted, the first blossoms bravely spring up through all the decay. Seeing those first signs of spring are enough to spur many of us to clean up our surroundings or even create new poetry, art, music, and drama to celebrate the freshness and newness of spring. At NCA we did both in April as we pitched in to clean up our school and polish our artistic productions for

Spring Festival!

Nancy Campbell Academy Presents
Spring festival

DISCOVERING
OUR TRUE SELVES



WELCOME

Date: May 6th — 7:00 p.m.

Free Admission &

Light refreshments provided !!

Address: 45 Waterloo St. South NCA gymnasium

Countdown to Spring Festival

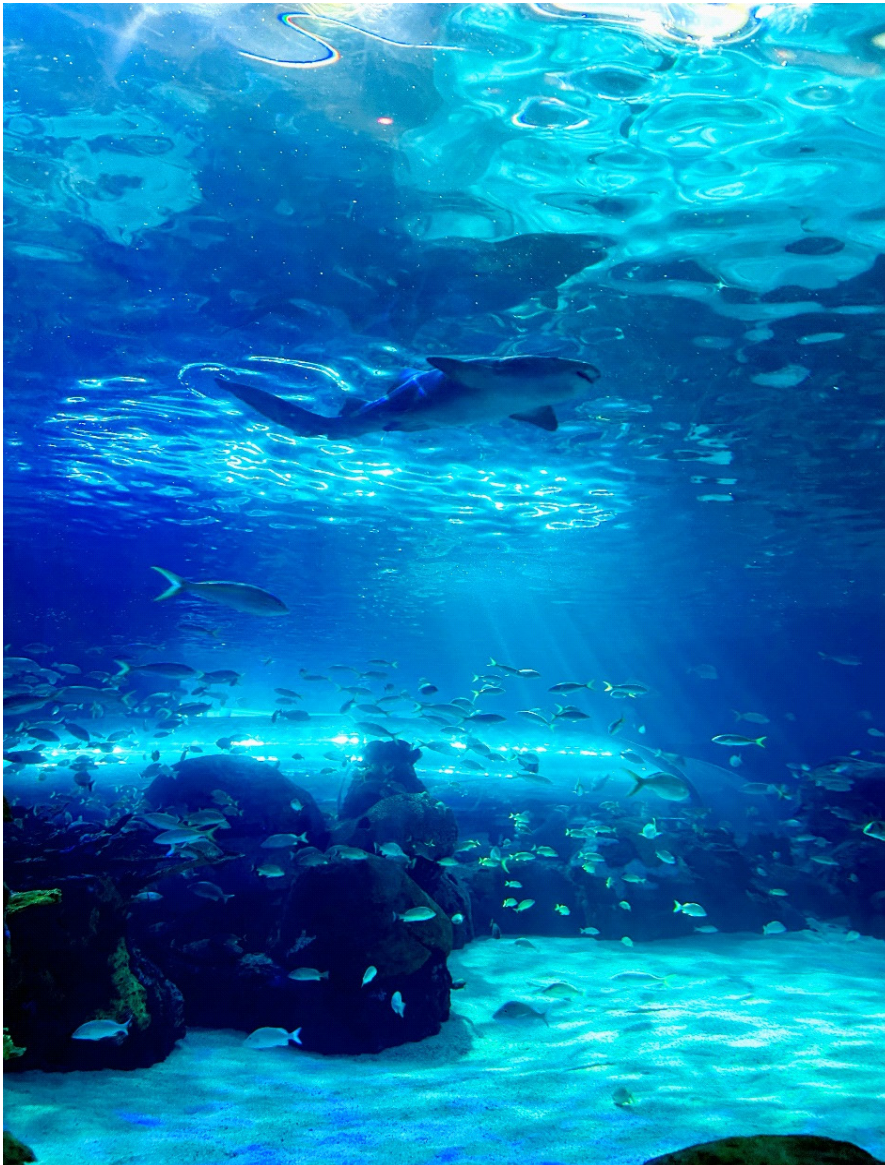


Preparation for our Spring Festival in May got well underway this month, with practices happening during lunch and after school and during two revised-period Wednesdays. Working with teacher and vocal coach, Ms. McLean, and media arts teacher, Mr. Rushdy, the singers and musicians learned all about how to raise their confidence and stage presence to the already high level of their artistic products. They were encouraged to memorize their parts and get into the proper headspace to perform to their best.

