

25 April 2016

Dear Parents

From the Office of the Executive Head

'And when they arrived [in Antioch], they gathered the Church together and declared all that God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.'

Acts of the Apostles 14: 27

In a school such as ours, we are mindful of how we as teachers, not only open the door of education to our learners, but must create an environment in which God will open the door of faith to our learners: a big responsibility, one which we take seriously.

Congratulations

Well done to these Foundation Phase learners who certainly are 'walking through the door of education':



Grade 1

Troy Carls
Zandea Stapelberg
Neo Nthama
Chloe Swart
Thato Sosibo
Luciano Potgieter
Ryan Pieterse
Caityn Johaar
Peter Lethina
Juanita Savel
Imigen Valentine
Edwin Barlow



Grade 2

Dylan Davis
Nelisive Mchunu
Sisipho Ndunyane
Luc Bresler
Addison Bower
Joshua Grebe
Kabelo Sehlako
Kayli Heinen
Ezra Hartzenberg
Jada Jasmin
Jordan Persens
Tristan Marais



Grade 3

Nyasha Toruvanda
Uviwe Tembela
Josh Schrikker
Kezia Steenberg
Tiege von Schaeffer
Josann Thotharam
Connar Puntis
Thimna Maxim
Deiniol-John Cloete
Aurora Ryser

Meridian Bus

There are all sorts of advantages to having your youngster take the school bus (This week's horrible traffic congestion with the roadworks on Okavanga Drive is a good example).

Future Coaches ensures high standards of roadworthiness of the vehicle, there is on board passenger insurance, live tracking of the vehicles and scheduled service intervals at accredited suppliers.

Future Coaches & ADTA (Africa Dynamics Training Alliance) implemented a driver course for all drivers to become drivers who are safer; more responsible and who know how to react in a case of an emergency situation. We can be proud of our driver, **Mr Karel Gous** who recently attended a "Preventative and Defensive Driving Techniques" course.

Please note that we do still have a few places available on the bus so please avail yourselves of this excellent service.

School Bus Service Information:

<i>Bus stops</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
<i>1. Shell Garage</i>	<i>Just off R300, Kuilsriver</i>	<i>06:50</i>	<i>17:10</i>
<i>2. Food Lover's Market</i>	<i>Off van Riebeeck Street, Kuilsriver</i>	<i>06:00</i>	<i>17:00</i>
<i>3. Liquor City</i>	<i>Opposite Total garage, Kuilsriver</i>	<i>06:10</i>	<i>16:50</i>
<i>4. Parking area oppo Bed City</i>	<i>Soneike Centre, Kuilsriver</i>	<i>06:20</i>	<i>16:45</i>
<i>5. Pick 'n Pay Hypermarket parking area</i>	<i>Hypervillas, Brackenfell</i>	<i>06:30</i>	<i>16:35</i>
<i>6. Corner of Protea & Kruispad Streets</i>	<i>Greenfields, Protea Heights</i>	<i>06:40</i>	<i>16:30</i>
<i>7. Bus stop at IVECO</i>	<i>Northpine</i>	<i>06:50</i>	<i>16:25</i>
<i>8. Engen garage</i>	<i>Corner of 5th Ave and Brighton Rd, Kraaifontein</i>	<i>07:00</i>	<i>16:20</i>

Cost: R775p/month over 12 months

Route: Kuilsriver, Brackenfell, Northpine and Kraaifontein

Morning: Departs from Shell Garage in Kuilsriver at 05:50

Arrives at Meridian Pinehurst at 07:35

Afternoon: Departs from Meridian Pinehurst at 16:00

For a good reason to take the bus (and some fun):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdBVMRmA9s8>

Twenty-first Century Education

You will be hearing a great deal about this phrase in the next few months as we focus on this important aspect of our curriculum. Watch the video below to gain an understanding of the challenges to education in this century – which were not there when we oldies (I speak for myself of course) were back in high school – the rate of change in our world has necessitated a completely different approach to learning in all areas.

