

24th January 2017

YELLOWWOODS NEWS



Dear Yellowwoods Community

We had an excellent start to 2017. There have been certain challenges that are part and parcel of life, but these are resolved with the typical "no nonsense" attitude that has become unique to Yellowwoods. It was also very encouraging to see that two of our new students were named as stars of the week for the seamless way in which they have fitted into our school. This bodes very well for the year ahead.

This year I started giving classes to all grades on the value of emotional intelligence (EQ). It is now commonly accepted that a high EQ is one of the most important factors that determines one's future success. Some of the issues that we discussed during these classes are the way that we communicate with and relate to others, understanding our own emotions and being sensitive to the way that others may feel. An outflow of these discussions was that there are instances of name-calling, intimidation and teasing that take place at Yellowwoods from time to time. I understand that this type of behaviour is as old as time itself and we will always have instances of them, but the fact that the probability of this happening is very high, does by no means make it acceptable. We will never condone or accept behaviour that can be construed as intimidation, victimisation or bullying of our learners by individuals or groups of people. To this end I have discussed this issue with all the staff and senior learners and I requested them to be awake to any instances where this type of behaviour presents itself. The key to stomping out this type of behaviour is to become aware of it and to nip it in the bud before it becomes a serious issue. Please assist us by speaking to your children about it and to implore them to bring any act of bullying to our attention. The staff at Yellowwoods are excited about the year that lies ahead and I have no doubt that it is going to be one of the best years that Yellowwoods has ever had. I hope and trust that the same will be true for each one of you as well.

Yours Sincerely

Ignus Potgieter



Yellowwoods warmly welcome the Grade 1 class of 2017.

All the Grade 1's are very excited to be in "Big School" and are looking forward to a busy fun filled year of learning with their class teacher Mrs Jess Bower.



IN THE CLASSROOM

We welcome all our pupils back to a brand new school year and wish them a happy term filled with learning, self-discipline, true motivation, hard work and some fun in between.

An important reminder about our Parent/Teacher meeting at 17H30 on Thursday in the School Hall. The class teachers will be communicating some academic expectations from you as parents and explaining how our daily classes will happen. Please note that we have a specific homework policy for both Junior and Senior Primary and we expect the child's home environment to complement school expectations in a positive and realistic manner. Homework is intended to be both minimal, constructive and assisting your child to work independently and effectively. The Senior Primary Term Tests are indicated on the Term Calendar.

Please assist your child to know which day in the week, the test is being given, check that the learning preparation is adequate and not forgetting to sign your child's test when he/she brings it home.

Yellowwoods is becoming more involved in the Independent School Examination Board (IEB) assessment standards and methods. This year the Grade 7 class will be writing a benchmarking assessment called

MATCH (Measuring Abilities and Thinking Competencies for High School) in September. The IEB now has an official Primary School Initiative which aims to address specific Primary School concerns around critical learning and assessment practices enabling Primary School Teachers to become more informed about local and international trends in assessment practices. A closing thought for all teachers and parents out there.

"Education is what survives when what has been learnt has been forgotten."

B Skinner

American Psychologist (1904-1990)

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Thursday 26th January** - Parent Teacher Meeting at Yellowwoods starting at 17H30. Parent Teacher Association meeting at 18H30.
- **Friday 27th January** - Grade 3 Bakerman, Hot Dog and Juice for R25.00.
- **Wednesday 1st February** - U/13 Cricket match in Grahamstown.
- **Thursday 2nd February** - U/11 Cricket match in Grahamstown.
- **Friday 3rd February** - Grade 4 Bakerman.