10 December 2014

Dear Parents / Guardians

Two new Tyndale schools!

The Board of Governors and the Executive Leadership of the School have some very exciting news to share with you. For a number of months now, we have been working with the Board and Leadership of Murraylands Christian College (Strathalbyn) and Murraylands Christian College (Murray Bridge) to consider how we could best support them through a very challenging time for both of their schools.

- Murraylands Christian College (Strathalbyn) was founded in 1991 and is an Early Learning Centre to Year 12 School of 330 students located in the town of Strathalbyn.
- Murraylands Christian College (Murray Bridge) was founded in 2000 and is an Early Learning Centre to Year 9 School of 120 students located in the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

The last two years have been a very difficult time for the governors and managers of the two schools and the organisation as a whole, and an outcome of this was for them to consider passing the governance and operations of the schools on to new ownership. There has been a growing awareness on the part of the governors of the Murraylands schools that the "pioneering phase" of their ministry has been completed and that it was time for a new team to carry the work forward and expand it to fulfil God’s will for the future of Christian education in the Strathalbyn and Murray Bridge regions. With this in mind, we have been having a series of positive discussions with the governors of these schools which have been both cordial and productive and point toward a beneficial future.

Therefore, we wish to advise you that, as of January 2015, Tyndale Christian School will be taking over the governance and operations of these two schools. The decision to acquire control of the Murraylands schools has not been entered into lightly, with significant prayer and discussion at a board and leadership level as well as advice and support of key advisors who specialise in working with schools. Tyndale has engaged legal, financial, property, human resources and "merger and acquisition" expertise from consultants to undertake a due diligence review. This review has been both thorough and detailed.

From the outset, Tyndale’s only interest has been to ensure that Christian Schooling remains a viable and vibrant option for families in this region of South Australia. It is our view that these two schools need our support to ensure that they flourish and grow into the future. We also believe that Tyndale has something of value to offer. We believe in what we are doing here, and we are excited about sharing that with two other school communities. However, it was important from the very outset that we did not take on anything that might provide significant risks to Tyndale, either now or into the future, and therefore the following has been put in place.
1. The two new Tyndale schools will remain as separate legal entities, registered as individual schools with all relevant government authorities. Therefore, each school will be run, on the whole as a separate school, but under the control and governance of Tyndale Christian School Inc.
2. Tyndale at Salisbury East will continue to function exactly as it is now.
3. Tyndale will not be paying a purchase price for the schools, either upfront or on an ongoing basis. Therefore, there will be no negative financial impact on Tyndale.
4. Our assets and liabilities will be separate from the two schools, as theirs will be from ours.
5. The incoming schools will be restructured to be self-sufficient. The schools will be structured to make a surplus, and this surplus will be used to reinvest into each school.
6. Our surpluses at Salisbury East will only be reinvested in Salisbury East operations, and our loans will only be used to finance Tyndale Salisbury East.
7. The only financial support between the schools will be the drawing upon corporate services provided from the Salisbury East campus and this will be recharged to the other two schools on a service fee basis.
8. Mike Potter will move to an Executive Principal role over Salisbury East plus the two new schools. Andrew Davies will become the Director of Corporate Services over the three schools. There will be some adjustment to the responsibilities of other leaders at Tyndale.
9. The Tyndale Board of Governors will be the single member of incorporated associations of the two new schools. The Board, as the single member, will appoint itself as the Board at each of the Murrayslands schools. Representation will also be invited from the local schools.
10. While no decision has been made regarding the actual names of these two schools into the future, they will become “Tyndale” Schools.

The final agreement with Tyndale will need to be confirmed by the combined Murrayslands schools’ Boards in the next two weeks.

Because of the late resolution of many of the issues permitting this announcement, we felt it important to inform you of our intent before the close of the school year, since final arrangements are likely to be concluded over the Christmas break and implemented before the 2015 school year begins. The forthcoming school holidays will be an opportunity to implement the change in control and also make some immediate changes to the schools to re-brand them as Tyndale schools, in readiness for the start of the 2015 school year.

We strongly believe that there are significant benefits to be gained for the development and expansion of our school into these two regions. We value your prayer for the satisfactory resolution of these discussions - that God will guide us during this time and we will make decisions in line with His will.

If you have any questions about this announcement, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Glenn
Chairman, Board of Governors

Mike Potter
Principal