



OAKHURST NEWS

Newsletter 05 / 2010
Tuesday, 8 March 2010

Dear Parents

Thank you very much for your fantastic support on the day of the Big Splash. I laughed so much that my tummy muscles felt like I had spent three hours in the gym!

We raised just on R10 615 on the morning of the event and to date the girls have handed in R24 082.50 collected from sponsors. A few girls have raised over R1000 each. Well done to you all. This is an outstanding effort. A special thank you to those families who sponsored the Hippo Splash – we raised R5500 in sponsorship and R557 was collected when a hat was passed around during the hippo swim. It was worth every minute of fun and hysteria.

Please could you send all sponsorship money to school by Friday this week so that we can finalise the amount raised. The girls are watching the barometer in the entrance hall very closely. I'm looking forward to moving it closer to our target after this money is all collected.

INTER SCHOOLS GALA AND TENNIS

Today our girls will participate in the inter schools gala at Herschel. On Thursday the Inter schools tennis takes place at San Souci. Our best wishes go to all the girls who will be taking part in these events.

PAPER CHALLENGE

The next paper challenge will be next Friday, 19 March. You can include soft cardboard (like cereal boxes) in your paper to be recycled.

PICK N PAY SLIPS

We have made it ! Yesterday we received the last till slip which took us to our target of R1 000 000. Thank you for eating so much over the last few weeks!

SPORTS DAY

You will have noticed that we changed the date of our sports day this year to later in the term after the scorching weather we had in February last year. Despite having done this, we might *still* be faced with extremely hot weather for our sports day next Tuesday. Unfortunately the weather is out of our control but we will watch the forecast closely and make arrangements accordingly.

Please see the notice sent home today for the final details and arrangements for sports day.

SCHOOL WILL CLOSE AT 13:00 FOR ALL GIRLS ON SPORTS DAY – TUESDAY, 16 MARCH

There will be no other extra-mural activities on Tuesday.

All girls are expected to attend sports day. It is a fun-filled family day that is always most enjoyable. (No hippos this time, sorry!)

We are offering our delicious chicken burgers for sale on a pre-order system for you to enjoy at the picnic supper at school after sports day. We have noticed that fewer families braai after the event and many more bring along take away food purchased elsewhere. We will provide one fire (and an extra fire for our Muslim families) for those folk who would still like to braai. You are most welcome to bring along your own picnic if you prefer to do so.

All pre- orders and money for the chicken burgers must be handed in by Friday this week so that catering arrangements can be made.

HOCKEY

Mrs Ryan has managed to secure the use of one of the grass fields at Western Province Cricket Club in Ave de Mist, for practices and matches. The Gr1 and 2 girls will practice on one of the Rondebosch Boys' High School fields. More details later.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Monday 22 April is a public holiday. Please note that there is another long weekend in April soon after we return to school for the second term. Tuesday 27 April is Freedom Day and the *Education Department* has made Monday 26 April a school holiday. This is not an internal Oakhurst decision.

CONGRATULATIONS

Cassandra Erasmus in Grade 5 has been selected to represent Western Province at the South African Primary Schools Aquatic Championships this week. Well done Cassie – we are so proud of you.

GRADE 6 CAMP

A tired but happy group of girls returned from the Grade 6 camp held at Wortelgat near Hermanus last week. They were accompanied by an equally exhausted teacher! Parents often ask us why we don't do camps and outings more often. The answer is simple - the responsibility is enormous. Many children these days are not used to sleeping away from home nor are they accustomed to the physical requirements that an outdoor adventure brings. It was interesting to note how some of the girls were seriously challenged by the physical activities using muscles that should have been developed and

strengthened during outside play when they were younger.

The lessons learnt at these camps and the social and emotional development that takes place is invaluable. We're still debating whether it is worth the sleepless nights for the teacher though!

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Next term is very short as a result of the early closing of schools in June to accommodate the soccer world cup. We have had to bear this in mind in our curriculum planning and when planning our assessments. Whilst we make every effort to allow your daughter to catch up on assessments missed by being absent from school, it is not easy to arrange and is often quite impossible.

Oakhurst does not have a great track record with regard to absenteeism. I urge you to ensure that your daughter is at school every day so that she does not miss out on teaching time that *cannot* be caught up at a later stage. Please do not allow your daughter to miss school for reasons other than illness.

THE WEATHER

I have felt desperately sorry for the girls over the past few days as they have had to endure the extreme heat in their very hot classrooms. They are not all coping well with the heat and, particularly the younger girls, are complaining off all sorts of ailments which can be directly related to being uncomfortable, hot and tired.

I suggest you send your daughter to school with a water bottle every day and lunch that won't spoil in the heat by first break. A hat in this kind of weather is essential.

THE WOES OF PARENTHOOD

I thought I'd include a letter to an 'Agony Aunt' written in a 1957 magazine. Every generation obviously has its own issues to deal with. See overleaf.

Thought for the day

You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late. R.W.Emerson

Jenny van Velden
Principal

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Agony Aunts

The Woes of Parenthood

We are so worried about our teenage daughter, who seems to think of nothing but rock 'n roll, make-up (which she plasters on), late parties with bright young friends, of whom we often disapprove. How can we tackle this problem?

● You know, I sometimes think that the modern girl is no more shocking than our great-grandmamas were when they first rode away on bicycles, wearing bloomers! But I do see that these high spirits must be kept under control. Don't let your daughter think you are shocked, but try to have a woman-to-woman chat with her about how to safeguard her future happiness, by looking after her health – which also means looking after her looks – avoiding too many late nights, etc. Don't preach – just state an opinion. Make her friends welcome, and I think the undesirable ones will show up for what they are against the home background and that she'll soon discard them.

Home Chat, 1957

Wanted: I am looking for an excellent domestic worker to work for me on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with reliable references. Please contact Liz on 083 325 6286 or email lizard@telkomsa.net



Architectural Design
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Contact Julie 083 647 7381
julie@jcad.co.za

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