




**NANCY CAMPBELL  
ACADEMY**

*Unity in Diversity*

No Smoking  
No Alcohol  
No Pets



# FEBRUARY

**F**inally, we are having a true Canadian winter again. For winter enthusiasts (and those who aren't doing all the shovelling), this has been a blissful time for hiking, ice skating, sledding, and skiing while taking in the pristine beauty of the ice and snow. Spring will feel that much sweeter and more well-deserved when it arrives, and then we'll blink, and Spring Festival will be here, and we'll be saying goodbye to the graduating class. But, let's not get ahead of ourselves . . . let's appreciate the many refreshing and exhilarating things we've enjoyed this new year, including winter orientation, service trips, outings to the ROM and Blue Mountain, and more.

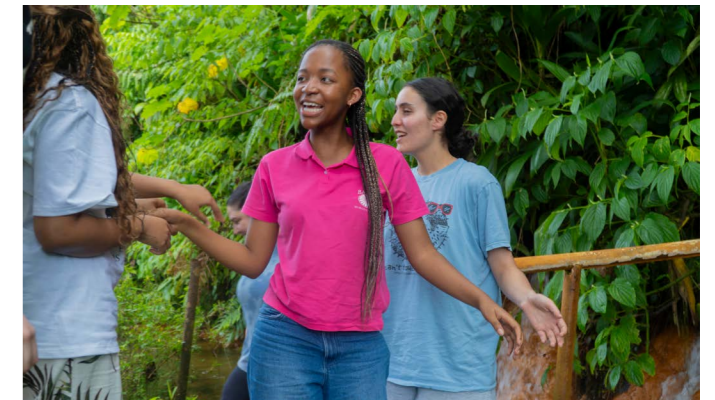
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# Back in Session

Orientation (Jan. 20) was full of fun and meaningful activities, giving students much fodder for mind, body, and soul. The students shared in many laughs building the tallest towers out of marshmallows, playing “head, shoulders, knees,

and bows,” and doing a relay race. They broke into groups to discuss behaviours that create disunity in their environment and created skits demonstrating these problems and solutions to them.





# A Whole Lot of Service Going On...

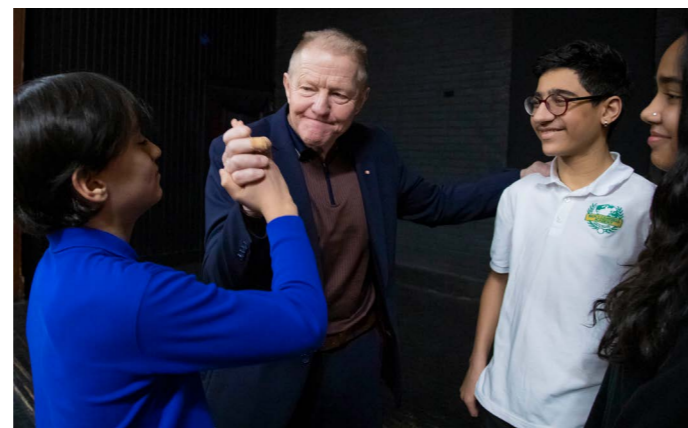
Many of our Grade 11 and 12 students took part in service trips to Dominica over the winter break, returning Feb. 5. While away, students performed social action dances in

every single secondary school in Dominica, they helped build garbage disposal bins, and took in the vibrant culture, hospitality, and beauty of the island. Upon their return, they shared with the other grades fond memories of the trip, many of which included their surprise and gratitude in seeing how their dances inspired Dominican students to open up to them on issues like domestic violence,

drug addiction, and gang violence. Four NCA students are currently engaged in a semester of study and service in Grenada. There, they are continuing to build on the work that was done last year with developing a junior-youth empowerment program and renovating a local Baha'i centre.

# A Distinguished Guest

NCA was honoured by a wonderful visit from Stratford Mayor Martin Ritsma on Feb. 6. Mayor Ritsma laughed and clapped along with us all to an AI-generated song created especially for his visit. Our students shared with our guest the step dance, stories from the Dominica Service Trip, and highlights of the Junior Youth programs. Mr. Ritsma then recounted stories of service in his life, answered students' questions, and inspired everyone to get involved in other initiative in the community. His passion for service and generosity left us all on a high.



