

TERM 4 NEWSLETTER



From the Headmaster

Mr R E Daly

2013 has drawn to a close and has it gone so quickly. This year has been characterised by the planning for the future of the school. Besides all the “normal” activities of the year, the positive decision by the parents for the campus development for 2014 will undoubtedly be seen as an historic moment in the history of the school. The astro work will commence in January as well as the work on the main entrance for the new gate and security facility.

2014 must be a year of greater focus on raising the bar in all aspects of our balanced education. We are also relying on e-communication far more and we ask that parents access school information via the internet, smart phones and any electronic media to be able to know what is happening at the school. We will also have all the planners as well as exam timetables for the year available at the start of the year.

The success of this school is measured not necessarily by the results but whether our students wish to be at the school and if they wish to embrace our balanced education. So if we reflect on 2103, it has been an awesome year for all and I wish everyone well over the December break.



Our Head Prefects 2013

Pastoral Report
Mrs L Hall

The November examinations went well and absenteeism during this time, even on non-writing days was at a minimum. For the majority of learners their end of year report brings much joy and relief that their worst fears have not been realised. Mrs Abrahamse and Mrs De Vries (miss Erasmus) are available for any learner or parent who wishes assistance during the post exam period.

Our role as adults is to support our children and we need to see situations where our children have to deal with disappointment or any other problem as an opportunity to teach them the life skills to handle the situation in a positive mature manner. All of us are assured of disappointments in life, learning at a young age how to handle such a situation is a privilege.

The changing of Settlers Street into a one way has improved traffic flow in general and we wish to thank parents for their co-operation. What does remain a problem are the cars that do not use the parking bays correctly particularly during peak traffic times. We therefore appeal to all parents to be a little more patient and considerate and obey traffic signs particularly at peak times.

The WCED has upheld our recommendation for expulsion for a grade 8 learner who sold dagga at school. We have sent another recommendation for expulsion to the WCED and are awaiting the outcome.



Our wheelchair donation

The school regards the use of illegal substances in an extremely serious light. The random testing of the learners for the use of illegal substances has been positive. Most of those tested show a negative result reaffirming the fact that the majority of our learners are drug free. Those who test positive are hopefully caught early enough to change their behaviour and thus stop the drug use from escalating. The school has a two pronged approach to the problem, using punishment as a deterrent but also supporting the learner with counseling, referral to SANCA as well as using the WCED support services. Furthermore we hope to have the SAPS involved next year with dog searches.

Parents are encouraged to be vigilant and to keep the channels of communication with their children open so that they can pick up on the use of illegal substances early. In this regard parents are also encouraged to monitor their children regarding alcohol abuse as this is a great social problem in our society today.

As the year draws to a close I wish to thank all those parents and learners who have supported the school in its efforts to maintain standards and nurture values that are so important in the development of well adjusted and positive young adults.

Academic Report

From the Headmaster

I wish to congratulate all pupils who have succeeded in these exams.
The results are as follows.

Grade 8: 255 candidates,
5 A Aggregates (2,0 %),
5 Not passed (2,0%)
Pass Rate: 98,0%

Grade 9: 264 candidates,
9 A Aggregates (3,4%),
14 Not passed (5,3%),
Pass Rate 94,7 %

Grade 10: 259 candidates,
9 A Aggregate (3,5%),
159 University Requirements (61,4%)
10 Not Passed (3,9%),
Pass Rate: 96,1%

Grade 11: 216 Candidates,
9 A Aggregates (4,2%),
156 University Requirements (72,2%)
7 Not passed (3,2 %),
Pass Rate: 96,8 %



Our exchange students

A Aggregates (in order) including Top 10 Candidates (non A Aggregates in italics)

Grade 8: Josh Amos, Charne Arendse, Celena Pieters, Zoe Joshua, Lauren Fortuin, *Meggan Schouw, Hlonelwa Lutuli, Sharnelle Pause, Ashleigh Christians, Aaqeelah De Kock,*

Grade 9: Chad Damons, Carme Wardle, Mohini Anand, Ruth Jantjies, Vivek Abraham, Ivanka Noble, Ghete Klaasen, Charnelle Khoza, Alexis Arendse, *Tyler Lakey.*

Grade 10: Allison Arendse, Stephanie Less, Christine Ile, Sandrine Mpazayabo, Keenan Jacobs, Ambre Carolissen, Daanish Jacobs, Renata Maisels, Zoe Meiring, *Daniel Frier, Amber Maneveldt*

Grade 11: Don Maisels, Chad Leukes, Melissa de Lilly, Tauriq Latief, Nadine Moore Ishrat Undre, Dango Mwambene, Zaakirah Davids, Andrew James, *Gavalen Flandorp.*

Miss W Horn

The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing – Albert Einstein

This term, academically, has been focused on the final exams. But the club 21 learners still managed to experience some extra academic exposure. They attended a lecture at UWC given by the Nobel Laureate for Physics, Professor Serge Haroche (College of France, Paris), on the 31st of October 2013. They also attended the launch of the nano - satellites at CPUT.

