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TUESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2017

CIRCULAR 3

Dear Parents and Guardians

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the first term! It has been a great start to 2017 and I look forward to continued growth as the year progresses. The aim of this circular is to highlight some key areas in the school and we are starting off with our School of the Arts:

THE ARTS TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT OASIS PREP SCHOOL - BY MATT HOGARTY

In recent years, school curricula has majored heavily on developing the core subjects like reading and math with little emphasis given to the Arts. Most research, however, agrees that a quality Arts program is just as important in child development, and should be a priority in education. Here are some of the studies and their conclusions:

1. A 2002 report by the Arts Education Partnership revealed that schoolchildren exposed to drama, music and dance are often more proficient at reading, writing, and math.
2. The 2006 Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum study on art education showed a link between arts education and improved literacy skills.
3. A study of Missouri public schools in 2010 found that greater arts education led to fewer disciplinary infractions and higher attendance, graduation rates and test results.
4. In "Neuroeducation: Learning, Arts and the Brain," Johns Hopkins researchers shared findings showing that arts education can help rewire the brain in positive ways.

At Oasis Prep School, our Arts School Program (music, visual arts, drama, dance etc.) takes centre stage in student development, and has become one of our key offerings as a school. Students have access to:

- A top class music program with tuition in piano, acoustic & bass guitar, violin, recorder, flute, drum kit, trumpet, trombone, tuba and vocal training. All students receive instruction in both theory and practical from 5 qualified & well-known music teachers in the area, with opportunities to perform in various bands, choirs, events, exams and eisteddfods.
- All students participate in drama classes where the emphasis is on developing self-confidence, communication skills, and emotional intelligence. All students take part in various eisteddfods, competitions, our arts exhibition evening and the school's annual production.
- Optional dance classes include ballet, tap and contemporary dance for all ages.
- A lively, innovative, colourful and diverse art program that is aimed at developing individual creativity and exposing students to various art media. These include sketching, painting, sculpture, crafts, photography, design, graphics and culinary arts. Our annual exhibition evening is a feast of creativity, innovation and colour.

As you can see, the arts are vitally important. So let's start expressing our creativity again!

**OFFERING A DYNAMIC
ARTS
SCHOOL**

Oasis Prep School in Howick, KZN offers students access to top-class visual arts, performing arts, dance and music classes. Come and try your hand at ballet, tap or modern dance, piano, guitar, drums, violin, vocals, trumpet, trombone, and MORE!

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SCHOOL CALENDAR: MARCH DATES TO DIARIZE

Date	Category	Event	Age Group	Opponent	Venue	Time	Teacher i/c
01 March	Fundraising	Big Book Baker Day	All	-	Oasis Prep	Break Times	Junior Primary Teachers
03 March	Outing	Groundcover	Grade 4-5	-	Groundcover	10:00 - 12:00	Mrs. Hammond
07 March	Sport	Mini Cricket	Selected Team	Round-Robin	Clifton	13:00 - 14:00	Ms. Hearthstones
08 March	Sport	Swimming	Selected Team	Round-Robin	Sunfield Pool	14:00 - 15:30	Ms. Hearthstones
10 March	Outing	Mandela Monument	Grade 1	-	Mandela Monument	10:30 - 12:00	Mrs. Hattingh
14 March	Sport	Mini Cricket	Selected Team	Round-Robin	Howick Prep	13:00 - 14:00	Ms. Hearthstones
17 March	Marketing	Open Day	Potential Grade 1	-	Oasis Prep	08:00 - 12:00	Mrs. Van Niekerk
17 March	Outreach	Dream Builders	Grade 1 - 7	-	Oasis Prep	09:30 - 11:30	Mrs. Van Niekerk
17 March	Sport	Tennis	Selected Team	Home Schools	Howick Sport Club	15:30 - 16:30	Ms. Hearthstones
20 March	<i>School Holiday</i>						
21 March	<i>Human Rights Day</i>						
24 March	Fundraising	Bowls Day	Businesses	Businesses	Howick Bowls Club	12:30	Mr. van Niekerk
27 - 31 March	Enrichment Week	Design & Technology	Grade 1 - 7	-	Oasis Prep	07:45 - 12:30	Mrs. Van Niekerk
28 March	Marketing	Open Evening	Potential Grade 2- 7	-	Oasis Prep	!7:30	Mrs van Niekerk
30 March	Sport	Gala	Grade 1 - 7	Interhouse	Sunfield Pool	08:30 - 12:00	Ms. Hearthstones
30 March	Parent	Parent-Teacher Meetings	All Parents	-	Oasis Prep	16:00 - 20:00	Mrs. Van Niekerk
31 March	<i>Break Up Day</i>						

