

Term 1, Week 1, 2017

Welcome to TCS 2017! We are so excited about this coming year as we work together with you and your child(ren), encouraging them to be Christ-centred learners with servant hearts who honour God in all they do. Our topic theme for this term is 'Servanthood and Leadership.' It will be taught across our topic studies.

Timaru Christian School

Te Kura Karaitiana o Te Tihi o Maru

HONOURING GOD IN ALL WE DO

Our Teaching Team

We are fortunate to have a staff with a wide variety of skills, experiences, backgrounds and interests but all of whom are here to do their best for your child.

- Teina Tahi (Year 3&4) – Mrs Thompson mrsthompson@timaruchristian.school.nz
- Teina Rua (NE/Year 1) – Mrs Hamilton mrshamilton@timaruchristian.school.nz
- Teina Toru (Year 2) – Mrs Cochrane mrscochrane@timaruchristian.school.nz
- Teina Wha (Year 5&6) – Mrs Lee and Mrs Zwies mrslee@timaruchristian.school.nz
- Tuakana Tahi (Year 7&8) – Mrs Nareki mrsnareki@timaruchristian.school.nz
- Tuakana Rua (Year 9&10) – Mr Goulet mrgoulet@timaruchristian.school.nz
- Mr Phillips will be teaching across classes mrphillips@timaruchristian.school.nz

Mrs Hamilton is responsible for the Year 1-6 classes and Mr Goulet is responsible for Years 7-10. Mr Phillips is Deputy Principal and SENCO (Special Education Needs Co-ordinator).

Introducing Teina and Tuakana

This year we have grouped our students into a junior and senior school. We have named our junior classes (Years 1-6) 'Teina' which means 'little brother or sister' and our senior classes (Years 7-10) 'Tuakana' which means 'big brother or sister'. We believe it reflects a sense of family which is important to our school community. Each of the class numbers/names have been changed to reflect this and get our children using these terms.

- Room 1 is now Teina Tahi
- Room 2 is Teina Rua
- Room 3 is Teina Toru
- Room 4 is Teina Wha
- Room 5 is Tuakana Tahi
- Room A is Tuakana Rua
- Upstairs Science Lab is Tuakana Toru

Teina Meetings

Every Monday morning we will continue to meet in the Library for Chapel. Parents and friends of the school are very welcome to attend this event.

This year Teina classes (Years 1-6) will meet together from 9am-9:30am from Tuesday to Friday as well. During this time they will pray, sing, move to music, learn about the Scripture passage or memory verse for the week, and eat their fruit and/or drink their milk. This is in direct response to professional development undertaken in neuroscience and culturally responsive practice last year which taught of the importance of structure, a sense of belonging, rhythm and movement, and regular food breaks. We look forward to making this a special time for these students.

Extended Learning Spaces

During the holidays we had carpet laid throughout the hallway and cloakrooms surrounding the classrooms. This makes the space a lot more comfortable and quieter for moving around and working in. We are taking this opportunity to make a 'No Shoe Zone' from the doors entering the classroom hallway. We have always asked that children remove their shoes when inside but we are extending this to all adults, including teachers, parents and visitors. There are many benefits from doing this eg hygiene, protecting the environment, foot muscle development and sensitivity to the many cultures represented in our school who carry out this practice.

There will be a place to leave your shoes when you go into this learning space. Thank you for your support in this.

Homework

Last year we surveyed parents about Homework. We had a lot of responses and really appreciated the varied suggestions. The teaching staff had a long discussion about homework at TCS. We concluded the following: homework should reinforce what has been learnt in class; it should help parents to see what is being learnt at school; it provides a way for parents to have an input into their child's learning; it should not be stressful. We also want to recognise the many different aspects to a child's development – they need to develop academically, socially, physically and spiritually too. As a result, we have changed how we do homework.

Every week your child will receive a grid of homework activities to complete. If your child is in Years 1-4, each activity should take 5-10 minutes. If your child is in Years 5-8, each activity should take 10-15 minutes per square. There will be:

- four sessions of Reading (one session per night)
- two sessions of online Maths
- one Creativity session (could be a music or art lesson or time spent constructing with lego etc)
- five Research sessions (based on the topic they are studying in class)
- two physical sessions (could be playing team sport, swimming, gymnastics, bouncing on the trampoline etc), and
- two Servant sessions (helping someone out including doing the dishes etc)

Parents will need to sign the grid as proof the tasks have been completed.

Please note: Spelling will no longer be part of homework. There will be more time allocated for learning it as part of our Literacy programme during class.

A Costly Start to the Year

The beginning of the year can be an expensive one with new stationery, school attendance dues, upgraded uniforms etc. The attendance dues are used to pay for the school buildings as this is not owned by the Ministry of Education. They are paid to the Trust Board who provides our facilities and oversees the Special Character of our school. At the end of the term you will receive an activity expenses account for costs incurred during the term. This includes stationery or uniform items purchased at the school and swimming lessons. The school has to pay these costs in advance so we ask that these accounts are settled as soon as possible.

This year the Board of Trustees will be covering the technology costs of all Year 7-10 students and the EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom) trips that every classroom will go on each term. We are doing this to ensure our children get a variety of learning experiences without putting additional financial pressure on the parents.

Please do note that we have some funds to assist with Attendance Dues and Activity Expenses if your family needs some financial assistance. If this is the case, please speak with Bethany (Principal) so we can do our best to help.

Swimming

Swimming lessons start next Thursday for all students (Years 1-10). Please ensure your child brings his/her togs, named towels and goggles in a swimming bag every Thursday this term. The costs will be put onto your child's activity expenses account.



Our Vision: "Christ-centred learners with servant hearts"

Our Values: Love and Grace through Servanthood, Truth and Perseverance