



Dear Curro Parents / Guardians

YOUR NEWSLETTER #1 INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING

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1. FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE HEAD

Compliments of the Season and a Happy New Year to our Curro Family! I hope the holiday has been a restful and relaxing time for you and your families. Our fourth school year was successful and we plan for 2017 to be an even better year. We, as teachers, are excited to be back at school and are looking forward to working with your children. We also want to extend a special welcome to our new learners, parents and teachers who have joined us this year. We would like to remind everyone of our commitment to keeping communication channels open to resolve problems and possible challenges.

Each year, our learners take another step towards fulfilling their potential, and the journey is a wonderful blessing. Knowledge, strength and fortitude are improved each day in this school of learning. Let's keep building a better tomorrow today.

"Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and He gives us hands and strength to do it. The enjoyment of leisure would be nothing if we had only leisure. It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest, just as it is the experiences of hunger and thirst that make food and drink such pleasures." - Elizabeth Elliot

Parents, we know you want the best for your children! So do we! We are on the same team. High performing schools have highly effective leaders, teachers, and teams. These schools also excel in family and community engagement. This year, we are going to excel in involving you!



My staff and I are often made aware of our shortcomings and challenges faced by parents. However, this year I would encourage parents to please take part in our "Compliment-a-Teacher" campaign. I will soon send you an email account that will be used for this purpose. Apart from complimenting a teacher personally you are encouraged to send an email as well. This will assist us in keeping teacher morale high and a monthly "star" teacher will be announced.

Mrs Marlene Gerber

2. FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD CURRO CASTLE

Welcome back to all our Castle parents. We trust that you had a wonderful Festive Season.

Thank you to all parents who attended the Parent Orientation meeting. Our teachers are privileged that you have entrusted your beloved children in their care.

Our extra mural service providers have started with demonstration lessons and enrolment forms will be sent to parents as soon as we receive these from the providers. By signing up for at least one activity you will make sure that your child truly enjoys his / her schooling at Curro Thatchfield.

Remember we are always open for suggestions and want to know when parents are faced with challenges. We can only act on what we know!

We look forward to an exciting term ahead.

Mrs Sonette Pretorius

3. FROM THE DESK OF THE RECEPTION PHASE HEAD

I trust that you all had a most enjoyable festive Season. Welcome to all our parents who joined us from the Castle as well as all brand new parents and learners. To all other familiar faces, it is lovely to welcome you back. We look forward to another year filled with excitement and hard work.

We would like to welcome Miss Marelise Smit (Dinosaur Class) as well as Mrs Siva Govender (Sea Buddies Class). I trust that they will be happy at Curro Thatchfield.

We will do our best to keep our parents informed via email and also through your child's communication book. Parents are encouraged to communicate with the class teacher on a daily basis.

Demonstration lessons have taken place for the different Extra Mural Activities. Should you need any information on any of the activities offered, you can contact your child's register teacher.

I would like to share a quote with our parents that comes from the heart of a teacher as we stand in the beginning of a new academic year.

*"I call my students "my kids"
because in our year together
they aren't just kids on my class list,
they become a part of my heart".*

We are looking forward to working and playing together, and I wish all our families a healthy and happy 2017. God bless!

Mrs Sonette Kotze

4. FROM THE DESK OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL OPERATIONAL HEAD

Happy 2017! A hearty welcome back to our existing parents, learners and teachers! To our new parents and learners – I trust that you are as excited as we are about joining our school and that you will soon feel part of the Curro family. I would also like to welcome our new teachers – we are looking forward to your contributions and hope that you will enjoy your calling to Curro Thatchfield.

We have already had our first meet-and-greet (Grades 1 to 4) and I trust that you are well-informed of what to expect in this new academic year. Our Grades 5 and 6 parents are scheduled to meet on Thursday, 26 January, followed by the Grade 7s on Monday 30 January.

We are extremely excited about the planned Revue that will be hosted by the Intersen Phase. Please diarize in advance 29 August to 2 September. We hope to accommodate as many learners as possible and advocate mass participation.

