



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

13 December 2019

Dear Parents

God has blessed us with a truly amazing year, and it has been such a privilege to partner with you. Here is a quick summary of 2019.

Growth in partnership

We end the school year with a school roll of just over 130 students, the most students we have had enrolled in a number of years, and, God willing, we will start 2020 with just over 140 students. We praise the Lord for the growth because not only are we able to offer a Christian education to more students but an increase in student numbers also enables us to continually improve the quality of the education that we are able to offer as a smaller school. Can I encourage you to continue to bring the school before God in prayer? We want to enable as many families as possible to partner with us, but we need God's wisdom to know how we accommodate the growing number of students on our school's waiting list.

It has been great to see parents at the variety of community events we hosted this year, such as the Parents' Orientation, Fathers' Day Breakfast, Tyndale Park Christian School Open Day, Keeping Your Child Safe in the Online Jungle Evening, Working Bee, Parakai Springs Family Trip and Thanksgiving Assembly, as well as offering your support during our field trips and sport trips.

Striving for excellence

We praise God for His favour! Our students have achieved academic and sporting success in a number of areas this year. Here are some reminders. Our primary **chess** team managed to win the local cluster tournament and went through to the Auckland regional tournament, where they represented the school well. Our **Auckland Christian Schools' sports** teams did well this year, often placing in the top three of their respective divisions. Our students took part in a number of **national Olympiads**, based on their areas of strength, like the New Zealand Spelling Bee and the Great Kiwi English, Science and Maths Competition, with some students being awarded Merit and Excellence for their efforts. We were proud of all of our primary classes and the intermediate students' **science fair projects**. Room 3's project was recognised with an Auckland Mayoral Award for the best School Project in Howick Ward's Pest Free Category, and David Narayanan's project was honoured with a second place in the Secondary Consumer Science Category of the NIWA Science and Technology Fair for the Manukau region. Our Year 5-6 and Year 7-8 **Vector EPro 8 Engineering Challenge** teams again did well in their respective regional competitions.

Through partnerships with community organisations, we were able to offer our students a variety of special training opportunities to extend their sporting knowledge and skills. Room 3 participated in the **Community Swim Programme**. A number of our classes across the school learned the basics of **golf** from SNAG Academy and **cricket** from Auckland Cricket.

Students were offered a number of **educational experiences outside of the classroom** as well, e.g. Port of Auckland Discovery Cruise, Eye on Nature Field Trip, Murphys Bush Discovery Trip, Science Road Show, the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra Mousike Ensemble and Kiwi Kapers Concert, High School Careers' Expo, Film Crew for the Interface Xpo 2019, Chelsea Factory School Tour and the Confident Christianity Conference.

Our older students **made history** by taking part in the first ever Indigitous Ed High School Hackathon. The purpose of the day was to create a digital retelling of Jesus's healing of the paralytic man (Matthew 9: 1-8, Mark 2:1-12, and Luke 5:17-26) using a Māori soundtrack. We praise God for the opportunity our students have had to be part of a project to make the Good News of Jesus Christ available in another language using one of the major communication media of our time.

This year the staff specifically focused on **improving our school's literacy programme**. Many parents choose our school because our New Entrant Phonics Programme has enabled many students to decode text successfully for more than two decades. So how do you improve something that works so well? After some initial testing, we realised that the staff need to find more ways to extend students' comprehension of text and we are excited about the improvements we have seen in our students ability to truly read.

Practising Christian service

Our students are given daily opportunities to practise Christian service in the classroom. However, we also want to mention some of 2019's extraordinary service. Our seniors blessed our community with a well-organised, fun-filled Fathers' Day Breakfast and our annual Working Bee had the highest turnout in a number of years! Some of our older students helped the Trust Board host a pastors' morning tea at our school and our Year 8 to 13 students did a stellar job during our Senior Service Day the past week to clean out and reorganise some of our storage spaces and classrooms.

Grateful for your generosity

We want to thank you for your generous donations in 2019. It has made a visible difference, enabling us to have a specialist complete the final levelling and planting of our sports field. The field was finally opened at the start of Term 4, after years of sacrificial commitment and many hours of work by an army of volunteers. Our students are loving their new space and we are looking forward to the sporting possibilities the field will offer us in the future. Auckland Cricket already used the field this term to teach our students basic cricket skills. Sport is an essential component of a balanced academic programme.

Your generosity has also enabled us to purchase a number of new classroom resources as well as library books, and we hope to renovate the library during the autumn holiday in April 2020.

Conclusion

I am sure you will now understand why the staff and I are so grateful to God for a most blessed year. If your family has a tradition to remember the birth of Jesus Christ this time of year, may Christ bring light to your Christmas celebrations. As He said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:32).

The staff and I hope that you will be able to make lots of great memories this summer holiday. It has been an honour and privilege to serve you this year.

