



Dear Yellowwoods Community

I am reminded on a daily basis of what a special place Yellowwoods School is. Life has taught me not to take anything for granted; in fact, being thankful for our blessings, however small they may be, is one of the secrets to a truly fulfilled life. We are bombarded from all corners to always strive for more, achieve more, have more and do more. Ambition and achieving your dreams are important, but they have to be built on the foundations of gratitude and appreciation for what we have. My challenge to staff and learners is to stop often and reflect on the things that we have and to say "thank you" to God for the many blessings that we receive daily.

One such blessing is high quality education in an environment that is completely inclusive and where everything is focused on the child. This goal comes with immense challenges. Being able to retain and accurately reproduce knowledge is no longer the only skill required in education. Yes, it may lead to good marks, but that is not the hallmark of holistic education. We have to incorporate skills such as critical thinking, creativity, values, self-worth, problem solving, adaptability, leadership, responsibility and communication into our curriculum to ensure that we prepare our learners for the challenges of the modern world. This is a massive task that requires us to often go where nobody has gone before which in itself is one of the greatest characteristics of education. I make it my duty at least once a day to look out over our magnificent campus and take in the energy of this living organism and marvel at the growth and development that I see in each person. I realise every day that Someone very special is guiding and guarding this process. We are truly blessed and privileged to have a school such as Yellowwoods. May God continue to guide and bless us as we interact and share this place and time with His most treasured possessions.

Yours Sincerely

Ignus Potgieter

IN THE CLASSROOM

Thank you to all the parents who so willingly attended our Parents/Teachers meeting last week. We hope that you found the presentations informative and we appreciate your valuable questions and input.

Senior Primary children were given their Homework Policy on Thursday and we request that you familiarise yourself with the contents thereof and support your children accordingly. We encourage these students to practice and learn time management, especially when an oral or assignment is set for a future date. Homework at

Yellowwoods has not changed yet and we will do the research and will be meeting with Heads of Grahamstown next week to discuss ideas and what would be appropriate for our somewhat unique school.

I wish to congratulate all our pupils who have been awarded stars of the week so far this term, as most of these children have been acknowledged for excellence and diligence in academics and this is commendable.

We will be entering the Conquesta Olympiad in September and will communicate with you whether your child has been entered.

Well done to the Grade 5,6 and 7 pupils who achieved very high marks in their English Term Test last week and a reminder that this week, they write Mathematics. Have a wonderful week and remember our aim for 2018 is doing better and the best start to achieving this is reading, reading and more reading...

"Children undergo transformations that make the metamorphoses in Ovid or the plagues in Exodus look mundane."

Garret Kaiser: American Cleric

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Friday 9th February** – Junior Primary Little Chefs day, Grade 4 Bakerman. School ends at 13h00.
- **Tuesday 13th February** – Assembly.
- **Wednesday 14th February** – Valentines Day Civvies day. R5 per child. Prize for best dressed Valentine. Cradock Athletics meet away.
- **Friday 16th February** – Grade 1 Bakerman, school ends at 13h00.
- **Tuesday 20th February** – Pre Primary outing.

LATEST NEWS



Yellowwoods is proud to showcase the new Learner Support Centre headed up by Mrs Tamsin Bush, a formally registered Occupational Therapist and qualified Teacher. The Pre Primary, Grade 1's and 2's were all invited to enjoy a play session in the bright and cheerful Centre. Learner Support is vital to help children with various needs improve their cognitive, physical, sensory, and motor skills as well as to enhance their self-esteem and sense of accomplishment. A big Thank you to Mrs Bush for her dedication and hard work to get the Centre off the ground.