



Scottsville Primary School

Founded 1915

The School that Cares

Newsletter: 1 of Term 1

15 February 2016

Dear Parents

- **Theme for 2016: Alive With Possibility**

This year did not start off on a good note with the devastating robbery, however we remain optimistic about how it will end off. Our Theme for 2016 is Alive With Possibility and that is how we are viewing this year.

- **Staffing**

We would like to welcome the following Staff Members to our Scottsville Family:

- Ms Jenna Andriessen Occupational Therapist
- Ms Sne Chonco Gr 2
- Mr Alphonso Jasson Gr 7
- Mrs Letta Mngadi Gr 1-4 IsiZulu Teacher
- Ms Katelyn Whatmore Gr 3 Teacher Assistant

- **Management Team**

The following Management Team members are responsible for the following grades:

- Gr 1 Mrs Rosario (JP HOD)
- Gr 2 Mrs Nel (Acting JP HOD)
- Gr 3 Mrs Drews (JP HOD)
- Gr 4 Mr Mkhize (Deputy Headmaster)
- Gr 5 Mrs Mannikam (Acting SP HOD)
- Gr 6 Mrs Nefdt (Acting SP HOD)
- Gr 7 Mrs Petersen (SP HOD)

Should the need arise for you the contact a member of Management regarding a concern please contact the relevant person who can assist you.

- **Safety and Security.**

The first week of school resulted in two robberies, the first from a member of the public who entered the school premises under the guise of a parent and stole a teacher's cell phone from his classroom. The second from a well prepared and organized gang, believed to be part of a syndicate. These robberies have resulted in the reviewing of our Safety and Security Policies at Scottsville. The following policies have been introduced:

- No parent may enter the school building unless accompanied by a member of staff;

Theme for 2016: Alive With Possibility.

Incorporating: Scottsville Gardens Pre-Primary School; Scottsville Junior Primary School; Scottsville Senior Primary School

☎ 033-342 5881; ☎ 033-342 3814; ✉ Private Bag 3; SCOTTSVILLE; 3209; Email: headmaster@scottsvillesps.co.za
www.scottsvilleschool.co.za

- No parent may, under any circumstances, enter a classroom without an appointment and accompanied by the teacher;
- All parents are to report to Reception should they wish to convey a message to their child or their child's teacher or should they wish to leave books, clothing or food etc. for their children.

Please respect these wishes and do not feel offended if a child or a staff member escorts you to the Reception should you violate any of the above requests. The policies have been put in place for your child and the teachers' safety and security.

- **Cashless Fee Collection.**

In keeping with our quest to improve safety and security at our school we have implemented a 'cashless' fee collection policy. We do not wish to put ourselves at risk by collecting and holding large amounts of money in our school safe. As you know in the recent break-in our school safe was cut open and money was stolen from it.

We are appealing to all parents to set up **Stop Orders** with your banks so regular payments of fees can be transferred from your bank account to our bank account. This is a hassle free method of payment and we do not have to hold large sums of money in our safe. We do still offer **EFT, Credit and Debit Card** payments. Smaller collections of money for day excursions, photos etc will still be collected in the usual manner. I thank you in anticipation for your cooperation.

- **Term 1 Dates to Note.**

- 17 Feb: SGB Bye Election
- 19 Feb: Mid -term Break (School closes at 12:30)
- 24 Feb: Gr 2 Stories Under The Stars Evening.
- 24 Feb: Gr 7P & 7S Dinner Evening
- 25 Feb: Gr 7C & 7J Dinner Evening
- 29 Feb: Winter Sports' Practices commence
- 2 Mar: JP & SP Class & Individual Photos
- 9 Mar: Cake Sale
- 10 Mar: Inter School Gala at GHS
- 12 Mar: Open Day for Prospective PP Parents
- 14 Mar: JP Sports Academy finishes
- 15 Mar: Fun-in-the-Sun for SP
- 16 Mar: Fun-in-the-Sun for JP
- 17 Mar: Easter Service
- 17 Mar: Scottsville Window On Work (16:00-18:00)
- 18 Mar: Break-up Day (School closes at 11:00)

- 5 Apr: School reopens for Term 2

- **Social Media.**

We have become increasingly aware of the effects of class and peer groups on social media such as WhatsApp. Many such conversations that take place amongst the children are undesirable and are hurtful to others. I appeal to all parents to please check, on a regular basis, what your child is texting on social media. I believe it is the responsibility of all parents to do so.

- **Lost Property and Unmarked Clothing**

I am constantly amazed at the amount of “Lost Property” that is accumulated every term and donated to Charity. Marked clothing is returned to the owners, but unmarked clothing is not retained but sent to charity because it is not possible for children to prove that unmarked clothing belongs to them. *Every term, unmarked clothing is donated to various charities in and around the city.* I do not understand, with the high costs of school clothes, why so many pupils come to school with unmarked clothes.

- **Absentee Letters**

When any child has been absent, it is a legal requirement for parents to furnish the school with an *absentee letter* on the day the child returns to school explaining why the child was absent. Many parents do so but there are an increasing number of parents who are not. Please assist us by supplying an absentee letter every time your child is absent.

- **Mothers Who Care**

Mothers Who Care (MWC) is a non-denominational Christian prayer group that meets monthly to pray for the school, pupils and staff. The purpose is to provide a safe space for mothers to come together, where all prayer requests are kept confidential and no one is forced to pray out aloud. Any moms from Grade RR to Grade 7 are welcome to join! If you would like to find out more about MWC or join the weekly prayer meetings on Tuesdays at 07:45, please contact Simone Job on 033 342 5881.

- **2016 Term Dates**

Term 1	13 Jan – 18 March
Term 2	5 April – 24 June
Term 3	18 July – 30 September
Term 4	10 Oct – 7 December

- **Public Holidays**

21 Mar	Human Rights Day	17 Jun	School Holiday
25 Mar	Good Friday	8 Aug	School Holiday
28 Mar	Family Day	9 Aug	National Women's Day
27 Apr	Freedom Day	24 Sep	Heritage Day
1 May	Workers' Day	16 Dec	Day of Reconciliation
2 May	Public Holiday	25 Dec	Christmas Day
16 Jun	Youth Day	26 Dec	Day of Goodwill

- **Planning Ahead**

Please help your child be organised in the mornings before coming to school. Trying to accommodate children who have left sports kit, books and lunches behind places an unnecessary burden on our receptionist. Please assist by ensuring your child has everything ready the night before school.

- **Finally**

- **Something Interesting!**

In a school community, parents can empower and assist. They can also be extraordinarily difficult and toxic.

The helpful parent:

- Trusts the school – does not enter the community with a combative, suspicious spirit.
- Affirms the child in front of the teacher and the teacher in front of the child.
- Speaks well of the school, in and outside the community.
- The helpful parent raises concerns only with those who have the power to address them, going first to the source (he or she does not go “to the top” before trying to address problems where they appear to occur first).
- Is professional in all dealings with the school and teachers.
- Supports the classroom teacher by expecting children to complete homework and assigned tasks.

The unhelpful parent:

- Exercises power the parent does not legitimately possess.
- Tries to “corner” or befriend the school and individuals in the community to gain power.
- Goes to “to the top” to get his or her way.
- Gossips and spreads rumours about the community, teachers, administration.
- Undoes the teacher’s authority at every possible opportunity.

All of us have the same goals in mind: we want the best for your children. May we support one another in order to attain that goal.

I hope you and your family have a good term.

God bless

RD Nefdt
Headmaster