



CIRCULAR 7

THURSDAY 05 MAY 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

I trust that you enjoyed the mini break – thanks to all those public holidays – and are enjoying the changing season. With crisp mornings and cooler days, autumn is definitely upon us! The last 2 months of this term have so many exciting events and activities coming up and we are trusting that you will join us on this journey. Continuing our look into our culture, we are focusing on **EXCELLENCE** for the next two weeks.

EXCELLENCE

Definition: possessing outstanding quality or superior merit; remarkably good.

We expect a standard of EXCELLENCE in our students. Our heart is to see each student applying themselves to every task set before them and completing it to the best of their ability.

1 Timothy 4:12 'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.'

Activity: Read article 'How to create a culture of excellence' (edited)

"While very few business owners would ever say, "I don't want a culture of excellence," the reality is that very few businesses actually do create a culture of excellence. If you don't believe me, just think through how many customer service issues you've had with the businesses you've used! Now, the reason why there are so many customer service nightmare stories out there is because, while excellence is a value "everyone" likes to talk about, very few businesses are willing to do the hard work necessary to make excellence a reality. However, if you're one of those leaders who doesn't just want to talk "excellence" but actually wants to deliver it, here are a few ideas for how you can go about creating a culture of excellence.



I. If All Starts With You

At its core, values are caught, more than taught. Which means that if you want to radically increase your people's commitment to excellence, then you need to evaluate your own commitment to excellence first. So if you don't like the level at which your people are delivering excellence, then the first place to start would be your example.

II. Continually Share Stories of Excellence

Since the beginning of time, cultures have been shaped by the stories they've told. Jewish culture was shaped by the stories of Abraham and Moses. Greek and Roman cultures were shaped by the stories of their Greek and Roman Gods, along with their warrior stories. Viking culture was shaped by their stories. American Indian culture was shaped by their stories. Every culture has been shaped by story. The same is true for your business. If you want to change your culture, you have to change the stories you're telling. And the best way to do that is to find stories of excellence anywhere you can and start sharing them.

III. Mean It!

In other words, you have to enforce it. You can't simply talk about the ideal of excellence. Nor, can you simply put it in a list of core values. You have to ensure excellence is practiced day in and day out—and you have to be consistent about it. In fact, if you're a parent, you know this. You can't simply say to a child one time, "Do this ..." and expect them to do it. Nor, can you be fickle and enforce it every now and then or even most of the time. Nor can you have one parent (if you're in a two parent situation) where one enforces it but the other doesn't. Change doesn't work that way. If you want your kids to do something, you have to be absolutely consistent. The same is true at work.

Creating culture always involves three key elements—example, story, and enforcement. If you remove any of the three from the equation, the probability of creating a new culture dies quickly. Moreover, if those three things aren't done consistently and continually, culture change dies with it as well.

So, as you look at your business (or organization or family), which of these three do you need to work on to create the kind of culture of excellence that you want your business to uphold and your customers/clients to experience?"

- What are two or three areas that you believe you can set an example of 'excellence' in what you do?
- What story exemplifies excellence for you?
- How can you remain committed and consistent in enforcing this?

Declarations:

1. I give my best in all situations
2. I expect today to be the best day of my life spiritually, emotionally, relationally, and financially in Jesus Name

Yours in Education,

Mr. MA Hogarty
PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL CALENDAR WEEK 14 & 15 (MON 09 MAY – FRI 20 MAY 2016)

| DATE: | WEEK FOURTEEN | DATE: | WEEK FIFTEEN |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| MON 09/05 | - | MON 16/05 | - |
| TUES 10/05 | Grade 1-2 Girls Mini Hockey Tournament | TUES 17/05 | - |
| WED 11/05 | Squash Match | WED 18/05 | - |
| THURS 12/05 | - | THURS 19/05 | - |
| FRI 13/05 | Grade 1 Outing | FRI 20/05 | Choir Festival at OPS Tennis Match |

ADMINISTRATION

SPORT:

Our Grade 1-2 girls participated in a mini hockey festival, held at Michaelhouse School. Our results were as follows:

Grade 1:

2-4 to Treverton

Grade 2:

1-1 against Treverton

1-0 against Clifton



Well done to our girls – you did us proud! THANK YOU to all the parents who came to support our girls.

On Tuesday, 10 May, our Grade 1-2 girls will be participating in another tournament, hosted by Howick Prep. Parents are welcome to support our girls – the tournament starts at 13:00 and should be done by 14:00.

Making Memories Competition Winners

Congratulations to Abigail Dickens for winning the first prize (a mini photo shoot with Kristi Smith Photography), to Samukelisiwe Biyela for winning second prize (Karkloof Canopy tours voucher), and to May Naidoo for winning third prize (Wimpy Howick vouchers.) We hope you enjoy your well-deserved prizes. Thank you to all those who entered.



iNSPIRE Event

We had such an awesome time with Di Taylor learning about how UNIQUE and INCREDIBLE our children are! Di discussed the different learning styles and gave us practical tips to assist our children in learning. Thank you to all those parents who came out and supported this event.



SPEECH AND DRAMA FESTIVAL:

We are so excited about our 'Speech and Drama Festival' which will be held on 03 June. This year, ALL Grade 1 – 12 learners will be performing individual poems. Students will be judged on expression, presentation and creativity. We have been practicing these poems during our drama times, however, we ask that you please encourage your child to practice their poem at home. Please note: all junior primary students received a poem at the beginning of the term and the senior primary received their poems last term. It is your child's responsibility to look after their poem. Any lost or misplaced poems will be replaced and a R20 fee will be charged to your account. I know that our students will do an exceptional job and will make our school proud!



