

# Newsletter

## Executive Head's Address

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are now settling into term 1 and I wish to thank our parent body for being so active and involved in our school operations so early in the year already. I trust that you have had the opportunity to engage with our teachers and were able to begin building trust relationships with our staff. I encourage you to engage with your class teachers often and we have attached a list with their e-mail addresses to this newsletter for your convenience.

Our focus for this year is to embrace and develop 21st Century skills in our learners and one of the platforms we are using to aid in this, is Microsoft. Our learners will be taught how to use cloud technology and the internet responsibly and safely and I would like to empower our parent body with some helpful tips to ensure their children's online journeys are safe and efficient.

New shoes, school uniforms, stationery and devices are being purchased by busy parents trying to juggle between family time, going back to work and getting kids ready for the start a new school year.

While these items help ensure your child can participate in class and sport activities, the back-to-school period can also be a great time to review their online safety and get ahead of any issues that may come up through the year.

### Some tips to get you started, include:

1. **"Sharent" responsibly:** Be mindful about sharing your child's first day of school and other milestones on social media. Think about who can see the photos and what information you may be giving away, because even a school crest on a student's uniform can say a lot about where they spend their time. Asking your child if it's okay to share their photo is also a great way to help grow their understanding of consent and respect.
2. **Know the signs for cyberbullying:** School can be a particularly challenging time for kids, especially if they're being bullied. Our complaints show most cyberbullying stems from the school yard. So watch out for signs that your child may be affected, like being secretive with their online activities, avoiding school or social outings, a decline in school grades, or a sudden change in friendship groups. See more information about

3. how to help your child experiencing cyberbullying.

**Set screen time limits:** Research shows more than half of parents are concerned about the amount of time their kids spend online. With screens increasingly being used at school and home, it's important to ensure your child has a healthy balance of offline and online time. Setting screen-free zones in the home and negotiating switch off times are useful ways to do this. Don't forget, quality over quantity! See more information about managing screen time.

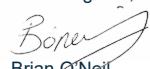
**Use tools:** Parental controls on smartphones, TVs and computers can help limit your child seeing inappropriate content and help manage their time online. Make sure the privacy settings on their apps and games are turned on and help show them how to block and report people online. See more information about using parental controls and privacy and reporting tools.

**Stay engaged:** As soon as we hand our child a device, we should be talking to them about the dos and don'ts of the online world. It's also important let them know we'll be there to support them if anything goes wrong. There is no substitute for taking an interest in our children's online lives from an early age, to help establish strong foundations and open lines of communication. See more information about keeping your children safe online.

As our community continues to move into the age of technology, we encourage our learners, teachers and parents to join forces and work together to ensure a safe, educational and productive online learning environment.

On a different note, I want to conclude this address with a reminder that our new drop-off procedure is now in effect. Please familiarize yourselves with the process. This procedure will be evaluated and adjusted periodically to ensure it accommodates our growing school. Remember: Kiss. Drop. Go.

Warm regards,

  
Brian O'Neil  
Executive Head



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## From the Sport Office

Our extramural programme is in full swing and we are happy to see all the learners eager to take part. Although all learners filled in at least one sport activity for the term not everyone has attended their chosen activity. We would like to ask you to please encourage your child to take part and help us create a strong sporting culture at Curro Rivonia.

A few important things to remember for practices in the afternoon:

- Netball:** Learners must remember to bring along their PE kit, takkies, hat, water bottle and sun-block to every practice.
- Cricket:** Learners must remember to bring along their PE kit, takkies, hat, water bottle and sun-block to every practice.
- Swimming:** Learners must remember to bring along their Curro costumes, swimming cap, towel and even though goggles are optional we do recommend them.
- Soccer:** Learners must remember to bring along their PE kit, takkies, hat, water bottle and sun-block to every practice.  
Practice will be as follows:  
5-a-side soccer pitch.
- Tennis:** Learners must remember to bring along their PE kit, takkies, hat, water bottle and sun-block to every practice.

We would just like to say thank you to our learners who have been attending practice and who have showed their dedication. We are so proud of you!

We truly hope 2019 will be an amazing year for all our sporting teams both on and off the field.

### Our very first Baseline Bootcamp, and the start of many more to come!

Thank you for spending time with us on 19 January and your contribution towards the wonderful cause of putting food into the bowls of the fur-babies needing forever homes. We raised a fantastic amount of **R1200 which will go to purchasing Montego Food for PAWS SA**. If you or your corporate wishes to match this amount towards a larger contribution of food, blankets and dog toys please contact Michelle van Alphen on [baselinefitnesstrainer@gmail.com](mailto:baselinefitnesstrainer@gmail.com)

Keep your ears and eyes open for the next Bootcamp dates, the aim is to run this once a month. If you wish to get more of the action, come join the Baseline Fitness group classes during the week. They are a whole lot of fun and incredibly worth it. We have now also opened the studio to Grade 6 to 9 learners who want to get fit and active to lead a healthier lifestyle.





