

# Jireh Christian School Newsletter



20 June 2018

## Important Dates

Soccer Y3-Y4	Thursday 21 June
Parent/Teacher Interviews. School closes 2pm	Thursday 28 June
PA—Coffee Catch-up	Friday 29 June
Tiwai-Info Evening	Monday 2 July
Digital Ignition Programme Y3-Y6	Monday 2 July to Thursday 5 July
Tiwai-Puberty Plus Programme End Term 2	Friday 6 July
Start Term 3	Monday 23 July

• **Open Day 27 July 2018**

**Isaiah 5:7 (The Voice)** See here, the vineyard of the Eternal, the Commander of heavenly armies, is the house of Israel, His special people. And the shoots and buds He nursed so lovingly along are the people of this country, Judah.

**Genesis 3:8 (The Voice)**

Then they heard the sound of the Eternal God walking in the cool misting shadows of the garden.

Dear parents

Some years ago at a conference I attended I was introduced to a wonderful biblical metaphor for education and the classroom. The metaphor originated with John Amos Comenius, who is regarded as the father of modern day Christian educational thinking. He was born in Moravia, what is today the Czech Republic.

The metaphor can be applied to all of your lives not only the school and classroom; our homes, communities, work places,

Below is an extract from "Biblical Teaching" by David Smith which describes the metaphor briefly yet aptly. I pray that you are as blessed by it as I am.

John Amos Comenius, the famous seventeenth-century pioneer of modern education, began his major work on pedagogy with talk of gardens. He wrote in the preface to his *Great Didactic* that "God, having created man out of dust, placed him in a Paradise of desire, which he had planted in the East, not only that man might tend it and care for it, but also that he might be a garden of delight for his God". Humans in other words, were not only placed in a garden of delight, they were called to *be* a garden of delight, an idea that Comenius drew from Isaiah 5 ("the men of Judah are the garden of his delight", v.7) This expanded in Comenius' writings into a whole network

of garden metaphors, in which, for instance, the textbooks for different classes received names such as the violet-bed, the rose-bed and the grass-plot, the teacher is to "water God's plants", and the school itself was to become a 'garden of delight'. Tracing the scriptural roots of Comenius' imagery makes it clear that he does not have in mind here the Romantic idea that children should be left alone to grow and blossom naturally, with minimal adult intervention. A garden of delight is the opposite of a natural wilderness. It is a place of careful cultivation and on-going discipline. It is a place where God should be able to walk in the cool of the day and find fragrance and enjoyment. It is a place where play and pleasure have their legitimate role. It is a place where the drama of decision, whether to obey or disobey our Creator, is played out daily. In these and other ways, Comenius allowed a particular strand of biblical imagery to permeate and form his thinking about schooling. The results were a vision at variance with the dominant image patterns today, which commonly imagine schooling in terms of economics (curriculum as product, student/parent as consumer, teacher as manager) or information transfer (brains as computers, teaching as input). <http://www.calvin.edu/kuyers/article.php?ID=2> (accessed August 2007)

From the time of the fall the

world we live in is a wilderness of chaos where God's light is dim.

Our job is to make our classrooms, homes, families, work places and communities gardens of delight, which reflect His image; Where justice abounds and God is free to roam and instruct, where there is order and peace and things are looked after; a garden of delight. Yours in partnership

*Sandra Bosman*



Exciting  
Learning

## People Savers



## Fare-thee-well and Welcome

Farewell for now....We say au revoir to our lovely Mrs Breese as she goes off to start a family. She will be back in the new year.

Welcome to .....Mrs Thomson in her new role as the class teacher for Taraute until Mrs Breese returns.

Mrs Baird will be doing the teacher release which Mrs Thomson has been doing.

## Tomorrows Schools Review

The Ministry of Education, (MoE) is doing a review regarding "tomorrow's schools" which was introduced almost 30 years ago and is still how schools are governed, managed and administered today. It gives significant autonomy to schools to be governed by their own boards and not from a centrally controlled body. This system is under review and the MoE is eager to have feedback from a wide range of stakeholders. If you would like to contribute to the discussion please read below and click on the link.

The Independent Taskforce charged with reviewing the way our schools are governed, managed and administered wants to hear your views and experiences of the schooling system – what's working well, what's not and what needs to change in order to meet the challenges we face and to achieve equity and excellence. You can find out more about the review and have your say on the Tomorrow's Schools Review website. <https://conversation.education.govt.nz/conversations/tomorrows-schools-review/>



My name is Linda Baird and I am happy to be formally on staff at Jireh Christian School. I have been teaching for over 20 years and was most recently was on staff at Immanuel Christian School for 8 years. I also worked at Jireh School previously. I love working with kids (they are so much fun!)

and I really enjoy working in a Christian environment. It's a privilege to be responsible for explaining and demonstrating Christ to our children. I am married to Jason and together we have four children. They all benefitted from attending Immanuel and my son currently attends Jireh Christian School. I love worship and being outside enjoying God's creation. Typically my role involves releasing the classroom teacher or covering their class if they are unwell. This means that I work in a variety of classrooms and when given the opportunity, you'll find me outside teaching PE, or inside strumming on the guitar.

## Parents Association Coffee Catch-Up

It has been decided to postpone our after school BBQ until Spring (September 28th) when the weather starts to warm up and the days will be longer.

Instead of the family BBQ we had planned for July 27th an invitation will be sent out to attend a coffee catch-up on that day: meeting at 1:30pm at The Coffee Club (4/2057 Great North Rd) in Avondale.

This coffee catch-up is for anyone associated with Jireh Christian School and will be a fun, casual way for people to connect before collecting the children from school.

## Learning about our bones



## From God, For God | Atua, Hoki Atua



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