

Timaru Christian School - Honouring God in all we do



Week 6, Term 1 **5th March 2015**

Dear Parents/Caregivers/Whanau

Thank you to everyone who has returned their surveys regarding our change of class application. There were several

families who had concerns about some aspects eg transition to High School, subject choice etc. These were discussed at the Parents Evening and I would be very happy to share how we would address those aspects if anyone would like to discuss them further. Our Board of Trustees decided that we will definitely go ahead with the application and it will be submitted in the next couple of weeks. We will be using the parent responses (without names) as part of our submission, to let the Ministry of Education know how our school community feels about it. Throughout this whole process we have been determined to only go as far as we felt led, and prayed that God would close doors and make it obvious if we should stop the application. It has been amazing to hear positive discussions and see new opportunities arise as we have worked through the process and we ask that you all, as our school community, pray that God's will be done and that we will be prepared for the outcome, whatever that may be.

Ma te Atua e manaaki

Bethany Rentoul

Congratulations

Well done to the following students who received certificates this week:

Olivia Weaver and **Adam Roscoe** – great reading

Lupe Langi – effort in reading

Casey-May Watt – being helpful and trying hard

Merric Manson – being a helpful member of the class and having such a positive attitude to his work

David Keen, **Hannah Rentoul** and **Trissy McEwan** – creative ideas in story-writing

Vincent Wutama and **Nikita Kitchen** – working hard to improve in Math

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Swimming Sports

This year we are excited to hold our own school swimming sports! It will be at C-bay next Thursday 12th March from 1:00-2:00 pm. Events will be held from 1:05-1:30 pm in the Learn to Swim pool and from 1:30-2:00 pm in the Programme pool. Students who will compete to qualify for the Rural Swimming Sports will do so for the whole hour. We would love to see parents and friends come along and support our children on the day. Please let us know if you can help as a timekeeper (no experience required!).

Contact Information Updates

If your family is new to the school or if you did not previously return a form with your child's and your contact information and permissions, then you would have received a new form last week. Kindly check your details, make any corrections, tick permissions accordingly, sign and return the form to the office asap.

Board of Trustees News

On Thursday last week, the Board of Trustees elected Sarah Lang to the position of Board Chair. We are looking forward to working with her in this role and believe she has many talents and skills with which to lead us. Tony Bunting has held this position for the past 19 years and we would like to thank him for his commitment and the time he has given to the school over this period. He will continue to remain as a valued member on the board as a Proprietor Trustee. Next month the Board of Trustees will be developing a Truancy Policy which will specify which absences are 'justified' and 'unjustified'. This information is used to help us track attendance and ensure we can best meet the needs of students who are regularly absent. If you have anything you would like to say on the matter, please contact Bethany before our next meeting on the 26th March.

School Camp

Our school camp will be at Gunn's Bush Christian Camp near Waimate this year, from Wednesday 28th October to Friday the 30th October. Students in Years 2-8 will be staying for the two nights and Year 1s will be doing a day trip. We are also inviting parents to come as helpers for the three days and/or sleepover on the Thursday night, if they would like to. We will be sending home more details about the camp at a later date.

Procedure Review

This term we are reviewing the following procedures: Homework, and School Fees. They are available for viewing on our school's website or you can ask Lynn to email you a copy. If you have any suggestions for improvements or changes, please let Bethany know by the 20th March.

National Standards Results End 2014

Based on our assessment at the end of last year, we achieved the following results in national standards at TCS in 2014:

Reading - There has been a significant move to 'above' the national standard in Reading. We have 82.55% of students achieving at or above the national standard in Reading. The national average for the end of 2013 was 77.9%. When broken down into ethnicity, gender and combined students, our students are achieving at or above the national averages of 2013 in all but two groups of students. We expect to achieve the national average, or higher, with those two groups of students within the first six months of this year.

