



TIMOTHY

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



From the Principal...

TCS Teacher-Led Online Learning Program... Working Together Home and School!

Thank you in advance, TCS parents, for your wonderful support as we work together on round two of this full Ontario school lockdown. We walked through this strong as a community last spring and we will hold strong and make sure good things happen this time around as well! *Remember we are stronger together as we support each other in this journey!*

We know, for the majority of our families that have gone through this last year, that we can step into a good routine quickly this week with the online program. We also know that for some of you it does mean a significant change in schedules and an adjustment on the home front as you support your children. As a staff and Board, we want to serve you the best we can throughout this process.

How have we improved the TCS online program this time around?

- *More Subjects:* We heard from many of you last spring that you would have liked us to include subjects like Socials, Creation Studies and Science as well as the speciality subjects like Band, French and Art. We have added all of these subjects at this time with homeroom teachers focussing on the Core Four Areas on the Monday through Thursday as the speciality teachers take over each Friday with Band, Art, French (and the homeroom teacher adding PE as well each Friday). We trust you will find this a refreshing balance and variety this time around.
- *Balancing the work:* As a staff, we have been planning and processing the potential of round two of school lockdown throughout December and we have spent a lot of time talking about balance in homework and expectations. We have talked about wanting the work to be clear and attainable. We were all thrown into online learning very abruptly last year and it was challenging for all of us. Teachers, in finding the balance, and parents in the support role facilitating at home. *We recognize and greatly appreciate how it takes a significant amount of parent support on the home front to make this partnership work well.* Thank you in advance, TCS parents! Hopefully you find this round to be more routine than abrupt, as the majority of our staff have been through this before.
- *More Support:* This time around we are planning more teacher instructional videos, more live classroom meets on Google Classroom to help (for grades 3 - 8) to answer student and parent questions and teachers will be available from 9am-3pm (regular classroom hours) for any email questions. Last year we had no idea how long this would be, so we laid off our EA support staff and rolled back many of our speciality teachers to half time. At this time, we are retaining all TCS staff so you will feel more EA support especially for students in the Resource Program as well as students who struggled last spring with the online program. We know for a few of our families/students, the online shift can be a real challenge and we are going to be more proactive this time around with these students with our support. We know you will appreciate the full support this time around.

Short-Term: Please also note that it very much appears the provincial government wants to keep this second round of school lockdown a short-term plan (depending on the daily cases of course) and we hope

our parents can hold on to that. We certainly want to support keeping everyone safe and if these few weeks of keeping everyone home helps flatten the curve, we all want the best for the province and our school.

Why we do a Hybrid online approach at TCS?

There are a variety of approaches for online learning programs and TCS has taken a hybrid approach that combines videos, live meets, email interactions and assignments versus a live time from 9 to 3. At this time, we feel that a hybrid approach works much better for a JK – grade 8 school for the following reasons:

- **Maturity of students:** Our students at TCS are between the ages of 3 and 13. Some high school and college online programs run a full live program from 9am-3pm because they are at an age where they can handle the time on a computer interacting. The challenge is that children ages 3-13 have a hard time focusing that long and we would lose the majority of them over a six hour time slot (most in under an hour). Especially if there are no parents supervising on the home front. Often the live time is not very effective as students just shut off their screens and a teacher has no idea if they are watching TV or listening to the lesson. That is why we use Google Meet (live time) with our primary students in JK – grade 2 so sparingly. We want it to be genuine, educational and meaningful as it can often become a fun, goof around time and very little gets accomplished. A teacher teaching online loses all ability to manage a class (students learning at home) on a live meeting which can make these very ineffective for this age group. It is like teaching blind when you can't also manage the students which we can't on the home front. That is why the partnership with parents is so very critical with these online programs.
- **Screen time:** Parents of younger children don't always want that much screen time for their children. They prefer a break, engaging in work assigned and activities to break it up a bit and allow more focus 'away from screen time'.
- **Each student would need their own computer to run live online classes:** In order for us to run a full live 9am-3pm day, each of our students (all 230 of them) at home would need their own device (laptop, desktop, tablet, etc) which most of our families cannot provide. In addition to this, significant parent support on the home side of the computers would be required (even more so than with the hybrid approach). Even by lending out close to 40 of our TCS Chromebooks, most families only have one device for 2 or 3 children at home.
- **Quality of Internet on the Homefront:** There are a significant amount of our families in areas where they have limited internet in regard to both speed and paying for data (unlimited data has not yet reached all areas). This can be extremely frustrating if both parents are also working from home as well as students attempting live classes online.
- **Different Schedules:** What makes all of this very challenging is that each of our TCS families are in very unique situations. Some have no parents at home (both parents working) and grandparents supervising children. Some have one parent working from home and helping the students with their work while they work from home. Others have both parents trying to work on a computer at home while trying to balance the schoolwork. We recognize that each family is on a completely different schedule and the hybrid online program we are offering better supports each family where they are at. It allows teacher video instructions to be replayed when time allows. It allows recording of Google Meet times with classes to be replayed when a student or a student and a parent is better able to view it. It also allows for assignments to be completed at different times during the day when it better works for each family. It also allows students or parents to check-in with a teacher anytime from 9am-3pm to answer questions on schoolwork.

