



OAKHURST NEWS

Newsletter 03 / 2010
Tuesday, 9 February 2010

Dear Parents

At the beginning of this term, the staff attended a workshop run by Jenny Handley who is a specialist in creating brands for companies and individuals. She pointed out, once again, the enormous role that teachers play in the lives of children. We were also reminded of the importance of looking after ourselves as individuals, and as a school. Jenny encouraged us to come up with a staff 'motto.' It didn't take us long to formulate our Oakhurst staff motto – **WE CARE**. We really do care about the well being of each and every child who passes through our school and that's what makes us so special.

Our aim this year is to extend our 'caring' through the girls and into the community. On Friday 26th February a group of girls in Grade 6 and 7 will be helping to pack care boxes for the survivors of crime who are brought to the trauma centre at the Rondebosch Police Station. This project was started a few years ago by an Oakhurst pupil at the time – Hannah-Rose Smith. She has subsequently won a number of awards for this project and would like to keep the Oakhurst girls involved. The girls pack items such as soap, face cloths, underwear etc into these boxes and they include a note for the recipient. The sustainability of the project depends largely on sponsorship and donations. Please contact us if you are able to sponsor or donate any of the items packed in these boxes.

SAFE HOUSE PROJECT

Today you will receive a letter explaining the 'safe house' project that we want to start with Rondebosch Boys' Prep School. Please read the letter carefully and return the reply slip to us as soon as possible so that we can liaise with the Prep school and get the project up and running.

FUNDRAISING

After a little encouragement, we managed to collect a few more Buy-a-Brick forms from the girls. I am thrilled to tell you that we have been able to add **R17 000** to our building fund from this fund raiser. Well done and thank you all very much for your contributions.

Today your daughter will bring home a sponsor list for the BIG SPLASH which will be held in the morning on Saturday, 27 February in the school pool. We would like *all* girls and their families to attend this function. We don't encourage girls to go from door-to-door collecting sponsorship as this is

not safe. Perhaps they can ask friends and family members to sponsor their swim. They will only be allowed to swim a maximum of 25 widths/lengths. The different grades will be given a specific time slot during the morning at which time they will swim/paddle/walk/float across the width or length of the pool to complete as many widths/lengths as they can in the time allowed.

Please plan to join us for a bite to eat during the morning or come along to buy your lunch. More details with specific times will be sent home next Tuesday. This is our big fund raiser for this term so let's make sure that we make it really worthwhile!

I am still looking for corporate sponsorship to don my swimming gear and join the girls in the pool. Any takers? I have heard that hippos do quite well in the water too!

OAKHURST WEBSITE

Our sincere thanks to Dion Truter, father of Mila, who has kindly offered the expertise at his company to add some sparkle to the Oakhurst website. This is a fabulous gesture and is much appreciated. Thank you Dion.

WORLD CUP POSTER PROJECT

We have been invited to join a group of schools across the world to swap postcards during the time of the soccer world cup. Each school will put two questions about a specific country on a postcard and send it to children at a school in that country along with 'good luck' wishes for the soccer world cup. This promises to be very exciting, particularly for our girls who have not had much experience with 'snail mail'. We will also use this opportunity for the girls to learn more about the countries of the world. I was shocked last week when, in a general knowledge quiz, a teacher was told by a senior pupil that Haiti was on Robben Island! Some serious Geography lessons are needed.

MUSIC LESSONS

The number of girls having tuition in the various instruments at Oakhurst has increased this year. As a result, Ms Lesch teaches Monday to Friday and her timetable is full. If your daughter is absent on the day of her music lesson, we will unfortunately not be able to make that lesson up at another time. Many of the lessons involve more than one child and it becomes a logistical nightmare to try and re-schedule a lesson in a very tight timetable. The same will apply to lessons with the other music teachers.

COMMUNICATION

We are working hard on trying to find a 'flawless' system to ensure that you receive important communication from the school via your daughter.

We are attempting to send most letters home on a Tuesday only, although this is not always possible. Please make a point of checking your daughter's bag on a Tuesday for notices. We'll also remind you via the sms system. It is important therefore that we have updated cellphone numbers. Don't forget to inform the office of any detail changes.

SECURITY AT SCHOOL

We need to be aware of everyone who is in the school building at all times for the safety of your daughters' and the staff. Please report to the reception if you come to school during the day.

We have parents sneaking around the back of the school to hand girls their lunch or other items that they have left at home. It is embarrassing and awkward for all of us when we need to approach folk and ask them what they are doing in the building during school hours. We will ensure that goods handed in at the office *will* reach your daughter in her classroom and she won't be punished in any way! Please help us to keep our school as safe as we possibly can.

CONGRATULATIONS

Robyn Cox in grade 6 is currently participating in South African colours at an international ice-skating event in Belgium. We are very proud of her.

VALENTINE'S DAY

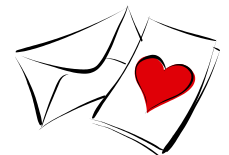
This week the Grade 7's will be selling a few Valentine's Day items during break. On Friday all girls will be allowed to come to school in their civvies (something pink or red) for a 'fine' of R5.

Thought for the day

A life without love is like a year without summer!

Swedish Proverb

Have a fabulous Valentine's Day on Sunday!



Jenny van Velden
Principal

OAKHURST NEWS

THE OAKHURST SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

Is situated in the shed in the quad outside the hall.

***Is open from 1pm till 1.30pm on Fridays
or by appointment.***

It sells Oakhurst School Uniform in good condition.

A few ballet and gym outfits are also available.

75% of the sale is returned to the seller.

Please feel free to support this outlet.

Clothes can be handed in at the office.

Contact Sandi King

Family in Mowbray requires the services of a domestic worker and/or nanny. Part time or full time. She must be reliable, good with children and be able to assist with cooking. If you can recommend someone, please contact Ansa on 083 2811 147.

PAM EDWARDS RECRUITMENT

Rondebosch

Specialised recruitment services in the Secretarial, Administrative, HR, Sales, Accounts, Warehousing, IT industry. Temporary, Permanent and Out-Sourced staff available.

Please contact Oakhurst Mom: Valerie van der Walt (021) 689 2480 / valerie@pamedwards.co.za or visit our website: www.pamedwards.co.za for further information.

WANTED – WOOL



We are looking for 4 ply wool to be used to knit baby clothes for needy newborn babies. If you have any spare wool – even half balls are fine – please send it in to Pam in the office at school. Thank you.

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WITH CLUB TRAVEL AND OAKHURST WILL
BENEFIT.**

Club Travel is the only travel agency affiliated to
MYSCHOOL

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branch on 021 683 4574

HELP OFFERED

Retired teacher offers homework supervision and extra lessons in a variety of Primary School subjects. I teach in your home or at the school if space is available.

My fees are reasonable and my time is flexible.

Please phone Joy Wanless 082 958 6482 or reach me by e-mail : jrwanless@gmail.com