

No public funding for Christian schools — yet

From page 14.

the school's Grade 12 class has gone on trips to inner cities across the U.S. and Canada to work with agencies helping the poor.

"Every one of them needs to be taken out from where they are and brought somewhere else, so they can take a look at their world," Mr. Siebenga said.

"They need to be able to see the world and they need the tools to work with their world."

The challenge, of course, is finding a way to pay for it all. There are 75 Christian schools in Ontario, according to the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools, 12 of which are high schools.

Tuition fees cover about two-thirds of their budget; the rest comes from donations and fundraising.

Currently, they receive no support from the government, but that's set to change when the province introduces its tax credit for private-school tuition, says alliance spokesperson John Vanasselt.

"I think it may make it easier for lower-income families to afford it," Mr. Vanasselt said.

"But I don't think we'll see a mass exodus of students from the public and Catholic school systems. The people looking for this kind of education are already there."

Still, every little bit helps and Mr. Siebenga says he welcomes any chance to make a Christian education affordable for the growing number of middle- and lower-income parents asking about it.

In the meantime, he has other pressing issues to deal with before school starts again in the fall, like where to put all the new students coming in.

"We try very hard to have 20 students per class in the lower grades and that goes up to 30 in higher grades," he said.

"Personally, I think the perfect number ought to be 12 students per teacher — same as Jesus and his disciples."

Markham Theatre for Performing Arts

Subscribe & save up to 27% OFF Single Ticket Prices!

Off-Net Prices

THE THEATRE SERIES







 THE DRAWER BOY Oct. 30 - Nov. 2, 2002 Sponsored by Allstate	 HAY FEVER Jan. 22 - 25, 2003	 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE AND/OR MARRIAGE Apr. 9 - 12, 2003
---	--	---

THE COMEDY SERIES

 CATHY JONES Oct. 25 & 26, 2002 Sponsored by	 YVANKA'S PERFECT CHRISTMAS Nov. 27 & 28, 2002 Sponsored by	 THAT CANADIAN GUY & FRIENDS Feb. 7 & 8, 2003 Sponsored by	 JUST FOR LAUGHS ROAD SHOW Apr. 4 & 5, 2003
---	--	---	---

THE MARKHAM HYDRO DISTRIBUTION INC. MUSIC SHOWCASE SERIES

 PAVLO & CADENCE Oct. 24, 2002	 ROCH VOISINE Oct. 28, 2002	 KINGS OF SWING Oct. 29, 2002	 SOME GREAT SONGS AND A FEW OF MY OWN Nov. 3, 2002 Sponsored by	 LAST NIGHT AT THE PROMS Nov. 18, 2002 Sponsored by	 THE PIANO MEN: MUSIC OF BILLY JOEL & ELTON JOHN Nov. 26, 2002 Sponsored by	 THE IRISH ROVERS Nov. 30, 2002
 CANADIAN BRASS CHRISTMAS Dec. 1, 2002	 THE MESSIAH Dec. 13, 2002	 JEFF HEALEY'S JAZZ WIZARDS Jan. 16, 2003	 NATHANIEL DETT CHORALE Feb. 6, 2003	 OH BROTHER, O CANADA Feb. 20, 2003	 THE COWBOY JUNKIES Mar. 3, 2003 Sponsored by	 AN OLD FASHIONED SING-ALONG Mar. 17, 2003

 MOLLY JOHNSON Mar. 19, 2003	 KATE & ANNA MCGARRIGLE Mar. 27, 2003	 RANDY BACHMAN Mar. 31 & Apr. 1, 2003	 AMY SKY WITH OSCAR LOPEZ Apr. 8, 2003	 LIGHTHOUSE Apr. 14, 2003 Sponsored by	 PATRICIA O'CALLAGHAN Apr. 16, 2003
--	--	---	--	---	---

THE FAMILY SERIES

 WINNIE THE POOH Oct. 27, 2002 Sponsored by	 ROBINSON CRUSOE Nov. 17, 2002
 SHARON, BRAM & FRIENDS Feb. 2, 2003	 JUDY & DAVID'S ROOM BOX Mar. 20, 2003

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

 GEORGE GAO ENSEMBLE Dec. 27, 2002	 THE NEW SHANGHAI CIRCUS Jan. 2 & 3, 2003 Sponsored by
 MAD SCIENCE PRESENTS	 DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME: NEWTON'S REVENGE Feb. 7 & 14, 2003

Take advantage of our "Choose-Your-Own" Series subscription offers and see the shows YOU want to see!

For a FREE brochure, call our Subscription Hotline today!

905-305-5985

OR TOLL FREE

1-866-768-8800

(not available in 416 or 647 area codes)

EXTRA! EXTRA!



You can **Make a difference**

Read all about it... in the July 4th edition of The Economist & Sun & The Stouffville Tribune

Markham Theatre 333

171 Town Centre Blvd.
Markham, Ontario
BOX OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Saturday:
11:00 am - 6:00 pm