



# CURRO

## Thatchfield

# Campus News

18 January 2016

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! Can you believe that the bell has rung to announce the beginning of the 2016 school year? I hope the holiday has been a restful and relaxing time for you and your families. Our third school year was successful and we plan for 2016 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 an extra special **welcome** to the 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 solve 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*

We are excited to announce that **Dr David Molapo** (management consultant, educator and renowned motivational speaker) will visit our Campus early in February. He will motivate and inspire our learners and teachers on the following days: Foundation Phase on **Tuesday 2 February**, Intermediate Phase on **Wednesday 3 February** and High School on **Thursday 4 February**. In addition, our **parents** are also invited to attend a presentation by Dr David on the respective evenings at 18h30 in the High School hall. Dr David holds two of South Africa's most prestigious awards, the Young Achiever of the Year - South Africa Award and Four Outstanding South Africans Awards, and he has appeared in the Who's Who in South Africa from 1995 to date.

Curro Thatchfield has really made its mark on the **sporting front** as we have been chosen to host two very prestigious events, i.e. the **Curro 7's Regional Competition** (rugby, netball and hockey) in March and the annual **Curro Soccer Festival** in August!

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our parents and learners who contributed to the **Judea Hope** Tin Project at the end of last year. The organisation was overwhelmed when their organisers counted a whopping R45 000! Food was packed and distributed to Early Childhood Development Crèche centres in Hammanskraal, Mamelodi, Soshanguve, Tembisa, Mabopane, Diepsloot and Olieventhoutbosch. Information regarding our Term 1 Easter Egg Outreach project will be communicated in due course.

*Mrs Marlene Gerber*

## 2. FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD OF CURRO CASTLE

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

Please take note of the **Parent Orientation** meeting that will take place in your child's class on Tuesday 19 January at 18:00.

Our **extra mural** activities will start with demo lessons during the week of 18 January and enrolment forms will be sent to parents as soon as we receive these from the providers.

We look forward to the exciting term ahead.

*Mrs Sonnette Pretorius*

## 3. FROM THE DESK OF THE RECEPTION PHASE HEAD

To all our parents who joined us at the Reception Phase this year, **welcome!** And welcome back to our existing parents, after a very warm and enjoyable Festive Season. We look forward to another year filled with excitement and hard work.

We will do our best to keep our parents **informed** via email as well through your child's communication book in which parents are welcome to communicate with the class teacher on a daily basis.

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 2016. God bless!

*Mrs Suzette Kotze*

## 4. FROM THE DESK OF THE OPERATIONAL HEAD : PRIMARY SCHOOL

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 look forward to your contribution and hope that you will enjoy your calling to Curro Thatchfield.

Our Primary School inter-house **Athletics Championship / Parent Networking** will take place on **Saturday, 23 January**. As a school we would like to see our parents build lasting interactive relationships and friendships with other parents of children in the same grades. Each class from Grade 1 to 7 will be allocated an area around the sports field. The grade heads will communicate what you should bring along in due course. I hope you will enjoy the day with us, getting to know one another.

*Mr Nicolaas van Blerk*

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

A very warm **welcome** to all our parents. I trust you have had a wonderful holiday and that you managed to get some well-deserved rest.

Our school has grown in leaps and bounds and we have welcomed more than 120 new learners to the school. With that comes a huge challenge to get all the administration completed, from issuing exercise books to the **downloading of textbooks** onto the learners' tablets. Please be patient – we plan on a full implementation of the curriculum by **Monday 18 January**.

Last year the focus was on establishing the necessary academic systems and standards to ensure that our learners will be successful in the writing of their **Matric examinations**. I am quite pleased to report that all the systems have been implemented successfully, with a tweak here and there, and we are now well on our way to a very good set of Matric results in 2017.

