



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

5 August 2021

Dear Parents

Every term the staff and I take an aspect of our mission statement and try to be intentional about it in our teaching practice. This term our focus is ‘academic excellence to the glory of God’. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the adjective ‘academic’ as ‘of, or relating to, performance in courses of study’. It is also interesting to note that ‘academic’ can mean ‘of, or relating to, literary or artistic rather than technical or professional studies’.

The Bible is a literary work with references to the arts, health and physical education, learning other languages, mathematics and statistics, science, social sciences and technology. It is therefore important for us that our students develop an excellent understanding of all of the subject areas that they engage with to ensure they develop a proper understanding of who God is.

We also emphasise to students that being excellent does not mean being the best in the class but rather ensuring that each one of us always do *our* best. Since God has made each one of us differently, it does not make sense to compare ourselves with others but rather to reflect whether we have done our utmost for His highest.

The Bible is filled with many examples that show that not only has God made us all differently, but we all have a different purpose in His Kingdom. You just have to look around: there is no-one else like you! It is therefore counter-productive to compare ourselves to others.

A great example of Biblical excellence is demonstrated in Jesus’ parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). He said, “And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability” (Matthew 25:15). Note how Jesus makes the point to His audience that we all have different abilities (not the main point of the story, but worth noticing). In the parable, the servants who have received five and two talents have doubled their master’s money and are praised for their faithful stewardship (Matthew 25:20-23). The servant who receives one talent, buries it in the ground instead of trying to invest the master’s money – Jesus calls him lazy and wicked (Matthew 25:26).

This parable teaches us an important principle of excellence: we need to make sure that we do our best since our best efforts come with a reward, i.e. “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord” (Matthew 25:21, 23). When we demonstrate to the Lord that we are good stewards of the responsibilities He gives us, He knows that He can trust us with even more responsibility that allows His Kingdom to grow and expand.

We believe that each one of our students are called to make a difference in the world. We want to work with you to encourage them to always do their best. Research and experience show that high expectations in a loving environment lead to transformed lives and communities. We are excited to partner with you for your children’s education this term!

Barend Blom – Principal

### Notices

1. We will be switching to a **different student management system (SMS), called Edge SMS**, on Monday 16 August. Unfortunately, the parent company of our present student management system, Assembly SMS, has gone bankrupt. The new SMS has an intuitive app and many helpful features that will improve our communication with you. We will send a paper notice home with instructions on how to use the new system. It is imperative that you follow the directions in the paper notice (when it comes home) and download the new app at that time, please.
2. **Enrolments for 2022:** Year 0-1 (Room 8), Year 3-4 (Room 10), Year 9-10 (Room 4) and Year 11-13 (Room 5) for 2022 is now full (all present students have spaces) and we have started a waiting list for all these classes; there still are 5 spaces in Year 1-2 (Room 7), 2 spaces in Year 5-6 (Room 11), 15 spaces in Year 7 (Room 2) and 7 spaces in Year 8 (Room 3). If you know of friends and family who are interested in enrolling at our school, please ask them to contact us as soon as possible. A class list for 2023 has been started for Year 0-1 (Room 8).
3. Parents have received the invoice for the **Term 3 Tuition Fees** with your child(ren)’s Term 2 Report Card (or via email if you are new to the school). 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. Please make payment by transferring fees directly to the school’s bank account. If you are paying in instalments, please ensure that tuition payments are kept current. **It is strongly recommended that an automatic payment is set up for tuition fees using the following information:** Account Number: 12 3083 0175239 00; Particulars: Student Name; Code: Term and Year; Reference: Tuition Fees. We accept EFTPOS payments at the school office if online payment is not possible.

