



CIRCULAR 9

THURSDAY 02 JUNE 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

It's hard to believe that term 2 is almost finished. It has been a busy, but a fun, memory-filled term. Below is a great article on PERSPECTIVE and why it is important to be a people of FRUIT rather than GIANTS.

GIANTS OR FRUIT?

As we read the account of Joshua & Caleb (Numbers 13 & 14) and their entry into the Promised Land, we can only but personalize this journey, as we discover that in our lives we are met with a similar challenge every day. They were promised to be led by God into a spacious place – a place of fruitfulness, life, joy, hope and provision. This may sound too good to be true, but in much the same way, our loving Father has stored up exactly the same life for us as His children – if we are prepared to walk through the journey of the desert and partner with Him to renew our minds. The walk through the desert was supposed to be a short journey for the Israelites as they learnt to trust, worship & surrender fully to God and His ways. Unfortunately, due to stubborn hearts they refused to use this walk to 'renew their minds' and lay aside worldly patterns for Godly patterns and so ended up forfeiting this spacious place (called the Promised Land) and dying in the desert of difficult circumstances. All except for two individuals out of the large company of God's people – Joshua & Caleb.

What was different about these two? What can we learn from their lives?

We see that all but Joshua & Caleb said the following when they were reporting on their experience of the Promised Land, 'And they gave the children of Israel a **bad report** of the land which they had spied out', choosing to speak about the GIANTS rather than the FRUIT they discovered. Joshua on the other hand had this to say, 'the land we passed through to spy out is an **exceedingly good** land.' I think that it is clear that our ability to enter into & live in all that God has planned for us has a lot to do with the PERSPECTIVE we allow to frame the way we THINK. Are we people that focus on the GIANTS (problems, pressures, what God is not doing) or are we people who focus on the FRUIT (evidence of God's goodness, provision, life)? Yes, it's that simple but requires a daily walk of THANKSGIVING to adjust what we are focusing on. By focusing on the FRUIT we are not denying the existence of GIANTS but rather denying them a place of influence in our thinking. We can look for 'fruit' rather than 'giants' in our families, spouses, jobs, community, school – in every area of our lives!

The key to living like this is to start each day with **THANKSGIVING** – 5 minutes of thanking God for what He is doing, the miracles that you are seeing and the evidence of His goodness in your life. If you cultivate a lifestyle of thanksgiving you will quickly see your thinking change to reflect God's heart. Give it a go and see how things begin to change around you as every believer should be living in the Promised Land.

In the next few editions we are going to put this into practice in the Oasis Prep environment by introducing a section called '**HALL OF FAME**' into our circular where we will be shine some light on some of the fruitful parts of the school environment. This will include shining a spotlight on various academic departments, staff members, outreach work, sports progress and even families that are bearing much fruit. We hope you enjoy this!

Let's work hard to shift our perspective so that we can enter our Promised Land!

Yours in Education,
Mr. M Hogarty
PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL CALENDAR WEEK 18 & 19 (MON 06 JUNE – FRI 17 JUNE 2016)

DATE:	WEEK EIGHTEEN	DATE:	WEEK NINETEEN
MON 06/06	-	MON 13/06	-
TUES 07/06	Grade 1-2 Mini Soccer Tournament	TUES 14/06	Grade 1-2 Mini Soccer Tournament
WED 08/06	Recycling Challenge Launch	WED 15/06	Dream Builder Donations Due Grade 4-12 Team Building
THURS 09/06	-	THURS 16/06	Public Holiday
FRI 10/06	Grade 4-7 Soccer Tournament JP Drama Festival	FRI 17/06	School Holiday

ADMINISTRATION

SPEECH AND DRAMA FESTIVAL:

Just a reminder that the Speech and Drama Festival starts on Friday, 03 June. Due to a scheduling adjustment, the Grade 4-12's will perform on Friday and the Grade 1-3's will perform on the 10th June. I apologize for any inconvenience.



