



Wellington Preparatory School

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Newsletter 12
29 July 2011

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome

We would like to extend a warm Wellington Prep welcome to a few new pupils who joined us this term. Lucas Milner has joined our Grade 2 class, whilst Benjamin de Beer, Gregory Empedocles and Daniel Bristow have all joined our junior playgroup.

We would also like to welcome a new baby sister to Eden Wittles (Gr R) and her family.

Congratulations

to Uthmaan Pietersen who played in the John Nancy soccer tournament in Port Elizabeth during the school holidays. Uthmaan plays for the Cape Town Football Academy (IKapa) U11 squad and their team won the competition and received a gold medal with Uthmaan scoring one of the two goals to secure their first place. Well done Uthmaan!



Cinderella is in town!

Our biannual concert is now only a month away and we are all very excited and hard at work preparing for it. We can now confirm that there will be 3 performances:

Monday 5 September in the morning

Tuesday 6 September in the evening

Wednesday 7 September in the evening

ALL pupils are involved so please keep these dates free. Exact times and procedures for booking will appear in the next newsletter.

We would like each child to contribute R30.00 towards their costume and in return they will be receiving a t-shirt. For everything to run smoothly I would appreciate it if the money could be handed to your child's class teacher by no later than Friday 5 August. Please put the money in a sealed envelope with your child's name on it.

We are looking for help to sew costumes for the concert. If you are able to help please let Samantha Thwaites (Junior Playgroup teacher) know.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS: HOW DO YOU KNOW?

It has recently been brought to my attention that some parents are asking what guarantees they have that their children are getting the best possible education at our school.

May I start by saying that I am greatly encouraged by this. I fully expect parents to question us and to look at other schools if we do not meet their expectations. I only ask that parents direct their concerns to us as we are the only ones who can properly answer your questions and hopefully alleviate your fears.

Sadly, unlike high school where all matrics write the same exam, primary schools do not have the same set of uniform assessment standards and marks do vary widely from school to school as a result. Having said this, there are things you can look at that will give you some idea as to whether your school is 'making the grade'.

1. Official recognition and monitoring
 - Wellington Prep is a registered Independent School. Our curriculum and assessment standards have been approved by the Department of Education and we receive regular monitoring visitations.
 - We recently applied to join the Independent Schools Association of South Africa (ISASA). ISASA have much higher standards and they will only accredit schools who meet their standards. Our school was recently assessed by ISASA representatives who looked at our curriculum, assessments (tests and exams) and policies. ISASA have not only accredited us, they gave us very positive feedback on our academic standards.
2. Monitoring by senior staff
 - We are very fortunate to have two senior staff members, Lynne Oosthuizen and Lena-mari Marx who each have over thirty years experience in primary education. It is their job to constantly assess our curriculum, do regular class visits and maintain the high standards we set for ourselves.
 - Lynne, Lena-mari and I (as head of the Senior primary) meet fortnightly to discuss, amongst other things, academic standards, books and readers, changes to the curriculum etc. All three of us have extensive experience at other schools and we constantly strive to ensure Wellington Prep meets and even surpasses these standards.
3. Standardised testing and children leaving our school
 - Our Grade 3 and 6 classes take part in National Standardised testing (this will take place in October this year). In previous testing, our children have performed very well, way above the national average.
 - Our marks in Olympiads and Conquestas are consistently well above the average.
 - Although it is not a precise quantifiable means of measurement, the vast majority of children who have left Grade 7 and have gone on to excellent high schools like Paarl Boys, Paarl Girls and La Rochelle, have done well. They have maintained the sort of marks they achieved in Grade 7 in Grade 8. Many parents can attest to this. Some junior schools are known to give inflated marks and learners drop 20 – 30% when they go to high school.
 - Most of our children who have left Wellington Prep and gone to schools in other towns and cities, do very well. We try to monitor this carefully and if we pick up areas where we can improve, we do something about it.
4. Curriculum differences
 - It is true that other schools place more emphasis on certain subjects like Technology, EMS and LO than we do and we would perhaps not compare favourably to them in this regard. We deliberately spend more time on the core subjects of Literacy and Numeracy.

- Worksheets are wonderful tools to aid learning but, from Grade 4 to 7, children should be using the textbooks as their most important resource (as they will be required to do in high school). I have often been shown the most wonderful writing books from other schools with pages and pages of beautiful worksheets with answers given to children and neatly copied off the board. Whilst this may look impressive, it does not always mean that children understand the work.
- Should you be concerned if your child's marks have gone up a lot from his or her previous school? Not necessarily. Happy children, who find their niche with smaller classes and a more nurturing setting, will often achieve better results. I am not suggesting every child is blissfully happy here, it is normal for some children to become 'school shy' and not want to attend school at times. When this occurs, it is important to talk to your child's teacher, it could relate to a problem they are experiencing in class or on the playground. An unhappy child does not necessarily mean a bad school, but an unhappy child may point to a problem that needs to be addressed.

Should you be concerned with any of the above, please either speak to your child's teacher or to me – we can only solve problems that we are aware of. There is no such thing as a 'perfect' school and we are no exception. We constantly need to question what we are doing and seek ways to improve it. Chatting to other parents about your concerns is perfectly acceptable, but not talking to us thereafter is not.

AFTERCARE CELL PHONE: 071 9592355

We have now purchased a cell phone for the aftercare so that parents can get hold of Jeanne or Caroline after the school office closes. Please use the number above after our office hours instead of using Jeanne's personal cell phone.

