

18 April 2016

Dear Parents

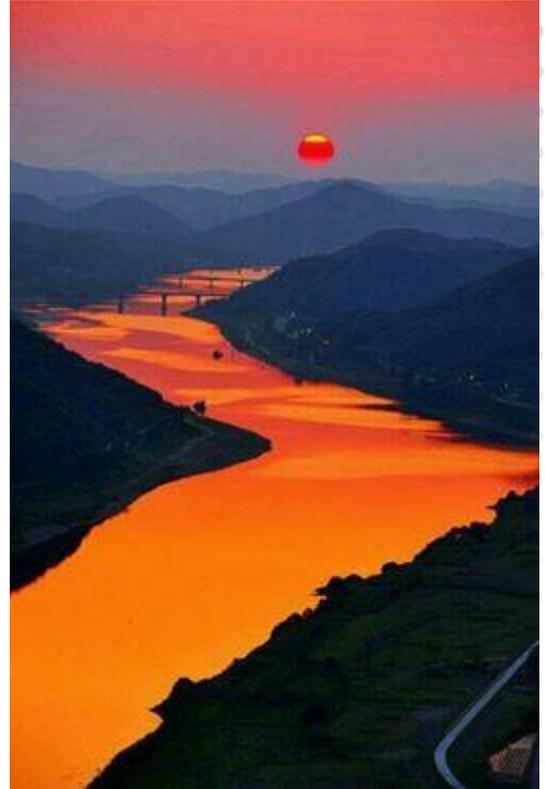
From the Office of the Executive Head

***'Every moment of every event of every [person's] life on Earth plants something deep in his soul.'***

Thomas Merton, Trappist Monk

I used these words at Open Day on Saturday to emphasise how importantly we take the education of your children at Meridian Pinehurst. While not every moment of our lives (or every lesson in school) is as breathtakingly beautiful as the photograph alongside, we are most conscious of how everything we do or say touches their souls.

A teacher's job prepares young people for eternity. This is no small challenge and we are mindful to always draw our children towards joy and towards God.



Sunrise over the Orange River – photograph by Khatiya Suleman (Facebook)

### Congratulations

**Allyson Adams**, one of our top learners in Grade 10 has been selected for an American Field Scholarship/Kennedy Lugar Youth Exchange Scholarship for the 2016/2017 academic school year in the United States of America. She will jet off to the USA in August and return in her Grade 11 year. We are enormously proud of her and wish her well on this exciting venture. Upon her return, we shall all benefit from hearing about her experiences. Godspeed home, Allyson.

### Mid-term Break

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: 28-29 April are school holidays. Meridian Pinehurst will be closed from 27 April - 2 May, re-opening on 3 May.** There will be holiday care for children in the Nursery and Primary School on 28, 29 April, but please alert us as soon as possible of your intention to make use of this service.

### Newsletter

Please check your email 'Clutter Box' if you do not always receive this newsletter. I have discovered, horror of horrors, that one or two email firewalls have consigned my missive to you all on a Monday to junk status. Unlike the rand, there is some worth in this communication, I hope. I appreciate the irony also of saying all this *in* a newsletter, so please pass on this information to others who may believe they do not receive my letters. Please also check that the school has your correct cell phone numbers if you believe you may not be receiving all school communication.

## Open Day

Many thanks to all existing parents who supported Open Day by bringing their children to participate. The Group 5's were gorgeous and Grade 5's were powerful on stage. The choir showed off its new, quirky approach. The high school made use of the opportunity to cover some interesting areas in the syllabus and the footballers got in some team selection. Thank you also to our Connect leaders who led the devotion and to the RCL and Grade 7 monitors who acted as tour guides all morning, not to mention our energetic staff members who assisted parents all morning.

## Late coming

Although we are aware that the traffic congestion in the mornings is quite bad, we do appeal to you to get your little ones to school on time. Many children are still arriving for school long after the start of the school day, which interrupts the morning ring in the younger classes and generally has a knock on effect of stress for your child throughout the day. Tardiness in the high school particularly directly impacts learning for others in the class also.

