



CLARENDON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents

13 December 2023

4th TERM NEWSLETTER

Rose Kennedy once said that “Life is not a matter of milestones, but of moments”, and so as we look back on a busy and successful year, it is vitally important that we look at the year through the correct glasses. It is so easy to base our analysis of a year on achievements, milestones and that which the world views as important. It has become almost natural to fall into the trap of determining whether a year has been a positive one based on how many of our posts have been Facebook or Instagram worthy.

And so I return to Rose Kennedy’s quote, for it is moments that should define a year. Moments of struggle, moments of triumph, moments of despair, moments of anguish, moments of celebration and moments of reflection. For it is in these moments and the consideration of them, that we gain a true understanding of the year that has been.

Many moments that we have experienced this year, either as a community or as individuals have been tough ones, challenging and hard. We cannot escape the fact that for many, life has not been easy this year. And it would be completely normal to only allow our eyes to fall upon those moments that sucked the life out of us during the year, and allow them to dictate our perceptions of the year.

However, if we make the effort to look closely at life around us, we will be surprised that there is much to celebrate when looking back on this past year. And by choosing to celebrate the triumphs, the victories, the hard fought battles conquered by so many, we choose to be grateful for all that we are blessed to have. And there is no doubt that we have so much to be grateful for. Therefore we choose to be grateful. We choose to celebrate.

To celebrate a school that has stood tall and proud for 75 years; a school that continues to offer a top-class education, both in and outside the classroom; a school that teaches all of us many life lessons – some hard, but all incredibly valuable. A school that remains constant, despite the storms of life raging around us. And so as we close in on the year, we reflect back on 75 years of Making A Difference, 75 years of commitment, struggle and endurance, 75 years of character



building and helping 1000's of young people begin their educational and life journey in a positive way.

I always tell our new parents that we are most definitely not a perfect school, that we make many mistakes each and every day. But we are a real school, dealing with real people, with real issues, and we struggle together, we cry together, we persevere together, and we celebrate together.

To those members of the Clarries Family who have encountered difficulties and hardships and have not surrendered, we celebrate with you; where you have faced tough decisions, where you have had to make sacrifices for the sake of others, and where you have not backed down on what you stand for, we celebrate with you.

The world places enormous pressure on each one of us every day to conform to its standards, to buckle to its ways, to live and run our lives according to the dictates of WhatsApp, social media and popular culture – where you have stood against this, we celebrate with you.

As we look back on 2023, there is indeed much to celebrate, and to be grateful for.

STAFF NEWS

At the end of this year, we bid a sad farewell to Mrs Verity Van Wyk, Mrs Glenn Rowley, Mrs Rene Webster, Mrs Donne Francis and Mrs Yolandi Stone.

Mrs Van Wyk has been our exceptional school bursar for the last 31 years, and will leave a remarkable legacy at Clarendon Park. Her kindness, caring heart, professionalism, and devotion to this school will be sorely missed as she heads off into retirement. Mrs Van Wyk has most definitely been a pillar of strength, wisdom and joy at Clarries.

Mrs Glenn Rowley retires after 27 wonderful years of teaching at Clarries. Her kind and patient manner, and her dedication to her pupils have made an enormous difference in so many lives. Mrs Rowley leaves the school in the knowledge that many young lives have passed through her gentle hands in a caring and meaningful manner.

Mrs Rene Webster has served as a magnificent Grade 7 educator for the past 7 years. Mrs Webster has had a profound impact on every pupil, staff member and parent who she has interacted with. Her expertise, in and outside of the classroom, set her apart as an extraordinary teacher and human being. We wish her and her family all of the best as they immigrate to Australia at the end of the year.

Mrs Donne Francis has been a wonderful Grade 2 educator for the last 5 years, and in that time, has made such a meaningful impact on so many young lives. Her caring and loving nature have added much joy and stability to the lives of her Grade 2 pupils. We pray for God's richest blessings on Mrs Francis and her young family, as she becomes a full-time mom to her two young, precious children.

Mrs Yolandi Stone leaves Clarries at the end of the year after 5 years of working as a teacher assistant, Sports Academy and Sports Coach. In these few years, Mrs Stone



has added enormous value to the sporting programme at Clarendon Park, especially to our Netball department. Her expertise on the sporting front, and her constant encouragement of our pupils have set her apart as an inspiring coach and mentor. We wish her the best as she takes her coaching and sports administration to a higher level at Victoria Park High School.

New staff appointments for 2024 are as follows:

- Miss Tyler Basson as a Grade 3 class teacher;
- Mrs Lesley Potgieter as a Grade 2 class teacher, as well as a member of the school's management team as a Departmental Head;
- Miss Caitlyn Bradfield as a Grade 5 class teacher;
- Miss Andrea Morris as a member of our Music Department;
- Mrs Delna Cloete as our new school bursar.

We have no doubt that all four of these teachers will add enormous value to the school and we are extremely excited to have them on board.

In addition to our new staff appointments, the following staff will be taking on new roles within the school:

- Mrs Penny Kohler moves from Grade 4 and takes up the role of Librarian;
- Miss Chelsea Pike will become a Grade 4 class teacher;
- Mrs Lisa Taverner moves from Grade 3 to Grade 5;
- Mrs Lynne Woods moves from Grade 5 to Grade 7;
- Mr Curt Rix becomes a full-time member of the Music Department;
- Miss Zyla Muller moves into a part-time position in the Music Department.

We would like to wish Mrs Claire Fletcher everything of the best as she begins her maternity leave. We are very fortunate in that Miss Jade Grobbelaar will be substituting for Mrs Fletcher (for the 1st Term of 2024) in Grade 7 whilst Mrs Fletcher is away.

