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August 14, 2017

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

Welcome to 2017-18 – a new year of learning for service in the light of God's Word! Under the Lord's guidance, we will enjoy a purpose-filled year of Christian education in which students are enfolded into our community, engaged through projects, presentations, reading, writing, and conversations, and empowered through connections and interactions.

Back in the Groove Again, our kick-off event, begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 31. Come as early as 6:30 p.m. to ensure a good seat. Besides being a time to begin well as a community, we hope you will experience the buzz that comes at the start of a new school year. We will introduce our staff, connect with each other, and together ask for the Lord's guidance and blessings in our work this year. We will use Psalm 111 as our focus.

After the assembly, students (along with parents/guardians) will gather in homerooms to meet and get a Back-to-School package which includes a locker assignment, optional insurance forms, and student photo day information. New students will receive locks, usernames, passwords, schedules, and, if they are in Physical Education, TDChristian shorts and shirts. Returning students' schedules will appear in Edsby in late August; yearbooks will not be delivered until mid-September.

As for school supplies, students should have their own pens, pencils, and paper/notebooks. Given the rule that backpacks may no longer be left in hallways or brought to classrooms, purchasing a binder that can contain the information for all classes is suggested. For other items, such as calculators, dictionaries, and art supplies, await the direction of the teachers. Students may bring notebook or laptop computers or tablets to school though they are not required. Internet access at home is important for the courses that use electronic textbooks. All students receive access to Microsoft Office 365 so they can download and install Word, Excel and PowerPoint at home. New students will receive an email detailing how to access this. Returning students can continue to use Office 365 using the login info they were given last year.

Besides this booklet which contains information about items we believe are helpful or important, Grade 9, 10, 11 students will find Commitment Forms connected to their Grade Trips. Signed forms should be brought to the designated table at Back in the Groove Again or to the main office during the first week of school.

Edsby, TDChristian's information system, allows for access to student information. Returning parents/guardians will see new students automatically added. New parents/guardians should e-mail passwords@tdchristian.ca to gain Edsby access. On Thursday, September 14, we host a *New Families Night* to connect with new families, a *Future Directions Night* for families of senior students to share ways to explore post-secondary options, and a *Learn about Resource Session* for families to connect about how resource can help students in their learning.

A Transportation@TDChristian page is also included in all packages. Pay close attention to your bus stop location and the time for your pick up so that you know where to be and at what time.

We look forward to partnering with you. Please contact the school with suggestions, encouragements, and concerns. Together in faith and prayer, with God's grace and leading, we embark on a new year of learning.

Sincerely,

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William Groot, Principal

P.S. The booklet is a new idea for this year and is sent to everyone. It and ALL separate pages are also posted on the TD-Christian Splash! Page.

William Groot OCT, B.Math., B.Ed., M.A. Principal

 Patty Schuurman
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 VP Students & Service
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Learning for Service in the Light of God's Word

Ren Siebenga B.A., M.Ed. Senior Fellow