



Jireh School Newsletter

17 June 2016

Dear Jireh Parents

At the Christian School's National Conference some years ago the guest speaker made reference 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 our 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:

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 ongoing 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

Bring Your Own Device Option

A reminder to parents of Year 2 to Year 6 students that there are Cybersafety Agreement Forms outstanding.

Parents Association

Remember to join the Jireh School PA on Face-Book to keep connected and reminded about important dates and notices.

Medical Certificates

We would appreciate it if you help us to meet our **legal obligations and provide a Doctor's note/** certificate if your child is absent for 3 days or more. Thank you.

French Lessons

We are truly blessed to have the services of a tutor for French. This is a wonderful opportunity to have some fun learning another language at school during school hours. Please contact Frances via email: mycnz@outlook.co.nz for more information.

PLEASE NOTE - ALL PARENTS

Please, All parents and visitors are to report at the school office anytime during the school day. The office staff will get your child or deliver something if needed. This is a safety requirement. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please do not drive up to the gate area to drop off your child,.

And please reverse your vehicle into the carpark spaces near the gate, this gives you better vision when leaving.

Printed Newsletters

Printed copies of the newsletter are no longer published. Should you wish to receive a printed copy please notify the office.

Jonah: A fishy Tail

There are a limited number of DVD copies of the famous Jireh School Production, "Jonah: A fishy Tail". This amazing copy of Jireh students' talent will only cost you \$7. Don't miss out! Pop into the office to purchase your copy.

Scholastic Book Orders Due

Friday 24th June

SCHOOL DATES— 2016

Term 2: 2 May—8 July

20 June—Refuse/Recycling Trip: Rata & Titoki

21 June—Refuse/Recycling Trip: Kowhai & Puriri

22 June—New Enrolments Orientation Morning

23 June—Refuse/Recycling Trip: Totara & Rimu

1 July—MUFTI DAY

6 July—Y6 Morning Tea

8 July—End of Term 2/Reports Issued

School Office Hours:

Mondays to Fridays: 8.30am-3pm during term time.

Ph: 09 836 6913/02108538662

Email: administration@jireh.school.nz

Sustainability and Fitness



Pacific Islands—Culture Day