



TIMOTHY

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



From the Principal...

All TCS School Activities for April Postponed or Cancelled

Due to the province of Ontario closing schools now until May 4th (the earliest schools could open), all school activities at TCS in the month of April are cancelled or postponed. That means that both the Celebration of Learning and Grandparents Day (both were set for the end of next week) are cancelled at this time. It is very unlikely we will be able to reschedule either of these activities this year yet, and for the safety of our TCS grandparents and grandfriends, it would not be wise in this present setting. On the optimistic side, we hope to see school start again sometime in May or, even for the month of June. We will know closer to the end of April what the possibility of having school open this year yet will be.

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

We have a wonderful TCS community that we all deeply appreciate. **And we miss each other!** As I mentioned in the Monday morning video greeting, and that so many parents shared through their car windows when we did the grade 3-8 textbook pick up; we miss the connection, the laughs, the smiles, and the morning greetings! *So... let's redeem the times* and send each other a few short video clips to cheer each other up these days! Calling all TCS families to join us as we reach out to one another to BREATHE LIFE into this situation and encourage one another right now! We are asking that families create a video of encouragement to help our TCS community to feel connected, even if it's from a distance. We are all feeling the effects of this closure in one way or another, but we want to let you know we're still here in spirit! **Will you be willing to join us and lift each other up??** #INTHISTOGETHERTCSBARRIE... All the videos will need to be sent to Michelle Roberts: mroberts@timothychristianschool.ca. Once approved, we will be uploading two a week to start and, if we have an outpouring of many, many videos, we can increase this over time. If you would like to join us and encourage others within our community, we could really use your help.

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 (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! The first two will be posted on Monday!

1 “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” – Psalm 139:14

TCS Parent Survey—Open until Wednesday Night

Last week we sent out a TCS parent survey to your emails. This was sent out right after the newsletter went out last Monday. Presently we have heard from 70 out of our 133 TCS families. We will be leaving this survey open today and all day Wednesday in hopes of hearing from the rest of our TCS families. All of your feedback has been read and reviewed already and will be printed off again at the end of the day this Wednesday to capture any feedback that still comes in over the next two days. Don't worry if you miss this chance—we will do it again in a few weeks. This is an ongoing process and feedback helps us adjust in real time to this very different school/learning situation.

Some quick themes from survey responses (so far):

- A lot of appreciation from our TCS parents for the staff/administration starting the Teacher-Led Online Learning Pathway so fast after the break. Parents appreciated the quick response and the fact that this was launched already the Wednesday after the break with very little delay. This was a very strong theme in the survey.
- Much appreciation from parents for staff quickly organizing both the grade 3-8 textbook pick up day and the JK-2 delivery of work to parents' homes at the end of last week (parents really appreciated getting some of these books and work into the hands of their children to help with the learning process).
- One of the challenges from the first week was the balance of homework and assignments (as in how much time this was taking during a day for students to complete work). One of the reasons this is so challenging is because each household is a very, very different learning environment and very unique for each family. Staff adjusted by making it very clear what is expected to be done (mandatory) and what are the extra areas (or things that can be done if the basics were done but still good concept reinforcement). This adjustment helped families tremendously and made it easier for parents to know what is mandatory and what are the extra reinforcement items students can work on.
- Another challenge was helping students better understand the concepts of the lessons (that teachers are sending and parents facilitating). Three things that TCS staff added to help parents with this was Google Meet times for the upper grades (where students can interact directly at certain times of the day with their teacher and hear a lesson taught/processed), personal phone calls, and teaching videos that teachers are now sending to help students understand lessons better.

At the end of last week, all classroom teachers had received document cameras to help them work from home on video lessons for students. There was a very steep learning curve for TCS staff in this area with some training needed. Most teachers are learning quickly how to use and teach this way to better support students in learning new concepts. We encourage you to take full advantage of these additions and especially the times of the day the students in older grades can interact with their teachers through Google Classroom and Google Meet.

The above items are a quick look at some main themes and how TCS staff have adjusted so far. We will keep refining as we go and this process is growing as we become aware of the needs from your feedback. When in doubt, contact your classroom teacher or give feedback in the parent survey that will still be open until Wednesday night this week. We would also like to find a way to deliver some final items for grades 3-8 students who did not pick up the textbooks last week.

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/1n7j6v8WZk1Co7zuIqQtC0XJf4nujvtT6Y-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.

Board Highlights

- The Board has been meeting weekly (via conference calls) since the school closure was announced before the break, to ensure the ongoing organizational health of Timothy Christian School
- The Board has invested in technology (document cameras for classroom teachers) to ensure the staff have proper equipment at home to facilitate the Teacher-Led Online Learning Pathway
- The Board is discussing how the Spring Society Meeting will look and are discussing using an online platform to perform the meeting
- The province recently announced that May 4th is the date that schools are to be closed until (announced last week).
- The Board is so proud of the TCS Administration and Staff for all the hard work and dedication they have put into getting the Teacher-Led Online Learning Pathway developed and so quickly set up right after the break. Thank you for the tremendous job! Thank you to the TCS community and parents for your graciousness in this journey and for supporting us and the staff as we navigate this new learning landscape together.

Yearbooks Available Online - Deadline April 17

The deadline for ordering yearbooks online is this week Friday, April 17! They are \$20 each. You can order your Yearbook online by going to ybpay.lifetouch.ca and enter the Yearbook ID Code: 13034520. We are planning on including a section about this season of online learning, one to be remembered for sure!!

TCS Golf Tournament Update

In this uncertain time of self-isolation due to COVID-19; we are all walking through these health measures together as a community. In light of this unforeseen and unfortunate reality, we regret to inform you, that the 2020 Annual TCS Golf Tournament will be cancelled and rescheduled for the Spring of 2021. If you have any questions regarding this decision, please feel free to contact us. We pray that you're all well and taking great care of yourself and your families.



TIMOTHY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Golf Tournament 2020
Update Announcement...

STAY SAFE | STAY HOME

DUE TO COVID-19
and the situation within
our community, TCS will
be cancelling the
Golf Tournament
for 2020.

*We pray for your health and
that of those you love.*

Pizza Orders Cancelled for April to June

Due to these unforeseen circumstances, the pizza orders for the remainder of the year will be cancelled. No cheques or payment received before March Break have been deposited (as the due date wasn't until March 25). We will get these payments back to you as soon as we are able. We apologize for the inconvenience. Hopefully you can enjoy a pizza lunch every now and then at home for now!! 😊

**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 Roberts, Robertson, and Rose families during devotions this week. May you feel God's ever ready presence in your decisions and experiences.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM ALL OF US AT TCS!

- April 13: Tyler (7), Autum (8)
- April 14: Klara (SK), Katrina (4)
- April 15: Lilah (2), Jackson (3), Mireya (3)
- April 16: Kairan (SK), Mrs. Covert
- April 18: Maile (6)
- April 19: Alex (4)

happy
birthday