

Shop and Support

Q. What is Shop and Support?

A. Shop and Support is a program that offers you an easy way to participate in raising funds for Timothy Christian School (TCS) without additional cost to you. The way the program works is you use Shop and Support gift cards worth various denominations to purchase items you would buy anyway—items such as groceries, gas and clothing from your favourite retailers. A percentage of each card goes back to the school to support programs and services.

Q. What is TRIP?

A. TRIP is an acronym for Tuition Reduction Incentive Program. On average, 4% of your Shop and Support purchases go directly to the school. If desired, 50% of this can go towards your family's tuition—what we call TRIP. For example, if you buy a \$100 gift card for groceries at Value Mart, 3% or \$3 is raised for TCS. You can choose to designate 50% of this or \$1.50 to go towards a reduction in your family's tuition for the following school year. Although \$1.50 doesn't sound like much, it can add up over a 12 month period if you regularly use the cards for your every day purchases. The other \$1.50 also indirectly goes to support your child(ren) by lowering overall costs at the school.

Q. Can I have friends and relatives help me reduce my family's tuition through this program?

A. Yes. The more friends and family who purchase gift cards through Shop and Support the more money we raise for the school. You can also have them designate 50% of their purchases to support your specific family. Even grandparents who live far away can participate in the program—either you purchase gift cards for them on their behalf and give them to them when you see them or they can make arrangements directly through our Shop and Support Coordinator. (Note: We do not send gift cards in the mail. They usually get to you via the school.)

Q. Is there a list of retailers involved in the program?

A. Yes. For a full list of retailers, go to *Supporters* under Quick Links on the TCS website at www.tcswilliamsburg.ca. Order forms can be printed from the website. There are more than 100 retailers in the program. Some of our more popular retailers include: Loblaws, Food Basics, Giant Tiger, Canadian Tire/Gas Bar, Pioneer Petroleum and Tim Horton's. Entertainment and Restaurant gift cards are especially handy at Christmas.

Q. How do I buy gift cards?

A. Gift cards are purchased from the school's Shop and Support coordinator, Christine Van Den Broek at 613-774-4206 or ecvdb@ripnet.com. Typically, orders are placed bi-weekly on Fridays. Cheques can be made out to TCS Fundraising.

Q. Why is TCS giving us a 10% discount in Shop and Support gift cards?

A. We think the Shop and Support fundraising program is a great way to help reduce tuition costs for all students. By familiarizing you with the program in your first full year at the school (usually in Grade 1), we hope that you will continue to use the program in the future for your every day purchases.

Q. Can I order the full 10% discount at one time?

A. No. We prefer that you spread the discount out during the school year; a maximum \$100 of discount per order. You must use your full discount amount by the end of June in the year you begin the discount or forfeit any unused portion. The idea is that you get in the habit of using the Shop and Support program and will hopefully add to your discount portion with your own portion for your bi-weekly or monthly spending. The discount portion of your order is not eligible for TRIP.

Thank you for your participation in Shop and Support.