



Newsletter 2/2021

2 February 2021

Dear Parents

School management

Should you have a problem which you feel is 'bigger' than a class related issued, you might want to contact someone on the teaching leadership team. They are:

Shereen Stadler	Deputy
Tamsin Carelse	HOD, Intermediate Phase
Suzette Embalo	HOD, Foundation Phase
Chanel Coetzee	Head of Inclusive Support
Tania van Rensburg	Business Manager
Riaz Parker	Operations Manager
Pam Berry	Head of Red Roots

Thanks to the parents who proactively come to see us about things instead of yelling about it in the Pick 'n Pay queue! We really appreciate your willingness to work with the school.

Parent involvement

Thank you to all who attended last night's online parent meeting, and a reminder to grade 1 to 3, 5 and 6 parents of their parent meetings tonight and tomorrow evening.

Invitations to assembly

At the moment the school cannot hold assemblies for the children. We will still do an online version around 8:30 just as school starts every Monday while Covid procedures are in place. Every class in the school has at least one opportunity to present assembly to the rest of the school during a normal year and on that Monday, you will be invited personally to attend. However, any parent is welcome to attend any assembly usually.

Extramurals during assessment week

A reminder that extramurals **are cancelled during assessment weeks**. This does not apply this term because all sport will be done on the 'extended day' for each grade. See previous newsletter for details.

School in Action Day

This year our School in Action Day is planned for **Tuesday, 23 February**, however this may change, depending on the amended school calendar. For new parents, this means a day off work while you usually come to school to see school in action! This year we will be doing this virtually – quite a challenge as we will need to film classes and stream them to you during the day. This is a perfect

opportunity for you to see how great it is to be in a primary school in 2021 (particularly at the Red School!!)_ Details to follow.

Water Management during the drought

- The Governing Body put lots of money into water tanks, pumps and new field last year to cope with the drought. We now have pumped and stored effluent water to water our fields but might need to close down half our field every now and then to ensure it isn't overused.
- Please send your children to school with a bottle of fresh drinking water every day for their classroom consumption.
- Our toilets are completely 'off the water grid' and are brown in the toilet bowl because of this. Please discuss with your children that this doesn't mean they are dirty but that the water is discoloured because of the minerals in the underground water system.

Enrolments 2022

If you have a child who was born in 2016 and would like to enrol him/her at PNPS for Red Roots in 2022, please obtain an application form from the reception office, as the closing date for these applications is 26 March 2021.

A reminder that no other grade will have space for additional pupils unless pupils leave the school.

Email addresses

A reminder to you of our school email addresses:

Tania Jansen van Rensburg	Business Manager	businessmanager@pnps.co.za
Marissa Moodley	Finance Officer	finance@pnps.co.za
Chrystal Dougall	Bursar	bursar@pnps.co.za
Erica Steenberg	Secretary	admin@pnps.co.za
Martin Adamson	IT Administrator	it@pnps.co.za
Josh King	Sport Administrator	sport@pnps.co.za
Caroline Eriksen	Library	library@pnps.co.za
Jill Pasqualle	HR clerk	hadmin@pnps.co.za
Riaz Parker	Operations Manager	opsmanager@pnps.co.za

Staff/Parent interviews

No visitors are allowed in the school premises at the moment. Most teacher parent interviews will therefore be held online, usually on the day when that grade is at home as all staff will be teaching a full day on the other days. Please therefore be patient should you wish to speak to a staff member. Please email the person concerned, and should you wish to speak to them, arrange a telephonic call or online meeting.

We are still planning parent interviews for two days in the first week of term 2 and for one day in term 3. Hopefully by then the situation might be different.

Facebook

Pinelands North has a Facebook page. Please 'like' us and then follow our regular information posts. We post two posts daily, one as school starts and then another between 16h00 and 17h00. You are welcome to help us share important information so if you find something share it to our page and we will share it with our followers. Many of the posts are directly linked to what the children are doing in class, on the sports field or at school. Our page can be found at **Pinelands North Primary School**.

School accessories

- Hair – Should your child’s hair need to be tied up only maroon or navy bobbles, elastics, scrunchies and head bands may be worn. We have super packs of maroon hair accessories at our uniform shop now so contact Lynn to buy your set.
- Jewellery – Only *plain* silver or gold studs may be worn and no bracelets, necklaces, ankle chains or rings may be worn with school uniform.
- No jewellery or clothing of a religious or political nature may be worn with school uniform unless the family have applied in writing to the School Governing Body for a deviation from the uniform policy.

Healthy eating at school

Please remember to pack only healthy food, sandwiches and drinks for your children. Remember too, that when you start thinking about your child’s birthday and what you will send for the class, decide on the healthiest option you can think of. Some ideas we have seen are popcorn, pretzels, small toffee apples, muffins and gingerbread men.

Photographs on school social media

The website constantly needs new photographs loaded at the beginning of each year. Other school photographs will be available posted on our school Facebook page at various times during the year. Send us a letter if you don’t want your child in these photographs and we will try to ensure that it doesn’t happen. Please visit our website or Facebook page before you do so, so that you can see how positively we use our school photographs. Leave a comment for us there too!

