

Dear Parents

### **Celebration Tree**

Maike Felmore and her artists created the most beautiful celebration tree this year. The tradition at PNPS is that every year the children create a tree which is then auctioned for charity in the final weeks of the year. The tree is currently in the school foyer if you wish to view it. The reserve price for this year's tree is R2000 and if you would like to pay that, or more, send your bid to Tania asap.

### **Fees 2021**

- A final reminder that all school fees are due this month. Please contact Crystal Dougall should you need to make any other arrangements for payment.
- Our school yearbook has been completed and delivered to the printers! Thanks to all who edited, wrote and took photographs to create such a lovely representation of 2021! The cost of the book is R100 and this amount has been added to your school account. Should your family want an additional copy please contact Crystal.



### **Early Act**

- PNPS has always been a school which has been involved in giving to those in need. Since the establishment of the Early Act in 2004, one of the main aims has been to put all charity drives under one umbrella. This ensures that as a school community, we are able to help as many people as possible, and the number of drives do not overburden our parent body. Please be reminded that no one, besides the Early Act co-ordinator along with the Early Act members, may drive any charity event at school, or use the resources of our PNPS community.
- Tree of Joy  
A huge thank you to all the people who have signed up for the Tree of Joy. At the moment, we are able to provide gifts to two different charities and 128 children. If you still wish to sign-up, please add your name to the list. The list will be closed as of Friday, 26 November. Those who have signed up should have received their gift labels from the class teachers.

#### **FAQs:**

1. *When is the gift due?*

The due date for the gifts is Monday, 6 December. Gifts can (and we encourage that they) be brought before. The gifts must be placed under the Celebration Tree in the foyer with the label clearly attached.

2. *Must the gift be in a shoebox?*

No, the gift can be wrapped in any way you wish: a gift bag, wrapping paper, a gift box etc.

3. *What must the gift be?*

A suggestion has been made by the organisation for either cars or dolls. However, you are welcome to use your discretion and choose whatever gift or gifts you feel are appropriate.

4. *How much should it cost?*

Usually, the gifts are about R200 but this is up to the buyer. Please be thoughtful though. Buying a very expensive gift for a child, while extremely generous, may be upsetting for others.

5. *What must I do if I have lost the label?*

If you have lost your label, you can make a new one using a small piece of card. Please write the details on this new card e.g., Name, Age, Institution. All these details can be found on the Tree of Joy sign-up sheet. [Tree of Joy Sign-up Sheet](#)

### **Family Wellness Bingo Fundraiser 2021**

Thank you to all the families who enthusiastically participated in the family wellness bingo! We have raised an amount of R50 490, and this will be used to purchase new Chromebooks.

#### **Grade prizes**

R Jorja Hess R700

1 Calista Smart R630

2 Zola Duncan/Quaid Holton R500

3 Chase Rudolph R1250

4 Daemian Killian R220

5 Zakariya Abrahams R325

6 Thomas Wiseman R1000

7 Jason Steppe R550

#### **Class collecting the most for ice cream and civvies party**

Grade 2E

#### **Top 3 in school for Bargain Book vouchers**

1 Chase Rudolph R1250

2 Thomas Wiseman R1000

3 Jorja Hess R700

#### **Family Prize for picnic hamper**

Duncan family

### **My School Fundraising**

Thanks to all the families who continue to provide the school with extra funding through using their My School Cards – the latest amount received was R1 864.32. If any member of the family requires extra cards or if you have friends who don't have children and who would 'donate' a portion of their purchases to us, contact Erica for an application form.

### **Holiday Programme**

We are offering Holiday Care at a basic cost of R60 per day from 10 – 14 January 2022. Remember this when you plan for your children. Holiday Care booking forms will go live on **Tuesday, 30 November 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/EASLEHCMuhiSYxCb9> 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. Please see page 8 of this newsletter.

