



Pinelands North Primary School

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Newsletter 10/2021

1 June 2021

Dear Parents

Thank you for the beautiful letters we have received over the past few weeks. Several have been from new families to our school, expressing their gratitude for being accepted into the Red School family, and some from existing families experiencing once again the super drop off and collection system we have. See one of these letters on page 12.

Inclusive Transgender Talk on Thursday

Our school has had many gender non confirming children over the years. Ron Adinall, a clinical social worker and lecturer at UCT, has been our advisor on these issues over about 10 years. Ron will speak online to the staff on Tuesday and parents on Thursday this week about transgender children and managing gender in your family. Having heard him several times before, he really is worth hearing. Learning Support has shared the Zoom link and will do so again tomorrow.

Staff

Our student teachers leave us this week after assisting in our classrooms and around the school for several weeks. Thanks to each of them for their assistance. Thanks too for the beautiful letter received from those students who left us last week. See page 12.

Secondhand sale for Solidarity Fund

Before I arrived at the school the storage space under the hall stage was filled with treasures. This past week the operations staff, Shereen and I have cleaned out this space. We came across beautiful historical items like a carved wooden music stand for 4 children with their names engraved, a springboard, traffic signs and 'wheeled carts'.

The special treasures have been spread out amongst the school wherever they can be used but we have many items in excess, particularly old oak two-seater desks. Most of these have come apart and just need large bolts to put them together. We will sell them for R150, but you will need to put them together and collect almost immediately. If you are interested, please pay on Karri and email your receipt to Riaz Parker who will arrange for you to collect asap, first come first served.

There are only about 30 so hurry if you want one. Riaz' email is opsmanager@pnps.co.za.

We have loads of chipboard cupboard doors – most about 400 x 600 mm. Make Riaz an offer....

We also have about 20 adult chairs and a few tiny chairs – none in great condition so we will sell them at R30 each. Again, pay on Karri and contact Riaz.

Term dates 2022

See page 13 for details.

Covid infections

- Contact sport: Just after newsletter 9, the Minister of Education banned all contact sport. This has not affected our sports programme because all our sport is non-contact. See letter on page 11 if you haven't seen it before.
- Our South African 'family' meeting with the President happened on Sunday night but schools are not directly affected by the latest lockdown rules. Our suspicion is that schools might close before or after the July school holiday but there is no confirmation of that at all yet.
- The Management Team will be meeting again in the next two weeks to review the current school attendance schedule for term 3. The SGB will meet at the end of June to discuss their proposal. The National Minister of Education has announced that all primary schools should attend every day from term 3, but the 1 metre/1,5 metre rule still applies. Primary schools in South Africa will not be able to adhere to this!
- Covid infections amongst our school families is still very low. We know of two families who are isolating but we still haven't had to close any classes or warn any families to isolate because safety precautions are strictly adhered to at school. Obviously, we have no control about who your family sees away from the school premises, but we hope everyone is practising safe behaviours – masks, ventilation, outside areas and social distancing.
- We had a question last week from a mom who wanted to know when the school would tell her about a Covid case in her child's class. The answer to her was as follows:
Only if you have been in contact for more than 15 minutes, unmasked, in an unventilated area, in the previous 48 hours before onset of symptoms, are you considered a close contact. If you are a close contact then you will need to isolate. If these rules mentioned before do not apply to you, then nobody has to inform anybody. Having Covid is a private affair and non-disclosable by outsiders. Therefore, the school has no right to tell anybody who has Covid unless we deem our school family to be at risk because of possible infection. There is no cause therefore for us to inform any family - if the family themselves choose to tell, that is their right to do so or not.

Assessments

A reminder that assessments will be written over the next week, according to the plan given to each grade by the class teachers. Remember to create the right work ethic in your family – insist that studying is done, that TV is watched in short bursts, and only when necessary. Please insist that your children attend school every day when assessments are written – much stress is caused by assessments having to be “caught up” afterwards. The sports hours continue as usual.

Red Runners

We hope your children came home and told you about the fun they had at their race day, and that you had a moment to check into FaceBook Live for both events. The vibe was wonderful: children arrived in their house colours, parents assisted with treats, and everyone cheered the competitors along. The Spirit Trophy went to Clear House. Thanks for your support in providing fruit – all leftovers were sold to staff and parents, in aid of the Solidarity Fund.