It was with great excitement that Miss Tarryn Mintoor and Mr Curt Rix announced their engagement earlier in the term. We wish Miss Mintoor and Mr Rix many years of blessing as they embark on their new lives together.

In 2024, we will welcome our new Learnership Students to the school. We are really looking forward to having Miss Emma Brown and Mrs Hannah Moore (Foundation Phase), and Miss Cassidy Vlok (Intermediate Phase) on our team.

We would like to congratulate Mr Brett McLaren (Grade 7 Grade Head) on his appointment to the school management team. Mr McLaren will definitely add enormous value in his new role.



At the end of this year we were privileged to be able to honour the loyal and dedicated years of service of many of our staff members:

Miss Pat Hammett (40 years)
Miss Noels Smit (35 years)
Mrs Eike Rowley (20 years)
Mrs Mandy Pretorius (15 years)
Mrs Moira Lock (15 years)
Mrs Liz Rhodes (10 years)
Mr Benji De Lange (10 years)

We celebrate the incredible contribution that these staff members have made to Clarendon Park over the years, and their dedication towards the school.

AFTERCARE NEWS

We are excited to announce that Miss Amber Wilson, Mr Tristan Clarke and Miss Natasha Le Gras will be joining our Aftercare team next year. We have no doubt that these staff members will make a wonderful contribution at the Aftercare.

AWARDS CEREMONIES

Our recently held Awards Ceremonies were incredibly special occasions, and it was wonderful to be able to honour the achievements of our fine young Clarries pupils. Their hard work, tenacity and dedication were so evident in terms of the citations of the various awards. It was fantastic to have so many parents, families and friends join us for each Awards Ceremony.

GRADE 7 FAREWELL

Our Grade 7 Farewell Assembly, held on Tuesday, 5 December, was a fitting send-off for a wonderfully positive and talented group of Clarendon Park Grade 7's. This closing assembly was a definite reminder of how special our Grade 7's have been, and of the enormous contribution that they have made towards the school. We wish them all of the best as they begin their High School careers.

2023 SCHOOL MAGAZINE

The 2023 school magazine was handed out at the report collection at the end of the 4th Term. We encourage all members of the Clarries Family to spend time paging through this wonderful reminder of what a special year 2023 has been. An enormous thank-you must be extended to the incredible editors of the school magazine, Mrs Tracey Verfuss and Mrs Bronwyn Derman for their superb efforts in putting the magazine together.

2024 SCHOOL DIARY

We are so grateful to many parents and friends of the school for their willingness to sponsor a page in next year's diaries. As you are aware, these diaries are critical components of everyday life within a grade, and we are so appreciative of the generosity shown towards this sponsorship project.



2024 UNIFORM

Please take note of the following uniform arrangements for 2024:

- All pupils to return to school at the start of the new year in Summer uniform. Blazers will be compulsory for all Grades on Fridays (for Assemblies). School jerseys may not be worn outside of the school grounds without a blazer;
- Phys Ed kit may only be worn to school when a pupil has Phys Ed. Please note that only predominantly white takkies may be worn;
- No mixing of uniforms is allowed (ie. Tracksuit tops may not be worn with the Summer uniform, brown socks may not be worn with the Summer uniform);
- All hair accessories (hair rings, hair elastics, scrunchies, hair clips, alic bands and material headbands) may only be plain dark brown in colour;
- Only plain white short socks are to be worn and no secret or branded socks are allowed. Turn over socks must be worn by all girls when wearing their summer uniform. Ankle socks are only allowed with the Phys Ed uniform;
- The new Clarendon Park girl's costume will be compulsory for swimmers participating in inter-school galas, as well as for water polo players playing matches. The old school costume may be worn during Phys Ed swimming lessons, as well as at swimming and water polo practices;
- The new Clarendon Park skorts will be compulsory for all hockey, tennis and netball matches. The old school skorts may be worn for Phys Ed lessons, as well as for netball, tennis and hockey practices;
- All pupils to return to school next term with a regulation school haircut. Details pertaining to hair can be found in the schools rules. In addition, please be reminded that studs or earrings are not permitted whilst dressed in any form of Clarendon Park school clothing. Bristles or retainers (used to keep the holes open) are also not allowed. Plasters may not be worn to cover the holes from piercing. Thank you for your co-operation and support in this regard.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE START OF 2024

School starts on Wednesday, 17 January for all pupils. Please ensure that your child returns to school in a clean and neat Summer uniform, shoes polished, and with a school regulation haircut. All pupils must line up in their 2023 line-up areas at 07h45. The 2024 class lists will be placed on the D6 Connect App and the school's website (www.clarendonpark.co.za) at 17h00 on Tuesday, 16 January.

The 2024 1st Term Planner was enclosed with the 4th Term academic report. The 1st Term Extra-Mural timetable will be handed out on the first day of the new term. All extra-mural activities will start on Wednesday, 24 January.

CLARRIES SHOP TIMES

The school shop will be closed for the holidays. The shop will be open at the start of next year on the following days:

- Saturday, 13 January 09:00 – 12:00



- Monday, 15 January 09:00 – 12:00
- Tuesday, 16 January 09:00 – 12:00

SCHOOL TERMS 2024

Term 1: 17 January to 20 March

Term 3: 9 July to 20 September

Term 2: 3 April to 14 June

Term 4: 1 October to 11 December

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the Clarries Family for the invaluable role that you have played in a wonderful year for our special school. Much “life” has undoubtedly been lived in and outside our classrooms, and our special school has once again stood proud and tall.

May you and your families have a blessed Christmas, and a restful and wonderful holiday. May we all return rested and strengthened for an exciting new year.

HONOUR AND TRUTH

Regards,

Derryk Jordan

Principal