



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

25 September 2020

Dear Parents and Students

The diversity of our school community is a treasure because not only are all of us are made in God's image (Genesis 1:27), the immensity of the diversity showing us how great God is, but it also teaches us not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to (Romans 12:3): we, finite creations, are made by an infinite Creator.

The national language weeks we have celebrated in New Zealand this term remind us that the complexity of different languages, and how we use it to express our thoughts, observations and feelings, have God's design written all over it – it glorifies Him. It is also a sobering reminder that, at some point in ancient history when everyone was speaking the same language, mankind wanted to prove that they don't need God (Genesis 11:1-9). This act of rebellion prompted God to step in, for mankind's own protection, and 'confuse' their communication by sovereignly introducing many different languages in an instant.

Our diversity is a treasure because it reminds us who God is, who we are, and why we need His grace and mercy.

We know that the Good News, 'for God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life' (John 3:16), is for everyone, no matter what our cultural background is or what language we speak. On the day of Pentecost the people in Jerusalem, from different parts of the world, heard Jesus' disciples speak in their heart language as the Holy Spirit enabled them (Acts 2). In The Revelation, the apostle John describes an amazing scene in heaven, saying 'a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb' (Revelation 7:9-10). The Good News is for all of us!

So, the past ten weeks I have tried reminding our students on a weekly basis

- that God has made them;
- that He has made them for a purpose;
- that bad things happen because this world has been 'broken' due to mankind's sin;
- that we all need Jesus as our Saviour;
- that God does not abandon a follower of Jesus, working all things 'together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose' (Romans 8:28);
- that the new identity I get when I accept Jesus' sacrifice for me, enables me to live a fulfilled life despite my circumstances.

We specifically looked at the examples of Arthur Jackson, a British medical missionary who volunteered to serve among poor day-laborers in Shenyang amidst the devastating pandemic in northeast China and southeast Russia during the coldest months of 1910-11, and Eric Liddell, the Olympian who put his trust and faith in God before worldly recognition and pursuits. It is my hope that our students will be inspired by these examples of radical selflessness to the glory of God – it is the best way to live!

I am so grateful to serve alongside such a great team of staff members. Our staff members have modelled radical selflessness to our students this term by not only swiftly adapting to the challenging modality of remote learning at the start of Week 4, and faithfully checking in and encouraging their students during that time, but also switching back to face-to-face learning and once again helping and encouraging our students to find their 'school rhythm' from Week 7 onwards – despite the health and safety constraints of Alert Level 2! Above all, the staff and I are grateful to God for the way He has equipped and provided for our school community this term. We serve a faithful God!

We will continue to pray for you. Be encouraged: God is our Saviour, Protector and Provider. We hope that you will be able to have an enjoyable time as a family this school holiday.



Barend Blom  
Principal

### Notices

1. Please read, sign and return the Term 3 Reports to the office at the start of Term 4. You may find that some marks are left blank and report comments have been shortened in your child(ren)'s report. The assessment of some subjects has had to be postponed to next term due to the challenges COVID-19 have introduced to our teaching and learning programme.
2. We encourage you to plan on attending a compulsory **Three-Way Conference**, i.e. student, parent and teacher, on Monday 19 October, i.e. the start of Week 2 of Term 4, to discuss the progress of your child(ren). School will finish 12.05 pm on that day. Bookings need to be made via the school app, Skoolloop. The conference will be a maximum of 15 minutes. The classroom teacher will prepare students for the Student-Parent-Teacher Conference. During the conference, the student will share his/her learning, provide evidence of that learning, and share the next steps that he/she will take. An email and app notice with more information has been sent out at the end of Week 9 of Term 3.
3. You will receive the invoice for the Term 4 Tuition Fees with the oldest/only child's report card, or via email at the start of the term if you are new to our school. Tuition fees are to be paid in advance (recommended), if possible, or in instalments current with tuition being provided. **If you are unable to pay tuition fees due to loss of employment or other changes in your financial situation, PLEASE contact us as soon as possible at [accounts@tyndalepark.school.nz](mailto:accounts@tyndalepark.school.nz) to share the challenges you are facing so that we can strategize with you to find a possible solution.** We prefer payments directly 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. As always, we offer a loyalty discount of 1% per year for every year a family has partnered with us.
4. **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 of any

kind will be acknowledged with a donation receipt sent home with your child. Your support of the Special Character Donation, as well as any other donations, enables us to keep tuition fee increases at a minimum and keep on developing the school's teaching and learning programme.

5. Hopefully **Parents-in-Prayer** will be able to start up again once Auckland returns to COVID-19 Alert Level 1 next term. You are welcome to join our intercessory group at 2.30 pm, on Thursdays, just before you pick up your children from school.

6. **Science Fair:** The disruptions COVID-19 have brought this year have made the completion of science fair projects a challenge for some of our Year 7 to 10 students and their families. However, we did manage to host an in-house science fair the first week of September. The projects that stood out to the judges were from André, Daniel and Harsaihej in Room 10, and Daniel, Daniël, Ethan, Savannah and Jade in Room 2. The best projects were from Harsaihej (Year 9 Consumer Science), Savannah (Year 8 Consumer Science) and Daniel (Year 7 Environmental Science). Congratulations!

