



# PINELANDS NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

## *The Newsletter*



## Highlights & Gratitude: The First Week of School

Less than a week ago, PNPS started our 2024 school year! Wednesday morning was particularly scary and exciting for our grade 1 pupils as they started 'big school'. To make it less intimidating the grade 1 staff decided to invite all grade 1 families to a breakfast picnic that they shared after the rest of the school had gone to assembly. This was a perfect opportunity for families to meet and greet in an informal way, and for the few new school families to meet others.

The staff had been given reflective vests as part of the Under Construction theme. They came to school on Wednesday wearing them, after they had made them reflect their individuality (see the photos on the next page). The rest of the school started with assembly. Thanks to the families who joined us, and remember you are all welcome to join any assembly, any week! The topic for the assembly message was: Have you filled a bucket today? Children were challenged to fill their own and other people's buckets every day as this would create a kind, generous and committed school community, and ultimately change the ethos of our country!

Thanks for the positive feedback for the 'new look' newsletter! If you can think of any way it can be even more inviting and easy to read, please email [thaakirahfritz@pnps.co.za](mailto:thaakirahfritz@pnps.co.za).

Thanks too, for being so kind to our other traffic users and neighbours! We didn't receive one complaint about people parking in the wrong place or causing drama because someone went the wrong way round!

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## Important Updates & Events

### APPLICATIONS FOR RED ROOTS 2025

The School Governing Body invites applications for children born in 2019 to complete their application form available from Erica via [admin@pnps.co.za](mailto:admin@pnps.co.za). The WCED opens online applications on 13 March 2024, which also need to be completed before the closing date on 15 April. All additional information and documents are itemised on the final page of the application, and a letter of motivation is also required. Call Erica at school for further information.

### ENTRANCE AND EXITS

A gentle reminder that the gates are locked at 07h50 when the school bell rings for the beginning of the day. Any late comers need to enter via the main reception gate, and parents already in the school will also need to leave through that gate. Please do not try to leave via the Aftercare or Red Roots gate after the school day has begun. If you intend staying after 07h50, then it's best to park in Richmond Avenue.

### SCHOOL-IN-ACTION DAYS

This year our *visitors* School in Action Day falls on Wednesday, 21 February, but every grade will have their own one too. For new parents, this means a day off work while you come to school to see Pinelands North Primary School in action!

Dates:

Grade 1-3: Thursday 22 February

Red Roots: Wednesday 6 March

Grade 4-7: Monday 11 March

### HEALTHY EATING POLICY

Please remember to pack healthy food, sandwiches, and drinks for your children. Remember, too, that when you start thinking about your child's birthday and what you will send for the class, decide on the healthiest option you can think of. Some ideas we have seen are popcorn, pretzels, small toffee apples, muffins and gingerbread men. Carina at Snax Café has some lovely options!

## Stay Informed & Connected with PNPS

### GRADE MEETINGS

Our grade 4 and 7 parent meetings took place last night, and went swimmingly! We look forward to seeing you in attendance at the upcoming Grade 2, 3, 5 and 6 parent meetings this evening and tomorrow at 17:30.

### EMAIL ADDRESSES

Tania Jansen van Rensburg, Business Manager ([businessmanager@pnps.co.za](mailto:businessmanager@pnps.co.za))

Marissa Armstrong, Finance Officer ([finance@pnps.co.za](mailto:finance@pnps.co.za))

Winsheena Hess, Bursar ([bursar@pnps.co.za](mailto:bursar@pnps.co.za))

Erica Steenberg, Secretary ([admin@pnps.co.za](mailto:admin@pnps.co.za))

Martin Adamson, IT Administrator ([it@pnpsco.za](mailto:it@pnpsco.za))

Josh King, Sports Administrator ([sport@pnps.co.za](mailto:sport@pnps.co.za))

Caroline Eriksen, Librarian ([library@pnps.co.za](mailto:library@pnps.co.za))

