

Pinelands North Primary School



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Newsletter 5/2021

16 March 2021

Dear Parents

This past week has been a rather sad one for the school.

- Michele Woollands, librarian and teacher at the school in the 1980s and 1990s, passed away in New Zealand. She was a parent of two daughters at the school and her husband Bobby, was my first 2IC. She is lovingly remembered by former staff and current parents who were pupils of hers at PNPS.
- Sanette Nowers, the District Director of Metro Central, died on Monday night after a very short illness. Sanette was the former principal of Bloemhof Girls and Strand High School, and a formidable 'activist' for education. I loved her style of leadership as everything was always very clear cut. We will miss her gentle firmness and care for all our schools in the peninsula.
- Lew Brown was former principal of Hendrik Louw Primary in the Strand and the FEDSAS representative who looked after our school for many years. He retired two years ago to spend more time with his family and died of COVID complications also last week. Lew was a gentleman par excellence with a great education brain and lovely sense of humour. He will be missed by many education institutions around the Western Cape.

COVID updates

Thanks to Dr Claire Draper, we keep well informed of the state and progress of the pandemic. Although the state has moved down to Alert Level 1, NO changes are allowed for schools. Schools still may not play contact sport, may not compete in competitions or have any spectators at sport. The only change is that outdoors we can have as many as 250 people together if socially distanced.

Currently the expectation of the third wave is that it will arrive after the Easter weekend early in April. Please ensure that your family does not contribute to the statistics! Please ensure that if you have family get together over the long weekend that you remember all the usual rules – masks, distancing, ventilation and preferably outside.

Governing Body Elections 2021

We finally have the permission to continue with our elections for a new Governing Body for 2021 – 2023. The parent e-election will be held on 13 April, from 07:00 to 19:00. Nomination forms which can be collected from Tania Jansen van Rensburg, need to have a proposer and seconder, and be signed by the candidate. These nomination forms need to be returned to Tania by 16:00 on 29 March. They will then be checked by the Election Officer, Dave Campbell, at the Validation Meeting at 9:00 on 30 March in the school library. If only five candidates are nominated, the e-election will not be held as the number of candidates is the number needed. Parents may not nominate themselves. See attached notice of meeting.

Unconfirmed plans for term 2

The Management Team is grappling with plans for next term:

- How do we get all children back to school despite having a new venue which we hoped would solve our space issue?
- Now that we know all teaching venues need to be aerated after a maximum two hours of use, where do we keep the children during their break times if it is raining?
- How do we keep all classrooms ventilated with doors and windows fully open during the rains?

The plans are still that the grade 7 pupils move into the new venue which then allows us to use the hall and the aftercare as the break time venues for children but there is still no additional space for an extra grade to be accommodated safely every day. These conversations continue weekly and have included some of the SGB parents and Claire Draper. No decision has been made about next term yet and once the COVID team makes their recommendation the final decision will be made at a SGB meeting.

Thank you for your patience and understanding – we know the extra sport hour once a week is frustrating several families and that many of you are still grappling with children at home on some days of the week. The one thing you can be sure of though is that we will NEVER put any of the school community in danger and will always err on the safe side. Thanks to the families who constantly remind us how grateful they are for this thinking.

Staff responding to calls or emails

A few families haven't understood the way schooling currently happens and how tough it is on our teaching staff. Remember that all grades now have 3 classes to teach instead of two, so everybody is teaching one third extra in a week. Nobody has free time during the day at all: from the staff meeting at 7:30 to the last child leaving at 15:30, everybody works whether in their own grade or in another grade to assist with break times, sport or teaching. The day your child might have off is not a free day for the teachers of that grade as they need to assist in the rest of the school and meet to plan the following week's work. This means that staff cannot answer or make telephone calls or respond to emails during the day. If a message is urgent, rather call Erica and ask her to pass the message on the child or staff member. Most staff will only get to emails in the late afternoon or evening.

Work for days off

The standard work for the day your child is home from school, if this applies, is to do two hours of 'work': depending on the grade, the expectation is reading, bonds, tables, phonics, learning for tests, working on projects set and completing any outstanding work. No new work will be set for these days and neither will be staff teach online. As explained in the section above, the staff are expected to perform other duties when their classes are not at school.

Work during school absence

If your family is put into isolation because of a COVID case, please email the school to ask that the work provided at school is shared with your children. This will be done as and when possible, not while teaching is happening at school. The expectation is that children will still probably need to catch up with work missed but in COVID cases the teachers will try to help you do this. For other absences from school the same rules apply as before; children will need to catch up after they return to school.

Sport hour from 14:00 – 15:00

Remember that the school day is extended by one hour for grades 3 – 7 once a week. This means that even though it might be raining children will continue to have their hour of sport, in addition to their physical education lessons every week.

International Read to Me Day 19 March and International Poetry Day 21 March

Try to celebrate these days at home with your families!

Class Photographs

Our class photographs will be different this year taking into consideration that children cannot be standing so close together. Individual photos will be taken in school uniform and these photos will be printed together on a page – slightly more formal than usual but the best we can do in the circumstances. Families will be able to order both an individual and class photograph.

