TIMOTHY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



From the Principal...

DECEMBER

18 Christmas Chapel
12-1:30pm – Grade 8 Skate @ Holly CC
2pm - Early Dismissal from TCS

21 – Jan. 1 CHRISTMAS BREAK!

Christmas Program Moved to Video Format

As a TCS staff, we have decided to put together a TCS Christmas video in place of the Christmas Program which will not take place this year due to COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings. Our plan is to record this video of each class doing something unique for the TCS community on December 4th and we hope to have it all edited and sent out to our community in the last week before the break. More details to follow.

This video will be sent out as a private, unlisted YouTube video to our community, and it may be shared with a couple retirement homes to help cheer them up this season following a particularly hard year. **If you DO NOT want your child to participate in this video**, please email their homeroom teacher and CC the office to inform them that you do not want them to participate in the video. We will be recording for this video this Friday afternoon from 1:00 - 3:15pm.

Bus Cancellation Days at TCS

For all our new parents, *TCS will remain open for the majority of bus cancellation days in the winter.* Several years ago, the Board made the call to keep TCS open during the times when our bus company cancels the buses (due to weather conditions) which can be several times during a winter season (anywhere from 3-10). Please note that with COVID-19 restrictions, there will be no mixing of the cohorts (classes). So all students attending school on bus cancellation days will need to remain in their classrooms for the majority of the day. In past years we were able to mix groups, but we are not able to do that this year due to COVID-19 guidelines. Meaning even if there are only one or two students in a class, they will remain in their class for the full day. As usual, there will be no "new curriculum" taught on those days as most of the time only 20-50 students attend TCS on a bus cancellation day.

We do reserve the right to close the school on occasions where the weather is extremely dangerous, such as extreme lack of visibility (blizzards/severe snowstorms) or extreme ice. In all situations (bus cancellation or closing of school), **we email all TCS parents by 6:30am** to inform you of the situation. Parents, please ensure the TCS office has your current email address on record so you receive this information in the morning. If you are ever in doubt, our buses are cancelled when the Simcoe County District School Board cancels buses. If this website shows buses are cancelled (https://simcoecountyschoolbus.ca), that means our email is coming soon to let you know. A reminder to all parents who send their children to school on bus cancellation days, that drop off time is 8:35-8:45am and pick up is 3:25-3:35pm.



"...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

Grade 2 Bullying Awareness Chapel Friday

A huge thank you to Grade 2 for presenting the Bullying Awareness chapel last Friday. They did a great job reminding the entire student body that:

1. We all stand together and need to stand for each other
2. We don't need to 'react' to situations but rather need to respond appropriately
3. They challenged us to "Be a Way Maker" by finding another way
4. We can't be bystanders - we must all step in to support each other
5. A "Way Maker" looks like... being able to apologize, helping someone when hurt, listening to someone

Thank you grade two... for reminding us about these important areas! **At TCS… we don't tolerate bullying**, we won't be bystanders and we will never simply let it go. We will bravely deal with it appropriately and consistently at all levels of the school and work hard to eliminate it from our school. Deliberately hurting someone has no place in our community.

Grades 3 to 8 Student Culture Survey this week

Once in the fall and again in the spring, we survey our students in grades 3-8 in what we call a *Student Culture Survey*. This is a short survey that students fill out that asks if anyone in their class is being bullied or put down, who is doing it, and how long it has gone on. They are not required to sign it (but it certainly helps if we need to follow up with a comment). This helps staff and administration keep their 'finger on the pulse' of what is happening in each class and allow students a platform twice a year to bring any items to our attention. Students can and should bring any bullying items to the attention of their teachers at any time of the year, but the grade 3-8 Student Culture Survey deliberately tags two times a year when we ask students the hard questions privately in writing. The homeroom teacher then reviews the surveys and writes a short summary for the principal and hands them in to the principal who shares the big picture with the Vice-Principal and follows up when necessary. That way both the teachers and the administrators are fully in the loop of the student culture issues of TCS. This fits nicely with the Grade 2 chapel that happened on Friday which reminded all of us to stand up and stand for each other.

