



Scottsville Primary School
Founded 1915
The School that Cares

Newsletter 1 of Term 2

16 April 2014

Dear Parents

We have just started the new term and before we know it the mid-year examinations will be upon us. Academically, this is a term of continuous assessment in the class for Grades 4-7, resulting in examinations at the end of the term. (See Exam Timetable below)

Please keep an eye on the *Term 2 Calendar* so you are informed of the remaining events of this term.

“The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.”
— Michelangelo Buonarroti

• **Staffing**

Unfortunately illness/injury, apart from the normal colds and flu, has taken its toll on our staff this term:

- Mrs Pool (JP Principal) is still off school and we do not expect her to return to Scottsville;
- Mrs Mannikam is off for six weeks whilst she has surgery on her leg, making her immobile for this period;
- Mrs Paine has also had surgery and will be off for five weeks.

We wish all of them a speedy recovery.

At the end of January Mrs Moodley (SP HOD) resigned and took up a post at a university in Cape Town. Mrs Moodley was at Scottsville since 2004. Mrs Jacobsen has been appointed as Librarian fulfilling Mrs Moodley's role in the Library.

We have had to appoint some of our staff into Acting positions in order to fill these gaps in our school's Management Team.

- Mrs Drews has again stepped into the gap to take over Mrs Pool's responsibilities;

Theme for 2014: Growing Hearts.

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

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

- Mrs Corcoran has been appointed as an Acting HOD overseeing Grade 1;
- Mrs Petersen continues as an Acting HOD overseeing Grade 5 in Mr Marran's absence;

The stork continues to hover over Scottsville School:

- Mrs Cawood has recently left to have her baby and Ms Caitlin Robinson has taken over her duties for four months.

- **Parent Evenings**

- **SWOW**

Attendance at our SWOW evening last term was very well supported. The average attendance across all the grades from Gr RR to Gr 7 was 87%.

- **Parent/Pupil Evenings**

We have several Parent/Pupil Evenings for all our parents and their children at Scottsville this year. The purpose of such evenings is to *Build Bridges* between the parents and the school. We would like to improve our relationships with our parents thus creating more of a *Family* type of relationship. We had also hoped that a high percentage of our parents would support these evenings. Those who did attend spoke very positively about the fun they had during those evenings.

- Gr 1 Games Evening: 9 April.

Attendance figures for this evening were 44%.

- Gr 2 Picnic: 19 March.

56% of the parents attended this fun evening.

- Gr 3 Art Evening: 20 February.

This was a very successful evening with 45% of the parents attending. Parents combined with their children to produce a 'masterpiece,'

- Gr 4 Bingo Evening: 4 March.

The attendance figure for this fun filled evening was 34%.

- Gr 5 Maths Evening: 12 March.

We had a 34% attendance at this evening. However, the response from those parents who did attend was extremely positive.

- Gr 6 Quiz Evening: 18 & 19 March.

Attendance at this Quiz Evening was 43%. The children and their parents took part in the Quiz Evening. Again the response was extremely positive.

- Gr 7 Dinner Evening: 5 & 6 March.

98% of the parents attended this Dinner Evening where parents were treated to a dinner prepared by their children. This continues to be a very popular evening with parents.

- **Important Term 2 Dates**

- 11 April: Applications for 2015 closed
 - 14-16 April: Book Fair
 - 25 April: Mid-term Break. School closes at 12:30

- 7 May: Election Day – No School
- 19 May: Girls change to Winter Uniform
- 19-23 May: Gr 7 Market Week
- 30 May: P-P Mini Comrades Marathon
- 2-10 June: Gr 4-7 Exams start (See timetable below)
- 11 June: P-P Games Evening with Dad
- 13 June: Gr 1-3 Mini Comrades Marathon
- 25 June: 2013 Financial Report-back Meeting
- 26 June: Inter-house Cross Country (Gr 3-7) – 08:00
- 27 June: School closes at 11:00 – end of Term 2.

