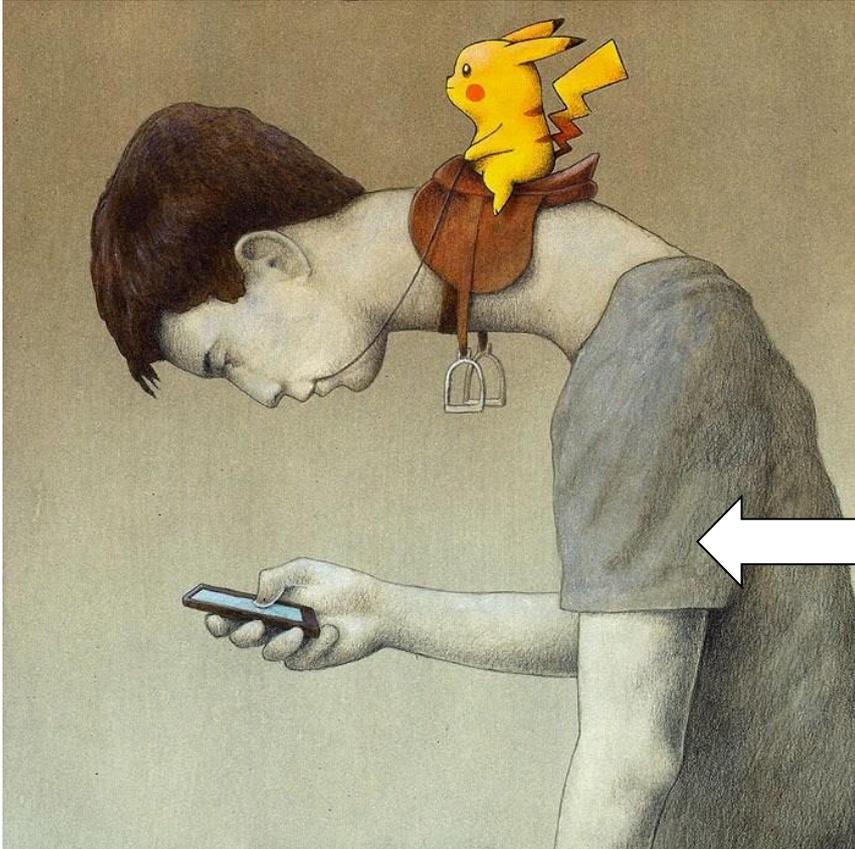


1 August 2016

Dear Parents

From the Office of the Executive Head



I had a surreal (get it?) conversation with my son on our drive home last week. It went like this:

Me: How was school? (*I'm not very original*)

Youngest Offspring: Fine. (*Teenagers are not original either*)

Except me and my friends [sic] had to keep re-taking the tuckshop.

Me: Huh? Are learners having a sit-in?

Charmander: Did you know there is a gym at Cobblewalk?

Me: Yes, but I can't afford it, so we're not going.

L-Shaped Child: I'm a Mystic.

Me: I am glad you are growing spiritually, my boy.

Techno Spawn: Mom, please will you drive less than 20km/h or else they'll think I'm cheating.

Me: No.

Picture by Pawel Kuczynski

Needless to say Mom's own little **pocket monster** was not too impressed with his parent. Sigh. Goes with the territory, I suppose, along with having to remind school children that there are no squirtles on the grass at Meridian Pinehurst.

This craze (and I use that word deliberately) has certainly had a galvanising effect on global anti-social sedentary adolescents. It is entertaining to sit at my desk in my bedroom which overlooks our street, and see youngsters tearing down the pavements in search of close encounters of the virtual kind. However, I have warned my younger boys of the dangers of the 'lures' being for humans – and that they may be the prey so they should be alert, but that they should also be aware of the danger of roaming around, heads down with smart phones in their hands – again, they are targets for thieves. I am also concerned that in their desperation to capture that elusive Pokémon that they may blindly traverse busy roads and get hurt or cause an accident.

As an English teacher, I am aware that the lines between real and imaginary have become even more blurred and have resigned myself to the fact that my son may NEVER use the word 'literally' correctly. Just off to ensure 'Blanche' is washing the dishes....

Mandela Day

Many thanks to all parents who donated the ingredients for the multitude of sandwiches prepared and delivered to five institutions on Friday. The experience of assisting with the distribution had a profound effect on our Grade 7 monitors who accompanied the bakkie loaded with food:

It was an eye-opening experience to see how lucky I am. I enjoyed meeting the people and talking to the children. I saw how every sandwich made a big difference for them. **Rhea Naidoo**

I didn't really learn anything new at the shelter, school and day clinic because I had already known for a long time about the many people without food or homes. I did enjoy handing out the bread though. At first I felt a bit shy, but later I realised that I was just being silly and therefore started to open up. **Thomas Coetzee**

