

The International School of Hout Bay Newsletter

Issue 9

17 March 2011

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents

George Bernard Shaw once said that 'the biggest problem with communication is the illusion that it has taken place.'

Good schools are built on good parent-school relationships. It is a fact of life that misunderstandings, miscommunications and issues will arise; our children need to see us working through the issues: that is how they learn to resolve problems. Children don't always listen to what they are told, but they always follow what we do.

If you have concerns about your child's performance in class, a teacher's teaching style or discipline, the first step is to contact the teacher. Teachers are very happy for parents to write day-to-day messages or notes in homework diaries. In instances of annoyance or disappointment, however, try to refrain from sarcastic or derogatory comments as these do little to build constructive relationships with the teacher. It also undermines the teacher in front of the child.

Parents are welcome to communicate through direct e-mail with the purpose of setting up a time and date to meet. However, due to teaching and extra-mural activities e-mails are often only checked by teachers after school or early the next morning. Replies, therefore, may not be instant. In emergencies, the best way to contact teachers is via the secretary in the office; Beth and Susie in the Primary and Di in the High School.

There is no doubt that teachers' lives are made easier when they know that their pupils' parents trust them, support them, understand the challenges they face on a daily basis and most importantly, when teachers know their parents will come and speak to them



the moment there is a problem, before speaking to anyone else.

The parent should always approach the teacher before referring the matter to senior management or the Principal. Good relationships are built on trust.

If however, this situation or any situation is not adequately resolved by approaching the teacher then there is no doubt the parent needs to take the situation further. The next step is to contact the Phase Co-ordinator: Janine Bearne in the Early Years, Gill Baxter in the Junior Primary, Rhona Sehsted-Larsen in the Senior Primary, Grant Ruskovich in the Middle Years, Sean Wilson in IGCSE and Michele Marnitz in the IB Diploma years.

If you are concerned about the teacher's disciplinary style or actions, first make an appointment to see the teacher to express your concern. My advice in this situation would be not to make an accusation but rather to say "my son/daughter has told me something that concerns me and I'd like to discuss this with you". This approach allows you to "put your cards on the table" without attacking a teacher. If a teacher is ever attacked, they have every right to defend but, sadly, this seldom results in a constructive debate as to how to solve the problem for the benefit of the child.

If your child is afraid of the teacher, address the issue early and openly. I can guarantee parents that teachers did not go into the teaching profession to scare children. If a teacher is made aware that a child or children are scared of them, there is no doubt in my mind that they will have the professional integrity to reflect on their actions and adjust their approach if need be.



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EDUCATION SYSTEMS

From the Principal's Desk cont...

However, parents must also have the ability to distinguish between scary and academically strict. In a child's educational career there is very little chance that they will have a warm and fuzzy teacher that meets their every need, every year. They will, rather, be exposed to a range of different teacher personalities, some of which they will relate to and others maybe not. But every one of these experiences will build and determine a child's character. It is often the "stricter" teachers that have high expectations of children and very often succeed in challenging children to "raise the bar" in terms of their academic ability.

In matters financial, please contact the Bursar. Once again, leaving things late and then sending terse emails does little to build trust. If you are in financial difficulties, make an appointment and see the Bursar. If you are unable to resolve things, then come and see me.

It is my experience that when a child brings a story home, you only hear half the story. When Johnny says 'Ben punched me today', there is usually an act of provocation on Johnny's part that is not told. Take time to gather the facts and to listen to the other person's side of the story. It is our natural inclination to

believe our children and to assume that they are blameless, but it is quite likely that your child gets up to his or her fair share of mischief.

In all these matters, as I said earlier, it is important that our children see us resolving problems in an open and constructive manner: how else will they learn?

Andy Wood
PRINCIPAL

Primary School News

Curriculum Corner

I am currently preparing for an IB School Evaluation visit to Irmak School in Istanbul, Turkey. As team leader I have the opportunity to look through and evaluate their planning and policy documents. The priority of the visit is to look for evidence of what they have reported to be doing in these documents and then write a report for the IB Head Office.

