

# OAKHURST NEWS



Newsletter 01 / 2010  
Wednesday, 13 January

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new school year. I hope that you were all able to spend some time relaxing and recharging your batteries. 2010 promises to be an exciting but busy year for us all. A special welcome to the families who are joining Oakhurst for the first time.

## **STAFF FOR 2009**

We welcome Ms Sheonagh Hollely (Grade 3), Ms Rosanne Lesch (Music) and Mrs Suzanne Deutschman – Mrs D for short (Teacher Aide) to our staff.

On our support staff, we welcome Mr Clifford Vukombo, Mr Alfred Kageba and Ms Gwen Cloete. I know you will make them all feel welcome as they take up their positions on our staff.

## **STATIONERY**

A reminder that each child is required to pay an amount for additional stationery that we have purchased on your behalf. There are still several families who have not paid this amount. This stationery will not be issued to your daughter until the payment is received.

## **DISCOUNTED SCHOOL FEES**

If you would like to make use of the 5% discount that we offer for school fees paid in advance for the year, please remember that this must be paid before 31 January.

## **CALENDAR FOR 2010**

You will receive our beautiful Oakhurst calendar this week. We have tried to include as many dates as were available to us at the time of going to print. There *will* be others as the year progresses. Please refer to this calendar when you make arrangements for family holidays etc.

## **SCHOOL TERMS FOR 2010**

In the letter I sent home with your daughter's report last year, the Head of Education in the Cape requested parents to ensure that their children attend school every day for the full duration of each term. The second term is particularly short and it would be appreciated if you did not take your daughter out of school before the start of the mid year holiday. Here are the dates for the school terms this year.

Term 1	13 Jan – 26 March
Term 2	12 April – 9 June (Wed)
Term 3	13 July – 23 September
Term 4	4 October – 10 December

## **SCHOOL HOURS**

The school day starts at 8:00 and ends at 13:00 for Grade 1 and 2 girls and at 14:30 for Grade 3-7 girls. The times vary a little for Grade 1,2 and 3 during the first few weeks as baseline assessments need to be completed. You will be told of the times for these girls by the teachers concerned. Please make every effort to get your daughter to school on time. Late arrival is disruptive to all and causes you daughter unnecessary anxiety. Please note that the school will only be open from 7am. It is not safe to leave your daughter on her own outside the school before then.

## **SCHOOL NEWSLETTER AND CIRCULARS**

When moving a child's desk at the end of last year, her teacher discovered a term's worth of notices and newsletters squirreled away underneath her books. We can tell by the questions that parents phone and ask Pam Wilkinson, that this communication is not reaching all our families. A newsletter will be sent home every alternate Tuesday (check the calendar for specific dates). We are going to try and send all other notices home on a Tuesday only so that you can make a point of checking your daughter's bag for these. Remember that our newsletter is also posted on our website every alternate Tuesday. This is an important form of communication between the school and your family so please make every effort to read the newsletter.

## **PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL**

This is an ongoing problem and, for the safety of your children, I ask you kindly to be patient and courteous when driving and parking around the school. The gate in Lancaster Avenue is open in the mornings to stop and drop only and we also open it on a Friday afternoon to ease the congestion. I urge you to make use of the good weather by parking your car away from the school and walking your daughter to the gate. Friday afternoons are particularly busy as all the girls finish at the same time.

## **EXTRA- MURAL PROGRAMME**

The extra-mural programme will start on Monday, 18 January. Initially trials will take place as girls need to be placed in the correct training groups. You should have received the extra-mural programme today. The reply slip attached needs to be returned to school as soon as possible so that we can arrange coaches according to the demand for the different sporting codes.

Please remind your daughter that she is making a commitment to her school and to the coach that she will attend all practices and see the season through to the end.

## **MEET THE TEACHERS**

This is a most important meeting that takes place on Tuesday, 26 January at 19:00 in the school hall. Thereafter you will move to the classrooms for meetings with the teachers. Please make arrangements for at least one parent to attend this meeting as important information will be shared.

***A welcoming function for all new families to the school will be held in the hall quad at 18:00, before meeting the teachers. Invitations will be sent out next week.***

## **HOTDOG SALES**

We will be selling hotdogs and juice every Friday. This will be on a pre-order system for the whole term only. Your daughter will receive a hotdog and a box of juice. Halaal hotdogs will also be available. You will receive an order form next week.

