

OAKHURST NEWS



Newsletter 02 / 2012
Tuesday, 24 January

Dear Parents

Despite the heat, the girls have started their programmes in the various grades and learning and teaching is in full swing. It is always such a pleasure for me to walk through the school and witness this. We are blessed to have the resources that we have at our disposal to make your daughters' learning experience meaningful and fun.

Our extra-mural programme has also started for the older girls - getting them into the pool last week was no problem at all!

MEET THE TEACHERS

This is a reminder about the very important meeting with your daughter's teacher this **Thursday (26th January) at 19:00.**

We'll meet in the school hall at 19:00 before moving to the respective classrooms. Grade R, Grade 1 and other new parents are invited to join the staff and the Governing Body members in the hall quad from 18:00 on the same evening. Refreshments will be served.

Parking: Parking is always a problem at this function. There is a limited amount of space in the school grounds and we cannot allow cars in once the parking area is full. I appeal to you not to block the driveways of the neighbouring properties. Please allow yourself enough time to park legally in the surrounding streets and then walk to the school.

PARENTAL ASSISTANCE

At this meeting we will be asking for volunteers to be class reps. Please consider offering us some of your time. It requires co-ordinating parental assistance within your child's class for various functions and attending a meeting once a term.

We also ask for mums or dads to help us *prepare hotdogs* for pre-orders on a Friday morning. Each grade has a turn to do this. This is a particular appeal to our Muslim parents as we cannot offer Halaal food if parents don't offer to prepare it.

Every Monday a parent prepares a *light lunch for the staff*. We will need some volunteers for this as well. A budget is available for this and ideas of what to prepare will be supplied.

I thank you, in advance, for offering your assistance. We would not be able to offer all the things we do were it not for parental assistance.

OAKHURST OUTREACH

Every Thursday you are encouraged to send an extra wrapped sandwich to school with your daughter. These are collected later in the morning by the Feedback school feeding scheme and are taken directly to a school in a disadvantaged area for distribution. Simple fillings such as peanut butter or jam are preferred. Thank you for helping to fill the tummy of a hungry child.

OAKHURST CLOTHING SHOP

Mrs Kim Commins has run her Go Big school clothing shop at Oakhurst for a number of years. The School Governing Body will be taking over of the running of the shop and the supplying of the Oakhurst school uniform from the beginning of February.

The clothing shop will be run by Mrs Marlene Vermaak. Please note the new opening times as of 1 February.

Wednesdays only from 7:00 until the last customer leaves, and again from 12:30 until 15:00.

I ask for your patience and understanding as we get this new venture up and running under our own name. We shall confirm the opening times for the second hand shop later this week.

EXTRA-MURAL PAYMENTS

Please note that payment for ballet, drama, clay workshop, tennis coaching with Jackie Booth and Living Maths must **NOT** be made to the school. These are offered by private service providers and we do not collect payment on their behalf. Please make these payments directly to the person concerned

DISCOUNTED SCHOOL FEES

The opportunity to get a 5% discount on school fees paid upfront annually is still available until 31 January. Please make use of the opportunity if you are able to do so.

CHOIR

Due to the time constraints of the new curriculum, we are no longer allowed to use 'school hours' for choir practices. We will, once again, be having choir practice on a Friday from 13:15 to 14:00. This clashes with cross country and swimming galas. Mrs Ryan will take a second group of cross country runners from 14:15 on a Friday to accommodate the girls who want to sing in the choir as well. Unfortunately there are not enough days in a week to cover all the extra-mural activities that we offer. The

reality is that the girls will have to make a choice with regard to their extra-mural activities.

EARLY RELEASE FROM SCHOOL

Within the first few school days of this year we have already had a number of requests for girls to be released from school early. The Education Department has issued instructions that early release must be monitored in every school. I shall give you more details regarding this on Thursday evening. In the meantime, please do your very best not to make appointments for your child during school hours. It is also not permitted for the girls to leave early or miss school completely to take part in film shoots, modelling assignments or adverts.

ASSESSMENTS

All classes are in the process of completing baseline assessments. These assessments give the teachers an idea of the language and Maths ability of each pupil. It then enables us to pitch our level of teaching appropriately in each class. The assessments are based on work covered in the previous grade.

In the Foundation Phase particularly, a fair amount of the work covered in the first term is revision and consolidation of the previous grade's work. Assessments will be sent home for you to look at. Please be aware that the marks will be inflated as a result of the assessments being based largely on work taught before.

All girls from Grade 2 to 7 will do the Annual National Assessments (ANAs) in the week of 7 February. These are national assessments that are set by the Department of Basic Education. You might have heard about the ANAs in the media.

SPORTS TOURS

This year we will be taking a hockey team and a netball team on tour to the Knysna sports festival. We would like to provide the girls with some kit such as sports shirts, hoodies, water bottles, kit bags etc. If your company is able to sponsor any of these items, please contact me. We are happy to offer you free advertising!

SECURITY AT SCHOOL

We are very aware of the safety of the girls and the staff on our campus. Please may I remind not to go directly to your daughter's classroom should you come to school during school hours. We ask that all visitors

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and parents come to reception on entering the school building so that we can keep track of who is in the building at all times during the school day.

If you are bringing something to school for your daughter, please take it to reception and we will ensure that she gets it. Help us to keep our campus safe and secure.

A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Our children are watching us live, and what we are shouts louder than anything we can say.

Have a great week. I look forward to seeing you on Thursday evening.

Jenny van Velden
Principal

Children and adult classes in Creative Movement, Contemporary Dance, Spanish Dance (Flamenco), Hip Hop and Drama run by the Wilvan School of Dance at the Athenaeum in Newlands (Fridays and Saturdays). For more information, please contact Kristina Johnstone at 083 5620509 or kristina_johnstone@yahoo.com.

Sewing classes for children and adults in Kenilworth
Children R50 per hour, (classes 2 hours)
Sewing machines are available.
Contact details are
janetcamden@gmail.com
Home phone 021 7618412

The Fairy Shop has moved to **Palmyra Junction, Shop 19, Palmyra Road, Claremont**. We stock beautiful special occasion and fairy dresses with matching accessories, gifts and trinkets perfect for little fairies. We also have a full ballet kit. So dust off your wands, put on your twinkly shoes and fly on over. For more information contact the shop on **021 671 0935**

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