Electronic devices at school

Cellphones, tablets or laptops may only be brought to school if the child’s parents and the child have signed the “Bringing electronic devices to school agreement”. Tablets and laptops may only be brought to school if recommended by the learning support department. The school does not take any responsibility for these devices. If this agreement hasn’t been completed yet, contact Martin at it@pnps.co.za who will forward it to you to complete and return to him as soon as possible.

Library

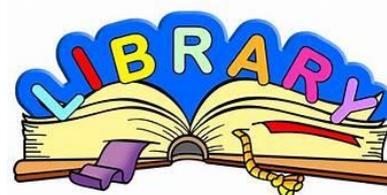
Covid has temporarily closed the library space to parents and children sadly. Caroline and her staff helpers will continue to use the ‘Travelling Library’ which means she will bring suitable books to the classroom spaces and children can then take out and return their books during these times. Please make a point of encouraging your children to take out books and also make sure that they join your local municipal library.

A chance to win books for our school!

Exclusive Books is having a promo where you can vote for a NPO to receive a prize of 70 new books! The more votes, the better our chances are of winning so PLEASE VOTE for PNPS!!!!!!!!

Here is the link:

<http://blog.exclusivebooks.co.za/give-70-for-70-nominations/>



School fees and fee exemption

- Should you need to make any cash payments to the school, please ensure that cash is placed in an envelope, correctly labelled, and **encourage your child to take the money to the finance office before school or as early as possible. A reminder that we have card facilities available at school and the cash office is open from 07h30 for payments by arrangement.**
- A reminder too, that we are using the debit order system – email Crystal Dougall for a form if you haven't completed one already.
- Please note that existing debit orders will be automatically adjusted to accommodate the 2021 fees. Should you have any queries in this regard please contact Crystal.
- Should you have an existing debit order and you would like to include aftercare, music or creative and talented payments, please email Crystal at bursar@pnps.co.za.
- We know that many families were financially affected by Lockdown last year, and that some families still haven't recovered. We started a Solidarity Fund to support families paying school fees but that fund has dried up. If you are in the fortunate situation, and are able to do so, please consider paying an additional amount every month, and ask Crystal to donate it to this fund. The school can give you a Section 18 (a) certificate for this money if you need it.
- Remember that school fees are divided up into monthly payments only to assist families. In truth the whole year's amount is due on the first day of school, and a resolution in this regard is passed every year at the Budget Meeting in September. This means that the full school fee is legally due, regardless of when school starts and how many months your children actually physically attend school.
- I have been very concerned about media reports and the ministers' announcements which constantly say that parents have the right to education and that, should they be unable to pay their fees, they can apply for a subsidy from schools.
Very few people know that if they do apply to the governing body for relief, the state does not pay the shortfall – YOU DO! Our school is only given R264 a year per child towards expenses and only 11 teachers' salaries, 1 principal's salary, 1 secretary, 1 caretaker and 2 cleaner's salaries are paid. That's it! All the rest is provided in school fees by yourselves. So, if you are struggling to pay - we understand, but think very seriously before applying for partial fee relief.
- The next section is part of a form written by a local school for parents to complete if they wish to apply for a partial exemption (this is the reality that we face!):

<i>"I understand that by applying for exemption on fees, I am reducing the available budget of the school, as <u>no additional funding</u> is available either from other parents, or the State. In the event of such reductions requiring a curtailment of the budget, I propose that cuts are made in the following areas:</i>		
	<i>Your choice</i>	<i>Please prioritise</i>
1.	<u><i>Class size</i></u> <i>I am in favour of bigger classes as a way of reducing expenses. (This is the most likely cutback as staffing forms the largest part of the budget)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	<u><i>Quality of teachers</i></u>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	<i>Employment of lower paid (this means less qualified and less experience) teachers.</i>	
3.	<u><i>Specialised teaching</i></u> <i>I am in favour of a reduction in services such as Music, Remedial education, Art, Computer lessons, Counselling, Enrichment, Library, Xhosa.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	<u><i>Sport and sports facilities</i></u> <i>Reduction in up-keep of facilities and number of available places for participation. Reduction in number of sports offered. Reduction in number of teams entered in leagues."</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Children with severe allergies

Please remember to update us on any severe allergies your child may have, including sending any special medication ie an Epipen, to the office for us to keep should this be necessary.

School Pets

The animals at Pinelands North really emphasize who we are: children have often been 're-homed' to our school from other schools, and the animals are what usually helps them adapt, and then flourish! The Philbin family have been faithfully feeding the animals every weekend for the past year. If you feel inclined to buy food for the ducks, tropical fish, finches, budgies, rabbits, chickens or the canaries while shopping for your pets, it would be gratefully appreciated. Maybe you have a contact for pet food? Please contact Erica if you can help. We will also re-home tropical fish, canaries, finches, tortoises or budgies if you know of people wanting to get rid of them. We will gladly receive your vegetable peels for our worm farms too.

Covid Anxiety

Many people are experiencing higher anxiety levels, not only fearing Covid as a virus, but also in their personal and financial lives. Dr Claire Draper sent me this great workbook that can be used to manage your anxiety and that of your family. Thanks Claire for this asset.

Yours sincerely



ANN MORTON
Principal