We can no longer teach mere knowledge, because there is too much and this is increasing at a pace we cannot hope to match. We must teach systems of knowledge and change the focus for example in Mathematics from teaching methods/ formulas to teaching children number sense (understanding Mathematics). All of this involves a mind shift for educators and learners. It is important that our parents understand what we are doing.



It is also important that if your child is receiving tutoring from an outside professional that that person is aware of the methodology employed by the school. Young tutors who do not have actual teacher-training (and others who do) may not be familiar with the number sense teaching methods and so may not be adequately supporting the learner. Ensure that your child's tutor liaises constantly with the relevant teacher to best assist your child.

Remember also that Mathematics support classes happen EVERY afternoon from Monday to Thursday in both the Intersen Phase and High School, free of charge.

'Shift Happens': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpEFjWbXog0>

Pen Pals



With the global village in mind, our Grade 5s and 6s will be participating in an exciting pen pal project with US schools, in partnership with Curro Holdings, Via Afrika and the American PenPal Schools programme, linking children in South Africa with others in the US. The learners will engage in online collaborative learning, interacting with their counterparts around the Social Sciences syllabus, on issues such as civil rights and the struggle for freedom and equality.

Read more about this endeavour by following this link:

<http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/blog/7280-innovative-study-programme-creates-collaborative-playing-ground-across-the-globe>

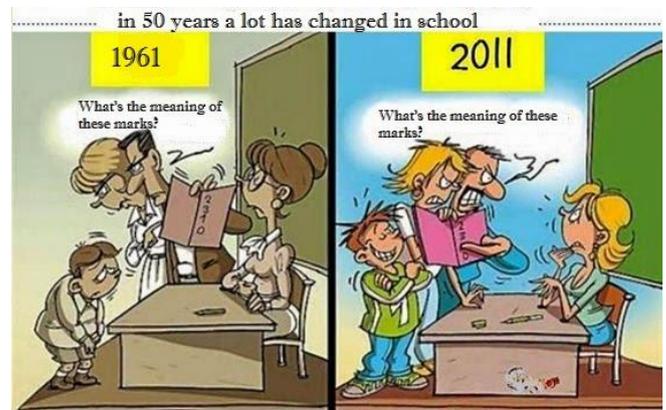
Systemic Testing

You may be aware that our school participates in various systemic tests (notably in Grades 3, 6 and 9) in order to ascertain the standards of learning and teaching. These are different from the assessments which are recorded on your child's school report and are used to identify areas of weakness in learners' understanding of concepts as well as to inform where teaching needs to be focussed or changed.

If you were on campus on Friday you may have seen the bus housing the mobile teacher-training venue for new technology which I mentioned in my last newsletter which we shall be implementing in all subjects to raise the standard of our learners' understanding of the technical vocabulary required in each subject. Teachers also interacted with technology which allows them to expose their learners to every type of question possible to best prepare them for tests and examinations.

Collaboration in Education

We appeal to parents to support rather than undermine the teacher at home. If you recognise yourself in this cartoon, please take a moment to remember that the teacher is a professional who while s/he may make mistakes as humans do, is guiding your youngster towards the goals of a curriculum with specific outcomes in mind and with a particular philosophy of education underpinning it. If you do have concerns about something, please contact the school, bearing in mind that sometimes the reality may get lost in translation via your child. Please do not undermine your child's learning relationship with her teacher, by running the teacher down in family conversation.



Neither of the situations in this cartoon are effective for proper learning to happen. Education is collaborative rather than punitive. Assessment is a tool, not a weapon.

Foundation Phase Notes:

- Parents must please report to reception during the day and not go directly to the classroom please. (This applies to all parents)
- If parents arrive late in the mornings, please report to reception first, because we take register just after 8:00 in the mornings and if they do not report to reception first, the learners will be marked absent for the day.
- R5 for Civvies on Tuesday, 26 April 2016.

Uniform

The sports skorts are still not available from the stockists so we are allowing the girls to use the navy shorts for sport *until the skorts arrive*. Please note that this will not be a permanent arrangement.