It was very eye-opening. It made me realise that not everyone has what I have. It helped me understand the responsibility we have to the less fortunate. I saw that they have almost nothing. They came and asked for more which made me really sad. When I saw how fast the kids ate the food it made me feel really sorry for them. Even though it was scary at times, I realised that they have a good heart. **Skyla Elliott**

The excursion was a wonderful experience. When we gave sandwiches to the little kids, they were very grateful. At the school we gave children a sandwich and a high-five. The smile on their faces was very heart warming. **Ng'oyi Kabaso**

The bread making and giving on Mandela Day was a real indication on how thankful we should be towards the things we receive from our loved ones and even from strangers. It was great and at the same time also very heart-breaking because all the "thank you" from the less fortunate was a real blessing and it touched my heart. **Jadon Fortuin**

The experience was truly a blessing to provide food for the children and shelters. The children were very kind and grateful. The faces of the children made us very sad and also grateful for what we have.

Victor February

I found this experience very touching, it really showed us all what we should appreciate, as not everyone is lucky enough to get what we have. I wish we could have handed out more sandwiches, because they really needed more.

Tara Casaleggio



Staff News

We welcome **Ms Elize Crouse** to the high school this week. She joins our permanent staff as the senior CAT teacher and comes with a wealth of experience at matric level.

STOP PRESS: Mrs Crouse's child is gravely ill in hospital so **Mrs Almamo** will be with us for a few more days. Thank you to her for stepping in at the last moment.



Congratulations

Lloyd Poole made it to the Final DHL u/12 WP Rugby Trials on 11 August. We are very proud of him and eagerly await the outcome.

Mrs Adele Käsner (Foundation Phase Head) has been selected as part of the Curro national curriculum development task team. This is a huge honour and another indication of the quality of educators teaching your children.

Ms Sonika Pienaar (as well as nurturing her poppets in Group 3 in the Nursery) has completed the first semester of her BEd Foundation Phase studies, passing with 5 distinctions.

My Hub Apologies

We apologise for the delay in smses reaching parents via My Hub. The Curro IT team is addressing the lag as a matter of urgency.



Voting

Do not be alarmed if you see SAPS members on campus over the next couple of days. Because Meridian Pinehurst is a polling station on Wednesday, citizens who are casting special votes will be coming and going over Monday and Tuesday and we shall have IEC staff on campus.

Don't forget Wednesday is a public holiday and the whole school is closed so we can perform our civic duty. Please encourage your youngsters to come out to vote also in order to play an active part in our democracy.

Uniform Updates

Good news: the sports skorts have arrived.

The Meridian scarves are also now available. Please note that for the remainder of this winter other navy blue scarves will be allowed, but that from next year, only Meridian scarves will be permitted.

With the colder weather a variety of multi-coloured accessories have made an appearance. While cute, these are not part of the Meridian uniform and may not be worn. Please don't undermine the school, by sending your child with such attire. It puts teachers in an unfair position.

Fleece tops may NOT be worn as alternatives to or under blazers in the Grades 6-11. They are NOT part of the formal uniform at all and may only be worn under tracksuit tops. Likewise, official wind breakers may be worn over the blazer when it rains, not in place of it.

Meridian learners are not to walk around with blankets around their waists. All learners may wear trousers – stockings/ long johns can be worn beneath them if the weather is really cold.

Twenty-first Century Education

Risk-taking: Oral Presentations at School

At some point, successful alumni of our school, will be engaged in this sort of activity.

No matter what their career choice, whether they work for someone or need to make a pitch to a client or funder regarding their own business, they will need oral skills. Every one of us ends up making speeches at weddings, twenty-firsts and funerals.



The greatest obstacle to successful oral presentations is fear – of embarrassment, ridicule, ‘eyes focussed on me’ and of some form of failure.



Naturally, we are trying to raise confident, eloquent and articulate students who project themselves and their message effectively. The more our youngsters practise, the better they become.

The CAPS syllabus provides many opportunities for the assessment of oral presentations in various subjects, not just in languages. Please encourage them to face their fears and gain the necessary levels of expertise as soon as possible.

Part of oral work is ‘having eyes on you’ so we cannot do orals after class, because the exercise requires an audience. The rubrics contain assessments such as ‘audience contact and engagement’ etc.

In my years living and teaching in the USA, I was struck by how early American schools begin with individual oral presentations and how much this feeds into the ability of the average American to be a confident speaker. My children were already doing orals in kindergarten there. Our Nursery programme specifically includes the stepping stones towards this art.

So this is the tip of the week: encourage your children to speak often and in front of several people. When they prepare speeches, be a non-threatening audience, line up teddy bears and dolls, or pets to listen to them speak. Let them practise in a mirror. Engage in robust debates at the dinner table in order for them to formulate their own opinions on a variety of topics. My daughter who is in third year Accounting told me just today how much she has valued our (often loud and opinionated) conversations at supper time which have helped her do presentations at university. Let them take the *risk* necessary to succeed in the long term, because these skills do not arrive overnight.

