



Newsletter 13/2021

27 July 2021

Dear Parents

We hope you all managed to have some relaxing moments with your family over the past few weeks. As a country we have really had our fill of sadness, death and negativity and I'm sure none of you have been immune to this. I keep reminding myself that 'this too, shall pass' and we will again be a happy prosperous nation. Hang in there in the meantime.

Staff

Look out in the next week for our latest teambuilding activity: Each team had to design a t-shirt for themselves and then we had them made by Lisa Johnson who teaches at Red Roots.

Covid realities

- Please ensure your children remember their masks daily: they should always carry a spare one in case they need to change one at school. Also remember to see if they fit properly, particularly if your children are wearing the same ones that they started with.
- Take a moment to remind the whole family of their responsibilities in the communities they interact with – remain 1,5m from someone else, keep your mask on while interacting with them, try to stay outside or in a well-ventilated space and sanitise often.
- The Delta Variant does seem to be affecting younger children more than the previous variants. When your children start flu symptoms, treat them immediately as if they have Covid until you have confirmed otherwise.
- The only change to school arrangements for term 3 is that school starts at 8:15 instead of 8:30. All other times remain the same, including afternoon sport. As sport is part of the timetable, it does not stop when the weather is bad – school closes at 15:00 on those days for those grades.
- Bicycles:
Children are allowed to come to school on their bicycles, if accompanied by a parent to sign them in. The new location of the bicycle rack is outside the learning support office, on the way to Red Roots from the Hall. The rack has a limited storage capacity and will obviously be on a first come, first served basis. Even though our school is relatively safe, please send a locking device for the bicycle.
- Almost all of the staff have completed the vaccination process and I hope that you all will take the opportunity when it arrives. Remember that everybody over 35 years can now get their vaccination. However, vaccinations will not stop you from getting Covid or from passing it on to someone else, but you will not get severely ill.

Term 3 Planner

- The term 3 planner will be uploaded on the Edana Parent Portal. Important dates are on the planner for this term.
- **Monday 9 August** is a Public Holiday and school will be closed on this day.

Arriving late for school

Please remember that school starts at 8h15 this term. Last term some of you were meeting me frequently at the front door of the school in the mornings...PLEASE insist on your children arriving at school on time. By 'allowing' your children to arrive late you are teaching them that it is okay not to meet deadlines and you are teaching them to be disrespectful of education, learning and teaching...

Dropping children off in the mornings

Please remember that although the staff have 'trimmed' the questions they ask you every day, they are still asking your children to consider carefully whether they should be at school that day:

- Do you have a temperature?
- Are you feeling nauseous or vomiting?
- Have you been in contact with anyone you know who could pass on the virus?
- Do you have a cough?
- Do you have a sore throat?
- Do you have body aches?

Academic achievement

Congratulations to the following grade 4 – 7 pupils who attained 75% at the end of last term:

Grade 7	Grade 6	Grade 5	Grade 4
Kathryn Langdon Derek Meyer Sara Toefy Farin Kalil Kaylin Mathews Jonathan Maginley Zoe Wolhuter Liam Moodley Matthew Hill Nicole Williams Qayla Hendricks Saaliha Toefy Kate Muller Abdul Kader Peters Cassidy Adams Jana von Pressentin Lucy Birch Koketso Nkoko	Tatum Blick Luqmaan Hay Liam Fransman Kendra Matthysen Kirsten Wolmarans Sophia Harrod Metaya Fortune Emily Richards Arden Janse van Rensburg Cameron Edwards Thomas Wiseman Mogammad Deen Adams Alicia Tuffin Flynn Davison Jaden Beukes	Clare Farrell Simon Goldstein Nima Shanly Imrah Ebrahim Luca Milandri Iris Versfeld Naomi Ncube Awra Atsilut Isla Patrick Alyssa Petersen Nurah Galvaan	Sabine von Pressentin Sanaa Talip Ethan Groenewald Kayden Brand Nina le Roux Naomi Weilbach Mischa Forbes Beth Manuel Nathan Tuffin Charlotte Green Emma Thomas Ammaarah Vadee Maarya Kathree Gabriella Petersen Nina Janse van Rensburg Peter Becker Aaren Gopaul Mogamat Ziyaad Koopman Isabella Fehrsen Matthias Mullenburg Adeeb Hendricks Kirsten Turner

Inclusion at Pinelands North

Pinelands North is not a 'special' school. We don't have access to free therapy and we don't offer a 'one-stop shop' for families with special needs children...yet! All we do, every day, is try to look at problems differently, without blame, and try to make a positive difference in a child's life and therefore in that family's life too. In our admission policy we say that we will offer education to those we think we can help, and sometimes we try to help but eventually realise that there is a better place for that child, where they can flourish better than in our environment. Please don't advertise our school as the panacea to every child's problem...special schools are still needed...

