

Welcome to Teachers Talking e-newsletter



TEACHERS TALKING

FORWARD  
FROM  
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Hello Friend,

Welcome to Teachers Talking for 2019. One of the aims of the Excellence Centre is to bless and encourage teachers in the important role they play in a child's education. During Term 1, the Teachers Talking offerings will focus on the profound truth that humans are made in the image of God "*Imago Dei*". One of the most profound questions that are being asked in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is "What does it mean to be human?"

In our culture there is a crisis of the human spirit. Our young people are longing for a sense of identity that will bring meaning and fulfilment to their lives. The answer to the Psalmist's question "*What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?*" (Psalm 8:4) is core to understanding what it means to be human and how to flourish as a human being. The Lord Jesus through His Gospel work, came to restore in us our true humanity. Christian

education is about teaching students a new way of being human, directing their lives to the pathway God always intended them to walk. As teachers and school communities, we are to embody what it means to be Christ's new humanity.

We trust these talks will assist you as a teacher to explore with your students through their learning the wonder and depth of what it means that each one is a unique image-bearer of the living God.

*"You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour."* (Psalm 8:5)

Grace and Peace,

The Team



We have probably all been faced with students disengaged from learning evidenced by their question "why do we have to learn this?" Often the standard answers have been 'because it's in the test' or 'in the syllabus' or 'you need it to

get a job’.

Remember the goal of the educational journey is to raise a generation of young people who love God with their whole being, love their neighbours as themselves and cultivate God’s beautiful creation. Do we see our role as a teacher as providing ‘learning for earning’ or equipping them to be culture makers?

*“We are meant to be gardeners of God’s good world, we aren’t meant to leave it as we found it but rather to discover its richness, unfold its goodness and add to its beauty. We are designed to be cultivators ... in everything we do. Our achievements matter, because the culture we make lays down a track that someone else will run on.”* (Dr M Stephens)

Creativity is part of their intrinsic design as God is creative. This creativity can be expressed in many ways. Some students are practical builders – they love to build, fix and assemble, some are artistic, musical or dramatic, some love to express themselves through speaking or writing, some express their creativity through their physical capabilities, while others love working out scientific and mathematical problems. Both the artist and the accountant are imaging God and being productive.

Therefore culture-making will happen, the only question is what kind of culture will our students make?

- How can we direct them now and into the future to not build Babel but make a culture where human beings can flourish as God designed?
- Do we encourage students to use their artistic talents to reflect the truth and beauty of God’s world?
- How do we assist students to think about career choice whether it be as farmers, nurses, plumbers, teachers or engineers, to be part of their God given calling to make a difference in God’s world?
- How does our teaching and learning help to form students to live virtuous lives that reflect the character of Jesus?

Under the reign of God, human creativity is to be used to multiply good within the world. It is an act of love, a means of blessing and contributes to building a culture that brings glory to God as it reflects His nature. What a privilege it is for our students to learn to participate with God in the restoration of a broken but beautiful and amazing world.

“... let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven” (Matthew 5:16)

Grace and Peace



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