

Newsletter 19/2021

26 October 2021

Dear Parents

Staff

- Megan Smith and Stan Chilambe are still completing their practice teaching at other schools and will return early in November.
- We have interviewed 5 Presidential Interns who we hope will start with us on 2 November: 3 in the teaching side of the school and 2 in Operations.
- Three Teaching Interns have also been appointed during the past 2 weeks. These staff will join us in January 2022. Brandy Verheem is a past pupil and she will join the grade 6 team, Chad van Schoor has been teaching in Hong Kong for 4 years and he joins the grade 5s, and Alison Johnson will join the Red Roots team! Welcome everyone!

- **Teaching staff for 2022**

Red Roots	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
Genevieve Mayne-Carney	Candice van Zyl	Suzette Embalo	Erin Petersen	Mariam Ackerman	Shanique Adamson	Tamsin Carelse	Bev Pereira
Pam Berry	Michele Visser	Megan Smith	Kwakwadi Maditsi	Tamlyn Gregory	Stanley Chilambe	Gareth Dreyer	Raymond Coe
Mandy Edwards	Vera Nkhahle	Julia White-Philips	Ky-leigh Wright	Lynn Hendricks	Chad van Schoor	Brandy Verheem	Jarrood Jansen van Rensburg
Lisa Johnson	Cherwyn Geswindt					Josh King	Shereen Stadler
Alison Johnson						Ashleigh Craig	
Donwyn Hermans							

Should I vaccinate my children

Since March last year when COVID reached our country, we have had to deal with a lot of stress, trauma, and vulnerability. We have all had to make decisions about who we trust to give us reliable information and what we should do to keep our loved ones safe. There have been very public conflicts on the impact of COVID, the measures taken to contain spread and – most recently – vaccination. You may well have experienced similar conflicts in close relationships. It has not been easy.

As a doctor working in COVID outbreak response and vaccine rollout, I hope to be able to provide context for what is now, yet another decision presented to us as parents: should we vaccinate our children? As parents, it is natural and right that we would have questions about the safety of

vaccines and their necessity in children. In addressing these concerns, here are key insights that should be factored in:

- COVID vaccines approved in South Africa are **highly effective** at preventing hospitalisation and death due to severe COVID. Both international and local data on hospital admissions bear this out.
- These COVID vaccines are **safe**. The side-effects have been consistently and rigorously studied from the early stages of development in clinical trials and on an ongoing basis as they have been rolled out worldwide. This includes the vaccination of children.
- The development and approval of the vaccine took significantly less time than is usual not because it was rushed but because it was **prioritised**. The same rigour for approval was applied.
- Severe side-effects from the vaccine occur but are **vanishingly rare**. The severe effects of **COVID occur at a disproportionately higher rate**.
- Although the efficacy and value of vaccines has at times been disputed on social media, these claims are unsupported by ongoing rigorous scientific study. The vast majority of the scientific and medical community are in **full support** of vaccination.
- High vaccination rates within our school community are **protective** to everyone, particularly to younger children who are not yet eligible for vaccination.

Recognising that for many parents there remain questions and concerns about vaccinating children, we would invite you to share these with us via [this online form](#). We would welcome the opportunity to provide evidence-based answers in subsequent newsletters and to provide links to trustworthy resources.

At present, mass vaccination offers us the real prospect of curbing the devastation of successive waves, allowing society to return to some kind of normality and making it possible for children to return to school full-time and with minimal disruption.

Dr Claire Draper

Vaccination Drive

A reminder to Grade 6 & 7 parents of children aged 12 and older, that Salmarz Pharmacy will be available at the school tomorrow to vaccinate. Please sign up and register your child on the Department of Health Covid Site <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/> **AND** on our Google Form (<https://forms.gle/G8L RTPnuY7JzPhNj8>) to ensure that the process runs smoothly.

Covid Regulation Changes

According to the latest Disaster Management Amendment last week, spectators are now allowed at school sporting events. Social distancing, sanitising and mask wearing still apply. At the end of this term the school has planned two galas and so we will allow one parent per family to attend if you would like to do so. The number restriction is obviously because parents and children will need to be seated 1 metre apart as per the regulations. More information later in the term.