School lunches

- Please discuss school lunches with your child. Do you need to adapt their lunch to their changing needs? Children should have enough food for all breaks and for extramurals after school.
- Remember too, that Pinelands North has a healthy eating policy, and this means that food provided at school should always be the best possible option. Try to include fruit, vegetables, protein and carbohydrates every day, and if you include bread, choose the healthiest one you can afford.

Early Act

- A huge thank you to those who donated towards our stationery drive. Please see the letter on page 8.
- A reminder that Triple J Day will be taking place this Friday, 30 July. The class that brings the most items to donate will win a free civvies day!
- Food Fridays will be continuing every second Friday from this term.
- Our knitting initiative is ongoing, so beanies and blanket squares can be dropped off at the reception office.

Numbers for 2022

Thanks to the families who have already informed us of their plans for next year – it really helps us to plan so much better! Please complete the reply slip at the end of this newsletter and return by the end of this week so that we can interview new families for the extra places. If there is even a possibility of your children leaving, and plans are still uncertain, please indicate this so that we can plan accordingly. We promise not to exclude your child from the school.

School Budget Meeting

Another reminder that the Governing Body will present the proposed budget and the annual school fees for 2022, at this meeting on **Tuesday 28 September, at 19h30** in our school hall. This meeting will be preceded by the parent meeting at 19h00. The Finance Committee have already prepared the budget and will present it to the Governing Body for ratification on 24 August.

Music

We have several music instruments to rent out to pupils. Our music policy is that anyone taking lessons must have the instrument with which to practise at home. As instruments are expensive, parents are loathe to buy an instrument when they are not sure that their children will continue with lessons after starting. Now is your chance! If you wish your child to hire the violin, saxophone, or flute, contact Thomas de Bruin to book the instrument you would like to hire. Obviously, any breakages or loss would have to be covered by yourselves, and a contract would have to be signed with the school.

Unabridged Birth Certificates

A reminder to parents who intend applying for a child to attend our school in the future - please apply timeously to the Department of Home Affairs for the child's unabridged birth certificate, as it's needed for enrolment.

Uniform

Thank you to those parents who have donated items of uniform. If you have any good secondhand uniform to donate or sell, please send it to the uniform shop with your name and contact number attached to it. As soon as the uniform is sold, you will be reimbursed, less 10% for the school. Should items be too worn or stained they will not be sold in the shop.

Support your family has access to at our school.....

Did you know that your local school provides an amazing support service to all families? Chanel Coetzee heads our department, and she and her staff are always available to you as a parent, to your family as a whole and to your children. Maybe **you** didn't know that...maybe you still thought that the learning support co-ordinator still only taught children who struggle to learn...very far from the truth. Chanel's email address is learningsupport@pnps.co.za if you need to contact her.

Medication at school

A reminder that children may not keep medication in their school bags for consumption during the day. Any medication which needs to be taken during a school day must have prescription information on the outside and must be taken to Erica first thing in the morning. Your child can then go to her to take it when necessary. A note needs to be included indicating the child's name, dosage, regularity, and permission to administer. This doesn't apply to asthma pumps obviously.

Payment of school fees

- A reminder to those families who still pay their school fees in cash, that the SGB has made the debit order system or internet banking the only acceptable payment method. Cash deposits cost the school unnecessarily and we will have to charge the deposit fee to your account. Contact Crystal Dougall if you need a debit order form.
- Families should have made 7 monthly payments for school fees already this year. Please contact Crystal if you are having problems with your payments or your account.
- Payments for any additions to the programme that you choose for your child, like Aftercare or music lessons, need to be made or your child will not be allowed to participate – these programmes are funded directly by your fees, and cannot be cross subsidized.

School Yearbook

The preparations for our annual school yearbook are in full swing. Should you be interested in advertising in this annual magazine, please contact Jill at hadmin@pnps.co.za for the form. The exact costs are as follows:

- full page colour advertisement @ R1300
- full page black & white advertisement @ R1000
- half page colour advertisement @ R940
- half page black & white advertisement @ R530
- quarter page colour advertisement @ R530
- quarter page black & white advertisement @ R330
- colour insert advertisement @ R220
- Black and white insert advertisement @ R175

- Families can also 'sponsor' a page in the magazine. Pages can also be sponsored by a group of friends – divide the cost of the page between you! Please see the advert at the end of this newsletter for sponsorship price options.

