

7 March 2016

Dear Parents

From the Desk of the Executive Head

I hope all our parents and senior learners who are of-age did their 'little bit' for our country, by registering to vote this weekend.

As a school, we certainly did, offering up our campus as a polling station and encouraging all Grade 11's, who are 17, to register to vote, especially those who will be 17 by election time (3 August) this year: voting is not only their right, but their responsibility.

News of Mr Snyman

We were guests of Curro Sitari on Friday at the official opening of yet another school which **Mr Phil Snyman** has pioneered. I would like to pay tribute here to Meridian Pinehurst's founding executive head. Not only did he have the vision and spirit to establish a thriving community of learning on the dusty slopes of Pinehurst, but he has gone on to do it again on the plains outside Somerset West. It is our task now at Pinehurst to consolidate what he began, as we enter our 'matric era.' What a privilege it is to continue his work – and what big shoes I have to fill!

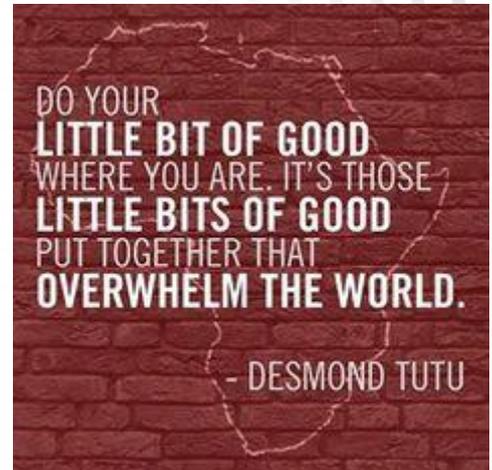
Jet Assessment Discussions

Every year our learners in Grades 3, 6 and 9 do a couple of external systemic assessments, which are used for academic standard and target setting. On Wednesday Jet Education Services, a company which analyses such tests, representatives of the fund manager for Old Mutual and the CCEE (Curro Centre for Educational Excellence) sat down with teachers, senior management and regional management to analyse last year's results and set targets for 2016.

You will be pleased to hear that Meridian Pinehurst out-performed all Meridian schools (and held our own with Curro schools) in most areas in Mathematics and English. You can be confident that your children are in good hands here. That is not to say, however, that we shall not be aiming higher in all areas, especially those which we have identified as needing specific focus due to historical gaps in learning. We are fortunate to have the backing of the CCEE which is continuously developing our teachers and exposing us to cutting edge educational innovations. Few educational systems can make this claim.

Grade 4 Museum Curatorship

Our Grade 4 History learners put on a fascinating display of antique artifacts as part of their History studies with **Mrs Stevens**. Of course for someone of my vintage, it was a trifle disconcerting to realise how many of the items on display were familiar to me, but the learners had fun doing orals on their discoveries and also learning a bit about curatorship as they arranged their



displays for viewing. Well done to our Grade Fours and to their teacher for making history tangible and accessible to her learners.

Legacy 01 Visit

The following is a report from **Kelly Josephs**, one of our Grade 11s, on the visit from the Canadian Worship Group, Legacy 01.

Place: Meridian Pinehurst

Date: 3 March 2016

Grades 6 to 11 were gathered on the sports field for an amazing surprise... Legacy 01!

Legacy 01 – a group of Canadian Christian entertainers – paid our beautiful school another exciting visit. They consisted of talented dancers, exceptional poets and out of this world DJ's!

The group not only spread the gospel through their inspirational life stories but also brought us together on another level! We had no idea that Meridian Pinehurst was overflowing with so much TALENT! Meridian learners were called upon to showcase their talent and naturally the challenge was met! The highlight of the day was Vernon (GRADE 7), our very own beatboxer who took us on a journey of sound! It was brilliant and we are extremely proud of knowing that he is one of ours!

We look forward to experiencing Legacy 01 in 2017 as they strengthen that which already exists at our school: a love of God, respect and camaraderie.