- **House and Sports Captains**

GILLESPIE

BOYS: CAPTAIN: LUKE NAIDOO V. CAPT: NEILON LOWE
GIRLS: CAPTAIN: SETHABA KHUMALO V. CAPT: ERIN JOB

HANDLEY

BOYS: CAPTAIN: BONGA FAKUDE V. CAPT: ZIPHO NGCOBO
GIRLS: CAPTAIN: KELSEA CANHAM V. CAPT: NICOLE FAULHA

MCDONALD

BOYS: CAPTAIN: AYUSH SITARAM V. CAPT: REECE ANTHONY
GIRLS: CAPTAIN: SHANEL DASHWOOD V. CAPT: YOLANDA KAFESU

WHEELER

BOYS: CAPTAIN: AFIKA FIKENI V. CAPT: MZOKHONA MENYUKA
GIRLS: CAPTAIN: CHARNE GOODAYLE V. CAPT: AMANDA ZONDI

SPORTS CAPTAINS - 1ST TERM

GIRLS' BASKETBALL: SETHABA KHUMALO
BOYS' BASKETBALL: SIPHESIHLE MADIBA
CRICKET: AYUSH SITARAM
GIRLS' SWIMMING: SHANEL DASHWOOD
BOYS' SWIMMING: ANELE HLONGWANE

- **Experiencing Problems?**

Many requests are made almost daily by parents to speak to me or come to see me. Unfortunately, I am not able to see all those people who wish to see me, and often I am not the most qualified to help you resolve your or your child's problem. I would like to remind you that your first resort is your child's teacher, then the Principal/Head of Department responsible for the grade and then me. I do not wish to absolve myself of any responsibility but very often I have to refer problems to one of the above anyway.

The members of management responsible for the various grades are as follows:

Grade RR & R	Miss Gill Abdey (P-P Principal)
Grade 1	Mrs Lauren Corcoran (Acting JP HOD)
Grade 2	Mrs Cheryl Barry (JP HOD)
Grade 3	Mrs Heather Drews (Acting JP Principal)
Grade 4	Mr Bobby Nefdt (Headmaster)
Grade 5	Mrs Desiree Petersen (Acting SP HOD)
Grade 6	Mr Nhlanhla Mkhize (SP Principal)
Grade 7	Mrs Fiona Lake (SP HOD)

- **Exam Timetable – Gr 4-7**

Exam timetables will be handed out to the pupils soon. Grade 4 to 7 pupils will be writing their half-year exams from 2-10 June. These exams are extremely important as the results constitute a high percentage of the marks for this half year, and ultimately the year. Please ensure that your child puts in extra work for these examinations.

- **Fun in the Sun**

Fun in the Sun was just that! Our pupils from Gr RR through to Gr 7 had great fun in the sun taking part in the obstacle course that was set up on our sportsfield. A total of R40 645,56 was raised from this fundraiser! This money is to be used to purchase solar blankets for the JP swimming pool.

“The principle goal of education in the schools should be creating men and women who are capable of doing new things, not simply repeating what other generations have done; men and women who are creative, inventive and discoverers, who can be critical and verify, and not accept, everything they are offered.”

Jean Piaget

- **Exam Timetable:**

Date	Papers	
	1st Session (8-10am)	2nd Session (10:30-12:30 pm)
9 May	Eng Essay (7)	
12 May	Eng Essay (4-6)	Afrik/IsiZulu (7) Spelling and Dictation
Monday 2 June	Maths III (Mental) (4-7)	Afrik/IsiZulu Paragraph (Gr 7)
Tuesday 3 June	Maths II (Problem-solving) (4-7)	Technology (7)
Wednesday 4 June	Maths I (Mechanical) (4-7)	Afrik/IsiZulu Comprehension & Lang (4-7)
Thursday 5 June	Natural Science & Tech (4-6) Natural Science (7)	Arts & Culture (7)
Friday 6 June	Eng Comprehension & Lang (4-7)	Life Skills (4-6) Life Orientation (7)
Monday 9 June	Social Sciences (4-6) Geography (7)	History (7) Afrik/IsiZulu (4-6) Spelling and Dictation
Tuesday 10 June	EMS (7)	English Spelling and Dictation (4-7)

