



OAKHURST NEWS

Newsletter 08 / 2010
Wednesday, 28 April 2010

Dear Parents

We now have all the holidays out of the way for a while and we can slot into our second term academic and extra – mural programme with earnest.

Last week our Grade 7s went on an unforgettable tour of the Garden Route and the Grade 5s went on an overnight stay to Camp Faraway.

I was privileged to be able to join the Grade 7s in the Wilderness on Thursday. We spent the morning visiting the children at our twin school. We had tea with the owner of the farm on which the school is situated. The Oakhurst girls had made board games (in Afrikaans) to play with the Foundation Phase children. We then handed out party packs to all the children. What a different experience for our 'city kids' – it was both humbling and rewarding.

Thank you for your generous donation of clothes for the children at the school. We were able to take **12 black bags** full of warm clothes and shoes to them. I have no doubt that it will make an enormous difference to the lives of those little ones this winter. The Oakhurst girls did us proud, once again, with their outstanding behaviour.

I should like to publicly thank my staff who have taken on the enormous responsibility of taking girls away on overnight stays. One cannot appreciate the enormity of the responsibility until you are in the situation yourself. After very little sleep, these ladies then come home and have to fulfil their responsibilities as mums and wives. Their efforts are much appreciated.

HOCKEY

We have been very fortunate to secure the use of two hockey fields at the Western Province Cricket Club sports complex off Ave de Mist. This venue is safer than the Alma fields and is also closer to Oakhurst. It is still the responsibility of parents to ensure that their daughters get to and from the fields. Should you not be able to take your daughter to the fields yourself, I suggest you make an arrangement with a group of parents to share the responsibility.

It is best to enter the parking area in Laidlaw Lane, near Little Bosch. This is closer to the actual fields where the girls will be playing.

CANCELLING SPORT

A reminder that we will only make a decision about whether sport continues in bad weather at 12:30 for the Grade 1 and 2 girls and at 14:00 for the older girls. Netball and hockey matches are cancelled by the host school so we have to wait for a decision from them before letting you know. We will send you a sms as soon as a decision is made. Girls who cannot go home may attend the homework class until 15:30.

GRADE 1 IN 2011

We have had 125 applications for Grade 1 in 2011. Of these, 13 applications are from siblings. I am therefore only able to take a further 17 girls. Letters inviting parents to come for an interview were sent out last Monday. As you can imagine, there are many disappointed families. My telephone has been buzzing with angry parents who, in their frustration and disappointment, find it necessary to resort to verbal abuse and a variety of threats. I can assure you, it is not a very pleasant task. If you have disappointed friends or family, please explain the difficult situation that I am in. We cannot possibly accommodate all the girls who would like to come to Oakhurst.

ASSESSMENTS

I have sent out a separate letter with this newsletter explaining our assessment programme/exam schedule for this term.

FUND RAISING

It was with great excitement that I accepted a cheque for R10 000 from a representative from Pick n Pay last week. Thank you to all of you for making this possible.

A mums and daughters breakfast will be held in the school hall on Saturday, 29 May. More details to follow soon.

The Bonnes family has donated 7 jay-boards to Oakhurst - one for every grade. The girls will be able to buy tickets for a lucky draw to win the j-board in their grade at R5 each to a maximum of four tickets per girl. The idea of this lucky draw is that the girls use their own pocket money to purchase a ticket. They could also be encouraged to do a chore at home to earn R5 should they wish to take part. The lucky draw will start next week and the winners will be drawn at Assembly on Friday, 4 June.

Next term we plan to have an Art auction and a raffle. To make the raffle really exciting we need to have plenty of prizes. We would be most grateful if you could help us collect some prizes. These could include things such as

vouchers, corporate gifts (free advertising!), hampers, jewellery, sports equipment, books etc. Please let me know if you are able to help us with a few prizes.

SPCA

The Grade one girls will be visiting the SPCA next Friday.

They will each be taking along a tin of pet food to donate to the SPCA. You are most welcome to send along a can/bag of food should you wish to join in and support their collection.

MEASLES VACCINATIONS

A special thank you to Sr Heather Wood and Margie von Zeil who administered the vaccinations to our girls. It helped to ease the anxiety when the girls recognised the two mums. They were kind and gentle and the process went ahead with very few tears.

JUNE/JULY HOLIDAYS

As educators, we are concerned about the long break ahead for the girls. The younger girls, in particular, need to continue reading, writing and calculating every day in order to consolidate what has been learnt thus far. They lose these skills very quickly.

We have decided to put together a fun workbook in each grade for the girls in Grade 1 to Grade 6 to keep them occupied and stimulated. We will need to cover the cost of printing and binding these booklets so there will be a charge for them. Once the teachers have collated these booklets we'll let you know and they will be printed on an order system.

I have had a number of requests to advertise 'school holiday clubs' to you. I have chosen not to do so because I cannot endorse any of them. Please be very careful when choosing care for your children during the long June holiday. Many people are jumping on the band wagon and offering care during this time but they need to be carefully checked.

Thought for the day

Any experience can be transformed into something of value. Yash Young

Have a good week.

Jenny van Velden
Principal

OAKHURST NEWS



Hot Chillies launches comfort food for busy parents

A comforting selection of curries prepared for 2, 4 or 6 people and conveniently delivered to school when you collect your child/ren.

There is a choice of 4 curries to choose from – you decide on Butter Chicken with basmati rice one week, ... Lamb Vindaloo the next ...

So simply relax and treat yourself and family or friends to a perfectly made meal with ease at least once a week.

For further information and to place your orders for the month, please email

Nadia at info@hotchillies.co.za or contact her on 083 732 5409 / 021 6963800/11

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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.

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