Barend Blom
Principal

Notices

1. **Thank you to everyone** who attended our Thanksgiving Assembly on Friday evening – we trust you found the programme a blessing. Thanks too to everyone who came to our Primary Prizegiving assembly this afternoon. It is always an encouragement to staff and students to see you here at the end of term. Once again, we want to thank the many parent volunteers – we are truly grateful for your help. Last, but not least, we want to wish Mrs Robyn McQueen, who has been our music teacher for the past two and a half years, all of the best with her plans for 2020 and beyond. She has had a positive impact on the lives of many of our students and staff.
2. **Classes for 2020:** After careful consideration, and in an attempt to make space for students on our waiting list, it has been decided to have the following classes next year: Room 8 - New Entrants (Mrs Fowlie); Room 7 - Year 1&2 (Mr Burgess); Room 4 - Year 3&4 (Mrs Grootboom); Room 3 - Year 5&6 (Mrs Barnes); Room 2 - Year 7&8 (Mr Vivian); Room 5 - Year 9&10 (Miss Brinkman); Room 10 - Year 11 to 13 (Mrs Oosthuizen). We want to welcome Mrs Clarissa Grootboom to our staff as our new Year 3&4 teacher!
3. **Enrolment Intent and New Enrolments:** If it has become time for your family to move on, please inform the office as soon as possible (or you may be invoiced for the first five weeks of Term 1, 2020, as per our Withdrawal Policy). Since we have a number of students on our waiting list, we want to inform families right away if a space has opened up for their child(ren). At the writing of this newsletter, our New Entrant class (Room 8) is almost full, the Year 1&2 class (Room 7) has a few spaces, the Year 3&4 class (Room 4) is full, the Year 5&6 class (Room 3) has a few spaces, the Year 7&8 class (Room 2) is full, the Year 9&10 class (Room 5) is almost full and the Year 11 to 13 class (Room 10) has a few spaces.
4. **Term 4 Reports and invoices for Term 1 2020** have been issued today. Please read the reports carefully, sign them and return them at the start of the first term next year. We prefer payments to be made direct to the school's bank account: **ASB Bank, Manukau City Branch, Account 12 3083 0175239 00**. Fees may also be paid in person at the school office by cash or by cheque made out to Tyndale Park Christian School. If you are paying in instalments, please ensure that you have informed the office and that tuition payments are kept current.

5. **Special Character Donation:** Enrolment at Tyndale Park Christian School includes a Special Character donation. This enables the Trust Board to continue developing and providing an affordable education consistent with the Christian character of the school. Amounts are \$65 per term for a Year 1 to 8 student and \$80 per term for a Year 9 to 13 student. The specified amounts are eligible for a 33% tax refund and may be paid as a lump sum or incorporated in your usual method of payment. A donation receipt will be issued at the time of receiving the donation.
6. **Class Orientation Evening 2020:** Our annual class orientation evening for all parents of students at Tyndale Park Christian School will be at 5:30 pm on Thursday 20 February 2020. Please mark this date in your calendar. It is an important community event and essential for all parents to attend.
7. **Term Dates for 2020:** Please diary these dates in now and make a note when planning holidays so that pupils are not absent from school during term time – parents are legally required to ensure their children attend school during the term unless a valid doctor’s certificate can be produced. Don’t forget to download the school app, Skool Loop (search your device’s app store for it), for school events, term dates, updates and photos, or visit our website: www.tyndalepark.school.nz.
 - **Term 1:** Monday 3 February 2020 to Thursday 9 April 2020 (Waitangi Day - Thursday 6 February 2020; Easter Weekend and ANZAC Day - fall in Term 1 Holiday)
 - **Term 2:** Tuesday 28 April 2020 to Friday 3 July 2020 (Queen’s Birthday - Monday 1 June 2020)
 - **Term 3:** Monday 20 July 2020 to Friday 25 September 2020 (Mid-Term School Holiday - Friday 20 August 2020 to Monday 24 August 2020)
 - **Term 4:** Monday 12 October 2020 to Wednesday 16 December 2020 (Labour Day - Monday 26 October 2020)
8. **Music Lessons:** Ken Hutchinson is continuing to offer weekly keyboard lessons over the lunch period at school. If you are interested, please phone him on 273 3411 for further information.
9. **Holiday Reading:** We want to encourage you to maintain a daily reading goal over the holidays with your children, particularly in Years 1 to 6. One idea is to read one of the classics or some other age appropriate book with your child. This will enable your children to keep developing their reading fluency.
10. **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. At the start of the 2020 school year, parents will continue to have access to school via an approved detour. During the December/January holiday, it will not be possible to access the school via our Murphys Road entrance. There will be temporary access via our back gate on Clady Drive, but please call the school to check whether we are open.