K-6 Cross Country
Dear Parents,

We are well and truly into another year and it is exciting to see parents and families coming along and supporting different aspects of the school where and how they can in their different capacities.

Our P&F (Parents & Friends association) is only small, however over the years we have achieved some great things. We exist to uphold and reflect the values and Christian ethos of the school, positively and transparently participate in discussions and development regarding matters relevant to the school learning community, listen to, support and act on the school communities aspirations for the future and its goals and value, support and empower all students, families and educational staff in their teaching and learning journey, experience and involvement at Toronto.

P&F Projects

Over the past year and a bit some of the projects we have undertaken include; the outdoor classroom “Nest”, the quadrangle art, the “Welcome” garden and signage, the “Friendship Seat” garden, and the positive messaging signs around the school along with other activities where parents have supported school events with their time.

Projects we currently have actioned at various stages include the following

1) Welcome school notice board
2) Outdoor fire pit learning space
3) Increasing creative engaging play opportunities for students at recess and lunchtime
4) Writing of proposals to seek grants and funding for the school.

If you have any ideas, talents or resources in any of these (or other) areas and would like to help out please contact me (Tiani). Note: If you are willing to come onto the school grounds to assist with labour on any of these projects we welcome that, but it is required that you have a current WWCC number.

Getting involved

A school is made greater by the support of its parents! There are many ways that you can support our school to be great. Check out the ideas below

1) Pray for our school. Pray for the resilience of our students; the future and direction of the school, the well-being of staff and students etc.
2) Volunteer your ‘other time’ time (we all have so much of this...) to cut/laminate etc resources for the classroom. (Talk to your child’s teacher to see if there is anything they need done.)
3) Volunteer in the classroom: for gardening time on Wednesdays or another day for reading or other activities. Note: If you wish to volunteer at the school you will need a current WWCC number. Talk to your class teachers about your availabilities if this interests you. In the past we have even had some dads come in just for lunch times to play some sport with the students.
4) Come and join the school for chapel on Wednesday mornings. If we get more parents coming along we will start up our Wednesday morning prayer group again 8:50am till the kids arrive for chapel. Last year we were doing this and meeting in the parents room in the foyer of the church. As parents and friends of the school we prayed specifically for different aspects of school, student, teacher and volunteer life.
5) Share your ideas, discussion points with the P&F leader (Tiani Page) and help develop project proposals for things that will benefit our students and their teachers in their learning environments.
6) Volunteer your time to help with the manual labour for some of our projects as they arise and come to fruition. (Thanks to the many who have done this in the past!)

Staying in touch

Keeping in touch and informed will support our school in developing a strong sense of community and in being a great learning community with a real difference - that excites me! So, here are some ways that we can stay in touch and informed, build community and encourage the positive learning environment we all want.

1) When we do see each other - parents, volunteers and staff - make the effort to say hi (trust me, I know that sometimes it is hard and I just want to hide). Don’t be afraid to offer your name again or ask someone’s name for the third or fourth time - we all forget!
2) Discuss with your students their school day and what they value at school. We all forget!
3) Share with me (Tiani) your ideas, discussion points, concerns and loves of what is going on. The P&F is a place for positively supporting the learning environment we all (administration, staff, students, parents etc) want. I am your voice I want to hear your thoughts on matters.
4) In my capacity as P&F leader, I will be having regular fortnightly meetings with Miss Dias where I can share my voice and be the point of contact for the parent body as a whole.
5) I will distribute feedback from my meetings through a section in the newsletters or a letter sent out through the office.

I look forward to connecting with you all throughout the year.

Kind Regards
Tiani Page

NB: Feel free to contact me via the following
tiani.page@me.com
Via facebook or on 0423487932

If you want to check out all the videos of our school learning over the last year or two visit the Vimeo page linked here.
https://vimeo.com/user76219455
Message from the Principal

A BIG congratulations to our K-6 students for their participation in the Cross Country event this week. We are really proud of each and every child for their efforts. Shila and Hannah are off to HRIS in May. Well done, girls, on your outstanding achievements! We look forward to hearing all about HRIS after the holidays.