## School Hours 2022

As you know all grades will be returning to school every day in 2022. To keep some of the real successes of the past two years, we have merged the new and old ways of school times, breaks and sport. In a nutshell these are the times for 2022:

### School hours:

Red Roots	8:00 - 12:30
Grade 1 and 2	8:00 - 13:30
Grade 3 – 7	8:00 - 14:05 4 days a week, 15:00 one day a week
	Grade 6/7 Monday
	Grade 4/5 Tuesday
	Grade 3 Wednesday

### Breaks:

3 breaks of 15 minutes each

Grade 1 – 3 9:15 – 9:30, 10:45 – 11:00, 12:15 – 12:30

Grade 4 – 7 9:30 – 9:45, 11:00 – 11:15, 12:45 – 13:00

### Drop off times and places:

Red Roots	7:40 – 8:00	Red Roots gate in Wythenshawe
Grade 1 - 3	7:40 – 8:00	staff carpark, Richmond Avenue
Grade 4	7:40 – 8:00	Richmond Avenue as Grade 3 currently
Grade 5 – 7	7:40 – 8:00	line up quad, Parkchester Avenue as Grade 4 – 6 currently

### Collection times and places:

Red Roots	12:30	Red Roots gate
Grade 1 and 2	13:30	staff carpark
Grade 3	14:05 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday,	staff carpark Wednesday 15:00 line up quad
Grade 4	14:05 Monday, Wednesday – Friday,	Richmond Ave Tuesday 15:00 line up quad
Grade 5	14:05 line up quad Monday, Wednesday – Friday	Tuesday 15:00 line up quad
Grade 6 and 7	14:05 Tuesday – Friday line up quad	Monday 15:00 line up quad

## Library

A final reminder that all library books had to be returned by **19 November**. Please check with your children and have a look wherever books are kept in your homes (as they can easily be mixed up) to see if you have any school library books that are outstanding. 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.

## Book Sale

The Book People will be here on 1 & 2 December to sell a variety of books. Books will be sold on a COD basis to the value of approximately R100. Unfortunately, no parents are allowed to come to the book sale.

## Textbooks

Also, please make sure that your children return their textbooks for each subject on the day that they write the last exam for that subject. Please make sure that the book that your child returns is, in fact, the one that was checked out on their name at the start of the year to avoid confusion later. As with library books, the current value of the textbook(s) not returned will be billed to your school account.

## **Stationery Collection 1 December**

A reminder that stationery you ordered from Mason will need to be collected from the field, between 13:30 and 18:00.

## **Other fees 2022**

In the final week of last term, the Governing Body presented their ratified budget to the parent body and it was unanimously adopted. Look on our website if you didn't receive that information. Other fees for 2022 are as follows:

### **Music fees**

- One individual lesson per week:  
R530 in 2021 - R5 830 pa to R570 in 2022 – R6 270 pa
- Two individual lessons per week:  
R870 in 2021 – R9 570 pa to R930 in 2022 – R10 230 pa
- One group lesson per week:  
R330 in 2021 – R3 630 pa to R355 in 2022 - R3 905 pa
- Two group lessons per week:  
R615 in 2021 – R6 765 pa to R660 in 2022 – R7 260 pa
- One individual and one group lesson per week  
R805 in 2021 – R8 855 pa to R860 in 2022 – R9 460 pa

### **Creative and Talented**

R370 per month over 11 month - R4 070 pa

### **Aftercare**

Gr R-3: R10 835 pa or R985 per month over 11 months

Gr 4-7: R10 065 pa or R915 per month over 11 months

Ad hoc: R60 per day

Halftercare: R5 940 pa or R540 per month over 11 months

## **Galas**

Two galas will be held at our pool on consecutive days in December, one for Foundation Phase and one for grade 4 – 7. To allow all children to participate and have spectators all socially distanced correctly, these galas will be divided up for a grade to compete at a time. This will mean that you might need to come for an hour to watch one child and return an hour later to watch another... apologies in advance for this inconvenience. Below are the dates and times:

<b>Thursday – 2 December 2021</b>	<b>Friday – 3 December 2021</b>
8:45 – 9:45 – Grade 4	09:00 – 10:00 – Grade 1
10:00 – 11:00 – Grade 5	10:15 – 11:15 – Grade 2
11:15 – 12:15 – Grade 6	11:30 – 12:30 – Grade 3
12:30 – 13:30 – Grade 7	

## **Awards 2021**

Because of Covid protocols the school cannot hold full awards' ceremonies as we did a few years ago. Each grade will hold their own ceremony to which the parent/parents of the children in their grade, will be invited. All will be held first thing in the morning during this week and next. Depending on the weather and the circumstances, these functions will be held inside or outside, with inside venues allowing fewer families obviously. Please look for the email telling you when your children will be celebrating their year.

## **Can you help?**

Creative and Talented are looking for Garden & Home, and House and Home magazines. Should you have any, please send it to Erica at reception.

