



Wellington Preparatory School

P.O. Box 991, Wellington, 7654
e-mail: wellingtonprep@telkomsa.net
Telephone: 021 8643369 & Fax: 086 5166671

Newsletter 1
14 January 2011

Dear Parents

Welcome back! May 2011 be a wonderful year for all of you and may your children be happy and successful at our school. I am always humbled and excited by the happy and eager faces that greet me on the first day. A special word of welcome to all our new children, namely:

Junior Playgroup: Meeka Cupido, Christiaan du Toit, Mika Erasmus, Alizwa Mtandeki, Thando Telelo, Lakhanya Tisana

Senior Playgroup: John Chibanda, Matthew Hudson, Tatiyana Jones, Tristan Kurtz, Lakhe Meje, Morgan and Nohlé Rogers

Grade 0: Keanan Afrika and Amyoli Meje

Grade R: Siso Mvula, Keion Trout and Eden Wittles

Grade 2: Anyabulele Kaba

Grade 3: Lisa April and Teague Riley

Grade 5: Amy Daniels

DOUBLE DELIGHTS!



We now have three sets of twins at Wellington Prep! Jesse and Ashley Prinsloo in Grade R and Kate and Emma Adshade with Nohlé and Morgan Rogers in the Senior Playgroup.

P.T.A. MEETING: THURS 20 JAN @ 18H30

The first general P.T.A. of the year is vitally important, the following will be covered:

1. We will elect the parent representatives for the Management Committee. Doug Foulkes has served on the Manco for 3 years and will not be available for re-election, we are most grateful for his input and assistance over the years. If you know of anyone else that you would like to nominate then please email us or let Heather in the front office know. They perform a vital task by representing your interests as parents of the school.
2. There is an OPEN AGENDA, if you would like anything discussed, please email us or let Heather know.
3. We will elect members of the vitally important sub-committees (landscaping and fundraising).
4. Feedback will be given on the survey carried out last year regarding future projects of the school.
5. The second half of the meeting will be with your child's teacher. She will give you important feedback as to homework, class procedures etc and you can ask as many questions as you like.

School fees now due

Please remember that we work on an 11 month payment scheme (many schools work on a 10 month scheme). The first payment is due now. Payment should be made within the first 7 days of each month.

If you choose to pay for the year in advance, you will receive a 5% discount on fees which must be paid by 31 January. Hand written invoices were sent out this week as we are busy upgrading to a more advanced accounting system.

An amount of R1495 was paid into our bank account on 16 November last year but no reference was given. If you made this payment and it has not been reflected in your account, please let Heather know.

GENERAL REMINDERS

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

1. On Fridays at Wellington Prep School we have a tuck shop as a fundraiser for the school. The parents take turns to bring tuck and the children each pay R5 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 shop 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 21 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. Please do not send large sums of money via your child, all money must go directly to Heather in the front office. Money must be in an envelope / bank bag with the amount, grade and purpose clearly displayed. Teachers have been instructed not to accept money from children (except for small amounts like tuck and lazy lunch). Payments for extra-murals (art, ballet, drama etc) must be paid directly to the instructor concerned.
6. 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.
7. Attached please find the school's Code of Conduct; I would encourage all parents, particularly the new ones, to familiarize themselves with it.
8. 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 Kim Heath, 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.

19 January	Fruit sticks	R3.50
26 January	Waffles	R6.50
2 February	Burgers	R8.00
9 February	Chicken Mayo Baguettes	R5.00
16 February	Cinnamon pancakes Caramel pancakes	R3.50 R4.00
23 February	Savoury sticks	R5.00
2 March	Pasta bake	R6.00
9 March	Waffles	R6.50
16 March	Hot dog	R7.00
23 March	Burgers	R8.00

Open Door Policy

Whilst we will do everything in our power to give your children the best possible education problems do arrive 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.

MUSIC LESSONS

We are hoping to appoint Ester Horn as our new singing teacher and she will give private music lessons to interested pupils on the same day. She will offer lessons in keyboard, piano and guitar at a rate of R780 per term for a half hour lesson weekly or R390 per term for ages 4-9 who attend one 15 min lesson per week. Group guitar lessons (max 3 pupils) are R600 per term. The lessons will be in school time. Please let Heather know if you are interested in these private lessons.

SPORT

Ballskills is held on a Monday after school and is compulsory for all children from Grade 1 to 7; we will start this Monday (17 January).

Grade 1-3: School will finish at 14h00. Children must bring swimming costumes and towels as well as WPS t-shirt, shorts and takkies.

Grade 4-7: All the senior primary children will do both athletics and swimming this term.