Study Skills Workshops:

Some of our senior school learners may have been rattled by poor performance in the June examinations. Sign them up for one of the three study skills workshops that Mrs Rochelle Strauss-Layman is offering to assist Grade 8 learners come to grips with the systems of knowledge and

organisation of content necessary to be successful in modern examinations. For further information, contact her on: rochelle.s1@curroholdings.co.za

Rape Culture

There has been much talk in the media about a textbook in state schools which contained frightening bias towards the culture of victim blaming in rape culture. MERIDIAN PINEHURST DOES NOT USE THAT TEXTBOOK. Should ANY inappropriate content in any textbook be brought to our attention, having slipped through publishing sieves, we assure you that the matter will be immediately addressed. This school will not stand by and support attitudes or practices which cultivate or support the pervasive 'she was asking for it' mindset. Read this article which, while it talks about American society, is shockingly just as relevant to our own.

<http://www.rantpolitical.com/2015/06/12/15-real-life-examples-of-rape-culture-in-our-society/>

Sports Results

Mini-Netball: Wednesday 27 July

U/10 Meridian vs Bellville 5-8: Winners Bellville Primary

U/11 Meridian vs Bellville 3-6: Winners Bellville Primary

Bastion Hockey Day Friday 29 July

Mini-Hockey Boys:

U/8 Meridian also participated. (Lost but team played well)

U/9 Meridian vs Kenridge 0-2: Winners Kenridge

U/9 Meridian vs Monte Vista 1-1: Draw

U/10 Meridian vs Rhenish 3-2: Winners Meridian Pinehurst

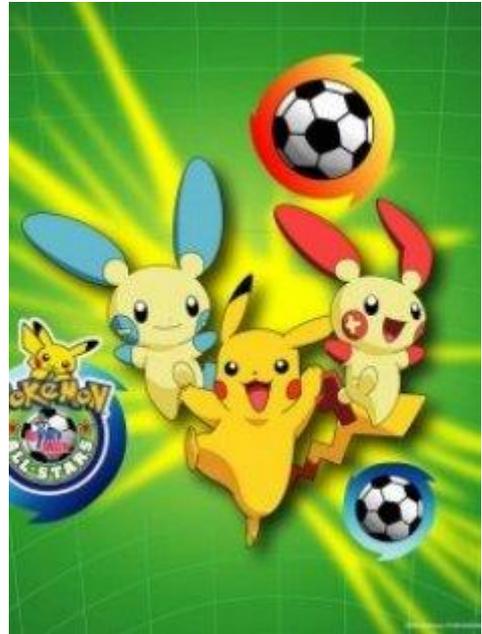
U/10 Meridian vs Goodwood Park: 1-1 Draw

Rugby Saturday, 30 July

U14 vs Fisantekraal won 22 - 10

U16 vs Fisantekraal won 19 - 5

U19 vs Fisantekraal lost 19 - 26



Dates in 2017

Kindly note that this year is the last year that Meridian Pinehurst will follow the Curro calendar. Next year we shall follow the Meridian schools calendar which is aligned with the Department of Education Schools Calendar.

This year Term 3 ends on 23 September and school re-opens on 11 October.

Request for lift

A parent has asked whether anyone can assist with lifts from Durbanville for her and her two children (Grade R and Grade 6 next year) in both the mornings and afternoons in 2017. If you are able to help her, please contact her:

Judy
073 400 6725
judianbeukes@gmail.com



Eisteddfod Week 3:

POETRY

Grade R Girls Own Choice

Aristea Primary School Monday, 1 August 16:15

POETRY

Grade 1 Girls Own Choice

Aristea Primary School Thursday, 4 August 17:20

POETRY

Grade 3 Girls Own Choice

Aristea Primary School Thursday, 4 August 16:15

POETRY

Grade 3 Boys Own Choice

Aristea Primary School Tuesday, 2 August 17:40



Dates to Diarise

Monday, 1 August: Special Votes Cast at Meridian: via Reception

Primary School Curriculum Task Team

Health and Safety Committee Meeting: 15:00

Tuesday, 2 August: Special Votes

Primary School Curriculum task Team

PAC Meeting: Boardroom

Wednesday, 3 August: **Election Day: Public Holiday**

Thursday, 4 August: Planet Fitness team health presentation in assemblies

High School Assessment Workshop for all staff: 14:00 – 16:00

High School will be dismissed at 14:00 on this day

PS Boys versus Kenridge (A)

PS Girls' Hockey versus Kenridge (H)

Friday, 5 August: ----

Saturday, 6 August: Study Skills Workshop 1

Sunday, 7 August: **School closed**

Monday, 8 August: **School Holiday**

Mrs Natalie Diener's birthday

Tuesday, 9 August: **School Holiday: Women's Day**

Mrs Phatiswa Monqo's birthday

Mrs Mariska Tjoko's birthday

Wednesday, 10 August: Remember to return to school

Ms Tanya Master's birthday

In the meantime, never mind Pokémon, remember this important verse from scripture:



Yours in education

Colleen Bentley
Executive Head

Thanks to the following sponsors of this newsletter:



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