Jill Pasqualle, HR Clerk ([hradmin@pnps.co.za](mailto:hradmin@pnps.co.za))

Riaz Parker, Operations Manager ([opsmanager@pnps.co.za](mailto:opsmanager@pnps.co.za))

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: *Pinelands North Primary School*

Instagram: *pnps\_theredschool*

TikTok: *@pinelandsnorthprimary*

# Navigating the New Year

## WATER MANAGEMENT

The Governing Body put lots of money into water tanks, pumps, and new grass on the field to cope with the drought. We have created a roster for different grades to use the field during allocated break times to ensure it isn't overused - as instructed by our contractors. Please send your children to school with a bottle of fresh drinking water every day for their classroom consumption. Our toilets are completely 'off the water grid' and are brown in the toilet bowl because of this. Please discuss with your children that this doesn't mean they are dirty but that the water is discoloured because of the minerals in the underground water system.

## SCHOOL ACCESSORIES

- Hair - Should your child's hair need to be tied up: only maroon or navy bobbles, elastics, scrunchies and head bands may be worn.
- Jewellery – Only plain silver or gold studs may be worn and no bracelets, necklaces, ankle chains or rings may be worn with school uniform.

No jewellery or clothing of a religious or political nature may be worn with school uniform unless the family have applied in writing to the School Governing Body for a deviation from the uniform policy.

## PHOTOGRAPHS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We use photographs of our school and its pupils on various social media platforms to share the positive impact the school has in the community. Send a letter to [thaakirahfritz@pnps.co.za](mailto:thaakirahfritz@pnps.co.za) if you **don't** want your child in these photographs and we will do our best to ensure that it doesn't happen.



## SCHOOL FEES AND FEE EXEMPTION

The debit order system is compulsory unless a different arrangement has been made with the Business Manager. Collect a form from Winsheena Hess if you haven't completed one already. Existing debit orders will be automatically adjusted to accommodate the 2024 fees. Should you have any queries or an existing debit order and you would like to include aftercare, music or creative and talented payments, please email Winsheena via [bursar@pnps.co.za](mailto:bursar@pnps.co.za).

Remember that school fees are divided up into monthly payments only to assist families. In truth the whole year's amount is due on the first day of school, and a resolution in this regard is passed every year at the Budget Meeting in September. This means that the full school fee is legally due, regardless of when school starts.

Very few people know that if they do apply to the governing body for relief, the state does not pay the shortfall – YOU DO! Our school is only given R303 per child annually towards expenses and only 11 teachers' salaries, 1 principal's salary, 1 administrator, 1 caretaker and 2 cleaner's salaries are paid. That's it! All the rest is provided for in school fees paid by yourselves. So, if you are struggling to pay - we understand, but think very seriously before applying for partial fee relief. Should you need to apply, forms can be collected from the finance office between 08:00 and 15:00. In the week of 29 January 2024, completed forms with supporting documentation must be returned to the Business Manager by 9 February 2024 for review by the SGB.

## SCHOOL PETS

Our school has birds in the foyer, ducks, guinea pigs, chickens and rabbits in 'Beck se Plek' and staff dogs whenever possible. We also have several fish tanks of fish of various sizes. The animals at Pinelands North really emphasise who we are: children have often been 're-homed' to our school from other schools, and the animals are what usually helps them adapt, and then flourish! If you feel inclined to buy food for the ducks, tropical fish, finches, budgies, rabbits, guinea pigs, tortoises or chickens while shopping for your pets, it would be gratefully appreciated. Maybe you have a contact for pet food? Please contact Erica if you can help.

## ART CLUB

Art Club is a private extra-mural run by Ms van Rooyen from 14:30 to 15:30 this year. It costs R320 per term.

Grade R - 3: Mondays

Grade 4 - 7: Wednesdays

If you would like to sign your child up for art club this term, please complete the online form:

<https://forms.gle/Hv2c9T23nujklJA47>

Questions? Contact Ms van Rooyen at [art@pnps.co.za](mailto:art@pnps.co.za).