## Conquesta Olympiad

Our intermediate and senior phase children participated in the Conquesta Olympia earlier this year. Please see results below:

Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
Ethan Groenewald – Maths 89%	Imrah Ebrahim – English 90%	Sirija Pyda – English 86%	Lucy Birch – English 88%
Mischa Forbes – English 86%	Nima Shanly – English 90%	Sophia Harrod – English 86%	Nicole Williams – English 90%
Nathan Tuffin – Maths 91%	Clare Farrell – English 92%	Jaden Beukes – English 88%	Humairah Vadee – English 90%
Peter Becker - Maths 86%	Simon Goldstein – English 94%	Luqmaan Hay – English 86%	Jana von Pressentin – Afrikaans 90%
Ammaarah Vadee – English 86%			

## Uniform

- In preparation for next year, the Uniform Shop's additional trading hours will be as follows:
  - Thursday **9 December 14h00 - 16h00** - [Uniform Shop Booking: 9 December 2021 - Google Sheets](#)
  - 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**
  - Another link will be sent out in the next newsletter for parents to choose a slot to visit the shop in January.
- Next week a survey will be sent to families about possible changes to our uniform 'rules'. Please complete the survey by Friday, 3 December if you wish to participate.

And finally...

I went back to check on previous newsletters and found this article written by Jacqui Tooke two years ago. Some families weren't at the school then so you might be interested in reading this article about gender at PNPS...

Yours sincerely



ANN MORTON  
Principal



## Gender equality works for all our children

"You've heard the story of Dr James Barry, haven't you?" asked Ann enthusiastically, whilst explaining the various ways teachers can create opportunities for children to engage with the idea of gender equality. I had to confess to Ann that I had not, but made a mental note to read up about it.

I am glad I did as it is a most remarkable story about a young Irish woman who pretended to be a man so that she could study medicine. This took place in the early 1800s when only males could enter the medical profession. She graduated as a doctor and went on to serve as a military surgeon in South Africa and other parts of the world. Wikipedia explains that she "not only improved conditions for wounded soldiers, but also the conditions of the native inhabitants, and performed the first Caesarean section in Africa by an Irish surgeon in which both the mother and child survived the operation". She rose to the rank of Inspector General before retiring. It was only after her death that it was revealed that she was in fact a woman.

### Gender equality at PNPS

Ann explains that stories like this provide a starting point for conversations with children about whether one's gender should in any way dictate what you may achieve. The absurdity of Dr Barry's story also motivates Ann to ensure that no child at PNPS is in any way limited by the straitjacket of gender stereotypes.

Therefore, at PNPS you will not hear, "Boys and girls line up, please"; rather you will hear, "Children line up, please". You will not see a boys' line and a girls' line; rather the children line up in alphabetical order. You will see both boys and girls with long, tied-up hair or with short hair. You will see both boys and girls in the woodwork room and in the needlework room. You will see boys and girls playing cricket and soccer. If you sat at the back of a classroom, you may hear about strong children and sensitive children, not strong boys and sensitive girls. You may hear about heroines and heroes who take turns in rescuing each other. You may encounter a female sports person as the event speaker, or a male poet as the competition adjudicator. Your child may be asked to consider more deeply what it means to say, "Girls don't do that" or "He can't, because he's a boy". Through these deliberate actions, and many more, our children will come to see that it is not their gender that determines their ability or their participation.





For some of us parents this may come as a shock, as we have grown up within the norms of societal gender stereotypes. For other parents, it is a relief that their children can just be themselves. Some parents may not even have noticed, because gender inclusion has been done so matter-of-factly that it seems as though it has always been like this at PNPS.

### **How things have changed at PNPS**

But it has not always been like this. Recently, Ann submitted an article to the Independent Schools of South Africa which documented the mind-shifts in PNPS history. In 1995 the school made a move away from single-sex sports. Boys entering the netball court were led by a boy in a wheelchair who found netball the most accessible for him. In 2004 the SGB introduced the gender-neutral uniform. Ann encouraged this move, recognising that girls should be afforded the same freedoms as boys, which she views as a basic human right.

The biggest mind-shift for Ann took place about seven years ago when a mother of a child who is transgender shared their story with Ann in the hope of finding a place at PNPS for her daughter. In deciding to offer the child a space, Ann knew that she could not remain the same, and neither could the school. Although PNPS was already on the road towards gender equity, Ann knew that deeper work needed to be done to ensure that the child felt that she belonged.

