

## PINELANDS NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Newsletter 14/2021

10 August 2021

Dear Parents

### **Staff**

Gareth Dreyer will be getting married at the end of this month, and Maike Felmore, Tamlyn Gregory and Megan Smith have got engaged this year. Congratulations to all families!

### **Updated Disaster Management Gazette**

Many of you would have heard that this Gazette has been published. The 'changes' published were:

- A 1 metre social distance between people at school isn't a change as it has been less than 1,5 m for about a year already,
- Contact sport and matches can resume, without spectators.

After a meeting today we have agreed that the school will not start contact sport now. We have also agreed that we will not start interschool sport matches. Brent Walters, the Head of Education in the Western Cape, wrote a letter to principals and Governing Bodies to plead for 'caution and restraint' when considering restarting sport. Contact me if you are interested in receiving a copy of his letter.

### **Morning Drop offs**

Remember that we only have half an hour to process all our families arriving at school in the mornings. Please can we remind you therefore to ensure your children's luggage is on the seat with your child, or in easy reach so that you don't need to get out of the car to help them. Remember too to hug and kiss goodbye before getting into the car so that the leave taking can happen quickly.

### **Adaptations to the school plant**

- Public Works will be on site to repair the roof/walls of the grade 5 passage from today. The reinforcing is expanding as it rusts, and this is causing cracks in the plaster.
- Speed bumps- another welcome addition to our roads is the surprise building of traffic calmers in the front of the school. We have asked for one at the back too and hope this will happen soon. Thank you to the City of Cape Town who funded this for us.
- We have heard we might also be getting a 'stop and go' section at the back of the school soon...

### **Budget meeting SGB**

Another reminder of our annual September meeting. The Governing Body Finance Committee are working on the budget and will present it to the full Governing Body for approval later this month. Our thanks to all members who have spent hours in debate, and particularly to Makhosi Ncube, our Treasurer, for the many hours he has put in. If you wish to be involved in the process of deciding on the 2022 school fee, and haven't diarised this date yet, do so now: **28 September 19:30 Bob Shepherd Hall.**

### New buses

Every three to five years the Governing Body replaces our two school buses to ensure absolute safety for children. As one of the buses was hijacked in May, and as this is year four, it was decided to replace the older one at the same time. Two new Nissan Impendulos arrived about a week ago and this week we added a tracking system to them too.

### Camps and Tour

PNPS is still hoping that our annual camps and tour will take place this year. I keep checking in with the WCED about whether permission will be granted and currently the answer is still 'no'. Grade 4 to 6 pupils should be going to Stellenbosch and Grabouw in September, and Grade 7 to the Garden Route in December.

### Curriculum and Assessments this term

The media keeps saying 'woe is us' in education because the children of the country are missing out on their education. PNPS continues to cover the curriculum FULLY and many grades are already ahead of the national curriculum plans. Please don't concern yourself that your children are missing out; they are learning everything expected of them.

Most schools have only just completed their term 2 assessments last week. This means that they will only start teaching term 3 work next week. We have been informed that therefore most schools will only complete the curriculum up to the end of term 3. This is not the case for PNPS.

However, we have decided not to have a 'formal assessment week' this term as 'exams' used to be written only in term 2 and 4. This will give all grades the opportunity to assess each subject when they are ready to do so. This continuous assessment is what is supposed to happen every term but we like to give our children the opportunity to learn how to write examinations too.

### Numbers for 2022

Thanks to the families who have already informed us of their plans. If you haven't sent your reply slip back, please do so as it is important that we have a commitment from everybody – if families suddenly let us know in December that their children will be leaving, not only will you need to pay one term's fees for 2022, but we will then need to find replacement children at the last minute. Please rather inform us in advance, even if your plans are not definite – we promise not to be "offended" by you moving your children! We currently have no places for 2022 - if you have friends or family who have applied, please tell them that the chance of getting into the school, is VERY slim.

### Early Act

- A huge thanks to everyone who donated items for Triple J Day! A total of 1006 items were donated. These items have been distributed to four different charities. Thank you for your generosity.
- Our next event is Casual Day on 3 September. For R20, children will be able to purchase a Casual Day sticker at school and wear civvies for the day. The theme for this year is **COURAGE+KINDNESS**. If a sticker is purchased, children can come to school dressed in something that makes them feel brave. The kindness part of the outfit will come from purchasing and wearing the sticker. Since this event is on a Friday, the grade 5's will be having their Casual Day on Thursday, 2 September as they are off on Fridays. All proceeds will go towards The National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD). Let's see how courageous and kind PNPS can be on 3 September! Please see the flyer on page 6 for more information.

## Events

With the term ending abruptly, we were not able to have our grade R and grade 7 Showcases at the end of last term. These will both take place tomorrow. See table below with important dates of upcoming events:

