



CURRO

Thatchfield

Campus News

4 February 2016

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 now well-settled and feel part of the Curro family.

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 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.

It was such an honour to welcome **Dr David Molapo** (management consultant, educator, pastor and renowned motivational speaker) to our Campus. He really motivated and inspired all those who attended his lively sessions. We now know for sure that racism is not only Black-on-White; it reaches far wider than that! At Curro Thatchfield we are committed to keeping this conversation going and the outcome will surely improve the trust relationship between all stakeholders at our school. Thank you very much to all parents who attended, and your **feedback** will really be appreciated.

In an effort to **improve communication**, the Primary and High School will send out weekly the "Week Ahead" flyer. In doing so we trust that you will be informed of the activities taking place and also arrange your diaries in such a way as to become involved where and whenever possible.

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 that they come and discuss it with me.

There were 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 multi-lingualism as well as cultural tolerance amongst all stakeholders.

Mrs Marlene Gerber

2. FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD OF CURRO CASTLE

Thank you to all our parents who attended the recent **parents' orientation meeting**. If you have any further queries please feel free to contact your child's class teacher.

All **extra-mural activity demo-lessons** have been completed and the lessons have already started. If you have not as yet enrolled your child and would like to do so, kindly complete the enrolment forms at Reception.

As we all know, February is the month of **LOVE** and we will be celebrating this on 12 February by wearing red and white.

We look forward to the rest of this exciting month.

Mrs Sonnette Pretorius

3. FROM THE DESK OF THE RECEPTION PHASE HEAD

All activities are well underway with the **extra-mural demo classes** having been completed on **Friday 29 January**. Please be reminded to send back the completed enrolment forms for the activity/ies of choice. We strongly recommend no more than 2 (two) activities per learner.

We kindly request that all Reception Phase parents honour the school **starting time** as well as gate times. As the early morning staff only start their duties at 06:45, we appeal to parents to please not leave your child/ren unattended or let them walk in by themselves. From 1 February, the **gate** will be locked at 08:15 and then unlocked again at 13:00.

God bless!

Mrs Suzette Kotze

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

All learners are now familiar with structures, rules and regulations and have come to terms with what it means to be a truly **SMART Curro kid**. Newly appointed teachers attended a number of courses to make sure that they are fully equipped in delivering education by means of **21st Century learning methods**. You are welcome to access the following website to understand the Maths approach followed by all Curro schools, i.e. problem-solving. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvsCDB2xu1E>

A BIG THANK YOU to all staff, learners and parents for attending our **Inter-Athletics Championships**. I'm sure you will agree that the day was enjoyed by all. Our athletes are practising hard and soon they will participate in the Cluster Athletics Meeting.

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.

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.

Mr Nicolaas van Blerk

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

The term has truly begun and we have hit the ground running!

With the **huge administrative** task of getting the first three weeks of 2016 off the ground and behind us, we are now seriously concentrating on the implementation of our curriculum. Teachers have spent many afternoons during these weeks in **training** to prepare them to use the new systems and updates of systems that will enable them to successfully implement our goal of using the 21st century methods in our everyday teaching. Last year we went a long way to implement these methods and this year we should start reaping the rewards thereof.

I am also **happy to report** that with all the hard work that was put in by our teachers and learners alike with trying to get our **Mathematics** up to the required levels, we have received the first confirmation that we are on the right track. In the 2015 Curro Benchmark tests for Mathematics, we scored 4th out of 21 schools. Congratulations to all who had a part to play in this result!

As I walk around the school, it is wonderful to see teachers teaching to their hearts' content and learners participating and enjoying their classes – a sight which would make any headmaster's **heart soft and fuzzy**.

Mr Danie van Schalkwyk

6. PARENT-to-PARENT BLOG (PRC)

Do parents do enough to protect kids online? Not really, reveals study

Despite almost half (47%) of parents in South Africa believing that the threats facing their children online are increasing – from cyber bullying to inappropriate content – not much more than a third (38%) guide their children by talking to them about the potential threats, reveals new research from International Companies.

The survey found that every fifth adult (24%) does nothing to protect his/her kids from Internet threats, despite the fact that a similar proportion (26%) has seen their children encounter actual threats online, including viewing inappropriate content, stumbling across dangerous strangers and cyber bullying. 41% of parents in South Africa also fear that the Internet is affecting their kids' health or wellbeing in some way.

Parents don't bother to talk to their kids about Internet threats

With 28% of parents feeling they have no control over what their children see or do online, nearly two thirds (62%) of them don't bother to talk to their kids about Internet threats. Where action is taken, it is focused on things that can be largely ineffective: e.g., 35% say they check their kids' browsing history, although by that stage much of the damage could already have been done. Only a quarter (27%) have installed parental control software.

A significant number of parents feel powerless

For many young people today, using mobile phones and computers to go online, often out of sight of their parents or while out and about, has become an integral part of daily life. Our study suggests that a significant number of parents feel powerless about managing what happens on these devices. However, there are many simple yet positive things parents can do to protect the young people in their care. The important thing is to combine practical measures, such as installing parental control software and keeping computers in family areas, with talking to our children about potential threats and how to deal with them.

