

Timaru Christian School - Honouring God in all we do



Week 1, Term 1, 2014
3rd February 2014

Dear Parents / Caregivers, Whanau,

Welcome to 2014 and another exciting year at TCS! With a public holiday on Thursday and so many things to let you know, we've decided to send out our first newsletter of the year on the first school day of the year. Please take time to read through everything.

Fresh Coat of Paint

Over the holidays a significant amount of painting was done by MMM (Mobile Mission Maintenance). Thank you so much to those who helped with painting, those who provided morning tea or lunches, and thank you to the people who served the food too. The more I learnt about MMM and the volunteers who served at our school, the more amazed I was at what they do as individuals and an organization. If you have a spare prayer or two, please use it to support and bless MMM.

What are we looking forward to?

Last week the teachers spent three days at Moeraki preparing for the year ahead. Our curriculum focus areas are PE/Health and Social Sciences and we will be working on ways to improve upon what we already do in these areas.

One thing we will be working on which will assist our PE programme is a new fitness track. We have already started coming up with designs for the stations and will be asking our students which things they would use the most. The aim is to achieve a work-out of all muscle groups when completing the circuit.

In the week of 3rd March, ERO (Education Review Office) will be visiting our school to look into our teaching and learning programmes and the way we run our school. Their focus is very much on working alongside schools to maximize teaching and learning so we look forward to welcoming them to TCS.

Sausage Sizzle

Next week (Week 2) we will start offering a sausage sizzle every Wednesday at school. Children can order their sausage in their class for \$2 per sausage (bread and sauce included) and all profits raised will be donated to the Shelterbox project which is

run by Rotary International. Each shelterbox costs \$1500 and provides a family tent for up to 10 people and the basic resources required for living when disaster has struck a region. You can learn more about them at <http://www.shelterbox.org.nz/>.

We want to extend our students' focus for serving towards the wider international community. Once we raise enough for one shelterbox, our Young Leaders will work out what organization we should support next.

Swimming

We will be continuing our swimming programme this year at C-bay, starting in Week Two, and would be very grateful for any more parent helpers. If you are able to help with teaching a small group of students, we will provide the resources and show you what to do. We would also appreciate help with supervision in the changing rooms.

Activity Costs

Attached to this newsletter is a letter outlining activity costs you can expect during the year. It is designed to help families in their budgeting and we ask that you read it over, ticking those things you are happy for your child to be charged for. It is difficult for the school to carry the costs of activities if a large number of families do not reimburse the costs. At the same time, we want to be able to help families who need it. By returning these forms we will be able to determine if there is an activity that needs to be reviewed or cancelled.

Please do speak to Bethany Rentoul *at any time* if you find it difficult to pay for attendance dues or school fees.

Cybersafety

As part of our Cybersafety Policy review at the end of last year we have updated our student use agreements. Please read through the agreement with your child before having him/her sign it, as well as yourself. These must be returned in order for your child to continue using the internet and internet-based games at school. This is in the interest of keeping our children safe online.

As we use Facebook to keep families informed about what we're up to at school, please let the school office know if you *do not wish* for your child to appear in photos on our Facebook page.

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Annual Plan

Our annual plan will be finalized at the first BOT Meeting before being submitted to the Ministry of Education at the end of February. It outlines what we plan to do and how we plan to do it, as part of the school charter. You can read our school charter on our website from the end of February.

School Community Camp-Out

On Wednesday night we are hosting a school family camp-out at school as a way to spend time with one another and start the year off on a positive note. It is intended to be a low-key, low-stress time in which families can pitch their tents on the school field from 5pm onwards. Bring along food and we will eat tea together. We'll have the barbeque going if you want to bring along some sausages. If you don't have a tent, feel free to camp-out in the gym or library, or just join us for tea.

Please note: if your child is joining us on the camp-out he/she must have an adult who is responsible for him/her staying overnight too.

Lunchtimes

Just a reminder...this year we are changing our lunchtimes so our school timetable is as follows:

09:00am School starts

10:40am Morning tea

11:00am Second session

12:30pm Lunch

1:30pm Afternoon session

3:00pm School closes

Having a later lunch break allows more time for core curriculum subjects in the morning (Maths, Reading, Writing) and time for lunchtime options. Every week there will be activities at 1pm including junior sports, senior sports, library, choir, Young Leader and WAVE training, and extension groups. Please encourage

your child to take advantage of the opportunities available. If you would like to share your talents or help with a lunchtime option, please see Bethany.

Final thought

I have heard 2014 is going to be an amazing year and I'm looking forward to working alongside each of you and your children in a way which shows we aim to honour God in all we do.

Timaru Christian School Term One Calendar

3rd Feb – Term One Starts; TTEC starts for Year 7/8

5th Feb – Family Camp-out at School

6th Feb – Waitangi Day – School Closed

12th Feb – Swimming

13th Feb – BOT Meeting 6pm

18th Feb – Year 7/8 Cricket Team at Tournament

20th Feb – Swimming; PTA Meeting 7:30pm

27th Feb - Swimming

3rd Mar – ERO visiting the school this week

6th Mar – Swimming; PAL workshop (Senior Student Leaders)

11th Mar – Year 5/6 Rural Schools Golf Tournament

13th Mar - Swimming

18th Mar – Ki o rahi training – Young Leaders

20th Mar - Swimming

25th Mar – South Canterbury Summer Tournament

27th Mar - Swimming

1st & 2nd Apr – Parent-Teacher interviews

3rd Apr - Swimming

4th Apr – South Canterbury Swimming Competition

9th Apr – Year 7/8 Rural Schools Basketball Tournament

10th Apr - Swimming

15th Apr – Rural Schools Ki o rahi tournament

17th Apr – End of Term One

Term Two: 5th May – 4th July;

Term Three: 21st July – 26th Sept

Term Four: 13th Oct – approx. 17th Dec.

For Sale

Boys school uniform fit 8-12 years shorts/tops offers. x2 Jersey's in great condition \$25 each and sports uniform (shorts and top sets) in new condition in size 12 and size 14 \$30 set Ph 0278144780.



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