- **Sick Pupils**

This is the time of year for coughs and sniffles. ***If your child is not well, please do not send him/her to school to infect others.*** Making arrangements for a sick child is not easy but it is unfair on other children and their parents, should they contract an illness due to the inconsideration of others.

Should your child contract a *Communicable Disease* (e.g. measles, mumps, chicken pox, TB, ringworm etc.) you are required to notify the school immediately – please do so.

- **Lost Property**

I am 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. Last term four bags of unmarked clothing was donated to various charities. I do not understand, with the high costs of school clothes, why so many pupils come to school with unmarked clothes.

- **Change of Address and Telephone Numbers**

This is always a cause of frustration for our Admin Staff. We find it very difficult to contact some parents because addresses or telephone numbers have changed. **Please** advise Mrs Cheryl Bisschoff (Mrs Meyer for P-P) *as soon as possible* if either of these change. We have had children sick and hurt at school and not been able to contact either parents because of incorrect/out-dated information on our records.

There are three kinds of people in the world, the wills, the won'ts and the can'ts. The first accomplish everything; the second oppose everything; the third fail in everything.

- **Code of Conduct for Learners.**

One of the compliments paid to the school by its parents and members of the public is that it is well structured and there is good discipline amongst its staff and pupils. This can only continue with the support of pupils, parents and staff.

We are also concerned about our image and your children, once again, are our best advertisements. I would like to appeal to you to please ensure that your children are correctly dressed when they come to school, when they leave school and particularly when they accompany you shopping. I have been embarrassed on numerous occasions whilst at the supermarket to see pupils incorrectly dressed, sometimes without shoes! If they are in uniform, *please* ensure that they are correctly dressed at all times.

- **Discipline**

We are finding our children’s discipline very challenging at present. Whilst we must acknowledge there are so many parents/guardians who are doing a commendable job in raising their children, we are finding a small core of children who are pushing boundaries. Our experience reveals that parents who physically show an interest in their children and what happens at school raise well-balanced children who generally perform closest to their potential. Helicopter parents (those who raise their children ‘from a distance’) are not as supportive of their children as the teachers would like them to be.

- **SMS Registration.**

If you have not received an SMS from the school this term then the chances are that we do not have your cell number on our Coretalk (SMS)

System. You would then have to register/re-register by sending an SMS to 083 561 8756 with the following information: **Grade / Parent's Firstname / Parent's Surname / Child's Firstname / Parent's Email Address**

Example: G5 Sifiso Khumalo Nonhlanhla sifiso.khumalo@gnet.com

You may have registered previously but have still not been receiving SMS's. The system was unstable for a while which resulted in some data being corrupted, thus losing some parents' details.

- **Sports Match Attendances.**

Sport is offered at Scottsville as part of this school's holistic educational development programme for our pupils. We expect every pupil, unless there is a valid medical reason, to participate in at least one sport per term. Should a pupil be selected to represent the school in a sport's team, he/she will receive a letter informing him of the arrangements for that fixture. This letter would be given to the pupil at least two days prior to the fixture. Pupils selected to represent the school are then expected to honour that fixture unless the coach receives a written communique from his/her parent/s prior to the fixture.

- **Finally**

Thank you for the support that so many parents give to our school as we *continue to strive for excellence in education*. You have heard this all too often, but I can only stress that our continued success as a school depends on the partnership we share in your child's education. If you have any suggestions, ideas or constructive criticisms on how we can improve what we offer at Scottsville School, please feel free to let me know - we all have the same interest at heart.

God Bless



RD Nefdt
Headmaster