

10 August 2016

Dear Parents and Learners

From the Desk of the Executive Head

### Women's Day, 2016 – remembering The Union Buildings 60 years ago in 1956



There are many more iconic pictures of that famous day 60 years ago, when women, in strength, sisterhood and solidarity, stood up to the apartheid regime in defiance of the pass laws, however I like this one because it shows not just the leaders of that epic event, but the ordinary women of our country who did something extra-ordinary together, paving the way for the rest of us to not only benefit from their bravery (what a risk they took!) but to realise that we too can do something mighty when we take a united stand against injustice.

And they did it silently and peacefully.

We are starting to see such protests by women in our modern era – most recently against rape and the other injustices which affect not only women's, but general human rights, such as the cost of tertiary education. And the question for us all here at Meridian Pinehurst is: where do we stand; what do we stand against - and what do we stand for? These are conversations our young leaders are having – and they are not always comfortable ones. They are going to change the world though, because we are encouraging our learners to take the risks necessary to be 'gamechangers,' that is people who make a difference and who think big.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

**Margaret Mead**

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One of the challenges I have encountered over the years since democracy on this national day of celebrating women has been the marginalisation of boys at school and the feelings they experience of being sidelined by strong, courageous women. I am reminded of this famous picture of the leaders on that historic day: It captures a moment when Rahima Moosa, Lilian Ngoyi, Helen



Joseph and Sophie Williams paused before presenting all the petitions at JG Strydom's door while several men look on.

Celebrating this event should inspire men NOT to be onlookers in what is a struggle for all people. Our modern challenges of violence against women (for example) is a problem for us ALL to tackle and gives us ALL the opportunity to address the culture which allows this to flourish.

So we say to our lads at school: Jokes which demean women, to name just one example, demean us all. Be alert to music too which trivialises women (*'I think I've found myself a cheerleader'* may be catchy and I confess to tapping my feet to it, but it places women on the edge of society in a support role only). Other songs sexualise the role of women and blur the lines of consent. This day asks of men to take up the struggles of women so that all humans are elevated, as challenging the pass laws did back in the fifties. We believe our young men are equal to this championing of civil rights.

And take a stand, even if people laugh or stare. One day the moment will be remembered.

*"All men should be feminists. If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place. We are better off when women are empowered, it leads to a better society."*

**John Legend**

### Staff News



We welcome **Mrs Kerencia Nomdee** to the Nursery reception in the afternoons. She has already proved herself to be a vibrant addition to the front office staff.

We are pleased to report that **Mrs Elize Crouse's** little girl is recovering and she has joined us, energetic to equip the CAT students, the Grade 11's especially, into matric.

**Mrs Marile Myburgh** is back from maternity leave and we welcome her back to the Life Sciences department.

We have been fortunate also to hold onto **Mrs Michelle Habbick** who is multi-talented and will teach some of Mrs Le Roux's classes while she is on maternity leave.

Sunday saw **Ms Nuraan Jappie** marry her sweetheart. We wish her and her husband a blessed lifetime of love and happiness. Congratulations Mr and Mrs du Preez.



Luca Sebastian Le Roux born 8 August at 15:09 weighed in at a healthy 3,4kg. Congratulations to **Mrs Hanchen Le Roux** and her husband on their bundle of joy

Congratulations

*Foundation Phase Achievers*

Grade 1:

**Jordan Adams  
Sarah Fur  
Ahlumile Zitoti  
Troy Payne  
Tamiya Wegener  
Joshua Patience  
Noah Davy  
Chloe Baumont  
Thomas  
Yolisa Maliti  
Kiara Prins  
Jayden Ekermans  
Sharleen Longo**



Grade 2

**Banati Ningi  
Amy Dayce  
Jasmika Moodley  
Aiden Newman  
Chad Laubscher  
Staneil de Bruin  
Gabriel Young  
Hlombe Mpelwane  
Yanga Botha  
James Howard  
Kaiyan Adonis  
Abia Chetty**



Grade 3

**Sethu Hermanus  
Kyle Smuts  
Nsimba Pemba  
Nzuzi Pemba  
Madison Murphy  
Kaydin Abdool  
Ivana Daniels  
Keenan Moller  
Gemma Sims  
Amani Magodla**



*Intermediate Phase Achievement*



Grade 4:

First: **Michael La Grange (not present),**

Second: **Quba Christians-Williams,**

Third: **Blake Powell**



Grade 5:

First: **Mzati Kagoli,**

Second: **Erin Kivedo,**

Third: **Tiffany Davin.**



Grade 6:

First: **Morgan Kivedo,**

Second: **Dashayin Gilbert,**

Third: **Mark du Preez.**

Grade 7:

First: **Thomas Coetzee**

Second: **Tara Casaleggio**

Third: **Jadon Fortuin.**



Colour Run



<https://www.facebook.com/MeridianPinehurst/videos/1332185776810151/>

Watch this video to see what is in store this term for fundraising, organised by the high school.