CHOIR FESTIVAL

We had a wonderful time with International Christian Academy on Friday, 22 May. Our Vocal Ensemble did exceptionally well and we are so impressed with their growth! Well done and THANK YOU to Ms. Annari van Jaarsveld for all her hard work. (For a video clip of our singers, check out our Facebook page!)



LEGACY FAMILY FUN RUN

Hip, hip, HORRAY – Legacy Run on Saturday! Well done to those who have already booked. There are so many prizes up for grabs on Saturday as well as an auction for a delicious hamper from Hogarty Attorneys. Register via quicket or send through your money and entry to the office, and we will register you.

Those who have offered to help on Saturday with set-up, we will be at Piggly Wiggly from 8am and those on clean-up will be from 13:30. We look forward to seeing ALL our students there, with parents, friends, and family.

RECYCLE MANIA

The challenge is ON in June! We will be hosting a 'recycling drive' from 08 June – 15 June. Each morning, there will be recycling monitors at the bins to calculate the numbers of bags brought in by each student. (Normal plastic shopping bags will count as one, full black bags will count as three.) There is an AWESOME prize to be won, so watch this space for more details and start collecting recycling TODAY!



Live simply.
Dream big.
Be grateful.
Give love.
Laugh lots.

DREAM BUILDERS PROJECTS

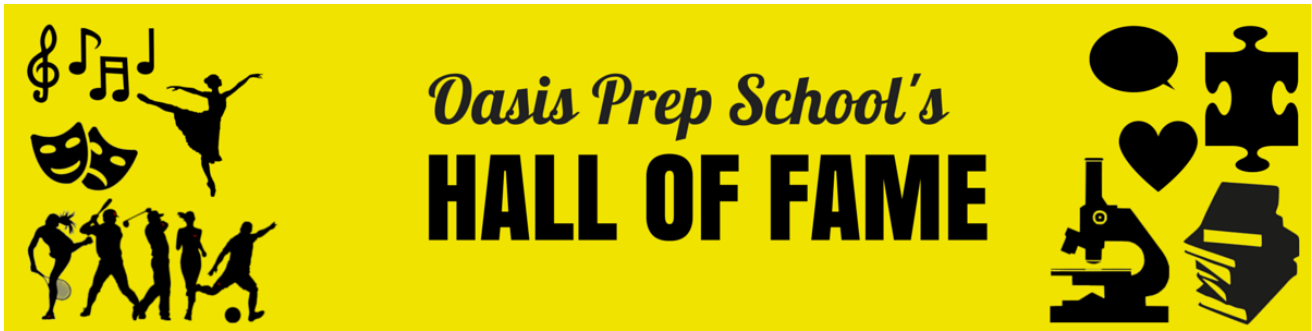
Dream Builders Projects are coming soon! We have asked that ALL donations and sponsorships be handed in by Wednesday, 15 June. Thank you to our incredibly generous families who have already brought in donations – we are aiming to bless each person/place abundantly, so keep those donations coming ☺

ART AND MUSIC EXHIBITION EVENING

Attention all parents, friends, family and community members! You are invited to Oasis Prep's annual Art and Music Exhibition Evening! This event takes place on Thursday, 23 June from 17:30. We encourage you to bring a picnic dinner and join us for a musical and dramatic extravaganza. Entry is by donation. Please note: all students are required to be at this event. RSVP to Sam at 033 330 3456 or admin@oasisprep.co.za today!



'Nine-tenths of education is encouragement.'



Welcome to the newest section of our circular. This is the area that we will be shining some light on some of the fruitful parts of the school environment. First up is the newest addition to our staff: Mrs. Natasha Dell!



- Name:** Natasha Leigh Dell
- Age:** 22
- Studied:** Diploma in Culinary Arts
- Passions:** I love baking, running, fellowship with friends and church.
- Favourite Place in the World:** Howick (Or wherever my husband is)
- Dream:** To run my own bakery

Natasha has also had the opportunity to be a part of One Heart Ministries. One Heart Ministries does a lot of work into Lesotho, establishing and supporting churches, ministering to the poor and giving of themselves to serve the Lesotho community.