House Captains

Congratulations to the following children who were chosen by their peers as House Captains and Vice Captains:

CLEAR		GARDENER		WELLS	
HOUSE CAPTAINS	VICE CAPTAINS	HOUSE CAPTAINS	VICE CAPTAINS	HOUSE CAPTAINS	VICE CAPTAINS
Imran Khan	Cathryn Manuel	Matthew Hill	Derek Meyer	Kewan van Rooyen	Thebe Katz
Zoe Wolhuter	Matthew Langdon	Kayden Watt	Kaela Frost	Kaylin Mathews	Erin Tucker

Bus Hijack

One of our school buses was hijacked when Uncle Edwin was driving it on the way to work. Luckily none of the staff on the bus were hurt but the bus is gone, despite us having a Tracker system on it. The school replaces the two buses every 3 to 5 years so both will be replaced later this year.

School Yearbook Special Achievements

Every year in our yearbook, we list the special achievements that the children have accomplished throughout the year. Our yearbook celebrates all the various aspects of our children's lives, and the special achievement page is mainly for accomplishments achieved outside of school. This would include representing South Africa or Western Province in various academic, cultural and/or sporting activities. Please use the link bit.ly/SpecialAchievementsPNPS to provide us with accurate details of these achievements. Please note however, that adding achievements via the form does not automatically mean your child will be included in the Special Achievements page – this remains up to the discretion of the editorial committee.

Paying school fees at schools

We have heard of several schools that, over the past few years, have closed their doors because funds from school fees have dried up! Schools very close to us have also retrenched several staff because fees are not being paid. This can happen to any school – once you choose not to pay and start relying on other fee-paying parents to foot the bill for your family, there is the potential for this to occur.

Remember that you chose this school because of its varied curriculum, sporting and cultural activities – we can only continue to provide these if our income remains the same, and our income comes directly from school fees, not from the state.

Mission and Vision

For those who haven't seen our school's vision and mission statement around the school, here they are...these are updated at the beginning of every new Governing Body's term of office and therefore were last verified in our May meeting this year:

VISION

Excellent staff, motivated pupils and participative families working together to provide an inclusive quality education – making Pinelands North Primary a leading school on which other schools model themselves.

MISSION

- provides a happy, healthy, diverse, homely, safe yet challenging learning environment
- develops the whole child's full potential academically, culturally, socially, emotionally and physically
- builds a vibrant, reflective and committed staff team
- encourages committed family support and involvement
- promotes environmental awareness and responsibility
- develops co-ownership and accountability among all stakeholders including the wider community and continually improves the range and quality of its academic and extramural activities.

Camps & Tours

We are still planning our usual camps and tours for grade 4 – 7 in September this year. Closer to the time we will be able to confirm whether the WCED will allow the school to take part, but these dates are booked already:

Grade 4 21 – 23 September

Grade 5 27 – 29 September

Grade 6 29 September – 1 October

Grade 7 27 September – 1 October

PNPS Online

Our online school has started with our first pupil in India! We have 4 pupils enrolled for this year, and the others will be starting later in 2021. Our plan is to have a fully functioning online school at the start of 2022. Please see hybrid schooling pdf document loaded under the Documents tab on the Edana Portal.

Tamsin Carelse

Wearing caps and hats

A reminder that children should be wearing hats or caps when on the playground outside. This means that they should have a cap at school every day to wear on the playground during breaks, but should also have a cap when playing sport. Why not buy an additional hat or cap your child can leave at school? Put your child's name in the hat – this can then be left inside the classroom, so that when they go outside there is always a cap/hat available for them to use.

Creative and Talented

The new families to the school find the name most unusual, in the past this programme or others like it has had different names. But this name has stood the test of time since 2008. In a yearbook a few years ago it says: 'Pinelands North is one of the few schools that offers support for very bright children. These children often find school a difficult place to be because they think differently from other children. We provide them various kinds of support like social and emotional support, critical and diverse thinking opportunities and with space to become the people they could be.'

The reality is that the word 'gifted' has a connotation of elitism and privilege, which is strange because if you understood that being gifted means you have very specific needs that cannot always be met through conventional schooling, it is not necessarily a privilege. Just because a child needs support because they are perceived as bright, does not mean their need is less than a child

who struggles to read and does Speech and Language Therapy, or a child with perceptual difficulties who does Occupational Therapy.

The other thing that new families to the school don't understand is that an inclusive school has to provide support for the bright who are struggling, as well as the weak who are struggling, and that their struggles are different. There are many very bright children who are not part of the programme because they don't have special needs related to them. We don't value the children that do the Creative and Talented programme more than anyone else. It is an additional subject, we are expanding their intellectual capability and it is intentionally more work. There are many children who should be part of the programme but choose not to because it is so demanding.

