

Welcome to Teachers Talking e-newsletter



TEACHERS TALKING

FORWARD  
FROM  
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Hello Friend,

Welcome to our Series 5, Number 5 edition of Teachers Talking: "Blessing to the World". 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



The Christian school that is fulfilling its purpose is a signpost to the Kingdom of God. Our schools are to be shalom communities that embody in their cultures a picture of human flourishing. Teaching and learning is to engage the students

as whole people. As one school says, we want to produce students whose hearts love, whose minds grow and whose lives give. Our children are to be channels of grace in a groaning world.

In a small school, a hospitality group of K-6 students and two staff worked together to use their gifts and skills to plan and prepare food for a 'canteen day' where everyone could purchase recess and lunch (as normally students bring their own food). It was an enormous task. Drawing up a menu, working out how much food was needed, the cost and the preparation. After the delight of the community enjoying the food, the money was counted and the profit worked out. The group then could choose who they would bless with the profit. They chose to donate the money to a medical research fund as one of the students in the school had the particular degenerative condition which was the focus of the research fund. What joy they had to present this money at the school assembly. Through their service, they learnt to work collaboratively and creatively to achieve a task and they showed love to one in their midst who was suffering.

Albert Switzer (1875-1965), a renowned Christian medical missionary who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952 said *"To be civilised means approximately this: that in spite of modern civilization, we remain human. Only the most careful concern for everything which belongs to true human nature can preserve us, amid the conditions of the most advanced external civilization, from going astray from civilization itself. It is only if the longing to become again truly human is kindled in the man of today, that he will be able to find his way out of the confusion in which, blinded by the conceit of his knowledge and pride in his powers, he is at present wandering."*

As teachers, we need to see our role as not just preparing students for paid work but preparing them to be culture makers.

- Do we talk to our families and students about their hopes and fears for the future?
- In what ways can our students bless one another, the local community that surrounds their school and the wider world?
- How can we direct the student's desire to make culture that reflects the truth and goodness of God (the way of Jesus) rather than their own self-advancement?

Let us encourage our students to *"... seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, if it prospers, you*

too will prosper" (Jeremiah 29:7).

Grace and Peace



That's all for now, read more at [www.theexcellencecentre.org](http://www.theexcellencecentre.org)

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