I’d like to extend special thanks to the teachers who have been looking after our K-2 class at this time. I am very grateful for all that Mrs Tasker, Mrs Greensill, Mrs van Duinen and Mrs Aveling have been doing to look after the students. They have just been such a blessing!

The K-2 teacher position has been advertised on our Adventist Schools website for the past fortnight. Applications for the job close today and shortly the process of interviewing candidates for the position will begin. I ask that you please pray for God’s guidance in this matter. Parents, I will continue to let you know what is happening in this space, however, I do want to stress that I am more than happy for you to contact me should you have any questions about the K-2 class.

I am always amazed at how much produce comes out of our school garden. This week more pumpkins have made their way to the office ready to be sold to some lucky families. Thank you for your continued support of our garden program, it really is making a big difference. Soon some brand new raised garden beds will be added to the garden. Other exciting developments are also planned. We have partnered with Avondale College and this means that they will be conducting some research about our garden program and in turn they will be supporting what we do. They have actually already been actively working to support us and have assisted with preparing an application for a government grant in the hope that we can add even more great things to our program. I ask that you please pray that the application is successful as this will mean that we will have even more improvements in the garden sooner than anticipated.

Our garden lessons are running well and I would like to thank those of you who are volunteering your services with this program. We really appreciate all that you are doing to support our students during garden time.

It’s a new year and there are some positions to fill in our Parents and Friends Association. As you know, Tiani Page is currently the President and I know that she would very much appreciate some assistance in this role. If you would be prepared to support our school in the capacity of either Secretary or Treasurer of the P&F Association then please let either Tiani or me know. Names for these positions will be voted on at one of our upcoming P&F meetings and then these recommendations will be passed on to the School Advisory Council for consideration. If you can assist then we would love to hear from you. I want to thank Tiani for all that she is so willingly contributing to our school. I’m sure you will agree that she is doing an outstanding job as P&F President. Let’s see what we can do to support Tiani in her role and build an even stronger community.

This week’s value has been ‘resilience’ and I rather like what one of the students had to say about the topic. They described resilience as being in a state of determination. Just this week we have had plenty of students trying hard to do their best and complete their cross country race. No doubt, they will have wanted to just give up when exhaustion started to show up, however, they persevered to the end. The Bible contains many admonitions to “press on”, overcome challenges and persevere in trials. The Bible also gives us many examples of people who went through great trials but who stayed faithful to God and trusted in His plan for their lives. Job showed great resilience in his hour of severe trial and God honoured him for it. Despite what he went through, Job knew that God was in control and that helped him to maintain resilience instead of giving up. Choosing to trust in God rather than rely on what we understand, is the best way to be resilient. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

On Monday the Avondale String Ensemble will be visiting our school. We invite you to join us at 11 am for this exciting event. Please join us for Chapel next week when the children from K-6 will share their message by way of a drama presentation in Chapel. I want to thank Mrs Tasker for organising this special event. What a great opportunity this is for our students!

We would also love you to join us on Wednesday for our Chapel program, if you can make it. The K-6 students will be presenting some drama performances during this time and I know they would be honoured to share their items with you.

Blessings,
Miss Charmony Dias
Principal

Notices

Avondale String Ensemble
All are most welcome to come along and enjoy a special performance by the Avondale String Ensemble on Monday 8th April at 11am in the Toronto Church.

K-6 Drama Presentation
Please join us for Chapel next week when the children from K-6 will share their message by way of a drama presentation at 9am Wednesday 10th April.

Fees
Thank you to those of you that have paid some or all of your fees. As you can appreciate, the School has financial commitments to meet to keep functioning. We are committed to giving our children the very best education in all aspects and we need your support to meet this goal. We are very close to the end of term and there are quite a few families that have not made a payment as yet. We would appreciate it if you could make an appointment to discuss making an arrangement to pay the fees with a regular payment plan or other arrangement. Please let us know if you are having financial difficulty with meeting this commitment so we can discuss the situation.

Uniforms - Term 2
Please note that Winter uniforms are worn in Term 2 however there is a two week grace period that either Summer or Winter uniform can be worn depending on the weather.