## Parking

**PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD** outside the administration building. If there is no parking spot, you/ your child will have to walk. It is both dangerous and inconsiderate to do park on both sides of the road, because it impedes traffic flow and leaves drivers unsighted of small children crossing unexpectedly..

## Water Collection



Diarise Thursdays from 5 May as water donation days. A letter in this regard will go out this week.

We are aiming not only to assist drought-stricken areas, but teach our children that 'every drop counts' and that even a small amount when joined with others' donations becomes a large amount.

## Educators' Contacts

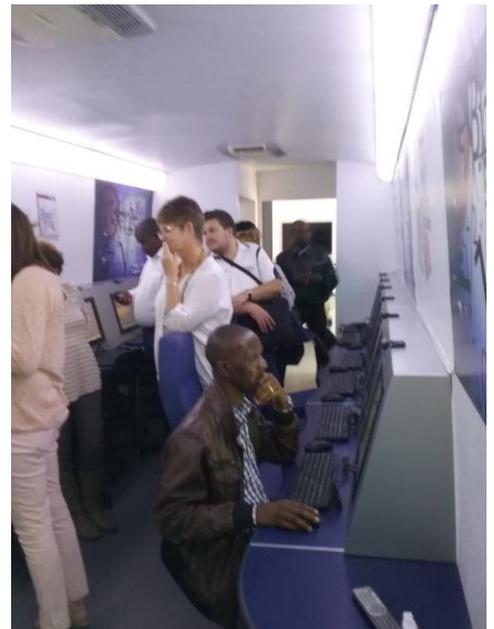
Subsequent to the Parent Interviews held last term and early this term, note that educators' contact details are available on the website and any concerns can be addressed to them via email.

## Uniform

It is of concern to me that many children do not yet have their full winter uniform. Grade 6 – Grade 11 learners should all be wearing their blazers every day. GRIT Clothing promises delivery within 48 hours. Please encourage your children to take pride in their uniform. This is how we build our community.

## Modlin Training for Staff

Look out for the bus parked on campus on Friday. It is coming to train our teachers in the exciting new software designed to assist learners with subject specific technical vocabulary and with variations in test questioning.



Safety and Cooldrink Bottles

Please note that several children are bringing metallic cooldrink bottles to school which when wielded wildly in play (as one does it would seem, when playing monster games) can cause injury. We have had a few such incidents and so appeal to parents to send drink in containers which are not as sharp and which are less likely to cause damage if accidentally making contact with a knight without her headgear/ body armour.

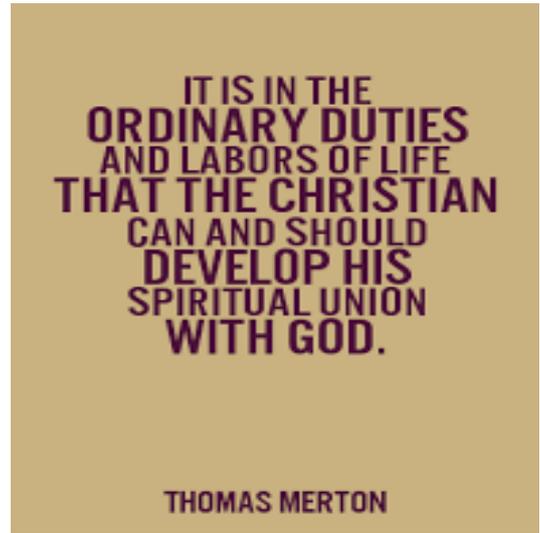
Dates to Diarise

- Monday, 18 April: Spelling Olympiad forms to be returned (no money yet please)
- Tuesday, 19 April: Nursery Class Photographs
- Wednesday, 20 April: MERC Meeting  
Ms Amanda Kleynhans' birthday
- Thursday, 21 April: Spelling Olympiad Tests  
All new Senior Phase educators to CCEE Reading Assessment Training
- Friday, 22 April: Modlin Training for Staff

I wish you all a week of moments which touch your soul and pray that you find God even in ordinary things.

Yours in education

Colleen Bentley  
Executive Head



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