7. **Main Calendar Events for 2020**

**Girls Quickhit Cricket Tournament (Year 3-4 and Year 5-6):** Thursday, 22 October

**Chesspower Team Nationals (Year 7-8 Chess Team):** Saturday, 24 October

**Tyndale Park Christian School Open Day:** Monday, 2 November, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**ACS Cricket Tournament:** Monday 9 November. Rain check Wednesday 11 November

**ACS Cross Country Tournament:** Tuesday, 24 November. Rain check 25 November.

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

**Thanksgiving Assembly:** Friday, 11 December, 7.00 pm.

**Athletics Day:** Monday, 14 December at Omana Park (Papatoetoe Athletics Club)

**Primary Wheels Day:** Years 1 to 6 on Wednesday, 16 December

**School Year Ends:** Friday, 18 December, 1.00 pm

8. **Term Dates for 2020:**

**Term 4:** Monday, 12 October to Friday, 18 December 2020, 1pm finish. Labour Day is Monday 28 October.

9. **Term Dates for 2021:**

**Term 1:** Tuesday 2 February 2021 to Friday 16 April 2021 (Waitangi Day - Saturday 6 February 2021, but observed Monday 8 February 2021; Good Friday - Friday 2 April 2021; Easter Monday - Monday 5 April 2021; ANZAC Day - fall in Term 1 Holiday)

**Term 2:** Monday 3 May 2021 to Friday 9 July 2021 (Queen's Birthday - Monday 7 June 2021)

**Term 3:** Monday 26 July 2021 to Friday 1 October 2021 (Mid-Term School Holiday - Friday 27 August 2021 to Monday 30 August 2021)

**Term 4:** Monday 18 October 2021 to Friday 17 December 2021 (Labour Day - Monday 25 October 2021)

10. **Student drop-off:** All students are encouraged to be at school by 8.50 am in the morning. It is tremendously disruptive for the late student, other students and their teacher when a student is not on time.

11. **Student pick-up:** Parents are asked to continue to pick students up in waves, i.e. families with children in room 8 (Mrs Fowlie) and room 7 (Mr Burgess) are asked to pick all their child(ren) up between 2.50 pm and 3.00 pm, room 4 (Mrs Grootboom) and room 3 (Mrs Barnes) between 3.00 pm and 3.10 pm, and all other students from 3.10 pm onwards. Students are **not** allowed to be at school unsupervised after 3.15 pm unless they are actively supervised *by* their parents *and/or* meeting with a teacher. Teachers are available for meetings with parents until 3.30 pm. Please do

not leave students after school unsupervised for a "playdate" with friends - this creates a Health and Safety risk for the school.

12. **Important note:** Please keep your vehicle's speed to 10 km/h while you are on the school property. Unfortunately, a number of community members are consistently breaking this speed limit, especially as you go down the driveway to leave the school property. Our students often use the driveway for exercise, and it creates unnecessary risk when vehicles speed on the driveway.
13. **Dress code:** Please review the school dress code with your child(ren) and ensure that they dress accordingly. 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.
14. Throughout the term we are in need of parent volunteers for a number of different reasons. Please read through the following list and consider whether you are able to support the learning of our students.
  - **Transport and supervision** during school field trips or Auckland Christian Schools Sport Events. Please contact the office if you are able to assist consistently, or make sure you show your willingness to help on permission slips when they come home.
  - We are in the process of digitising our school library. Once completed, it will simplify the issue and return of books and you will have online access to our catalogue. **Our librarian needs help with the digitising process.** If you are able to help with data entry or adding labels to books, please email [librarian@tyndalepark.school.nz](mailto:librarian@tyndalepark.school.nz).
  - **Do you love growing vegetables or have an interest in horticulture?** We would love to have a vegetable garden and fruit orchard that we can incorporate into our students' teaching and learning throughout the year, but we need parent volunteers who can assist us on a consistent basis. One parent is already assisting us in this area (thank you Philip!), but we need more help.
  - Do you have some **expertise in sport and have a schedule that allows you to be available** during the school day during the week to coach sport? Or perhaps you are able to consistently volunteer time after school? Please contact us to let us know your availability.
  - We would love to start a **Chess Club** at school. Chess is an excellent game for all students that not only teaches them how to focus but also develops their strategic thinking skills. Please contact Mr Blom, [principal@tyndalepark.school.nz](mailto:principal@tyndalepark.school.nz) or call him at 09 274 9771 during office hours, to let him know of your availability. We are able to have you trained as a Chess Coach if you are interested.
  - There are many other types of activities that will benefit our students, e.g. a **Code Club, Robotics Club, ICONZ Club**. Does any of these appeal to you or do you have **an idea for a club** that has not been mentioned? Please contact Mr Blom, [principal@tyndalepark.school.nz](mailto:principal@tyndalepark.school.nz) or call him at 09 274 9771 during office hours, to let him know of your availability and how you are able to contribute.
15. **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
16. **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
17. **Enrolments for next year:** Please continue to make our school known to family, friends and neighbours. Some of our classes for 2021 are already full. If you know of someone who may be interested in sending their child(ren) to our school, encourage them to contact us as soon as possible.