



# CURRO

## Thatchfield

# Campus News

24 February 2016

Dear Curro Parents / Guardians

## YOUR NEWSLETTER #3 INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING

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### 1. FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE HEAD

We have had a good start to the term, and I am happy to report that the **academic** year is in full swing. On the **sporting side** I would like to celebrate Mila Nyati's excellent athletics results. Mila qualified to participate at the District Championships at Pilditch Stadium on 18 February, where he came second in the U/12 100m and third in the U/12 75m hurdles. In addition, Mila also qualified for the Gauteng North team and will take part at the Gauteng Championships. Well done, Mila!

I would like to remind you that there will be a **Parent's Meeting on Saturday 27 February at 09h30** in the **Primary School Hall**. The Parent Representative Committee (PRC) of 2015 will give an overview of activities performed during the previous year and thereafter there will be an election for the new Parent Advisory Committee (PAC).

It is alarming to see the piles of **lost property** collected each day. Worse still is the fact that very few of the items are marked with the child's name which prevents the school from returning the articles to the correct child. We request that parents check that all items of clothing, or any other items brought to school, are clearly marked with the child's name (on the inside of the garment). **Please note that, in future, no items will be returned or taken from Lost and Found, should the learner's name not be clearly marked on the item.** An Art line 70 black marker may be used as this does not "run" in the wash. Another option is to stitch or iron on labels - [www.labelpal.co.za](http://www.labelpal.co.za) has a selection for all your needs. The Lost-and-Found room is now located in the L-block and is overseen by Mrs Margaret Nkosi.

I would like to remind you of our first term's **Community Outreach** project which is the **collection of Easter Eggs as well as Hot Cross Buns**. These will be delivered (by our learners) 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.

We are proud to advise that in the end CURRO THATCHFIELD collected a record amount of R45 000.00 for the **Judea Hope Tin Project**, which we supported at the end of last year. Judea Hope is also awaiting feedback from the **Guinness World Records** to see whether CURRO THATCHFIELD was the school who packed the most meals - our teachers volunteered their time to pack 70 boxes with 20 000 meals in three hours. During this packing session, our teachers also did a Dance of Victory, and we are anxious to see whether this will be used as part of the achievement. **We would like to challenge our parents to collect at least R50 000.00** when we take on this Outreach Project in Term 3. Please visit their website to see the amazing work being done by this organization. ([www.judeahope.org](http://www.judeahope.org))

**I do appreciate parents' interaction with the school and wish to share the following emails with you which I received during the last few weeks:**

**Morning Traffic**

*I know mornings are hectic, busy getting the kids ready and rushing to beat the traffic. We all know and are aware that traffic is busy and especially Mondays. But sometimes as parents we create our own stress by being late and causing unnecessary scenes at school and not adhering to the rules of the road. For instance on 1 February we had an unpleasant scene where a man driving a white Mercedes Benz with number plates XXXXXX almost hit me with his car because he wanted to use the one way road incorrectly, hitting the barricades and almost hitting the security guard too. He wasted 15 minutes blocking everyone else from coming in or going out of the school. Parents, we are at school so behave accordingly and it's really not necessary to inconvenience everyone else because you are running late. Let's make the best of our mornings and adhere to the rules of the road. If it's a one-way, use it accordingly. We need to set examples to our kids. What does that say about us if we don't?*

And I thank you

Kind regards:

XXXXXX

*"Forget perfect, I'm trying not to be worthless..."*

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**Feedback – Dr Molapo**

*As a parent I was particularly encouraged when I attended the session with Dr David Molapo, wherein it was emphasized, once more, that unless I (parent) play my role, the school will take longer to achieve the highest goals I desire to see. I am happy with the progress of the school and would like to commend you and the team in that regard.*

*For me, prayer anchors everything. I would therefore, like to propose that the school thinks about scheduling a Prayer Day together with the Parents perhaps once a quarter. This could be on the 1st Saturday of each term so we can together pray and lift up the vision of the school, teachers, admin staff, children, and all that needs to be prayed for.*

With best regards

XXXXXXXX

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**Public Transport**

*I am sending you this email as a concerned parent.*

*Today I was at the High School office to drop off something. After I left the school, at the robot at Thatchfield Close, the car that is attached in the picture overtook me as I was standing at the closed robot. The robot had long closed so we were three cars waiting there and he just passed. Immediately after the robot opened I followed him and I took this picture:*



*When done, I signalled for him to stop and he did. I asked him if he is driving the school kids to which he said, "yes" and I also saw small kids, 3 of them. I asked him if he is aware that he drove past the closed robot he said, "yea," because he does not have time to wait at the robot. I told him that I would be reporting him.*

*He took down my car registration as I drove off and I am not sure what that means, but I know what I saw with those kids was totally reckless.*

*My concern as a parent, I want to believe that when I am not around and use transportation for my kids, that the driver is a safe driver.*

*Regards  
XXXXXX*

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I once again urge our parents to please make sure that the drivers who are transporting your children do comply with all Road Safety Regulations, i.e. vehicle roadworthy, licenced, Public Driver's Permit, not overloading etc.

