



CLARENDON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents

13 June 2024

2nd TERM NEWSLETTER

This term has been a term of mixed emotions. A term filled with many successes and personal triumphs, where a number of pupils have given of their best and shown immense character. It has however also been a term of great sadness, as we as a school community were faced with the devastating loss of Annabel Dowley, one of our precious Grade 5 pupils. There is no doubt that the loss of Annabel had an enormous impact on every member of the Clarries Family, and that her passing caused many of us to seriously reconsider our priorities and life choices.

A plaque has been placed in the foyer of the Scott Hall, which reads as follows:

"In loving memory of ANNABEL CATHERINE DOWLEY (21 August 2013 – 1 May 2024). A courageous, kind and loving pupil, who was a true friend to so many. She was well-liked by both pupils and staff, and was a wonderful and very precious Clarries pupil. Annabel always looked out for others, reaching out and making a difference wherever possible. Her smile brightened the darkest day, and she cared deeply for those around her. She was a very special young lady, and it was a privilege to call her a Clarendon Park pupil. You will be sorely missed by your Clarries Family."

Annabel's legacy will forever live on in our special school, and all that she taught us will never be forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with her family, as they grapple with this extremely painful loss. They have been incredibly brave, and have shown immense courage in the face of unthinkable suffering.

As one looks back on a term filled with such deep and raw emotion, it would be a travesty to not allow such an experience to cause a great deal of introspection. To re-examine that which is truly important, to honestly reflect on our relationships with our families, friends and colleagues, and to reconsider the pressure that we place (sometimes inadvertently) on our children to perform, and to achieve (an Academic Award or making a top sports team are wonderful achievements, but are they truly what is really important in life, and what is the cost of prioritising such ambitions?).

The 2nd Term of 2024 has offered a cruel reminder that life can, and never should be, taken for granted. It is up to each one of us to ensure that events such as



Annabel's passing cause us to make the hard choices, to do what is right, and to be kind to ourselves and those around us.

STAFF NEWS

We were delighted to welcome back Mrs Claire Fletcher, after giving birth to her 2nd son, Hudson. We trust that Hudson will bring much joy and delight to the Fletcher family.

We were extremely saddened to hear of the passing of Ms Nolele (Lelo) Ncanywa's (estate staff) mother, during the term. In addition, we also received the sad news of the loss of Mrs Nozuko (Thenia) Somya's (Aftercare staff) sister, as well as Miss Lerato Somya's (estate staff) aunt. Mr Prince Peter (estate staff) also suffered a terrible loss due to the passing of his brother during the term. During the last few days of the term Mr Van Zyl Botha tragically lost his grandfather, an enormous loss to the Botha family. The Ncanywa, Somya, Peter and Botha families are all in our thoughts and prayers as they deal with these devastating losses.

We were very proud of Miss Jordan Le Clus, Mr Brett McLaren and Mr Wade Muller who conquered the Half Iron Man earlier in the term. As part of his incredible efforts to raise funds for Mosaic, Mr Muller also completed the Durban 70.3 Half Iron Man – a wonderful achievement!

ACADEMICS

With the Mid-Year Examinations and Foundation Phase Assessments now behind us, I was delighted to read of the hard earned efforts of so many of our pupils. It is quite clear that academic excellence and diligence remain one of our core pillars.

A reminder that all Academic Reports have been emailed to parents (as per previous correspondence). No hard copies of Academic Reports will be printed. Remedial and Music Reports (where applicable) have remained in hard copy format, and are included with this newsletter.

The Academic Awards Assembly (Grades 4 to 7) takes place on Friday, 19 July at 07h55, where Gold and Silver Badges will be awarded (as indicated on the report). Parents of the recipients are invited to attend this assembly, and seating will be available in the gallery.

Parent Academic Interviews will take place on Monday, 15 and Tuesday, 16 July. Correspondence with further information pertaining to these interviews will be sent home in the 1st week of the 3rd term. These meetings are especially significant for parents of pupils who experienced academic challenges during the 2nd Term.

MOANA JUNIOR

It is difficult to find the words that truly encapsulate what an incredible experience our Moana Junior Musical proved to be. It was an unbelievable show, and the show undoubtedly left us with wonderful memories. To see so many of our young cast members overcome challenges, face their fears, and show such immense courage as they shone on stage was overwhelming at times. We were unbelievably proud of



every single one of them, and they deserve all the accolades that came their way. Our production team, headed up by Mrs Sharon Rother (Director), Miss Tarryn Mintoor (Production Manager and Vocal Director) and Dr Marelize van Heerden (Choreographer), were superb in every possible way. Well done to the cast and production team on creating a show which will never be forgotten.