Learners and parent have a tendency to withdraw their children from extra-murals in this term and use the excuse that the academics need more time and focus. Besides that it is compulsory for every child to do a sport at school, there is also evidence that shows that exercise can improve academic achievements.

The following is taken from an extract in a recent report from the US Institute of Medicine:

“This is a consistent finding, that physically fit kids do better in school,” says James Sallis, a professor of family and preventive medicine at the University of California at San Diego, who has long worked on preventing childhood obesity.

A recent report from the US Institute of Medicine asserts that “children who are more active show greater attention, have faster cognitive processing speed and perform better on standardised academic tests than children who are less active”.

A strong body of research supports the link between physical fitness and test scores. In one study, for example, nearly 2 000 California schoolchildren who were outside a “healthy fitness zone” scored lower on state standardised tests than those who were more fit.

A similar study in Nebraska assessed the fitness of schoolchildren in a shuttle run, in which kids run a back-and-forth lap in a set time. The kids who performed best on this test scored higher on both the maths and reading portions of state standardised exams.

Though it is too early to draw broad conclusions from these studies, the evidence is mounting that physical activity is even more beneficial than previously thought.

How this translates into children’s lives – where videogames and other sedentary activities are a constant allure – is a challenge parents and schools face together. – The Washington Post, October 29 2013

TEXTBOOKS FOR 2014

In preparation for next year we will be handing out the textbooks on the following dates:

Grade 12 (2014): Tuesday 3 December (during school day) 10:30 – 13:00

Grade 9 (2014): Friday 10 January 2014 14:00 – 16:00

Grade 10 (2014): Saturday 11 January 2014 09:00 – 12:00

Grade 11 (2014): Saturday 11 January 2014 13:30 – 16:30

Pupils who miss the above dates will only receive textbooks in the 2nd week of the new term.

The grade 12 learners can use the holidays to read through their set work books in preparation for 2014.

SUBJECT CHANGES FOR 2014

All requests for subject changes must be done before the end of the year. A written request as well as a “yellow” subject change form needs to be completed. Changes can only be granted if space permits. Limited changes are possible for Grade 8. Grade 9’s have already made their choice for 2014 and there will be no further changes at this point as all choice subjects are full. Grade 10 may apply for changes before the end of the term. They will then be informed if the change is granted on the first day of next term. No changes are allowed for Grade 11.

Any learner who is repeating a grade for next year must see Mrs Abrahamse to discuss their subject choice and to complete the subject choice form. This will ensure that they are correctly placed for next year and receive all the necessary support. Note the importance of returning the form indicating what options will be exercised for 2104 by all pupils who repeat the grade.

We would like to thank all the teachers who go the extra mile, providing extra lessons at breaks, in the morning and after school, for all the tours and excursions that take place after academic hours, the extra notes and worksheets, the inspirational lessons.

We would also like to thank the parents for supporting both the school and their children in achieving academic excellence. Children do best when their parents help them with homework, emphasise the importance of education and attend school events.

We wish you a rest full break, filled with reading books and doing physical activities.

CONTACT

Miss T Magson

The Contact Manco has once again had a busy term organizing a number of year end functions at the school.

The Annual Thank You party which was held in the Webster Auditorium was a great success with more than one hundred and fifty coaches, parents and friends of The Settlers joining the Headmaster and staff for snacks and refreshments. The catering was superbly organized by Mrs Theunissen, staff helpers and the Grade 11 Catering group. The Waitrons Unlimited society was responsible for setting up the venue and served the fare. The various Jazz Bands under the guidance of Mrs Johannes provided the entertainment.



Ms Esau at the Freedom Bell on her retirement

The end of year Staff function was held at Clara Anna Fontein this year where the staff we transported in a unimog up the mountain to the outdoor lapa where they had a spit braai. The staff really enjoyed the food, good company and a chance to relax after a hectic term.

We thank the Governing Body for subsidizing this end of year function and we thank the PTA committee for their monetary contribution towards our industrial dishwasher which is now in the kitchen attached to the hall.

