



Dear Parents

13 September 2011

A warm welcome back to all! We have certainly hit the ground running and staff and pupils alike have made an incredibly positive start to the term. One of the areas that came under discussion at our beginning of term meeting was the strong sense of family present in everyday life at Prep. This is one of the key elements that makes our school such a special place and as a staff we use the family model and ideals, on a daily basis, as a foundation in all of the areas in which we are involved. It is, therefore, a very natural progression when our family is extended and we are delighted to be able to congratulate both Lynn Cordell-Steenkamp on officially becoming mom to Keanin, and of course to Mandy and Richard Jackson who welcomed their daughter, Makenzie, into the world on Tuesday 6 September. May your families be blessed with love and happiness. We also welcome Elaine Clarke back into the fold - she will fill in for Mandy for the duration of the term. To Zintle Yaka, Mulima Mondoloka, Thomas Marshall and Zadok Makani, welcome to the Prep family.

We have received the results of the ABSA World General Knowledge Olympiad, which our Grade 6s and 7s wrote last term. Out of the schools that entered all of their Grade 6 and 7 pupils we were placed 9th nationally with Thozhi Botha attaining a 2nd place in the Grade 7 section and Joshua Starr a 3rd place in the Grade 6 section, in the provincial category. Some fine achievements indeed!

At assembly on Monday I read a poem, written by Dale Wimbrow, to the boys. We chatted about the content and I asked that each and every one of them take cognisance of his message. I would like to share it with you;

The Guy in the Glass

(With thanks to Callum Dugmore who brought the poem to my attention on Winter Tour)

When you get what you want in your struggle for pelf
And the world makes you King for a day,
Then go to the mirror and look at yourself,
And see what that guy has to say.

For it isn't your Father, or Mother, or Wife,
Who judgement upon you must pass.
The feller whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the guy staring back from the glass.

He's the feller to please, never mind all the rest,
For he's with you clear to the end,
And you've passed the most dangerous, difficult test
If the guy in the glass is your friend.

You may be like Jack Horner and 'chisel' a plum
and think you're a wonderful guy.
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

You can fool the whole world down the pathway of years,
And get pats on your back as you pass,
But your final reward will be heartache and tears
If you've cheated the guy in the glass.

Dale Wimbrow (1895 - 1954)

As a school we have made this our objective for the term (and beyond).

We will also continue to show support to our lads in New Zealand by keeping to the theme of 'Green' (civvies day) every Friday for the duration of the Rugby World Cup. Please keep an eye on the updated calendar in the Newsletter as there are sometimes changes to scheduled events.

Finally, just to express my sincerest thanks for all of the support that I have received from the staff, the parents and the boys ahead of this term. I am proud to be at the helm for this short stint. My door is always open.

Have a fantastic term!

Marc

Junior Prep News

There is a **JP & PP Combined Parents' Information Evening** on Thursday 15 September at 17h00 in the Mullins at Senior Prep. We have invited Lisa Brown to address us on the topic of 'Bullying' – how to recognize it, how to respond appropriately and how to equip our children with the skills to deal with it in a healthy way, both from home and in the school environment.

Please RSVP to this evening by today if you have not done so already – phone Anusha on 046 603 2400.

This is a very worthwhile presentation and I would like at least one parent from each family to attend this evening. Should one of you not be in a position to attend, please contact me.

Pre-Primary News

Please remember our Pre-primary and Junior primary Parent's Information Evening on Thursday 15th September from 17:00 - 18:00 in the Mullins Room at Top Prep. We hope that at least one parent from each family will come and listen to Lisa Brown enlighten us on the very relevant topic of bullying.

Although the weather is warming up, temperatures are still extremely changeable. Please make sure that your child has some MARKED spare clothes at school - for warm and for cold weather.

Wednesday is Envelope Day! We happily send party invitations home in envelopes provided that they are given to us on a Monday or Tuesday.

A flash stick has been found on the field next to the Pre-Primary. Please come and claim it if it's yours!

We support the Bokke!!! Do you?



Boarders supporting the Grahamstown Parents' Network Kids Spring Market



THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Tuesday 13 September d2

08:00 Conquesta English (Grades 4-7)
17:15 SP Parents' Committee meeting (SP staffroom)

Wednesday 14 September d3

08:00 Conquesta Afrikaans (Grades 4-7)
13:00 JP Parents' Committee meeting (JP library)
16:30 Pupil Council meeting
17:00 Presidents' Award Fun Run

Thursday 15 September d4

13:00 Soccer vs Parklands College U12A (h)
14:00 Cricket vs Parklands College U12A (h)
17:00 PP & JP Combined Parents' Information Evening

Friday 16 September d5

14:00 Warrick Bailey Tennis Cup vs Kingswood (KC)

Saturday 17 September

Duty Master - Zane Plescia (Cell: 072 018 3878)

Sunday 18 September

18:00 Family Service (Memory Hall)

Monday 19 September d6

11:00 Independent Schools' Athletics Mtg (Lower SAC)
17:00 PDT meeting (SP staffroom)

Tuesday 20 September d7

13:00 Pre-primary Parents' Committee Meeting

Wednesday 21 September d1

Thursday 22 September d2

14:00 Graeme Triangular Athletics Meeting (Graeme)
17:00 Prep Board Exco meeting (Clubhouse)

Friday 23 September d3

11h30 Golf Tour departs

Saturday 24 September

Duty Master - Mr Richard Jackson (Cell: 082 838 6214)

Sunday 25 September

14:00 Golf Tour returns
18:30 Evening Prayers - Duty Master (Memory Hall)

Family Service

18h30 Sunday 18 September

The Reverend Isaias Chachine from the College of the Transfiguration will be taking our Family Service on Sunday. We warmly welcome him to our Prep family & look forward to a long & happy association with him.

All Top Prep boys are expected to attend the service.

Parents and friends are very welcome.



Welcome to Makenzie Jackson.



Ongama celebrating his birthday at Fairlawn