

NEWSLETTER

Date: 18 June 2018
From the Office of the Executive Head

MERIDIAN
Pinehurst

Dear Parents/Guardians

"Life is more fun if you play games."
— Roald Dahl, My Uncle Oswald

On Friday at our weekly staff meeting, Primary and High School educators were met at the door with the message, 'The floor is lava,' and were required to find their places avoiding walking on the floor and overcoming the Lava-living Monster (I'm not telling who *that* was). Staff with umbrella-type hover machines could go straight to their chairs and one teacher was designed with a baby-bubble of happiness allowing her to float above the dangerous floor...



The aim of the game was to get teachers playing again and to introduce some theory on Play and how vital play is to thriving and learning. Important 21st Century skills such as adaptability, problem-solving, collaboration and creativity (among many others) are unconsciously learnt and developed through play, so it is vital that we continue to play all through life and especially in the classroom.

Dr Stuart Brown has spent several years studying what happens to our brains when we play. This leading US psychiatrist says that during play 'the brain lights up'. He refers to our 'play

history' as vital for mapping our levels of happiness and life focus. He believes that depression, not work, is the opposite of play and the more play is incorporated into our work, the less stressed we are and the less likely we are to become depressed. Our play history can determine even the direction of our life's work (and should).



So following up on last week's insert about hopscotch, do join us for the school hopscotch challenge where you too can have some fun.

"Highly playful adults feel the same stressors as anyone else, but they appear to experience and react to them differently, allowing stressors to roll off more easily than those who are less playful,"

Lynn Barnett, Professor of Recreation, Sports and Tourism at the University of Illinois.

Youth Day

It is poignant that this newsletter deals with play and play history when this weekend we have also commemorated the youth of our nation and the contribution they made towards bringing change to education and to the country itself in the seventies and eighties. Note that I did not say 'the part that they *played*' because that is a generation that was thrust into adulthood too soon and did not have a childhood full of positive play memories to look back on. Theirs was a childhood of fear and funerals.



Curro Celebrates 20 Years of Excellence

Join us in celebrating 20 years of educational excellence.

We are turning 20 and would love it if you could be there to help us celebrate. The Curro20 concert will be held at the HB Thom Theatre in Stellenbosch on 20 July 2018. You have a choice of two concerts – a 17:30 or 19:30 start. Tickets are R100 and can be purchased through Quicket by following this link: <http://qkt.io/curro20-concert-fri>

There is no limit to the number of tickets you can buy so bring the kids and join us for this once-off explosion of song and dance. Meridian Pinehurst has no fewer than TWO stars performing on the night: **Blaine Africa and Nicholas Job.**



Date: Friday, 20 July 2018 | **Time:** 17:00 for 18:00 or 19:30 for 20:30

Venue: HB Thom Theatre, Stellenbosch

Ticket price: R100 (available through Quicket)

Join us in celebrating 20 years of educational excellence.

Twenty-one of Curro's most talented high school learners from all over the country unite for this once-off explosion of song and dance in celebration of the Curro group's 20th birthday. Under the expert guidance of directors Hennie van Greunen and Pedro Kruger, musical director Melissa van der Spuy, choreographer Kirvan Fortuin and vocal coach Sarah Theron, these singers, dancers, actors and instrumentalists have spent three weeks honing their skills for an unforgettable production that celebrates being young, creative, talented and courageous.

Congratulations

We are enormously proud of the following educators who completed their studies last year, and this year attended graduation ceremonies at various institutions.

Visual Arts and EMS educator, Mr Donovan Nieuwoudt, graduated *cum laude* (with honours) from UNISA with a BEd FET last week.



Friends as well as colleagues, **Sanashia Sandamela** and **Marchelle Veldtsman** both received their N6 diplomas in ECD (Early Childhood Development) from Northlink College



Congratulations

Congratulations to **Mrs Elna Compaan**, in the Finance Office who became a granny for the second time last week.

Aldo Xander Lourens made his appearance on 12 June, weighing in at 4.14kg, much to his grandmother's delight.

No Smoking Zone

Please notice that the Meridian Pinehurst is a no smoking zone EVERYWHERE on campus, including in cars parked on the premises.

Road Repairs and Security Upgrades

Thank you for your patience with the road repairs. The work is almost completed.

There are further security upgrades which will be put into place over the holidays and early next term.

