



CLARENDON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents

11 December 2024

4th TERM NEWSLETTER

Our annual Awards Ceremonies which took place recently, provided us with a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the year, and to pause and intentionally honour so many for the enormous contribution and effort that they have put into 2024.

I would like to quote from that which I shared at the Senior Awards Ceremony:

“It starts with me” has been our theme this year, and I sincerely believe that as we have found the courage to look within, we have grown significantly, as people, as a school, and as the Clarries Family. Yes, we have faced enormous challenges along the way, however, so many in the Clarries Family have tackled these challenges head on, and become giants themselves. At the end of another year, it is so important that we take the time to celebrate those who have been giants of integrity, giants of kindness, and giants of respect. We should always remember that it is not those who wear the most badges or win the most awards who will necessarily go on to make the difference that is needed in the world, but rather those who have the courage to dig deep, face the giants, and be giants themselves.

And in this school we encourage each other to not only face those giants, but to conquer them as well. No-one is expected to do this alone, as there is always someone in your corner. Someone backing you, someone believing in you. This is a place where people truly matter, where relationships and connection are at the top of the priority list, and where potential is given the unlimited opportunity to blossom.

Clarries is an incredible place. Not a perfect place, but a real place. Since the day that I arrived at Clarendon Park I knew that I had been given the privilege to become part of something very special, something unique and life changing. I believe that at Clarendon Park, our cornerstone is one comprising warmth, a nurturing spirit, and a focus on positive and healthy relationships based on trust, respect and truth. All that we are, stems from these core values.

And as we look back on a year, it is so easy (and tempting) to define a year by achievements, successes and awards, however, I am incredibly proud of the Clarries Family, because this year many have faced huge giants in their own lives and have



kept going, kept fighting, and have never given up. That is why this has been a good year – because of the unconquerable and determined spirit shown by so many members of this family. Yes, many of us are still facing those giants each and every day – but we are facing them and not running away.”

STAFF MATTERS

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:

Mrs Sandy Murray (20 Years)	Mrs Elaine Chamberlain (20 years)
Mrs Janine Trask (15 years)	Mrs Lisa Van Zyl (15 years)
Mrs Nicole Horn (15 years)	Mrs Lindi Carter (10 years)
Mrs Colleen Chapple (10 years)	Mrs Laurien Sutton (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.

Congratulations to Miss Jordan Le Clus and Mr Wade Muller who successfully completed the Mossel Bay Half Iron Man Competition – a wonderful achievement.

We are immensely proud of Mr Dean Gow, Miss Jordan Le Clus and Mr Wade Muller who are currently undertaking a grueling half-marathon challenge in order to raise funds for underprivileged children and the elderly at Christmas time. They will be running 21km for 21 consecutive days, from 1 to 21 December. Their incredible efforts will ensure that a large number of children and our retired senior citizens will get to experience a very special Christmas this year.

At the end of this year we will bid a sad farewell to Mr Sargent Mahaya, a beloved member of our Estate Team. Mr Mahaya will be retiring at the end of this year after 9 years of loyal and dedicated service to the school. Mr Mahaya’s caring and servant hearted nature will always be remembered fondly by all at the school. We wish Mr Mahaya all of the best in his retirement.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of relatives of the following staff members during the course of the term:

- Mrs Donné Stockwell (cousin)
- Mr Chris Stockwell (Grandmother)
- Mr Simon Billson (Aftercare staff) (Father)
- Mr Wade Muller (Father)

These staff members and their respective families remain in our thoughts and prayers.

In 2025, we will welcome our new Learnership Students to the school. We are really looking forward to having Miss Sinesethu Kate (Foundation Phase), Miss Lauren Murray (Intermediate Phase) and Mr Tyrone Lottering (Intermediate Phase) join our team.



We would like to congratulate Mr Stash Truter on his appointment to the school management team. Mr Truter will definitely add enormous value in his new role.

Mr Tando Mzimane, one of our learnership students, completes his PGCE at the end of this year, and we wish him all of the best as he completes his studies and becomes a fully qualified teacher.

AFTERCARE NEWS

We are excited to announce that Chloe Walton will be joining our Aftercare team next year. We have no doubt that she will make a wonderful contribution at the Aftercare.

GRADE 7 FAREWELL

Our Grade 7 Farewell Assembly, held on Tuesday, 26 November, 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.

100 CLUB PARENTS DANCE

The 100 Club Dance was an incredible evening of fun, dancing and wonderful camaraderie amongst our parents. This event is undoubtedly a highlight on the Clarendon Park calendar, and this year was no exception. A huge thank-you is extended to the 100 Club Committee, for their immense efforts in organising such a magnificent occasion.

2024 SCHOOL MAGAZINE

The 2024 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 2024 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.

2025 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.

2025 UNIFORM

Please take note of the following uniform arrangements for 2025:

- 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 (with white laces) 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, ribbons, 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;
- All pupils to return to school next term with a regulation school haircut. Details pertaining to hair can be found in the school 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 2025

School starts on Wednesday, 15 January for all pupils. All pupils must line up in their 2024 line-up areas at 07h45. The 2025 class lists will be placed on the D6 Connect App and the school's website (www.clarendonpark.co.za) at 17h00 on Tuesday, 14 January.

The 2025 1st Term Planner and Extra-Mural timetable was sent out digitally (via the Class Groups) on 11 December. A hard copy of these documents will be sent home on the first day of the new term.

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, 11 January 09h00 – 12h00
- Monday, 13 January 09h00 – 12h00
- Tuesday, 14 January 09h00 – 12h00

SCHOOL TERMS 2025

Term 1: 15 January to 28 March

Term 2: 8 April to 27 June

Term 3: 22 July to 3 October

Term 4: 13 October to 10 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