## **PAPER CHALLENGE**

As part of our recycling initiative at Oakhurst, we collect paper once a month for recycling. In doing so we are doing our bit to protect the environment and collecting some funds for our school at the same time. The collection is run as a competition amongst the grades. Please collect your scrap paper for our first paper challenge. You will be informed of the dates shortly. A huge thank you to Kim Taylor for offering to coordinate our recycling programme this year. Kim will need some help from parents on paper challenge days. More details later.

## **BUY A BRICK**

Thank you to those families who supported this project. The forms and money need to be returned to school by Friday 22 January. All forms must be returned whether they have been completed or not.

## **OAKHURST OUTREACH**

Every Thursday we send a crate of sandwiches to a needy school via the 'Bread Buddies' programme. You are asked to send a spare sandwich, wrapped separately from your daughter's lunch, to school on a Thursday morning which help fill the tummy of a hungry child.

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On a Friday we have a charity collection of small change. This money is then donated to a charity at the end of the term.

## **SECOND HAND CLOTHING**

Sandy King has kindly offered to take over the running of our second hand clothing shop. Thank you, Sandy. The second hand clothing shop will be open on a Friday from 13:00 to 13:30. If you have any items of uniform that you would like to sell, please bring it to school with your contact details on it.

Our school shop, selling new uniform items, is open on a Tuesday morning from 7:30 to 8:30 and on a Friday afternoon from 12:45 to 13:30.

## **MARKING OF PERSONAL ITEMS**

Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly marked with your child's name. Remember to change the name in the clothing that you have bought from the second hand shop or from friends.

## **CLASS LISTS**

Every year parents ask us to send a list of contact details home for each class. If anyone would prefer not to have their contact details distributed, please let the class teacher know via your daughter's homework book.

## **SMS WEB**

The sms system that we used last year proved to be a great success. We only had 4 reports not collected in December after we reminded parents about the collection via sms. We will be continuing with this system in 2010. It worked particularly well in winter when we had to cancel sport due to bad weather.

## **PICK N PAY SLIPS**

Don't forget to send your till slips from Pick 'n Pay to school for our collection. We need to collect slips to the value of R1 million by the end of April in order to receive a R10 000 bonus. I have all my family members and friends collecting slips for Oakhurst. We can do it!

## **SCHOOL TEXT BOOKS**

We are very fortunate at Oakhurst that we have the financial resources to be able to purchase textbooks for the girls. We are not supplied with text books from the Education Department. These books are expensive and we need to look after them. Please would you assist us by covering the

text books your daughter brings home, in plastic. Many of the books that are covered, could do with a fresh new cover. These books are loaned to the girls for the year and need to be treated with care. Lost or damaged books will have to be replaced.

## **OAKHURST GARDEN**

As mentioned last year, the garden at the entrance to our school needs a revamp. The money we raised from our recycling efforts last year has been earmarked for this project. If anyone has an interest in gardening and would like to get involved in the planning of this project, please give me a call.

## **ADVERTISING IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

Just a reminder that you may place adverts in our newsletter at R25 per insertion. Please contact Pam in the office for more details.

## **SCHOOL CLOSURE THIS WEEK**

School will close at 13:00 for all grade 3 to 7 girls this week and at 12:00 for girls in grade one and two. The staff will all be attending a workshop on Friday, straight after school so girls must please be collected from school promptly at 13:00 as there will be no supervision on the school campus after 13:15.

## ***A thought for the day***

***If you raise your children to feel that they can accomplish any goal or task they decide upon, you will have succeeded as a parent and you will have given your children the greatest of all blessings.***

***Brian Tracy***

May this be a happy, healthy and fulfilling year for you and your family. We look forward to sharing a part of it with you.

Have a wonderful week.

Jenny van Velden  
Principal



CAPE CARE offers quality companionship and care to elderly or disabled people living at home. We are now launching a PRIVATE RECRUITMENT DIVISION which provides an introduction to and assistance in employing Private Carers. These carefully screened carers are all qualified, have the relevant experience and are passionate about their clients. Live in or live out, day or night – our facilitator will assist you.

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