Natasha has a heart for the things of God and has served Him for most of her life. She is a woman of determination and faith and we know that she will be a valued member of our team.

While saying hello to our newest staff member, we are also saying farewell to Mrs. Sarah Byleveld. Sarah has been involved at Oasis, first as a reading assistant, then a monitor and then as overseeing the tuckshop and general admin.



Mrs. Dell is replacing Mrs. Byleveld in the tuckshop, as well as overseeing events and conferences. Mrs. Byleveld will be leaving us on Friday and we wish her all the best with her future endeavours. We are looking forward to seeing our tuckshop continue to grow, with healthy, innovative and exciting meals and snacks. WATCH THIS SPACE!

Please note: our June menu has gone out. If you would still like to order meals for your child, please send the menu through by Friday, 03 June.

'Education is not learning facts, but training the mind to think.'

ACADEMICS

As teachers, we are continually striving to improve our teaching methods, to try new approaches and to challenge ourselves to push creative boundaries in our lessons. To facilitate this, we have a monthly 'Think Tank', where we share ideas, discuss concepts and give constructive critiques as peers. This month, we focussed specifically on kinaesthetic learners. Each teacher presented a lesson they had taught, where the aim was to engage the kinaesthetic students. What an incredible time it was! Everything from an intro to multiplication and measurements, day/night and earth revolving to blending sounds, STOMPI and a 'preposition obstacle course' were covered. I encourage you to ask your child what he/she is learning at school. Start getting involved in the learning process. Start sparking curiosity.

I found a great article on the effect of curiosity on learning: (edited from <http://www.edutopia.org>)

"It's no secret that curiosity makes learning more effective and enjoyable. Curious students not only ask questions, but also actively seek out the answers. Without curiosity, Sir Isaac Newton would have never formulated the laws of physics, Alexander Fleming probably wouldn't have discovered penicillin, and Marie Curie's pioneering research on radioactivity may not exist.

Recently, researchers from the University of California conducted a series of experiments to discover what exactly goes on in the brain when our curiosity is aroused. For the study, the researchers had participants rate how curious they were to learn the answers to more than 100 trivia questions. At certain points throughout the study, fMRI scans were carried out to see what was happening in the brain when participants felt particularly curious about the answer to a question. Here are two of the most important findings.

1. Curiosity prepares the brain for learning.

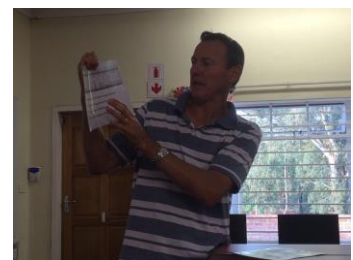
While it might be no big surprise that we're more likely to remember what we've learned when the subject matter intrigues us, it turns out that curiosity also helps us learn information we don't consider all that interesting or important.

The researchers found that, once the subjects' curiosity had been piqued by the right question, they were better at learning and remembering completely unrelated information. For instance, if a student struggles with math, personalizing math problems to match their specific interests rather than using generic textbook questions could help them better remember how to go about solving similar math problems in the future.

2. Curiosity makes subsequent learning more rewarding.

Aside from preparing the brain for learning, curiosity can also make learning a more rewarding experience for students. The researchers found that when the participants' curiosity had been sparked, there was not only increased activity in the hippocampus, which is the region of the brain involved in the creation of memories, but also in the brain circuit that is related to reward and pleasure. This circuit is the same one that lights up when we get something we really like, such as candy or money, and it relies on dopamine, a "feel-good" chemical that relays messages between neurons and gives us a sort of high. So not only will arousing students' curiosity help them remember lessons that might otherwise go in one ear and out the other, but it can also make the learning experience as pleasurable as ice cream or pocket money.

So rather than jumping straight into the answers, let's try to start students off with the sort of questions that encourage them to do their own seeking."



"Do not stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing."