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Welcome back to School!

It was a beautiful morning at TCS! The sun was shining, students were laughing and connecting, new parents were meeting other parents, teachers were excited about the new year and there was a distinct positive energy of '*potential and promise*' crackling through the playground!

Welcome back parents and students! A very special welcome to our new families. Some facts about this year:

- As of today we have 314 students at TCS (potentially still processing a few more families)
- 64 students *are new* to TCS this year!
- 33 new families starting new to TCS this September

Please plan on our TCS all family BBQ set for next Thursday, September 12 from 5:30 - 7:00.

New parents please note the New Parent Orientation on Thursday, September 19 from 7:00 - 8:00. We ask that at least one parent from each new family attend this event.



Thank you parents for your support regarding class lists each year

A huge thank you to all our TCS families for your support in the class lists this year. We have received many support emails for all the work that has gone into creating the class lists for the school year. We know there are a few adjustments for some students and a thank you in advance to our parents for helping your children through those adjustments. As a staff we pour many hours into making sure the balance of each class supports learning. We appreciate your support in this journey!

End of Day - Afterschool routines

Please be sure that you have emailed your child(ren)'s teacher (or put it in his/her agenda) to let us know what the usual afterschool routine will be ... either bus or pick up. This will reassure the staff and your child about how he/she is getting home each day. Any changes to this, please email / call the office by 2pm each day and we will inform the teachers.

Changing Administrative Roles at TCS this year

A reminder to parents that this year Mr. Andrew Wilcox has moved out of a grade 8 classroom and into more administration time and will be *taking all the JK - 8 student discipline this year*. If you have a question regarding student discipline, a reminder to go directly to Mr. Andrew Wilcox (our VP at TCS) as he will be your main point of contact for all student discipline issues going forward.

Bus management, seating, and working with the bus monitors will still be with Mr. Berg.

Key dates in September:

5 Gr 6-8 Soccer Tryouts
10 Gr 6-8 Soccer Tryouts
12 5:30-7pm Back to School BBQ

18-20 Gr 8 trip to Medeba
19 7-8pm New parent Orientation
(2.5 PITCH hrs for attending)
20 Terry Fox Run

Friday, Sept 27... School Picture Day!



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Students on Buses - there are now six buses at TCS!

A reminder that we now have six TCS buses on the road each day. Parents please remind your student about good behaviour on the buses and to always support and listen to the bus drivers. Especially in the areas of students staying in their seats (at all times), keeping noise low and not bothering other students. We will be assigning bus monitors to help with each bus again this year.

Bus information:

1. Please remember to have students at their bus stop **10 minutes before their scheduled pick up** (also *parents please be at stops 10 mins ahead of afternoon drop off* as bus drivers are not to wait for parents but to proceed along their scheduled route and to contact the school office for assistance. This assists drivers in staying on schedule. Thank you!
2. Landmark drivers will need a letter from parents if an older student (sibling or other) will be walking younger students home from the bus stop - this includes any students up to grade 8. Landmark will only release students to parents unless prior written permission has been given by the parents directly to the driver, or for a 'one off' situation by the office for another parent/friend to pick up your child(ren) from the bus stop.
3. TCS parents, you are welcome to call **Landmark Bus Lines Barrie** (our bus company) anytime the buses are on the road to check in with dispatch on an ETA. **Landmark's contact: 705-722-6666**. Additionally, the office will send an email to bus route families to inform them of any delays... Please be patient with us as we are updating our route email lists in the office.

**Soccer Tryouts THIS week!**

Students in Grade 6-8 are invited to join coaches on Thursday, September 5 and Tuesday, September 10 from 3:35-5:00pm for tryouts for soccer. Parents, please be at school to pick up your child by 4:50pm so the coaches do not need to wait around for rides. The first date will be more of an informal tryout with the official one on September 10 and possibly another on September 12. If you are interested in trying out for the team, you *must* be available for the after-school practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout September and for the tournament (date to be announced shortly). Parents, please make arrangements with your child *before school* regarding tryouts and be sure to email the office to let us know of any after school change in routine (pick up at 5pm, not on the bus). Thank you! If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Cindy Dykstra, TCS Soccer Staff Rep for 2024/25.

****Remember TCS is a nut-free school. Please be sure all snacks/lunches do not have items that contain nuts****

TCS Welcome Back School BBQ NEXT Thursday, September 12, 5:30 - 7:00 ...Rain or Shine!

Our school BBQ will take place (rain or shine) **next Thursday**. We start with opening prayer at 5:30pm in the gym, then move outside for the BBQ from 5:30 - 6:30. At 6:30 students and parents will go to classrooms to meet your child(ren)'s teacher for a quick connection. This is not an interview but more of a 'greet and meet' so our parents can meet each of their child's teachers face to face. Parents will have 30 minutes to move through the classrooms to meet teachers, then the evening will be over at 7:00pm. If it is raining that evening, the BBQ will take place in the school gym.



PITCH Opportunity: Parents please contact Deanna Faris (deannafaris7@gmail.com) if you can take a shift to help in the kitchen during the BBQ.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: help at the BBQ and earn volunteer hours. Contact Mrs. Faris for more info.

All volunteer classroom interactions need a current Vulnerable Sector Screens (Police Checks)

All volunteers doing volunteer hours at school (or with a class off site) during the school day will need a current Vulnerable Sector Screen (VSS) on file in the office. TCS considers a VSS to be current if it was done within the past 3 years. TCS will provide a letter that can be used to support your online application with your local police department so the screen will be

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done at no charge. Anyone that needs a VSS (or an update) can request one at the VSS table at the BBQ... An office rep will provide the letter via email to you. If you have had a check done in the last 3 years, please forward it to the office (send a copy with your child to school or email a copy).

Congratulations to our 2023-2024 Fruit of the Spirit Award winners!

Jacob Mensinga and Heidi Sheppard, you both live your faith as seen in the characteristics that shine forth... the fruits of the Spirit... Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. Congratulations on shining so bright!



Community News

Congratulations to the following families who welcomed an addition to their families this summer:

- Mr. Atkinson (grade 5) and Mrs. Atkinson (an occupational therapist known to a few students at TCS) welcomed their first child, Eleanor, on August 25th.
- Mr. Daniel Wilcox's (grade 8) family welcomed another boy, William, at the end of June.
- The Yoon family, Isaac & Jane, Kaleb (5) and Joel (3) welcomed baby Victoria to their family.
- The Sadl family, Nick & Jes and Sloan (SK) welcomed baby June to their family.
- The Carson family, Jordan & Kait and Emily (2) welcomed baby Hannah to their family.

Buddy System for new students in grades 1 - 8!

Today Mr. Berg met with our 64 new students and their buddies (128!) to review the TCS Buddy Program. All new students in grades 1 - 8 are matched up with two buddies for the month of September to help them settle in and connect with the TCS student community.

How do the buddies help the new students?

- They introduce them to classmates
- They ensure they are not alone on the playground at recess
- They help them get into the games on the playground
- They help with school routines at TCS
- They get to know them and be their built-in friend until they meet new friends

We always assign two buddies, so if one forgets, the other will remember! In the newsletter next week the administration will be asking new parents for an email update on how your child's first week at TCS went.

Safe Pick up and Drop off Routine for the TCS parking lot

TCS parents, for morning drop off and afternoon pick up, please park in one of these locations and help your child(ren) get to the back gate safely:

Or if you wish to walk your child(ren) to the back gate yourself, please park in one of these three areas:

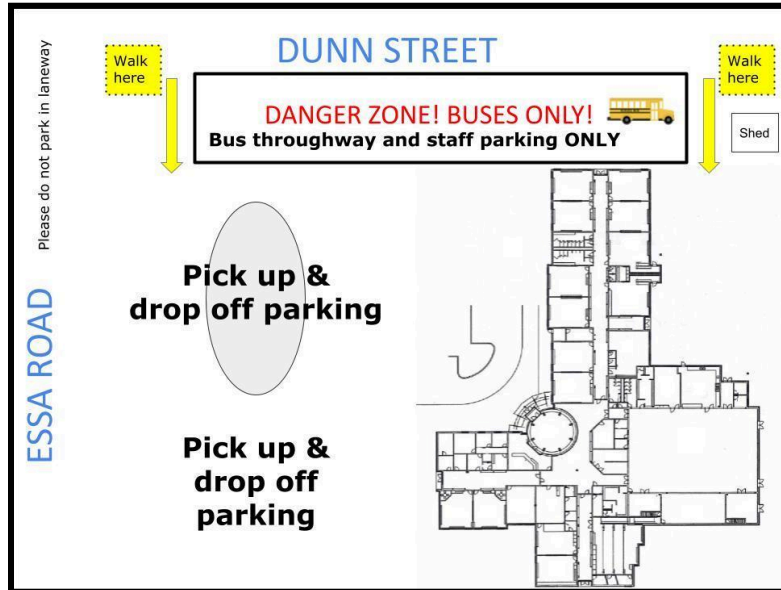
1. Park at the front of the school and walk your children to the sidewalk
2. Park in the side gravel lot and walk your children to the sidewalk

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3. Park on Dunn street past the school and walk your children along the sidewalk in front of the shed and around to the gate (**but not crossing the bus lanes**).

See the map below...

We wish to avoid parents parking where the TCS staff park and then parents / students walking between the buses or walking across the bus lane. We have had many close calls between buses and students/parents and we want to point out how dangerous this can be. Thank you on behalf of the Landmark drivers and the TCS staff, we greatly appreciate your attention to this. Thank you TCS parents!



TCS Dress Code

Parents please be aware of the TCS Dress Code as found in the TCS Parent Handbook. ***Please be sure all logos on clothing, school supplies and other items brought to TCS uphold the values of the school.*** Thank you parents in advance for your support with this. Please remember:

Dress Code

- No clothing that inappropriately reveals the body (short skirts, halter tops, muscle shirts).
- No bare midriffs.
- No torn jeans/short shorts.
- No exposed underwear (ensure wide shoulder straps). Clothing must cover all undergarments completely.
- No negative or inappropriate slogans/advertising on clothing articles.
- No hats/caps are to be worn in class.
- Shorts need to be appropriate in length – half the length to the knees when standing.
- Indoor shoes are to be worn at all times while inside the school.

Students dressed inappropriately will be required to change or will be handed a Timothy shirt until a change of clothes can be delivered from home.

All students are required to have a pair of indoor shoes for classroom and gym use. In addition, students in Grade 5 – 8 need gym shorts and a change of shirt for their gym classes.

Dress Code for Physical Education/Team Sports

- Mandatory changing into gym attire for PE class for gr. 5-8
- Students must wear appropriate length athletic shorts/track pants and T-shirts
- No spandex
- Appropriate athletic footwear
- For team sports, members must wear provided TCS attire and follow the above requirements as well.

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PITCH Opportunity:: We are looking for 2 parents to help at a Kiss and Ride lane at the front of the school. This is a 15 min commitment (8:30 to 8:45am) each morning AND / OR 15 min commitment (3:20 to 3:35pm) each afternoon. In one week you can earn 1.25 PITCH hours. Please contact the office if you can help.

Parent Google Groups

To assist with communication from the school, the office has created google groups. You should have received an email indicating that you have been added to a group. *Please note that there is no chat for you to access, this is merely for administrative purposes for outgoing messages from the school office or classroom.* These groups assist with batch emails and may go to your spam folder so be sure you have indicated that messages coming from the school domain (@timothychristianschool.ca) are safe. Ensure that you have added the office and your child(ren)'s teacher emails in your contacts to prevent messages going to spam. Thank you!

Celebrating Birthdays at School

Please refrain from sending *birthday treats into the classroom. Some classes may have a number of birthdays in the same week and could face the challenge* of a number of sugary treats coming to school all at once. Sugar isn't a component of an optimum learning environment and so we ask that birthday sugary treats stay at home. As staff, we greatly appreciate you keeping treats at home!

Also, Parents please be mindful of how you invite students to a birthday party as birthdays can be a very emotional event with lots of excitement and pressure. When planning the party, you might consider inviting the entire class if possible, or maybe inviting all the boys or girls. This helps to create an event that everyone can share in and facilitates building relationships. In terms of invitations, the school's preference is that invitations are emailed to families and not handed out at school (see the family directory in Sycamore for family emails as the office and classroom teachers will not be sharing emails). We thank you in advance for your care in attempting to not hurt anyone's feelings. It can be devastating for a student to see invites being handed out and not get one themselves.

Absences / Lates / Change in after school routine

For any days your child will be late to school or absent, or if there will be a change to his/her after school routine, please communicate with the office and the homeroom teacher. Please communicate by:

- By 8:45am, before the first bell, for absences / lates ... All late students must report to the office for a late slip. Remember the bell rings at 8:45am. Students that arrive in class after 8:50am are marked late.
- 2pm for changes to the after school routine



We understand emergencies happen, but late changes to the after school routine can affect the rest of the school at a very busy time of day. Thank you in advance for your understanding in this process!

The TCS office can be reached:

- By email: tcsген@timothychristianschool.ca
- By telephone: 705-726-6621 x221

TCS School Directory: Family & Employee

Remember you have access to our TCS family contact information as well as our TCS staff emails in Sycamore. Log in to your Sycamore School account via <https://app.sycamoreschool.com/index.php?schoolid=3982>. You will find the family and employee directories under "Front Office" in the menu. You can print this by clicking the blue "PRINT" in the top right of the page. Family contact info and emails will not be shared from the office or classroom.

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Illness: When to stay home

After an illness, students are welcome back to school when there have been 24 hours without symptoms (meaning your child has been 24 hours without a fever, has not been vomiting, has not had diarrhea, etc.) Coughing and runny noses are sometimes common at school so that shouldn't keep a child at home unless the child is unable to cope or manage independently wiping his/her nose or coughing into the elbow, and the runny nose or coughing isn't a constant interruption or disturbance to the class. Thank you in advance for your consideration with this! Any questions, please ask the office.

**re-Source Thrift Shop South - 28 Commerce Park Drive, Unit B**

One of TCS' financial supporters is the re-Source Thrift Shop South and we very much appreciate the shop's dedication and support! TCS parents, this is a great place to volunteer a few hours a month / week to get to know the TCS community. Please note that although the hours spent at the thrift shop do benefit TCS in a roundabout way, the hours do not qualify as a PITCH opportunity. But, please don't be put off by that, the team is fun to work with and you will be raising funds to support many great community organizations, including TCS! If you can donate a few hours a month, the shop would love to have you join the team. If you can help, or have questions, please email resource.barrie@outlook.com or drop in and speak with the shop manager.



Also, please consider donating your used items (please no furniture as space is limited) as that is what keeps the store generating funds! The re-Source Thrift Shop is looking for donations of gently used clothing and housewares. Please drop them off at the shop during office hours: Mon-Thu - 10am - 5pm, Friday - 10am - 4pm, and Saturday - 10am - 5pm. Please be aware that the shop does not take the following items:



Take some time to drop by the shop and look around, there is always a treasure waiting to be found! The thrift shop can be found behind the Mapleview Walmart at 28 Commerce Park Drive, Unit B.

Bradford Greenhouses Fundraising Program

When you are shopping for fall gardening and lawn supplies and home decor, please remember our fundraising program with Bradford Greenhouses (in Barrie or in Bradford). Before the cashier starts to ring through your purchases please mention that you would like your purchase to support Timothy Christian School. Thank you!



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A BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer.

Today, we pray for our children as they begin their new school year.

Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy.

Grant teachers wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

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