



TERM THREE, WEEK ONE 2017

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Whanau

Welcome to Term 3! Today the children are celebrating 100 days of school. It is wonderful to see them so enthusiastic about being at school and taking it as a source of celebration. I was interviewing Year 7-9 students this week about what they have been learning. It actually surprised me about how positive they were in their responses. I would expect older students to become less and less enthusiastic about their learning but we have a lovely group of senior students who work together so wonderfully and that is such a great example for our younger students.

Yesterday you will have (hopefully) received a text about muffin day. In an attempt to make communication easier, we are trialling text reminders to parents. If you have any questions about the information you receive, feel free to reply to the text.

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our survey about the change of school uniform. The responses have been great for informing discussions the staff have had about it. I hope to let you know the final decision next week.

This term's theme is 'Power'. It is a very broad theme and a great topic to discuss around the dinner table, especially when you discuss the power of God in our world and our lives.

Ma te Atua e manaaki

God bless,

Bethany Rentoul

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Activity Expense Accounts

This year, TCS has worked hard to reduce the cost to parents for many things that we do. We have covered Life Education, class trips, technology and Year 9 and 10 camps. We do this so children can have a range of learning opportunities without it costing parents too much. Items such as uniforms, stationery, swimming, extra-curricular sports and whole-school camps are put onto activity expenses which parents are charged for at the end of each term. At the start of last term, there was over \$6,000 owed to the school. We ask that if you are struggling to pay your bills, you speak with Bethany as soon as possible so a payment plan can be set up. Due date for all accounts (sent home at the end of last term) is 20th August. Please contact Bethany if you need to discuss this.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Swimming

There is no swimming this term.

Soup and Buns

As a Missions Trip Fundraiser for the team going to Tonga next year, soup and a bun will be sold on Wednesday lunch times from next week. Place your order at the office on Wednesdays before 9 am. Cost is \$2.

Science Curriculum Review

Focus of the review: Student engagement and perception

Reason for the focus: Since the introduction of our Year 9/10 class, we have had a stronger focus on Science in the senior school. Year 7/8 students have a Science teacher one afternoon per week (1.5 hours) throughout the year. This is a total of 60 hours compared with a range of between 20 and 40 hours per year previously. The Year 9/10 students have Science (including Agriculture) for 3 hours per week (120 hours per year). With an increased focus on Science, we need to ensure students feel engaged in their learning and confident to ask questions and take risks.

Collection of information: All students from Year 2-10 were asked to complete the similar written survey they have been given in previous years for all topic subjects. Gathering information from junior classes informs what we need to do/change/maintain to ensure they are engaged and positive about Science as they enter the senior school.

Year 7-9 students were also interviewed individually to get their thoughts in more detail. They were asked: What sorts of things do you learn in Science? Do you like Science? Why/Why not? What would make Science more exciting or easier to learn?

Discussion: The majority of children work hard and try their best most of the time. Some motivation is needed for the Year 3 group. For most, the work is set at about the right level and most children know it is okay to ask questions and make mistakes. These things will help students to be more engaged in their Science learning. Understandably, not all students love Science (such is the diversity of our individual giftings). However, it is great to see that most students enjoy learning new things about God's creation. A number of students are keen to do trips, projects and experiments. As our programme is further developed, we will be able to increase these opportunities. In Term 4 most of the school will be taking part in a fossil hunt in conjunction with the Church Street Bible Church.



Parents were asked for feedback via an online survey. There were 7 responses in total. Parents are keen for students to be taught a wide range of Science concepts across strands (physics, biology, chemistry). By the time they leave school at the end of Year 10, parents would like them to understand the basics of Science and know the creation vs evolution arguments. Final Thoughts: Our school is offering a quality Science curriculum based on a Christian worldview which is engaging most students. We have resourced this curriculum area well including providing a Science lab for Year 7-10 students. Next steps for the teaching of Science is to back-map knowledge and skills from NCEA Level One to Years 10 and 9 and create a clear path down through the junior school to ensure a wide range of topics are covered.

Prayer Meeting

We have a weekly prayer meeting on Thursday at 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. All are welcome to attend, including pre-schoolers.

Rural Schools Netball Draw

Saturday 29th July

9 am Court 9 Bluestone Mystics v Rural Magic (Andrea Bruning) Year 6

10 am Court 14 Waimataitai Mystics v Rural Reds (Hayley Richardt) Year 7/8

11 am Court 4 Opihi Ferns v Rural Mystics (Debbie Waldron) Year 7/8

11 am Court 7 Craighead Hearts v Rural Rebels (Ange/Helen) Year 7/8

11 am Court 12 McKenzie Magic v Rural Superstars (Gemma Holden) Year 5

Enjoy your games girls. ☺

26-27 Sep Learning Conferences
28 Sep Chapel, 2.20 pm
29 Sep Last Day of Term 3
16 Oct Term 4 begins
18-20 Oct School Camp

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Maths Puzzle

8809 = 6 5555 = 0
7111 = 0 8193 = 3
2172 = 0 8096 = 5
6666 = 4 1012 = 1
1111 = 0 7777 = 0
3213 = 0 9999 = 4
7662 = 2 7756 = 1
9313 = 1 6855 = 3
0000 = 4 9881 = 5
2222 = 0 5531 = 0
3333 = 0 2581 =

Did you ponder the math puzzle? The answer is based on the number of circles or ovals in the numbers. For example eight has two circles. Zero has one. Six has one. 7777 has 0 circles. 6666 has 4. The answer at the bottom is 2.



Meet and Eat

Free soup and breadroll or toast every Wednesday over winter. 11.30 am to 1 pm; starting 21st June at St Philip and All Saints Church Hall, Luxmoore Road.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

27 July Chapel, 2.20 pm
3 Aug Chapel, 2.20 pm
10 Aug Chapel, 2.20 pm
10 Aug BoT Meeting
17 Aug Chapel, 2.20 pm
24 Aug Chapel, 2.20 pm
31 Aug Chapel, 2.20 pm
7 Sep Chapel, 2.20 pm
8 Sep Parent Milo Session
11-22 Sep Year 7-10 Technology Program
14 Sep Chapel, 2.20 pm
19 Sep Fossil Hunt
21 Sep Chapel, 2.20 pm
21 Sep BoT Meeting
25 Sep S/Cant Anniversary (school closed)