



*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God." 2Tim 2:15*

29 October 2019

Dear Parents

The staff will specifically focus on ways to continue to develop Christian service in our students, the fourth major component of our mission statement, in Term 4. In an Educational Leadership article, titled "Service for Learning", Rahima Wade writes, "High-quality service-learning holds promise for increasing student engagement, enhancing academic achievement, providing authentic uses for students' literacy and math skills, boosting self-esteem, teaching social responsibility and providing fertile ground for nourishing a rich diverse school community. Educators at all levels (this includes TPCS parents) would be wise to take advantage of all that service-learning has to offer". In addition, research by the Barna Group has shown that Christian service is invaluable for the positive formation of students' character, enabling students to develop a better understanding of the Christian worldview.

There are many Biblical references to service and its importance. In response to some of His disciples' attempt to assume the most important position in the group, Jesus said "Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:25-28). Our goal in life should be to serve others, not to be served.

The apostle Paul explains Jesus' example to us very well. He says "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:5-11). Jesus' "act of service" leads to the salvation of many. If our Lord can take the form of a servant, how can we not do the same?

Lastly, Jesus' brother James writes, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works" (James 2:17-18). It is essential to act on the knowledge contained in the Bible and not to resign its teachings to the category of things that are "Nice To Know". The Bible really comes to life when we aim to live out the principles contained in it.

Dr Bev Norsworthy of Bethlehem Tertiary Institute writes, "Service-learning can help Christian educators (*once again I want to include TPCS parents*) refocus educational priorities so that they better represent biblical priorities for living; especially those related to those of loving-kindness, justice and righteousness. It can invite students to live the biblical story in ways that overcome the common binaries that often exist in educational settings – e.g., academic or character, sacred or secular, credit vs non-credit. **It can build students' understanding of the all-of-life embracing nature of God's redemptive plan and gain insight into how they fit into that plan**".

We want to encourage you to find ways for your child(ren) to serve around the home, e.g. taking out the rubbish, vacuuming and dusting their room or other spaces in the house, helping with the preparation of meals, washing and drying the dishes, and working in the garden. We are aiming to do the same at school and it is our hope that this partnership will enable us to raise a resilient next generation that will become transformative leaders in their community.

Blessings,



Barend Blom - Principal

## Notices

### 1. Main calendar events for the remainder of 2019

**ACS Cricket Tournament:** Wednesday, 13 November (Year 5-8 only)

**Working Bee:** Saturday, 16 November, from 8 am onwards

**End of Year Exams:** Year 8 up, 18 to 21 November

**Parakai Springs All School Trip:** Friday 22 November (all families)

**Thanksgiving Assembly:** Friday, 6 December, 7.00 pm (all families)

**Wheels Day:** Years 1 to 7 – Monday, 9 December

**Seniors' Service Day:** Years 8 to 13 – Tuesday, 10 December

**School Year Ends:** Friday, 13 December, 1.00 pm

2. **Working Bee (change of date):** We want to invite the whole community to come out for our annual Working Bee on Saturday morning, 16 November, anytime from 8.00 am onwards. Even an hour or two of your help will be greatly appreciated. The purpose of the day is to promote the value of service to our students and develop the friendship bonds in our school community. Some of the

projects that we hope to work on include various clean-up jobs in the garden, washing classroom walls and windows on the west and south sides and relocating mulch and bark to help with the growth of our fruit orchard. Please mark this date in your calendar. We plan to have a sausage sizzle for morning tea, and there will be some drinks available to keep us hydrated and energised.

