



## CIRCULAR 3

THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2016

### Dear Parents/Guardians

Over the course of the year, we will be going through each aspect of our school culture, giving practical ways to live these out. I encourage you to go through these aspects and examples as a family – make use of the declarations and the other practical examples. Our aim is that our culture becomes who we are – every parent, child and staff member. For the next two weeks, we are focusing on: **EXTRAORDINARY**.

### EXTRAORDINARY

**Definition:** beyond what is usual, ordinary or regular, exceptional in character, amount, extent, and degree; noteworthy; remarkable

Our belief is that every child is **EXTRAORDINARY** and because they are **EXTRAORDINARY**, they can overcome obstacles; they can persevere; they can face situations with integrity and honour and they can transform ordinary moments into **EXTRAORDINARY** encounters.

**Eph 3:20** Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

### Practical Application: Do an extraordinary analysis of your life...

- Each family member gets a piece of paper
- Divide a sheet of paper into four
- Label each quadrant as seen in the example below
- Fill in each quadrant honestly
- Discuss

What does God say about me?	Why do I think I am extraordinary?
Why do others think I am extraordinary?	What lies am I believing that makes me doubt that I am extraordinary?

### Declarations:

1. I have been created in the image of God therefore I am extraordinary
2. I am beautiful/handsome, pure, talented, and able to do all things because of Jesus who lives in me
3. My prayers are powerful and effective

### Yours in Education,

Mr. MA Hogarty  
PRINCIPAL

## SCHOOL CALENDAR WEEK 6 & 7 (MON 22 FEB – FRI 04 MARCH 2016)

DATE:	WEEK SIX:	DATE:	WEEK SEVEN:
MON 22/02	Grade 4 – 12 Outreach	MON 29/02	JP Back to Front Day
TUES 23/02	-	TUES 01/03	-
WED 24/02	-	WED 02/03	SP Interschool Gala
THURS 25/02	-	THURS 03/03	-
FRI 26/02	Grade 3 Outing	FRI 04/03	Grade 1 Outreach

## STAFF NEWS

We would like to say welcome to a new staff member to our team: Ms. Sam Fryers. Sam is joining us in the Admin Department as the new school secretary. Sam has worked with children for several years as an au pair as well as a Children's Ministry Leader at the Howick Community Church. She is excited about her new venture with us.

For all school-related queries, please contact 033 330 3456 or email [academy@theoasischurch.co.za](mailto:academy@theoasischurch.co.za) between the hours of 07:30 – 16:30 Mondays to Thursdays and 07:30 – 14:30 on Fridays.

## ACADEMIC UPDATE

Nelson Mandela once said 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.' At Oasis Prep, we believe in equipping our students to see them change the world around them. We believe in world-changers and history-makers. We believe that inside each student there is the potential to be the change that the world so desperately needs. We believe that a quality academic programme is the first step in this.

While education is more than just what you learn in textbooks and at school, these textbooks and lessons are the foundations and are, therefore, a vital part of education. Our heart is to partner with you, as parents, to make learning an exciting and life-altering adventure. Here are some ways that you can join us on this journey:

### Mathematics:



Mrs. Lorraine Hattingh, our Mathematics teacher, found a wonderful article entitled: *THE IMPORTANCE OF PROFICIENCY IN MATHS* written by a teacher:

"...I am consciously aware of the importance at this stage of a thorough grounding in certain basic mathematical concepts as a basis for later Maths learning. I...know how important a good foundation is. Despite parenting commentators say, it is clearly evident in the classroom that children benefit from practicing their bonds and tables at home. Here are

a few thoughts on Maths in [the Junior Primary]:

- Credit Card Maths homework: take a short-cut now and you will pay later! There are no shortcuts to cementing in Maths concepts for later use. Never skip an oral Maths exercise because the teacher has no evidence you did it! Always be available to do Maths with your child.
- Repetition of oral counting activities and bonds develops basic neural pathways which will be used ALL THE TIME in later mathematical calculations.
- Memorization without meaning is a waste of time.
- Counting in ones has to be proficient both up (from 0 - 100) and down (from 100 - 0). The trickiest part is counting "over a 10 barrier" ie 29 - 31, or 49 - 51, as they have to think not only about which unit comes next but which ten is coming up. To help here, start at a number mid-way between two tens and ask the child to continue eg start

## ACADEMIC UPDATE CONTINUED...

at 36 and ask the child to count from there to 100. Do the same with counting in twos-count upwards and backwards, and don't only start at zero. Also count in fives, tens and elevens as this also supports early times table memorization.