Writing - Our students have been fairly consistent in the achievement in Writing compared with the year before

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though several students progressed at a faster-than-expected rate moving from 'below' to 'at' over the past 6 months. Compared to the national averages for the end of 2013, our students are achieving at or above the averages in the Pasifika, Asian, European/Pakeha, Male and Female cohorts and in all but one year level. That group of students will be receiving targeted assistance this year.

Maths - In Maths, there was a similar result last year compared with 2013 in terms of students achieving at or above the expected level. Most cohorts are achieving at or above their expected level in relation to the national standard but we do need to focus on the Year 8 cohort which has made significantly slower-than-expected progress. They will be receiving targeted assistance next in 2015. Across all students we have 73.75% of children achieving at or above the national standard compared to the 2013 national average of 74.6%. (This equates to a difference of less than one student in real numbers.) If you would like more detailed information about our national standards results, please feel free to contact Bethany.

Drop-offs

Please note that children are ONLY to be dropped off and collected at the main car park. The teachers' car park is restricted at all times of the day except in emergencies.

Prayer Meetings

The Thursday morning prayer meetings continue (9 am in the staffroom). If you have any prayer items or requests, please let us know and we can write them into the book.

Netball

This year we are aiming at having a year 5-8 netball team. We are in need of a coach and manager. Practices would be during lunch time on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday. If you are interested please contact the school office and leave your details.

Basketball Draw – Monday 9th March

6.15 pm – TCS Boys vs Waimataitai Lakers, Court 2

8.30 pm – TCS Girls vs Gleniti, Court 1

Results: 2nd March

The TCS boys team beat Geraldine 30:6. Player of the day was Jordan Weaver who played tirelessly in defense and contributed to the attack play. Once again this was a great all round team effort from the boys.

The TCS girls team beat Arowhenua too. It was great to see how the team didn't try to run up the score, and allowed the other team to enjoy the experience too.

Term One Calendar

11 th Mar	Fire Education Officer visiting
12 th Mar	TCS Swimming Sports (1 pm)
19 th Mar	PALs Training Workshop
	Swimming
24 th Mar	Rural Swimming Sports
	Parent-Teacher Interviews

25 th Mar	Parent-Teacher Interviews
26 th Mar	Swimming
	BOT Meeting 6pm
27 th Mar	SC Swimming
1 st Apr	Rural Schools Yr 4-6 Hockey Tournament
2 nd Apr	Swimming
	End of Term 1
20 th April	Start of Term 2

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Shepherding the Heart Tour

World-renowned author and speaker **Tedd Tripp** will be running a seminar aimed at Christian parents, young adults, and teens.

Fri 27 (evening) - Sat 28 March, 2015

Bishopdale Reformed Church

90 Highsted Road, Christchurch

For more info: www.shepherdingthehearttour.co.nz

Old Boys Junior Rugby

Calling all NEW and EXISTING players to register for Old Boys Junior Rugby. Registration Day/s this year are Wednesday 11th March 4-6pm and Sunday 15th March 10-12pm. \$40 for one child, \$65 for two and \$90 for three or more. For an additional \$10 you can have a family membership. On paying subs children will receive a mouthguard, training tee, drink bottle and an end of year photo. Please bring a birth certificate if you are a new player (players must turn 5 within the season to be eligible to play). Queries to Leola 021 135 2561

SPCA South Canterbury Pet Day

Bring your pet out to our place and join in the fun! Enter the Pet Parade or bring out your favourite Pet Photo and enter the Competition, watch the dog obedience and agility displays, meet the Husky dogs with their sleds. Lots of displays and stalls to see. Meet and talk to the experts! Face painting for the children and pony rides available too! 119 Hedley Road, Seadown Timaru
Sunday 22nd March, 1-4 pm
Free entry!

Celtic JAB Rugby Club

Registration Days Sunday 8th March - 10:30am to 12:00pm,
Wednesday 11th March - 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Celtic Clubrooms, Craigie Ave

Please bring birth certificate for age verification for new members

Subs: \$30 - 1 player per family, \$50 - 2 players per family,
\$60 - 3 players per family

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