# And the Award goes to...

Students received awards for their excellence in life and in school on Feb. 7. Many achieved at least one of the following awards: Honour Roll, Principal's Honour Roll, and Light Upon Light (for academic performance and service). A few math honours were awarded to students who participated or distinguished themselves in Waterloo Math Contests.



# Chinese New Year

The year of the snake was ushered in with a delicious Hot Pot feast on Jan. 29. Wishing everyone a wonderful new year mirroring the snake's connections to good luck, rebirth, and the pursuit of love and happiness.

# A Day for Learning and Reflection

The school had an incredible visit to the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto on Feb. 22. Students spent the first part of the day seeing an unprecedented exhibit at the museum that examined the history and legacy of Auschwitz. The exhibition was deeply moving, causing many staff and students to spend extra time to read and absorb the in-

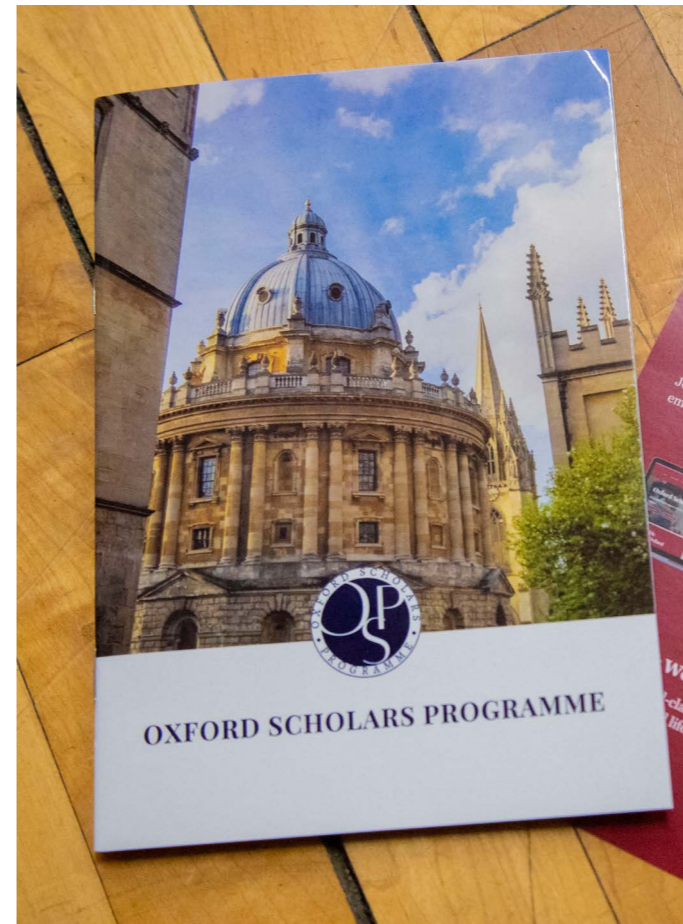
formation it offered. Afterwards, students broke off into smaller groups, visiting natural history and cultural exhibits that related to course material or activities.





NCA had the distinct honour of being visited by representatives from Oxford University on Feb. 26. Our bright young minds learned all about the exclusive Oxford Scholars Programme and the power of project-based learning.