2016 will be the year we focus on the other important aspect of our children. The **pastoral care** that our learners receive is as important as their academic success. The emotional state of any teenager is a roller-coaster ride and we aim to be able to give our learners all the support they need. We already have various initiatives implemented and will be implementing more initiatives in support of our learners. **3C Ministries** have once again made themselves available to support our learners on a spiritual level. Their Friday afternoon Praise and Worship meetings are very popular. They will also be starting with their peer counsellor training for our senior learners this year.

In addition, we have also managed to get our **"big brother/ big sister" initiative** off the ground this year where each Grade 11 learner has been allocated one or two Grade 8 learners whom he/she will mentor and guide during the year. I will inform you of other initiatives as the year progresses.

It gives me pleasure to advise that the High School will also be implementing **rugby as a winter sport** this year.

I look forward to another action-packed year ahead!

*Mr Danie van Schalkwyk*

## 6. PARENT-to-PARENT BLOG (PRC)

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.

The period of office of the current Parent Representative Council has come to an end. We will, however, still chair the Annual General Meeting which will be in January 2016.

A new parent body, known as the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), will be chosen for the next (3) three years to represent the parents.

Please visit the Curro Thatchfield website to download the new PAC Constitution as drafted by Curro Holdings. You are requested to please read through this and familiarize yourselves with the content.

The election procedures and dates will be communicated to you in due course.

*Mr Warren Solomons*

**Chairperson PRC 2015**

## **7. DATES TO DIARISE**

The Term Planner will soon be available on the website; however, please take note of the following important dates:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>High School</b>	<b>Primary School</b>
Tues, 19 Jan	Gr 8 – 11 Parents Meet-and-Greet @ 18:00 classes	X	
Thurs, 21 Jan	Gr 1 to 4 Parents Info Meeting @ 18:00 classes Gr 8 “Rookie” concert @ 18h30	X	X
Sat, 23 Jan	Athletics Championship / Parent Networking		X
Fri, 29 Jan	Gr 2 Funky Day		X
Sat, 30 Jan	Athletics Championships / Parent Networking	X	
Tues, 2 Feb	Group 5 and Gr R Parents Info Meeting @ 18:00 classes Dr David Molapo presentation to Foundation Phase parents @ 18:30 (HS Hall)		X
Wed, 3 Feb	Gr 5 to 7 Parents Info Meeting @ 18:00 classes Dr David Molapo presentation to Intermediate Phase parents @ 18:30 (HS Hall)		X
Thurs, 4 Feb	Dr David Molapo presentation to High School parents @ 18:30 (HS Hall)	X	
Fri, 5 Feb	School closes at 13:00 for staff meeting	X	X
Wed, 10 Feb	Valentine’s Dance High School Learners	X	
Thurs, 11 Feb	Valentine’s Jol (Gr 5 to 7 learners)		X
Fri, 12 Feb	Jeans & Red T-shirt all learners	X	X

## **8. GENERAL**

### **School Readiness For 2016**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
School Uniform	Purchase at Uniform Lounge located in the Reception Area in the High School – see times under General Information
Stationery (Group 1 to Grade 3)	School purchases everything and parents are invoiced
Stationery (Grade 4 to Grade 11)	Parents purchase stationery except exercise books School purchases exercise books and parents are invoiced
Textbooks	School purchases all text books and parents are invoiced
Tablets	All grade 5 to 11 learners will need to have their own tablet Specifications for tablets have already been communicated to parents

**Please note that all costs as well as additional information regarding the above are available on our website – [www.curro.co.za](http://www.curro.co.za) under INFORMATION 2016**

### **School Diary**

A Curro Thatchfield Diary will be issued to all Gr 1 – 11 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.

### **Parking and Traffic**

Our learner numbers for 2016 have increased significantly 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:

- Entrance from R55: Only to be used by parents who drop off learners at the Curro Kids and Primary School, i.e. Group 5 to Grade 7. Please do NOT use this as a drive through to the High School. Once you have entered the school you will be directed to turn left immediately and park at the closest parking. You will unfortunately not be able to drive down the middle lane and park your vehicle there. This means a bit of walking to the classroom, but will assist in the traffic flow.
- “Robot” Entrance – Brakfontein: Only for dropping off Group 5 to Gr 7 learners.
- “New” Entrance – Brakfontein: Only to be used by parents who drop off learners at the High School and Curro Castle.
- You are kindly requested not to park outside the school premises on the pavements.
- 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.