*Mrs Marlene Gerber*

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

I would like to **thank all our parents** for playing such a huge role at the Castle. If it wasn't for you, this school would not be the same.

Our little ones looked adorable in their red and white outfits on 12 February when we celebrated "**The Month of Love**". This term's outreach is **Easter eggs**. If possible, please donate a box of the marshmallow kind as the hollow ones tend to break. We will be distributing these to the less fortunate in our community.

Please be reminded that there will be no reports going out at the end of this term and that the **bi-annual reports** will be issued in June. Congratulations to teacher Catherine who has been appointed as teacher at the High School and we welcome back Ms Cormé Mulder who will be taking over her classes.

With the holiday around the corner, it would be appreciated if you could inform your child's teacher if your child will be attending the **holiday programme**.

Yours in education

*Mrs Sonnette Pretorius*

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

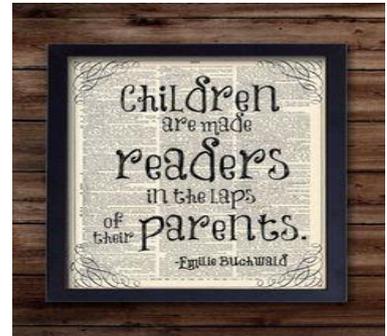
Things are going very well at the Reception Phase and our **Continuous Assessments** are almost over.

Please make a note of our **Fun Day** which is scheduled for Saturday 16 April. All learners, siblings and parents are invited to take part in our **around-the-track-activities**. Stalls with food and cold drinks will also be available on this day.

I would like to appeal to our parents to please not underestimate the importance of “the listening to” and “the reading of” stories. Please make time to spend with your children. Introduce them to books - a **reader today is a leader tomorrow**.

May God bless all our families.

*Mrs Suzette Kotze*



### 4. FROM THE DESK OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Parents should be reminded that our **teachers only start with their morning duties at 07:15** and that our **Reception office only opens at 07:30**. Our teachers are your child’s “guardians” until the close of school at 14:15. Should your child be on the school premises outside these times and not be involved in any school activities, he/she remains the responsibility of the parent and we cannot guarantee that there will be anyone to assist your child in an emergency.

Please note that **assessments** during Terms 1 and 3 consist mostly of tests, projects and tasks, and therefore learners tend to get slightly higher marks than in Terms 2 and 4 when examinations are written.

As part of our educational programme we are again planning a **Veld School for our Grade 7 learners** and an **Adventure Camp for our Grade 3 learners**. The Veld School will take place at Pennington Beach Resort which is situated on the South Coast of Kwazulu-Natal and the Adventure Camp will be at Camp Discovery. Communication in this regard has been sent out to all concerned.

It is encouraging to see so many learners involved in the various **winter sport codes**, i.e. rugby, netball, tennis, mini-cricket, Bulletjie-Rugby and cross-country – not to forget about the cultural activities that are on offer, i.e. public speaking, choir, chess, Art Club etc. I urge parents to make sure that their children become active participants in the school community. Please remember the **Learner Assistance Days** that are available to assist those learners who need additional support or those who want to improve their marks.

Mrs Lise Vermaak and Nicolene Prinsloo are currently on maternity leave and we wish them well with this new adventure that awaits them. Ms Fezeke Binase will be substituting for Mrs Prinsloo and I welcome Mr Jako Meyer as the substitute music teacher in the Foundation Phase.

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

In our effort to fully implement the **21st century teaching methods**, we have acquired the services of a world leading education company, *Elevate Education*, to do a workshop with our learners to strengthen their study skills. In addition, **our teachers will also be attending a workshop** to ensure that they are able to support our learners in their specific subject areas. Learners will also get access to a website to help them with self-help tips, worksheets and other resources. *Elevate Education* has been around for some

time and has good relationships with many of the most prominent and successful private schools in South Africa. The ability of learners to plan their own learning as well as persevere until they are successful speaks to the resilience aspect of Building Learning Power, a component of 21st century teaching.

