



Brackenhurst Primary School

Newsletter 03/12
3 February 2012

Dear Parents

*"The best way to make your dreams
come true is to wake up."
P Valery*

GRADE 7 COMPULSORY INFORMATION MORNING

Grade 7 compulsory information morning will take place on Saturday 4 February 2012 from 09:00 – 10:00.

TENTATIVE GOVERNING BODY ELECTION DATE

We have set the provisional Governing Body election date for Wednesday 14 March. More details will follow as soon as they have been provided to us by the District Office. Please note that all children whose parent/s attend these elections will be given ONE WEEKS FREE CIVVIES from Monday 19 March – Friday 23 March. If for whatever reason you are unable to attend the elections you may collect a proxy form at the office at a later date to be advised and allow another parent to vote for you. In this case your child will still be eligible to wear civvies.

"THE PAVEMENT KIDS"

Despite the many requests to parents that children are collected from school within 20 minutes of school coming out this is not happening. Many children are left unattended on the pavement outside the main gate until early evening. We can no longer overlook this problem as we fear for the children's safety. It is unlikely that an educator will be on the premises after school especially as some learners are expected to wait for their parents until after 5pm and should the child be hit by a car no medical help would be available to the child. It is understandable, that because the child is left on the pavement for hours on end, boredom sets in. To alleviate the boredom problem, they engage with strangers walking past, play in the road, litter, lose their belongings, damage the fence and notice boards and annoy the neighbours. It is difficult for me to comprehend that some parents do not seem to have a problem with the pavement as a play area for hours on end and some have even suggested to me that the security guard is their self designated "aftercare" facilitator.

As from Monday 6 February learners who have been on the pavement longer than 20 minutes i.e. 5 past 2 (this of course will not include children who have just completed a legitimate school activity e.g. choir, athletics, chess etc.) will be moved from the pavement to the small gated area just inside the main gate in Jasmine Street and will not be allowed out until the transport for the child arrives at the gate. It is urgently requested to the parents that the children be collected promptly as, like on the pavement, they have no access to water, food, homework opportunities etc. It is in the best interest of all concerned that parents take the responsibility to ensure that their child goes home or to a place of safety straight after school. Your co-operation in this regard would be appreciated. Should the co-operation be slow to start please take note of where your child will be waiting and please inform the transport company too. We will be taking a register at 3pm every afternoon and should your child be found in this area for more than 3 afternoons you will receive a phone call from us, requesting that you make other transport arrangements for your child, as clearly the one that you have in place is not working.



Proud Supporter of your School

Brackenhurst 011 867 5715

it's finger lickin' good!

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We are experiencing a growing problem with uniform after school. On a number of occasions teachers bump into children after school at shopping centres and the like. It is often reported to me that many of our children have their full school uniform on, but are walking around bare foot, with their shirts hanging out or even completely unbuttoned. We are very proud of our school and its uniform, and thus I insist that if a child can be identified as a Brackenhurst Primary pupil by their uniform that they will be dressed smartly at all times, irrespective of whether or not they are on the school premises. If they go shopping and are uncomfortable in their school uniform kindly take them home to change into play clothes, or bring a change of clothing to school when you fetch them. It is very embarrassing to have to reprimand a child for their sloppy attire when the mother is standing right next to the child and has obviously condoned this type of untidiness. No matter how embarrassing it is for the teachers however, I have given instructions to the staff to go ahead and reprimand any child who is found to be wearing the school uniform off site incorrectly. Your co-operation in this regard would be greatly appreciated since our school is largely judged by the broader community by the way our children present themselves, as well as their general behaviour and manners.

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS

This year we will be trying a new system of individual photographs. Jacqui, our resident photographer will be taking photographs of every child in the school on Friday 10 February and Monday 13 February. A sample photograph attached to an envelope will be sent home with each child. All the relevant information such as the package price and content will be on the envelope. If parents then wish to order a pack of photographs you can simply include the correct amount in cash in the envelope provided and send it back to the register teacher. Please ensure that all children are smartly dressed in their full summer uniform on these two days and do not come dressed in their P.E. uniform.