Assessments

Remember that although we usually have an assessment week scheduled for each term, assessment in the primary school is continuous. This means that assessments will be done before assessment week, and others will continue to be done after the 'official' assessment week. Progress is monitored through the year during all assessments.

The use of money in the real world....

We have seen a decline in the children's ability to use money effectively. As problem solving with money is taught at school, we think that maybe children are not using money practically with their parents to buy things at the supermarket. When you next go shopping, take your children with you and give them the money to give to the cashier, after discussing with them what the approximate costs would be. Encouraging children to work with money will certainly also help them do 'money' sums at school too!

Uniform

- Our online uniform shop has been experiencing technical difficulties with notifications and mails not reaching parents. This has now been sorted out. Please note that if you have placed an order on the online shop and do not receive an email, you need to check your spam folder. Should the email not be in this folder, please contact Martin Adamson at it@pnps.co.za. If the mails are in your spam folder, please remember to 'report not spam' for future communication from the shop.
- Prior to Covid, the uniform shop was open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Currently these are the days that the orders and emails will be processed so please plan for this. Although we will make every attempt to expedite orders, delivery may take two to three days once proof of payment has been received.
- Good news for those of you who would prefer to come in to the shop, it will be open to trade on Saturday 27 March 2021 from 9:00 to 12:00. To prevent queuing, we will be working on a appointment system in hourly blocks with a limit of 12 people per hour. Please sign up using the following link: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WY5G4Z5Nj2nGERuyyPuyKdv7AAeMbuccDYTmr3KXOTs/edit?usp=sharing>
- We have the following items in stock again: stone socks, senior backpacks, red silicone swim caps, PE shorts and limited stock of the navy PE tops. Exchanges of new stock are allowed, but need to be in pristine condition when returned for swapping. Second-hand clothing will not be exchanged. There is a large amount of second-hand uniform for sale at very reasonable prices. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, please contact Lynn Hendricks at uniform@pnps.co.za.

Applications 2022

Remember that Red Roots has 60 children in it this year, and we accept 60 into Grade 1. This means that there is **no chance** of getting into grade 1 at the school. We will be accepting 60 children into grade R so if you don't live in Pinelands, you will need to apply to other schools too. Remember to hand in your applications between 8:30 and 13:30 daily, by **26 March, and remember to complete the WCED online system by then too.**

MySchool Fundraising

Are you using your MySchool card whenever you shop? Thanks to the families who are, as the latest amounts received was R2857.00! This fundraising is so low key but can generate loads of money for us. Contact Erica if you haven't got a card, or go directly to Woolworths to collect an application form.

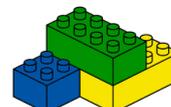
Early Act

Thank you to everyone who donated during our SPCA fundraiser! Congratulations to the Grade 2's who have won the free civvies day. Another huge thank you to those who continue to support our Food Friday drive! We appreciate your purchases and are slowly raising money which will be donated to the school's Solidarity Fund and other charities. Our annual Easter Egg Collection began yesterday. We are asking families to send marshmallow Easter Eggs to school. These Easter Eggs will be distributed to children and families who are less fortunate. The Easter Eggs will be collected from classrooms by our beautiful grade 1 Easter Bunnies! For each box your child/rens' house will earn points. This drive will end on 30 March. Staff Entrepreneurial Day will be on Thursday 18 March and Friday 19 March! During the day staff members will go around to the classes to sell popcorn, s'mores as well as LEGO jewelry and keyrings. A flyer with samples and prices of keyrings and jewelry is attached to this email. Remember to bring your money!

Popcorn – R10

S'more – R5

LEGO jewelry – Prices vary from R5 to R30



Staff Fundraising 2021

The staff are again planning a derby day in October this year as their fundraising for the year. The money from this annual activity goes directly to curriculum needs for the classrooms, and again this year we are planning to purchase Chrome Books for the children. This event has been scheduled but we will assess the safety of it happening closer to the time.

Holiday Programme this holiday

Newsletter 5 is usually the letter which contains the booking form for Holiday Care. However, the fact that schools started only in February has meant that school holidays will not be in the beginning of April but rather closer to the end of April. The booking form will only be placed in Newsletter 6. **Bookings will open on Tuesday 30 March.** Please remember that Holiday Care bookings work on a **first come first serve basis** and are capped at **50 children in total**. It is only open to Pinelands North Primary pupils. Please set reminders on every device you own to avoid disappointment.

Facilitator Course this April

We have an exciting, revamped facilitator course being developed by Joanne, Lodize and the LS team. The revised course will focus on learning support, curriculum adaptations, creative teaching and efficient ways of working across subjects to support innovative teaching strategies given the current

schooling structure. This course is aimed at anyone who works with children individually or in small groups. Whether you are a parent, tutor, facilitator or caregiver this will definitely be a course to attend. Please email course@pnps.co.za to be added to the mailing list. More details to follow!

Thank you

- To everyone of you who drive carefully and slowly round the school when collecting or dropping your children.
- To those parents who approach management staff when they have an issue, rather than talk about it to other parents who won't be able to assist anyway.
- To those families who treat learning and education as a gift: none of us had the privilege of learning the way our children do today, and I am forever thankful that I get to influence some children's learning for the better, in a world where most children do not have access like our children do.

Yours sincerely



Ann Morton
Principal