



St Paulus Preprimary and Primary School NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents

ST PIFA FUN TOURNAMENT

5 June is only around the corner! The busy-ness of this term is threatening to eclipse this most important event – our own Mini World Cup event – the St Pifa Fun Tournament. Please get those takkies on and start practising. Don't forget to organise your very own Cheerleading Team, and let us have fun with our children while raising much-needed funds for the PTA's 2010 project, which is to develop the area between the swimming pool and the Grade R classrooms. We get so few opportunities to have a "Family Fun Day" in a safe environment, where we shall all get plenty of exercise. Parking is available on the small sportsfield. We shall also provide extra security both in and outside of the school premises. Entries need to be posted at the Sports Office by 31 May, so that Mr Webster and his team can draw up the fixture lists.

STAFF UPDATE

Mr Klaus Ottner underwent knee surgery for torn ligaments on Friday. He will be resting that knee for a while and will only return to work on 7 June.

Mrs Angela Burrow was only due to leave us on maternity leave on 31

May, but young Luke had other plans for his Mom. We

welcome Luke Burrow, who weighed in at

2,7kg at 15:00 on Sunday, 23 May. Congratulations to his proud Mom and Dad!



GRADE THREE WORLD CUP

The Grade Three's most certainly did themselves proud with their outstanding projectwork and the exciting Sports Tournament which was fielded on Friday. My observations as an experienced educationist of any, and all project work at any level, is that the two most important factors will always remain:

- While parents may guide and give suggestions, the execution of all tasks must be done by the children and these should be reflective of their age and ability level. While doing a project for one's child may have a short-term benefit, in the long-term, it denies our children



the opportunity to develop their own skills and it also makes them feel that what they produce on their own is not good enough. This makes them dependent and lowers self-esteem. We need to remember that we had our chance to excel at Primary School when we were the appropriate age. Our teachers aren't trying to educate and grow adults. Our responsibility is to "grow children" – and to do it by ensuring that their self-esteem flourishes by the affirmation they receive for completing their own tasks to the best of their ability.

- Being a team player. We all know how much easier it is to complete a task independently without being hampered by having to consider the opinions of others. Working on one's own takes half the time it does to complete something as a group.

However, as social beings we have to develop inter-personal relationship skills, and the best place to learn these is to work on a group project. Children are regularly assessed throughout their education on factors involving retention, retrieval, application of knowledge, yet the skills we most need for being good leaders, partners and colleagues in the workplace, and good fathers, mothers, and partners on the home-front, those of being part of a unit – the family-team, do not receive the same emphasis.

I thoroughly enjoyed the “Winter Games,” and of course, all the delicious culinary delights from the many countries. Thank you to the children for their hard work and enthusiasm, the parents for their support and effort, and to the teachers for their creativity and dedication.

WHAT TEACHERS MAKE

People are at times disparaging about teachers, and the teaching profession, as it is not one of the more highly paid professions. As a society, we so often fall into the trap of equating material wealth with status. I share with you an adaptation of an e-mail received recently. (I am not able to acknowledge the source as it was not included.)

At a dinner-party, discussion revolved around the success of various business ventures, and the focus shifted to the haplessness of teachers, clearly ill-equipped to “make” anything – “What can a kid learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?” challenged the successful CEO at the head of the table. “What does a teacher make?”

A teacher at the table responded to the challenge with the following:

“I make children wonder. I make them question. I make them say sorry and really mean it. I make them respect themselves and others and take responsibility for their actions. I make them read, read, read. I make them show their calculations when solving a Maths problem using their God-given brain and not a calculator. I make them proud of their own unique cultural identity while recognising the value of others. I make them take pride in their efforts and feel good about themselves. I make the classroom a safe place for children to make mistakes and learn. As a teacher, what I “make” is not always tangible but most importantly – I make a difference.”

CONGRATULATIONS

Lauren and Bernice Coetzer have been chosen for the North Gauteng Zone Team which will be competing in Pinetown, Kwazulu/Natal on 11 June.

May you have a wonderful weekend with your children as you spend time organising your Team for the St Pifa Fun Tournament!

THE WEEK AHEAD

Friday, 28 May:

Soccer: Crawford Malas Tournament U/6 – U/9 (Juniors)

Hockey League at Rietondale

Saturday, 29 May:

Spar Soccer Tournament U/10 – U/13 (Seniors)

Hockey League at Rietondale

Tuesday, 1 June:

Soccer: Challenge Cup Final at CBC – U/10B

Wednesday:

Netball: vs La Montagne at St Paulus – U/9 – U/13

Thursday, 3 June:

Hockey: U/12A Boys vs Tygervalley at Tygervalley

Friday, 4 June:

Hockey League at Rietondale

Saturday, 5 June: St Pifa at St. Paulus (08:00)



Saturday, 5 June 2010:
St PIFA Fun Tournament
08:00

"Failure is only the opportunity to begin again more intelligently."

- Henry Ford