

Campus News

27 February 2017

Dear Curro Parents / Guardians

YOUR NEWSLETTER #2 INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING

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1. FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE HEAD

We were out of the starting blocks in no time, and now the race is on! I trust that all learners and parents / guardians are well-settled and feel part of the Curro family.

Dr Mallory du Plooy has been appointed as Executive Head at Curro Riverside. Breaking ground for this new school (situated between Fourways and Diepkloof) will commence soon. In the interim, he has been placed at our school where he will undergo some induction and made familiar to Curro practices. We welcome Dr Du Plooy and trust that he will enjoy his learning experience at Curro Thatchfield.

Ms Nhlapo (Operational Head: Primary School) has sadly been diagnosed with cancer and is currently undergoing treatment. There will be times that Ms Nhlapo won't be at school and Dr Du Plooy will then substitute for her. She is constantly in our thoughts and our best wishes accompany her for a speedy recovery.

Sporting and cultural activities have resumed and we are working hard to make our school a school to be reckoned with, i.e. *The School of Choice*. We also recently had our **Prefect Inaugurations** for both the High as well the Primary campuses and our **Grade 8 Rookie Concert** was enjoyed by all.

Our country and subsequently its citizens (you and I) are facing **challenging financial times**. I want to urge parents to please make every effort to keep abreast with the paying of their school fees. Should you default on one month's payment, it becomes difficult to catch up. I want to invite parents that, should their financial situation change, they come and discuss it with me.

There have again been some enquiries regarding the **languages offered** at the School and I wish to explain as follows:

- Every school MUST offer two languages, i.e. one being Home Language and the other First Additional Language. Home Language refers to the language of teaching and learning at the school, i.e. English.
- From the onset the First Additional Language offered at Curro Thatchfield was Afrikaans.

- School Management identified the need of the school community and did a survey to determine what language, other than Afrikaans, could be offered as a First Additional Language.
- The survey indicated that isiZulu would meet that need.
- The process started and after consulting with Language and Educational experts we were advised as follows:
 - Offer both Afrikaans and isiZulu as First Additional Languages in the Foundation Phase.
 - This will ensure that learners have a solid foundation of both languages and at the end of grade 3, learners can choose between either Afrikaans or isiZulu.
 - The choice exercised will then become their First Additional Language until grade 12.
- All structures were put in place to start offering isiZulu, i.e. recruitment of staff, purchasing of resources etc.

I trust that this explanation clarifies all uncertainties and in the end we succeed in promoting multilingualism as well as cultural tolerance amongst all stakeholders.

Would you like to get fit this year? Aerobics Instructor Felix Musasa (Fit-4-U) would like to invite our parents to a **free aerobics demo lesson** on **Saturday, 4 March from 09:00 to 10:30** in the High School Hall. Thereafter Felix will have classes on Wednesday evenings from 18:00 to 19:00 and Saturday mornings from 09:00 to 10:30.

Our Parent Advisory Committee identified the **need for pavilions** at our sport fields. In conjunction with the staff they have planned a number of activities to **raise funds** for this purpose. We need our parents to get involved and support wherever possible. These events are:

Date	Activity	Explanation
3 June	Go-cart Derby (Primary School) Parent braai / potjie on Primary School Sport Field	Learners participate in classes against each other. Every learner receives a sponsorship form Great prizes for individual learner / class / teacher
5 August	Women's Day Tea (High School Hall)	Ladies are hostesses Sell tickets Enjoy a fun-filled day (speaker / music / etc.)
30 August to 2 July	Grade 4 – 6 Revue (Primary School Hall)	State of the art production hosted by learners with décor, lighting, costumes, etc.
31 October	Golf Day (The Els Club – Copperleaf)	Players and sponsors needed

Your contact person for any of these activities is Mrs Tina Essex, and her email address is:
essextina83@yahoo.com Please contact her and offer your assistance for any of the above activities.

Our **compliment-a-teacher** campaign kicked off well, and I have already received some wonderful emails. Remember that Teachers hold the future of our communities and our nation in their hands. Beyond curriculum, technology, or community partnerships, teachers are the single most important factor in your child's learning. They are the spark that ignites a child's learning, through communication of their passion for their subjects by reaching out to not just their learner's minds, but their hearts as well. Everyone has a story about that favourite teacher who took an interest in them, told them they were smart, or encouraged them to pursue a subject or a sport or encouraged them to never give up. I've always been impressed by how even a single remark from one teacher can positively influence a child's path. Let's resolve to **compliment teachers** more, through a pat on the back, a handshake, or a card and express our appreciation for the important service they provide.