New Board Orientation on December 7th - led by Edvance

We have invited Ray Hendricks from Edvance Christian Schools Association (formally OACS) to run our yearly New Board Orientation next week. A reminder to all Board members, this will run from 6-7:30pm on Monday, December 7th with all Board members expected to attend. Departing Board members will join us at 7:30pm.

New Staff Introduction Video from the TCS Fall Society Meeting

This introduction of new staff members was presented at the TCS Society meeting last week. We experienced some internet issues which caused the video to lag during the meeting, so here is the link if you'd like to see it again: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Lksb68z-ThyEVZHndR_DQt99KSEIrfj2/view?usp=sharing



Mid-Day Cleaner needed on Thursdays

We are in need of another cleaner for our mid-day cleaning crew to come in from 12:37-1:07 to do a clean of high touch areas while the students are outside for recess. If you're interested in this way to get in some PITCH hours, please email mandbhuitema@hotmail.com for more details.



Early Dismissal on December 18 (No Family Skate)

Like every last day before the Christmas break, **buses will be leaving at 2pm from TCS** (as opposed to leaving from Holly Community Centre like other years). To keep the festive spirit and excitement of the holidays this year, we will be keeping with the early dismissal on December 18th. There will not be an 'all school skate' because of the limitations of the Holly Community Centre to only 25 skating at one time and only from the same class in a school. We have decided to allow our grade 8 class to enjoy this skate since this is just the right size for their class of students and being that they are our graduating class this year, we wanted them to have this special honour on December 18th.

Thank You!



As winter approaches, we just wanted to send out another big thank you to our dedicated grass cutting team. They help keep our school yard looking great for the entire year before the snow flies. Thank you for your time and effort, you are a blessing to our community.