We hope this helps answer some of the questions you may have about the way TCS offers our Teacher-Led Online Learning program.

Chromebook pick up time: 3-4pm today!

A reminder that **if you have already reserved a Chromebook** (and received a confirmation email from Mr. Berg or Miss Watson) that the pick-up time is between 3-4pm today. If your last name is early in the alphabet, come between 3- 3:30 today and if your last name is later in the alphabet, come between 3:30-4pm. Pick up will be by the grade 8 door (far right doors as you pull into the school parking lot). Just pull in somewhere by the grade 8 door and we will see you. Today we will be lending out close to 40 of our TCS Chromebooks to TCS families. Several asked for two Chromebooks but we would like to get one per family who needs one first, and if there are extra we will certainly try for an extra one per household by request.

Ukulele Pick Up for Grades 6-8 this Wednesday from 1-3pm

The ukuleles are in! We know that our grade 6-8 band students are super excited about getting their ukuleles in their hands to start practicing (look out grade 6-8 parents... this is going to be fun on the home front!).

Mrs. Fraser is tuning them all up as you read this (it has taken her a few days... so she is most likely still tuning as you read this newsletter)... and will have them ready for *pick up this Wednesday, January 13 between 1-3pm*. Get ready grade 6-8 band students for your first lesson this Friday during band class! We know our grade 6-8 parents will be *absolutely thrilled* to have a senior student in the house for a two-week lockdown with... *a brand new ukelele!* Future rock stars for sure!



Above: The ukuleles have taken over Mrs. Fraser's living room!

We welcome Mrs. Gruber to Grade 3 full-time this year!

We are very pleased that Mrs. Gruber has said yes to being the full-time teacher in grade three for the remainder of this year. Mrs. Berg recently asked for an extension of her leave until the end of June and Mrs. Gruber will be stepping in for the full year in grade three. Thank you, Mrs. Gruber! The TCS Board of Directors both granted the leave (through EI) to Mrs. Berg and approved Mrs. Gruber's position at the December Board meeting.

Administrative Assistant Position Now Open at TCS

As many of you already know, Miss Van Loenen (in our front office), was engaged last fall and is planning a wedding this May. We are very excited for her and her future husband Ben as they plan their wedding over the next few months. Leanna's last day as Administrative Assistant at TCS will be Friday, April 16th as she will be moving after her wedding.

At this time, we are accepting applications for a new Administrative Assistant who will start at TCS (overlap and training) after March Break on March 22nd. Resumes will be accepted for this position throughout January and February with the top candidates being short-listed by the end of February and our HR Committee conducting interviews during the first week of March. We hope to offer this position before the March Break. If you are interested or know someone who would be a good fit, please contact Mr. Berg or email a resume to tcsген@timothychristianschool.ca. We are looking for a candidate who has a deep appreciation for Christian Education, strong faith, an eye for quality in published TCS items, and strong people skills.



3 "...As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light." – 1 Peter 2:9 NLT

Some Helpful Links:

Here are some helpful tutorials for video conferencing and other Google Classroom-related things!

