

15 August 2016

Dear Parents

From the Office of the Executive Head

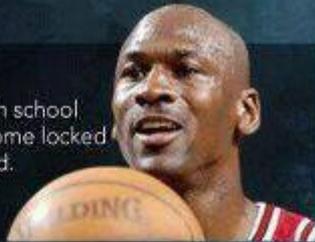
***"Sometimes you win and sometimes you learn."***

*John C Maxwell*

# Famous Failures

## Michael Jordan

After being cut from his high school basketball team, he went home locked himself in his room and cried.



## The Beatles

Rejected by Decca Recording studios, who said "we don't like their sound" - "They have no future in show business"



## Steve Jobs

At 30 years old he was left devastated and depressed after being unceremoniously removed from the company he started.

## Eminem

A High School dropout, whose personal struggles with drugs and poverty culminated in an unsuccessful suicide attempt.



## Walt Disney

Fired from a newspaper for "lacking imagination" and "having no original ideas"...



## Oprah Winfrey

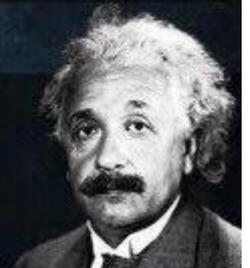
Was demoted from her job as a news anchor because she... "Wasn't fit for television."



If you've  
**NEVER FAILED.**  
You've  
**NEVER TRIED**  
anything new

## Albert Einstein

He wasn't able to speak until he was almost 4 years old and his teachers said he would "never amount to much"



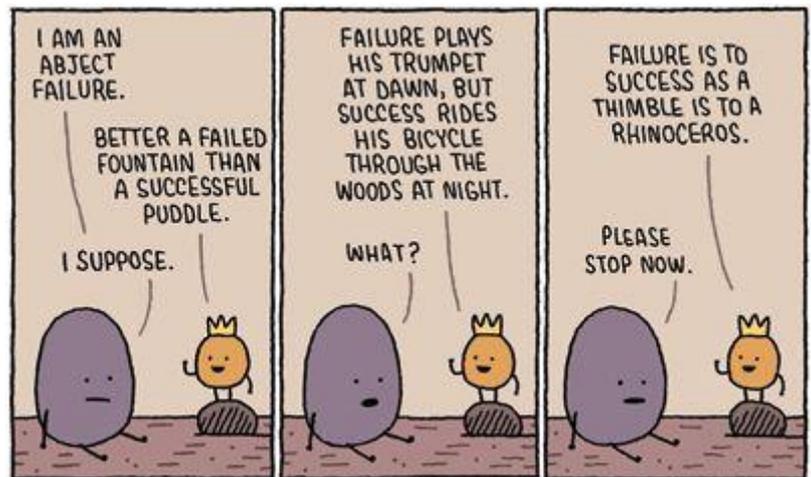
Allowing for the possibility that learners may fail at certain activities in the classroom is part of risk-taking behaviour which was the subject of our staff meeting on Friday. If our children are okay with failure they will become more open to innovation and learning.

Watch this clip about children in England and how our brains learn when the outcome of a problem is unpredictable – ‘The uncertainty of not knowing whether they will succeed or fail engages the brain, meaning children learn more, according to academics.’<sup>1</sup>

### Schools encouraged to take more risks in the classroom

So it is up to us as parents and educators to ensure that the environment for ‘failure’ is a positive one. So, what if your toddler’s bed is not perfectly made or if the project isn’t advertising agency standard? What if your youngster comes home with less than sterling results in a test?

How we respond here is important. As far as the bed is concerned, praise, praise, praise that he had the initiative to try; NEVER do your child’s project (you may not like the marks we give you 😊 anyway). When it comes to formal assessments, I have always taken the approach that if my children know WHY and WHERE they went wrong, then learning has taken place and then the mark is irrelevant (not a comfortable thing for some parents or teachers to hear). This is why the hand-over process after tests and examinations is so vital because that is when the real learning occurs, provided that learners use their CURIOSITY to interrogate the assessment process. As teachers we need to be able to answer the ‘where’ and ‘why.’ So near the end of term, don’t plan for your holiday to start before the term ends, no matter how tempting the ‘specials’ are; ignore youngsters’ whines of ‘we’re *just* going over examinations.’ They are engaging with real learning. The twenty-first century student is one who is conscious of the learning process. So encourage them always to see tests as opportunities for learning, not a measurement of their worth in your eyes.



[Obviously I am generalising - if there are major warning bells over examination results, these cannot be brushed aside – communicate with your child’s teacher if you are unsure.]

### Happy Birthday, Mr Mendoza



The Primary School Phase Heads treated Primary School Operational Head, Mr Mendoza, to a personal breakfast in his office on Friday morning in honour of his (secret age) birthday on Saturday.

The school congratulates him and takes this opportunity to thank him for being ‘Dad’ to all our littluns.



