



OAKHURST NEWS

Newsletter 02 / 2010
Tuesday, 26 January

Dear Parents

We are well into the new school year and, despite what has happened at many other schools across the country, we were ready to start with the academics on day one. My thanks must go to the staff who spent time at school during the holidays to ensure that we had a smooth start. Listening to the daily news makes me realise just how fortunate I am to be leading a school with such dedicated and enthusiastic staff members who are at school every day for the required hours (and many more) and are well prepared to take on the challenge of educating the children in their care. Your girls are in good hands!

We are looking forward to meeting with you this evening.

The welcome function for the new parents begins at 18:00 in the hall quad and we shall all meet in the hall at 19:00 for a brief address before going to the classrooms. There will be *limited parking* available in the school grounds so please try to get here a few minutes earlier to allow for this.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

I hope you have all received your beautiful Oakhurst calendar. We have now managed to confirm the dates for our paper challenge. This always takes place on a Friday. The dates are as follows:

19 February, 19 March, 23 April, 21 May, 23 July, 20 August, 17 September, 22 October, 19 November. Please add these dates to your calendar.

You will receive a pamphlet with more information about our recycling project at tonight's meeting.

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.

SCHOOL UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

I have noticed that a few of the girls have returned to school with highlights in their hair. The Oakhurst Code of Conduct (see homework diary) clearly states that colouring of hair is not allowed. It would be appreciated if parents did not allow or encourage this.

SWIMMING

I am absolutely delighted to see that so many girls are attending swimming sessions this year. Last week we had 55 girls arriving for swimming on Tuesday and Thursday! It

is not safe to have this number of children in the pool at once so we have no other option but to split the sessions on a Tuesday and a Thursday. Girls who already attend A or B squad swimming sessions must please **not** attend the Intermediate sessions on a Tuesday and Thursday as well. We need to give everyone an opportunity.

Please note the split in the sessions:

Tuesday	
Gr 3 & 4	14:45 to 15:15
Gr 5,6 & 7	15:15 to 16:00
Thursday	
Gr 3 and 4	14:45 to 15:15
Gr 5	15:15 to 15:45
Gr 6 & 7	14:45 to 15:45

Thank you to Mr Alan Roberts, the grandfather of two of our girls, for offering his time and expertise to help us cope with these large groups.

HOMEWORK SUPERVISION

I'm sure you will appreciate that we have great difficulty arranging an extra-mural programme that suits every child. There will always be activities that clash – this is inevitable. We can also not accommodate all the girls straight after school so activities will be staggered. We will therefore continue offering a homework supervision class for girls in Grade 4 to Grade 7 every day from Monday to Thursday. Your daughter is encouraged to go to these classes to do her homework before her activity begins.

We are making the computer room available to all girls after school (from 14:45) on Mondays to Thursdays for school related work only, for example, typing up assessments or doing research for projects. **Girls will not be allowed to use this time to play games, surf the net or send e-mails.**

CHOIR

Choir practice will take place on a Friday afternoon. Girls who occasionally swim in galas must let Ms Lesch know if they are unable to attend that week. Unfortunately, the girls who do dancing or ballet **every** Friday will be unable to sing in the choir. Training a successful choir cannot be achieved if the girls need to leave early to attend other extra-mural activities. Unfortunately they will need to make a choice.

WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

Bringing up children today is not easy, and we often need some assistance along the way. Rondebosch Boys' Preparatory School is hosting a workshop by Robin Booth called *Nurturing you Child's Self-Esteem*. The workshop will run for 6 consecutive Wednesdays. Issues that will be dealt with are: *Being an effective parent, Acknowledging feelings, Engaging in co operation, Positive reinforcement, Alternatives to punishment and Problem solving.*

The first session will be held on Wednesday, 10 February at 18:30 until 20:00 and is free. Thereafter parents will need to make a commitment to the presenter.

For further information visit Robin's website www.robinbooth.co.za/training.

FEES FOR PRIVATE COACHING OR LESSONS

Please note that we do not collect fees for any coaching or lessons that take place with private coaches. These fees must be paid directly to the coaches concerned. Fees must not be included in school fee payments. This includes music fees.

HOTDOG SALES

Your daughter has brought home an order form today for a hotdog and juice on a Friday. Should you wish to place an order for her, please return the form to school with the full payment by Tuesday 2 February. The first hotdogs will be distributed on Friday 5 February.

PERFORMING ARTS EXTENSION

I am delighted to share with you this evening, the drawings and plans for the proposed extension to our school hall. The dire need for this area has been made abundantly clear to us, once again, over the past two weeks. There has been an overwhelming response to the instrument tuition offered by Ms Lesch, our new music teacher.