This evaluation process is required of all IB World Schools every 3 years thus ensuring that the programme is being delivered at its highest possible standards according to the IB Standard and Practice documents. As part of the International Baccalaureate Educators Network, I am now getting to see firsthand how the IB manages the programme and how it monitors the delivery around the world. The training is rigorous and quality control is valued in all the processes - from monitoring the quality of workshop delivery, to the evaluation of the Programmes of Inquiry planned in schools around the world. Yet, even with this strict control, the organisation manages to embrace each school's and region's individual culture and personality. Being part of this process is a wonderful learning and affirming process for us as it gives us the opportunity to compare our educational processes with those of other schools.

So even though we are at the most southern part of Africa, we are very much part of the International Baccalaureate community of learning. A very exciting and privileged place to be.

Thank you for your continued support and wishing you a wonderful long weekend.

Denise Michel

Parent Teacher Meetings

You will have received a note from your class teacher about the arrangements for the end-of-term Teacher and Parent meetings. Please sign up a time on the roster outside your child's classroom. Meetings are to be held on Tuesday, 22 March, and Wednesday, 23 March, after school. These meetings are the ideal time for you to chat to the teacher about how your child is settling in and about work in class.

Year 6 Parents' Information Evening Tonight

The process of choosing the right High School for your child is not an easy one. There are many schools, some single-sex, others co-ed, new or traditional. We would love for your child to stay at our school, and to make that decision in a well-researched and well-informed way.

You are invited to an Information Evening to show you what the High School of the international School of Hout Bay has to offer your child: its curriculum, sports and cultural programme, and what it is that gives this school its unique character. What will the move from Swan Cottage to Riverside Terrace mean for your child? Current Year 7 students, and others, will share their experiences. Come and meet some of the staff and students and hear for yourself what we teach and what our students have on offer on the sports field, outdoors, in community service and on the stage. Please come as a family, if possible.

**Date: Thursday, 17 March 2011,
at 6.00 pm at Riverside
Terrace**

From the Sports Desk

Cricket

This week marks the end of a very successful start of the cricket season, when the U/11s beat Camps Bay Primary with 103 runs. Gregor Bell took on the Camps Bay bowling attack in spectacular fashion, scoring 100 runs before he was retired by the coach. Gregor's massive tally to the Hout Bay total brought us up to 161 runs at the end of the 20 overs. When we took the ball to bowl, our opening bowlers Gregor Bell and Ebrahim Mota took the Camps Bay top order apart, taking 6 wickets in the first 4 overs. The Camps Bay batsmen could never recover and only managed to get up to 59 runs before they were bowled out, handing us the victory of 103 runs. This result now confirms that the International School of Hout Bay is unbeaten for the term, with the U/10 and U/11 teams winning 6 of their 7 matches and drawing one.

Inter-House Swimming Gala

The Senior Primary Inter-House Swimming Gala will be taking place tomorrow afternoon between 15:00 and 16:00 at the Dominican Grimley School in Valley Road. Children who have signed up for the gala will be transported by the school to Dominican Grimley after school, and the gala will start at 15:00.

Please note that there is almost no shade at the Dominican Grimley pool area and as it is not our school, we cannot provide tents and other forms of cover. All children MUST have their hats and parents are also encouraged to wear hats or even bring a beach umbrella for cover. All children taking part must please be collected at 16:00 from the Dominican Grimley school.

Primary School News

From the Class Room

Early Years Picnic

On Friday, 11 March, Early Years enjoyed a family picnic under the Oaks. We have 'Learning about Family and Friends' in our Unit of Enquiry. The children made banners with their parents, representing themselves as a family.

This followed with a parade of the banners around the netball court to the music "We are Family". After a delicious picnic, where we shared shortbread and fruit kebabs we had made in class, there were fun activities on the field. The children and their parents participated in "Piggy Back" and "Potatoes & Spoon" races. They also enthusiastically played "Duck, Duck, Goose".

It was a very special few hours together as an Early Years Family.

The staff would like to say a big thank you to all the families who were able to come and join us.



Dates to Diarise

Friday, 18 March

- Individual Photographs
- Junior Primary Brag Afternoon
Year 1 & 2 Parents
13h30-14h30
- SP Swimming Gala
@ DGS from 3:00 - 4:00pm
- **LAST DAY OF CLUBS**

Monday, 21 March

- HERITAGE DAY
Public Holiday

Tuesday, 22 March

- South Africa Day
- Parent/Teacher Meetings
- John Alexander's Farewell

Wednesday, 23 March

- **OPEN DAY**
- Parent/Teacher Meetings

Friday, 25 March

- Break-up Day
Staggered Finishing times

High School News

International Cuisine Evening Friday, 18 March

Thank you to all the parents who have purchased tickets for the annual *International Cuisine Evening* tomorrow. You will enjoy a 3-course buffet meal and delightful entertainment. A cash bar will also be available. We look forward to seeing you there!