The grade 6's and 7's will swim on a Monday from 14h00 to 15h00 and do athletics during school hours on a Thursday.

The grade 4's and 5's will do athletics on a Monday from 14h00 to 15h00 and swimming during school hours on a Thursday.

Please pack in swimming costumes and towels or WPS t-shirt, shorts and takkies on the appropriate days.

Cricket: There will be voluntary cricket coaching on Wednesdays for all Grade 1 – 7's with our cricket coach Bradley.

Grade 1-3: 13h00 to 14h00

Grade 4-7: 14h00 to 15h00

Children do not have to attend cricket practice, but once they do, they commit for a term.

Please note that the bus will leave at 15h00 on a Monday due to ballskills, but not on a Wednesday (the bus will leave at 14h00 as usual). Alternative transport arrangements must be made for Grade 4-7 children who play cricket.

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	Monday	12h30 - 13h00
Beaux-Art	3 upwards	Monday Wednesday	12h30 onwards
Action Ball	2 ½ to Gr R	Tuesday Wednesday	During school
Francois du Plessis Karate	5 upwards	Monday	14h00 – 15h00
Chess	5 upwards	Tuesday	13h30 onwards
Salsa and hip-hop Dancing (Eddie Karelse)	5 upwards	Mon, Tues	Mon: 15h00 Tues: 16h00

SCHOOL TIMES FOR 2011

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 130 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	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 R440.00 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 2011

Term 1	12 January – 25 March
Term 2	11 April – 24 June (School holidays on 26, 28, 29 April and 17 June)
Term 3	18 July – 23 September (School holiday on 8 August)
Term 4	10 October – 9 December

MySchool Card

WPS is registered with the Woolworths MySchool programme. Should you be interested in obtaining a card, please contact the school office or MySchool directly on 0860100445. The MySchool card is not only for use at Woolworths, but also Reggies, Toys-R-Us, Waltons, Engen shops, Kalahari and other stores. In this way you can support the school financially at no cost to yourself.

SAFETY

The safety gates at the pre-primary are only as safe as the adult's that use them. We have had a few incidents where children slip through and this is extremely dangerous. Please:

- If a child who is not yours slips through the gates, stop them!
- I am a little shocked that some parents, whose children are as young as three, hoot or shout and expect their playgroup children to come running to the car. Please collect your child yourself for his or her own safety.

Textbooks

Despite ordering textbooks and workbooks in early November last year, a few still haven't arrived. The teachers will Photostat the necessary pages so that no child will be disadvantaged.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The code of conduct is in place to enhance and extend our school's mission statement and philosophy and to ensure the smooth running of the school in an environment that benefits everyone.

Wellington Preparatory pupils and staff are expected to use common sense, to show consideration for others, to be honest and conduct themselves in such a way as to bring credit to themselves, their families and the school.

Courtesy

School members should be courteous at all times, and in particular towards staff, pupils, parents and visitors. This involves greeting in a polite and friendly manner and assisting them when they need help. Pupils should act modestly and sensibly.

General behaviour and conduct

Human beings are gregarious and individual. Let's encourage this fact but also acknowledge the need for decent conduct and respect for one another. The following negative behaviour is not acceptable:

- There shall be no disorderly behaviour such as fighting, swearing, littering, writing on desks and walls, spitting, malicious damage to property etc.
- Pupils are not allowed to bring dangerous items (or replicas) onto school premises e.g. cattles, toy guns etc.
- Hand held computer games are not allowed during school hours.
- The following behaviour is prohibited:
 - Swearing and blasphemy
 - Use of or possession of cigarettes, alcohol or drugs
 - Stealing of any nature
 - Any form of bullying or intimidation
- Cellular phones, if brought to school must be switched off during school hours. We do not encourage children to bring cell phones to school.
- Break time snacks should be healthy and along the lines of wholesome sandwiches, vegetables, fruit, biscuits, health bars, nuts and pure fruit juice, milk or water.
- The following may not be brought to school: fizzy drinks, crisps (chips), chewing gum or bubble gum.
- Commercial sweets and chocolates are not allowed.

School neatness

The school atmosphere should be pleasant and conducive to learning. The schoolrooms and surrounds should always be kept clean, neat and tidy.

Students must willingly do their duties as prescribed by the roster / teacher and should show pride in their work.

Permission from staff is required before picking fruit or flowers from the gardens.