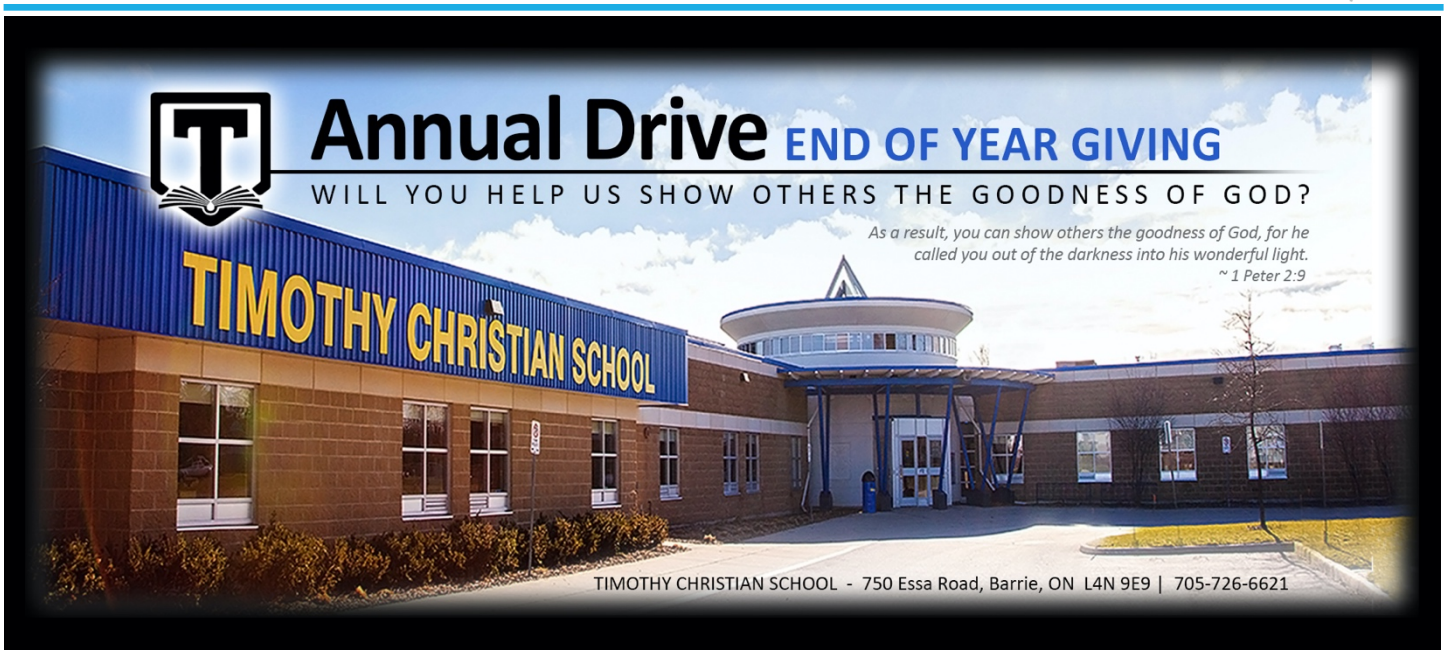
Note about Teacher Christmas Gifts

We have had a few parents asking how they can bless their teachers with thank you gifts during the Christmas season when we have so many restrictions around items coming from home. Christmas Gifts for teachers may come in through students. Teachers will have to take extra precautions with any gifts that are brought in for them like placing them immediately in a box that will be taken home. Then taking precautions at home being careful to wipe and clean items before handling. Not opening them with students (as some teachers have done in the past), and teachers will have to use their own discretion on hand washing and sanitation when they do open their gifts from students in the privacy of their homes. We understand some parents may want to say thank you to their teacher and we certainly don't want to take this away, but also want to be wise about staying safe and this way should support both of those.

TCS Testimonials and PITCH hours

We would like to thank the few families who have come forward willing to volunteer to provide a video testimonial for our TCS website. We are still looking for more families, are you interested in sharing a TCS experience, memory of your first year, a graduation or possibly an alumni story? We would like to offer PITCH hours to these families as they are giving of their time and provide a valuable and enriching component to our community. We will provide each family with a separate email regarding their PITCH hours earned. If you have a great TCS story that would benefit a prospective family, and you're willing to share it, please contact Michelle Roberts to make arrangements. Email: mroberts@timothychristianschool.ca





Our theme this year at TCS is based on 1 Peter 2:9 "...As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light." As the year draws to a close, we would like to present the opportunity to support our TCS Annual Drive Campaign - End of Year Giving.

https://www.christianschoolfoundation.ca/donate-individual/?donate_to=Timothy-Barrie

Firstly, we would like to thank those who were able to support TCS last year. It was a challenging time of rapid change to end the school year in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, but TCS was well positioned to adapt quickly to online learning in a way that continued to provide a vibrant and leading edge learning environment to our students. This year sees TCS with continued dependence on our donor community. The Annual Drive is a key fundraising initiative to assist with our operating costs to keep tuition as affordable as possible for all current and inquiring families. We are asking our local community to partner with us as together we invest in Christian education in Barrie. Through your giving, please join us this year in "Fearless Faith" on our mission to provide an affordable, Christian worldview environment that delivers quality education and inspires children to be alive in Christ! Thank you in advance for your support.

Annual Drive END OF YEAR GIVING

FOR TIMOTHY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, BARRIE

Please complete all the information and enclose with your donation.

☐ MONTHLY: ☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $250 ☐ OTHER: $ _____

☐ ONE-TIME: ☐ $100 ☐ $250 ☐ $500 ☐ $1000 ☐ OTHER: $ _____

☐ Cheque or cash *(Payable to Timothy Christian School, NOTE: Annual Drive)*

☐ TCS website: **"SUPPORT TCS" link at www.timothychristianschool.ca**

☐ Credit Card: Visa or Mastercard *(Complete informaiton or call the school to provide)*

NAME ON CARD: _____

CARD NUMBER: _____

EXPIRY DATE: _____ SECURITY CODE: _____

AMOUNT of GIFT: _____

Thank you in advance for supporting the TCS Annual Drive.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

PROVINCE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE FOR CONVENIENCE:

Visit our website at: **www.timothychristianschool.ca** and click the **"Support TCS"** link & "Donate Now" tab.

**Online giving is administered with the assistance of the Christian School Foundation.*

**For any inquires about our Annual Drive campaign, please contact our Development Director; Michelle Roberts at mroberts@timothychristianschool.ca or call 705-726-6621 ext. 228*