



CLARENDON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents

19 September 2024

3rd TERM NEWSLETTER

As we draw near to the end of the 3rd quarter of the year, it would be remiss of us to not pause for a moment and reflect on the last few months, and allow ourselves an opportunity to conduct some honest introspection. It has been a very busy term, one filled with a myriad of activities, and our young pupils have once again had so many opportunities to immerse themselves in the life of our special school. One of the highlights of the term has undoubtedly been our outdoor education experience for our Grade 5, 6 and 7 pupils. I was privileged enough to attend all 3 camps, and I was so proud of how our senior pupils embraced their camp experience. Their character, perseverance, enthusiasm and support of one another were very special to witness. I am well aware that the camps were not every pupil's "cup of tea", however, I was so impressed to see many Grade 5, 6 and 7's being prepared to step out of their comfort zones and confront the challenges in front of them. Many personal battles were won out at the camps, and every pupil should feel extremely proud of how they conducted themselves.

As one ponders on the outdoor experience enjoyed by the senior grades, and also reflects on the school that we are blessed to call home, we cannot but feel extremely grateful to be part of the Clarries Family. It is very easy to always focus on that which we don't have, rather than focusing on all that we do enjoy. One does not have to travel far to be reminded of how many people face a daily struggle to survive, to support their families, and to educate their children. Gratitude is one of the most critical qualities that we can help our children to develop. It is best learnt by being surrounded by people who choose to be grateful, who show gratitude, and who demonstrate gratitude. The scientific research in terms of the positive effect of gratitude on one's emotional well-being is overwhelming. We fail our children by not actively modelling gratitude in our daily lives; by not making every effort to see the "glass as half full, rather than half empty". Is it easy? No. Good parenting is often hard, but it's most definitely worth it.

STAFF NEWS

During the course of the term we bid a sad farewell to Mr Richard Flepu, a beloved member of our Estate Team. Mr Flepu has decided that after 22 years of loyal and dedicated service to the school, it is time for him to enjoy a well-deserved retirement. Mr Flepu has enriched the life of the Clarries Family and his friendly,



caring and servant hearted nature will always be remembered fondly. We salute you Sir for 22 years of outstanding service to the staff, pupils and parents of the school, and wish you all of the best in your retirement. We were delighted to welcome Mr Thando Ntulini onto the Estate Staff team during the term, and have no doubt that he will add enormous value to this dynamic and motivated team.

At the end of this term we bid a sad farewell to Mr Grant Auths. Mr Auths has been a member of our Grade 6 team and the School's Management Team for 2½ years, and he has made an invaluable contribution towards the life of the school in so many different areas. His fair, thorough and professional dealings with many complex situations have been highly valued, and his caring nature has endeared him to many. We wish him all of the best as he starts a new chapter at Grey Junior.

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Mr Jason McGillivray, a past Clarries pupil. Mr McGillivray will join the Grade 6 team, and will return to his beloved primary school on 1 January 2025. We look forward to welcoming Mr McGillivray onto the Clarries Team. We are also extremely grateful to Miss Gay Best who will be assisting us as a temporary teacher, prior to Mr McGillivray's arrival.

We were delighted to hear the news of two staff members who are expecting the arrival of new additions to their families in 2025. Congratulations to Mrs Brittany Wiggill and Mrs Trudi Kapp, who are both excitedly preparing for their babies in the 1st term of next year.

Congratulations to Mr Chris Stockwell and Miss Donne Moss, who will be tying the knot on Saturday, 21 September. We wish them much happiness and joy as they begin their exciting journey as a married couple.

Congratulations to Mr Dean Gow, who successfully completed his first marathon in September – the Tony Viljoen marathon in East London. We are also very proud of Miss Andrea Morris, who is currently the Choreographer of Impact Community Theatre's production of Grease.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr Thando Lose, a member of our Estate Team, who suffered a bad injury earlier in the term. We trust that he will continue on his path to a full recovery, and wish him well as his recuperation continues.

ACADEMIC REPORTS

A reminder that all Academic Reports will be emailed to parents on Thursday, 19 September at 09h00. No hard copies of Academic Reports will be printed. Please work through this report carefully, taking particular note of the comments contained therein. Should you wish to meet with your child's class teacher early in the 4th Term with regards to the report, please feel free to set up a meeting through the front office (041-581 4231). Remedial and Music Reports (where applicable) have remained in hard copy format, and will be sent home on Thursday, 19 September.

