

25th April 2018

YELLOWWOODS

NEWS

BACK to SCHOOL

Dear Yellowwoods Community

We were shaken to the core by the sudden passing of Mr Chris Bush during the holidays. Chris has left an indelible mark on our school during his time as member of our governing council and finance committee. His expertise, energy and dedication are sorely missed. We continue to remember Tamsin, Keenan, Casey and Derrin in our prayers as they come to terms with the unexpected turn that their lives have taken. We will always be grateful for their collective positive impact on our school.

Our winter term has kicked off and both the staff and learners have hit the ground running. This is a very busy term which includes numerous sports fixtures, cultural outings and our annual concert to go along with our already busy academic calendar. The second term is usually a very demanding one and can be quite taxing on everyone – including parents. I once again appeal to you to ensure that your children get enough sleep and rest; especially over weekends. A good rule is to not allow any electronic devices in bedrooms as playing games, watching videos or “chatting” to friends inevitably lead to them falling asleep too late. I guarantee that little sleep and not enough proper rest will lead to a drop in academic performance, emotional turmoil and social issues. You do not have to be a rocket scientist to come to that conclusion. Please assist us in this regard because the holistic education of our learners is and always will be a collaborative effort between parents and the school. We have received numerous reports at the end of the first term from learners who left Yellowwoods at the end of last year; mainly Grade 7 learners. It is heart-warming to hear how each and every one of them is coping very well in their new schools and, without exception, the comments from the other schools reflect the very high academic standards that we set at Yellowwoods. Our learners not only excel academically. Many have made the A teams in rugby, cricket, swimming, hockey and netball in their respective schools and are also performing above average in music and art. In general, the learners who leave Yellowwoods have an exceptional work ethic and are disciplined, respectful and motivated to succeed. I could not be more proud of our school and what we stand for.

It is said that the biggest obstacle to success is past success. It is therefore imperative that we continue to grow and develop our methods and approach to education. We have done extensive research to isolate the skills that are essential for individuals to develop their true potential and to accomplish their life’s purpose. Critical thinking, problem solving, emotional intelligence, adaptability, leadership, creativity, confidence, teamwork, grit and responsibility are the essential soft skills that we will incorporate in our curriculum. Research indicates that the leading companies in the world recognise that these skills, along with subject content, set individuals apart from the rest. Be prepared that your children may ask some difficult questions in the days to come because when you teach people to think for themselves, they inevitably do!

I pray that this term will be a very blessed and successful one for each one of you and I look forward to having all expectations exceeded.

Yours sincerely

Ignus Potgieter

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Thursday 26th April** – Junior Primary Book day, Senior Primary Study Skills Workshop, Kitchen Lunch slips due back, Civvies day R10 each.
- **Friday 27th April** – Public Holiday (Freedom Day).
- **Monday 30th April** – School Holiday.
- **Tuesday 1st May** – Public Holiday (Workers Day).
- **Wednesday 2nd May** – School opens at 7h40. Winter uniform optional for Grade 1-7. Sport starts this week.
- **Friday 4th May** – Albany Hockey League Match: Girls and Boys vs DSG at home. Grade 7 Bakerman.
- **Tuesday 8th May** – Junior Primary outing.

Eastern Province Netball Trials

The tension was palpable last Friday as Ano and Miss King travelled down to East London for the Final round of U/12 EP Netball trials. Although the competition was tough on Saturday morning at Stirling Primary, Ano gave of her utmost best on the court. We are extremely proud of Ano and all her achievements she has made in Netball so far. Well done!



IN THE CLASSROOM

Welcome back!

- Reminder – Study Skills Workshop tomorrow for all those pupils attending from 10h30 to 13h00 in the Grade 7 Classroom. Please bring pens/pencils with you.
- Senior Primary Parents are to please check the Term Calendar for the weekly Term Tests. Children are reminded to take all their tests home to be signed.
- Please diarise the Senior Primary Parent Teacher meetings from the 11th to the 14th June and kindly make yourselves available. Appointment times will be communicated closer to the time. Have an enjoyable and successful Second Term!

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At the end of last term the Senior Primary classes were treated to an outing to the Amakala Windfarm near Bedford. After an informative presentation the children were shown around the facility and offered the opportunity for an interesting Q and A session. Thank you to Amakala, Miss King, Miss McFarlane and Mr Potgieter.



JUNIOR PRIMARY NEWS

It was such a delight to welcome back so many happy and smiley faces yesterday. The children were all eager to share their holiday adventures and get back into a routine. This term promises to be a busy and fun-filled term. We have various outings and events planned for the Junior Primary and will send out all the details during the term. We are going to start collecting items for Santa Shoe boxes and will be asking each child to bring one item a month – letters will be sent out with more details. We will be giving these boxes to children of our surrounding communities to make their Christmas extra special. With Mother's Day just around the corner, the children are all going to be making some extra special gifts to spoil their moms. The Grade 3's are delving into nutrition this term and will be planning some menus and focusing on the different food groups. The Grade 2's are going to have some fun collecting information to complete surveys and learn more about data and graphs. The Grade 1's are focusing on animal tails and the different types and functions of tails, as well as learning to double and halve numbers.

Yellowwoods rising stars

Well done to the following past pupils of Yellowwoods who have gone on to achieve great things this year.

- Sivu Sixaba is 1st in Academics at Graeme College in Grahamstown along with Emihle Mgedezi also in the top 10 for Academics. Both boys have also been selected for the U/14A Rugby team.
- Simamkele Jolingana at Winterberg has been selected for the U/14A Netball team.
- Catherine Nel achieved the highest Maths marks in Grade 8 at Stirling in East London.
- Hayley Schenk is in the top 5 for Academics at Winterberg.
- Emily Nel has been selected to join the Chamber Choir at Stirling Primary where membership is by invitation only.
- Obakhe Memani was selected for the U/11A Cricket team at Hudson Primary also in East London.

We encourage parents to please let us know of any past Yellowwoods children's achievements. Well done to these past pupils. We are so proud of you!

YELLOWWOODS AND MONTESORRI JOIN FORCES TO OFFER MORE SPORTING EXPERIENCES FOR SENIOR GRADES.

Well done to the Yellowwoods and Montesorri boys who make up the U/13 FABS Rugby team.

This group of dedicated boys have started their season on a high note. After playing 9 matches they are undefeated having won 8 and drawing 1.

Well done to all the boys as well as the coaches and Heads of schools for making this team a reality.

Watch this space!