3. **Parents-in-Prayer** meet at 2.30 pm, on Thursdays, just before you pick up your children from school. You are welcome to join our intercessory group as they take our community's needs to God in prayer. Please let us know if there is anything we can pray for.
4. If you haven't done so yet, please read, sign and return your child(ren)'s **Term 3 Reports** to the office as soon as possible! If you would like to speak with your child's teacher, please contact the office to arrange a convenient time.
5. You would have received the invoice for Term 4's fees with your child(ren)'s report. **School Fees** should be paid direct to the school's bank account: **ASB Bank, Manukau City Branch, Account 12 3083 0175239 00**. Alternatively, it may be paid in person at the school office by cash. If you are paying in instalments, please ensure that tuition payments are kept current. If your financial situation changes and you are unable to keep up your agreed payment of instalments, please come and see Mr. Blom immediately so that we can work out a payment plan for you. **Please note:** there will be an increase in tuition fees for 2020. As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education has agreed that teachers' salaries in the state system will increase with a fixed percentage every year for the next three years. Although TPCS teachers' salaries are not paid by the state, please expect tuition fees to increase once a year for the next three years. This is done to ensure our teachers' salaries remain competitive. The Trust Board does not take tuition fee increases lightly and always endeavours to keep the high quality, Christian education that we aim to offer at TPCS as affordable as possible.
6. **Special Character Donation:** This is \$65 per term for Year 1 to 8 students and \$80 per term for Year 9 to 13 students. The specified amounts are eligible for a 33% tax refund – please ask the office for details if you are not familiar with this process. Donations will be acknowledged on receipt, with the donation receipt sent home with your child. Your support of the Special Character Donation enables us to keep tuition fee increases to a minimum.
7. **Enrolments for next year:** Our Year 0-1, Year 3-4 and Year 7-8 classes are either full or almost full for 2020. If you want to enrol a sibling in any of these classes, or know of a family member or friend who wants to enrol their child with us, please ask them to contact the office right away to check if there is any spaces left. There still are some spaces available in Year 2 (a new class for 2020!), Year 5-6, Year 9-10 and Year 11-13. Please continue to make our school known to family, friends and neighbours.

8. **Murphys Road Upgrade:** Almost all of the members of our community have been impacted by roadworks in front of our school. Thank you for your patience! God willing, the project will be completed by the Spring of 2020. There still is major roadworks ahead, i.e. the Stage 2 Culvert construction near the Ormiston Road intersection. During this part of the upgrade, Murphys Road will temporarily be closed between Flatbush School Road and Ormiston Road. Parents will have access to school via an approved detour. Auckland Transport will announce details closer to the start of construction.
9. **Pickup of students after school:** Please pick students up in “waves”, i.e. students in room 7 and 8 are to be picked up around 3 pm, and students from other classes (or students from room 7 and 8 with siblings in other classes) are to be picked up after 3:10 pm. We also want to remind parents that students can only be supervised until 3:15 pm in the afternoon. After that, TPCS is unable to provide adult supervision, which means we are unable to guarantee unsupervised students’ safety from 3:15 pm onwards. If students remain on campus unsupervised, it creates a health and safety risk for the school under the Health and Safety At Work Act (2015). If you are unable to pick your children up by 3:15 pm due to unforeseen circumstances, please contact the office as soon as possible so that we are aware of your children’s presence after school.
10. **Sunhats for Term 4:** New Zealand has one of the highest incidences of skin cancer in the world. As a precautionary measure, we strongly recommend that students have a sunhat for outdoor play and activities during Term 4. Please consider teaching your children how to apply their own sunscreen as well.
11. **Medications at school:** If your child needs to take any medication while at school, please send the medication in a container labelled with the child’s name, the name of the medication and the dosage to be taken. This will be kept in the school office area or fridge if required. Students are not permitted to keep any medication at school on their person, property or desk. There is also a medications form to complete so that we have clear instructions.
12. **Punctuality:** A reminder that students are expected at school in time to start the scheduled programme as per the timetable. Latecomers cause distraction and disruption to others, in addition to missing out themselves. Please do everything in your power to encourage your child(ren) to be punctual and do speak to us about your situation where this may be problematic. We are happy to try and work out solutions together to establish patterns of punctuality in attendance which will benefit us all.
13. **2020 Term Dates**
  - Term 1: Monday 3 February 2020 to Thursday 9 April 2020
  - Term 2: Tuesday 28 April 2020 to Friday 3 July 2020
  - Term 3: Monday 20 July 2020 to Friday 25 September 2020
  - Term 4: Monday 12 October 2020 to Wednesday 16 December 2020