*Kelly Josephs
11.2*

She writes well too.

Term 1 Primary School Sport

Please note that sport for Term 1 in the Primary School (Foundation Phase and Intersen Phase) will end on 10 March.

Drought Relief

You might have read this article from the latest Tygerberger regarding assisting with drought relief by using grass cuttings.

Overleaf are some tips on saving website, which we can all utilise. Remind your youngsters to remember to switch off taps properly too, something we are battling with at school.

Mow lawn for drought

ESMÉ ERASMUS
@erasmusesme

All you need to help farmers in the severe drought conditions in the rest of the country, is a neat and tidy lawn!

The Hope Grass project, which was launched by Annelize Geldenhuys in Gauteng to supply mowed grass as forage for farmers in drought-stricken areas in the country, now has a Western Cape flavour with Jeane-Maréé Greeff (26) from Alltech on Bottelary Road continuing the project this side of the country.

Greeff urges everyone who has mowed their lawn, as well as garden companies, schools and municipalities, to donate the grass to her to be distributed up north. Greeff read on Facebook about the project and along with her colleagues decided to get involved.

The company offered their premises for a drop-off point for the project.

The grass is dried and put into bags before being transported.

Alltech is situated on the corner of Koelenhof and Bottelary roads. Drop-offs can be done on weekdays between 08:00 and 18:00. Weekend drop-offs can be arranged.

Anyone interested can contact Greeff by email at jgreeff@alltech.com or on 079 458 2097, or Chanel on 021 865 2669. Visit Hope Grass Project – Hoop Gras Projek on Facebook for more information.

Showing some of the mowed grass that was collected, are (from left) Annelize Geldenhuys (coordinator of Hope Grass Project), Jeane-Maréé Greeff, Thea Mouton, Chanel van Heerden and Brandon Retief (all from Alltech).

PHOTO: CARINA ROUX

Water Conservation Tips

1. Fix a dripping tap – this can waste up to 15 litres of water a day, or 5 500 litres of water a year.
2. Always use full loads in your washing machine and dishwasher.
3. Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth – this can save up to 6 litres per minute.
4. Take a shorter shower.
5. Place a cistern displacement device in your toilet cistern to reduce the volume of water used in each flush.
6. Water your garden with a watering can rather than a hosepipe. Mulching your plants with bark chippings and heavy compost and watering early in the morning and later afternoon will reduce evaporation and save water.
7. Install a water butt to your drainpipe and use the water collected to water your plants, wash your windows and clean your car.
8. Fill a jug with tap water and place in your fridge. This means you don't have to leave the cold tap running for the water to run cold before you fill your glass.
9. Invest in water-efficient goods when you need to replace household products, eg water efficient showerheads, taps, toilets, washing machine and dishwashers.
10. Install a water meter.

Leaflet from Pam Golding Properties

Date Night

We trust you enjoyed your date night on Friday evening. Your children certainly had fun. Thank you to all the Nursery and Primary School teachers who worked late into the night to make this possible.

Dates to Diarise

Wednesday, 9 March: U/11 Boys Cricket VS El Shaddai – 15:00 @ Meridian Pinehurst

Thursday, 10 March: Test Series ends (Grade 4-11)

U/13 Boys Cricket VS Curro D'ville B – 15:00 @ Meridian Pinehurst

Friday, 11 March: Curro Regional Tournament: Primary School

Saturday, 12 March: Curro Regional Tournaments: High School

Birthday: **Mr Ruan Uys**

Sunday, 13 March: Birthdays: **Mrs Stacy Garcia**

Mr Flip Theunissen

The American writer and professor at Princeton University, Henry van Dyke, a friend of Helen Keller, had this to say about the concept of doing one's bit, as quoted by the 'The Arch' in my introduction:

'Use what talents you possess: the woods would be very silent if no bird sang there except those that sang best.'

So have a week in which your 'song' is not only heard in the shower, but makes this world a better place.

Yours in education

Colleen Bentley
Executive Head