

1 February 2016

Dear Parents

From the Office of the Executive Head



It's the start of February already and if you're into Hallmark moments or Facebook memes, you'll have noticed that there is much schmaltz about at the moment in anticipation of Valentine's Day. But let's not get ahead of ourselves. Suze Orman's quotation about resolutions has relevance for all our plans, not just financial commitments. To be honest, I weakened on Friday and bought a chocolate after nearly a whole month of managing without. It's about this time that our youngsters' study resolutions begin to waver too, as the new books lose their pristine appearance and allure. And so it is important for us to encourage (no nagging) them to persevere, despite the heat and the lack of novelty. I suppose I should share my chocolate and be more disciplined too.

Curriculum

As a Meridian School, we have access to the Curro Curriculum developments which enable us to deliver learning programmes which are cutting edge and are aimed at equipping our learners for the twenty-first century. Last week both Mrs Moyce and I attended a conference at which groundbreaking educational developments were unpacked. These advancements are already entrenched in the curriculum we follow at Meridian Pinehurst. They include among many others the following key concepts/ strategies:

- The Nursery focuses on multiple intelligences
- Lego Soft bricks – Nursery
- Grade R learners are already being matched to *individual* book levels
- Robotics with its focus on developing an ability to eventually code for apps is an integral part of the curriculum right from Foundation Phase.
- The intermediate Phase focuses on strategies to read with comprehension rather than mere comprehension testing.
- Nano-science, plastics technology and satellite technology are components of the Senior Phase Science and Technology curricula
- Mathematics in all phases is taught with the concept of developing number sense and problem solving abilities rather than the learning of formulas and recipes.
- Our educators in all phases of the school are exposed to professional learning communities which grow and expand their skills and pedagogical (how to teach) understanding.

Most importantly we are part of a company of educators dedicated to continuously explore new and effective ways to educate your children for the twenty-first century. Tablets, by implication, are not mere textbooks with a screen, but are intended as tools to modify and redefine knowledge. Consult the Curro website for further explanations: <http://www.curro.co.za/curro-curriculum.aspx>

This week all resolutions to be fit and work as a team were covered by both the Foundation Phase and the High School which had their White and Blue and inter-Curro athletics respectively. The following show some of the highlights:

Foundation Phase Athletics

U/7 Boys

1. **Ian Horstman**
2. **Alakhe Arosi**
3. **Jordan Adams**

u/7 Girls

1. **Chloë Steenkamp**
2. **Mischa Hendricks**
3. **Lilam Tshloba**

u/8 Boys

1. **Nishaaf Saardien**
2. **Caleb T**
3. **Hamilton Ward**

u/8 Girls

1. **Simona Anthony**
2. **Anne Burger**
3. **Caitlyn Olkers**

u/9 Boys

1. **Billy Janse van Vuuren**
2. **Kalim Meyer**
3. **Zam Mayambela**

u/9 Girls

1. **Olachi Okorofor**
2. **Aurora Ryser**
3. **Jayden Jooste**



Well done to all our heroes who gave their all on a really hot day. A huge apology for the confusion caused by last week's newsletter with the incorrect date for this event.

Inter-Curro High School Athletics

Congratulations to all our athletes and their school cheerleaders and supporters for a most successful event on Thursday, in which we finished third against top opposition. Thanks to the teachers for officiating and showing the other schools that Meridian educators have the moves!



Athletes who finished in the top three in their races.



Record breakers:

- Tariro Toruvanda** – Girls' discus U/17
- Ancel Pietersen** – Boys' shot put U/14
- Bradley Cairns** – Boys' 1500m U/17
- Liam Snyders** – Boys' high jump U/14
- Mihlali Koyana** – Girls' high jump U/14
- Liyema Tutu** – Girls' javelin U/14

Leadership Camp



The High School RCL (Representative Council of Learners) attended a leadership training camp at Wemmershoek at the weekend. Thanks to **Messrs Brand and Jacob**, as well as **Mrs Moyce** who attended it with them. It is the intention of the high school this year to involve our young people more in the school and for them to take ownership of our traditions and ethos.



Hats

We have noticed that not all learners are bringing their hats to school. Please check that they do so. We do have hats available from reception now so if your child's is missing you can purchase one directly from the school. Please mark all uniform items.

Smoke-free Zone

Kindly note that the Meridian Pinehurst is a smoke-free zone so smoking is not permitted anywhere on the campus, even at the sports fields.

Dates to Diarise

- Monday, 1 February: **Ms Tanya Kriel's** birthday
Athletics: Circuit 7 Meeting
- Tuesday, 2 February: Meridian Schools Workshop at Pinehurst
- Wednesday, 3 February: Athletics: Circuit 7 Meeting
- Thursday, 4 February: Synergy Training Workshop at Pinehurst
- Friday, 5 February: **Ms Sorentio Antonio's** birthday
Athletics: Circuit 7 Meeting
- Saturday, 6 February: Athletics: Circuit 7 Meeting
IEC Voter Registration at
Pinehurst
- Sunday, 7 February: IEC Registration

Whatever our resolutions for this year, let us pray for renewed vigour, especially for those which affect other people. As Paul tells us in his letter to the Galatians:

Yours in education

Colleen Bentley
Executive Head