Communication sheets

The fortnightly communication sheets will be sent home today for the Grade R - 7 classes. Please sign them and return to school on Monday.

LAZY LUNCH TERM 3

Lazy Lunch for the remainder of this term is as listed below. Please remember to place orders and give the money to your class teacher on the Tuesday morning.

3 August	Hamburgers	R 8.00
10 August	Toasted cheese and tomato	R 7.00
17 August	Pasta bake	R 6.00
24 August	Chicken mayonnaise baguette	R 6.00
31 August	Steak / Chicken pie	R 8.00
7 September	Cinnamon pancake	R 3.50
	Caramel pancake	R 4.00
14 September	Hamburgers	R 8.00
21 September	Toasted cheese and tomato	R 7.00

TUCK TERM 3

Please take note of the tuck roster for this term.

Date	Pre school	Gr 1-3	Gr 4-7
29 July	Luca Passerini Thando Telelo Lakhanya Tisana Shane du Plessis	Chelsea April Mbali Conana Amelie Goetze Marcus Mead	Isabelle Blaauw Anton Louw Danne Cameron Darren Lewis
5 August	Emma Adshade Matthew Hudson Tatiana Jones Tristan Kurtz	Jordan Anderson Mishkah Appel Ayabulela Kaba Megan May	Aisha Smith Phiwe Tshaya Fayyaad Arnold Zandile Matakata
12 August	Keren Chetty Tristen Haai Maxine McKenzie Amyoli Meje	Clivia Barnes Angelica Bellmunt Emil Duvenage Abdul Gaffoor	Joshua Theron Nkosazana Ntyintyane Ryland Foulkes Rainier Fourie
19 August	Philippa Castell Oliver Carey Micaela Clack Warren Brink	Misha Perrins Joppe Schouteden Jolene Schulte Kayleigh Stubbs	Teague Riley Lisa April Melody Cram Ingmar Geiger
26 August	Jordan le Cordeur Nohlé Rogers Charlotte Seynhaeve Kyle Soobramoney	Kayleigh Pool Aiden Sampson Khaalid Tyer Anschen Vaughan	John-Peter McKay Seyiso Mayekiso Myolisi Maxam Haezl Hendricks
2 September	Hannah Steph-Lazarus Carla Viljoen Jesse Warwick Buhle Kutuka	Chad Keyser Chelsea Lubbe Sakhile Nyalashe Ntlatla Sam	Mpelo Hlatuka Gitte Nurok George-Regan Barnes Coral Potocnik
9 September	Elih Jackson Aiden Kilian Logan Masimla Siso Mvula	Ethan Solomons Matthew Thomson Daleane Pietersen Ross Macdonald	Gregory Johnson Amy Daniels Okuhle Tshula Angel Keyser
16 September	Ashley Prinsloo Keion Trout Adelaide Pietersen Aluve Mtandeki	Tatiana Wilson Morgan Rademan Hannah Warwick Taina Tshaya	Kuhle Mtandeki Roman Morris Christiaan Maree Uthmaan Pietersen

'Horsey' thanks – a big 'thank you' to Gloria at Evergreen Stables for donating a few bakkie loads of horse manure to the school, our gardens and worm farm are most grateful! See the ad on the last page if you are interested in purchasing some manure.

Exam nerves necessary?

At the end of last term our grade 4's wrote their first set of exams. They were rather anxious beforehand but this is what they had to comment once the exams were over:

Ana	It's like doing work, just more tricky
Ethan	Quite fun. I love challenges
Uthmaan	A bit scary.
Teague	It was fun.
Ingmar	I enjoyed it a lot.
Kuhle	It was fun all the way.
Keenan	Fun
Lisa	A few things were a bit difficult.
Mpelo	It was hard.
Gitte	It was very nice because hard work leads to success.
Roman	It started scary and ended easy.
Thomas	I don't like exams, but loved the idea of going home early!
Emma	Nerve wrecking
Kade	A bit hard, but fun
Savannah	Exciting, especially when I saw my marks afterwards
Christiaan	Fun, fun, fun
Melody	Easy



TINS, TINS, TINS

Please keep on collecting your small change to fill the tins that were sent home last term.

Remember there will be prizes given to the child and the class who collect the most money as well as a prize for the 'best decorated' tin.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY 8 AUGUST

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DUE TO THE WOMENS' DAY HOLIDAY ON 9 AUGUST THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL ON 8 OR 9 AUGUST.



Attention all farmers and garden lovers:

WELL DECOMPOSED HORSE MANURE

COLLECT ON FARM:

Bakkie load	R60
Long wheel base bakkie	R70
40 kg filled bag	R12

Special rate per cubic meter for trucks

**Deliveries in Paarl/Wellington area –
40 kg bags (min. 10 bags) R15**

All orders C.O.D. Contact:

Gloria at Evergreen Stables 021-8682640 / Cell 0827855868

Good news for those of you who have children or any friends or family wanting **violin / viola lessons** as there is an excellent new **violin / viola teacher in town!!**

Previously permanently employed by the Cape Philharmonic orchestra, **Piet de Beer** now only freelances for them as he has started his own teaching business. He currently has pupils from La Rochelle that he teaches in Paarl as well as students at the University of Stellenbosch. He has his masters in music which he obtained at the RSAMD, in Scotland and a teaching diploma through UNISA. He is fully bilingual (eng /afr) so can teach in both languages.

For more info please contact **Piet de Beer** on 084 524 65 73.