



Wellington Preparatory School

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13 January 2012
Newsletter 1

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome back!

I hope and trust that all of you enjoyed your December holidays and that 2012 will be a good year for you. It is always such a delight to see our children returning keen and eager for the new challenges of a new grade.

A special word of welcome to our new children, namely:

Junior playgroup: Grace Cox, Marlene Goetze, Yasha Pietersen, Nehemia Smal, Hana Taylor, Rachael Thomson and Ndinani Tsana

Senior playgroup: Keira Haai, Zayd Karriem, Madison Korabie, Catilin Marsh, Amila Nkantsu, Suriel Truter and Oka Tsolo

Grade 0: Jordan April, Micke de Kock, Sholto Douglas and Kaelyn Masimla

Grade R: Cyrus Cram, Ameer Kadir and Bertie Milner

Grade 1: Ella Douglas, Saarah Kadir and Aidan Fox

Grade 2: Rynhart Kilian

Grade 4: Sadeeqa Pietersen and Chleo Williams

Grade 5: Ashton Davey and Ash O'Linn

Grade 6: Sebastian Cook, Tristen Fox and Nicolas Kilian

A warm welcome also to our new Grade 3 teacher, Christél Venter as well as Karen Lombard who will be our teacher's assistant whilst Nandipa is on maternity leave.

P.T.A. MEETING: THURSDAY 19 JANUARY @ 18H30

The first general PTA of the year is always very important but it is even more important this year as we will be discussing the way forward as far as security at the school is concerned. In addition, we will also do the following:

1. Elect the 2 parents who will serve on the Management Committee as parent representatives. Greg Nurok and Albert Geiger, who kindly served on the committee last year, are prepared to stand again. If parents would like to propose alternate candidates, we will vote at the PTA. You can email or phone through the names of prospective candidates.
2. There is an OPEN AGENDA; parents can put anything on the agenda by emailing it or speaking to Heather in the front office before 10h00 on Thursday 19th.
3. We will elect candidates for the vitally important sub committees of fundraising and landscaping.
4. The second half of the meeting will be with your child's class teacher in their classroom. The teacher will give you important feedback regarding things like homework, class procedures etc. You will also be able to ask as many questions as you like.

Congratulations Andriëtte!

We would like to congratulate our Grade 6 teacher Andriëtte Smit who received her Bachelor of Education Honours degree. Not only that, she passed all 5 subjects with distinction! Well done Andriëtte.

School fees due

Just a friendly reminder that we work on an 11 month payment system, from January to November, with fees payable by the 7th of each month. For this reason, the first payment is due. Please remember that we will **NO LONGER ACCEPT SCHOOL FEES PAID IN CASH.**

Security

As mentioned in newsletters last year, we are in the process of implementing access control at the entrance of the school.

Each family must please obtain a green access disc from the front office. The disc should be placed on the outside of the car on the driver's side. (If you have a separate backing sheet, it can be placed on the inside of the car). Each family may be issued with 2 stickers. In order to get your stickers, we will need the registration number/s of your car/s and you need to sign for them in the front office. At the moment, the security gate is left open during peak times and we only sign cars in outside of these times.

With effect from **Monday 23 January**, no cars, whether they belong to parents or not, will be allowed onto the school premises without signing in. This will take some time, particularly before school, as the guard will have to radio reception before you are allowed in, so please make sure that you get your stickers before Friday 21 January. Cars that do have stickers will be allowed immediate access at all times of the day.

We did have some teething problems at the end of last year, so please let me know if you have any problems with the new system, most notably:

1. At **no** time from 07h00 to 17h45 should the gate be unmanned.
2. From Monday 23 January, only disc holders will be allowed immediate access (there should be no exceptions to this).

Our new security system is now directly linked to Diemersfontein (through Thorburn Security) and the head of Diemersfontein security, Stephen Moore, will oversee the smooth operation thereof. We have requested to have the same guard on duty whenever possible. The name of the new guard is 'John'. So far things seem to be going smoothly. One or two parents have asked if they can give him a cooldrink on hot days or even something to eat. Absolutely! John is keeping our children safe and showing our appreciation when he is doing a good job would be greatly appreciated I am sure.

Our sincere thanks to Greg Nurok who has sponsored the two way radios that we will use between the gate and reception.

GENERAL REMINDERS

It is always good at the beginning of the year to do some general reminders:

1. Fridays are tuck days at Wellington Prep School. For 8 years now, the price has been R5 per child, we will be increasing it to **R7 this year**. The parents take turns to bring tuck and the children each pay R7 for their tuck. Each Friday there will be 8 parents assigned tuck duty, we ask each parent to supply items that follow the guidelines below. The tuck roster will be sent out at the beginning of every term and you will be sent a reminder at the beginning of your week which will tell you how many items you need to bring. Should you be unable to do your tuck duty, please notify the office at least a week in advance.