KASKAR DERBY

Last year we held a fun filled day of go cart racing which all the children thoroughly enjoyed. We have decided to repeat this event this year and have set aside Friday 23 March for our annual Kaskar Derby. More information will follow shortly, however if there are any parents who, like last

year, are able to sponsor caps or T-shirts for their child's class please make contact with the relevant register teacher so long. The reason we are holding this event earlier in the year is that we found that a considerable team spirit was manifested within each class, which we can build on for the remainder of the year.

VALENTINES DANCE – GRADE 4 – 7

The Valentines Dance will take place on 17 February 2012 in the school hall from 18:00 – 22:00.

Price of the tickets is R30,00 per person. Tickets are available from the register teachers. Refreshments will be sold on the evening.

Come dressed in your Valentines outfit (red, white or pink)

CHANGE IN SCHOOL TIMES – GRADES 1 – 3:

Please note that as from Monday, 23 January 2012, school closes for Grades 1 – 3 at the following times:

Grades 1 and 2:	Monday – Friday: 13:30
Grade 3:	Monday – Thursday: 13:45
	Friday: 13:30

SCHOOL COMMUNICATOR:

We will only be sending hard copies of the newsletter to parents who do not have access to a computer and are unable to receive the newsletter via the Communicator or on our school's website: www.brackenprim.co.za. Should you wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter, please forward a note to your child's register teacher. Hard copies will only be made for parents who have requested them.

PLEASE MAKE USE OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNICATOR:

This software programme will ensure reliable and up to date communication with you, the parent/guardian. This is a very simple and easy to use programme and can be installed on your home and/or work computer/s. This will allow us to keep you up to date on a daily basis as to what is happening at school. This will include the newsletter, photos, sporting fixtures, contact details, etc. The Communicator updates itself via your internet connection. More information about the communicator can be

downloaded from <http://www.brackenprim.co.za/weeklycirculars.htm> in a document called 'School Communicator Document.'

You can make use of one of the following options:

1. Download the software directly from the Website using the following URL www.schoolcommunicator.com/downloads.
2. Send an e-mail to comp@brackenprim.co.za requesting to borrow an installation CD. Please provide the name and class of your child/ren in the e-mail.
3. Send a memory stick in an envelope marked for attention M Fabel via the class teacher with your child's/rens name/s and class/es.
4. The communicator is now also available for download on your mobile phone. Go to the following address on your cell phone and select the school you want to look at from the dropdown list. You will be able to view all the content that appears on the School Communicator at this time.
5. The address is:
<http://mobi.d6communicator.com>.

SCHOOL FEES

Please make sure when direct deposits are made that the correct reference (your school account no. or your child's name), is used and confirmation sent through via fax or e-mail.

SCHOOL FEES 2012

School Fees 2012: R9 339,00

OPTION A: To be paid by 9 March 2012 = R7 938,00

(Discount @ 15% - R1 401,00)

OPTION B: - Debit Order & Monthly payments – R9 339,00

R849,00 per month x 11 months

Please note the first monthly payment for 2012 is due 1 February 2012.

NB: If new enrolment please bear in mind to take off R1 000,00 already paid towards school fees 2012 (R400,00 computer fee does not come off school fees.)

Please make sure that school fee payments are kept up to date on a monthly basis to avoid further action being taken.

R100,00 INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARD LEVY

A motion was passed at the AGM towards the end of 2011 whereby **R100,00 per child per year** would be collected over and above school fees. This will be used exclusively towards the purchasing of Interactive Whiteboards.

To date, we have installed 11 interactive whiteboards, **BUT WE STILL REQUIRE MORE** as we would like every class to have an interactive whiteboard. We urge those families who have not yet paid the R100,00 whiteboard levy, to please send the money as soon as possible as we would like to install some more whiteboards.

