



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

18 February 2020

Dear Parents

If you are new to Tyndale Park Christian School, we want to extend you a very warm welcome. We also want you to know that you are an answer to our prayers: we have been asking the Lord to increase our numbers and believe that God, being the loving Father He is, has inspired each one of you to partner with us for the education of your child(ren). Tyndale Park Christian School assists parents by providing a Christ-centred education that encourages academic excellence and Christian service to the glory of God. Our teaching and learning programme develops a Christian worldview in our students that keeps the God of the Bible at the centre of everything we do, "And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:23-24). We do not encourage religion but a relationship with the living God through His Son, Jesus Christ. Our vision for our students is that they will study and do their best to present themselves to God approved, workers who have no reason to be ashamed, accurately handling, intentionally living out and skilfully teaching the Word of truth (paraphrase of 2 Timothy 2:15).

Christian education in turbulent times

It has been quite challenging to watch news lately. Our nation has been rocked by both national, Whakaari Island's eruption, and international tragedy, Novel Coronavirus, to name just two of many disturbing news items. Some of our families have worked through, or are still working through, personal challenges of illness and tragedy. We believe a Christian education offers our students and their families the knowledge and wisdom needed to negotiate challenging times.

A Christian worldview offers a coherent answer to, arguably, the four fundamental questions in life, i.e. questions about origins, meaning, morality and destiny. It helps students understand that they are valuable beyond measure because not only have we been made in God's image but God has also made each one of us for a purpose: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). It is our hope and prayer that every student will leave Tyndale Park Christian School with a clear understanding of these important truths so that they can make a positive impact in the communities God will call them to, wherever that may be.

Goals for 2020

This year, the staff and I hope to consolidate the progress we have made with

- our literacy improvement initiative, especially since we have two "new" classes in 2020, i.e. a Year 1-2 and a Year 3-4 class;
- the review and restructuring of our science curriculum;
- the implementation of new maths curriculum resources in Years 1-7. We also hope to start the process of transitioning to a new maths curriculum for Years 8 to 10.

We will start reviewing the culture (a.k.a. social studies) curriculum for Year 1-8, and we have introduced a “new” subject for Years 9-10 called Digital Technologies, with an end goal of equipping students with the skills they need to help them solve problems creatively with digital technologies.

We are also starting to restructure our Year 11-13 programme by adopting a new certificate framework created by the Christian Education New Zealand Foundation Trust (CENZ), approved by Universities New Zealand - Te Pūkai Tara. Todd Roughton (Administrative Officer of CENZ) will explain the CENZ High School Certificate Framework at the Parent Orientation this coming Thursday, 20 February. The Tyndale Park Christian School Trust Board believes the new framework recognises students’ God-given potential and differences and prepares our students very well for the next season in their lives here in New Zealand.

We are partnering with MMM New Zealand to give our library and student bathrooms a much-needed facelift during the April holiday. If you are a tradesman who is willing to volunteer your time from 14 to 24 April 2020 (approximate dates) and want to know more about MMM New Zealand, please contact me as soon as possible.

The importance of community - can you help?

I believe one of our school’s strengths is its community and we need everyone’s help to raise our children to be ambassadors for Christ. Are you able to assist us with one of the following opportunities, or do you know someone who may be able to help?

- Parents, **Parents-in-Prayer** started last week. We encourage you to join our group of praying parents because your prayers have made a real difference, e.g. our school’s roll will be over 150 students by the end of February, a magnificent answer to prayer! Parents-in-Prayer met on a Thursday at 9.00 am or 2:30 pm last year. Are you keen to join us again or to join for the first time? Please meet in the staff room this coming Thursday, 20 February, at 2:30 pm to be part of this important ministry.
- Do you love sports? Do you like working with teenagers? There are a few opportunities to improve the learning outcomes for our students in sports.
 - The **Year 9 to 13 Physical Education class** needs another adult volunteer who is passionate about physical education and who can commit to assisting us every Friday between 2 pm and 3 pm.
 - The **Auckland Christian Schools (ACS) Touch Rugby** Tournament is Wednesday 11 March. We need coaches for our teams. Are you able to help, please? You may need to volunteer about one hour a week of your time until the tournament date.
- We appreciate all of the parents who regularly volunteer to assist us with school trips, and we will need your help again in 2020.
- Do you have skills in maintenance, e.g. carpentry, plumbing, electricity and gardening, and are you willing to donate some of your time towards the maintenance of the school? Please let me know how you can help.
- Are you able and willing to make an extra donation towards improving our facilities and equipment as we strive to encourage academic excellence? Tyndale Park Christian School is a non-for-profit Charitable Trust and any donations that are made to the school are eligible for a 33% refund from IRD (if you want to know more about tax rebates, please let us know). Please come and see me if you are interested in how a donation can help our school or support a student.
- We are advertising for a librarian (a 1 hour a week commitment at this stage) for 2020. The ideal candidate is someone who is organised, loves books and enjoys acts of service.