There are many parental control software options available which can help to make parents' lives easier by safeguarding their children against threats and managing their activities on Windows, Mac OS X, iOS and Android devices. The Parental control software not only protects kids from viewing inappropriate content on websites and apps, but prevents the disclosure of confidential information and helps parents manage the amount of time children spend on their Internet enabled devices.

More information on online threats to children and advice on how to protect them can be found on Kaspersky Lab's educational portal kids.kaspersky.com

Courtesy of: www.all4women.co.za/630524/parenting

Should there be input that parents would like to share, please forward to

Curro.thatchfield.prc@gmail.com

Mr Warren Solomons

Chairperson PRC 2015

7. DATES TO DIARISE

Please take note of the following important dates:

Date	Activity	High School	Primary School
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
22 – 26 Feb	Individual Photos		X
Sat, 28 Feb	Doxa Deo Raslow Prefect Church Service @ 18:00	X	X
Fri, 4 Mar	School closes at 13:00 for staff meeting	X	X
Sat, 5 Mar	Athletics Gauteng Championships	X	X
Tues, 8 Mar	Gr 1 Merit Tea		X
Wed, 9 Mar	Gr 2 Merit Tea		X
Thurs, 10 Mar	Gr 3 Merit Tea / Gr 5 Funky Day		X
Fri, 11 Mar	Regionals 7 Tournament / No academic school day	X	X
Fri, 18 Mar	School closes @ 11:00 for Term 1	X	X

8. GENERAL

School Diary

A Curro Thatchfield Diary was issued to all Grade 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. **A replacement cost of R100 will be charged for lost or damaged diaries.**

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>

Lockers

Lockers are available at a fee of R420 per annum or a monthly fee of R35.00. A locker rental agreement form must be completed (see attached) and returned to Mrs Annali Fourie (Primary school) or Mrs Anel Ainslee- Brits (Hight School) who will be the administrators. This fee can be paid via EFT into the School account.

Name of Acc: Curro Thatchfield
 Bank: FNB
 Acc No: 623 5878 0403
 Branch Code: 250-655
 Reference: Family Code

Alternatively, if you wish to have the R35.00 added to your monthly debit order, kindly email Ms Mgidi at busisiwe.m01@curro.co.za for accounts A-MN and Mrs Burger (malanie.b@curro.co.za) for accounts MO-Z.

Parking and Traffic

After monitoring our traffic flow for the past few weeks I can really sigh with relief! It went so much more smoothly, than previous years and the co-operation of our parents is tremendous. Thank you very much for your understanding and patience towards other drivers. Please note that as from Monday 8 February the **slipway** entrance at Drakensberg Road will be **closed in the afternoons**. We have monitored the use of this gate and it is really under-utilized from 13h00.

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 you 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.

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.

School Contact Number

Kindly note that the school's telephone switchboard has been upgraded and that the **outgoing number** may reflect as **087 286 8268**. This is not a call centre number and we request parents to please answer should they receive a call from this number.

Financial Matters

We really go out of our way to accommodate parents with regards to the paying of additional expenses, i.e. stationery, textbooks, utility fees, etc. We have structured the payment dates in such a way that you are not billed for everything in one month. The School Fee structure for 2016 has been communicated to all parents and is also available on the website. For your convenience, see the link below and take note when additional payments are due.

<http://www.curro.co.za/2016/1/26/2016%20School%20Fees%20Curro%20Thatchfield.pdf>

If you have made any payments and they do not reflect on your latest Statement of Account, please contact our Debtors Clerks, Ms Busisiwe Mgidi (A-MN) on busiswe.m@curroholdings.co.za or Malanie Burger (MO-

Z) on malanie.b01@curroholdings.co.za. When making EFT payments please remember to always use your Family Code as reference, as this will enable us to speedily allocate payments made by you to your Account. Failure to use your family code as reference when making a payment will result in a R150.00 allocation fee.

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.

Utility Fee

Kindly note that 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.

CASTLE		PRE-SCHOOL		PRIMARY SCHOOL		HIGH SCHOOL	
Photo Package	R100.00	Photo Package	R100.00	Homework Diary	R100.00	Homework Diary	R100.00
Concert & DVD	R200.00	Curro T/Shirt	R 70.00	2 x Excursion	R420.00	Subject Excursions	R220.00
Make & Bake	R 50.00	Excursions	R110.00	House Shirt	R120.00	House Shirt	R120.00
Special Days	R 50.00	Concert & DVD	R250.00	Photo Package	R100.00	Photo Package	R100.00
In-house Show	R100.00	Water Bottle	R 40.00	Show (On-Cue)	R 55.00	In-house Performance	R110.00
		Grade R Graduation Photos	R 70.00	Show (Science)	R 55.00	Curriculum Enhancement Workbook	R200.00
		“Make & Bake” Gr R	R150.00				
		“Make & Bake” Gr 5	R220.00				
		In-house Show	R 60.00				
Total	R500.00	Total	R850.00	Total	R850.00	Total	R850.00

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

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

Buiswe.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:

Suselle Dry (Educator)

(012) 652 2906 or

suselle.d01@curroholdings.co.za

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:

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