It has been a logistical nightmare to try and find a venue for the individual and small group tuition as we only have one music room and on some days there are three music teachers looking for a place to teach! I have even offered to vacate my office for a lesson or two so that we don't have to turn any of the girls down.

We have to do everything we can to raise the money to start this building in 2010. We need your support ,please.

OAKHURST NEWS

Sadly, only 100 of the 240 Buy a Brick forms have been returned to school. Thank you to those of you who supported the project. We have a sponsored swim planned for Saturday 27th February. The date is on your Oakhurst calendar. Please don't make arrangements to go away on that weekend. The girls will be required to come to school at different times during the morning and swim/paddle/kick across the length or width of the pool for which they will need to collect sponsorships. We plan to make it a fun morning with various food stalls to keep the hungry spectators happy. This event will replace the Family Fair for 2010.

We also have a Soirée Evening planned on Friday 12 March (not on your calendar). This will be a wonderful opportunity for you to bring along your family and friends, and enjoy a picnic on the Oakhurst lawn (which should now be relatively free of thorns and weeds!) while enjoying some light music.

Thanks to all the hungry Oakhurst families, we are doing well with our Pick n Pay slip collection. We have collected R64 260.39 to date. Watch our progress on the barometer in the school foyer.

Jean Nussbaum, an ex Oakhurst parent, has done a beautiful drawing of the Oakhurst gable from the grade 7 classroom side. We have had this printed onto blank cards. We are selling the cards in packs of 5, with envelopes, for R30 a pack. These cards can be used for any correspondence and would also make a fabulous gift. They will be available to purchase at the meeting tonight and can also be bought from the school office.

We are making a small profit on each pack of cards which will go towards our building fund.

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Geoff Meyer will be taking individual photos of the girls in the Foundation Phase next Thursday, 4 February. The older girls will be photographed later in the year.

MEETING FOR SAX AND CLARINET STUDENTS

Parents of girls who will be learning to play the saxophone and the clarinet this year are reminded to attend a short meeting in the staffroom next Tuesday, 2 February at 18:00.

JUST FOR FUN

These pearls of wisdom were overheard in the classroom.....

- *I think global warming is cold*
- *An apostrophe is a comma that is high*

- *Dyslexia is when you think you're fat and you're really thin.*
- *I went to the orthodontist for an eye check*
- *Our combi was stolen two and a half times*

But the most worrying comment was

I can use a calculator because it looks like a Playstation!

How times have changed!

CHARITY

The teachers' union NAPTOSA is affiliated to Education International. NAPTOSA is making a donation to this association who in turn will channel the money to an affiliate in Haiti to assist with rebuilding the schools and replacing their lost resources. We would like to contribute our charity collection this term to Education International to assist in a small way.

WELL DONE

A very big thank you and well done to Iman Choonara in Grade 6 who completed 11 Buy a Brick forms and contributed R1100 to our building fund! What a superb effort.

MOTHERS WHO PRAY

Every Thursday morning a group of Oakhurst mums meet at school at 8:15 to pray for our school, the Oakhurst families and the staff. Anyone is most welcome to join them.

Thought for the day

Live so that when your children think of fairness and integrity, they think of you.

H Jackson Brown.

Have a fabulous week

Jenny van Velden
Principal



sparkle

Looking for a unique way to celebrate your daughter's special day?

We offer girly pamper parties for ages 6-11, including nail and body art, glittery makeup, hairstyling, product-making, pamper packs and more!

For more information:

www.sparkleparties.withtank.com

email: pamper.parties@hotmail.com

KidsYoga : Improves focus, concentration, confidence, self-esteem. Benefits asthma, ADHD and brings balance between the mind and the body. YogaTots(3-7yrs) YogaKids(8-12yrs). Available at studios in Greenpoint, City Bowl and Claremont. For further details please contact Angie 084 991 4947 email ac_lawson@yahoo.com.

"Puppy Socialisation
Classes
Adult Training Classes
Behaviour Consultations
Tel: 072 79 79 533
Dog Dynamics
www.dogdynamics.co.za"

On the **4th of February UCT RAG presents** Cape Town's most notorious magazine The **SAX Appeal** will be sold all over the streets of Cape Town in the early morning by fun-loving, passionate UCT students. Support this 77 year old tradition with a **R20 donation** for the magazine, all in the name of raising funds for SHAWCO, a dynamic and innovative student-run NGO.