Please continue to share your positive experiences with us, by mailing us at
compliments.thatchfield@curro.co.za

Mrs Marlene Gerber

2. FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD CURRO CASTLE

What a great beginning to 2017! All learners have settled in well and are enjoying all our class activities.

A few dates to diarise during the first term:

28 March – Photo's Group 4
29 March – Photo's Group 3 and 2
30 March – Photo's Group 1

Please dress your child neatly. The photo package is included in your **Utility fee** and no other payments are required. The photos will, however, only be available in Term 2.

With the **school holidays** creeping closer, kindly inform your child's class teacher if your child will be attending the holiday programme. All new Castle parents, please note that not all staff members will be at school during the holidays as the majority of our staff will be taking a short break to get ready for Term 2. However, we do have two teams who will attend to our learners, and a familiar face will always be available.

Mrs Sonette Pretorius

3. FROM THE DESK OF THE RECEPTION PHASE HEAD

Currently it is all smooth sailing at the Reception Phase.

We recently had a charming **Educational Show** where "Betty Button" taught us all about our bodies.

Thank you to all our parents who supported us with the **Valentine's Fundraiser**. We trust that you were spoilt with 'love' and 'caring' gestures from your loved ones. Please check out our **Facebook** posts on the fun we are having at our school.

We would like to request our parents to please emphasize the **importance of supervision** of your child when collected by their nannies/au pairs/caregivers or transporters. We sometimes find learners running off and waiting ahead at the robot or pedestrian crossing. Please ask supervisors to keep your children close to them when they bring them to school. We also sometimes we find that these supervisors sit around for hours while leaving the children to play after school. Please assist us in this matter as the security and wellbeing of our learners is our first priority.

We wish you all a blessed month ahead.

Mrs Sonette Kotze

4. FROM THE DESK OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL OPERATIONAL HEAD

Our Term 1 is off to a good start and we would like to thank our parents for their continued support.

Our **Mr & Miss Valentine's Fashion Parade** was enjoyed by all and we would like to congratulate Akin Tebid (Grade 2) and Laila November (Grade 3) from the Foundation Phase as well as Zandre Nel (Grade 6) and Mosa Nkwashu (Grade 5) from the Intermediate Phase who were selected as our winners. Congratulations also to the runners up and to everyone else who made our day so memorable!

Our **Grade 3 and Grade 7 learners** are getting more and more excited about their respective camps at Thaba Morula and Pennington Beach Resort during April and May.

We will be having a **Go-cart Derby** on Saturday, 3 June 2017 – details will be made available in due course.

A major event this year for all Intermediate Phase learners will be the **Intermediate Phase Revue**. Every learner will take part and will have their fair share of “**showbiz**” on the stage. Show evenings will be from 30 August to 2 September. All Thatchfield Campus parents and learners are requested to buy tickets for this awesome production. Further information will be communicated in due course.

I am sad to inform our parents that we have recently encountered **unacceptable behaviour** by a few of our Intermediate Phase learners and we ask that you familiarize yourself with the policies on our website i.e. <https://www.curro.co.za/gauteng/curro-thatchfield/policies-1/>

I would like to request that our parents ensure that their children take pride in themselves and help them to foster a **SMART culture** at our school where it is expected of all learners to always be neatly dressed according to our uniform dress code (see diary). Currently, summer uniform is worn by all pupils. When learners have P.E. they are allowed to come to school in their official Curro sport attire. They must wear **proper sport shoes (no sneakers, e.g. Tommy's)** of which the colour is **primarily white**, and white sport socks. This arrangement is only applicable to Grade 1 – 3 learners. Grade 4 – 7 learners must wear either a full tracksuit over their P.E. attire and if they feel it is too hot on the day, they can come dressed to school in full school uniform on P.E. days where they will be given time to change into the P.E. attire at the start of the period.

Learner Assistance / Achievement Days take place **on Thursdays from 14:00 to 15:00 for the Foundation Phase** and from **14:30 to 15:30 on Wednesdays for the Intermediate Phase**. During these times, learners may make appointments with their teachers to go over work they are struggling with, if they want to improve on academic results or catch up work which they have missed out on because of absence from school.

In addition, I would like our parents to please urge your children to **take part in extramural activities**. It is important for our learners to have healthy bodies, minds and souls – the only way they will achieve this is by taking part in sports and culture.

