

SEMESTER 1 Term 1 NEWSLETTER No. 2

24 February 2006

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

As we draw to the close of the fourth week of the term it is good perhaps to look back over the past weeks and assess how we have travelled. There is no getting away from the fact that it has been an extremely busy time for all. On top of the normal load that each staff member is expected to carry, are a number of other 'new' responsibilities that need to be attended to. This is in the nature of a growing organisation. There is a tendency to add to the load in the quest for a better product and often we forget to take the time to discard that which is no longer of relevance.

Despite all of this, the impression gained from chats with parents over the past weeks indicates that we have had a blessedly smooth start to the year. I want to express my appreciation to all staff at TCC for the part that each has played in this.

At the Commencement Service and in the last newsletter I quoted a number of points from a Research Document produced by ex-minister of education, the Hon. Brendon Nelson. The document, titled *High Demand Schools* highlighted a number of criteria that parents, wishing to send their students to a "Good School", recognise as being desirable.

One of the points that are highlighted reads as follows:

Parental involvement that creates a sense of connectedness & support for the school in respect of values and academic standards.

The *keywords* in this descriptor are ***involvement, connectedness*** and ***support***.

One way of assisting and empowering your child to better integration and productivity at school is to share in their academic walk:

- Take an interest in their school work.
- Oversee their homework by ensuring an undisturbed environment and specific times for task completion.
- Maintain the Homework Diary system – sign off daily.

- Offer critical (both positive and negative) comments on what you see in their work books.
- Listen to their comments on life at school and try to remain impartial in your responses, especially when teachers and their relative merits and failings are discussed.

In interviews with new parents I try to encourage their involvement in the school in some way. For many families, with both parents working, this involvement may be limited to building relationships with the staff who teach their children. For others it may be volunteering in the classroom, assisting with sports activities, serving on a committee or becoming involved with a prayer group. The options are really limitless – if you have a passion for assisting in a certain area let us know!

One thing is certain though: children of parents who are positively involved in school tend to feel more secure in the school environment and, as a result, they become more confident and this leads to better achievement.

So, in 2006 we look forward to building on a solid foundation of positive relationships at TCC!

May you all enjoy a blessed week!

Bill Innes
ACTING PRINCIPAL

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS & GUARDIANS

You children will not be permitted to attend any off-campus excursions until you have completed and returned their Permission Slips.

These were sent out with the last Newsletter. If you have misplaced yours, you can obtain another one from the Student Services office. NOTE: One form needs to be completed for EACH child attending TCC.

Please be aware that your children will be attending the annual Inter-house Swimming Carnival in a weeks time but they will have to have returned their Permission Slips in order to participate.

FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL COORDINATOR

At the Senior School assembly a couple of weeks ago, I spoke to the students about how they can invest their time or just *spend* their time in relation to the effort they put into their studies and work. If time is invested wisely it will bring a return, but if it is just spent then it is gone forever. For instance for the student who works diligently at school, those hours are time invested, while for a lazy student, hours at school are just time spent. I suggested to them that they list on a sheet of paper the hours invested and the hours just spent.

Next week all students will be putting together study timetables. They will be given blank timetables to fill in to help them balance the competing elements of their lives, and to ensure that their time is invested appropriately. Students who cannot commit sufficient time to their homework and study for 1½ hours in Yr 10, graduating to 3 hours a night in Yr 11 and 12, are not being fair to themselves, their parents or their teachers.

We ask parents to support us in our endeavours to assist the children in reaching their full potential and to make the best investment choices, by signing the weekly programme they have set up, and from time to time checking to see if the timetable needs to be adjusted.

PARENT INFORMATION AND MEET THE TEACHER EVENING

It was very encouraging to see the support given at our meeting last Wednesday evening. Thank you to the parents who were able to attend.

ACADEMIC GOAL SETTING BOOKLETS

All students in the Senior School have been given an *Academic Goal Setting Booklet* to complete to assist them in setting some goals for the semester. It is suggested that this is a combined effort between parent and child, realistically considering their aspirations and a planned approach to study and learning. A reminder that these booklets must be returned by **February 28**.

CHANGING SUBJECTS

Next week (week 5) will be the final week for students contemplating a change in subjects.