- Bonds of ten: because our mathematical system is a base 10 system, EVERYTHING you ever do in Maths is based on one critical understanding, and that is the concept of ten. To really help bonds of ten, you should probably do them frequently even if they are not given for homework. Try a speed competition where you flash a flashcard and the child must give the corresponding bond (1 + 9, 4 + 6, 5 + 5)."

Each Junior Primary student will receive a homework/revision book, where they will be given weekly revision work. Please do not be intimidated by this book – each child is only required to do one or two exercises a week as revision. Should your child wish to do more than that, they are more than welcome to. We will not send home any work that has not already been covered in class.

Senior Primary students have the opportunity to use Mathletics and Khan Academy as Math tools. Each student has their own login and password so these programmes can be enjoyed at home AND at school.

### Languages:

Reading, reading, and more reading! According to LearnToRead.com, "Reading is important because it develops the mind; it is how we discover new ideas and things; it develops the imagination and the creative side of people. The mind is a muscle and it needs exercise. Understanding the written word is one way the mind grows in its ability. Teaching young children to read helps them develop their language skills and listening skills. Everybody wants to talk, but few can really listen. Books, magazines and even the Internet are great learning tools which require the ability to read and understand what is read. TV and computer games are more like amusement, which comes from two words "a" [non] and "muse" [think]. Amusement is non-thinking activities. With reading, a person can go anywhere in the world...or even out of it! The possibilities are endless. When reading to children, stop every once in a while and ask them what they think is going to happen next. Get them thinking about the story. When it is finished, ask if they could think of a better ending or anything that would have improved it. If they really liked the story, encourage them to illustrate it with their own drawings or to make up a different story with the same characters. Get the creative juices flowing!"



Students will be given 'readers' to read out loud every day. There is a difference between silent reading – a child reading in their head or to themselves – and out loud reading. Your child may be able to read at a higher level in silent reading, but fluency and vocabulary skills are only really tested when a child reads out loud. I encourage you to read to your child, but also allow them to read to you. Encourage them to 'work out' the difficult words rather than giving them the answers and enjoy these moments together. Make them fun and exciting!

### Other Projects and Reports:

The reason behind our extracurricular activities is simple – our aim here at Oasis is to ensure that our learners are fully equipped, well rounded students. These activities allow students to broaden their horizons, explore new skills and encourage a thirst for knowledge.

We require specific projects and reports to be completed by students to form part of their student portfolios. These are as follows:

- Termly Book Reports: English (Grade 2 – 12) and Afrikaans (Grade 4 – 12)
- Termly Orals: Prepared, Impromptu, Debates or Researched (All Grades)
- Bi-Annual Vocabulary Extension: Show and Tell (Junior Primary) and Spelling Bees (Grade 1-7)

**Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.**

Anthony J. D'Angelo

## ACADEMIC UPDATE CONTINUED...

- Daily Maths drills, bonds and tables
- Termly Creative Writing
- Bi-Annual Essays
- Bi-Annual Projects

Our aim is to 'streamline' these activities and ensure that students are enjoying well-balanced school involvement. This means that we try as much as possible to ensure that work and 'extra activities' are interconnected.

Staff, parents and students make an incredible team, when we are unified in our purpose. So we ask that you, as parents and students, join together with us and help make education the exciting adventure it is meant to be. Together, nothing is impossible!



### Some exciting results:

Our students participate in the annual Conquesta Olympiads. These Olympiads are held all over the country and are internationally recognized. We would like to congratulate the following Grades for coming in the Top 20 in South Africa in 2015:

- Life Skills (Grade 1) – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
- Bible Study (Grade 4) – 4<sup>th</sup> Place
- Life Skills (Grade 4) – 12<sup>th</sup> Place
- Bible Study (Grade 6) – 10<sup>th</sup> Place
- Bible Study (Grade 7) – 10<sup>th</sup> Place

## PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP (PNP)

We are thrilled to announce that our first Parents in Partnership meeting was a hit. We shared the vision for the year in terms of Friendraising and Fundraising and then brainstormed additional ideas from the parents to add to the calendar.

If you missed the meeting and would still like to get involved, please contact Mr. Angus van Niekerk at the office or [angus@oasischristianacademy.co.za](mailto:angus@oasischristianacademy.co.za).



Watch this space for details of our exciting FRIEND- and FUND- RAISING initiatives!

