



Wellington Preparatory School

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Newsletter 7 of 2009
30 April 2009

Dear Parents and Friends

SINGLE GRADE CELEBRATION: FRIDAY 8 MAY

The fact that we now have single grades throughout the school (no more 'combined' classes) is an extremely significant milestone in the growth and development of the school. The management and staff have decided that we need to recognise this in some way and we have set aside **Friday 8 May at 10h30**. The plan is that all the children will come to school in their green sports tops and we will release green and white helium balloons simultaneously.

All parents, grandparents and friends of the school who are able to attend are invited to join us at 10h30. We will have a small presentation by the children and a tea after the balloon releasing ceremony to celebrate Mothers day (which is on Sunday 10 May).

We could really use your help with the following:

- ◆ For those of you able to attend, please bring your cameras. We will have official photographers but the more pictures taken the better.
- ◆ Donations of green and white balloons and the donation of Helium gas would really help.
- ◆ With parents who have access to the media, your help in getting the photos into local newspapers would be great.
- ◆ Donations of eats for the tea will be greatly appreciated.

Please fill in the reply slip that your child will bring home today and return it to school by Wednesday 6 May.

APRIL SCHOOL FEES

With the start of the month being in the school holidays, many parents have not paid their school fees for April. Please make your payment as soon as possible. A further reminder that parents who don't pay their school fees on time will be charged interest unless they contact us to discuss their predicament. Please contact Heather in the office if you have any queries about your fee payments.

Grade 4-7 Exam dates

With June 15 and 16 being a school and public holiday, we will hold the senior primary exams in the preceding week, namely 8 – 12 June. **Please note that school will close early (at 13h00) for Gr 1 - 7 for this week. Friday will close at 12h30 as per usual.** More information about the exams will follow later on.

Individual parent / teacher meetings

We will once again have individual parent/teacher meetings where you will be able to meet your child's teacher to discuss his or her progress at the start of the third term. We used to have these meetings at the end of the second term after exams, but with a 3 week holiday in between we found it better to hold them at the start of the next term. A provisional date has been set for **Wednesday 29 July**. We will confirm this date and the procedure for the meetings closer to the time. If you have concerns that need to be addressed now, please make an appointment with your child's teacher.

Sigi Tomlinson's maternity leave

Sigi Tomlinson, our Grade 0 teacher, will be going on 4 months maternity leave from 20 May until the end of the third term. I am delighted to announce we have secured the services of a very able replacement, Hannelie du Plessis.

Grade 8 Open days

The Grade 7 parents may be interested in the upcoming Open days as well as the date that applications for Grade 8 close:

La Rochelle:	14 May Open Day and applications close end May
Paarl Boys High:	20 May Open Day and applications close 21 May
Hugenote High:	22 May Open Day and applications close in August

CEILING FANS IN THE HALL

Following some requests to put fans in the hall for PTA meetings, concerts etc in summer, we have had a quote and the cost would be as follows:

Cost of the fans: R2 600

Labour, installation, wiring etc: R3 900

We feel that the cost of R6 500 at the moment is a little high as the hall is seldom used for big groups, but if any parents would like to make a contribution to the fans we will certainly consider it.

Thank you to Supa-U

When we acknowledged companies who gave donations towards our Camp Out we didn't mention Supa-U who kindly donated 2 boxes of chips. Our apologies for the oversight, we really do appreciate your support.

RECYCLING INITIATIVE

Our recycling initiative is well under way, thank you to those of you who have been supporting us. We have had a few teething problems so please bare with us as we sort them out. Thanks to Yusuf Pietersen we will soon have proper signage so that you will know what goes in which bag! Please remember that this is not a general rubbish site - we have even found disposable nappies in our recycling bins!

WPS preparing for an Oscar

We are most grateful to Doug Foulkes who has done a superb job creating a DVD for people who wish to sponsor children at the school. Everyone who is presently sponsoring a child will get a free copy. If any parents would like to purchase a copy at R20, they can order one from the office.

SPORT.....

1. Karate

Karate will resume on Tuesday 5 May. We have had quite a few complaints from parents about karate starting late or lessons being cancelled at the last moment. At the end of the term we will need to make a call whether we allow karate to continue in our hall. If you have any comments (either positive or negative) please let us know.

2. Squash

Only 3 seniors have signed up to play squash this term. For this reason we will be combining the squash into one group. This will not affect the juniors who will continue at their present time slot. The 3 seniors will now leave school at 13h30 with the juniors; **squash will finish at 14h45** and not at 15h45 for the seniors. Junior parents need to note that squash finishes at 14h45 and not 15h45 so please don't pick your children up late.

3. Cross country

We would like to encourage as many children as possible to take part in cross-country this season. There are 5 cross-country events between now and the end of the third term and it is a wonderful opportunity for our children to compete against other schools. Pupils 8 years and younger run 1 km, U9 and U10 run 2km, U11 and U12 run 3 km, whilst the U13 and older pupils run 4km. The events are held on Friday afternoons starting at 15h30 at the following venues:

15 May: Arboretum, Paarl
29 May: Windmeul
19 June: CPUT rugby stadium, Wellington
21 August: Riebeeckstrand Primary, Melkbosstrand
4 September: Boys' Primary in Paarl

In addition to these events, Etheresia Thomas will do cross-country training on the following Friday afternoons from 12h30 to 13h00. All children from Gr1-7 are welcome and should ensure they bring shorts and takkies to school for the practise. Training will be on the following Fridays: 8 May, 22 May, 5 June, 7 August, 14 August, 28 August. Please indicate on the reply slip whether or not your child is interested in taking part in cross-country.

4. Monday ballskills

A further reminder to please ensure that the Grade 1-7 children pack in shorts / tracksuit pants and takkies every Monday. We also suggest they have a warm top to put on afterwards to avoid getting cold.

5. Action Sport

With all the time lost this term due to Public holidays and with so many sports on offer, we will not be doing Action Sport this term.

6. Cricket

There seems to be some confusion regarding Wednesday cricket practise. Please note that these sessions will resume again in the fourth term as cricket is a summer sport.

Don't forget the dance.....

Dance the night away

to the sounds of the coolest DJ in town

Dress with a dash of sparkle

Saturday 6 June 2009, Wellington Town Hall: 7pm – midnight

Cost: R75 per person, includes Snacks, Wine and Juice on the table

Cash Bar available or you could bring your own

Babysitting Service available at the school

Lots of lucky draw prizes and raffles

See you there!

TICKETS
AVAILABLE
AT THE SCHOOL
OFFICE

SCHOOL CLEANER

We have sadly had to say good-bye to Ray who has been cleaning our classrooms for the last few years, as she has found a permanent job elsewhere. If you know of anyone who may be interested in the position, please let us know. They would need to be available for a full day on a Wednesday as well as a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

Thank you for your continued support,
Enjoy the long weekend,
Mike Aubin and the WPS team

Our Grade 3's have interesting ideas as to why we are having a public holiday!

- ◆ To celebrate spring
- ◆ For the snow
- ◆ Elections
- ◆ New year