## Pencil Grip Insight

Our Nursery and Foundation Phase educators lay the foundations (literally) of important skills necessary for writing. Here is an interesting feature on pencil grip and the stages of developing writing:

### Stages and tips of Pencil Grasp Development:

The important thing is that we cannot FORCE an adult grip on young learners. As with so many other things, they need to develop the skill by going through the STAGES. Please give them lots of opportunities to strengthen their shoulder and arm muscles.

#### 1) Fisted Grasp:



When your toddler first grabs a thick crayon and puts it to paper (hopefully not to your walls!), this is the grasp you could be seeing. It is a “**fisted grasp**”, and your toddler will be using **movement from the shoulder** to get the crayon to move across the paper.

#### 2) Palmar Grasp:

As your toddler gains more control over arm and hand muscles, you will see this “**palmar grasp**” being used. Here, the pencil lies across the palm of the hand and your child’s elbow is held out to the side a bit.



The shoulder muscles are steadier, and your child is using the **arm muscles to move the crayon around**, as well as the shoulder muscles. This photo shows a toddler using a palmar pencil grasp.

### 3) Five Finger Pencil Grasp:

This is sometimes, misleadingly, called an “immature” **5-finger pencil grasp** – it is immature because it is not the 3-finger grasp that is used in school, but it is a **perfectly mature grasp for a 4-year old!**

As you can see, there are 5 fingers holding the pencil.



With this 5-finger pencil grasp, the wrist is usually held off the table and **wrist movements** are used for colouring. The crayon is often held very tightly initially, but as the hand muscles develop, you should see a few finger movements emerging.



This left-handed toddler has developed a 5 point pencil grasp that is appropriate for her age.

### 4) Tripod Pencil Grasp:



By age 5-6, or even a bit later with some children, they should be comfortable using a **mature 3-finger pencil grip**. At first, the fingers will be held stiffly and your child may still use **wrist movements** to draw and colour, but as the finger muscles become more skilled, your child will be able to use **finger movements** to draw and to form letters.

### Switching Grasps:

Don't be surprised if you see your young child **switching between pencil grasps**. As the shoulder and arm muscles become stronger and steadier, your child should switch less and less.

**We can liken this to a baby learning to walk** – when his legs are tired of walking, he goes back to crawling, but as his endurance and skill improves, he will walk more and more!

So don't discourage your child from going back to an earlier grasp; instead, promote correct pencil grasp development by doing some **gross motor activities** to strengthen the shoulder girdle and core muscles and use some **fine motor activities** to improve hand and finger strength and dexterity.

Mavis Kaye, Regional Head Curro Castles

### Lost and Found

Please check your children's uniform items regularly in case they mistakenly take home someone else's clothing. This does happen fairly regularly, especially in the younger grades. If you find something of alien origin, do send it in to the teacher so it can be returned to the other chickens. (Because Chicken Little's parents are tearing out their feathers/hair.)

### Lifts Required

Another parent is looking for a lift for a Grade 7 learner to Brackenfell in the afternoons. If you are able to help out someone in the community, call reception to get the details.



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### Eisteddfod

EISTEDDFOD DATES		
WEEKS 4 & 5		
Gedigte: Graad 4 Dogters Eie Keuse		
Laerskool De Vrije Zee	Donderdag, 11 Augustus	18:00
Poems: Grade 2 Girls Own Choice		
Aristea Primary School	Thursday, 11 August	17:40
Poems: Grade 5 Girls Own Choice		
Aristea Primary School	Friday, 12 August	16:20
Poems: Grade 8 Girls Prescribed		
Aristea Primary School	Friday, 12 August	17:00
Poems: Grade 8 Girls Own Choice		
Aristea Primary School	Friday, 12 August	17:00
Poems: Grade 9 Girls Prescribed		
Aristea Primary School	Friday, 12 August	19:30
Poems: Grade 9 Girls Own Choice		
Aristea Primary School	Friday, 12 August	19:30
Poems: Grade 10 Girls Own Choice		
Aristea Primary School	Saturday, 13 August	16:00
Poems: Grade 11 Girls Own Choice		
Aristea Primary School	Saturday, 13 August	18:00



