



# CLARENDON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Dear Parents*

30 March 2023

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## **1<sup>ST</sup> TERM NEWSLETTER**

To say that this term seems to have flown by, is an understatement. It most certainly has been a busy one, however, it can definitely be considered a most successful one. The start of a new school year is always an anxious time for all, and the vast majority of our pupils have settled in well, and can look back with pride on the 1<sup>st</sup> three months of the school year. It is important at the end of a term to take stock and to ensure that as a school community we are prioritising our time and efforts correctly, and wisely. In this regard I encourage you to spend time with your son/daughter during the holidays, looking back on the term together, working through not only their report, but also creating an opportunity to reflect on the term from their perspective. I am constantly reminded of the fact that parental involvement in a child's education is critical, and that such intervention is directly proportional to the fulfilling of potential in a young person.

Thank-you to so many of you who take such an incredibly positive interest in your child's education. The partnership between the school and all parents can never be over emphasised; in this light, please make every effort to meet with your child's teacher in the new term if there are areas of concern stemming from the 1<sup>st</sup> Term report.

## **75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations**

This term has provided us with an opportunity to begin our celebrations of an incredible milestone in the life of the school – our Diamond Jubilee. Our Birthday Assembly on Friday, 17 March was a very special occasion where we were able to honour our pupils, staff and many special guests for the role that they have played over the last 75 years. Our special guests included past Clarries pupils who attended the school between 1949 and 1960, past Principals and Deputy Principals, as well as past SGB Chairpersons and PTA Chairladies. There is no doubt that an overwhelming sense of gratitude, for all that the school has provided each one of us, was prevalent throughout the occasion.





Our Birthday Fun Day took place on Wednesday, 22 March, and it was absolutely wonderful to watch every pupil have so much fun, as they had an opportunity to celebrate their precious school. Many memories were made, which will remain close to their hearts for many years to come.

We look forward to many more birthday events throughout the year, and encourage all of our Clarries families to join us in celebrating all that Clarendon Park is.

### **Staff News**

In a recent Weekend Post article about the school's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration, I was quoted as follows: "I am blessed beyond measure to have the most incredible staff I could wish for. They are unbelievable in every sense of the word in terms of going the extra mile and making a difference in the lives of our pupils. That is a huge strength of the school – the incredibly competent, wise and servant-hearted staff that we have." There is no doubt that the staff who serve this school are of immense quality, and their contribution during the course of this term has, once again, been phenomenal. We are incredibly grateful for all that our staff do for the school, and never take for granted the role that they play in the development and education of every pupil.

Miss Caitlyn Bradfield has substituted for Mrs Trudi Kapp for the past two terms, whilst Mrs Kapp has been on maternity leave. With Mrs Kapp returning at the start of next term, Miss Bradfield will be leaving us at the end of the term. We are incredibly grateful to Miss Bradfield for not only her willingness to assist us, and provide our Grade 4 pupils with top-class tuition, but also for the wonderful support and care that she has shown for her pupils. Miss Bradfield is truly an amazing educator with an enormous heart!

Mrs Tiffany Gobey has been appointed by the Department of Education as an Foundation Phase educator, and we welcomed her to Clarendon Park during the course of the term. Mrs Gobey will be assisting with Foundation Phase performing arts lessons, and with academic support to our Juniors.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Miss Noels Smit's father-in-law during the course of the term. Miss Smit and her family remain in our thoughts and prayers.

We were very proud of Miss Jordan Le Clus, Mrs Kim Strydom and Mrs Louise Fletcher who conquered the Half Iron Man; Mrs Gail Engelke who took part in the Bellbuoy Swimming Challenge, and Mr Grant Auths, who completed the Nanaga Mountain Bike 50km Race – all truly remarkable efforts.

We would like to wish Mr Wade Muller all of the best as he prepares to run the Two Oceans Half Marathon in Cape Town in April. Mr Muller will be running to raise funds for Mosaic South Africa (please visit <https://www.givengain.com/ap/wade-muller> to support him in this very kind and generous initiative).





### **Academic Awards Assembly**

The Academic Awards Assembly for Grades 4 to 7 will take place on Friday, 14 April in the Scott Hall (07h55 – 08h45). Gold and Silver Academic Badges for the 1<sup>st</sup> Term will be handed out at this assembly. Parents of the recipients are invited to join us for this special assembly.

### **100 Club**

It was wonderful to see so many parents (137 parents – a record number!) at our first 100 Club meeting of the year, enjoying an evening of great camaraderie and fun. Our 100 Club Committee really did a fantastic job, and ensured that the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The 100 Club meets four times per year, and we look forward to an even greater response to our next event on 21 June.