Speech and Drama Association
of South Africa

'EXCELLENCE is not a skill. It is an attitude.'

ADMINISTRATION

CHOIR FESTIVAL

We are excited to be hosting an interschool Choir Festival. On Friday, 20th May from 09:00 – 11:00, our Vocal Ensemble will be competing against other choirs and vocal groups. Parents are welcome to attend this event and we are trusting that it will be a wonderful morning of fun!



LEGACY FAMILY FUN RUN

Calling all families! We are hosting a 'Legacy Run' in aid of our building projects. We ask that every family come and support this day – by running, jogging, skipping or walking!

This event will take place on Saturday, 4 June at 10am at Piggly Wiggly. The cost is R25 per person or R60 per family. There are awesome prizes, live music, train rides and much more!

For more information or to find out how YOU and YOUR BUSINESS can help, please contact Mr. Angus van Niekerk on 033 330 3456 or angus@oasisprep.co.za

Looking forward to building community together in a FUN and EXCITING way!



LEGACY PROJECT CHALLENGE

Oasis, together with the Parents in Partnership team, are excited about our fundraising drive for 2016: the "LEGACY project". With a vision to fund the completion of the Junior Primary classrooms, we will be offering the opportunity for interested parties to 'buy a brick'!



CHALLENGE: We challenge each family find sponsors for at least 5 bricks at R200/brick. Due to our growing numbers, we need to complete the classrooms downstairs. These building projects will result in quality education for all students. All those who donate will be celebrated on our social media platforms and a plaque will also be mounted to commemorate their generosity.

For all those who are interested in donating to this cause, please see the banking details below:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Account Name: | Oasis Christian Academy Development fund |
| Account Number: | 62361056990 |
| Bank: | FNB |
| Branch: | 22075 |
| Registered NPO: | 115-247 |
| PBO: | 930036997 |

Please see the flyer insert for more information. If you have any queries, please contact Mr. Angus van Niekerk on 033 330 3456 or angus@oasisprep.co.za.

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD:

As part of encouraging a standard of EXCELLENCE, we are excited to announce our annual Principal's Award. This award is awarded to students who meet the following criteria every term:

- An overall aggregate of 80% (Grade 1-3) and 95% (Grade 4-12)
- All projects and extra-curricular assignments completed and submitted on time
- The termly Scripture passage memorized
- Good display of Godly character – in attitude and behaviour

Students who achieve this award will be rewarded with a special all-day activity outside of school property. They will be able to wear civvies on this special day and will be accompanied by the Principal on their fun activity. The activity will take place during normal school hours.

'EXCELLENCE is doing ordinary things extraordinarily well.'

ACADEMICS

One of the biggest questions I get asked, mainly by students, is why should I read? When I was younger, that was never a question I asked. My parents instilled in me a love of reading, by taking me to the library, by reading stories to me and by taking an interest in what I was reading. Today, reading is still one of my favourite pastimes! As parents and teachers, it is a big part of our responsibility to encourage our children to read. I found this great article that discusses "10 Benefits of Reading": <http://www.best-books-for-kids.com/benefits-of-reading.html>

1. Kids who read often get better at it

This is pretty much just common sense. After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything we do and reading is no different from anything else.

2. Reading exercises our brains

Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain than, say, watching TV is. Reading strengthens brain connections and actually builds new connections.

3. Reading improves concentration

Children have to sit still and quietly so they can focus on the story when they're reading. If they read regularly, they develop the ability to do this for longer periods.

4. Reading teaches children about the world around them

Through reading, children learn about people, places and events outside their own experience. They are exposed to ways of life, ideas and beliefs about the world which may be different from those which surround them. This learning is important for its own sake and it builds a store of background knowledge which helps children learn to read confidently and well.

5. Reading improves a child's vocabulary and leads to more highly-developed language skills

This is because children learn new words as they read but also because they unconsciously absorb information as they read about things like how to structure sentences and how to use words and language effectively.

6. Reading develops a child's imagination

This is because when we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. When we're engaged in a story, we're also imagining how the characters are feeling. We use our own experiences to imagine how we would feel in the same situation.

7. Reading helps kids develop empathy

This is something I've only recently realised but it makes sense. Because you're identifying with the character in the story, so you feel what he's feeling.

8. Children who read do better at school

And they don't just do better at subjects like reading, English and History. They do better at all subjects and they do better all the way through school.

9. Reading is a great form of entertainment

A paperback book or an e-reader doesn't take up much space so you can take it anywhere and you'll never be lonely or bored if you have a book in your bag.

10. Reading relaxes the body and calms the mind

This is an important point because these days we seem to have forgotten how to relax and especially how to be silent. The constant movement, flashing lights and noise which bombard our senses when we're watching TV, looking at a computer or playing an electronic game are actually quite stressful for our brains. When we read, we read in silence and the black print on a white page is much less stressful for our eyes and brains."

Let us take this call to read seriously. We suggest that our Junior Primary students should read their reading cards or readers out loud every day. Our Senior Primary should read for at least 20 minutes a day and High School should read for at least 30 minutes a day. I encourage you to task your family with a 'Reading Challenge'. Ask your child what they are reading. Discuss your favourite books. After all, readers are leaders!