Our **Educational Psychologist**, Mrs Elmarie Moss-Dormehl, will be presenting a series of workshops throughout the year. The workshops are primarily for parents, caregivers, tutors, nannies and au pairs. The focus for Term 1 will be on our Grade R – 3 learners on Saturday, 4 March 2017 from 9:00 to 11:00 on Reading Matters: How to support learners to enjoy reading activities, and on Saturday, 11 March 2017 from 9:00 to 11:00 on Homework support and assistance: Reading, Spelling, Numeracy support. The cost will be R250 per family attending. A minimum of 50 bookings will be needed to present the workshop. One hand-out per family will be provided. Booking forms will be available directly from Mrs Moss-Dormehl. You can contact her on 082 920 4929 or via email Elmarie.md@gmail.com.

Parents, please ensure that your child uses his/her **tablet** first and foremost for his/her schoolwork. We request that you also do random checks for improper material which will prevent embarrassment and could lead to disciplinary action should the school see the need to do so. Please also remember: without a tablet your child is without textbooks. Your co-operation in this regard is vital!

Kindly note that **assessments** during Terms 1 and 3 consist mostly of tests, projects and tasks. These assessments should be seen as equally as important as exams, and we need learners to be well prepared.

Be blessed!



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

We are already halfway through Term 1!

This is turning out to be a really busy term for our High School. I would like to inform you of some exiting events that are to take place during this term. The much anticipated **Valentines' Day Dance** which was held on 17 February was enjoyed by all.

We have arranged for the **Blood Bank** to do the first term blood drive at our school on **Wednesday, 1 March**. Learners who are older than 16 and weigh more than 50kg are welcome to come and donate.

Our annual workshops on **Study Methods** commenced on **Thursday, 23 February** where our Grade 8 learners were the first to attend.

Auditions are underway for our **Annual Talent Show** which will be held in March. From what I have heard, the level of competition will be of a very high standard.

I am really excited to announce that our **Outreach Programme** has been confirmed where we start off on 30 March with the Grade 9 learners helping with a feeding scheme in Olievenhoutbosch. On 9 May our Grade 11 learners will be going to help at an old age home in Pretoria, on 9 June our Grade 8 learners will be visiting a school and on 18 October, our Grade 10 learners will be visiting and helping at an orphanage. We wish our learners the best of luck with these projects.

Our good wishes go with our **Technology teacher**, Mrs Bridget Mulaudzi, who has decided to pursue an entrepreneurial endeavour. We are in the process of sourcing and recruiting a new teacher and will keep you updated.

6. PARENT-to-PARENT BLOG (PAC)

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

7. DATES TO DIARISE

Please take note of the following important dates:

Date	Activity	High School	Primary School
2 Mar	Athletics Gissa Tshwane North		X
3 Mar	Grade 6 Funky Day / School closes at 13:00 for staff training/ Athletics Gissa Tshwane North	X	X
3,4 & 5 March	Netball Camp	X	
8 March	Netball trials U 14/16	X	
9 March	Netball trials U17/18	X	
6 -10 Mar	Rugby & Netball trials / Hockey & Soccer Regional Trials		X

10 – 11 Mar	Educator Physical Science Camp	X	
15 Mar	Netball Tshwane Trials		X
21 – 22 Mar	Curro Regionals	X	X
25 Mar	Rugby vs Tyger Valley U/15	X	

8. GENERAL

School Diary

All learners should by now have received their diaries. 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 learners 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. Kindly note that a R100.00 replacement fee will be charged should a diary be misplaced/lost.

Outreach Projects

Our school has become well-known for our Community Outreach programs which we run every term. From this year the Primary and High School will focus on different outreaches. The Primary school will continue with their first term's project, that 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

Please make sure that you display your CURRO car sticker upon entering the school grounds. If you've not received one yet, please get one from the Receptionists. This is one of our measures to assist with access control and it can only be successful if all parents co-operate in this regard.

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.

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

By following the above Line of Communication your concern will be addressed quickly and it can also be directed to the relevant staff member. Please remember, that we can only act on what we know. Do not hesitate to make us aware of issues as and when they occur, so that we can act quickly and resolve this amicably.

Financial Matters

As an Independent School we are not subsidized by the Department of Education and are solely dependent on School fees. Thank you to all parents who so diligently keep their accounts up to date. Failing to do so may result in unpleasantness and disruption in your child's education. Please keep your account up to date! You should receive a monthly statement, and if not please contact the Finance Office urgently so that the matter can be attended to. If you have signed a debit order form, please check your bank statements monthly 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 card. 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.

Utility Fee

The introduction of this Fee was after numerous requests from parents to curb continuous extra expenses. Find below a breakdown of how the Utility Fee is used.