M*A*D

This term has once again shown that the Clarries Family are passionate about Making A Difference in many lives. A short video showing all our M*A*D activities from the 2nd Term will be sent to parents via the class WhatsApp groups. We are extremely grateful to so many parents who make a difference every week by donating towards our Loaves and Fishes and Love Sandwich outreach projects.

BOOK CHARACTER DAY AND GRADE 1 LETTERLAND DAY

The response of the Clarries pupils to the invitation to dress up as their favourite book character was magnificent! Clarendon Park places enormous emphasis on developing a love for reading, and this occasion clearly demonstrated that books are alive and well at our school. Thank you to so many parents who assisted their children in making this day such great fun.

It was also wonderful to have our Grade 1's enjoy their very own special Letterland Day, as they dressed up as their favourite Letterland character, and had an awesome day of alphabet fun.

WINTER WOOLIES

Our annual Winter Woolies collection will take place on the 1st Friday of next term (12 July). All donations will be handed to the Missionvale Care Centre. This holiday period will hopefully provide the perfect opportunity for pupils and parents to sort through their cupboards and put aside any winter clothing items that they no longer have a use for.

STAFF REUNION TEA

We were once again honoured to welcome back to Clarendon Park, past staff members who have served the school over so many years. This school is special because of the people who form the heart of the school, and those who taught and worked at the school have left a wonderful legacy for us to follow. Thank-you to the fantastic PTA for catering for this very special morning of reminiscing, camaraderie and good fellowship!

STIRLING DERBY

Our first derby fixture against Stirling Primary School proved to be a great success, with more than 300 Clarries pupils, along with a vast number of parents, making the trip to East London. The value of derby fixtures such as this one can never be measured by results, but rather in the priceless life lessons that each pupil was presented with, and the many meaningful and fruitful experiences enjoyed by all. A



huge thank-you to every parent and staff member that made the trip to East London, and to our very kind and generous Stirling hosts.

100 CLUB

It was wonderful to see so many parents at our second 100 Club meeting of the year, enjoying an evening of an “Amazing Race” around the school, along with some great camaraderie. Our 100 Club Committee really did a fantastic job, and ensured that the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our 100 Club is alive and well, and provides a wonderful platform for staff and parents to interact on a social basis.

3RD TERM CALENDAR

Please find next term’s calendar enclosed with this newsletter.

3RD TERM EXTRA-MURAL PROGRAMME

Please note that an amended extra-mural programme will be in place for weeks 1 and 2 of the 3rd Term (a copy enclosed with this newsletter). Thereafter the 2nd/3rd Term extra-mural programme will continue as normal.

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).

JUBILEE PARTNERS

We are immensely grateful to the many companies who supported us during our Jubilee Year – without their support we would have been unable to celebrate this significant milestone in our school’s history. These companies included the following:

- Annette de Bruin Family and Dispute Mediation
- Russell Knott Electrical
- Bidfood
- Joe Hiscock and David Roote
- Dr Nico Botma Orthopaedic Surgeon
- Rack and Tow
- Bukani Print
- Pax Stationers
- Industrial Power Products
- Klinikare Pharmacies
- Compendium Insurance Brokers
- National Glass
- Pickwick Books and Stationers



- Walmer Superspar
- Atlas Security
- Caltex
- Eyethu Fishing

Please find attached a flyer from one of our generous sponsors and supporters, Bidfood.

IMPORTANT 4TH TERM DATES

Please take note of the following Awards Ceremony dates:

- Grade 1: Tuesday, 5 November at 08h30
- Grade 2: Tuesday, 5 November at 10h30
- Grade 3: Wednesday, 6 November at 08h30
- Grade 4: Wednesday, 6 November at 11h30
- Grade 5: Thursday, 7 November at 10h30
- Grade 6 & 7: Thursday, 7 November at 18h30.

The final examinations are provisionally set down for week 7 and 8 of the 4th Term (11-22 November).

School starts for the 3rd Term on Tuesday 9 July, and 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 polished, and that your son or daughter arrives back neat and tidy in their Winter Uniforms. Please also ensure that your child returns to school with a school regulation haircut.

At the end of a busy and successful term, a huge thank-you must be extended to the entire Clarendon Park Family – our incredibly hard-working and committed staff, our wonderful and proud pupils, and our loyal and supportive parents, for the invaluable input made by each person into the life of this school. We are very privileged to be part of this special and happy school.

I hope that you have a wonderful holiday with your loved ones, and that you enjoy a well-deserved break after a busy 1st semester. Please travel safely, and we look forward to welcoming you back to another active and exciting term.

HONOUR AND TRUTH

Regards,

Derryk Jordan

Principal