Inter-House One-Act Play Festival 24 March

Tickets for the Inter-House One-Act Play Festival are selling fast. Please book your seats with Mrs Dunbar soonest as space is limited. Tickets are R40 each.

The festival is scheduled for **Thursday, 24 March, at 19h00** in the High School hall and students are practicing furiously. We are extremely fortunate to have Delia Sainsbury as our "Celebrity Judge"!

Hillcrest House will be performing Noel Coward's "Private Lives", directed by Natasha Skoryk (IB2).

Tarragona House are performing A. A. Milne's "Ugly Duckling", which will be directed by Christopher Wood (IB2).

Rhodes House, with director Lucia du Plessis (IB1), will perform Fiona Coyne's "The Birthday" and **Penzance House** are performing Michael Williams' "Nongeni; the Rhino and the Cannibal" and will be directed by Ryan Reaper (IG2) and Robbie Sadler (IG1).

Photographs

Thank you to all the parents who have responded by returning their photo order forms and payments on time. The orders have been placed and we are looking to have the photos delivered during the first week of next term.

Sports Dinner Rescheduled

As you may be aware the Summer Sports Dinner was scheduled for Tuesday, 22 March. After reviewing our current CIA programme, it has been decided to host one big CIA Dinner, which will include all sporting, community service, outdoor education and cultural activities. The rationale behind this change is to ensure that we celebrate the talents of as many of our students in all the spheres as possible. We believe that this change will be more positive and more inclusive for our students. We have tentatively scheduled the dinner for the fourth term.

St Patrick's Civvies Day

Thank you to all the students who celebrated today in 'green style'. The students showed remarkable enthusiasm and we are pleased that they adhered to the school's expectations.

The money raised from today's fundraising initiative will go towards the IB Gala Dinner.



Public Holiday

Parents are reminded that Monday, 21 March, is a public holiday. Students must return to school on Tuesday 22 March for the last four days of Term 1.

CIA Activities

Today marks the end of all CIA activities for the first term. Thank you to all the students who participated and enjoyed the activities on offer. A new sign-up form will be circulated tomorrow to ensure commitment for term two - unfortunately we have had to reschedule some activities due to either lack of interest or increased demands. Please ensure that your child returns his/her form by next week Wednesday, 23 March.

Special Request Phumlani Frail and Aged Care Centre

Mr Siweza of the Phumlani Centre in Guguletu, is asking for Old Linen (bedding), Curtains and any Electrical Appliances ready for disposal for the residents in the Care Centre.

As with all charities they have been hit by escalating costs without the same level of increase in government subsidies. Mr Paul Herrmann would like to offer Marlinspike Guest Lodge at 15 Marlin Crescent as a drop-off point for your items.

So, next time you plan to go somewhere, grab hold of those old sheets, curtains and electrical goods and take a detour to Harbour Heights. Mr Herrmann would very much like to get back to Mr Siweza and tell him that he has a whole bakkie load of stuff for his centre!

Please phone Mr Herrmann before you come so he can arrange to be there. The number is **021 790 7757** Ekuphumeleni Frail and Aged Care Centre is home to 134 people aged from 60-82 whose medical conditions vary from mild to severe stroke. Some are wheelchair bound and others can walk with the aid of a walking stick. Please help them.

Music Music Music

Come and hear your comrades in arms perform Jazz!

The Kronendal Music Academy Jazz Band invites you to attend their annual fundraiser held at Kronendal Primary School on Saturday, the 26th of March 2011, at 7pm, ticket sales from 6.30pm. Tickets are R50 and are available for pre-purchase during the school day at Kronendal Primary School or The International High School Of Hout Bay. The concert features vocalists from the Hout Bay community, guest starring phenomenal Dutch Jazz Pianist, Mike Del Ferro.

Included in the KMA Jazz Band are two graduates from ISHB Kieren Davies and Harison Lacey. For more information please call 082 331 4062