Family Wellness Bingo

Please don't forget that the form and money is due on Friday! Should your family however really want to spend the weekend doing more, please do so and return the form on Monday. Ideally, we would like finalise this fundraising event by next Friday so winners can be announced early the following week.

Election Day

1 November has been declared a public holiday so school will be closed that day.

Early Act

- Below are the items that will be sold on Fridays.
29 October: Organic Honey for R70
12 November: Pancake Mix for R40
26 November: Rotis for R30
10 December: This will be based on the most in demand product above
- A reminder that the **Food Drive** is happening this week (25 - 29 October). The class that collects the most items by 29 October will receive a free civvies day!
- **The Tree of Joy Project:**

This is the brief I received from Jo-Anne:

Jabez Foundation has partnered with 20 creches and has a 17-year relationship with the 20 beneficiaries that are from vulnerable areas close to home (PNPS). The Project aims to bring hope to children that have unemployed parents and no food. The Tree of Joy Project entails giving a Christmas gift to a child who would otherwise not receive one. If you wish to participate, you will be given a child's name (age included). You may then fill a shoebox with a gift or gifts, wrap the box and create a label. We ask that you purchase the toy and encourage your children to help choose, wrap, and write a special card. It can be handmade to make it personal. Having your children involved helps them to understand the situations others are in and promote empathy and a kind heart. If you wish to participate, please sign up on the Google Sheet. You are welcome to sign up for multiple boxes if you are feeling generous! [Tree of Joy sign-up sheet](#)

Should you know of any corporations that would also wish to participate, please forward Jabez Foundation contact details as their choice of charity to Jo-Anne - 0848675110.

Megan Culligan

Full school return term 1 2022

At the meeting with parents and SGB last Friday it was agreed that the school could return to full time teaching for term 1 2022. This will mean that every grade will attend school 5 days in 5 days from January to March, assuming South Africa is not in a full lockdown.

It was also agreed that during term 1 a team of parents be prepared to assist teaching staff to try to prevent burn out, as teaching staff would be teaching full time without any breaks. Jacqui Tooke will be meeting with us this week to work out these details.

During term 1 the situation will be reevaluated to make plans for term 2: with no spare inside venues and the weather being unpredictable, this might mean reverting to 4 days in 5 during the winter terms unless other plans can be made to prevent this.

School times 2022

We have adjusted school starting and ending times for 2022 because of all grades will return fulltime. Several grades have been at school far longer every day than they should have been so this will apply from January 2022:

Red Roots times will revert to: 8:00 – 12:30 daily

Grade 1 and 2: 8:00 – 13:30 daily

Grade 3 – 7: 8:00 – 14:05 daily, with one day extended to 15:00

Three breaks of 15 minutes will continue to divide four periods in each day, allowing for full proper ventilation of teaching spaces in between. The Foundation Phase classes will have their breaks at the same time and the Intersen classes will too, allowing the staff to have fewer people on break duty – at the parent meeting Dr Draper told us that numbers in a space do not apply to schooling so we can have as many children outside as necessary.

The sport hour will continue with grade 1 and 2 doing theirs before school ends, and grade 3 on Wednesday, grade 4 and 5 on Tuesday and grade 6 and 7 on Monday from 14:05 – 15:00.

Difference between Bullying and Disagreements

One of the most time-consuming issues that management needs to deal with is parents who don't understand the difference between two children who are having a temporary disagreement and when their child is being bullied by another.

Bullying is the **REPEATED** name calling, smacking, tripping and making fun of a child, but when a child is hurt, either accidentally or in a 'violent' manner, parents will often allude to their children being bullied. Before you, as a parent, accuse a child of being a bully, or the school of 'doing nothing about bullying', please read the definitions.

The school always intervenes with both the bully and the victim because both need intervention. The school does not have to disclose what the interventions are because these are considered private. Both sets of parents are always involved if bullying is happening. We also email or phone you if your child got hurt accidentally or in a disagreement but expect you to trust us to know the situation and how much intervention is needed from you, ourselves or others.