As we have a number of staff with young children, the Manco organised a Christmas Party for them. The children ranging in age from 3 months to 11 years old attended. This function is completely organised by the learners on the Contact Manco. This year each of the 10 children attending had their faces painted and played many games and had to go out and find Father Christmas who was well hidden away. A number of clowns entertained the children while they awaited the arrival of Father Christmas. Presents and party packs were given to each child. There was much excitement as presents were opened and played with by all. Well done to the Manco learners on a fulfilled afternoon.

We congratulate Mr and Mrs Kleinsmith on the birth of their son, Benjamin. Miss Erasmus married Mr de Vries in a lovely outdoor wedding at Bon Amie in Durbanville. We wish you all well.

We congratulate Mrs Horn as she recently was placed on the Dean's list with regards her achievements in postgraduate studies in the field of Educational Management. She is also a Provincial Finalist in the category for Excellence in Physical Science Teaching having won the regional round. We are very proud of your achievements Mrs Horn and wish her well as she represents the Western Cape at the national finals in Pretoria.

We will say goodbye to the longest serving member of staff who has been on the staff for 39 years and is now retiring. Ms Magdalena Esau has been an invaluable member of the Maintenance staff where she has held court over the staffroom and looking after the staff at break times with regards to refreshments. From her lovely flower displays to her joyful singing her presence is always felt in the school building. A special assembly was held to bid her farewell and she was escorted through a guard of honour to ring the schools Freedom Bell. A sit-down lunch was given in her honour and the many speeches spoke of her excellent service throughout the years. She also replied with much advice for each staff member. The school gave her a toploader washing machine, vouchers and a recipe book filled with fond memories from all the staff. Magdalena we will miss you and wish you a long, happy and well deserved retirement.

Mrs van der Heyde who has been in the Afrikaans Department for the past year is also leaving us and we thank her very much for her contribution and wish her well next year.

I would like to thank Mrs Basheer, Mrs Less , Mrs Theunissen and the learners for a wonderful and successful Contact Manco year.

Lastly the Contact Manco wishes you and your family a wonderful, safe and memorable Festive Season and we look forward to seeing you at our functions in the new year.

SPORT

Mr B Neethling

We are trying our utmost to ensure that as many learners as possible participate in the many sport codes we offer at school. Some learners will always find loopholes to evade the issue of our holistic approach to school life. We as teachers and as custodians of our proud heritage, have an important role to play to make sure that all learners be part and parcel of our sport culture. Teachers and learners have the opportunity to get to know one another much better in a different and much more conducive learning environment.

This term was the first time we made use of the company called 'Coaching Dynamics'. Besides a few teething problems, overall it proved to be very successful, our school bursar only having to work with one entity, instead of the many teachers and coaches. Our teachers still have to keep track of the coaches' times and days to reconcile with that of the company.

CRICKET

With the building of our new Astro Turf, it was necessary to arrange most of our matches away. This matches. We hope the situation improves in the first term of next year.

The two new coaches we have acquired from Coaching Dynamics are professional in their approach and we are keen to see some real and meaningful benefits in the future.

SWIMMING

Our swimmers are training very hard in the mornings, preparing for a strenuous term in 2014. The school has acquired new starting blocks which add a professional touch to the swimming pool.

ATHLETICS

Our athletes are also hard practising and training for the forthcoming season. After the final examinations from the 27th to the 29th of November the school will hold the preliminaries for the different age groups.

WALK FOR LIFE

Over 100 learners signed up in the first term but only 27 attended 70% of the practices and received Life orientation Marks. In term 2 and 3 far fewer learners signed up (around 30) and only 15 are attending at a regular basis. According to the MIC it is going well but it may not be the best utilisation of a staff member. She is of the opinion that there are a number of learners who do not have a sport that could join the group.

GIRLS HOCKEY

According to the MIC in charge, Mrs Abrahamse, the girls have done the school proud over the last five years. There are now over 200 girls taking part in the 11 teams. Training takes place at the Bellville Astro Turf for all age groups. Some of the hockey staff are involved, not only at provincial, but also at national level. No fewer than 7 girls represented at regional level, whilst 3 girls received their national colours. Quite an achievement.

CHESS

The chess teams had a very successful season, the highlight being that two players represented the province at a national level. The school also won the senior trophy for the Western Cape for the 5th year in a row. The girls' team achieved the honour of coming second in the Western

Cape Trials in their first year. The school also has the distinction of having three teams finishing in the top three positions in the Western Cape for 2013.

YOGA

Yoga may only be taken if learners are not team members of another official sporting code. In the first term there were 107 yogis at the school, practising twice a week under the tutelage of William Brown. In the second and third term there has been a constant 70 keen and eager learners.

