



## *Wellington Preparatory School*

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Newsletter 18

## **Congratulations Teacher Kim**

On behalf of the Wellington Prep family, I would like to congratulate Kim Heath, our Grade 3 teacher, who recently got engaged to Arthur Ledgerwood. We wish both of you the very best for the future.

**Welcome** to Taymore Stubbs who joined our junior playgroup this week. We now have a trio of Stubbs sisters at the school!

Congratulations to Nathan Windvogel on the birth of his new brother, Jade.

## **Junior Playgroup visit the Aquarium**

Last week a brave Teacher Samantha together with Nandipa and Connie took the Junior Playgroup to the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town. The children loved their day out and the teachers enjoyed a peaceful drive home with a bus of sleeping passengers!



## Toys from home

Quite a few children from the pre-primary in particular are bringing toys to school. Whilst we don't mind the odd toy coming to school, parents need to be aware of the following:

1. We take no responsibility for toys from home that get lost or stolen.
2. If your child brings a toy, others will be allowed to play with it (within reason).
3. We don't encourage high tech toys such as remote control cars as they are easily broken.
4. Electronic games such as play stations and hand held games are not allowed at school.
5. Absolutely no toy guns, swords, knives or weapons of any kind may be brought to school.

## Religion policy

It has come to my attention of late that our policy on religion is a little misunderstood. According to our Prospectus, which you are welcome to view on our website:

*True to our mission of being an all-embracing school, Wellington Prep. School welcomes children from all religious backgrounds. Religious studies form a part of the syllabus, but owing to the diverse cultures in our school we do not prescribe to any one particular religion.*

This statement does not in any way suggest that we are anti-religion or indeed anti-Christian (most of our teachers are, in fact, practising Christians but they respect the schools policy and what it means). We recognise that there are many different religions and many different sects within a religion. We feel that the religion you choose to follow and the way you choose to follow it, is a family decision and not a school one.

As your mission statement clearly states 'Religious studies form part of our syllabus'. We feel it is important that children know about festivals like Diwali (the festival of lights) and Ramadan. We live in a diverse culture, knowing about a Hindu festival does not; in any way suggest that we are encouraging the children to become Hindu. Referring to Christianity and the Bible is not banned, but worshipping one religion is not encouraged at school.

Some classes do say a generic prayer of thanks before meals, we raised this at our General PTA in January and virtually all the parents present at the meeting said they were in favour of this.

Having a school that is based on tolerance and respect for other people's viewpoints is something all parents at the school are in favour of. Encouraging and allowing the worship of only one religion and thereby excluding those who do not follow that belief, goes against everything we stand for.

## Communication sheets

These have been sent home today for the Grade R to 7 classes. Please sign it and return it to school on Monday. Some parents have asked if they have to make a comment (under 'parent's comments'). No you don't, but you must please sign the form so that we know you have seen it. The comment space is there if you want to send a message back to the teacher.

## Exam letters

Exam letters detailing everything that needs to be studied have now been sent home to all classes from Grade 4 to 7. Please ensure that you have received this letter and help and encourage your child to draw up a study timetable and prepare adequately for exams.

## Textbook payments for 2012

Please remember that textbook payments are due by 11 November. Stationery order form and payment for Grade 1 only is due today, 4 November.

## **12h30 madness**

Please remember that your children in the pre-primary must be picked up straight after school at 12h30 or they must be booked into aftercare. Allowing your child to 'play' for 15 minutes is not an option as the aftercare is literally bursting at its seams. It is for this reason that we have implemented a policy that children will wait in their classrooms until their parents arrive. Thank you for your support and understanding.

## **Coin collection**

All tins were due in on Monday, so if you haven't yet handed in your tin, do so immediately. Lost tins will be charged at R50 per tin.

## **Chess on Thursdays**

Please note that chess on Thursday afternoons will be from 14h15 to 15h15. Children signed up for chess should be in the hall for that full time period as it is very disruptive having children going in and out of the hall.

