



## PINELANDS NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Newsletter 17/2021

21 September 2021

Dear Parents

### Staff

- World Teachers' Day is always celebrated on 5 October every year. So, take a moment this year to celebrate your own teachers – the people who probably taught you most of what you know! Then take a minute to think of the special people who teach at Pinelands North – the more I am exposed to teachers around the world, the more I realise that we have something very unique at the Red School – our teachers love their jobs and can't do enough for your children and the community at large! Celebrate them in any way you can!
- In celebrating the staff, consider the fact that for the past two weeks we have had an average of six staff off daily and on some bad days, as many as ten! This has meant that we currently have one grade permanently set up in the hall so that only two staff can manage a full group. Please be accommodating when emailing staff at the moment – it is very likely that everybody will be teaching every moment of the day, including non-teaching staff! Emails and Zoom meetings might need to be done only after 3!
- The staffing situation is only going to get worse before it gets better. Two intern teachers are qualifying this year and need to complete teaching practices away from PNPS. Megan Smith started at Silverlea Primary yesterday and will be there for the rest of the term, and then will start at Pinelands Primary at the beginning of term 4, for three weeks. Stanley will spend five weeks of term four at Langa High School.
- Thank you to Nicole Ncube who did a fabulous job managing our school reception desk while Erica Steenberg was off sick. Thank you Nicole!

### Covid Protocols Term 4

The SGB met on Friday morning to review school return in term 4. As there is no change to the 1 metre social distancing rule, the number of pupils coming to school daily needs to remain the same ie Red Roots, grade 1 and grade 7 will arrive every day, and grade 2 – 6 will continue 4 days in 5.

If you are willing to be part of the discussion for 2022, please join us in the hall at 13:00 on Friday 15 October. At this meeting we will look at the current Covid rules and consider our options for a full return next year.

### School Fees meeting

- A reminder that the annual Budget Meeting will be held in our school hall at 19:30 on 28 September. Makhosi Ncube, the Treasurer, will present the proposed budget and school fee for 2022 to all those present. Please see the minutes of the 2021 Budget Meeting on the Edana App.
- It will be preceded by the school AGM where the SGB Chairperson, Gouwa Ebrahim, will report on the year so far.
- Final accounts will be sent at the end of November. Please settle these as soon as possible and if you have problems, please contact Chrystal Dougall to make an arrangement.

### Family Wellness Bingo

Yesterday every child at school received a sponsorship card to participate in our annual staff fundraising. This year the whole family needs to be involved to increase family wellness by eating healthily, exercising regularly and doing good deeds for the world. The money raised will assist us in purchasing Chrome Books for use in the classrooms.

### Pyjama and Cupcake Day

Our Red Connect Committee would like to thank parents for their generous donations of delicious and interesting cupcakes. The children always look forward to coming to school wearing pyjamas!

### **Early Act**

Due to the success of our Shake and Bake sales on Friday 10 September, we will be selling Pancake mix again. As Friday 24 September is a Public Holiday, we will be selling on Thursday 23 September. A limited number of pizzas bases, rotis and honey will also be sold. Thank you to all those families who continue to support Food Fridays. The money we are raising is really making a difference in the lives of many.

### **Our wonderful parents**

I know I tell you often that you are wonderful as a school community but recently the school has been gifted by several parents:

The Naidoo family left the country for Portugal on Sunday and delivered a picnic bench to the school in memory of their happy days with us.

Three of our dads have died of Covid recently and each of their families has decided to gift us with a fruit tree in memory of their loved ones: Dimmitri Giannakis, Robin Richards and Saudiq de Wet.

### **Online School update**

Tamsin Carelse continues to investigate and learn loads. We have 3 children who will continue at PNPS in term 4, even though they will be overseas for the duration. If you are considering moving countries, don't forget this option is now available. Long term plans could involve children starting their schooling with PNPS remotely, no matter where they live in the world!

### **Technology devices at school**

A reminder that children should not have their own devices at school without the permission slips from their parents completed and with the knowledge of their class teachers. Some children need the assistance of tablet technology for their individual learning, and if this is so, the staff will discuss this with the parents before a tablet can be brought to school. Don't let your children convince you to allow them to bring any of these valuable items to school unless the staff have been included in the decision. Refer to the website for this policy.

### **Robert and Clarke, our 'school' cats**

Catherine Champanis, the neighbour who owns our ginger boys, has asked me to let you know that her boys are well looked after by Heather Hill, another parent of our school who runs the Pinelands Village Vet. Clarke is almost 14, has feline AIDS and has lost loads of weight. Robert has a skin condition that requires him to be bathed with special shampoo regularly. Both have all their teeth removed because of allergies. Thank you for the concern you show about our adopted children.

### **Pupil dishonesty**

Please have a discussion with your children about when it is right that they 'tattle tale' on their peers. We have in the past had to deal with issues in which children put themselves at risk, and when we investigate, we find that their friends knew what was going on but didn't tell anybody.

### **Library news**

- All library books are due next Wednesday , 29 September – late books will incur fines, so please encourage your children to return their books as soon as possible.
- If you come across a book you think we should have in our library, please chat to me about donating it to the library. Libraries are flexible, living things which should grow according to the needs of the community.

**Caroline Eriksen**

### **Lost Property Hero**

Please make sure that your children's uniform, lunch boxes and water bottles are clearly marked. The 'lost and found' box is overflowing with so many unmarked items. Nicole Ncube has offered to be the 'hero of this portfolio as she has realised the enormity of the task while at the school for Erica. Her cell number is 082 0911 009 and she would appreciate you Whatsapping her. Thanks Nicole!

