



No 6
23 March 2017

Dear Parent/Guardians

Our parents' evening will be held on Thursday 30 March. Please note it will be held from **17h00 to 19h00**. This is a reminder of a most important evening in the school calendar. Parents' Evening is your opportunity to personally collect your child's report, have a look at the accumulation of work done by your child and then to speak to the relevant teacher(s). We would be grateful if you would keep your chat to the teacher(s) brief, as she/he has to see many other parents. Should you require a more in-depth discussion with a teacher, please bring your diary along and make a mutually-suitable appointment for another time.

Please ensure that you write your name on the board in your child's classroom when you arrive. Ms Igrec will be in the computer room and Miss Conidaris, Miss Allison, Mrs Martell, Miss Le Roux and Active Ed will be available in the boardroom. Jann Weeratunga, the author of 'Polly the Parrot' will be in the quad selling her autographed books. Scouts, Yoga, Outliers (extra lessons) and Auto Pedigree will also all have information tables at which representatives will be available to chat to you. The Travelling Bookshop will be in the Media Centre.

As you will have an opportunity to have a good look through your children's books, it might be fitting to address, in this newsletter, the subject of handwriting versus using tablets/i-Pads, etc. Aside from the safety and security aspects, availability of the internet, etc., I would like to share with you the vital benefits of handwriting, both print and cursive.

With typing on computers emerging as the primary tool of communication in the world of technology, many parents feel that teaching handwriting is not necessary and believe the time would be better spent teaching keyboard skills. Research has clearly shown that children are better able to recognise letters if they have practised writing them, as opposed to typing them. The writing condition facilitates an internal model of the letters due to the integration of vision, motor commands and kinaesthetic feedback, which typing does not promote. While typing, children are simply building a cognitive map of the keyboard rather than gaining an extensive knowledge about how to form the letters they are using to create the words they are typing. Much of the benefit of handwriting, in general, simply comes from the self-generated mechanics of forming letters. During a study, researchers conducted brain scans on pre-literate 5 year olds before and after receiving different letter-learning instructions. In children who had practiced self-generated printing by hand, the neural activity was far more enhanced and 'adult-like' than in those who had simply looked at the letters on a keyboard. The brain is a 'reading circuit' of linked regions that are activated during reading, are activated during handwriting, but not activated during typing. "Okay, so handwriting is clearly beneficial, but then why also introduce cursive handwriting; is this not outdated?" This is a question asked by many.

Cursive writing, compared with print writing, is even more beneficial because the movement tasks are more demanding, the letters are less stereotypical and the visual requirements create a broader repertoire of letter representation. Cursive is also faster and more likely to engage children, by providing a better sense of personal style and ownership of the writing. Learning to write in cursive offers brain benefits to children which they don't get from printing letters by hand or 'keyboarding'; it is a vitally important tool for cognitive development. Specifically, cursive writing trains the brain to learn functional specialisation, which is the capacity for optimal efficiency. When a child learns to read and write in cursive, through consistent practice and repetition, he or she must effectively integrate fine motor skills with visual and tactile processing abilities. This multi-sensory experience supports cognitive function and development. Multiple areas of the brain

become co-activated during the learning of cursive writing. It highlights the hand's unique relationship with the brain when it comes to composing thoughts and ideas.

Even more exciting is the belief that learning to write in cursive can help ease symptoms of dyslexia. Since new research shows that dyslexia is caused by a functional disconnection in communication between the auditory and language centres of the brain, it stands to reason that learning to write in cursive can improve these communication deficits. When the tactile experience of using our hands is involved, there is a stronger association for promoting learning and memory. The benefits for brain development are similar to what you get when learning to play a musical instrument. Not everybody can afford music lessons, but everybody has access to pencil and paper. Not everybody can afford a computer for their children, but many such children are not as deprived as we think. Cursive writing can be considered an art form in itself; let us not allow it to become a lost and forgotten art form. Imagine that you had no signature!

Winter Uniform

From the beginning of the 2nd term, children may choose either summer or winter (weather dependent) but under no circumstances can they wear a mix of both...it's either full summer or full winter. We will inform you when the official winter uniform must be worn.

Girls - Winter Uniform

Green tunic or long, grey trousers with white, long-sleeved shirt, CPS tie, CPS striped grey knee socks or grey woollen/ lycra tights (no black or any other colour permitted), CPS jersey, blazer or dry-mac.

Full CPS tracksuit with CPS red winter shirt, white socks and white shoes.

