



CLARENDON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents

19 March 2024

1st TERM NEWSLETTER

As the 1st quarter of the year draws to a rapid close, it is always important to take a step back and intentionally reflect on the last 3 months. It has been a busy term, with a great deal of positive and constructive activity, and there is no doubt that the vast majority of Clarries pupils have made every effort to immerse themselves in all that is on offer at Clarendon Park. It is easy to evaluate a term through an academic, cultural or sporting lens, and, yes, these facets are critically important. However, what is even more important (even more significant than academics) is the character growth of our pupils.

And so my encouragement to all of us, is to be honest with our children about whether their character, their honesty, their sense of integrity and the kindness demonstrated by themselves, has developed over the last few months. And by so doing, we also need to hold up a mirror to ourselves, because our children copy us, they mold their habits around what they learn from us, and their character is a reflection of how we guide, advise and nurture them. Let us spend time over the holidays asking our children some open-ended questions such as:

- What kind act/s did you do for someone in the 1st Term?
- Were there ever any incidents where you stood up for someone? Befriended another pupil, or looked out for someone?
- Were there ever any times when you could have acted a little kinder?
- Did you learn anything this term about the importance of doing the right thing?
- Were there any times when you were honest about something, even though your honesty may have landed you in trouble?

The discussions which follow these types of questions are so valuable, and offer incredible opportunities for life lessons to be learnt. They require patience and time, but the benefits are enormous. We as adults need to prioritise such discussions with our children – to not do so is failing in our parental responsibility. If ever there is a choice between such discussions, and our own personal activities or pursuits, there actually is no choice. Our children come first!



Staff News

Congratulations must be extended to Miss Brittany Barkhuizen on her marriage to Josh Wiggill on 15 March. We wish Mr and Mrs Wiggill many years of happiness in their new life together.

We also would like to congratulate Miss Kayly van Eyssen on her marriage to Grant Miskin on 10 February. We hope that the years ahead will be full of immense joy for Mr and Mrs Miskin.

We were thrilled to hear of the arrival of Mrs Claire Fletcher's baby boy, Hudson, on 12 January. We know that this new and beautiful addition to the Fletcher family will bring much joy and delight.

Congratulations to Mrs Moira Lock, on the marriage of her son, Levon to Savvy, on 25 February. We trust that the new Mr and Mrs Lock will be incredibly happy in their new lives together.

The Clarendon Park family was devastated to receive the news of the passing of Mrs Ntomboxolo (Nomi) Mama on 15 December 2023. Mrs Mama has been a member of our Estate Staff since 2018, and her contribution to the school over many years was invaluable. Mrs Mama was a kind, courageous and gentle lady, and was loved by staff, pupils and parents. Mrs Mama's family are very much in our thoughts and prayers at this time. There is no doubt that Mrs Mama will be sorely missed by the Clarries Family as a whole.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs Jenny Miller's grandfather during the course of the term. Mrs Miller and her family remain in our thoughts and prayers.

We were incredibly proud of Miss Jordan Le Clus, Mrs Kim Strydom Mr Wade Muller and Mr Brett McLaren, as they completed the Herald Cycle Tour in superb times. In addition, Mr Brett McLaren is to be congratulated on completing another Cape Town Cycle Tour in a superb time.

Academic Reports and 2nd Term Calendar

Your child's 1st Term Academic Report, as well as the 2nd Term Calendar of Events, will be sent home with your child today.

Academic Awards Assembly

The Academic Awards Assembly for Grades 4 to 7 will take place on Friday, 5 April in the Scott Hall (07h55 – 08h45). Gold and Silver Academic Badges for the 1st 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 (165 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 12 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 participate 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.

Grade 5 Cupcake Day

Well done to our Grade 5 staff and pupils on their fantastic Cupcake Day. There was a wonderful vibe in the Scott Hall during the morning, with break time seeing a flood of eager buyers! The money raised through the Cupcake Day was donated to OLLI (One Land Love It).

School’s Birthday

We celebrated the school’s 76th birthday on Tuesday, 19 March, with every pupil receiving an ice-cold delicious treat from the Tuckshop. Although a little quieter than last year’s 75th celebrations, we were once again reminded of how incredibly special our school is, and how fortunate we are to be part of such a wonderful community.

M*A*D

M*A*D has been alive and well during the 1st 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.

Tavcor Alan Lones Hockey and Rugby Festival

At the time of writing, we are excitedly preparing for our annual Tavcor Alan Lones Hockey and Rugby Festival (from Tuesday, 19 March to Thursday, 21 March). 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.

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, but 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 request that parents refrain from attending trials due to the additional pressure that this often places on the players.

Change to Winter Uniform

Pupils will be required to wear their winter uniform from Monday, 6 May. The Clarries Shop will be open at normal times during the term (Tuesday – Thursday, 11h00-14h30, and the 1st 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). Pupils will be informed if swimming is stopped prior to 6 May.

Start of Extra-mural Programme

The 2nd Term Extra-Mural Programme will start on the 1st day of next term (Wednesday, 3 April). Please see the enclosed 2nd Term Extra-Mural programme in this regard.

Derby Days

Our derby days for the winter season are as follows:

Woodridge: 4 May (home)

Stirling: 17 and 18 May (away). Please note that this is a new fixture, and we are very excited about our 1st Derby against Stirling Primary School in East London. Details regarding the teams involved, accommodation and transport arrangements will be shared early in the 2nd Term. We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible in East London, as we make this a wonderful occasion for the Clarries Family.

Westering: 20 July (away)

Herbert Hurd: 27 July (home)

Summerwood: 3 August (away)

New Skorts

As was communicated to all parents last year, please be reminded that the new skorts must be worn by all hockey and netball players for any inter-schools match as from the start of the 2nd Term. The old skorts may be worn for practices.

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 Principal's Office. 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 Elections

The SGB Elections were held on Friday, 1 March and Thursday, 14 March. Congratulations to the following parents, educators and non-teaching staff on their election to the School Governing Body:

Mr Jeremy Howlett
Mrs Natasha Stanham
Mr Gareth Fletcher
Dr Abeland Mosweu
Mr Bernard Richter
Mr Andrew Binning
Mr Ray Pretorius
Mrs Liz Rhodes
Mrs Gail Engelke
Mr Grant Auths
Mr Derryk Jordan

Use of Sporting Facilities

If any parent would like to make use of the sporting facilities after hours, please ensure that you are registered on our biometric system. For details on how to register, please contact Elaine Chamberlain in our front office (clarendon@clarendonpark.co.za).

My School Cards and School Days

A huge thank-you to many parents who have made use of their My School cards, as well as those who have registered for School Days, over the last few months. The profits generated by the My School cards and School Days registration directly benefit our pupils by way of new resources and upgrades to our facilities. Any queries in this regard can be directed to Mrs Tracy Petzer (tracyp@clarendonpark.co.za)

School starts for the 2nd Term on Wednesday, 3 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 1st 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