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 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.
5. **Open Day on Monday, 23 August, 1-4 pm:** There will be 'official' tours led by the principal at 1 pm, 2 pm and 3 pm on the day. You are encouraged to ask prospective parents and our community to book one of these times, if possible. The school will be open for casual tours that afternoon as well.
6. **Student drop-off and pick-up:** (1) 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. It may also create poor habits with regards to **punctuality** in our students, setting them up for failure in adult life. (2) Parents are asked to continue to **pick students up in 'waves'**, i.e. students in Years 1-6 are to be picked up from 3:00 pm to 3:10 pm unless they have an older sibling. Years 7-13 students (with their younger siblings) need to be picked up from 3:10 pm. **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 "play date" with friends - this creates a Health and Safety risk for the school.** Please **keep your speed to 10 km/h** on our driveway for our community's safety. Pedestrians are strongly encouraged to use the pedestrian crossings and pathways for their safety.
7. **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. **Common dress code violations are** (1) boys' hair not cut to an appropriate length, (2) girls' dresses or skirts not hanging on the knee or lower, (3) students wearing jewellery like necklaces and arm bands, and girls wearing any earring other than a stud (we want to emphasise that students are not to wear any jewellery at all), and (4) students wearing clothing with logos and motifs that do not support a Biblical worldview (please check with the office if you are not sure).
8. **Mobile phones at school:** Year 1-8 students are not allowed to bring mobile phones to school. Year 9-13 students are allowed to bring mobile phones to school, but they are not to be used on the school premises at any time. They must be handed in to the classroom teacher as soon as the school day officially starts at 8:55 am. These strict guidelines are for students' health and safety.
9. Tyndale Park Christian School would like to offer you the opportunity to subscribe to the school version of **Reading Eggs and Mathletics** for your child – please note

that the subscription to these services is optional and not included in tuition fees. Please pay \$27 for Reading Eggs and/or \$35 for Athletics into the school bank account (12-3083-0175239-00) and email [accounts@tyndalepark.school.nz](mailto:accounts@tyndalepark.school.nz) to say that you have paid for the subscription.

10. We would love to offer our students **more non-academic learning opportunities** during or after school such as sports (e.g., soccer, netball or a form of rugby) and clubs (e.g. chess, robotics or knitting), but we **need parent volunteers** to help us run these activities. If you can volunteer some of your time to help us run a sport or a club, please contact Mr Blom at [principal@tyndalepark.school.nz](mailto:principal@tyndalepark.school.nz).
11. **Have your contact details changed?** If you have had a change of address or phone number, please advise the office so the details we hold are up to date.
12. **Lost Items:** Please check out the lost items box. The secretary can show you where it is.
13. Due to COVID-19, we have stopped using the drink fountains at school since their shared use can easily spread germs. It will be helpful to **replace the drink fountains with bottle fillers** because not only are they more hygienic, but studies have shown that there is about 60% less wastage of water compared to water fountains. It is a substantial investment though, so we are looking for members of our community who are willing to sponsor or cosponsor the installation. Please contact Mr Blom, [principal@tyndalepark.school.nz](mailto:principal@tyndalepark.school.nz), if you want to be a sponsor.
14. **Main Calendar Events for 2021**
  - School Science Fair:** Saturday, 7 August, 10:00 am
  - Open Day:** Monday, 23 August, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
  - TPCS Mid-term holiday:** 27-30 August
  - Fathers' Day Breakfast:** Saturday, 4 September, 8:00 am
  - ACS Cross Country Tournament:** Wednesday, 22 Sept. Rain check 24 Sept.
  - ACS Cricket Tournament:** Tuesday 16 Nov. Rain check Thursday 18 Nov
  - End of Year Exams for Years 8 to 13:** 29 November to 2 December
  - Thanksgiving Assembly:** Friday, 10 December, 7.00 pm
  - High School (Year 9-13) Prizegiving:** Wednesday, 15 December, 7.00 pm
  - Sports Day:** Monday, 13 December
  - Primary Wheels Day:** Years 1 to 6 on Wednesday, 15 December
  - School Year Ends:** Friday, 17 December, 1.00 pm
15. **Term Dates for 2021:**
  - Term 3:** Monday, 26 July, to Friday, 1 October, 2pm finish. (**TPCS Mid-term holiday: 27-30 August**)
  - Term 4:** Monday, 18 October, to Friday, 17 December, 1pm finish. (Labour Day: Monday 28 October).

**Please do not book any holidays during term time.**