



# TIMOTHY

## CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



### From the Principal...

#### **Moving from abrupt adjustment... to surviving... to possibly thriving?**

If your family is anything like the TCS staff over the past four weeks, you most likely felt like you had jumped into the deep end of the pool and are just coming up for air for the first time this week. I am talking about the 12 foot deep end of the pool for this example. Most of us have gone through the following zones over the past four weeks as we have settled in to this self-isolation/work at home routine:

#### **The Red Zone (Abrupt Change/Potentially Overwhelmed)**

This looked like:

- A dramatic and abrupt (possibly painful for some) shift in how we do things now from the way it was
- Trying hard to keep up in this very, very different school at home approach
- For teachers, it was preparing lessons at home and trying to match them to the level of the students, learning new technology, video conferences, and finding creative and authentic ways to help students with the curriculum. It was not homeschooling, it was not school... it was a hybrid that caused us to really stretch and find ways to make connections with students on a weekly basis.
- For parents, it was scrambling to cover the work teachers were sending, finding the right time in the day, trying to figure out Google Classroom and getting assignments back to teachers... And as one parent honestly and jokingly shared with me, "and trying to still like my child at the end of a busy day!"



#### **The Orange Zone (Finding Routine/Schedule & Making it Work)**

This looked like:

- Finding some sort of schedule that worked and sticking with it (for parents and teachers and students). We all need routine, timelines, and familiar schedules... and it was really challenging to establish this over the past few weeks.
- Finding a pace that works for each of us, and making it enjoyable and not painful (your family capacity)
- Establishing boundaries... for parents, that was the time a family would spend on school work, for teachers (and all other parents now working from home), it was trying to carve out how to take a 12-15 hour work day and try to keep it into a regular 9 hour (ish) day.
- For staff, we responded to the parent feedback and adjusted with instructional videos on the challenging areas, phone calls with students to talk through the work, and packaging the work that was being sent.

## The Green Zone (Thriving Zone)

Could we get here in the next four to six weeks? Can we get to a point in this new approach to school where *it becomes a really special time* that may never happen again? Where we could thrive with our students and children in this environment? What does that look like?

- Parents embracing the change and finding their unique 'capacity' (style/time/approach) in this process in a way that works for each household to help their children in this unique learning process
- Teachers continuously adjusting to find creative ways to connect with students, balance the pace, and help students through challenges and keep the learning continuous and as consistent as possible (and still finding a way to issue a report card in June should it last that long)
- Students keeping the joy and inspiration for learning in this environment so when they land back at school, they didn't miss a beat (in both their love for learning as well as keeping the basic skills in place through this process to build on when they are back sitting in desks)
- Parents staying with TCS in the journey (eg. asking for help when needed, asking admin and teachers honest questions when needed, asking the Board for help if needed)... but walking together as a community through this unique time.

Let's move from *surviving* to *thriving* in the weeks ahead! Remember our TCS vision statement... **"Inspiring children to be alive in Christ!"**

There are going to be a lot of wonderful stories coming out of this very unique time. Here are a few:

- The mom and student who sang 'happy birthday' to one of our teachers when they were on a conference call this week in the middle of a Math lesson (there were tears of appreciation!)
- The parent who was lined up in the car waiting for the grades 3-8 textbooks and broke into tears when we said 'we miss you' at the same time through the car window! Honestly, it was so very authentic and real that I almost started crying standing in the pouring rain with my multi-colour umbrella (it is in those moments one realizes how precious community is in this world)
- The Chromebook and primary drop-off times when teachers or staff members stood at the end of your driveways and waved and chatted about life

These are just a few examples of what thriving looks like! What will our children/students say about this when we land on the other side of this COVID-19 situation? Will it be a very challenging time that we all are very happy to be over with... or... did we "inspire children to be alive in Christ" throughout this process?

## Why so many parent surveys?

Research says the best time to over-communicate is during crises, challenges, and changes. We certainly have covered all three of those areas in the past six weeks and that is why you have received two parent surveys since the break. One from the administration/teachers and one this past Saturday was sent to you from the Board of Directors of TCS.

- The *Teacher-Led Online Learning Pathway Parent Survey* was sent out two weeks ago and closed last Wednesday evening. We heard from close to 80% of our families and thank you for this feedback that we are still working through. We may have one more shorter survey about how things are going later in May to make sure we, as a staff, keep our finger on the pulse of how this process is going once we know the next timeline of how long this will be.
- The Board sent out a *Family Enrolment Confirmation Parent Survey* this past Saturday. It simply asked our TCS parents if you are planning to enrol in September 2020 and if you feel you may require financial support next year. We have heard from close to 80 of our 130 families and hope you can respond to that survey this week yet. The Board is in the process of drafting a budget for TCS and would like to hear for each of our 130 families. The response and those returning has been very positive thus far. Most of you have already re-registered with TCS for the fall, *this is a confirmation* as we now finalize the budget process and continue to plan for September 2020.

**When are lessons coming from teachers?**

Just a reminder that all grade 3-8 lessons from teachers will come every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings between 8 and 9. The only exception to this is the primary division (grades JK-2) who will send out on Friday afternoon for the week ahead, due to JK being three days a week. It was just easier for the JK/SK classes (and primary) who are three days a week to send out all at once.

**Still need textbooks?**

If you are a TCS family and missed out on the textbook pick up or the primary drop-off, please email [tcsген@timothychristianschool.ca](mailto:tcsген@timothychristianschool.ca) and we will arrange a time this week to get you those materials.

**Helpful Educational Websites for TCS Students**

Looking for good educational websites that your children can work on when they are finished with schoolwork? Here is a link with several resources:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n7j6v8WZk1Co7zulqQtC0XJf4nujvtT6Y-Xys0sCods/edit?usp=sharing>  
Thanks to Miss Gronfors who surveyed the TCS classroom teachers and pulled together a list of websites that parents may find helpful from Primary through to Senior grades as well as French. We will try and update these websites now and then throughout the next few weeks.

**Help us Redeem the Times—Send us your TCS Family Greeting!**

A reminder to send Michelle Roberts ([mroberts@timothychristianschool.ca](mailto:mroberts@timothychristianschool.ca)) a short video in the next week to cheer up and encourage our families!

**Guidelines for #INTHISTOGETHERTCSBARRIE video clips from TCS families:**

- Keep the video short, under 30 seconds if possible (no more than a minute). Short and punchy!
- Could be a short greeting from your family to the TCS community!
- Could be an encouraging Bible verse you want to pass on, something to be thankful for or a positive message... think 'redeem the times!'
- Keep it positive and uplifting as we all need a smile!
- Send to [mroberts@timothychristianschool.ca](mailto:mroberts@timothychristianschool.ca) (she will consult with Mr. Berg to pick a few a week for the school Facebook page, the school website, or the newsletter)
- This is not about feedback on any programs (direct that to the parent feedback survey... we want to hear that as well, but not this way) - this is about uplifting each other and being #INTHISTOGETHERTCSBARRIE

Come on TCS parents and students—show us what you have!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM  
ALL OF US AT TCS!

- April 20: Alivia (3/4)
- April 22: Mrs. Cante
- April 24: Linden (SK)

**PRAYER CORNER**

Prayer is a powerful part of our community at TCS. For this reason, the staff prays for a group of families each week. The TCS staff prayed for the Rumble, Seborro, and Sheppard families during devotions this week. May you feel God's ever ready presence in your decisions and experiences.