Valuable items at school

Every few newsletters we ask you to ensure that your children don't bring valuable items to school as we cannot take responsibility for them. Please ensure everything that arrives at school is easily identifiable or named.

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop will be open on the first Thursday of every month between 14:30 and 15:15. Here is the link to book your slots <https://forms.gle/MsvosGHDCufheG7W9>

Secondhand uniform

Many families choose to buy secondhand clothing for their children from the uniform shop. We suggest that you remove the name of the previous owner and label the clothing with your child's name, because if it gets lost, it can't be returned to the rightful owner. We often find clothing marked with the name of a child that has left the school, or a child that is now in a bigger grade, whose name is still on a piece of clothing sized for a child in a much lower grade, and because it does not have the new owner's name on it, it cannot be returned to that child.

Parent helpers

A very special thank you to all parents who work at the school for no remuneration – you are too numerous to name (what a pleasure!). Our school is the special place it is because you make it so. Thanks too, to the families who always hear our calls of 'distress' and respond so promptly – we receive help usually a day after the plea is published in the newsletter!

Late coming

Every single day the school has a few children who arrive late! Very often they are the same 5 children...stop, I can hear you thinking, 'Well that's okay, my child isn't late EVERY day!' Every day that your child arrives late is an inconvenience to the admin staff, to the staff who then have to leave their classes to sign your child in at school. Please consider this very carefully – have you realised just how difficult this is for everybody? The person I am most concerned with is the child who must daily endure being met by 'Mrs Morton', being told again that coming late is not acceptable - all before they even walk into a classroom where all eyes will follow your every move! Make every effort to change your family's late-coming...if you need me to be the big bad wolf, I'll happily do so!

Early Act

- Thanks for the wonderful support of Austin Smith's fundraiser on Friday. With your help, we were able to raise R9180! The children arrived beautifully dressed and won prizes for

being so well dressed. The winner of this part of the fundraiser was Luca Milandri who arrive with a crown of proteas on his head! He has won a brand-new Princess hockey stick. The raffle winner was Oliver Ellenbogen in Red Roots! He wins the hockey t-shirt signed by the SA Hockey Men's team. All pupils who purchased autographs will receive them in July once Austin Smith is back in South Africa.

- Our Lerato's Hope stationery collection is continuing until the end of the term. If you would like to donate items for children in need, please bring your donations to the school foyer!

- **Baby Beanies**

Mowbray Maternity are in need of baby beanies, so please start knitting and send them as soon as possible. Uncle George took 128 beanies to the hospital this week.

Here is the very simple pattern to follow:

You will need 4ply wool (one ball is enough), size 10 (3, 25) and 11 (3) needles.

Cast on 90sts with size 11 needles. Work rib (knit 1, purl 1) for 5cm.

Change to size 10 needles and work in stocking stitch (1 row plain, 1 row purl) until work measures 12,5cm from beginning.

Shape top:

- Row 1: (knit 8, knit 2tog) 9 times
- Row 2: and alternate rows –purl
- Row 3: (knit 7, knit 2tog) 9 times
- Row 5: (knit 6, knit 2tog) 9 times
- Row 7: (knit 5, knit 2tog) 9 times
- Row 9: (knit 4, knit 2tog) 9 times
- Row 11: (knit 3, knit 2tog) 9 times
- Row 13: (knit 2, knit 2 tog) 9 times
- Row 15: (knit 1, knit 2 tog) 9 times
- Row 17: (knit 2 tog) 9 times.
- Break yarn and thread through stitches. Sew up.



- **Knitted Teddies**

We are also continuing to create knitted teddies. If you'd like to knit these, here is the pattern:

- Use No.9 (3.75mm) needles for double knitting wool or if using 4 ply wool use No.11 (3mm) needles.
- For the first leg cast on 15 stitches and knit 44 rows. Put stitches on holder.
- For the second leg cast on another 15 stitches and knit 44 rows.
- Join the two legs together (30 stitches) and knit 44 rows to make the torso.
- Cast on 18 stitches at the beginning of the next two rows for the arms.
- Knit 24 rows.
- Cast off the arms leaving 30 stitches for the head. Knit 44 rows then cast off.
- Repeat all this for the second side.

Megan Culligan

Learning Support

The Learning Support Department is hosting an Organisation workshop for the Foundation Phase in collaboration with Caitlin Kitshoff, Occupational Therapist. The workshop will include activities and interactive experiences which will benefit parents and children. Please don't miss out. See flyer on page 8.