NEW STUDENT

We welcome **Lynn Crawford, a Year 12 student and her family** to T.C.C. We pray that God will truly bless her as she shares in the life of the College.

SENIOR COLLEGE BALL

Letters will be sent home shortly to all Year 11 and 12 parents and students explaining various expectations with regard to the Ball. Each student is permitted to invite a friend. If the friend is not a student at the College it will be necessary for an interview to be arranged for the friend to meet with the Principal and Mrs Balding. The Ball will be held on **Friday April 28** at the **Fremantle Sailing Club**.

WORK EXPERIENCE - YEAR 10

All Year 10 students will be given the opportunity to have a "taste" of a real work environment in an industry of their choice for one week, the third week of term three.

July 31 – August 4.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Prefects are raring to go and to put into practice all they have learned from the retreat they completed last Saturday. This was a one-day event preparing them for their year ahead as leaders of the College. The day was filled with guest speakers, speaking on their roles as leaders in the College and Leadership from a Christian perspective. The day concluded with some fun and fellowship at the beach and over tea.

Last week students were elected as Student Council representatives for their particular forms and House Captains for the four Houses. Each was presented with their badge at assembly on Thursday. The following are to be congratulated on their appointments.

Student Councillors

Year 6	Brooke Marshall Bradley Dusting Tori Pickens Jake Lemmer Tegan La Hogue Nicholas Coombe
Year 7	Breanne Carter Ian Chan
Year 8	Matt Storer Hannah Wallis
Year 9	Charis Brinkman Gavin Larans Clinton Le Chat Lauren Hill
Year 10	Lennon Smartt Chloe Congram Amy Irvine Jacob Wojcik
Year 11	Aliasha Brennan Ashanti Wills Joseph Pitavanik Tony Batchelor
Year 12	Clairiss Francis Shawn Lee

House Captains

LEVI	Elara Coombe Brock Thomson
JOSEPH	Nissreen Bahbah Matthew Marsh
JUDAH	Mikaela Watts Joshua Monteiro
REUBEN	Kathryn van Niekerk Jeffery Larans

Junior School Captains

LEVI	Felicity Smith Cooper Lee
JOSEPH	Kerryn Hutcheson Jye Pickens
JUDAH	Marchè Bantum Amberlie Evans
REUBEN	Timothy Throssell Meagan Morris

Mrs Helen Balding
SENIOR SCHOOL COORDINATOR

FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL COORDINATOR

I would like to begin with a very big THANK YOU to those parents who attended the Parent Information Night last Wednesday evening. Your attendance was an encouragement to all of my staff and an indication of your support for TCC Middle School.

On a uniform note, your students are continuing to impress me with their willingness to comply with this next phase of the uniform changeover. Your support with this standard of dress is also of great importance and much appreciated.

I have issued your child a challenge! In an attempt to make your life a little easier and your child a little more independent, I challenged them to do a couple of things.

Firstly, to ask you how to operate the washing machine, unless they already can, and secondly to ask how to use the iron. I know how busy we can get as parents and to train a child in the art of ironing can have disastrous results if left unattended but to take responsibility for a school uniform will encourage them to take care of it and wear it with pride as an achievement of success. Food for thought!

Have a great week.

Peter Worth
MIDDLE SCHOOL COORDINATOR

FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL COORDINATORS

Today some of the classroom teachers have commented on those children who continually complete homework, and how much it shows in their class results. It just goes to highlight what an unbeatable combination teachers and parents can be when they are working together. We have noticed improvements in behaviour, uniform and morale. We appreciate the time and effort you give to your children given your busy lives – thank you.

To help our children be occupied and active during recess and lunch, each Primary Class has a sport box that a monitor is responsible for. Due to excessive use, some of our boxes are depleted so we are making a call to our parent body for donations of money or good quality sports equipment. The equipment/money that you donate will stay in the class that you designate for the use of that class only.

If sport equipment is not your “thing” than maybe “games” are. As an additional reward, we are starting up a class reward game box that will be presented during assembly to an outstanding class each fortnight. The class that demonstrates the greatest respect towards our school community and environment will receive the box which will be available for that class’s use during the following fortnight. If you would choose to donate a game it needs to be brand new and chosen from a list that is available from Mrs Keane. A family appreciation certificate can be placed on the game if you so choose. If money is your preferred option, it can be handed to the office in an envelope marked ‘Primary School Games Box’.

