



OAKHURST NEWS

Newsletter 07 / 2010
Tuesday, 13 April 2010

Dear Parents

I hope you all enjoyed the short break and that you were able to spend some quality time with your family.

We ended the first term with a successful Sunset Concert at Oakhurst. Thank you for supporting this event. We were able to raise R5000 towards our building fund. Special thanks must go to Ms Lesch for arranging the concert for us.

I was unable to attend the concert as I was accepting an award on behalf of the school for our achievement in the 2009 Grade 6 systemic evaluations. We were given a framed certificate and R12 000 to spend on teaching and learning support material.

I shall let you know what we decide to use the money for once we have made a decision.

MEET THE TEACHERS

These meetings take place today and Thursday. May I ask you to arrive a few minutes before your scheduled time slot so that the tight schedule is not affected by late arrivals.

Grade 1 and 2 meetings will be held in the respective classrooms. Please wait outside the classroom until the previous meeting is concluded.

Grade 3 to 7 teachers will meet with you in the hall. Please come into the hall and take a seat on the chairs in the centre to wait for your appointment.

These meetings play an important role in keeping the bond between your daughter's life at home and at school a happy and productive one. We are here to do what we think is in your child's best interest at all times. Suggestions that teachers make have been discussed and a lot of thought has gone into them. Please refer to the magazine article that was sent home in your daughter's report folder regarding parent / teacher meetings. We want these meetings to be a time for us to share your child's strengths with you and to plan how best we can all assist in developing her areas of concern.

We look forward to meeting with you.

THE TERM AHEAD

I received a letter from the Head of Education in the Cape, Ms Penny Vinjevold, at the end of last term. Here is an extract from her letter.

'It is important that all children in the province, and not only the Grade 12 learners, attend school every day for the rest of the year and that, every day, they are involved in reading

and writing activities for the greater part of the school day. This is a tried and tested recipe for successful learning. The WCED remains concerned about the amount of time that is lost to teaching through absenteeism, late coming and other activities during school time.'

We are concerned about the shortened term ahead of us and will need to make a few adjustments to our assessment / exam time table in order to ensure that we give you a meaningful report on your daughter's progress this term. I shall give you more details about these changes in the next week.

ACCOMMODATION

Mr Clifford Vukomba, one of our ground staff, is looking for accommodation for himself, his wife and their child. He currently lives in Delft and is feeling uneasy about tension in the area being focused on non-South African citizens. Please contact me if you can assist him in any way.

PARKING AREA

The parking area upgrade was done during the holidays. The project is not quite complete yet. The service provider has asked that we do not allow 4x4 vehicles on the new tarred area for a while as the tyres of these vehicles tend to 'churn up' the fresh tar. Please do not park in this area with your 4x4 until we have given the area time to cure. You are welcome to park on the netball court.

VANDALISM

During the holidays a few schools in the area were targeted. – Oakhurst included. Security boards and other notices on the school fences were removed. The notices were left lying on the pavement or were tossed into the school grounds. If you live in the vicinity of the school and notice anything unusual happening over a weekend or holiday, please contact ADT or the Rondebosch Police.

OAKHURST OUTREACH

The grade 7s will be visiting our twin school in Hoekwil next week. The Principal of the school has asked me if we could collect any gently used warm jerseys or jackets and children's shoes (in good condition) for the learners at the school. Please send any contributions to school this week and we will ensure that they get to the children who need them. Your generosity in the past has always been greatly appreciated by the families in Hoekwil.

One of the reasons for our successful Literacy results at Oakhurst is due to our wonderful resources. The Foundation Phase boasts an extensive library of supplementary readers to extend the girls' reading experiences as they develop. We have a school library with over 9000 books in it. Sadly, this is not the case in all schools.

To celebrate our success, I would like to appeal to you to support a book drive that is taking place across our country at the moment. 'The Bookery' is an NGO that is trying to supply books to schools that do not have libraries. Many of these schools have empty shelves and willing staff waiting to start up their libraries. We would like to help them collect fiction books for primary school children. The books need not be new, but should not be damaged. Obviously the reading matter should be suitable for young children.

If each child at Oakhurst would donate one book, we could supply 227 new reading experiences for children who don't have access to the resources that your daughters have. What a fulfilling way of putting something back into the community to show our gratitude for what we have. I spent some time during the holidays sorting through books at home and I will be able to add to the collection as well. Please send books to school over the next two weeks and I shall arrange for a representative from The Bookery to collect them at Assembly.

LIBRARY BOOKS

Mrs Frost is in the process of computerizing our library. This is a long process. Unfortunately it is being delayed even more by girls not returning library books when they are due. Issuing fines to this generation of children does not seem to help as they happily bring along a R50 note from Mum's purse to pay for overdue books!

Not only is this delaying the administrative process, but it is a rather selfish attitude to take. Popular books are being held by specific girls for long periods of time, thus denying others the opportunity of reading them.

We will now try the sms route to let parents know when library books are excessively overdue. Please support us in teaching your daughter to be responsible about returning books timeously.

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SAFETY ON THE NET

Once again I have had to deal with issues involving girls who have been using the internet and social networks inappropriately. The social networks are blocked at Oakhurst so your daughter cannot gain access to them here. What is taking place on Facebook / Twitter is happening in *your* home (or your child's friend's home) and is therefore out of my control. I would like to say that it is therefore not the school's problem. Unfortunately, we have to deal with the fallout which is often very unpleasant – it then becomes our problem by default.

Many children –and parents- are unaware of the dangers that exist online. PLEASE take our concerns seriously and become actively involved in what your child is engaging in online. There is a very real concern for children in the long school holiday ahead. I have included an article sent to me recently to assist you in taking the right steps to ensure your child's safety. I urge you to read it and take heed of the suggestions. I don't want your child to become one of the horrific online statistics that we are continually being given.

PUBLIC AND SCHOOL HOLIDAY

A reminder that Tuesday 27 April is a public holiday. The Education Dept has declared Monday 26 April a school holiday.

PAPER CHALLENGE

Our next paper challenge is on Friday 23 April.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*In youth we learn, with age we understand –
Eschenbach*

Have a fabulous week



Jenny van Velden
Principal