



# TIMOTHY

## CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



### From the Principal...

#### Back to School Announcement Coming on Wednesday

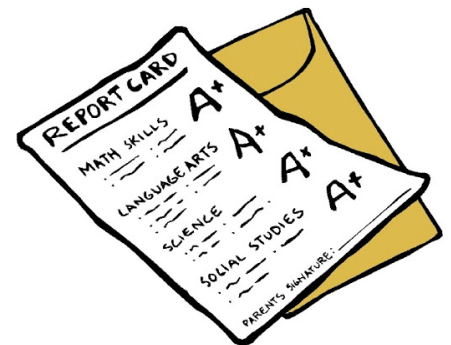
We have been told there will be an announcement coming from the Ministry of Education this Wednesday informing parents which regions will be allowed back to school. Although it is challenging to speculate, there is a sense that the province wishes to have all students back to school face to face within the next week or two. As soon as the news release comes out, within 24 hours (hopefully by Thursday evening) you will receive a memo from the TCS front office with some 'back to school' details.

Parents, a heads up that the province has now mandated *masks for students in grades 1-3* in addition to all students in grades 4-8. Primary parents, please begin to prepare your students in grades 1, 2 and 3 for that change as they think about returning to school. Masks will be mandatory for all students in grades 1 - 8 in the school building as well as on the bus. We will be monitoring outdoor activities closely to determine if social distancing is being followed before we make it mandatory outside. If students can maintain a healthy distance at recess outside, it will not be necessary but, if not that would also be an additional change. We also anticipate that there will be a deeper screening process that includes self-isolation if you have been out of the province or in contact with someone who has had COVID. We will be asking our TCS parents to screen carefully and thoughtfully and to be extra vigilant on the home front.

#### Update on Report Cards

Your TCS staff have been busy this week working on completing term one report cards. A few things to keep in mind:

1. The Kindergarten (both JK and SK) First Term report card has been adjusted to allow for an authentic reflection of JK and SK students progress thus far in the school year. Students at this level require 1:1 oral assessments of their skills to report on the report card. Due to our online learning in January the Kindergarten team of teachers have not been able to do this essential assessment before the report cards are released to parents. It is for this reason that we have designed a special First Term Report Card for Kindergarten students. This format allows teachers to authentically highlight skill achievement levels through check marks that were observed in the first 4 months of school, and provide a valuable anecdotal comment. This anecdotal comment allows teachers to share their observations concerning specific learning and thus provide a professional snapshot of your child's progression thus far. SK students will have a PM Benchmark assessment completed upon their return to in-class learning.
2. A Different Look for Grade 1-8 Report Cards: 95% of the format of the grades 1-8 report cards are the same as in the years past but we did clean up a few repeated areas as well as change the layout a bit as we had to make it work with our new school management software. You will see minor changes as we updated them in the process.
3. Report Cards to Parents: According to our yearly calendar, the report cards go home to parents on Wednesday, February 10. We are sincerely hoping this date also lands on our first day back to school. We would like to send the report cards home with students, but will make this call as soon as we hear about the back to school date. If the dates are close, we may wait until we are back at school to avoid long delays in the mailing of the report cards home.



1 "...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

**Board Reflections from February Meeting**

- The Board began preliminary discussions about how to deal with PITCH (volunteer program) for this year and is looking into how to accommodate extenuating circumstances. The Board is willing to show grace for families that need it while also keeping the PITCH program strong and hoping TCS families can put in some hours this year.
- The Board is presently accepting names for nominees for Board members. Suggestions can be submitted to [kristawesterneng@hotmail.com](mailto:kristawesterneng@hotmail.com) (Board Secretary).
- The TCS Board reviewed the feedback that was received from the recent parent survey and was pleased that the majority of our TCS parents were grateful for the online program while giving helpful feedback and suggestions.
- The TCS Admin team is presently reviewing and receiving health unit updates on COVID-19 protocols to prepare for school reopening in the weeks ahead.

**Summary of the Feedback from the TCS Parent Survey from last week:**

Last week we invited all of our parents to give us feedback on how the online program was going. There were 42 of our TCS families who filled out the survey that was in the TCS newsletter last week Monday.

Below is a summary of the results:

1. Homework Balance
  - a. 34 out of 42 (81%) said... "homework is right on/good balance"
  - b. 7 out of 42... said "too much homework"
  - c. 1 out of 42... said "too little homework"
2. Top areas our TCS Parents Appreciated about the Online program:
  - a. 21/42... (58%)...of our TCS parents surveyed appreciated the speciality Fridays
  - b. 17/42... (47%)...appreciated the clear assignments
  - c. 5/42... (14%) The extra EA support
3. What Could Teachers Change to make it better?
  - a. Posting early on Monday (8am) or on the weekend (but not Sunday) or the Friday before (2 comments)
  - b. More live teaching or ability to get to teachers (3 comments in this area)
  - c. Teachers doing a great job (3 plus)
4. Is Google Classroom clear and working for you?
  - a. 90% of parents surveyed responded with 'yes'
  - b. Three 'no'
5. What part of Google Classroom could we improve?
  - a. Majority was very positive comments in this area
  - b. More clarity for the three who stated "no" to above
6. Any Final Thoughts you would like to Share with the Staff?
  - a. 20 plus of the comments were very positive and appreciative to TCS staff/admin on how things were going
  - b. More live teaching (1 comment)
  - c. More teacher check-ins (1 comment)
  - d. The added subjects make it harder (1 comment)



In summary, as both the administration and the Board of Directors processed this feedback in detail over the past few days, we are thankful for this feedback from our TCS parents. The survey confirms that the online program is working well for the majority of our TCS families, the workload is at a good balance and the changes/improvements we made to the online program are appreciated. Thank you, parents, for taking the time to give this feedback and the wonderful support for your TCS staff! Much appreciated!

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**Administrative Assistant Position – Resumes Still Coming In!**

If you know of anyone interested in this position or who you feel would be a great fit for the TCS front office, please pass on this information to them. We will continue to receive resumes until February 26. You can find more information here: <https://jobboard.edvance.ca/job/timothy-christian-school-750-essa-road-barrie-on-canada-full-time-administrative-assistant-permanent-position/?fbclid=IwAR2PSKV7ab2zXKELm-ppL-pNcK-Q2u2BzWJrXmsFOUqaHpZ6Dv0dUGsHg9A>

TCS has a priority skills list that we will be using to screen applicants that includes Computer/Tech Skills, People Skills, Organization/Multitasking, Confidentiality and Quality Control skills (which includes spelling/publishing, etc.) for this position. All candidates who apply will be asked to do a self-evaluation in these areas to help with the short-listing process in February.

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 22<sup>nd</sup>. Resumes will be accepted for this position until February 26<sup>th</sup> 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 plan to offer this position before the March Break.



## Supporting Students

**Supporting Students Campaign: Public Use of Student Funds**

Did you have a chance to send a letter yet or join the campaign? Parents from Edvance (formerly OACS) schools have been sending the information below to their MPP's and they are hearing from a lot of families in independent schools. IT IS WORKING! They are listening to the feedback. If you have not participated in this, please consider sending a form letter as the wave of voices is certainly being heard.

Did you know that our federal government has provided 381 million dollars to help students during the pandemic but none of these funds will be making their way to the independent schools (any Christian or private schools)? Visit <https://www.supportingstudents.ca/> to join the campaign and get regular progress updates. They also give you a template letter you can send to your MPP to share your personal story on how the pandemic is impacting your school. If you have a minute over the holidays to voice your concerns it would be appreciated. We encourage you to like the [Supporting Students page on Facebook](#) to keep in touch with their latest updates.