Dates to Diarise

Monday, 8 August: **Grade R-11 School Holiday**

**Mrs Diener's** birthday

Tuesday, 9 August: **National Women's Day**

**Mrs Phatiswa Monqo's** birthday

**Mrs Mariska Roman's** birthday

Wednesday, 10 August: **Ms Tanya Master's** birthday

PS Soccer vs Boston PS (A)

PS Netball vs Aristeia PS (A)

Thursday, 11 August: Grade R-11 Class and Sports Photographs

PS Boys' U10 Hockey vs Excelsior PS (H)

PS Girls' Hockey vs Excelsior PS (A)

Nursery Heads Cluster Meeting (+ new Nursery Educators)

Friday, 12 August: Grade R-11 Class and Sports Photographs

Mini-Rugby and Netball Festival: Bastion Primary School

Intermediate Phase Robotics Club Educators Meeting

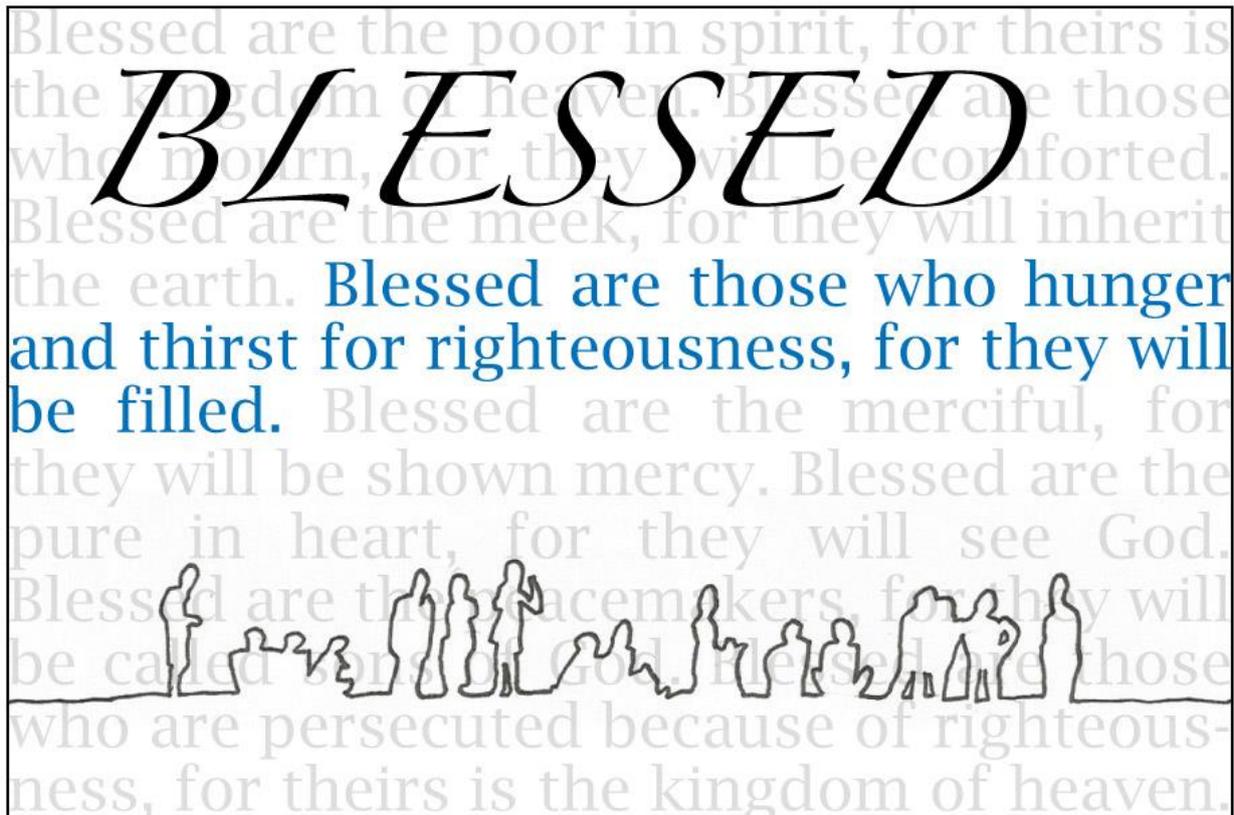
HS Boys' Hockey vs D F Malan HS (A)

Saturday, 13 August: **Mr David Mendoza's** birthday

Study Skills Workshop

HS Visual Arts students Designing Career Excursion

HS Girls' Hockey vs Oude Moulén (H)



Matthew 5:6

We pray for blessings on those who have and continue to fight for justice for others in our nation.

Yours in education

Colleen Bentley  
Executive Head

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