The Academic Awards Assembly (Grades 4 to 7) takes place on Friday, 4 October 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.

END OF YEAR DATES

Please refer to the 4th Term Planner sent home with this Newsletter.

Awards Ceremonies:

The dates of the Awards Ceremonies at the end of the year are as follows:

Grade 1:	5 November (08h30)	Grade 2:	5 November (10h30)
Grade 3:	6 November (08h30)	Grade 4:	6 November (11h30)
Grade 5:	7 November (10h30)	Grade 6:	7 November (18h30)
Grade 7:	7 November (18h30)		

Further details with regards to the Awards Ceremonies will be provided in due course.

Grade 4 to 7 Exams:

The Grade 4 to 6's will write their final exams from 11 November to 20 November, and the Grade 7's from 11 November to 21 November.

Final School Day:

The final day of the school year for pupils will be Wednesday, 27 November. Attendance at school from 28 November to 4 December will be optional for all pupils. The Aftercare will close on Wednesday, 4 December.

Collection of 4th Term Reports:

The final Academic Report for the year will be handed out on Wednesday, 11 December. Details pertaining to the report collection will be provided in due course.

OLLI (ONE LAND, LOVE IT)

OLLI has been one of the main M*A*D benefactors at Clarries this year, and it has been wonderful for the school to be involved in such a worthwhile cause. During the penultimate week of the term, a number of Clarries pupils and staff members were involved in a variety of OLLI finale events. Some of our senior choir members sang the OLLI song at The Tourism Awards, whilst a few Grade 7's were invited to speak live on Kingfisher FM. The grand finale event, held at the GFI Art Gallery, was thoroughly enjoyed by all, with Mr Adrian Gardiner and Dr William Fowlds being the guest speakers. The school was handed a certificate as a token of thanks for all that Clarendon Park has done for OLLI and Rhino Conservation this year. In total, we raised over R35 000-00, and were involved in over 20 different activities relating to Rhino Conservation.

The Art Exhibition at the GFI Art Gallery, in Park Drive, will run until the end of September. We urge all parents to take their children to view it. A number of our pupils have artworks on display.

OLLI reminded us that "It Starts With Me" and in order to be EXTRA-ordinary, one merely needs to do that little bit "extra".



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 3rd 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.

COFFEE BREAK

Our 2nd Coffee Break evening for the year was a great success, with a wonderful turn out from our parent body. Mrs Christine McLeland, from *Girls School*, gave an insightful and meaningful talk on finding balance as a parent, and there is no doubt that those in attendance benefitted enormously from her presentation.

SCHOOL SHOP ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 4TH TERM

Please note that due to the high volume of business in the school shop in the 4th Term (due to the new Grade 1's purchasing their uniform for next year), from Monday, 14 October to Thursday, 31 October, parents may only attend the shop if a prior appointment has been made. Unfortunately no walk-in purchases will be allowed during this time period. To make an appointment, please phone the School Shop Manageress, Mrs Laurien Sutton, on 041 – 581 4231.

From Tuesday, 5 November until the end of the school year, no appointments will need to be made.

SECOND HAND CLOTHING

The final date for the handing in of 2nd hand clothing at the school shop (for resale purposes) will be Thursday, 28 November. These items of clothing will be processed at the start of 2025. The shop will begin to receive 2nd hand clothing again on Monday, 17 February 2025.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

As mentioned above, it was wonderful to see so many of our Clarries pupils involved in our Grade 5, 6 and 7 camps this term. We were so proud of all of our pupils, who embraced their outdoor educational experience with such a positive and enthusiastic attitude. Their willingness to be stretched, to grow and to step out of their comfort zones was phenomenal. An enormous amount of determination, camaraderie and Clarries spirit was shown as they tackled many obstacles, both mental and physical. The "Hobbiton" (Grade 7), "African Imprint" (Grade 6) and "Leaders in Life" (Grade 5) experiences continue to provide our seniors with many incredible outdoor learning opportunities, not only in terms of self-awareness, but also unique moments to savour our beautiful surroundings and to discover the value of team-work, co-operation and mutual respect.

MATRIC REUNION

It was very special to host 111 past Clarries pupils who are currently in matric at our Matric Reunion Dinner on Monday, 16 September. There is no doubt that these Grade 12's still hold Clarendon Park very close to their hearts, and it was wonderful to be able to share an evening of reminiscing, photos and laughter with them. We



are very proud of all that our pupils have achieved at their respective high schools, and we wish them all of the best for their upcoming final examinations.

