



CIRCULAR 2

THURSDAY 04 FEBRUARY 2016

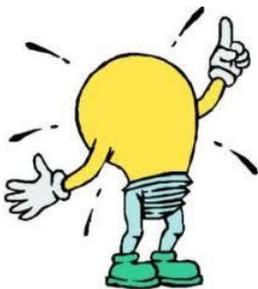
Dear Parents/Guardians

WOW! What a great turnout at the recent Parent Information Evening held last week! We are so excited to be on this 'education journey' with such incredible parents and look forward to working together to build a prosperous school environment. At our Parent Information Evening I mentioned that beyond curriculum, facilities and programmes, what makes a school great is its CULTURE. During the next few circulars I aim to unpack our Oasis Prep School culture with the aim of inspiring you as parents to join us in building this culture both at home & school.

The term **school culture** generally refers to the beliefs, perceptions, relationships, attitudes, and written and unwritten rules that shape and influence every aspect of how a school functions. Like the larger social culture, a school culture results from both conscious and unconscious perspectives, values, interactions, and practices, and it is heavily shaped by a school's particular institutional history. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, and other staff members all contribute to their school's culture, as do other influences such as the community in which the school is located, the policies that govern how it operates, or the principles upon which the school was founded. (Glossary of Education Reform <http://edglossary.org>)

Oasis Preparatory School's culture can be described in one word **EFFULGE** 'to cause to shine with abundance of light, to radiate, beam, shine forth'. This is both an acronym of our seven core cultures (see below) that define who we are but is actually also a legitimate word whose definition carries our express purpose as a school.

- ▶ **Extraordinary** Living lives beyond ordinary, governed by heavens reality
- ▶ **Faith** Seeing from God's perspective & learning to partner with God in living out His purposes
- ▶ **Family** Community heart where everyone is included, safe and valued
- ▶ **Unique** Recognizing & nurturing individual strengths for the benefit of others
- ▶ **Love** Knowing the love of God and giving this love to others in a way that changes lives
- ▶ **Generosity** Looking to the needs of others beyond self with lavish joy & kindness
- ▶ **Excellence** Giving my best and ensuring quality, integrity and personal commitment in all I do



MEET CAPTAIN EFFULGE! He is a superhero who embodies our culture and is on a mission to transform lives, families and communities.

Join him on the journey of a life time by committing to living extraordinary lives that see with the eyes of faith, love with the heart of family, living out your unique purpose with excellence as you generously contribute to making this world look like heaven.

Yours in Education,
Mr. MA Hogarty
PRINCIPAL



ON A SIDE NOTE: Our new school tuckshop (The Snack Barn) opened this week and has been serving some delicious healthy lunches for only R35 (including fresh juice & fruit/muffin/yoghurt). I decided that this was a great deal and so signed up to get lunches (beats the morning rush trying to make my own!) and have been so impressed by what I received.



Here is a little picture of the ham, cheese & salad mini French loaf that we got on Wednesday and the Fish Fingers, potatoes and salad from Thursday ... YUM! I encourage parents to make the most of this opportunity and take the headache out of preparing school lunches.

SCHOOL CALENDAR WEEK 4 & 5 (MON 08 FEB – FRI 19 FEB 2016)

DATE:	WEEK ONE:	DATE:	WEEK TWO:
MON 08/02	-	MON 15/02	-
TUES 09/02	-	TUES 16/02	-
WED 10/02	-	WED 17/02	Squash Match
THURS 11/02	-	THURS 18/02	-
FRI 12/02	Grade 1 Outing	FRI 19/02	Grade 2 Outing / Tennis Match

STAFF NEWS

We would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to all the parents who joined us at our Parent Evening. We really value and appreciate your commitment and support and we are looking forward to partnering with you this year.



Mrs. Khethiwe Chibanda will be participating in Swimming Coaching and Stroke Correction training being held at The Wykeham Collegiate this weekend. We wish her all the best and look forward to our swimming team improve even more under her guidance.

ACADEMIC UPDATE

Did you know...

- In the World Economic Forum of 2015, South Africa ranked #139 out of #143 countries in the overall quality of education?
- We also ranked #143 out of #143 in Maths and Science.
- While our official literacy stats appear good, 92% of South Africans can read and write according to the government website, the definition of literacy is being able to read and write a sentence.



With stats like these, it is easy to become discouraged and disillusioned with our education system. However, we are excited about these stats – it clearly show us the areas we need to work on! Part of the reason we decided on the Singapore Maths and Science curriculum and Keys to Reading programme is because they are top, world class curriculums. Singapore is

ranked #1 in the world for Maths and Science as well as in overall quality of education. Keys to Reading has achieved some incredible results, with some students improving their reading levels by 9 grades!