Group 1 to Group 4 CASTLE		Group 5 and Grade R PRESCHOOL		Grade 1 to Grade 7 PRIMARY SCHOOL		Grade 8 to Grade 12 HIGH SCHOOL	
Photo package	R120	Photo package	R120	2 x excursions	R420	Outreach trip	R200
Concert and DVD	R250	Curro T-shirt	R90	House shirt	R140	Photo package	R120
Make & Bake	R40	Excursions	R110	Photo package	R120	Grade colour shirt	R150
Special days	R30	Concert and DVD	R250	Show (On-Cue)	R60	Elevate Education	R140
In-house shows	R60	In-house shows	R60	Show (Science)	R60	Heritage braai	R 50
		Grade R – graduation photo	R70	Heritage braai	R50	Curriculum-enhancement workbooks	R190
		Baking & Cookery (Grade R)	R150				
		Baking & Cookery (Group 5)	R220				
Total	R500	Total	R850	Total	R850	Total	R850

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.

Early morning coffee

Please be informed that the mobile Coffee Café will be selling gourmet coffees on Monday and Friday mornings. The mobile unit is parked on the High School premises and we invite parents to buy a cup of coffee before they are off to work. Also a good chance to mingle with other parents!

9. IN CONCLUSION

I stumbled across a quote from Agatha Christie:

"I suppose it is because nearly all children go to school nowadays, and have things arranged for them, that they seem so forlornly unable to produce their own ideas."

This is when I say thank you to Curro Schools where Creative Thinking is only one of the 4 C's that we implement in our daily teaching. The meaning of the other three C's will be communicated as our Campus News is sent out. Until then, I'll keep you in suspense

Yours in Education



**MRS M GERBER
EXECUTIVE HEAD**



Per Ardua Ad Alta

-through hard work great heights are achieved-

General Information - Curro Thatchfield Independent School

<p>Address: 3512 Barbet Street Cnr Brakfontein & Barbet Road Thatchfield Hills The Reeds 0157 P O Box 401 Celtis Ridge 0130</p> <p>Website: www.curro.co.za</p> <p>GPS Coordinates: S 25° 54' 05.8". E 028° 06' 26.7"</p> <p>Phone: (012) 652-2906</p> <p>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</p> <p>Accounts: Bursar Nicolize.j@curroholdings.co.za</p> <p>Debtors Busiswe.m01@curroholdings.co.za (A to L) Malanie.b@curro.co.za (M to Z)</p> <p>Sport – Primary School: Musa.m01@curro.co.za Marinda.f02@curro.co.za</p> <p>Sport – High School: Jaco.v01@curro.co.za Marina.m01@curro.co.za</p> <p>Counsellor: Vacant</p>	<p>Curro Banking Details: School Fees Account (Enrolment, Transport, Aftercare & Curriculum Tablet Fee)</p> <table><tr><td>Name of Acc:</td><td>Curro Thatchfield</td></tr><tr><td>Bank:</td><td>FNB</td></tr><tr><td>Acc No:</td><td>623 5878 0403</td></tr><tr><td>Branch Code:</td><td>250-655</td></tr><tr><td>Reference:</td><td>Family Code</td></tr></table> <p>Funds Account</p> <table><tr><td>Name of Acc:</td><td>Curro Thatchfield Funds Account</td></tr><tr><td>Bank:</td><td>FNB</td></tr><tr><td>Acc Number:</td><td>623 8523 8269</td></tr><tr><td>Branch Code:</td><td>201-410</td></tr><tr><td>Ref:</td><td>Family Code</td></tr></table> <p>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</p> <p>Outside Providers</p> <p>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</p> <p>Afro School Books: ldreyer@afroschool.co.za or 011 708 6334</p> <p>Educational Support Team:</p> <p>Educational Psychologist Elmarie Moss-Dormehl on 082 920 4929</p> <p>Occupational Therapist Karen Liebenberg on 083 651 0876</p> <p>Speech Therapist Liesl Turner on 072 124 7646 Lieslturner@vodamail.co.za</p> <p>Play Therapist Anita Potgieter on 084 632 1313 anita.l.potgieter@gmail.com</p>	Name of Acc:	Curro Thatchfield	Bank:	FNB	Acc No:	623 5878 0403	Branch Code:	250-655	Reference:	Family Code	Name of Acc:	Curro Thatchfield Funds Account	Bank:	FNB	Acc Number:	623 8523 8269	Branch Code:	201-410	Ref:	Family Code
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<p>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</p> <p>Urban Life Church Services on Sundays in the Primary School Hall @ 10:00 danie@urbanlife.org.za www.urbanlife.org.za</p>																					