- We are also looking for a half-day office administrator. The ideal candidate is organised and knows how to take initiative. It will also be very helpful (but not necessarily essential) that the person has a good understanding of business administration, including payroll, processing GST and financial statements, and possibly marketing.
- Is there any other way you can help the school achieve its mission and vision? Please let me know what you have in mind.

Conclusion

If you have read everything so far, thank you! As always, we value your feedback and please do not hesitate to contact us with suggestions for, or any concerns about, your children's learning.

Barend Blom
Principal

Notices

1. Parents of returning students should have received the invoice for Term 1 Tuition Fees with the Term 4 Reports. New students should have brought it home this week. Tuition fees are to be paid in advance (recommended), if possible, or in instalments current with tuition being provided. We offer a loyalty discount of 1% per year for every year a family has partnered with us. We prefer payments direct to the school's bank account: **ASB Bank, Manukau City Branch, Account 12 3083 0175239 00**. Alternatively, payment may be made at the school office by cash. If you are paying in instalments, please ensure that tuition payments are kept current.
2. **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. 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 at a minimum.
3. Returning students, **reports from Term 4 last year should be returned now.**
4. Main **Calendar Events** for 2020

Parent Orientation: Thursday, 20 February, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

ACS Touch Rugby Tournament: Wednesday, 11 March. Rain check 13 March

Athletics Day: Friday, 20 March at Omana Park (Papatotoe Athletics Club)

Parent Teacher Interviews: Monday, 4 May, afternoon and evening (may change)

Photolife Class & Individual Photos: Friday, 8 May

Mothers' Day High Tea: Saturday 9 May, 10.30 am (may change)

ACS Soccer Tournament: Wednesday, 20 May. Rain check 22 May

ERO School Visit: 25 to 29 May

School's 39th Anniversary: Monday, 25 May

Mid-Year Exams Years 9&10 + Bible for Seniors: 15 to 18 June

ACS Netball Tournament: Wednesday, 24 June. Rain check 26 June

School Science Fair: Saturday, 1 August, 10:00 am

Open Day: Monday, 17 August, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Mid-Term Holiday: 21 to 24 August

Fathers' Day Breakfast: Saturday, 5 September, 8:00 am

Marimba Festival: Saturday, 5 September, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

ACS Cross Country Tournament: Wednesday, 16 Sept. Rain check 18 Sept.

ACS Cricket Tournament: Monday 9 Nov. Rain check Wednesday 11 Nov

End of Year Exams for Years 8 to 13: 23 to 26 November

Thanksgiving Assembly: Friday, 11 December, 7.00 pm.

Christmas Wonder Park: Saturday 12 December (may change)

Primary Wheels Day: Years 1 to 6 on Monday, 14 December

Senior Sports Day: Years 7 to 13 on Tuesday, 15 December

School Year Ends: Wednesday, 16 December, 1.00 pm

5. **Secondary Student ID Cards:** Forms to order these will be handed soon. ID photos will be taken afterwards.

6. **Internet Usage Agreement:** Students in years 6 to 13 will receive an Internet Usage Agreement next week that parents and students need to sign in order to keep on using the computer lab. Students need to return these forms by Friday 15 February.

7. **Mobile Phone Permissions:** Forms for the current year will be distributed to secondary students and should be returned by 15 February. Students up to Year 8 should not have any mobile phones with them at all. Year 9-13 students are required to hand in their mobile phones to their teachers in the morning.

8. **Term Dates for 2019:**

Term 1: Monday, 3 February to Thursday, 9 April 2019, 2pm finish.

Easter Weekend and Anzac Day fall during the school holidays.

Term 2: Tuesday, 28 April to Friday, 3 July 2019, 2pm finish.

Queen's Birthday is Monday 3 June.

Term 3: Monday, 20 July to Friday, 25 September 2019, 2pm finish

TPCS has its own mid-term holiday, 21-24 August.

Term 4: Monday, 12 October to Wednesday, 16 December 2019, 1pm finish. Labour Day is Monday 28 October. We ask you to please make a note of these dates when planning holidays **so that pupils are not absent from school during term time.** These dates are also posted on our website should you need to refer to them again.

9. **Parent Orientation will be held on Thursday evening, 20 February 2020,** from 5.30 pm. A notice has gone home about the event yesterday.

10. **Contact Phone Numbers etc:** If you have had a change of address or phone number please advise the office so the details we hold are up to date.

11. **Punctuality:** All students are encouraged to arrive at school in good time for our 8.50 am start each morning. Students can expect to start losing free time privileges (morning tea and lunch break) if they are consistently late to school.

12. **Parking: In the mornings,** please use the new turning circle and drop off point whenever possible. Thank you for the gracious way in which you have adapted to our changed driveway. **In the afternoons,** junior students should be escorted by their parents to the cars unless they have older siblings to accompany them. In an effort to manage the increase in traffic as the school roll grows, we want to encourage parents with children in Years 1-3 to aim to pick their children up between 3:00 pm and 3:10 pm, if possible, and for other parents to come from 3:10 pm onwards.

13. **Dress code:** Please make a point of reading through the dress code which is included in the Weekly Record Books. Underlying the dress code is a commitment to dress that is neat and orderly, suitable for school, and modest to celebrate the worth of being made in God's image.