Boys – Winter Uniform

Long, grey trousers with white long-sleeved shirt, CPS tie, grey socks, CPS jersey, blazer or dry-mac

Full CPS tracksuit with CPS red winter shirt, white socks and sports (preferably white) shoes.

REMEMBER TO MARK *EVERY* ITEM OF CLOTHING WITH INITIAL AND SURNAME

Staff

Happy belated birthday to Mrs Bosch – Grade 1 (18 March);

Happy birthday to those who will be celebrating their birthdays soon: Mrs Pampel – reception (24 March) and Mr Ngenda - Grade 7 (30 March).

Auto Pedigree

Please remember, if you are in the market for a quality, used car, to pop into Auto Pedigree in Jan Smuts Avenue. Mention the school when browsing for or buying a car from them and they will contribute R5000 to our sponsored car thus enabling us to own the car at the end of the year. We only have this year left to reach the target so your support will be appreciated and will benefit your children.

Term End

School will finish at 10h30 on Friday 31 March so please collect your children timeously. There will be NO aftercare.

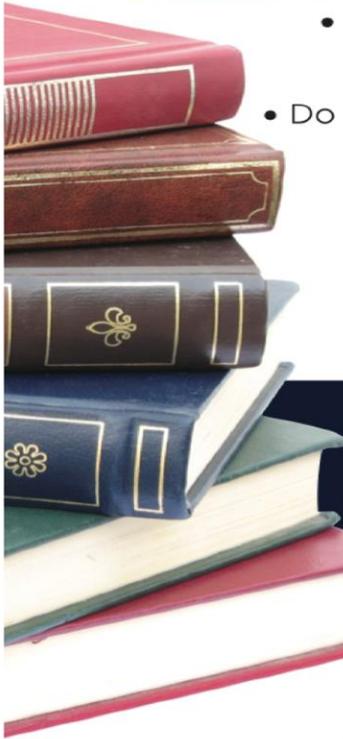
Kind regards

Prout-Jones (Mrs)
Principal

Classifieds

While the school accepts outside adverts, we are unable to take responsibility for the nature and quality of the services offered)

Tutors @ Your Service



- Are you battling in any school subject?
- Do you require assistance, with your homework?
- For top class tuition, give us a call.
- Our tutors come to you.

Contact:

Mandy 082 217 2077
Theresa 083 453 4792
www.tutorsatyourservice.co.za



Central Parks is a vibrant, community of believers with large vision who love Christ Jesus and love the Parks.

We meet on Sundays, 09:30am at
Craighall Primary School.
Cnr Rothesay and Grosvenor, Craighall Park

admin@centralparks.co.za | 082 885 4680
www.centralparks.co.za

THE ADVENTURE CRUISE KIDS HOLIDAY CLUB

Ideal for Grades 1 - 7

DATE: 4 - 7 April

TIME: 8am - 12pm

VENUE: CHRIST CHURCH, BLAIRGOWRIE

(32 Gordon Avenue, Corner Mackay Avenue, Blairgowrie)

CONTACT: Leonard 074 544 3451 / 011 789 1042

COST: **FREE**



03 TO 14 APRIL 2017
STEM FUN EASTER HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Fill the Easter holidays with educational **FUN** and **EXCITEMENT!**

Encourage eager young minds to investigate, explore and invent.

"Thank you for setting up such an exciting educational program! Carter had an absolute blast and we are still talking about it today." – Happy Parent

Supporting and guiding kids innate and natural desire to explore ideas and phenomena, this STEM program is sure to leave a lasting impression. Let your child spend the morning doing **FUN** experiments, hands-on **ACTIVITIES** and learn about **INTERESTING** facts!!

Suitable for ages 4-10

Prices per Child:

Daily Rate: R200 per day
Any 3 Days: R180 per day
5 or more Days: R150 per day

Times:

8:30 - 12:30

Venue:

Blaigowrie Recreation Centre



STEM Science, Technology,
Engineering, Mathematics

Week 1

Day 1: Chemistry of Chocolate

Day 2: Dinosaur Drama

Day 3: Outer Space Adventure + Rocket Launch

Day 4: Principles of Programming

Day 5: Fun with Physics!

Week 2

Day 6: Engineering and Structures

Day 7: Chemistry is Cool!

Day 8: Funny Photons

Day 9: Easter Science + Egg Hunt!

Day 10: Math Playground

PRESENTED BY LIVE KAIZEN (PTY.) LTD.

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