Hockey socks: the local supplier is no longer stocking these so GRIT has agreed to make plain navy socks available at the lounge. We shall inform you as soon as we have stock delivered. The socks are not available via the web.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused with these situations which are beyond our control.

Please ensure that your Grade 7-11 child is wearing a blazer to and from school now. Too many young people are telling me elaborate tales of why they do not yet have this important item of uniform and I have seen several who are clearly uncomfortable in the cold. Please note that it is really chilly now. They need to have them. Make use of the Clothing Exchange if cost is an issue.

Support our Disa Team members

Tuesday, 26 April is Disa Team Support Day. All the schools will support the Tour Fund by inviting learners to wear civvies (Nursery children wear pyjamas) and bring R5 (or more) to assist those going on tour as part of the Disa Team. Moneys left over will go to boost an ongoing tour fund which will assist any learner who is in a similar position as well as learners whose parents find themselves unable to pay for outings.

Long Weekend

Please note that civvies and the upcoming long weekend ≠ no work. We shall have teaching and assessment on Monday and Tuesday this week, as usual. Please do not take an extra day off because your child may miss out on important sections of the syllabus. High School learners may be busy with tasks due next week so time management is important.

Vegetable Garden

If you drive along Okavanga Drive you may be able to see where we have begun clearing the ground for our vegetable garden. We are grateful to **Kirchhoffs** who are donating seed to begin our first crop as well as parents who are pitching in (pun intended) to both plough and fertilize (natural manure) the area.



Cleanliness Campaign

Please assist us with pointing out to learners where there is litter to be picked up. We are focussing on the tuckshop area for the next few days and would appreciate your assistance, especially before and after school.

Dates to Diarise

Monday, 25 April: PS Netball versus Excelsior (away)

Tuesday, 26 April: Civvies for Tour Fund

Wednesday, 27 April: **PUBLIC HOLIDAY – Freedom Day – no school**

Mrs Jesse Arries' birthday

Thursday, 28 April: **SCHOOL HOLIDAY – holiday care**

Mr Jan Mouton's birthday

Friday, 29 April: **SCHOOL HOLIDAY – holiday care**

Saturday, 30 April: **HOLIDAY**

Sunday, 1 May: **PUBLIC HOLIDAY – May Day**

Mr Fouché Scholtz's birthday.

Monday, 2 May: **PUBLIC HOLIDAY – May Day on a Sunday – no school**

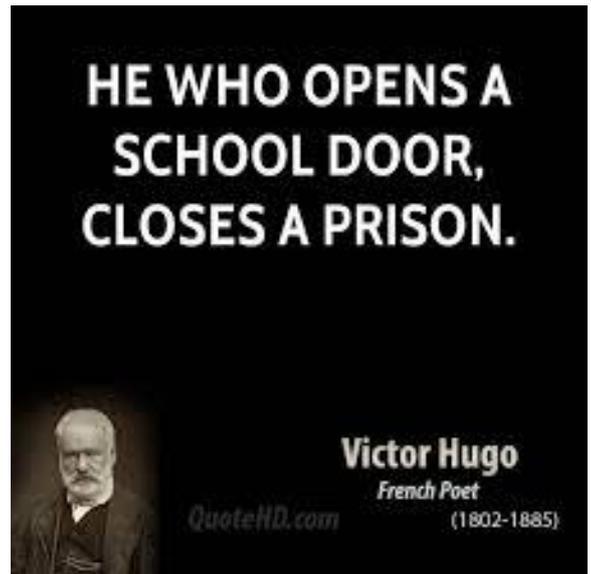
Ms Juanita Prince's birthday

Tuesday, 3 May: Please come back – we love you.

We wish all of you a good midterm rest and remind those of you who are fortunate to be travelling over the long weekend to ensure that the driver transports you safely because you are carrying Meridian Pinehurst's precious cargo.

Yours in education

Colleen Bentley
Executive Head



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CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

marina@zaronbs.com | 021 813 9217 | whatsapp@0798786274 |
skype@zaronbs