On our two Wednesdays, all students split off into the original artistic groups they'd joined at Wildfire to refine their products. The Video Arts group, under the guidance of Mr. Gutierrez, worked on a behind-the-scenes video of Spring Festival preparations that is sure to entertain their viewers. The Visual Arts group, under the guidance of Mrs. Soderstrom and Ms. Walker, worked on constructing 3D letters and pastel decora-

tions for the stage and walls. The Dramatic Word group, with the help of Mr. Lippai and Mr. Ritsma, discussed props and costumes and added to their spoken word pieces. Dance, under the expert direction of teacher and dancer, Mr. Sejour, and teacher Mr. Simard, synchronized their steps and made sure they were performance ready. Anyone lacking in a clear role, found one quickly, as they picked up a broom or mop or did one of the legions of jobs to be done.

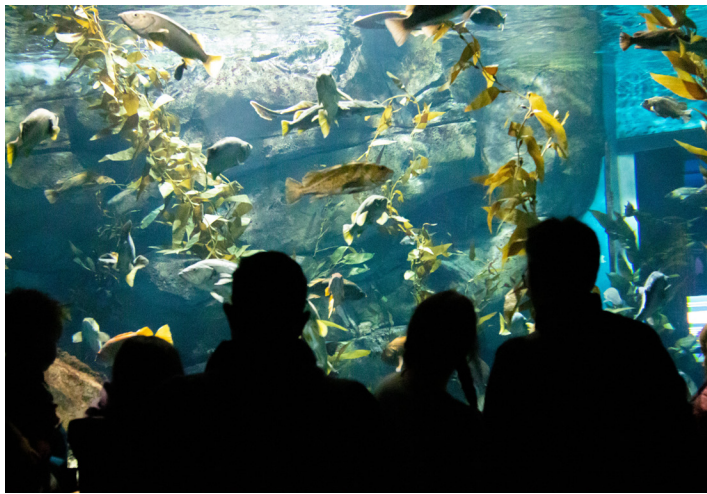
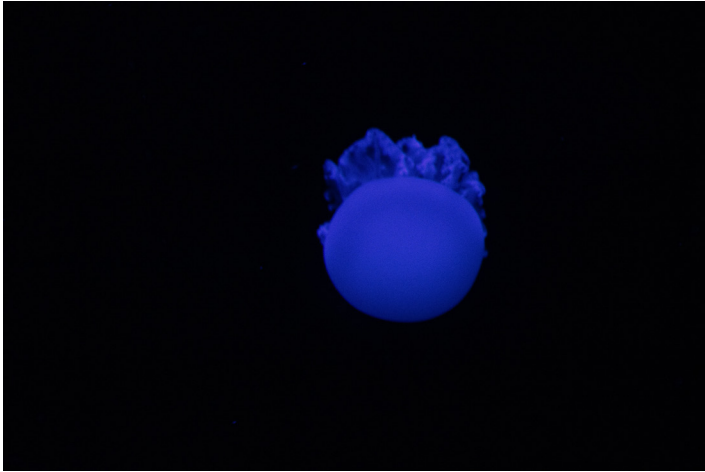
And now the big day is almost upon us! This spring festival's theme, "DISCOVERING OUR TRUE SELVES", should provide lots of fodder for the imagination and fun for all who attend. The show starts at 7 pm in our gymnasium or may be viewed on our live stream of the event.



A Journey of Discovery

On April 8, we went on a trip to the Ripley's Aquarium in Toronto, an event organized and sponsored by the student government. We arrived at the aquarium after an hour and a half drive and began our journey of discovery. The huge tanks were filled with small schools of fish that shone with silver light. Featuring marine plants and corals of different shapes and

sizes, the aquarium has a rich variety of marine life. Walking through the tunnel as if we were swimming underwater, seeing small fish, sharks, turtles swimming around us, the water shimmering, at that moment I felt as if I had seen the legendary Atlantis. This was followed by a variety of different interactive sessions and a rest hall that sold interesting aquarium peripherals.



It was a perfect day because we relaxed and learned more about the ocean at the same time.
– Shelly L.





A DOLLOP OF POLITICS, A DASH OF ART, A CUP OF BOBA, AND A TEAL WIG

On Wednesday the twelfth, Mr Ritsma prepared a very special trip for our grade 10 Civics class. For the grand finale to the course, we went to Toronto to visit Queen's Park to see for ourselves where laws are made. We were all pretty hyped about the trip, and it (not so coincidentally) fell on Liliane's birthday, making it even more special. Mr Ritsma and Mr Simard very generously drove us. The drive with Mr Simard was a blast. We would not stop teasing each other (and Mr Simard bought us all coffee...).

We spent the morning at Queen's Park. Poor Ivy's crutch broke on the walk there and she had to painstakingly walk across two huge parking lots with it.

