8th November 2016

YELLOWWOODS NEWS

Dear Yellowwoods Community

I was reminded of the proximity of Christmas this morning when the Junior Primary sang a beautiful Christmas carol at assembly. Christmas is a very special time of the year. Generally it is a time when family ties are strengthened and new special memories are made. Children's eyes sparkle with expectation and excitement at the prospect of opening gifts that "Santa Claus magically dropped off under the Christmas tree." The Christmas lunch is planned for days in advance and the poor husbands have to carry around chairs, tables and all sorts of other hardware (this is obviously done without any grumbling; regardless of the fact that it interferes with precious golf time). Christmas is indeed a very special time of the year and we should all be very grateful if we have the privilege of sharing it with loved ones.

Christmas also has a darker side. Not everyone experiences it as a special time of the year. There are many lonely and needy people in our midst and none of us have to go very far to find them. My father-in-law taught me a very valuable lesson; true gratitude is reflected in how much you give. Christmas was a time of giving to him; not a time for receiving.

The true Christmas story is one of tremendous love where the Creator God sent His son into the world as a gift so that we can live through Him. He did it unconditionally because He does not love us because of who we are or because of what we do; He loves us because of who He is. We often confess our gratitude towards God for doing this, but our words are empty unless we show that same kind of love to the people around us. I pray that this Christmas will be a time of giving as well as receiving because "freely you have received; freely give."

Yours sincerely

Ignus Potgieter

In the Classroom

In spite of sometimes overwhelming end-of-year expectations, our teachers and children are working hard and consistently show that they are enjoying and making the most of their privileged learning environment at Yellowwoods.

FOCUS: Oral Presentations: A reminder to all our families that (mostly in the Senior Primary) English and Afrikaans, orals are set regularly and we require that you become involved and help your child/children prepare a given topic. This is because they will need your assistance at home to get started, (boarders over the weekends). The children are required to find information, interpret, summarise and make key cards from their research material, find interesting pictures and prepare posters. The oral then needs to be learnt and practised. We do not allow pupils to simply read the information and students should not present information they don't understand. Unfortunately some pupils are not receiving the help they need and the oral is either very poorly presented or the child is unhappy, stressed and receives a low mark.

We would appreciate your support in this regard, because all the pupils' oral work is always assessed and these marks are added to their more formal assessments. And while assisting your child to become the best they can be, teach them to be compassionate and let kindness become second nature.

On Tuesday this week Mrs Grobler and Mrs Miles will be having a study method class with the Grade 6's and 7's. We wish the Senior Primary pupils all the best for their exam preparation and please feel welcome to contact teachers if your child needs help to study.

It has become a Yellowwoods tradition at Christmas time to say thank you to our dedicated team of Drivers, Ground and Kitchen staff, by providing them with donated grocery hampers. This year is no exception. Children are encouraged to each bring at least one item of non perishable food for these hampers.

Help us to teach our children that Christmas is about more than receiving.

All items are to be brought to school by the 6th December.

NB Dates to REMEMBER

- **Wednesday 9th November** – Junior Primary Science Day & U/13 Cricket Match in Grahamstown.
- **Friday 11th November** – Pre Primary Bakerman, Chip Roll, Chocolate Square and Ice Lolly for R25.00 & the St Andrews Mini Cricket Festival in Grahamstown.
- **Wednesday 16th November** – U/13 Cricket Match in Grahamstown & Pre Primary Outing.
- **Thursday 17th November** – Grade 7 Farewell Dinner.
- **Friday 18th November** – Yellowwoods Inter House Athletics Day at Yellowwoods.
- **Monday 21st November** – Grade 5, 6 & 7 Exams Start.

The Junior Primary pupils visited an avo farm last week. They spent the morning learning how to pick, plant and water avos. For the remainder of the outing they had a well deserved break around the pool.