Participating in yoga is all about being at peace with oneself, according to the MIC, Mrs Heinz. It is a healthy exercise, joining body, mind and spirit through physical and mental exercise. This exercise has been practised for more than 5000 years.

Mrs Heinz further says that the learners thoroughly enjoy doing yoga. It seems that it is more popular among the girls in the school and it is wonderful that an alternative code of sport that can become a life-long practice is now being offered at the school.

SOFTBALL

It was a good year with full participation by all the learners. Even though the season was not very successful, the learners were enthusiastic and had great fun. According to the MIC, Mrs Adams, they hope to see a vast improvement in 2014.

BASKETBALL

There was full participation by all the learners in all of the teams. The results were not really good, but according to the MIC, Mrs Dyck, the learners were enthusiastic, showed dogged determination, displayed good sportsmanship and overall showed an improvement in their technical skills and abilities.

GENERAL

On the 2nd of December, we will be having our Summer Inter-House sport which comprises Basketball, Softball, Cricket and Swimming.

On the 3rd of December, an Inter-House soccer competition will be held on Seaview.

We thank our teachers, coaches and ground staff for all their hard work. They show commitment and dedication at all times so that ultimately, the learner³ at our school can benefit from the enriching experience of participating in sport.

CULTURAL REPORT

Mr H Smuts

The fourth term was a term full of auditions and preparation for 2014. The new chairpersons for the 41 different societies were announced and they are hard at work to ensure a successful 2014 season.

The casts for the Drama Production and Cabaret have been chosen and these learners will start rehearsals early in January.

Our new choir for 2014 was selected and 55 members will be part of the “KFM Christmas Wish” concert at the V&A Waterfront on 13 December. This group will sing back-up for local artists and combined with the Cabaret cast, will also perform a solo programme of 40 minutes at this event.

Interact keeps social awareness alive in our school with continuous projects which gives learners the opportunity to show the care. The school collected enough tags to donate another wheelchair. Interact also handed special Christmas hampers to all amenities staff, as well as worked at the Rotary Club's special Christmas Party.



Our pupils competing at the Capsicum Competition

The Animal Friends Society raised R2500 and collected blankets for pets. The group handed over a cheque and the various donations to the Animal Welfare Organisation.

The Cultural season ended with the traditional Carol Service replaced by a Christmas Variety Concert. This year the Music Department, Drama Department and MFC joined hands to present a fantastic show by the Choir, Orchestra, Jazz band, Drama Production cast, Cabaret cast and various soloists. The support was overwhelming with more than 600 audience members.

The final cultural event was a spectacular End of Year concert. Many learners took this opportunity to audition and to ensure that new talent will be discovered. Congratulations to all the performers on a fantastic show.

2013 was a very successful Cultural season and this could not have happened without the hard work and dedication of the learners, teachers and parents. All Settlers learners have the opportunity to excel outside of the classroom.

We wish all our learners, staff and parents a well-deserved break to get ready for an even better and busier cultural season in 2014!

DATES FOR TERM 1 2014

Wednesday 8 January 2014	Admin Office Open
Wednesday 8 January 2014	Clothing Exchange 10:00 — 12:00
Thursday 9 January 2014	Clothing Exchange 10:00 — 12:00
Friday 10 January 2014	Grade 8 Orientation Grade 9 Textbook Issued 14:00
Saturday 11 January 2014	Grade 10 Textbooks Issued 9:00 Grade 11 Textbooks Issued 13:30
Wednesday 15 January 2014	School Opens for pupils
Friday 17 January 2014	Inter-House Gala (Parents Welcome)
Saturday 18 January 2014	Grade 8 Fun Day
Tuesday 21 January 2014	Grade 8/9 Parent Class Teacher meeting
Thursday 23 January 2014	Inter-House Athletics (Parents Welcome) Parow Track
Tuesday 28 January 2014	Grade 10/11 Parent Class Teacher meeting
Friday 7 February 2014	Inter-House Play Festival
Friday 14 February 2014	Inter-Schools Athletics (Parents Welcome) Bellville Stadium
Saturday 15 February 2014	Valentine's Dance
Friday 21 February 2014	Box Car Race and more (All pupils)
Wednesday 26 February 2014	Grade 7 Parents Info Evening 19:30
Monday 3 March 2014	Grade 12 Parents Meeting 19:30
Monday 10 —Friday 14 March 2014	Controlled Test (All Grades)
Wednesday 26 March 2014	Parent interviews 17:00 – 19:00 By appointment only)
Friday 28 March 2014	Last day of Term 1



Prof and Mrs Baets , Mr Daly at the Senior Prize-giving



Valedictory, a special moment.