May you be blessed.

Ms Siza Ntshabo

5. FROM THE DESK OF THE OPERATIONAL HEAD: HIGH SCHOOL

A very warm welcome to this first term of 2017.

This will be a truly momentous year in our school's short history as we have our first group of Grade 12 learners preparing themselves for the NSC examinations at the end of this year. I would like to wish them the best of luck for this very important year in their life.

Very important to remember: even though everything we do is to ensure success in Grade 12, there are also other grades who are just as important to us and who will all have challenges to overcome in this year. Our focus is very much on them as well.

I am very excited to announce to you that we have been able to start relationships with two organizations who, I am sure, will only add value to our endeavor to ensure that our learners only get the best. *Brighter Futures* is a Mathematics tuition company that will be working with us to ensure that our Mathematics marks keep on improving. They will be based at school (after hours) to ensure that you do not need to rush around to get your child to extra classes during the week.

The *Northern Titans Cricket Association* will be helping with the coaching and development of our High School cricket teams. The first coaching sessions should be starting off in the first week of February.

Thank you to all parents who attended the meet-and-greet. I look forward to another action-packed year ahead!

Mr Danie van Schaik

6. PARENT-to-PARENT BLOG (PAC)

A big welcome back to all our learners and especially our parents – new and old. We are looking forward to an insightful, co-operative, communicative and fun year together.

Your primary goal this year, parents, is to help us help your children achieve and excel. We want our learners to achieve at least 96% attendance, at least 60% overall academic average, and at least 90% homework completion. Here are a few guidelines on how you can partner with the School in increasing the academic progress of your child:

- Limit the amount of “screen” time (television, cell phone, tablet) each day;
- Make sure that your child is well rested by having a set bedtime each evening;
- Monitor and support your child's reading and writing at home;

- Make sure that your child has a quiet place to complete homework and has support with the work. If your child needs help and does not have support at home be sure to ask for help;
- Make sure your child attends LAD classes where he/she will receive extra academic support;
- Attend parent days to learn about your child's areas of strengths and areas that need support; and
- Reinforce the Curro Thatchfield expectation that your child come to school ready to follow school rules, listen to adults, and be productive citizens in the Thatchfield teaching and learning community.

We would like to hear from you and are awaiting your suggestions, complaints or compliments. So contact us at Curro.thatchfield.pac@gmail.com

Parent Advisory Council

7. DATES TO DIARISE

Please take note of the following important dates:

Date	Activity	High School	Primary School
Thurs 26 Jan	Parent Information Meetings Gr 5 to 6 (in classrooms)		X
Fri 27 Jan	Gr 7 Funky Friday		X
Mon 30 Jan	Parent Information and Veld School Meeting Gr 7		
Tues 31 Jan	Athletics Rooihuiskraal		X
Fri 3 Feb	Gr 2 Funky Day		X
	School closes at 13h00 (Learners denim and Curro Shirt)	X	X

8. GENERAL

Staff Matters

We would like to congratulate Miss Valerie Farnham (Grade 1), now Mrs De Jonge; and Miss Samantha-Lee Stevenson (Grade 3), now Mrs Brink, on their marriages during December. We wish them all the best with this exciting change in their lives.

School Diary

We apologize for the delay in the school diaries. Once received these will be issued to all Grade 1 – 12 learners. Parents and learners should take time to review and discuss the rules, regulations and procedures found in this diary. The diary is also designed to assist students in organizing and planning their homework and other activities. Please encourage your child to use this diary to keep track of important dates. It will also be used as a communication tool between teacher and parent.

Outreach Projects

Our school has become well-known for our Community Outreach programs which we run every term. Our first term's project is the collection of Easter Eggs. We have now added to this the collection of Hot Cross Buns. These will be delivered to people in the surrounding hospitals, orphanages, police stations, etc. You may start sending Easter eggs – preferably the marshmallow kind (the hollow eggs tend to break and melt). The Hot Cross Buns can be sent during the last week of Term 1. Please support this worthy cause.