## PARENT PLANNER

Use the link below to add our parent planner to your google calendar and stay up-to-date with the events happening at our school.

[Parent planner 2024](#)



# Discover Relevant Insights

## PARENT WORKSHOPS

Your input is crucial in shaping our efforts to provide effective support, and we invite you to share your thoughts and ideas with us. Whether you have suggestions for workshops that could benefit our parents or specific areas where you believe additional support is needed, your voice matters. Please take a moment to fill in our google form and let us know how PNPS can best support you.

[Parent Workshops Google Form Link](#)

## EARLY ACT

We will be selling Valentines' biscuits and heart lollipops in celebration of Valentine's Day. The biscuits will be sold as a preorder via Karri from Monday, 29 January, and the lollipops will be sold at break time from 7 February. Pictures of products and prices to follow in your grade WhatsApp group. All money raised is for our Early Act Fund.

## MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Please complete the following form to indicate what medication your child is allowed to have at school should the circumstance call for it:

<http://bit.ly/MedicationAdminPNPS>

## SCHOOL POLICIES

School policies provide a framework for acceptable behaviour, ensuring a positive atmosphere conducive to education. If you have not done so, please read the school policies using the link:

<http://bit.ly/PNPSPolicies>

## SQUAT ON A PLOT

Join us on Friday, 1 March, for the ultimate SQUAT on a Plot event! Secure your spot with R300 tickets, pre-order delicious boerewors and breakfast packs, and enjoy food trucks like Hungry Birds and Churn It Ice Cream, dance at the Silent Disco, and indulge in face painting. Mark your calendars for a day of laughter and flavour starting starting from 1 February.

## ATHLETICS EVENTS

Foundation Phase: Saturday, 3 February 08:00 (pupils to arrive by 07:15)

Intermediate/Senior Phase: Thursday, 1 February (track events); Friday, 2 February (field events) 09:00 - 11:00



## Engage, Appreciate & Support Together

### ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies are once a week, and to save time, we haven't scheduled a regular period for this to happen – every week assembly will move to a different time. Each class will also have the opportunity to present an assembly to the rest of the school. Teachers will inform you of the day and time if your child will be on stage during assembly, but you are welcome to join us at any and every assembly.

### LIBRARY

Parents are welcome to visit our library: to spend some quality time choosing books with their children or reading to them. The library opens at 7:00 and closes at 16:00.

### SOLIDARITY FUND

If you find yourself willing and able to assist some of our families struggling to pay for school fees and stationery under the current economic climate, please contact Tania via [businessmanager@pnps.co.za](mailto:businessmanager@pnps.co.za) to find out about how you can contribute to our Solidarity Fund.

### SCHOOL MANAGEMENT TEAM

Should you have a problem which you feel is 'bigger' than a class-related issue, you might want to contact someone on the teaching leadership team. They are:

Ann Morton (*Principal*)

Shereen Stadler (*Deputy Principal*)

Tamsin Carelse (*DH, Intermediate Phase*)

Suzette Embalo (*DH, Foundation Phase*)

Haley Holton (*Head of Inclusive Support*)

Tania van Rensburg (*Business Manager*)

Riaz Parker (*Operations Manager*)

Pam Berry (*Head of Red Roots*)

Thank you to the parents who proactively communicate with us about their concerns. We really appreciate your willingness to work with the school.



# PINELANDS NORTH PRIMARY

## SCHOOL - IN - ACTION DAY

**WEDNESDAY  
21 FEBRUARY  
08:00 - 09:30**

### VISION

Excellent staff, motivated pupils and participative families working together to provide an inclusive quality education – making Pinelands North Primary a leading school on which other schools model themselves.

**Join us for our  
School-in-Action Day**

*To register, email  
[thaakirahfritz@pnps.co.za](mailto:thaakirahfritz@pnps.co.za)*