The children really enjoy tuck day as it makes a change from the normal routine and means Mom or Dad do not need to pack in lunch for that day. We ask parents to please follow these guidelines when preparing tuck:

- No commercial sweets or crisps (chips)
- No fizzy cooldrinks
- Wholesome snacks – the popular ones include: fruit sticks, popcorn, samoosas, mini chicken pies, crunchies, doughnuts, cup cakes, yoghurts, mini pizza

Tuck shop always starts on the second Friday of term, (Friday 20 January this term).

2. Please ensure that your child has EVERYTHING they need (stationery etc) as soon as possible. They are at an immediate disadvantage if they do not have these items.
3. The school has a NO SWEETS policy during break. Please pack in healthy lunch items (no fizzy cooldrinks, sweets, chewing gum or crisps please). The teachers bare the brunt of the hyperactivity that follows a sugar 'overdose'.
4. I would strongly recommend that you pack in suitable sun hats and please apply sunscreen before school, particularly for the scorching temperatures of the first term.
5. The school is not allowed to administer any medicine unless we have been instructed to do so in writing by a parent. If medicine needs to be given at school, please give it directly to the teacher with clear written instructions as to dosage and time.
6. Lazy lunch: On every Wednesday of term, we supply an optional lunch for those that want it. The schedule of Lazy lunch for the term is detailed below. Please note:
 - Don't pay for the whole term - money is due by the Tuesday before and can be paid directly to the class teacher.
 - We will NOT be allowing Lazy lunch on credit this year as it is a nightmare to administer
 - Andrea Visser, Lena-mari Marx and Christél Venter, the Grade 1, 2 and 3 teachers, have kindly volunteered to administer Lazy lunch this term, but they desperately need help of a few kind parents. If you are able to help, then please let them know.

18 January	Burgers	8.50
25 January	Chicken mayo baguettes	5.50
1 February	Pancakes: cinnamon caramel	3.50 4.00
8 February	Hot dogs	7.00
15 February	Waffles	7.00
22 February	Toasted cheese Toasted cheese and tomato	6.00 7.00
29 February	Pancakes: cinnamon caramel	3.50 4.00
7 March	Waffles	7.00
14 March	Chicken pasta bake	6.50

Open Door Policy

Whilst we will do everything in our power to give your children the best possible education, problems do arise from time to time. We can only fix problems if we know about them so please don't be shy to report any problems you may be experiencing or share any ideas or suggestions you may have.

SPORT

We have now increased our cricket practices to twice a week and we will be using a new coach, Imran Nackerdien. Cricket practices will still be on a Wednesday: 13h00 to 14h00 for Gr 1-3 and 14h00 to 15h00 for Gr 4-7.

We will also now hold a cricket practice on a Monday during ballskills time. A letter to this effect was sent home to all Grade 4-7 parents on Wednesday. Based on the replies received, virtually every cricket player has opted to do swimming as their second sport so the group is too large. We will therefore divide the term in half. For the first half of the term:

- Senior cricket squad (practice on Mondays and Wednesdays from 14h00 to 15h00)
- Children who will **swim on Mondays** (starting this Monday, 16 January) – Grade 4 & 5 children who are not playing cricket.
- Children who will do **athletics on Mondays** – Grade 6 & 7 children who are not playing cricket
- Children who will **swim on Thursdays** (during PT lessons in school time) – all Grade 6 & 7 children.
- Children who will do **athletics on Thursdays** – all Grade 4 & 5 children.

If you are confused, we have divided the children into groups and told them on which days they are doing each activity.

Please pack in the correct swimming, athletics and cricket togs.

We are still busy finalizing swimming and athletics times for Grade 1, 2 and 3 classes, but they must pack in their swimming clothes on Monday.

Dates for the term:

We are currently in the process of finalizing our sports fixtures and are awaiting replies from other schools. We can, however, confirm the following dates already:

- Thursday 19 January - General PTA
- Wednesday 1 February - Interhouse athletics (08h30 – 10h00 for pre-school and 17h00 to approximately 19h30 for Gr 1-7)
- Tuesday 14 February – Grade 1 outing to the Spur in Wellington
- Friday 2 March – Children's dance marathon fundraiser
- Friday 9 March - Interhouse swimming gala (this is a new event for Grade 1 - 7)
- Friday 27 Jan, 10 and 24 Feb – communication sheets

Final dates for the term will be confirmed in our next newsletter

EXTRA-MURAL ACTIVITIES

Below is a list of extra-mural activities available. Further information will be sent out as it is available from the various independent people who run these activities. There is no cost for chess, it is managed by 2 of our parents (Johan Rademan and Yusuf Pietersen) on a voluntary basis. Payment for other extra-murals that are privately run is to be made directly to the instructor and not to our school office.

Activity	Age group	Day	Time
Helen O'Grady drama	5 – 8 years	Wednesday	16h00 – 17h00
Helen O'Grady drama	9-12 years	Wednesday	17h00 – 18h00
Judith Adams ballet	3 up to Gr R	Tuesday	12h30 - 13h00
Beaux-Art	3 upwards	Monday Wednesday	12h30 onwards
Monkeynastics	Playgroup	Day to be confirmed	During school
Playball	Gr 0 and R	Day to be confirmed	During school
Francois du Plessis Karate	5 upwards	Monday	14h00 – 15h00
Chess	5 upwards	Thursday	14h15 onwards
Music lessons	Gr 1 upwards	Wednesday	During school

SCHOOL TIMES FOR 2012

The school day starts at 08h00, although there is a teacher on duty at the school hall from 07h20 for those children who arrive early. Children in playgroup, Gr 0 and Gr R can arrive a little later, but should be at school by 08h30 (Gr 0 and R) and 08h45 (Playgroup).