The year has gotten off to a great start, and we are looking forward to seeing how the term will unfold.

Mrs Sue Yardley
Mrs Corinna Keane
PRIMARY COORDINATORS



A friendly reminder to all parents who have children catching the school bus: Please ensure that your children are at the allocated pick up point five minutes before the allocated pick up time and ensure that students are visible to the drivers. Thank you.

GENERAL INFORMATION

DRAMA CLUB

MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB



On Tuesday February 21, a group of talented and enthusiastic Middle School Drama students met for the inaugural meeting of the TCC MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB

The club will meet weekly on Tuesdays, from 3:30-5:30 in the new Drama Room, throughout the school year.

Mr. Tobin wishes to congratulate all the members of the club who successfully went through the application and audition process. The College family can expect some exciting performances from these students throughout the year.



YEAR 12 DRAMA Important Term 1 Dates

- 1) Weeks 5 & 6, Lunch rehearsal – Mon/Fri, in preparation for Task 5.
- 2) Fri March 10, Drama Studies Small Group Moderation event 4:00-5:30pm at Somerville Baptist College.
- 3) Week 7, Fri Lunch Rehearsals begin - Our Town Production (Task 6)
- 4) Mon March 20, viewing film - Glass Menagerie 3:30-5:30 (optional)
- 5) Week of March 20, compulsory Night excursion - A DREAM PLAY at West Australian Academy of Performing Arts.
- 6) After school and lunch rehearsals begin for East Festival Tues or Wed (Production Support)
- 7) Thurs April 13 – Easter Festival
- 8) April School Holiday rehearsals – Our Town Production. 21, 26, 28 April.

**Mr Sean Tobin
DRAMA**

PE DEPARTMENT

A short thank you to all parents who are supporting their child's participation in physical education swimming sessions. Could it please be made aware that if a note is provided for not swimming, it ought to only be for a valid medical reason, as swimming is a part of their physical education assessment. Parent support in this area would be greatly appreciated.

As you may be aware, the College Inter-house Swimming carnival is quickly approaching. The senior carnival for students in year 7-12 will be held on **Tuesday March 7** and the junior carnival for students in year 3-6 will be held on **Wednesday March 8**. Further details of these events will be posted later this week.

If any parents are interested in providing a helping hand during one of these carnivals, it would be greatly appreciated. If you are able and willing to assist, please contact either Brendon Harders or Nikki McCormick at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

**Brendon Harders / Nikki McCormick
PE DEPARTMENT**

CHILD ABSENT? CALL THE SCHOOL!



PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM 1 FEBRUARY 2006 PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ARE REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO NOTIFY THE SCHOOL IF THEIR CHILD/REN ARE GOING TO BE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL. THIS NOTIFICATION MUST REACH THE SCHOOL BEFORE 9:00 A.M. ON THE DAY OF INTENDED ABSENCE.

BUILDING FUNDS DONATIONS

We invite your participation in our new building construction, by donating to our BUILDING FUND.

As you will have noticed, the new Science Block and Home Economics buildings have commenced, and soon we will have the new two class-room block and toilets in the Primary School too, all of which is very exciting, and we invite your contributions to these projects.

Also as you are aware, any donation to the THORNLIE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE is a taxable deduction in the hands of the donor.

We would appreciate your consideration of this request as you plan your giving for the year.

**Trevor Radbone
BUSINESS MA**

UNIFORM SHOP

Dear Parents of TCC,
My name is Mrs Robbie Wojcik. I have been a parent volunteer in the uniform shop over the last three years. As you are aware, I will be officially taking over the management of the uniform shop from Mrs Deb Heathcoat from **week 5. Mrs Heathcoat will be moving into the Student Services office. I'm sure you will join me in thanking Mrs Heathcoat who has done a wonderful job in managing the shop, especially in the area of introducing the smart new uniform.**

As I take on this new role, I will be relying on the patience and grace that you have shown in the past. Together, we can work towards a positive transition into the new TCC uniform and hope that you will encourage your child to do the same.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS: If you would like to volunteer in the uniform shop, please contact me as soon as possible. (Morning and/or afternoon volunteers are needed!)