### **Healthy eating**

Thanks to all the families who have been thinking creatively about lunch box foods and birthday treats. Please share your recipes with us and we will share them with the school community.

### Covid Sport update

Schools are continually being asked to reconsider interschool sporting events as often these match days become a seed of cluster outbreaks of Covid. This is the latest communication we received from Head Office:

*Colleagues as you know, all inter-school activities are open for learners' participation. I urge you to encourage your principals to participate in intra-school activities (inter-house) activities rather than inter-school participation during this time. I realise that there are schools that have opted to participate in inter-school competitions and if they do, please remind them to ensure that ALL COVID19 protocols are being followed and adhered to.*

### Term 4 Sport Plans

- Sport in the final term will continue in the sports' hours. Swimming, softball and cricket skills will be the focus during these sports' hours, with mini matches as part of the plan.
- Sporting clinics will continue in term 4:  
On Thursdays grade 4 to 7 pupils can sign up for either swimming or softball clinics:  
To join swimming, pupils will need to be proficient in swimming and swim at least a length in crawl. Previous squad swimmers would be ideal candidates for this clinic. The first session will include an assessment for proficiency.  
The softball clinic will be held for those who wish to perfect their skills, so ideally candidates would have the basic knowledge of the sport. The first 30 pupils will be accommodated.  
A cricket clinic will be held on Saturday mornings for grade 3 to 7 pupils. This clinic will come at additional cost. Josh King, our Sports' Administrator, will send more communication about all three, closer to the time.
- Interhouse swimming galas are planned for the end of November for both Foundation Phase and Intermediate Phase.

### Grade 4 – 6 'camps'

Next week our Intermediate Phase will hold their school 'camps' on our field. The staff from Simonsberg will be here to facilitate the learning we would usually enjoy at their campsite. All grade 4 to 6 pupils should wear their sports uniform on the days they are on the field. Grade 4 civvies day will be on Wednesday instead of Thursday. Please remember sunblock and hats!

Grade 6 Monday 27 September 8:00 – Tuesday 28 at 11:00

Grade 5 Tuesday 28 September 11:30 – Wednesday 29 at 14:00

Grade 4 Thursday 30 September 8:30 – 14:00

### Holiday Programme

Below are the activities for the programme in October 2021. Applications open today and close 1 October. Please remember that Holiday Care works on a first come, first serve basis. If you are booking for more than 1 child, please fill in separate forms. Here is the link for the Holiday Care Booking form: <https://forms.gle/U4Q5CUybVnzuAJEF7>. **Please follow the link, read the letter**, and make sure to answer **ALL** the questions with the red asterisk \* as we will not be able to book your child/ren without this information. **Please make a note** of the days and activities you book for your children, print this sheet, highlight it, and pop it on your fridge.

Holiday care is R60 per day plus any additional costs. All charges are **non-refundable** and must be made within 48 hours of your booking being confirmed. Please make your EFT reference your child's first initial, their surname and HolCare (eg M.Mouse HolCare). Our banking details are: Branch Name: Nedbank Pinelands Account Number: 1047018306 Branch code: 104709.

This will be the **last** Holiday Care programme for 2021! Please send an email to Toni Adams at [aftercare@pnps.co.za](mailto:aftercare@pnps.co.za) if you have any questions.

MONDAY 4	TUESDAY 5	WEDNESDAY 6	THURSDAY 7	FRIDAY 8
<b>MUSIC MONDAY</b> We're starting a band! Join us for a day of Musical Madness!	<b>MINUTE TO WIN IT!</b> We're testing your speed and skills	<b>A MEXICAN FIESTA:</b> A Creatively Colourful Day!  <b>R35</b>	<b>PHOTO FUN DAY:</b> Come with your 'Influencer A game' and smile for the camera!  <b>R25</b>	<b>BRAAI DAY:</b> A day of food, friends and lots of fun!  <b>R50</b>

Toni Adams – Head of Aftercare

### End of Term arrangements

- School closes at 11:00 on Friday 1 October and reopens on Monday 11 October. As the sport hour is part of the timetable, this hour will continue in the final week and start on the first day of term 4.
- School rotation will remain the same in term 4. With no change to social distancing, and no extra staff, term 4 will remain the same the rest of this year. This means that the following grades will continue 4 days in 5 until the end of the year, with their work from home day being:  
Monday grade 4  
Tuesday grade 3  
Wednesday grade 6  
Thursday grade 2  
Friday grade 5
- Civvies day is Thursday, 30 September and the fine is R10 as usual. Grade 2 and 4 will have their civvies day on Wednesday 29 September.
- Reports will be published on the Edana portal by 15:00 on 1 October. Please print the report, comment, sign and return by the end of week 1 of term 4. Contact Martin Adamson if you cannot access your child's report.

Yours sincerely



ANN MORTON  
Principal

PINELANDS NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the SGB will meet with the parent body on **Tuesday 28 September 2021, at 19h00**, in the Bob Shepherd Hall.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Red Connect Report
4. Governing Body Chairperson's Report
5. Closing

PINELANDS NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

**SCHOOL BUDGET MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the Budget meeting of the above school will be held on **Tuesday 28 September 2021, at 19h30** in the Bob Shepherd Hall.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes
3. Budget Presentation
4. Voting on Resolutions for 2022
5. Closing

Parking will be available in the staff parking area at the hall or in Richmond Avenue. Parents are kindly requested to adhere to the traffic rules.

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