Children should be collected promptly at the end of school, those waiting for older siblings can be booked into the waiting class at aftercare, and the fee for this is R 140 per month. ***If children are not collected from their classroom at the end of school, they will need to wait for their lift at the aftercare and will be charged accordingly.***

Grade	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Playgroup, Gr 0, Gr R	12h30	12h30	12h30	12h30	12h30
Grade 1 & 2	14h00 (ball skills)	13h00	13h00 14h00 (cricket)	13h00	12h30
Grade 3	14h00 (ball skills)	13h30	13h30 14h00 (cricket)	13h30	12h30
Grade 4 – 7	15h00 (ball skills)	14h00	14h00 15h00 (cricket)	14h00	12h30

Aftercare is available until 17h30 (no later!) on school days at a fee of R485.00 per month. Aftercare is also available on a daily basis at R30 per day but you must contact the office to arrange this.

TERM DATES 2012

TERM	WELLINGTON PREP
Term 1	11 January – 16 March
Term 2	10 April – 22 June
Term 3	16 July – 21 September
Term 4	8 October – 7 December

Public and school holidays:

Term 1: none
Term 2: Friday 27 April (Freedom Day)
Monday 30 April (School holiday)
Tuesday 1 May (Worker's Day)
Term 3: Thursday 9 August (Women's Day)
Friday 10 August (School holiday)
Term 4: none

XHOSA LESSONS

Following the interest expressed last year, we are very pleased that Sanet Cox will be offering Xhosa classes at Wellington Prep. Lessons will be on a Thursday afternoon from 13h40 to 14h10 for Gr 1-3 and 14h15 to 14h45 for Grade 4-7. The cost of the classes will be R300 per term and there will be a charge of R60 for the required textbook. Please let Heather know if you would like your child to sign up for these lessons.

MUSIC LESSONS

Ester Horn and Sonja van Niekerk will continue with music and singing lessons on a Wednesday morning. They have limited space available for new pupils, if you are interested in your child doing music lessons, please contact Ester on 021 8723720 or musiekskool@telkomsa.net.

Dry grass

You may have noticed that our play areas and fields are looking very dry. There are 2 reasons for this:

1. There is virtually no water pressure on the municipal water lines and we therefore cannot water using municipal water. This problem exists throughout Newton. Once the new water line is completed, normal pressure should return. For now, there is nothing that we can do.
2. We use water from the Diemersfontein dams to irrigate our field, Due to exceptionally poor rainfall last winter, the dams are very empty, we are therefore only watering enough to keep the grass alive (although it will look quite brown). In a joint venture between the Homeowners of Diemersfontein and the school, we will be sinking a borehole to help fill the dam, but this can only happen in March.

TUCK DUTIES TERM 1

Date	Pre school	Gr 1-3	Gr 4-7
20 January	Mika Cupido Meeka Erasmus Shane du Plessis Keira Haai	Oliver Carey Philippa Castell Micaela Clack Mekaeel Abbas	Clivia Barnes Angelica Bellmunt Bocasho Braaf Abdul Gaffoor
27 January	Jordan April Kayla Aubin Madeleine Borel-Sal Keren Chetty	Mbali Conana Rynhart Kilian Deena Foulkes Marcus Mead	Ingmar Geiger Kade Gillespie Christiaan Maree Gitte Nurok
3 February	Kiara Beamish Cyrus Cram Amir Kadir Buhle Kutuka	Taymore Anderson Mishka Appel Shazia Gaffoor Keishé de Kock	Irin Arendse Bevan Blaauw Sebastian Cook Amy Daniels
10 February	Marlene Goetze Rachael Thomson Ndinani Tisana Nehemia Smal	Aiden Kilian Cole Macdonald Logan Masimla Siso Mvula	Lincoln Coombs Coral Potocnik Axolile Yabo Fayyaad Arnold
17 February	Zayd Karriem Madison Korabie Caitlin Marsh Thando Telelo	Misha Perrins Joppe Schouteden Morgan Rademan Nur Pietersen	Chad Keyser Stefano Louw Ross Macdonald Sakhile Nyalashe
24 February	Sholto Douglas Matthew Hudson Tatiyana Jones Tristan Kurtz	Ayabulela Kaba Megan May Dillan Pillay Kayleigh Pool	Ash O'Linn Teague Riley Ana Sampson Uthmaan Pietersen
2 March	Maxine McKenzie Amyoli Meje Hannah Steph-Lazarus Bertie Milner	Ashley Prinsloo Keion Trout Zaydaan Tyer Sino Tsholoba	Gregory Johnson Nkosazana Ntyintyane Arron Snyder Joshua Theron

Happy times in the pre-school





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