Stationery

Stationery lists have been emailed to parents and loaded on the Edana App. Orders should be placed **online directly with Masons**. Please read the instructions and information carefully to avoid confusion when ordering. Stationery collection will take place on the school field on Wednesday 1 December 2021 from 13:30 – 17:30.

Tania Jansen van Rensburg

Library News

A reminder that all PNPS library books and box books should be **returned by Friday, 12 November**. Overdue fines also need to be settled by the 12th. If books are not returned, the current value of replacing the book will be billed to your school account, and your child will not be allowed to take any books from the library until the account is paid.

Caroline Eriksen

Class Photos

Class photos can be ordered via Karri at R45 each. The closing date for orders is 7 November 2021. Contact Crystal Dougall on bursar@pnps.co.za if you have any questions. There is a link on the Karri app where photographs can be viewed.

Uniform Shop

In preparation for next year, the Uniform Shop's additional trading hours will be as follows:

- Thursday **9 December 14h00 - 16h00**
- Saturday **15th January 9h00 - 12h00**
- Saturday **29th January 9h00 - 15h00**
- We will also have an online collection day on **Monday 17th January** where parents will be able to **JUST collect paid online ordered items between 12h00 and 14h00**
- A Google doc will be sent out in a later newsletter for parents to sign up and choose a day and time to come to the uniform shop.

Fees

- We are approaching our last month of fee payments. Our fees are invoiced over 11 months, ie January to November. The paper levy, 2022 diary and yearbook charges will be included automatically in the last debit order run, unless a contrary arrangement is made timeously with Crystal Dougall in the fees office.

- **Fee collection**

While collecting school fees, our finance department sometimes comes across parents who find it difficult to agree between themselves on financial matters. It is important for our school not to be drawn into this type of conflict. It is equally important for all parents to understand that, by law, both parents are responsible for the payment of school fees regardless of the status of their relationship. Our finance department has the task to ensure the collection of school fees according to our finance policy and the law. In fulfilling this task our team do their very best to be sensitive to the circumstances of all our families. At the same time, where a conflict between parents exists, one parent cannot expect the finance team to refrain from contacting the other parent.

- **Debit/Credit Card Facilities**

Remember that we have debit/credit card facilities in the Finance Office, so please avoid cash payments. EFT payments are always a better option. Our banking details are:

Nedbank (Pinelands)

Account Name: Pinelands North Primary School

Account number: 1047018306

Branch Code: 104709

Current Account

School Governing Body

Keep Them Together

There is a flyer on page 7 of the newsletter about an initiative the school is running to assist a family in literally keeping the children together at school. Please feel free to share this flyer far and wide.

Online Schooling

Tamsin Carelse continues to prepare the school for an online version of PNPS. Staff development in 2022 will focus on training every teaching staff member learning how to prepare and teach online versions of their lessons one hour every week. This will mean that should the school ever go into lockdown again, or children leave the school to go on sabbatical with their parents, learning and teaching can continue as before.

This online school will allow families to travel overseas while still educating their children with us! If your family is considering doing this next year, please email tamsincarelse@pnps.co.za so she can start some planning. In the future the school could accept children to learn online, and this could become another income generator to supplement school fees. Watch this space!

Barefoot around the school

A reminder that children should arrive and leave the school in shoes! I know that this isn't happening currently, and we are not 'patrolling' it either as there are far more important issues for families to deal with. Please be informed however that this means that your child may be more at risk of hurting their feet during school time.

Yearbook

We are very excited about our yearbook in which we celebrate 2021! This year we will again print copies. This publication is a wonderful keepsake. We have managed to again negotiate a good deal with the printers and are able to keep the cost at the low price of R100! Every family will be invoiced for 1 yearbook, and it will be handed out on the last day of term. Should you wish to purchase a second copy, please contact Crystal Dougall.

Squid game on Netflix

Although I haven't seen this program, my staff who have, tell me it is excessively violent and inappropriate for children. We have noticed that some children are playing an 'innocent' game on the playground called by this name and this is creating intrigue for other children to watch. Please police what your children watch as your children influence other children's emotional safety.