Please be so kind as to send this money in a clearly marked envelope "WHITEBOARD LEVY" with your child to be handed in to his/her register teacher.

PLEASE DO NOT DO AN EFT FOR THE WHITEBOARD LEVY.

FOUNDATION PHASE DESKTOP DICTIONARIES

The above dictionaries are once again in stock and available from the front office. Please note there has been a price increase with this order and these dictionaries are now being sold at a cost of R60,00.

CURRICULAR MATTERS

Assessment plans:

The Grade 4-7 learners have been issued with an assessment plan for Term 1. This gives the parents and children a guideline to the assessments which will be covered in each Learning Area this term.

Grade 5 Extra Lessons:

English: Tuesday, 14:00 – 14:30 – C14 (Miss Budde)

Thursday: 14:00 – 14:30 – C5 (Mrs Botes)

Maths: Tuesday: 13:45 – 14:30 – Library (Mrs Grove & Mrs Sharp)

Afrikaans: Wednesday: 14:00 – 14:30 – C25 – (Mrs Botha)

Study Skills: Monday: 14:00 – 14:30 – C10 – (Ms Velimirovic & Miss Railson)

Grade 7 Extra Maths:

Wednesday: 13:45 – 14:30 – Media Centre (Mrs Burger)

EXTRA-CURRICULAR MATTERS

Tennis

- Free Tennis will be offered on Mondays with coach Rudolph – please meet directly at the tennis courts. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Grade 1	13:35 – 13:55
Grade 2	13:35 – 13:55
Grade 3-7	13:55 – 14:25
School Team	14:25 – 15:00

- TENNIS CHAMPS

If you are interested in playing tennis for the Brackenhurst Primary Schools TENNIS TEAM – you have to enter the tennis champs. Champs will begin shortly so please enter before the 8 February 2012 you will be notified if your child has been selected. PLEASE NOTE: you must be able to score by yourself to qualify for the Tennis champs.

PLEASE NOTE: entries must be done via sms to coach Rudolph 0828987593 (Name & Surname & age group) if there is a problem please contact Mrs. Felix via the office.

- Athletics**

- FINAL School Team that will be participating in the Alberton Inter-Schools will receive letters on Monday notifying you if your child has been selected and for which race. NOTE: if your child is selected for the Interschools they must have the correct athletics kit no PE kits may be worn.

Athletics school team must attend compulsory practices as listed below or they will be excluded from the team. Any problems must be put in writing and given to Mrs. Felix. Please ensure that your child has kit to train in as they ARE NOT allowed wearing school uniform to train in.

- COMPULSORY PRACTISE for all athletes

Tuesday 14:00 – 15:00

Wednesday 14:00 – 15:00

- INTERSCHOOLS will be held on the 14 February 2012 – Alberview Primary school will be hosting (information to follow)



- ✓ **GRADE 7 Touch Rugby**

- TRIALS** for grade 7 girls and boys will be held on Friday 23 January 2012 from 13:30 – 16:00. Teams will be selected on the day and practices will start the week of the 6th February 2012 as league begins on the 10 February. Further information will be given to those children that are selected to play in the Brackenhurst Team.

GENERAL

Second Hand Clothing Shop:

The Second Hand uniform shop will be open on Thursday afternoons from 14:00 – 14:30 in the foyer of the hall. All items are priced below R50,00, depending on condition.

Tuckshop menu:

DAY	FOOD	COST
Monday	Pies Muffins	R8,50 R5,50
Tuesday	Hotdogs	R6,00
Wednesday	Mince Roll	R8,00
Thursday	Hotdogs	R6,00
Friday	Pizza slice	R8,50

We are appealing to any mothers who would be able to assist in the tuckshop to please contact Mrs Darlene Smith on 084 705 1742 or at the tuckshop (011) 900-1990.