Discipline Matters

Please appreciate that ALL disciplinary (and other) matters are always thoroughly investigated at Meridian Pinehurst and all parties are dealt with in a positive and nurturing manner. If your child is not directly involved, you may not know exactly what happened or what interventions are engaged in because of confidentiality issues which protect all parties (especially if you may have heard a story via the grapevine (Whatsapp group)). However we

request that you recognise and trust the spirit and dedication of the management and staff to be conscientious in dealing with all incidents at school. Do not fall prey to the belief that 'nothing is being done about it.' Should you have a concern that a matter has been left unattended, please communicate that to school management who will assure you that the matter is in hand or in the (unlikely) event that the school is not aware of an issue, it can be resolved speedily.

This is a child-friendly environment and everything we do here is geared towards growing young people into socially and emotionally aware individuals. Should you ever feel that an injustice has occurred, please communicate with the school rather than speculate on Whatsapp, where such speculation can be damaging to all parties.



Swim Hub Holiday Program

25th – 29th June 2018



- ### 1. Holiday Clinic

This is a 5 day, 1 on 1, swimming course for any level of swimmer from learn to swim to stroke development lessons. Each lesson 15 minutes.

Age: All age groups
Cost: R 500 for the week
Time: Confirmed on booking, every 15 min. between 08h00 and 11h00
- ### 2. Aqua Aerobics for Kids

A fun class lead by an experienced aqua aerobics instructor. Your kids will have fun while learning how to get the benefit of exercising in water.

Age: 8 years and up, must be water safe
Cost: R 50 per class
Time: 11h15 – 11h45 (Monday to Friday)
- ### 3. Open Public Swimming

Here your kids can come and swim at their own leisure and simply have fun in the pool. This will be supervised by an adult.

Age: 8 years and up, must be water safe
Cost: R 30 per 30-minute session
Time: 12h00 – 12h30 OR 12h30 – 13h00 (Monday to Friday)

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
admin@swimhub.co.za

Last Week of Term

Please note that actual teaching and learning happens in the last week of school. Do not be lulled into accepting a youngster's, 'We're-not-doing-anything-now-that-examinations-are-done' remark. Educators are teaching key concepts not understood in the examinations, as well as beginning new work in some instances. If there were no educational value to this week, the school would have closed last week. **Meridian Pinehurst is still conducting classes and will not compromise academic standards by slacking at the end of term.**

Dates to Diarise

Monday, 18 June: **Mr Justin Matthews'** birthday
PBL STEAMD Expo at Curro Brackenfell: 17:00 – 19:00
PAC Meeting: 18:00

Tuesday, 19 June: Foundation Phase Parents meetings

Wednesday, 20 June: Nursery Parents meeting

Thursday, 21 June: **Ms Heimie Groenewald's** birthday
Nursery Parents Meeting

Friday, 22 June: **Ms Keri Lötter's** birthday
Term 2 ends

Holiday Birthdays:

24 June: **Nozuko Wondo**

25 June: **Martha Noah**
Rachille Morison

26 June: **Vanessa Hoff**

27 June: **Rolien Litthauer**

28 June: **Ashley Hoffman**
Genevieve Piedt

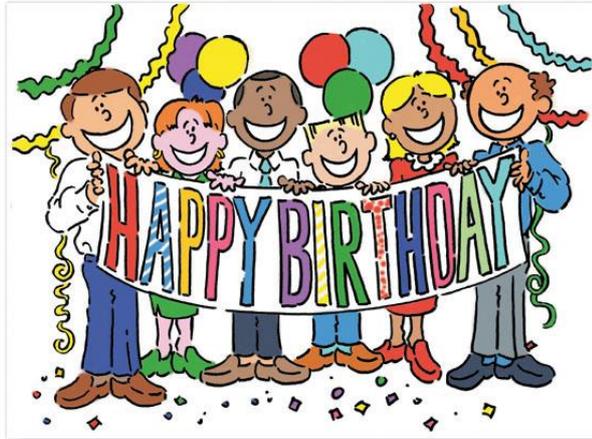
30 June: **Mandy Moyce**

8 July: **Marijana Coetzee**
Garnett Papier

11 July: **Luise Etzebeth**

16 July: **Nuraan Jappie**

18 July: **Althea Marinus**



Zechariah 8:5

'And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets'

Thank you to all the teachers and staff for a gruelling, yet successful term. We wish you all a warm and restful winter break and Godspeed home if you are travelling afar.

Yours in education
Colleen Bentley
Executive Head

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