### **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 have 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.

### **Gr 8 – Rookie Concert**

Every year our newly enrolled Gr 8’s entertain us by staging a “Rookie-Concert”. This year is no different and it will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> January in the High School Hall at 18h30. Tickets will be on sale at the High School (R10.00). Please note that no tickets will be sold on the night of the concert.

### **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 roadworthy, 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 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 into the following account:

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 2<sup>nd</sup> day of each calendar month or annually in advance by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December.*" You may also pay your **School Fees** account with your credit/debit card by using the **My Hub website** where you open your statement, click on the "pay now" button and follow the instructions accordingly.

### **Curro overseas tour**

I am pleased to inform you that all Curro Learners (Grade 8 to 11) are invited to join a super exciting tour to the USA. The costs of the tour will be for the learners' own account. Curro has appointed a travel agent to handle the bookings – Travel Airscape Group Tours. They have a lot of experience in dealing with this type of school tour. The tour will take place from 24 September – 6 October 2016. An information brochure will be sent out to all parents.

## **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 students. 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.

*"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**

## General Information

### Curro Thatchfield Independent School

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

**Website:**

[www.curro.co.za](http://www.curro.co.za)

**GPS Coordinates:**

S 25° 54' 05.8". E 028° 06' 26.7"

**Phone:**

(012) 652-2906

**Fax:**

(012) 652-2907

**E-mail Addresses**

**P/S:** [info.thatchfieldprimary@curroholdings.co.za](mailto:info.thatchfieldprimary@curroholdings.co.za)

**H/S:** [info.thatchfieldhigh@curroholdings.co.za](mailto:info.thatchfieldhigh@curroholdings.co.za)

**Castle:** [info.thatchfieldcastle@curroholdings.co.za](mailto:info.thatchfieldcastle@curroholdings.co.za)

**PRC:** [curro.thatchfield.prc@gmail.com](mailto:curro.thatchfield.prc@gmail.com)

**Accounts:**

[info.thatchfieldaccounts@curroholdings.co.za](mailto:info.thatchfieldaccounts@curroholdings.co.za)

**Debtors**

[Buiswe.m01@curroholdings.co.za](mailto:Buiswe.m01@curroholdings.co.za) (A to L)

[Malanie.b@curro.co.za](mailto:Malanie.b@curro.co.za) (M to Z)

**Bursar**

[Nicolize.j@curroholdings.co.za](mailto:Nicolize.j@curroholdings.co.za)

**Sport**

[Musa.m01@curro.co.za](mailto:Musa.m01@curro.co.za) [Marinda.f02@curro.co.za](mailto:Marinda.f02@curro.co.za)

[Jacov01@curro.co.za](mailto:Jacov01@curro.co.za) [Marina.m01@curro.co.za](mailto:Marina.m01@curro.co.za)

**Counsellor Suselle Dry (Educator)**

(012) 652 2906 or

[suselle.d01@curroholdings.co.za](mailto:suselle.d01@curroholdings.co.za)

**Curro Banking Details:**

**School Fees (incl 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 (on-site)**

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

Fri: 12:30 to 14:00

**Afro School Books:**

[ldreyer@afroschool.co.za](mailto:ldreyer@afroschool.co.za) or 011 708 6334

**Professional Support Team:**

**Educational Psychologist**

Elmarie Moss-Dormehl on 082 920 4929

**Occupational Therapist**

Karen Liebenberg on 083 651 0876

**Speech Therapist**

Liesl Turner 072 124 7646

[Lieslturner@vodamail.co.za](mailto:Lieslturner@vodamail.co.za)

**Play Therapist**

Anita Potgieter on [anita.l.potgieter@gmail.com](mailto:anita.l.potgieter@gmail.com)

084 632 1313