We are excited about this year and all it holds, especially in our academics. We are motivated to start changing statistics, one child at a time, so watch this space!

ADMINISTRATION

TO ENCOURAGE CREATIVITY & INNOVATION we have started our **SPECIAL INTERESTS CLUBS**. Clubs form an important part of developing creativity, life skills and talents beyond the classroom while giving opportunity for students to build memories and friendships. As our timetable is already full with academic and sport commitments, clubs take place on **Fridays from 12:30 – 13:30**. Students who are participating in Academic Extension Time or Friday School Service will forfeit the privilege of attending Clubs.



Clubs on offer for Term 1, 2016:

CLUB:	TEACHER IN CHARGE:
Chess	Mrs. Hurd and Ms. Hearthstones
Enviro	Mrs. Hattingh and Mrs. Byleveld
Home Economics	Mrs. Hills and Mrs. Chibanda
Design and Technology	Mr. van Niekerk
Drama	Mrs. van Niekerk

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP (PNP)

We are excited to announce that our Parents in Partnership team has been elected and the first planning meeting for the term will be held on Tuesday 09 February. Thank you to all the parents who participated in the election process. This first meeting will outline our Friendraising and Fundraising plan for the year. We are always looking for ideas to help benefit the school as well as sponsors for events, facilities and equipment so if you are looking for a way to participate feel free to contact us with your ideas.

A great way to be a Parent in Partnership is to join our 100's club. To become a 100's club member simply donate 100 rand per month to the school with the reference "100's club" and your account number. 100's club donations go directly to funding bursaries. Anonymous donations are also welcome.

‘THE COLLAPSE OF PARENTING’ – AN INTERESTING PERSPECTIVE

Below is an extract from an interesting article entitled: *Why kids today are out of shape, disrespectful – and in charge*. Dr. Leonard Sax has been a family physician and psychologist for 27 years, conducting workshops around the world for parents, teachers, social workers, counsellors, school psychologists and juvenile justice professionals. He's also a dad, and has written his fourth book titled, "The Collapse of Parenting". In it, Sax argues that families are facing a crisis of authority, where the kids are in charge, out of

shape emotionally and physically, and suffering because of it. He calls for a reordering of family life in response.

QUESTION: What exactly do you mean by a collapse of parenting?

It is now common to have children being disrespectful to parents, being disrespectful to one another, being disrespectful to themselves, verbally and otherwise. The culture has changed in a profound way in a short period of time in ways that have really harmed kids. I think you should treat kids like grown-ups and expect them to be mature and to behave.

It's not about the abdication of authority. For example, it's common now to find parents who are chauffeuring their children around to various events. The parent makes a recommendation, but the child makes the final decision. I know of cases where the kid was clearly making the wrong decision and the parents knew it but nevertheless felt completely powerless to overrule their child. The child is the one who suffers.

The same is true with regard to a cellphone in the bedroom. You now find kids at 10 - 16 years of age who have their phone in their bedroom at 2 in the morning. No child should have a phone in their bedroom unsupervised. That's not just my opinion. That is the official teaching of the American Academy of Pediatrics in guidelines published (in) October 2013. But you would be astonished how many parents find that an impossible recommendation. They feel that they have no authority over their child in many domains.

QUESTION: You refer to the value of family dinner.

Research shows having a family meal at home without distractions is important. Every day. Not doing that indicates that time spent at home with parents is the least important priority. It doesn't matter. It can be overlooked and forgotten. By communicating that time at home as a family is our highest priority, you are sending the message that family matters. So many kids are in the race to nowhere, trying to add things on to their resume through extracurricular activities with no sense of why. They just burn out at 15 years of age.

QUESTION: What types of things can parents do to help a child or teen become a fulfilled adult?

The first thing is to teach humility, which is now the most undervalued of virtues. When I meet with kids I ask them what they think it is and they literally have no idea. High school kids are more clueless than the third-graders. They have been indoctrinated in their own awesomeness with no understanding of how this culture of bloated self-esteem leads to resentment. I see the girl who was told how amazing she was who is now resentful at age 25 because she's working in a cubicle for a low wage and she's written two novels and she can't get an agent.

The second thing is to enjoy the time with your child. Don't multitask. Get outdoors with your child.

The last thing: Teach the meaning of life. It cannot be just about getting a good job. It's not just about achievement. It's about who you are as a human being. You must have an answer.