

Dear TCS Community,

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## **A Note from Bethany**

When interviewing kura leaders recently, a Christian school principal brought to light the challenges around authority in a school context. The concern was based on the fact that Scripture tells us to obey two figures of authority: our parents and those to whom authority has been given. 1 Peter 2 goes so far as to say that we must obey people in authority even if they seem unjust. This is very counter-cultural. Today we hear that if you disagree with your leaders, you must do what feels right for you. The trouble with that theory is that we are then taking ourselves out from under their authority and it can lead to each person following their own selfish ambitions.

We are told to pray for our leaders and those in positions of authority. If we are doing that, hopefully they will make the right decisions on our behalf. The only time I can think that we would have any reason to challenge those in authority would be if their decisions were contrary to what God tells us to do.

So what does this have to do with schools? Teachers are given authority over children at school because of their role. If parents and teachers are giving children different messages about what they should be doing or saying, we put our children in the difficult position of having to choose which authority figure they will obey. That is too much to ask of a child because their relationships with both the parents and the teachers are important to them. Partnerships between teachers and parents are vital, and it reminds us how valuable it is to have the same values and beliefs taught at home and school. We need to be supporting one another, working with one another so we are united in how we work with our children. It requires love and grace, servanthood, truth and perseverance to develop those sorts of partnerships. Fortunately, they are our school values. ☺

Kia manaaki atua koutou.

***Bethany Rentoul***

**Principal of Timaru Christian School**

## **Upcoming Events / Calendar Dates**

**6<sup>th</sup> August** – Mums and Dads Coffee Morning; 9 am in the Whanau Room

**11<sup>th</sup> August** – Lucky Book Club orders due

**12<sup>th</sup> August** - Year 1-8 Swimming; Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm in Staffroom

**19<sup>th</sup> August** - Year 1-8 Swimming; Chapel at 2:30pm

**26<sup>th</sup> August** - Year 1-8 Swimming

**31<sup>st</sup> August-2<sup>nd</sup> Sept** - Learning Conferences

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sept** - Chapel at 2:30pm

**2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Sept** - Year 9/10 Camp in Christchurch

**16<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Chapel at 2:30pm

**24<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Teacher Only Day (School closed)

**27<sup>th</sup> Sept** - South Canterbury Anniversary (School closed)

**1<sup>st</sup> Oct** - End of Term 3

**18<sup>th</sup> Oct** - Start of Term 4

## **Keeping warm**

Please ensure your child brings their school jersey to school each day in winter. We try to get them out in the fresh air and it's important they keep warm. Children are welcome to wear long sleeves under their polo if they don't like the wool against their skin. Wearing jackets over their jersey is also a good idea when playing outside.

## **TCS Parents Coffee Group**

A great way to get to know other parents is to join us for a cuppa in the Whanau Room on Friday mornings at 9am.

## **Communicating with your child's teacher / Caring for One Another**

One of the things that stood out for me, when talking to other principals, was the importance of supporting our teachers through considering what we expect of them. The teachers at TCS are not very good at separating school and home life, often checking and responding to emails at all hours, and racing around right up to the minute the bell rings in the morning. To support their wellbeing, I have asked them to respond to emails and phone calls between 8am and 5pm on Mondays to Fridays. As part of our commitment to developing positive relationships with our students, we start the day with Relationship Time between 8:45am and 9:15am. This involves the teachers talking to and playing

with the children in the class or playground. Our teachers don't like to turn away parents and so it can be difficult to focus on the children if a serious discussion is required in the morning. To support the teachers in this, I ask that if you need to discuss something with your child's teacher, you do so at the end of the day when we walk the children to the gate, or arrange a time to meet after school.

Thank you for supporting us in this.

## **Uniform Update**

As part of their stock rotation process, The Warehouse has given the school all of their navy blue jersey stock (for Years 7-10) which will be sold at much-reduced prices. Once they have all sold from our uniform shop, sales will go back to The Warehouse.

## **Sports Notices**

### **Netball Update**

Our Year 1-2 teams have already had 2 weeks of learning new Netball skills. The players are all enjoying themselves and making new friends as well. Our Year 3-4 teams started their competitions last week. Players from our Year 3-4 teams will be notified of the draw. This was another team who played well and are developing new skills. Ka pai! It is great to see families at the court supporting our young players. A big thank you to all coaches.

### **Netball draw Saturday 7th August**

9 am     Court 3             Rural Rockets v Opihi College Black (Years 7& 8)

11 am    Court 10            Rural Ferns v Waimataitai Aces (Years 5 & 6)

Only a few games left for our Year 5-8 players to compete in. If you haven't had a chance to go and watch yet, then please get down to the Netball Courts and support our talented players.

### **Basketball**

Competitions for our Year 3-4 and Year 5-6 teams start on the week of 6th September. More details will follow when we have all the information from South Canterbury Basketball.

Mrs Thompson will ask for names of intended players next week.

If you have any basketball uniforms, please return them to our school office as soon as possible. Many thanks.

## **Lucky Bookclub**

Please hand in any Scholastic Book Club orders to the office by next week Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> August.