Lost Property

We have so much lost property, and it seems to double every day! Please contact Naomi Ncube on 082 091 1009 if your child has lost any items. Usually named items are returned when found, but unmarked clothing ends up staying in the box until we donate it to the uniform shop or to charity. If you buy secondhand uniform, please remember to remove the previous owner's name and clearly mark it with your child's name

And finally... to those families celebrating the Jewish festivals and to those who will celebrate Diwali, may your families be blessed.

Yours sincerely



ANN MORTON
Principal

#KeepThemTogether

Let's help four PNPS children, raised as siblings by their foster mom, to stay at PNPS and to stay together.



The Siya Belana Fund

PNPS values inclusion that recognises that all children benefit from schooling together across differences in ability, race, gender, religion, language and family income.

PNPS also values **excellent education** which includes the provision of qualified and passionate teaching staff as well as quality school resources.

PNPS has worked hard to address inclusion in many ways but the most challenging is including children whose guardians cannot afford the school fees. Fees are required to ensure the excellent education. How can we include economically disadvantaged children without expecting all the parents to subsidise, thus raising the school fees and making them unaffordable?

This challenge presents an **opportunity** to invite our school family, alumni, broader community, and the corporate sector to **partner with us in making quality education more accessible by contributing to PNPS's Siya Belana Fund**. Siya Belana means "We Share" in isiXhosa.

#KeepThemTogether

Last year, a foster carer of four PNPS children lost the sponsorship she had been receiving from a UK based charity. The pandemic had wiped out the charity's income resulting in their withdrawal of funding to the foster mother. This created a huge upheaval, in multiple ways, for her and the children. The worrying threat was that **the children may have to be separated** from each other.

Motivated by the values of inclusion and excellent education, **the school committed itself to fundraising** to cover the fees of these children each year. This relieves the burden of the now income-deprived foster-carer, without increasing school fees for everyone, knowing that many parents are struggling financially due to the pandemic.

We aim to raise funds for these four children's school fees for the remainder of their time at PNPS, with the big dream that this type of support could grow to include more children.

The goal is to raise R86 706 for 2021.

Reasons to support

- You want to participate in PNPS's embrace of care around these four children.
- You believe that the hard work of inclusion is required to build our country.
- You received an excellent foundation from PNPS and want to pay it forward.
- Your CSI goals resonate with this initiative.

How to support

- Regular monthly gift
- Regular annual gift
- Once-off gift
- Undertake to support one pupil's fee expenses for the remainder of their time at PNPS

All gifts qualify for a Section 18a Tax Exemption Certificate.

Next steps

- Change your fee debit order to include your monthly gift. Email: bursar@pnps.co.za
- EFT:
PNPS
Nedbank, Pinelands
Acc Nr 1047018306
Branch Code 104709
Current Account
Ref #KTT and surname

The Siya Belana Fund is an initiative of Pinelands North Primary School.

For more information email Tania Jansen van Rensburg on businessmanager@pnps.co.za

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1 November 2021

NEW

TASTY DELICIOUS SAUCES

Marty's Sauces will donate towards the PNPS Solidarity Fund for each bottle sold, giving hope to a family in need.

When you buy any Marty's product "YOU" will be HELPING a new business grow AND we thank you for you for your kind contribution.

THE JOURNEY OF MARTY'S SAUCES
For those of you who don't know us, our names are Jill and Mark Muller and we are the founders of Marty's Sauces. Our sauce and salsa blends have been homemade from our own kitchen since 1978. We have been passionate about our products since then. We have been fortunate to have our products available in many of the top 500 restaurants in the world. We have been proud to have our products available in many of the top 500 restaurants in the world. We have been proud to have our products available in many of the top 500 restaurants in the world.

PLEASE COMMENT AND SHARE MARTY'S SAUCES. WE WILL APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK AS WE WANT TO IMPROVE SO THAT WE CAN BE IN THE TOP 5 SAUCE BRAND CHOICES IN THE NEXT 3 YEARS

Jill Muller

PRICE LIST

Original BBQ	275ml	\$25.00
Sticky Asian BBQ	275ml	\$25.00
BBQ with Honey & Mustard	275ml	\$25.00
Smoky BBQ Spicy Chicken	275ml	\$25.00
Original BBQ + Sticky Asian BBQ + Secret BBQ Spicy	1L	\$75.00

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