Finding your passion changes everything!

Sir Ken Robinson is well known in education and on YouTube. My relationship with this esteemed visionary started I think, when I watched one of his TEDx talks; How Schools Kill Creativity! After watching this, I shared it with my staff and with those parents who attended the Red Connect meeting at the time. Converts emerged from both! If you haven't seen the YouTube clip, do so or read Sir Ken Robinson's books - they tell the same story: that we, in education, need to recognize that children today will live in a world we cannot even begin to conceive, and that we shouldn't be trying to conform these children into the education patterns we had - the world today is different and schooling needs to be too!

Lost Property

A reminder to please check the clothing (and other items) your child brings home, as it's very easy to inadvertently pick up someone else's clothing. Remember too to mark everything, including shoes.

Can you help?...

- Our ducks always need snails – when gardening, please remember them before throwing the snails over the neighbour's fence! The ducks and bunnies are also always appreciative of fresh vegetables!
- Our finches, ducks, cockatiel, hens and budgies are always in need of food. If, while shopping, you feel the need to do so, please buy seed for them and send to school. We would be most grateful.
- Our grade 1 classes always appreciate scrap paper which they can use for drawing on, and several classes use the cupboard from cereal boxes. Please send to Erica if you can help us collect these.
- Aftercare and the art department are always in need of scrap fabric, buttons, beads, wrapping paper, ribbons...in fact anything that could be used for craft work. If you have these to throw out, send to Erica who will steer them in the right direction.
- The admin department is running out of 'recycled' paper for printing draft documents – if your business has paper printed on one side only, or at the top or bottom only, collect and send to Erica – if you include a name for a business contact, we will write to thank them too.
- Thanks for all the knitted squares we keep receiving...we now desperately need people to sew/crochet/knit them together! Again, contact Erica if you can help.

And finally...

Thanks to our amazing staff who all contribute much more to our school community than is usual – I am reminded daily that the people who work at this school have superhuman powers that are not usually associated with schools in South Africa. Thank you to everyone who contributes to making my job easier, and our children's school lives a joy!

Yours sincerely



ANN MORTON
Principal

Reply slip – 2022 attendance at PNPS
Please return this slip to the class teachers

The family **will** attend Pinelands North Primary School in 2022.

Child's namecurrent grade

Child's namecurrent grade

Child's namecurrent grade

The family **will not** attend Pinelands North Primary School in 2022 as

Signature Date

(Indicate if signature is that of: Mother/ Father / Other legal guardian)



Show your support!

Pinelands North Primary School

YEARBOOK

PAGE SPONSORSHIPS ARE NOW ON SALE

Dear Family and Friends

We would like to offer you a chance to sponsor a page in the annual school yearbook. Each year we invite family members and friends to sponsor a page for and from anyone they choose. Your contribution enables us to ensure that the yearbook remains affordable for everyone, and makes our book more personal as well.

Below is a pricing guide, as well as some examples of messages which could be placed in the yearbook - be as creative as you wish! We will place your message on a page that features the pupil you are sponsoring.

"GOLD" SPONSOR - R175

An individual page with two lines of text.

"This page has been generously sponsored by (Message)"

This page is sponsored by the grandparents of Kaylee Atwood.

This page is sponsored by the parents of Jake Freeman.

This page is sponsored by Ashton Porter's dog Mr. Hobbs.

"SILVER" SPONSOR - R125

A shared page with another Silver Sponsor - one line of text.

"This page is sponsored by (Name)"

This page is sponsored by Cassie's Albright's friend Shelly Thompson.

This page is sponsored by Jamie Flee's Aunt Mary and Uncle Harry.

"BRONZE" SPONSOR - R100

Name listed on a sponsor page with a list of other sponsors.

This page is sponsored by Alex Wright's sister Annie.

Should you be interested in sponsoring a page, or wish to find out more, please call Jill Pasqualle at the school or email hadmin@pnps.co.za.



LERATO'S HOPE
Love always hopes 1 cor 13:7

30 June 2021

Pinelands North Primary
Cape Town
South Africa

RE: Thank you

Dear Students and Families of Pinelands North Primary School

On behalf of the board of Lerato's Hope, thank you so much for your donation of stationery items! Your contribution will go as part of our 2022 stationery drive handover in Thabo Mbeki Community, located in Lower Crossroads.

We have a close partnership there through the leadership who identify specific vulnerable families each year in need of stationery assistance for their kids. The numbers are usually 120 – 150 kids each year. A few other organisations also contribute through school uniform sponsorship.

Warm Regards and may God bless you

Stephany Rajagukguk
Project Co-ordinator

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