The tour guide was very kind and engaging. He took our picture and answered all our questions. Then he told us he'd quiz us on our civics knowledge and we all started to sweat. The MPPs were spending the week back in their own ridings, so we got to actually go into the Legislative Chamber. It's open to the public while they're in session, and you can find recordings of all the meetings online. There were a bunch of imposing paintings of former Speakers of the House all over the walls outside of the Legislative Chamber. It was quite the experience.

After lunch, we visited the Art Gallery of Ontario, and we were let loose to wander the museum. We gathered back together at 4:30 (half an hour after we were supposed to). While they waited, Jerry, José and Terrell got exceptionally good boba. One highlight of the evening was when José put on Liliane's vivid teal wig. He rocked it. We were too late to beat rush hour, so half the crew decided to stay for an hour more to eat dinner in Chinatown.

They clearly had a lot of fun. Mr Simard drove the rest of us back early. I hope I did the trip justice. This was one of the best.

– Miriam Hill

“The Grade 10 civics class completed their course, and all students earned their required credit to graduate in Ontario. As a final trip, the class went to Toronto to receive a fully guided tour of Queens Park, the seat of the Ontario Government. Afterwards the students went through the park and had a picnic lunch of food they had prepared that morning before our de-

parture. We then went to visit the Art Gallery of Ontario and students were able to spend a few hours taking in the art and exhibits. Some students were also able to meet the gallery's featured artist, Wolfgang Tillman. After touring the gallery half of the students drove back to Toronto and the other half went to Chinatown to have a meal and see the area.” – Mr. Ritsma

NCA Olympia

READY, SET, GO!

Nancy Campbell Academy for the first time ever is having an Olympia. This was introduced by our sports and dance teacher, Mr. Sejour. We were randomly sorted into 3 houses called Red Lions, Black Lions, and Green Kings. The houses were expected to face off doing multiple challenges to score points for their teams and we were told the teams would get the most points for team spirit. For the first challenge it was basketball shootout; 4 people from each team were selected to shoot for their team. All the others stood around the sideline to cheer for their teams. After a while, the event was concluded with Red Lions leading in the most points for team spirit and for the most basketball shots, while Green Kings came second place and Black Dragons came in third place. For the next event, we had a surprise



pull up competition and we had to select 3 people to represent our teams. It it was a close call, and a serious face down between the teams, but in all Green Kings place first, Black Dragons came second, and Red Lions came third.

There are more events to happen, and we are looking forward to the next one where the team houses will be preparing dinners for the school to encourage community building.

– Britney P

We were walked into the woods by a boy in slides. He had no reason to run, so it didn't matter. When we arrived we were greeted and then sent off. There were no rules, apart from the obvious and guidelines to prevent us from wasting time. In no time at all, we were off. There were no friends only partners. The insurmountable amount of joy we'd experience from seeing the neon-coloured victory peeking out from dead leaves. As every muscle in your body strained to get to the egg, a hand would snatch it. At other times you'd see the egg then you'd meet eyes with your opponent. The mad dash that would commence, the desperation for the glory more for that juicy school student, \$20. For a high bounty. Through \$20 is a great tears, we made it sweat, blood, and just to turn around to the finish line. In the end, we were back where we started, friends walking and having fun. Some of us were five dollars richer and others with tons of chocolate. A bit after Easter, Student Council hosted an egg hunt on the trails near The Residence. Most students felt above it or weren't up for socializing on a Saturday. That said, by the time we got outside everyone got really invested. There was a start and finish line between which eggs were hidden, and whoever got the most eggs won \$20. There was chocolate in the eggs, so even if one didn't win there was a fun treat to share with friends. The chocolate was even used to bribe people to collect eggs on other students' behalf.

And the Hunt is On!



Regardless it was a lot
of fun.
– Mam-Mary SF.





Grad Showcase
June 9th, 2023

Grad Ceremony
June 10th, 2023

Grad Dinner & Award
Ceremony
June 10th, 2023



Graduation *Ceremony*

Nancy Campbell Academy

Book Now

<https://form.jotform.com/230875387477270>

Why Small Class Sizes Work

Small class sizes work. In fact, small class sizes are one of the main reasons why you send your child to boarding school. Here are some reasons why small class sizes are so important.

1. There's nowhere to hide in a small class.

Imagine your child is in a large high school class of 30-35 students. She's not good at math. Most of the students in her class don't understand math and could care less about it. So your daughter hangs out in the back of the class, keeps quiet and tries to pay attention. The distractions and cutting up going on around her mitigate against any meaningful learning. Your daughter falls further and further behind in math. Sadly, public school class sizes are increasing as school districts struggle with budget deficits. Class sizes of 30-35 students

are common.

Contrast that learning environment with 12-14 students seated around a Harkness Table in a boarding school. A Harkness Table is an oval table. The teacher sits at the table with his students. Immediately students are placed in a situation where they have no choice but to engage and interact with each other and with their teacher. A Harkness table creates a climate for learning.