MySchool

Are you using your MySchool card whenever you shop? This fundraising is so low key but can generate loads of money for us. They are currently running an exciting competition! Contact Erica if you haven't got a card or, go directly to Woolworths to collect an application form. See competition details on page 10 of this newsletter. Swipe your MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet or linked Woolies and linked Builders card and stand a chance of winning your share of R200 000 CASH! **The more you swipe, the more you give back, the more chances you have to win!** All you need to do is keep on swiping your MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet or linked Woolies card or linked Builders card at our national retail partners, in store or online. Every swipe is an entry! The competition closes 24 June 2021. **Erica Steenberg**

Traffic around the school

Thank you to every family member who travels in the right direction, who is polite and courteous in the traffic and who fetches their children on time. It is greatly appreciated by the whole school community.

Holiday Programme

A reminder that we will again offer Holiday Care at a basic cost of R60 a day, during the coming holiday. Remember this when you plan for your children. Holiday Care booking forms will go live on **Monday 14 June at 12 pm. Please save the date as it works on a first come, first served basis.** Here is the link you will use to access the form once it goes live, <https://forms.gle/YVHoUL6WGAfaWSwu6> . Please note that **no** bookings will be accepted before the stated date and time. If you are worried about being able to access the link, please remember that newsletters can be downloaded or emailed to yourself via our Edana Parent Portal in the Documentation folder, under Newsletters.

Can You Help?

- Please propagate succulent plants. Our succulent garden was started years ago by the Enviro Club on the verge outside the pool and was planted by two of our parents over a few weeks. These gardens are looking good now after the recent rains, but several plants died in the drought and now need to be replaced. Thanks to the families who regularly send us their 'trimmings'! We are always on the lookout for Spekboom plants - if you wish to buy or propagate these for us, we love them because they are CO2 'scavengers'!
- When you do your weekly shopping, please give our ducks a thought – they absolutely adore cauliflower leaves! Every week my husband buys a cabbage for them, but there is never enough. We could also try them on carrot tops, cabbage leaves and any other cast off bits of vegetable you could think of. I know that some shops have a 'waste' bin in their vegetable/fruit section, and if you fill a packet from that bin, they don't charge you for these bits...

Yours sincerely



ANN MORTON
Principal



PNIPS

Pinelands North Primary School

Organisation Workshop
Live Between
17:00-18:00

Date: 2 June 2021

Cost: **R50-** Online Resources included

Presented by: Caitlin Kitshoff and
Chanel Coetzee

**PINELANDS NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL
CONQUESTA OLYMPIADS**

Dear Parents

Our Grade 4 - 7 pupils have once again been invited to participate in the Conquesta 2021 Olympiads. Choices of Conquesta Olympiads are:

English (First Language);
Afrikaans (Second Language);
Mathematics

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage as many pupils as possible to participate in the above-mentioned Olympiads as they benefit the pupils greatly. Each participant will also receive a certificate.

All completed entry forms, together with the correct fee, enrolment fee and fee for each chosen olympiad, should be returned to school no later than Friday, 25 June 2021. The Karri app will be open for payments. The entry form with the chosen subjects must be returned to Crystal Dougall.

Thank you for your continued support of the Conquesta Olympiads.

Yours sincerely

Bev Pereira

CONQUESTA REPLY SLIP

Name of child: _____

Grade: _____

SUBJECT	x	R 20 per paper
English (First Language)		R
Afrikaans (Second Language)		R
Mathematics		R
Enrolment Fee		R 22
Total		R



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PINELANDS NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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19 May 2021

Dear Parents

Contact Sport cancelled with immediate effect

The National Minister of Education released a media statement a few hours ago, saying that all **contact** sport should be cancelled with immediate effect. This does not affect our Pinelands North sport programme as our sport is purposely **non-contact**!

Although several parents have asked us to return all sporting codes to normality, we decided to continue with our non-contact sports' programme as we felt that it was unsafe to play contact sport, without a mask, when the expectation was that children return to classroom with masks.

Therefore, our afternoon sports programmes will continue exactly as they have until today: both extra-murals provided by outsiders and those provided by the school.

Yours sincerely

Ann Morton
Principal



Pinelands North Primary School

Excellent staff, motivated pupils and participative families working together to provide an inclusive quality education

Dear PNPS Staff

On behalf of the 3rd Year Students of CCE, we would like to share our sincere gratitude to Ann and her dynamic team.

Our short period at your school has been nothing but transformative and inspiring. Every single moment, ranging from a small greeting in the morning to being fully involved on the Sports day has enriched and extended beyond anything we could have hoped for during our TP. The energy, relationships, and diversity of all of you, have truly motivated us and has painted a beautiful picture of the endless possibilities and future of education.