Parking and Traffic

Our learner numbers for 2017 have once again increased and parents are requested to please be patient in the parking area. It is advisable to leave home a bit earlier to curb traffic congestion. Please take note of the following arrangements:

- Please don't drop off learners in front of the traffic circle in Barbet Road.
- You are kindly requested not to park outside the school premises on the pavements.
- Adhere to drop-off zones and don't leave vehicles unattended in these areas.
- If you accompany your child to class, you are requested to park at the parking facilities closest to the sports fields.
- Rude comments and arguments are not appreciated and cannot be condoned.
- I trust that you will co-operate and in doing so we will establish a smooth-flowing traffic environment.

When exiting the Primary school and traffic starts to back up at the circle, please drive through the High School grounds to the bottom gate, which also joins up with Drakensberg Road.

Entrance to Curro Campus

Each new household will be issued with two CURRO car stickers which will allow you to enter the school premises without being stopped at the school gate. If you fail to display the sticker you will be stopped, asked to complete the visitor's book, issued with a slip which must be signed before you can leave the school. This can be a tedious exercise and is quite annoying to parents, but unfortunately we have to enforce strict security measures.

Primary School vs High School

Some parents may have children attending the Primary and the High School. Please note that there will be times when certain activities only pertain to a certain school, i.e. High School might wear "civvies" for a specific reason or Primary School learners may have a funny hat day. If you are in doubt, please clarify with your child's teacher.

Public Transport

I once again urge parents to please make sure that the drivers who are transporting their children do comply with all Road Safety Regulations, i.e. vehicle roadworthiness, licenced, Public Driver's Permit, not overloading etc. Kindly communicate to drivers that NO High School learners will be collected at the Primary School and vice versa.

Collecting of Learners

Parents / Nannies who come early to collect their children must please wait under the thatch shading until 13h30. Please do not wait in front of classrooms as this is very disturbing for the teachers and the learners. You are also requested to keep noise levels low. All learners should be collected by 14h30 (depending on extra-mural activities). Learners may not wait on the school premises indefinitely and neither can the school be held liable for learners who are left unattended.

Communication Channel

In order to facilitate the communication process, kindly take note of the following Line of Communication:

CLASS TEACHER → GRADE HEAD → PHASE HEAD → OPERATIONAL HEAD → EXEC HEAD

Please note that parents are not allowed to go to a teacher's classroom unannounced. All parents should report to the office, where meetings will be scheduled and issues then resolved. Parents should also refrain from interfering with or threatening other learners. Parents who do not adhere to these rules will face sanctions.

Financial Matters

By now you should have paid your Registration fee as well as January's school fees for your child. Please check your bank statements to see if your account was debited. If not, please pay your outstanding fees via EFT or alternatively you may come to the Finance Office and use your debit/credit care. Banking details are:

Name of Account: Curro Thatchfield
Bank: First National Bank (FNB)
Account Number: 623 5878 0403
Branch Code: 250-655

Reference: BAH001 (*Example of Family Code*)

If you have made any payments and they do not reflect on your latest Statement of Account, please contact our Debtors Clerks, Ms Busiswe Mgidi (A-L) busiswe.m@curroholdings.co.za and Malanie Burger (M-Z) malanie.b01@curroholdings.co.za. Remember to **always use your Family Code as reference**, as this will enable us to speedily allocate payments made by you to your Account.

Kindly note that as per your contractual obligations in section 10.2.3, “fees for 12 months are payable in advance by means of debit order on or before the 2nd day of each calendar month or annually in advance by the 31st of December.”

Loyalty Cards

Our school is linked to **MAKRO and MY SCHOOL**. These are opportunities to raise funds for our school without any effort – just swipe your loyalty card! You can visit the respective websites to register, or if you already have a card, kindly change the beneficiary to Curro Thatchfield.

<https://www.myschool.co.za> AND <http://www.makro.co.za>

Facebook Page

By visiting our Curro Thatchfield Facebook Page regularly you will stay up to date with all the activities that are taking place on our Campus. Interesting articles and photos are posted regularly and you will be amazed to see how busy we are!