Implicit in the small teaching groups is a climate of tolerance. The views of each individual are expressed. Critical thinking skills are practiced and polished precisely because the small group allows time for that. Large groups make developing those skills a challenge. Drawing out each student in a large group is a challenge. Drawing out students in a small group is easy, effective, and expected. Your child will be noticed when she sits at a Harkness table. She will be helped when she needs help. She will be encouraged to express her point of

view and to defend her beliefs. That develops self-confidence and poise as she progresses towards adulthood.

Small classes really involve students. Small classes surround students with attention and encouragement. Teachers provide attention and encouragement as part of how they guide students' learning. But the small group fosters sharing and even a sense of teamwork as concepts are explored in the give and take of discussion. Because students learn in different ways, the teacher can take all the time he needs to present the material being taught in a variety of ways appropriate to his small class of students. That is much more difficult to do with a large class.

2. You can actually teach when classes are small.

Very few teachers enjoy managing a large class. It's very difficult to do. Unfortunately, that's what you end up doing when confronted with a large class of students. It's not easy managing 25-35 students of any age in any situation. Behavior problems in a small class are the exception rather than the rule. Behavior prob-

lems in a large group of students of any age can quickly escalate out of control. The teacher often has several different achievement levels to work with. That's tricky enough to handle under the best of circumstances, but in a large class, it becomes a major challenge.

Students really do learn more when classes are small. They learn faster. They progress through the material more quickly. They soon develop the confidence to express their ideas and opinions without fear of scorn and retribution from their peers. Small classes help create a climate for learning. After all, the students are there to learn. Listen to what this student thinks of being in a small class. Since teaching has so much to do with a teacher observing how a student learns and how he is retaining information, a small class allows a teacher to really observe closely and carefully monitor how individual students are doing. The quicker response makes for greater progress. Put another way, children learn more in a small class because the teacher can do more teaching and can assess the effectiveness of his teaching better. After all, teachers are examples. Students listen carefully to what is being said but are always more impressed when an adult practices what he preaches. Allowing a teacher to teach

in a smaller, more intimate situation where students and teachers can interact spontaneously enriches and enhances learning. That Spanish phrase which was so difficult to pronounce flows effortlessly when you, your classmates, and the teacher can polish the pronunciation, create the correct labial and consonant sounds, and so on. Listening to a Mozart symphony in music appreciation class takes on new dimensions when you are sitting next to your classmates and your teacher and observing their reactions to the music. While a teacher must teach, he is going to be a much more effective teacher in a small group situation that fosters happy, relaxed, enthusiastic learning.

3. What are the social benefits of small class sizes?

Small class sizes impact how children interact with each other. Small classes afford students the chance to really develop closeness and a cooperative spirit. Those are important lessons for children to learn. As adults, they will have to get along and cooperate with coworkers and other colleagues in work and professional situations. Appreciating diversity is very important in the 21st-century workplace. Notice the closeness of students and teachers in this small class situation. It is much harder for factions to thrive in a small class setting. The class is generally more homogeneous and unified in spirit and focus. Small classes help you really get to know

your classmates. Knowing and understanding your classmates allows you to develop lasting friendships.

The truth is that the small classes at private schools are logical extensions of an educational philosophy which believes that educating the whole child is vitally important. In other words, it's not just a matter of teaching math or Spanish verbs, but rather a matter of teaching those subjects and everything else within a large context. Giving a child a sense of who she is and where she fits in is part of that mission. When we accomplish that, we equip a child for a lifetime of achievements. The intimate, small class allows that kind of teaching and learning to take place.

Source: Our Kids

The highest compliment is a referral. Please consider referring our school to your friends and family. Please direct them to contact

Ms. Nancy Elliott at nelliott@nancycampbell.ca or 519-859-1997.

Upcoming Events

May 6 – SPRING FESTIVAL

Everyone welcome please join us.

Doors open at 6:30pm, show starts at 7pm.

May 15 – Midterm and Progress Reports; School sees King Lear, Stratford Festival

May 22 – Victoria Day, no school

May 24 – Declaration of the Báb, no school

May 29 – Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh,
no school

June 1 – School sees *A Wrinkle in Time*, Stratford Festival

June 7-9 – Exams

June 10 – Graduation

Jun 11 – Residence closes at noon

Support our robotics team: Purchase a raffle ticket for \$25 to win a beautiful charcuterie board either sweet or savoury.
* all parents can support. If you are not in Ontario, your child's class or residence floor will enjoy the treats.
Let us know how many tickets you would like to purchase and we will put it on your next invoice.



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