# Bright Futures

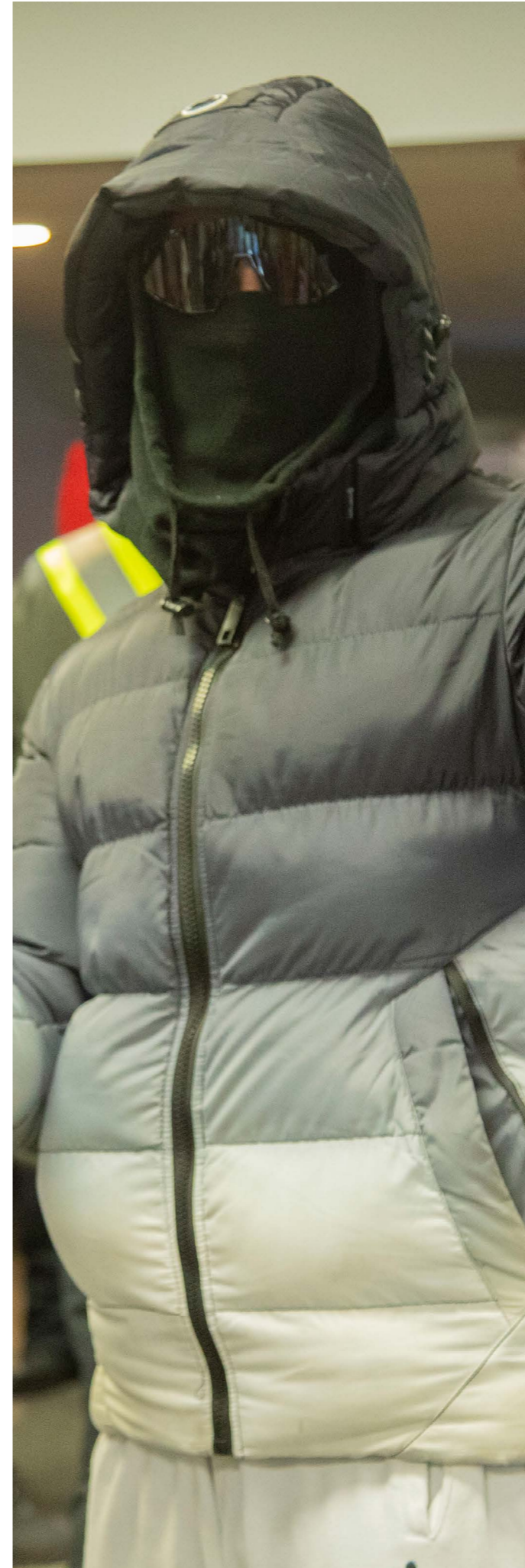




# Get Your Skis Shined Up...

On Feb. 25 students and staff dived into winter fun at Blue Mountain in Collingwood. Some of us hit the slopes on snowboards or skis, while others skated, went tubing, rode the roller coaster, or strolled through the village. We came home feeling the healthy kind of exhausted after spending a day being active and out in the elements. It was so much fun!





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# Ayyám-i-Há

## A Time of Love, Fellowship, and Unity

Students and staff embraced the spirit of Ayyám-i-Há (Feb. 26-28). We made a long gratitude chain, each of us decorating a link inspired by activities and people we are thankful for in our community. We also played a rousing game of Jeopardy with a category dedicated to the holiday. Now, many of our students have entered the period of fasting, a time of meditation, prayer, and spiritual growth. Our kind thoughts and well wishes go to our Baha'i friends and others taking part in the fast.

# March Break Camps on the Horizon

Three camps will keep NCA hopping during the March Break. The Children's Camp (Mar. 10-12, 10 am-2 pm), sponsored by the Baha'i Community, will include learning about virtues and service in the community through cooperative games, music, and creative projects. The Junior Youth Camp (Mar. 10-14, 10 am-4 pm) will feature two books this year: *Walking a Straight Path* and *Breezes of Confirmation*. During the camp, participants will engage with the material to strengthen their literacy, build their power of expression and explore the art of storytelling. They will discuss how these skills can help people serve the community and create agents of change in society, not only in Stratford but anywhere they go. An Institute Camp (March 3rd-7th) will provide an opportunity for students to study the Ruhi Institute material, including Books 1 and 3. Participants will explore the importance of sacred writings and prayer, develop the attitudes needed for those entering on a path of service to humanity, and gain a deeper understanding of the importance of spiritual education for young children. All camps will involve singing, drawing, crafting, going out into the community, games, and serving opportunities for the JY's. NCA students are encouraged to participate in the camps as teachers or animators. Those under 15 are welcome to serve as teachers at the Children's Camp, or they can attend the Junior Youth Camp. Please contact [Livia.lendlich@nancycampbell.ca](mailto:Livia.lendlich@nancycampbell.ca) or [Elham.erobinson@nancycampbell.ca](mailto:Elham.erobinson@nancycampbell.ca) if you are interested.

## Grade 7 & 8 Podcast

The Grade 7-8 World Citizenship Class at Nancy Campbell have been learning about becoming promoters of community well-being around environmental issues. Here they tell inspiring stories of how small manufacturing units and a local organic farm in our microregion are working to contribute to waste reduction.

Check the Podcasts on **SOUNDCLOUD**

Learn more about on **NCA Instagram**

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