### **Grade 3 Pirates Day**

Captain Jack Sparrow (aka Johnny Depp) famously once said *“Not all treasure is silver and gold, mate.”* And there is no doubt that our Grade 3’s discovered that making special memories is the real treasure in life! It was fantastic seeing all of our Grade 3’s dress up on Pirates Day and enthusiastically take part in their quest to find the “stolen treasure”. Thank-you to our Grade 3 staff for all their effort in making sure that Pirates Day was a great success, and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

### **M\*A\*D**

M\*A\*D has been alive and well during the 1<sup>st</sup> Term of the year, and we are so appreciative of the incredible support of our Clarries Family, as we Make A Difference wherever possible. Please celebrate with us by watching the short M\*A\*D video clip that will be shared on the WhatsApp Class Groups.

### **Disney Concerts**

It was with a sense of wonder, pure joy and absolute delight that we were all treated to an incredible Disney experience towards the end of the term. Our Senior and Junior Choirs, together with our professional guest performers, simply blew us away as they shared so many much-loved Disney songs. The sold out concerts bear testimony to the high quality of the shows, and to the “feel-good” experience enjoyed by all in attendance. It was wonderful to also be able to share the show with the all our pupils on the last day of the term, as well as a number of local pre-primary schools. Our phenomenal Music Department need to take a bow for their initiative, and for producing a show that will remain a fond memory for many years to come.

### **Tavcor VW Alan Lones Hockey and Rugby Festival**

At the time of writing, we are excitedly preparing for our annual Tavcor VW Alan Lones Hockey and Rugby Festival (from Thursday, 30 March to Saturday, 1 April). This year’s festival promises to be a bumper edition, with 16 Hockey teams and 14 Rugby schools in attendance. More than 450 players will be involved, and there is no doubt that the festival will once again produce some outstanding hockey and rugby from our young players. A huge thank-you is extended to our superb Sports Department for all of their hard work in organising this fantastic event on our sports calendar.





## **Volunteer Gardening and Painting Session**

We were immensely grateful to a large number of parents and pupils who gave up a Saturday morning earlier in the term to assist with some painting and gardening work around the campus. We are blessed at Clarendon Park to have a magnificent campus, and the input of so many to maintain our beautiful surroundings is highly valued.

## **Public Holidays and Sport Tours**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Term presents many challenges to the academic programme in the form of various public holidays and pupils being away on a number of sporting tours. Please encourage and assist your child to be pro-active in terms of test preparation, projects or assignments, and to ensure that they manage their time carefully and responsibly. Procrastination and poor planning (especially by those who will be away on a sports tour) may cause unnecessary stress further down the line.

## **Winter Sport Trials**

It is that time of year when Winter sports trials are in full force, bringing with them a certain amount of anxiety amongst our young sportsmen and women. Please encourage them to play their hearts out, but also to remember that they may not always initially make the team they had hoped for, and that this presents an opportunity for them to show some resilience and prove themselves during the season. A slow start to a season does not necessarily need to derail a season. As trials naturally produce a fair amount of pressure, we would strongly discourage parents from attending trials due to the additional pressure that this often places on the players.

## **Academic Reports and 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Calendar**

Please find enclosed with this newsletter your child's 1<sup>st</sup> Term Academic Report, as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Calendar of Events.

## **Summer Sport Photographs**

All Summer Sport Photographs will be taken on Wednesday, 19 April. Specific details pertaining to the photographs will be sent home closer to the time.

## **Change to Winter Uniform**

Pupils will be required to wear their winter uniform from Tuesday, 2 May. The Clarries Shop will be open at normal times during the term (Tuesday – Thursday, 11h00-14h30, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month: 09h00-12h00). The shop will be closed during the holiday period. Please do not leave the purchase of the winter uniform until the last minute.

## **Swimming in Phys Ed Classes**

Please note that swimming will continue in Phys Ed (weather dependant) until the change into winter uniform (2 May).







## **Start of Extra-mural Programme**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Extra-Mural Programme will start on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of next term (Wednesday, 12 April). Please see the enclosed 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Extra-Mural programme in this regard.

## **Sponsorship of Teams, Clothing and Apparel**

We are extremely grateful to many parents and businesses who assist the school enormously in terms of the sponsorship of various events, sporting codes and activities. Please be reminded that all sponsorship requests of any nature must be directed to the HOD: Sponsorships (Mr Damian Lynch). No warm-up tops, hoodies, or any other sporting attire may be arranged without approval from the school. Thank-you for your assistance herein.

## **SGB By-Elections**

The SGB By-Elections were held on Wednesday, 22 March. Congratulations to Mr Jeremy Howlett and Mr Bernard Richter on their election to the SGB. We have no doubt that they will add enormous value to the school in their new roles.

School starts for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Term on Wednesday, 12 April. You are requested to please ensure that blazers are clean for the start of the new term (with all of the buttons in place), shoes are polished, and that your son or daughter arrives back with a school regulation haircut, neat and tidy in their Summer Uniforms.

Thank-you to all parents and friends of the school for your valued support and positive contribution towards the life of the school during the past term. I hope that you have a wonderful holiday with your loved ones, and that you enjoy a well-deserved break after a busy 1<sup>st</sup> Term. If you are travelling during the holidays, please do so safely, and we look forward to welcoming you back to another active and exciting term.

HONOUR AND TRUTH

*Regards,*

*Derryk Jordan*

*Principal*