“Help U” Advertiser:

The “Help-U” Advertiser is attached to this newsletter.



The cost of an ad is R30,00 per month. If you want to advertise in the "Help-U" advertiser, please forward details together with the money to Lynn Voordecker at the school office.

No pictures – just wording. Any queries, please e-mail admin@brackenprim.co.za.

Animal Food: PLEASE, PLEASE, OUR ANIMALS ARE HUNGRY!

We are appealing to learners in all grades to please bring the following items to the lab.

Wild bird seed; budgie seed; mixed bird seed; hamster food and bedding; rabbit food; carrot tops and lettuce and empty tissue boxes.

PARENTS CORNER

What Teachers Wish They Could Tell You

Academic Accuracy:

"Exam results are not everything. How your child treats people is most important."

"Never talk in a negative way about school or teachers in front of your child as it only undermines the teacher and does not generally lead to a good relationship, so essential for your child's learning. Focus on your child's feelings rather than on the teacher's actions and then make an appointment to see the teacher."

"Detention is a serious offence. Treat it as such and make sure that your side is clear."

"Teach your child time-management skills and that there is a time for work and a time for play. Set a limit for television and computer time and monitor the content to ensure that it is age appropriate."

"Don't moan about group work. Sometimes it is unfair, but your child needs to learn to delegate and to deal with freeloaders. There are these sorts of people in every job and learning how to handle them while still at school will be an important life skill."

"If your child is academically able, don't rush him/her off to gifted-children groups and tell him/her that he/she is a little Einstein. Rather spend the

extra mural time focusing on something he/she isn't so hot at. He/she will become a more rounded person and will not end up isolating him/herself from his/her peers."

"If your child tells you that he or she is bored, it does not mean that they are 'gifted'! It probably means that they do not understand the work and usually need extra assistance!"

"Praise your child regularly."

A word on communication

"Teach your children manners – that is not our job! This includes 'please,' 'thank you', standing back in doorways for adults and cleaning up after themselves."

"Allow children to sort out their own friendship issues and problems with siblings. If you step in every time, you are not teaching your child how to stand up for him/herself or how to develop conflict-resolution skills. Bullying and friendship issues are two different things. Children need you to support them if they are experiencing bullying, and parents should go to the relevant authorities in schools if their child is being bullied."

"Put your cellphone away. Don't arrive whilst talking on the phone and bark instructions to your child to get ready. This is the first time you are seeing your child after a busy day. They need a smile, a hug and an exchange of the day's news."

"Remember that whatever you are told by your child is his/her perception and only one side of a story. Find out the whole story before overreacting."

"If you don't believe everything you hear about school, we won't believe everything we hear about home!"

Article from "Child Magazine."

And finally

Once there was a boy who needed to do homework. His homework was to write his family's favourite words.



So when he got home he asked his mom who was listening to the radio, "What is your favourite word mom?" "Shut up!" so he wrote that down.

Then he went to his dad who was watching football and his favourite team had just scored a goal, so the little boy asked his dad. "What is your favourite word dad?" "Yeah!" so he wrote that down.

Next he went to his big sister and he asked her. "What is your favourite word?" She was listening to her favourite CD and said. "A lollipop, a lollipop." So he wrote that down.

Next he went to his brother. He was watching the end of batman. He asked him. "What is your favourite word?" "Nananananananana Batman!" So he wrote that down.

Then he went to his baby sister who was playing with her cars. So he asked her, "What is your favourite word?" "Voom, voom car, a voom, voom car." So he wrote that down.

The next day at school the teacher asked him to share his homework with the class.

He said, "Shut up!"
The teacher said, "Do you want to go to the principal's office?"
"Yeah!"
"What do you think you deserve?"
"A lollipop, a lollipop."
"Who do you think you are?"
"Nananananananana Batman!"

"What do you think you are going to get away with?"
"Voom, voom car, a voom, voom car."

Regards

ANNE BURGER