### **Mind-shifts are vital**

Mind-shifts were required of the teachers too. Recognising that teachers are gendered beings and products of their society, intentional training took place with the staff to support them to become reflective and examine their own biases. This is something that we as parents should consider doing too.

Further, guidelines were developed for new staff to help them embrace the school's gender-inclusive ethos. All school policies were aligned to this ethos too. Classroom practices and the curriculum changed to ensure gender was not used to define any child's potential or participation. Library books were reviewed to include stories that challenge gender stereotypes. The SGB made provision for the installation of gender-neutral toilets at the tuck shop and in the main building. This is ground-breaking in the traditional South African school system and should be celebrated and encouraged within other schools too.

As a parent I wonder if I need to make some mind-shifts too? What is happening in my own language and thinking? How often do we limit our child because of their gender? Where do we agree with gender stereotypes in a way that stops us from being who we are? We are never too old to break free from the gender stereotype straitjacket!

### **All our children benefit**

The school's decision to include children who are transgender required significant changes within the school, requiring intentionality, time and finance. However, we need to see that all our children benefitted from these changes. The work done to include children who are different to my child ends up benefitting my child too, that's how inclusion works.

Today, my child may be a boy who loves ballet, a girl who is into mechanics, or a child who is still figuring out his or her gender identity; and we, as parents, will be reassured to know that they will be fully accepted at PNPS for who they are, and encouraged to develop in whichever way they need to. This is thanks to the mind-shifts that Ann and the staff embraced when a transgender child was welcomed into the school.

Do you have any questions about how PNPS makes inclusion happen? Do you have a suggestion for a topic that you would like to see explored here? Please email them to: [communitysupport@pnps.co.za](mailto:communitysupport@pnps.co.za)

## HOLIDAY CARE PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES:

### JANUARY 2022.

<b>MONDAY 10</b>	<b>TUESDAY 11</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 12</b>	<b>THURSDAY 13</b>	<b>FRIDAY 14</b>
<b>COME AND BUILD FORTS WITH US:</b> PLEASE BRING ALONG A BLANKET AND A PILLOW.	<b>FLOAT YOUR BOAT DAY:</b> MAKE A CRAZY RAFT AND SEE WHICH TEAMS' BOAT CAN MAKE IT ACROSS THE POOL FIRST.	<b>WHEELS DAY:</b> BRING YOUR BIKE, SCOOTER, SKATES OR BOARD AND ZOOM.	<b>TIKTOK DAY:</b> WE'RE DANCING AND CREATING. BRING YOUR RHYTHM AND DANCING SHOES!	<b>DESSERTS DAY:</b> WE'RE MAKING YUMMY DESSERTS. <b>R25</b>

### HOLIDAY CARE ACTIVITIES AND BOOKING INSTRUCTIONS

Above, are the activities we will have for the programme in January 2022. Applications open on Tuesday, 30 November and close on 10 December 2021. Please remember that Holiday Care works on a first come, first serve basis. This form is to give you an idea of what to expect when you access the booking form itself. Please do not send this back to us with the days highlighted as it will not be accepted as your booking form. This is merely to give you a preview. I have attached the link below. 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/Rs2T3rQneMnUve4G7> Bookings will go live at 12pm. **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. You will receive a copy of your booking form once you have submitted it. This way you will be able to double check the days you have booked for 2022. Consider printing the copy of your booking sheet and pop it on your fridge.

Please remember that 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 remember to 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.

If you have any questions, please send me an email at [aftercare@pnps.co.za](mailto:aftercare@pnps.co.za)

We look forward to seeing your kids in 2022.

Have an incredible day!

Toni Adams  
Head of Aftercare





# *Pinelands North Primary School*

Pinelands North Primary School  
Volunteering Programme

*Hosted by: Haley Holton, Chanel  
Coetzee & Joanne Peers*

Zoom Link: 97490847860

*Date: Wednesday, 8 December 2021*

*Time: 10:30-11:30*





# PNIPS

## *Pinelands North Primary School*

Ethos of Pinelands North Primary

*Hosted by: Joanne Peers & Ann Morton*

Zoom Link: 97617985451

*Date: Wednesday, 8 December 2021*

*Time: 9:30-10:30*





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# BLACK FRIDAY SALE

'Tis the season to  
give snackies,  
falala-lala la-la la la!



This promo is valid until 26 NOV 2021 and incl FREE delivery to your school