General Safety and Security

In South Africa we are aware that alertness is a pre-requisite to safety. Should you observe any suspicious people or activities please alert us immediately. Parents are please reminded to be alert when locking vehicles, as car jamming is a reality.

We had an unfortunate incident on Friday, during the Primary Schools’ Inter House athletics, where the driver of an Amarak vehicle drove into another parked vehicle. The driver of the Amarak vehicle didn’t stop to ascertain whether there was any damage to the other vehicle; however, it was reported that the stationary vehicle was damaged. Any parent who witnessed this incident is kindly requested to contact Mrs Gerber.

9. IN CONCLUSION

It is our vision to become “The School of Choice”, and this can only be achieved if we have the buy-in of all our stakeholders. We recognize parental involvement in your children’s education as a vital component to success. A formidable team is created when the school and the home work together and trust each other for the best interests of the learners. Let us then all accept the challenge to, with the help of Christ, the master teacher, make this a banner year for Curro Thatchfield as a model of excellence in the Curro group.

“Positive parent involvement in education is like the frosting on a cupcake, it makes it complete and oh....so sweet”

Yours in Education



**MRS M. GERBER
EXECUTIVE HEAD**



-through hard work great heights are achieved-

General Information - Curro Thatchfield Independent School

Address:

3512 Barbet Street
Cnr Brakfontein & Barbet Road
Thatchfield Hills
The Reeds
0157
P O Box 401
Celtis Ridge
0130

Website:

www.curro.co.za

GPS Coordinates:

S 25° 54' 05.8". E 028° 06' 26.7"

Phone:

(012) 652-2906

E-mail Addresses:

P/S: info.thatchfieldprimary@curroholdings.co.za

H/S: info.thatchfieldhigh@curroholdings.co.za

Castle: info.thatchfieldcastle@curroholdings.co.za

PRC: curro.thatchfield.prc@gmail.com

Accounts:

Bursar

Nicolize.j@curroholdings.co.za

Debtors

Busiswe.m01@curroholdings.co.za (A to L)

Malanie.b@curro.co.za (M to Z)

Sport – Primary School:

Musa.m01@curro.co.za

Marinda.f02@curro.co.za

Sport – High School:

Jaco.v01@curro.co.za

Marina.m01@curro.co.za

Counsellor:

Vacant

Curro Banking Details:

School Fees Account

(Enrolment, Transport, Aftercare & Curriculum Tablet Fee)

Name of Acc: Curro Thatchfield

Bank: FNB

Acc No: 623 5878 0403

Branch Code: 250-655

Reference: Family Code

Funds Account

Name of Acc: Curro Thatchfield Funds Account

Bank: FNB

Acc Number: 623 8523 8269

Branch Code: 201-410

Ref: Family Code

Please note that school fees are due in advance on the 2nd of every month for 12 months (e.g. July school fees are payable on 2nd July)

NB: A R150 payment allocation fine will be added to all accounts that do not use the family code as reference when making an EFT payment

Outside Providers

Grit Uniform Lounge: info@gritprocurement.co.za

Located in the High School Admin Office

Mon – Thurs: 07:30 to 09:00 and 12h30 to 16h00

Fri: 12:30 to 14:00

Afro School Books:

ldreyer@afroschool.co.za or 011 708 6334

Educational Support Team:

Educational Psychologist

Elmarie Moss-Dormehl on 082 920 4929

Occupational Therapist

Karen Liebenberg on 083 651 0876

Speech Therapist

Liesl Turner on 072 124 7646

Lieslturner@vodamail.co.za

Play Therapist

Anita Potgieter on 084 632 1313

anita.l.potgieter@gmail.com

If you think your child might suffer from depression contact

South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) 08:00 to 20:00
0800 567 567 or 0800 205 026 or 0800 708 090 and 0800 121 314 or
sms 31393 and they will call you back

Urban Life Church Services on Sundays in the Primary School Hall @ 10:00

danie@urbanlife.org.za

www.urbanlife.org.za