SPORTS DERBY DAYS

It was so special to enjoy three wonderful Derby Days this term. Our annual fixtures against Herbert Hurd (home), Summerwood and Westering (both away) were highlighted by competitive matches, good sportsmanship and great support along the touchlines. Our weekly league fixtures also produced some fantastic performances, and it has been heart-warming to see so many Clarries pupils involved in the many extra-mural opportunities offered at the school.

We once again were privileged to be able to host a wonderful Netball Festival, which gave so many players an opportunity to play a number of matches in a festival environment. Our Grade 1s also enjoyed a Clarries Fun Rugby Day, with our Grade 2s involved in a fantastic Mini Hockey Day.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

Our Foundation Phase staff and pupils ensured that our annual Grandparents Day Shows were a huge success, entertaining many, and creating some very special memories. A great deal of hard work went into the concerts, and there is no doubt that these concerts remain a very meaningful event on our calendar. The full concert is available on our Facebook page – please enjoy watching this very special concert.

MUSIC EVENTS

This term proved to be a very busy and successful one for our Music Department. Our young musicians and music staff were involved in a number of concerts, and it is clear that music is alive and well at Clarendon Park. Some of the highlights of the term included:

- Jazz Spectacular: an incredible two night concert, featuring Jazz Bands from Clarendon Park and 6 local schools;
- The Herbert Hurd Choir Concert: a fantastic evening, spent listening to the senior choirs from many primary schools. Our Senior Choir provided the audience with a fantastic performance, and created many special memories;
- Spring Walk: our newly revised Spring Walk provided our Junior Band and Beginner Band with wonderful opportunities to perform on the Jordan Field after the walk;
- Guitar Studio Concert: our Guitar music pupils held a wonderful Studio Concert earlier in the term.

SPRING WALK

Our annual Spring Walk was a great success this year, with the event being thoroughly enjoyed by all. An opportunity to listen to our various music ensembles, to participate in some fun netball, touch rugby and soccer, and to relax as the Clarries Family proved to be very meaningful and enjoyable. Thank-you to so many families who joined us for the morning, and enjoyed the walk, and the wonderful time together afterwards.



UNIFORM ARRANGEMENTS: 4TH TERM 2024

School starts for the 4th Term on Tuesday, 1 October, and you are requested to please ensure that your son/daughter returns with shoes polished and with a school regulation haircut. With regards to the school rules pertaining to hairstyles, we wish to remind all parents of the following: "All hairstyles are to be acceptable to the school and should not draw unnecessary attention. If pupils arrive at school with an inappropriate hairstyle, parents may be requested to fetch their children from school in order to have the hair suitably cut. Boys' hair should be short, neat and of an even length with no steps or lines. No fashionable hairstyles are acceptable. Hair dying or colouring is not permitted." We thank you for your co-operation and support in this regard.

With regards to uniform requirements for next term:

- summer uniform must be worn from the start of the term;
- if a pupil is dressed in school uniform on a Friday, blazers are compulsory for assemblies;
- on Phys Ed days, Phys Ed kit is to be worn to school.

EARRINGS

All parents are reminded of the rules pertaining to earrings:

"Studs or earrings are not permitted. Bristles or retainers (used to keep the holes open) are not allowed. Plasters may not be worn to cover the holes from piercing. Ear piercing should only be done early during the long holidays, giving enough time for healing."

SGB AGM (FINANCE MEETING)

The SGB AGM (Finance Meeting) will take place on Tuesday, 12 November at 17h30 in the Scott Hall. At this meeting, the school's budget for 2025 will be presented, which will include the proposed 2025 school fees. Your attendance at this very important meeting will be highly appreciated.

PUPILS DEPARTING CLARENDON PARK

If your son or daughter will not be returning to Clarendon Park at the start of 2025, please could you kindly let the school office know in writing by Friday, 4 October. We have a number of applicants on our waiting list, and we need to confirm our 2025 numbers as soon as possible.

We trust that you will have a wonderful holiday with your children and that some special "family time" will be the order of the day. Thank you to each one of you for your support and positive involvement in all that Clarendon Park is – we look forward to an exciting, memorable and successful last term of 2024.

HONOUR AND TRUTH

Regards,

Derryk Jordan
Principal