## **CRICKET NEWS**

### **Mini-cricket**

We have had a very busy season to date. Our learners participated in a mini-cricket festival held by Slot van die Paarl where the U/8 and U/9 teams participated and the players showed promising talent for the rest of the season.

We played a match against Wellington Primary School. Our U/8 team won their game, but the U/9 team was not so fortunate with their result.

On Saturday 29th October we played in a cricket festival held by Bridge House. Our U/7 had an opportunity to show their talent and did very well in the three matches that they played. Our U/8 team went from strength to strength and won all three of their matches.

Well done, boys and girls. Thank you for making us proud with your excellent match etiquette.

### **Senior Cricket match vs Merwe Genis team – 3 November**

Yesterday our learners played a cricket match against the Merwe Genis Development team from Mbekweni. We struggled initially and managed to score 78 runs for our allotted 14 overs. Despite some impressive bowling figures, we were beaten by just 2 runs in the final over. Thank you boys for your good teamwork.

On Saturday 12 November our senior team will be defending their title as the Simond Pro-5 champions, at the Parys cricket grounds in Paarl. Matches will run from 08h00 to 12h45. Please come and support our team during the course of the morning.

### **Cricket score board**

We are looking for a company or an individual to sponsor a scoreboard for our cricket field. Anyone who might be interested in doing this should please contact the office.

### **Cricket coach for 2012**

We are considering changing our professional cricket coach for next year and possibly increasing practises to twice a week. If you know of a potential coach, preferably one with both suitable qualifications and experience, please let the school know.

## **WELLINGTON PREP HAS TALENT – ELIMINATION ROUNDS**

The elimination rounds are taking place as follows:

**Thursday 10 November – 14h15 to 16h30**

**Friday 11 November – 12h45 to 15h00**

You do not need to wear full costumes or put on makeup etc. Wear comfortable, suitable clothing. Bring your backing track/music as we will have a CD player available. There is no elimination round for the open section. The elimination round is only for the children's' acts. It will be a "first come, first served" basis but we will certainly attempt to accommodate the younger children first.

It will take place in the hall and each act will be seen individually with no audience only the elimination judges will be present.

We only need to see each act once, so come either on the Thursday or Friday. It is not necessary to come on both days.

A list of the successful acts who will participate on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December will be put up outside Heather's office on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of November.

If, due to valid reasons, your child is unable to attend either day of the elimination round please contact Heather in the front office so that we can see how we can accommodate them.

## **A bird's eye view**

Our keen birders in Grade 5 have compiled the following list of birds that they have seen within the school grounds:

BLACK HEADED HERON  
BLACK SMITH PLOVER  
BLACK SUNBIRD  
CAPE BULBUL  
CAPE FRANCOLIN  
CAPE ROBIN  
CAPE SISKIN  
CAPE TURTLE DOVE  
CAPE WEAVER  
CAPE WHITE-EYE  
CATTLE EGRET  
COMMON WAGTAIL  
COMMON WAXBILL  
EGYPTIAN GOOSE  
EUROPEAN STARLING  
FERAL PIGEON

FISCAL FLYCATCHER  
FISCAL SHRIKE  
FORKTAILED DRONGO  
GREATER PELICAN  
HADIDA  
HELMETED GUINEA FOWL  
HOUSE SPARROW  
JACKAL BUZZARD  
LESSER DOUBLE COLLARED SUNBIRD  
LESSER KESTREL  
MALACHITE SUNBIRD  
OLIVE THRUSH  
PARADISE FLYCATCHER  
PIED CROW  
PINTAILED WHYDA

REDEYED DOVE  
REDFACED MOUSE BIRD  
ROCK PIGEON  
SACRED IBIS  
SOUTHERN MASKED WEAVER  
SOUTHERN RED BISHOP  
SPOTTED EAGLE OWL  
STEPPE BUZZARD  
STONE CHAT  
SWEE WAXBILL  
WHITE BREASTED CORMORANT  
YELLOW BILLED DUCK  
YELLOW RUMPED WIDOW

## **Fun in the sand in Grade R**



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