WINTER ORDER FORMS: You should have received your winter order form in the last newsletter. If you have not, you can obtain one from the uniform shop. Please note that any orders received after the **9th March** will be charged a **5% late fee**. We obviously don't want to charge you any more, so *please* get your order in as soon as possible! This is how we can guarantee correct quantities are ordered for you.

PRE-LOVED UNIFORMS: We are in need of **good quality**, new style, pre-loved uniforms to sell in the shop. Once the item(s) are sold,

you will receive a credit to your account. Please note: we are not receiving any old-style uniforms to sell, however, if you would like to donate them to our African mission, you may. Only items that **DO NOT** have our school logo on them are sent to Africa.

May God have the glory in all that we do and say.

**Mrs Robbie Wojcik
UNIFORM SHOP COORDINATOR**

BUSHRANGERS 2006 PROGRAMME

Bush Rangers is preparing to start up again for 2006. We need all of the uniforms returned!

We want them back because:

- Your child can be issued with a uniform that fits them, they've probably grown over the holidays;
- If you're not coming back to Rangers this year you need to bring the uniform back to us;
- We need to check all items against the inventory and label them.

Please bring them back washed and ironed on Thursdays or Fridays to Mrs Brownhill in the library by no later than the 3rd March 2006.

Unfortunately there are always some that are never returned so invoices will be issued for non-returned items.

BUSH RANGERS '06

A CHAMPION IN THE MAKING!

Congratulations to Vikki Dilley who has been chosen as a member of a sporting team representing Western Australia at the Southern Cross Games in Auckland, New Zealand in April this year!



The Southern Cross Games is a biennial sporting event for students who have a vision impairment and provide a unique opportunity for students from Australia and the Pacific region to compete in swimming, athletics and team events.

Vikki's performance in sporting events at school last year has qualified her to be selected for this honour and we wish her God's richest blessings and a wonderfully memorable experience in Auckland. We look forward to many exciting stories on her return!

Bill Innes

UNDERSTANDING THE SCHOOL'S RESPONSES TO BULLYING

Bullying situations are often complicated and finding facts to define a clear account of the incident(s) can take a long time. Meanwhile the bullying can continue and in some cases get worse. Punishment for the behaviour may sometimes be used; however, this is rather like using 'bullying to stop bullying'.

The school priority is to stop the bullying and to try to reduce the chance of it happening again.

The key to stopping bullying is getting children to talk about what is happening and decide what to do to make the situation better for everyone. This approach is called the Method of Shared Concern and will be explained in the next edition of this newsletter.

Our school staff have been working to review our whole-school bullying policy which provides a statement of how students, teachers, staff and parents will respond to bullying situations. This policy is available from the school and all parents are encouraged to read it.

It is very important children have an understanding of behaviours that are expected of them and that these expectations are consistent at school and at home.

For more information on how our school manages bullying incidents, please ask your children's teachers or the school administration.



REMINDER
KOORONG KIDS
ORDERS

Koorong Kids orders for this term need to be in to your child's teacher by NEXT Monday 27th February, ready for collection at 9:00 a.m. Please note, the date on the brochure was a misprint.

Thank you,
Merica Wharton
KOORONG KIDS COORDINATOR

Looking for something a little different? Feel like driving a mini-bus?

TCC is looking for a parent with half an hour to spare at home-time in the afternoons, Monday to Friday.



We have a small group of children who need to be taken home and they all live within a 5 minute drive of the school.

You would need to obtain a Police Clearance and an F-class endorsement on your licence. The school would carry any costs involved.

If this interests you please contact our Registrar, Julia Kennington, on 9455 1607 at your earliest convenience.

SCHOOL FEES

The fees for term 1 (and previous) were due to be paid by February 20. If you do not have a payment plan in place, we ask you to pay your fees immediately.

We will be forwarding option charges for your attention very soon and we ask you to settle them immediately also.

As regards outstanding fees, there is a policy of payment in place, and we will be rigorous in the pursuit and collection of debts, which is always embarrassing but necessary to maintain cash flow and commitment. So we ask for your co-operation.

Please remember if you want to pay your fees for the whole year, the 5% discount still applies until February 28.

It would be remiss of the College if we did not thank families who have paid their fees for Term 1 and also the number who have paid the whole year's fees up front. We really appreciate your commitment. Thank you so much.

Trevor Radbone
Business Manager.