A special thanks must be made to Ashleigh, for welcoming and orienting us into, what initially seemed as an intimidating experience. As well as the Grade R, 2 and 3 teachers, for all their guidance, time and ability to include us in their spaces and give us a truly full understanding of the role of teachers. Thank you once again for making this rollercoaster of a journey, an enjoyable one. We wish all of you well and hope that you have a fruitful year!

Warm wishes

Amber Engledow, Caitlin Simpson, Allieyah Sulaiman, Sharna Ranjith

Good Day Erica

Hope you are well.

Please can we ask that you pass on a message to Ann Morton and absolutely all of the staff, yourself included. We have been so impressed with the school and we want to express our sincerest gratitude for being so warmly welcomed and included in the Pinelands North Primary School family every step of our journey.

Even though it has been just 3 weeks, we have noticed a huge shift in both of our children and we want the whole school to know it. Our children have become so enlivened and passionate once more about their schooling and we are very happy and proud to see these shifts in them. School projects have been so relevant and exciting to them both. How absolutely exciting for a 12-year old to be researching how to make crystals!!! And for a 7-year old to be invited to walk in another's shoes - how creative, and so necessary and important.

Mikhail, in Grade 6, also talks endlessly about the hands-on approach of his teachers (Ms Carelse, Mr Coe, Mr Hermans etc) and he feels so well-held and supported. He is feeling motivated to reach higher and grow further. Our youngest, in Grade 1, is always so surprised and super excited to see how her teachers participate in lessons (Ms Culligan, Mr Jay etc) and how they even join in on sports too. And parents who also assist! This is truly a community of learning. Ms Embalo, Ms Wright, Mr Parker - always so happy and chirpy in the mornings - absolutely lovely!!! We are so very proud to be a part of the school!!! Besides the warm welcome and inclusive feel, as well the creative presentation of schoolwork (which does not even feel like work but more of an adventure) we are so pleased with how all the staff really do think out of the box - each and every day. Their creativity, passion and consistent hands-on approach and support, is absolutely remarkable. This comes through in not just behaviour but also how things are languaged. Even right down to the warm, positive and encouraging tone of the school's newsletters! We are so glad to see how the words spoken by Ann Morton are not just words, but they come to life for us each and every day. When we drop our kids off in the mornings, we feel the vibe! And when we pick them up in the afternoons, the excited chitter chatter in the car extends the vibe until long after the end of day school bell has rung. A journey and an adventure have begun for us, and we are looking forward to this ride.

All of the teachers have been so welcoming and their passion and involvement each day has rubbed off on both of our children. We are so blessed and so grateful to have been granted this fantastic opportunity. Please pass on our deepest thanks and gratitude to each and every staff member, they are all making a HUGE difference in the lives of these little ones, and in the lives of their families too! When family members have told us that we cannot go wrong with choosing Pinelands North as our school, they were so very right. With careful intention, support and encouragement, anything (and everything) is indeed possible!!! A huge thank you to all!!!

Kind Regards

Ayesha & Deon

(Parents to Mikhail and Ayla Schreuder)

School Dates for 2022

COASTAL CLUSTER: EASTERN CAPE, KWAZULU-NATAL, NORTHERN CAPE AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCES

January 2022						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2022						
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March 2022						
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April 2022						
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May 2022						
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29	30	31				

June 2022						
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July 2022						
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31						

August 2022						
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28	29	30	31			

September 2022						
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October 2022						
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30	31					

November 2022						
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December 2022						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Weekends	School days	Special school holidays
Days for administration	Public holidays	School holidays



Awareness:

What can parents do? It's important to be aware of what your kids do online. Tell your kids that it's important to:

- **Be nice.** Mean behaviour is not OK. Make it clear that you expect your kids to treat others with respect, and to never post hurtful or embarrassing messages. And ask them to always tell you about any harassing or bullying messages that others post.
- **Think twice before hitting "enter."** Remind teens that what they post can be used against them. For example, letting the world know that you're off on vacation or posting your home address gives would-be robbers a chance to strike. Teens also should avoid posting specific locations of parties or events, as well as phone numbers.
- **Follow the "WWGS?" (What Would Grandma Say?) rule.** Teach kids not to share anything on social media that they wouldn't want their teachers, college admissions officers, future bosses — and yes, grandma — to see.
- **Use privacy settings.** Privacy settings are important. Go through them together to make sure your kids understand each one. Also, explain that passwords are there to protect them against things like identity theft. They should never share them with anyone, even a boyfriend, girlfriend, or best friend.
- **Don't "friend" strangers.** "If you don't know them, don't friend them." This is a plain, simple — and safe — rule of thumb