Dress and general appearance

Wellington Preparatory does not have a school uniform and our dress code is very simply that clothing worn to school should be:

- Neat
- Clean
- Comfortable
- Conservative
- Hats in summer
- Gumboots and slippers in winter for playgroup, Grades 0 & R and Junior Primary

The following are not allowed:

- Clothes printed with unsuitable slogans.
- Tops that do not cover the midriff.
- Body tattoos
- Make-up or coloured nail varnish
- Mini skirts
- Platform shoes. Shoes must be comfortable and hold the foot firmly.
- Hair dyed any unnatural colour. Hair gel not permitted to create 'fashion' hairstyles.
- Long hair should be neatly tied back.
- Dangly earrings and inappropriate, ornate jewellery.

Homework

This is seen as an extremely important aspect in the education of your child / children. The purpose of homework is to:

- Establish links between school and home.
- Enable a child to master and reinforce the content of schoolwork already learnt in the classroom.
- Assist pupils to develop resourcefulness.
- Supply an additional outlet for supplementary reading, enrichment and extension.
- Allow for individual differences – allowing slower pupils an opportunity to complete work they could not finish at school and others to expand and seek advancement.
- Enable parents to note and follow their child's progress.

Homework books need to be signed by parents daily and tests signed when requested.

School hours and absence from school

Children are expected to be at school 5 minutes before their class begins and we request that parents collect them punctually after school.

Absenteeism is taken seriously and addressed accordingly. Based on our primary concern for the safety of your children, we require that the parent notify the office before 8h30 on the **first and each consecutive day** that your child is away from school. We feel this is the best way in which we can monitor the absence and safety of children on a daily basis.

Parents must submit letters of excuse for pupils for:

- Absence from school, on the day they return.
- Absence from physical education and sport activities.

When making appointments for the doctor or dentist etc, please make every effort to make these outside school hours.

Any request for absence from school that is not for a medical reason must be made in writing to the Principal well in advance.

Parents are requested not to take early holidays except perhaps for overseas trips when this cannot be avoided (this applies more for the children in the primary school).

TUCK DUTIES TERM 1 OF 2011

Date	Pre school	Gr 1-3	Gr 4-7
21 January	Emma Adshade Jordan le Cordeur Charlotte Seynhaeve Matthew Hudson	Chelsea April Isobel Coetzee Mbali Conana Jolene Schulte	Ingmar Geiger Kade Gillespie Mpelo Hlatuka Christiaan Maree
28 January	Kiara Beamish Keren Chetty Tristan Haai Buhle Kutuka	Jordan Anderson Mishka Appel Keishe de Kock Hannah Warwick	Irin Arendse Gregory Johnson Bevan Blaauw Ryland Foulkes
4 February	Warren Brink Oliver Carey Phillippa Castell Mekaeel Abbas	Clivia Barnes Angelica Bellmunt Abdul Gaffoor Chad Keyser	Lincoln Coombs Zandile Matakata Fayyaad Arnold Coral Potocnik
11 February	Alizwa Mtandeki Amélie Oosthuizen Thando Telelo Lee Williams	Amelie Goetze Mihai Macici Marcus Mead Misha Perrins	Haezl Hendricks Darren Lewis Anton Louw Danné Cameron
18 February	Maxine McKenzie Amyoli Meje Adelaide Pietersen Hannah Steph-Lazarus	Anyabulele Kaba Megan May Dillan Pillay Kayleigh Pool	Roman Morris Kuhle Mtandeki Gitte Nurok Uthmaan Pietersen
25 February	Micaela Clack Sarah Hudson Aiden Kilian Cole Macdonald	Chelsea Lubbe Sakhile Nyalashe Dalean Pietersen Connor Rademan	Angel Keyser Nkosazana Ntyintyane Arron Snyder Joshua Theron
4 March	Tatiana Jones Tristen Kurtz Daniella Macici Lakhanya Tisana	Joppe Schouteden Hugo Selbach Julie Seynhaeve Tatiana Wilson	Aisha Smith Michael Traut Phiwe Tshaya Axolile Yabo
11 March	Oliver van Schalkwyk Carla Viljoen Jesse Warwick Aluve Mtandeki	Ntlatla Sam Ethan Clack Kiara Soobramoney Matthew Thomson	Myolisi Maxam Seyiso Mayekiso Byron McCabe JP Mckay
18 March	Logan Masimla Siso Mvula Ashley Prinsloo Keion Trout	Aiden Sampson Anschen Vaughan Khaalid Tyer Taymore Anderson	Teague Riley Savannah Schulte Melody Cram Lisa April

We look forward to an exciting year with your children.
Thank you for your continued support,
Warm regards
Mike Aubin and the WPS team

Our new Grade 3 teacher, Kim Heath, is looking for accommodation for the year in the Paarl or Wellington area; please let her know if you can help in this regard.