Week	Dates	Workshop	Info	Presenters	Sign Up
3	11 August 2021	Grade 7 Showcase	Our rescheduled Grade 7 Virtual Open Day will take place on 11 August 2021 from 10:00 – 10:45. This event will be an opportunity to take a look at our new way of learning, how we incorporate new skills and teaching techniques within the classroom and can be viewed via Zoom.	Joanne Peers	Link will be sent to each grade for Open Day.
3	11 August 2021	Grade R Showcase	Our rescheduled Red Roots Virtual Open Day will take place on 11 August 2021 from 11:00 – 11:45. This event will be an opportunity to take a look at our new way of learning, how we incorporate new skills and teaching techniques within the classroom and can be viewed via Zoom	Joanne Peers	Link will be sent to each grade for Open Day.
5	25 August 2021	Techniques for approaching assessments IP 2	Part Two – “ Techniques for approaching assessments.”	Joanne Peers	<a href="https://forms.gle/3SdAGXBc8oLWypJs6">https://forms.gle/3SdAGXBc8oLWypJs6</a>
7	8 September 2021	Literacy Development	This workshop will cover the different types of language used in assessments and how to encourage the use and understanding of these language terms in everyday activities. Furthermore, an overview of some tips and tricks to approaching assessments will be discussed eg how to approach questions and answers and how to find answers in a text.	Desi Nicolopolous	<a href="https://forms.gle/cpahPRfvfevQGfMy6">https://forms.gle/cpahPRfvfevQGfMy6</a>
8	15 September 2021	Sensory Regulation Workshop	This workshop will cover: *What is sensory regulation and how is it important for all of us? *Understanding levels of alertness *Practical strategies to help your child regulate at home, after school, during homework and before bedtime *Helping your child to become more self-aware for self-regulation	Caitlin Kitshoff	<a href="https://forms.gle/JhWQurv9fo5PmzRz7">https://forms.gle/JhWQurv9fo5PmzRz7</a>
9	22 September 2021	Techniques for approaching assessments FP	This workshop will focus on techniques that can be applied during an assessment process in the Foundation Phase	Haley Holton	<a href="https://forms.gle/xAznk3tH3EUr9agr5">https://forms.gle/xAznk3tH3EUr9agr5</a>

## **Solidarity Fund**

We have again been gifted bags of wood (kindling or fire starters) to sell in order to bolster the Solidarity Fund. The purpose of this fund is to support our families in need. The bags will be sold at R25 each and can be ordered via the Karri app. Please make use of this opportunity to see you through the rest of the cold winter days.

## **Yearbook Sponsorship**

Should you be interested in advertising in this annual magazine, please go to this link

<https://forms.gle/bv4dp9vtEuNdJE7UA> for the form or contact Jill Pasqualle on [hradmin@pnps.co.za](mailto:hradmin@pnps.co.za)

## **Unhappy about something?**

- Should you have a school-related issue that you're unhappy about, please discuss it with the relevant staff member, an HOD, Shereen Stadler or me. If you're unsure who the best person is to assist you, ask Erica and she'll point you in the right direction.
- I know emails are popular, but you will know how hard it is to get the tone of an email right. Please call me if you are worried about something – I will happily chat to you on the telephone and then we can decide if the 'worry' requires a face-to-face meeting at the café.



## **The Principal**

All parents were at school once and have their view of what a principal does and how that person should behave. I don't fit that usual box! I do not sit in my office waiting for 'naughty' children to punish! Last week I had 3 meetings with families who were appalled that 'the principal' had been involved in the management of their children...and how had this matter 'escalated' so quickly to the principal! This principal is involved in positive discipline strategies, in changing children's stories and is present all over the school during a day. That means that I am present when staff and children need me to intervene and support positively.

## **Whatsapp Parent Groups**

At the end of term 2 I started Parent Information groups to provide instant information if needed during Covid crisis. It has really helped send information rapidly. If you are not yet on one of these groups, PLEASE follow this link to join: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/IOvDg6SagSBGv2XFYi5Q0D> Parents requested that we start groups like this so that they don't have to be on parent initiated Whatsapp groups as the tone of these is often negative. Instead of complaining to other parents about your personal issue, please rather contact me or someone else on the staff who can give you the right information. It would be better for you to contact me, rather than for me to have to contact you to correct information.

## **Twitter, Instagram and Facebook**

Pinelands North is on all these social media platforms so if you wish to join/follow our school, the hashtag for our school twitter account is **@Pinelands\_North**, my twitter account can be found at **@MortonPrincipal** and on Facebook we can be found at **Pinelands North Primary School. Red Roots** also has a separate FaceBook page so please 'like' both pages. On Instagram, **pnps\_theredschool** is our school's handle.

## Online School

Tamsin Carelse is continuing to investigate best practice and visit schools who are using online schooling, with the idea that we start a 'hybrid' model of learning in 2022. This will mean that families will be able to sign up for the online school rather than a face-to-face school should they choose to do so.

## Our Thanks

- Thanks to all families who 'work' with their children every day. Thank you for the language games you play, for the reading of bedtime stories and for the family board games. We know that it takes time out of your day, but it is worth every second!
- Thanks to those families who are working very hard to provide healthy treats for birthdays. We are loving seeing them arrive!
- Thank you too for supporting all our 'drives' – for clothing, for charity, for donations, for plants and for animal food.

## Can you help?

- If you know the names of some possible funders, people, or companies who you think we could contact to fund school fees for children in need, please contact Tania at school.
- Some grades are doing needlework this term and so we need small beads and embroidery hoops. Send to Erica and we will pass them along if you can assist.

Yours sincerely



ANN MORTON  
Principal

## **YUMMY SNACKS FOR LEARNERS & PARENTS @ R315**

Click on the below link to place your Montagu Smile Snackbox order.

Valid until **6 AUG 2021** \* Thanks for supporting our school!



**Mango Fruity Bears 50g, Mixed Berry Fruity Bears 40g, Strawberry Fruity Bears 40g, Peach Fruit Flakes 40g, Apple Fruit Flakes 40g, Rooibos Fruit Cubes 50g, Blueberry Fruit Cubes 50g, 2 x Corn Chutney 40g, 2 x Fruit Drops 50g, 2 x Choc Peanuts 50g, 2 x Pretzel, Peanut & Choc Snack 50g, 2 x Yogh Peanuts 50g, 2 x Wine Gums 60g, 3 x Choc Eggs 50g**

# Casual Day

with Persons with Disabilities

# Courage + Kindness

inspired by



3 SEPTEMBER 2021

**NCPD** National Council of & for  
Persons with Disabilities

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