- Video Conferencing Guidelines:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ezJyHp9q_wfYykDNYuVvKLR6XlHT43szsMxX1bvihmQ/edit?usp=sharing
- Uploading Photos from a Phone to Google Classroom:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjrJvMiTRgw&ab_channel=BenjaminSiegel
- TCS Google Classroom Tutorial for JK - Grade 2:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Zdk7FozZ1U&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=TCSBarrie
- Accessing Google Meeting from email link or Google Calendar
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1t-gij13SfgFnE5Mvd9KTcXq0JcQlilzEyffB7R54XVs/edit?usp=sharing>

RightNow Media Access

We want to remind you that our TCS community has access to RightNow Media, a video streaming service that offers a large digital library of biblical resources. Last March, you were sent an email to give you access to this resource and we would encourage you to review your login information in the next couple of days.

Over the next couple weeks, your child's classroom teacher may begin to assign some Bible work using RightNow Media videos. We want to encourage you to explore this wonderful resource together now as a family! Take some time to browse through the different libraries. There are libraries for children, youth, men and women among other topics.

If you have forgotten your login information, or have not yet accessed this resource, please email Miss Winger who would be happy to assist you in setting up your account access. bwinger@timothychristianschool.ca

The screenshot displays the RightNow Media website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'LIBRARIES', 'Kids', 'SEARCH', and 'rightnow MEDIA' logo. A 'LOG IN' button is on the right. Below the navigation bar, a 'NEW AND POPULAR' section is visible. The main content area is divided into two primary sections: 'PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL AND SMALL GROUP STUDIES' and 'FAMILY DEVOTIONAL STUDIES'. Each section features a grid of video thumbnails with titles and authors. For example, in the 'PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL' section, there are thumbnails for 'PSALM 23' by Matt Chandler, '40 VERSES TO IGNITE YOUR FAITH' by Laurie Short, 'THE STEPS TO FREEDOM IN CHRIST' by Neil T. Anderson, 'THE GOSPEL OF MARK' by Francis Chan, 'ROOTED IN THE WORD' by Jackie Hill-Kelly, 'THE GOOD GOSPEL' by Jennie Allen, and 'Enjoying Jesus'. The 'FAMILY DEVOTIONAL STUDIES' section shows thumbnails for 'THE REAL GOD', 'JESUS: MESSIAH, TEACHER, KING', 'PHILIPPIANS WHERE DOES JOY COME FROM', '1 PETER WHERE DOES HOPE COME FROM', and 'EPHESIANS'. On the left side, there's a sidebar with a 'LIBRARIES' menu listing categories like 'ALL KIDS EPISODES', 'DOWNLOADABLE VIDEO ILLUSTRATIONS', 'ALL TRAINING', 'ALL BIBLE STUDIES', 'ALL CONFERENCE SESSIONS', 'NEW AND POPULAR', 'RIGHTNOW MEDIA ORIGINALS', 'EASTER', and 'YOUTH'. The bottom of the page shows a Windows taskbar with various application icons and a system clock indicating 12:11 PM on 3/31/2020.

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Highlights from the January Board Meeting

- A reminder to all our TCS families that re-registration is coming up this week on January 15. We look forward to re-registering our existing TCS families for September 2021 as well as all new families over the next few weeks.
- To all our former families who stepped out last August due to COVID (about 10 of them), please note that we encourage you to contact the school in the next few weeks if you are planning to return in September 2021. We do require student testing and a meeting (or phone call) to re-register these families as well as the \$300 deposit required for all our existing families.
- We are expecting a healthy enrollment this fall and want to encourage all returning and existing families to register early to avoid the disappointment of waiting lists/capped classes as enrollment is on a first come, first registered basis. Also please pass the message on to all new and potential TCS families, now is the time to register for September 2021 at TCS.
- The TCS Board reviewed governance and communication strategies and continues to develop positive communication strategies with the membership.
- The Board would like to officially thank the Bazaar Committee for their success with the virtual Bazaar this past November. Thank you for all your hard work! It was the creative approach and out of the box thinking that allowed us to have such a successful event this year as we were limited to online only!