I am really excited about the prospect of being able to optimize the learning potential of our learners. **It is really important that we have parent support in this endeavour.** I am sure I can count on all of you in this regard.

Kindly note that Mrs Lynne Pike has decided to venture into the private sector, and I'd like to welcome Ms Catherine Kloppers to the English Department.

*Mr Danie van Schalkwyk*

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

### Reclaiming Conversation

Renowned media scholar Sherry Turkle investigates how a flight from conversation undermines our relationships, creativity, and productivity – and why reclaiming face-to-face conversation can help us regain lost ground.

We live in a technological universe in which we are always communicating. And yet we have sacrificed conversation for mere connection.

Turkle has been studying digital culture for over thirty years. Long an enthusiast for its possibilities, here she investigates a troubling consequence: at work, at home, in politics, and in love, we find ways around conversation, tempted by the possibilities of receiving a text or an email in which we don't have to look, listen, or reveal ourselves.

The dinner table falls silent as children compete with phones for their parents' attention. Most families tend to also rush through dinner, they can't wait to get back to their computers, cell phones and iPods. But... they will stick around if the conversation is interesting. The biggest determinant is YOU, the parent. If you see yourself and your life as a crashing bore, your kids will see the same thing. But if you see your life as an endless succession of miraculous and fascinating events, your kids will be transformed by it.

Notice the little conversation opens your kids offer, and drop everything to respond. It can be excruciating to tear yourself away from what you're doing to focus on a child's question, but how you respond to his overture is crucial in building closeness. To him, it's an indication of whether he can count on you to talk when he needs you. And much more important than any conversation you try to initiate, like when you try to get him to tell you what happened at school today.

Parents who have close relationships with their teens often attribute their closeness to their willingness to be available if their teen signals a desire to talk. But teens who feel that other things are more important to their parents often look elsewhere when they're emotionally needy. And that's our loss, as much as theirs.

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

[Curro.thatchfield.prc@gmail.com](mailto:Curro.thatchfield.prc@gmail.com)

**Parent Representative Committee 2015**

## 7. DATES TO DIARISE

Please take note of the following important dates:

Date	Activity	High School	Primary School
22 – 24 Feb	Individual Photos		X
24 Feb	USA Tour Presentation to interested Parents and Learners (High School learners only)	X	
Sat, 27 Feb	Parents' Meeting in PS Hall @ 09:30 and PAC election	X	X
Sun, 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 Individual Photos	X	X
Thurs, 10 Mar	Gr 3 Merit Tea / Gr 5 Funky Day		X
Fri, 11 Mar	Primary School Curro 7's Regionals Tournament (No academic school day –Group 5 to Grade 7)		X
Sat, 12 Mar	High School Curro 7's Regionals Tournament Rugby – Trinity House (Little Falls)	X	
Thu, 17 Mar	Curro's Got Talent	X	
Fri, 18 Mar	Inter-house Culture School closes @ 11:00 for Term 1	X X	X

## 8. GENERAL

### School Diary

**It is very important that you complete the Information Sheet in your child's diary as accurately as possible.** Please make sure that you and your child are familiar with the content and that both of you have signed indicating that you abide by and understand the content thereof.

We would also like to draw your attention to the **importance of a doctor's note to be issued if a learner is absent during formal assessments due to illness.**

**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 (High 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.

### **Drop-off of Learners**

It has been reported that parents now start dropping learners at the **slipway** entrance in Drakensberg Road. Parents stop on a clearly marked yellow line (No Parking) and their children then enter through a gate that is **NOT pedestrian friendly**. I have reported this practice to the **Metro Police** who will now assist us in enforcing traffic rules.

### **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.

## **9. IN CONCLUSION**

*"Your children are not your children.  
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.  
They come through you but not from you,  
and though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.  
You may give them your love, but not your thoughts.  
For they have their own thoughts.*

*You may house their bodies but not their souls,  
for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.  
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.  
For life goes not backward, nor tarries with yesterday."*

**-Kahlil Gibran-**

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](http://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](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:

#### Bursar

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

#### Debtors

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

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

### Sport – Primary School:

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

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

### Sport – High School:

[Jaco.v01@curro.co.za](mailto:Jaco.v01@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 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](mailto: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](mailto:Lieslturner@vodamail.co.za)

##### Play Therapist

Anita Potgieter on 084 632 1313

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