<sup>1</sup> Simon Clemison on [www.bbc.com/news/22011606](http://www.bbc.com/news/22011606)

## Congratulations

Mrs Gibson's Grade 3s are becoming more and more dangerous: both **Tristan Dreyer and Jared Masimela** competed in a tournament last weekend. Tristan won a gold medal. As a result he has qualified to take part in a Western Province tournament this weekend, as did Jared, who fought 3 times. His last fight was really tough but in the end he won his division. On an added note, his sister **Jordan Masimela** placed second in her division.



## Sports Results

### **Saturday 30 July at Rondebosch Boys High**

Boys Hockey: Meridian vs Rondebosch: 1 – 4 lost

### **Thursday 4 August at Kenridge Primary: Hockey**

U8 Boys Meridian vs Kenridge 0-7 lost  
U9 Boys Meridian vs Kenridge 1-9 lost  
U10 Boys Meridian vs Kenridge 1-4 lost

### **Thursday 4 August At Meridian: Hockey**

U9 Girls Meridian vs Kenridge 6-0 lost



**Wednesday 10 August at Aristeia Primary: Netball**

U11 Meridian vs Aristeia 10 - 2 lost

U12 Meridian vs Aristeia 12 - 1 lost

**Thursday 11 August at Meridian: Hockey**

U10 Boys Meridian vs Excelsior 6 – 0 won

**Friday 12 August at Bastion Primary: Mini-netball**

U8A Meridian vs Sun Valley 1 – 1

Meridian vs Bastion 2 – 1 lost

Meridian vs Century City 6 - 1 won

U8B Meridian vs FD Conradie 0 – 1 lost

Meridian vs El Shaddai 0 – 0

Meridian vs Curro Century City 0 – 0

U8C Meridian vs Bastion 0 – 5 lost

Meridian vs Brackenfell 0 - 7 lost

Meridian vs Kenridge 0 – 3 lost

U9 lost 7 games, tied and 1 lost



Meridian supporter

High School Academic Achievers

The following students were honoured at Assembly last week for their achievement in the June examinations:

Term 2 Top 10 in alphabetical order:

<u>Grade 8</u>	<u>Grade 9</u>	<u>Grade 10</u>	<u>Grade 11</u>
Jesse De Oliveira	Michael Bosman	Allyson Adams	Cailyn Fortuin
Keandra Gilbert	Lathitha France	Dominique Ariefdien	Robyn Jacobs
Emily Martch	Meaghan Gulston	Amber Brown	Eunseoung Kim
Jordan Panduva	C-Jay Jacks	Jadon Daniels	Chante Kleinhans
Aliyah Pillay	Maziko Kagoli	Kristen Jacobs	Camryn Miller
Keziah Primoe	Elvira Narasimulu	Tarah Jansen	Jorja-Jade Ratcliff
Dayna Rahme	Ziyaad Nickel	Yanela Ndabazandile	Aleasha Roman
Aimee Steyn	Kim Nielsen	Colin Mongie	Buhle Senaoane
Caitlin Segels	Caitlynn Van Wyk	Sihle Ngalo	Vidal Thaver
Michayla Webber	Teri Vollenhoven	Katleho Pudumo	Venus Van den Berg

Congratulations – we are very proud of you.



## Primary School Date Night

Save the date: 2 September – High School Connect Group learners will assist teachers to provide a fun-filled evening for your offspring, while you have a relaxed dinner for two, or even a little salsa!



## PAC Class Representatives

The PAC is looking for representatives from each class in the high school. This is a small way in which you can assist us grow our school community. Do not be put off by the thought that 'someone else' will do it. Take a risk – and join a group of parents working for the benefit of all. A notice in this regard will be circulated this week.



## Choir Evening: 25 August 2016

All parents, family and friends are invited to join us on Thursday, 25 August at 18h30 for an evening of singing. The show is called "Sing a Song" and features the Foundation Phase, Intermediate Phase and High School choirs. It will take place under cover in the Intermediate Phase quad. Parents are encouraged to bring their singing voices along!

## Dates to Diarise

Monday, 15 August: IP Phase HL Educators Writing workshop

Tuesday, 16 August: MERC Meeting (Staff Forum)

Wednesday, 17 August: PS Soccer vs Goeie Hoop PS (A)  
PS Netball vs Vredelust PS (H)

Thursday, 18 August: PS Boys' Hockey vs Blouberg Ridge PS (H)  
PS Girls' Hockey vs Blouberg Ridge (A)

Friday, 19 August: HS Staff Team-building: cook-off (!)

Saturday, 20 August: Nursery: Choice Theory Workshop  
Study Skills Workshop

Monday, 22 August: Book Week begins



May God be with you as we all face a full five day week for the first time for a while.

Yours in education

Colleen Bentley  
Executive Head

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