## Introducing our 2019 PTA

We are excited to announce that our 2019 Parent Teacher Association is now complete. Last year we voted for our EXCO committee and the class representatives for each grade were identified during the course of last week.

The purpose of this committee is to serve as a fundraising committee for the school, so as to have funding readily available for development initiatives and to enhance the learning environments of our learners.

Our PTA EXCO consists of a PTA Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary (TBA), Treasurer, Marketing and events coordinator and a Communications and Transformation and Diversity representative.

The remainder of the PTA is made up of at least one Class Parent per class, in the Castle, Primary School and High School.

Each Class Parent serves as the go-between for communications between the Register Class teacher and the parents. These communications are managed via Whatsapp groups to which each parent in each class is invited, but remaining on the group is not compulsory.

The PTA meets once a month to plan and execute fundraising initiatives.

Parents can expect communications from the PTA regarding fundraising events and other PTA initiatives at the school.

Please see the attached addendum to the newsletter for the names, portfolios and contact details of each EXCO member and PTA class representative.

### Meet the EXCO team:





## Announcements

### External Service Providers

As an added value to our learners, we have engaged with several service providers who offer additional extramural activities after school on our campus.

- Please see attached to this Newsletter, a list of all activities on offer, as well as the contact details of the relevant service providers.
- Payments for the use of these services are independent of Curro Rivonia and need to be paid directly to the service providers.
- Each provider will also champion their own communications to learners and parents and the school will not be pushing communications on their behalf.

### Registering your biometrics

Registration for our school's biometric system is open.

All new learners and parents are required to register their fingerprints on the system, or they will not have access to the school building.

Biometrics can be registered at the Primary School Reception between 07:00 and 08:30 OR 13:30 and 15:00.

#### Please take careful note of the on-boarding process to be followed by all Curro Rivonia parents:

- Only contacts associated with a family code on our system will be allowed to register.
- Parents/guardians can register in the Senior Phase foyer every morning between 07:00 and 08:00, or in the afternoons between 14:00 and 14:30, or 15:30 and 16:00
- Registration takes roughly 2 minutes, per person.
- Requests to register at times not indicated above, must be submitted in writing, to Phase Heads for review and approval.
- Requests for persons other than parents/guardians to register must be submitted to Phase Heads, in writing, for review and approval.

Important note: Shuttle Drivers and Uber Drivers will NOT be permitted to register on the biometric system.

We appreciate your support and collaboration during this process.



## Announcements

### Drop-Off Procedure

#### Important notice:

As of Friday, 25 January, a new drop-off procedure will be in effect:

We have fences along the play area next to the School Hall. The entrance at the Cafeteria/Foundation Phase will be closed for traffic and all traffic will flow in front of the school hall towards the Castle parking/ exit.

The left lane is to be used for drop-off at the school hall and the right lane for driving through to the Castle parking or the exit.

Please DO NOT drop learners off at the Senior Phase or Foundation Phase entrances. They can access the building via the playground and cafeteria.

### SCIENCE FAIR LEARNER WORKSHOPS 2019

The Science & Technology educators at CURRO Rivonia will host our third Science Fair to motivate our learners to be creative and to become more open to learning in Science and Technology.

To give our learners the best preparation possible they can attend a learner's workshop. Two Workshops will be hosted by the Eskom Expo committee. It will allow the learners to understand the process and to make well informed choices.

- **Who:** All the learners who want to participate in the Science Fair and Districts
- **When and Where:**
- **First workshop:** 2 February 2019 at Help-mekaar College (10:00–12:00)
- **Second workshop:** 16 March 2019 at Parktown Girls (10:00–12:00)
- **Cost:** There will be no transport for learners. Parents will need to arrange transport.

## Events to look forward to

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
25 Jan	14:00	Inter-house swimming gala	Aquatics Centre
28 Jan	18:00	PTA Meeting	Admin block
31 Jan	07:00	Grade 1 Tea with parents	Cafeteria
6 Feb	07:00	Grade 2 Tea with parents	Cafeteria

All events are also available on the MyHub app, the pocket calendar and are also recorded in your child's homework book weekly.





# The MyHUB mobile app is now available through Google Play store and iStore.



**CURRO**

**The mobile app allows you to:**

- Receive notifications when an email or SMS is sent to your mobile number or email address
- View all communication related to your child/ren based on the profile you provide
- Access GRIT for online uniform orders
- View up-to-date statements
- Make school fees and event payments online quickly and easily
- View calendar events scheduled for your child/ren

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=za.co.curroholdings.myhub>

<https://itunes.apple.com/za/app/myhub-guardian/id1299057887>

### Contact us:

**Address: 43 Homestead Road, Rivonia, 2191**

**E-mail: [info.rivonia@curro.co.za](mailto:info.rivonia@curro.co.za)**

**Tel: 087 287 9551**

Curro Rivonia Independent School