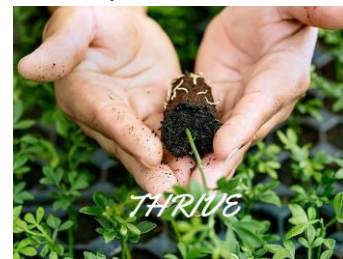
ADMINISTRATION

THRIVE

Our student development programme is focussing in on Family, Faith and Unique. Each week we will be looking at why they are important, what they mean and how we can walk them out in our daily lives. Each topic ends with declarations, which are vitally important to speak out loud. If you are speaking truth over your life, you won't believe lies!

Declarations for March:

- I am part of God's family
- I can do ANYTHING with God
- God loves me the way I am because He created me!



STATIONERY

Please note that students need to have ALL the required stationery at school. Books need to be covered and all items need to be labelled. We do spot-checks during the week and if any stationery is required, we will issue it to your child and charge the amount to your account. Please can we ask for your continued assistance in this. For your convenience, a copy of the stationery requirements can be found in this package or on the d6 Communicator.

UNIFORMS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued patience with the new uniforms. As we receive orders, we are sending them home with your child. It has, however, come to our attention that some students have the new uniform but are not wearing it. The old uniform is only allowed to be worn by students waiting for their orders.

If you have not placed an order, you need to come to the School Shop on **Friday, 03 March at 13:30** to place your order. Thereafter, we will order for you and charge the amount as well as an admin fee of R250 on to your account. The school shop is open every Friday from 13:30 - 14:30.

BOWLS DAY

On **Friday, 24 March** we are hosting our annual Bowls Day. This is one of our biggest fundraisers and we are asking that ALL parents get involved! School will close at **12:30 on the 24 March**, so come and join us for a fun afternoon. We will be selecting some student-teams and so we challenge all our parents to get teams together. If you want to arrange prizes or source sponsorships, please contact Mr. Angus van Niekerk at angus@oasisprep.co.za.



Our 'Hall of Fame' recipients this week are a group of exceptionally talented, gifted and creative individuals. We shine the spotlight on our School of the Arts teachers:

Kate Thornton-Dibb

Kate has taught art at Oasis since 2013. She loves all things creative and she loves stimulating people of all ages to harness their God-given creative ability and reach for their dreams. Kate believes that Art is a tool to reach people and we love the way she engages with and encourages each student she sees.

Carol Solomon

We are delighted to have Carol at Oasis Prep. She is such an incredible teacher and she loves seeing her students thrive. Carol currently teaches our Grade 3 violin programme and will also be assisting the choir from term 2. We want to honour Carol for the way she stretches our students to achieve heights they never thought were possible.

David Solomon

David is our drum kit teacher and we are so thrilled to see how his students are growing! He will also be teaching music theory classes. David has had the opportunity to travel the world, performing at different music events. We want to honour David for all the hard work and dedication he shows his students.

Chris Smith

Chris has taught all over the Midlands for the last few years and is now excited to be a part of the OPS family. Chris is currently teaching piano and guitar. He has a wonderful desire to see students flourish and we are excited to see this outworking. We want to thank Chris for giving of his time to skill our students and for the wisdom he imparts to them.

Chrissie Briscoe

Chrissie has taught at a variety of schools and she loves every minute of her time with our students. She currently teaches vocal training and oversees our choir. We want to thank Chrissie and honour her for her beautiful heart for her students.

Jo-Anne Fisher

Jo-Anne joined our School of Arts as our Ballet teacher and now offers tap and contemporary as well. She has done exams and has been fortunate enough to participate in shows and competitions. This year, our dance students will be performing on stage later in the year and we are so excited to see how they have grown in skill. We want to honour Jo-Anne for her dedication!

We are so privileged to have these men and women as part of our family!

Parent Appreciation Corner

A huge 'THANK YOU' to the following parents who have assisted with transport to and from sporting events and outings as well as our Parent 'n Partnership team:

- Mrs. Nicki Austen
- Mrs. Fallon Ntombela
- Ms. Sarah Dell
- Mrs. Sli Potgieter

- Mr. Sherwin Naidoo
- Mrs. Harisha Singh
- Mrs. Lisa Webb
- Mrs. Nontokozi Ntombela

Homework And Its Importance

Our heart at Oasis Prep is that students have the opportunity to be children. This is why we add our extramurals into the school day and we try keep all required homework to a minimum. There are, however, certain requirements that we need to meet. With this in mind, our homework policy is as follows:

Junior Primary

- Reading every night
- Math drills every night

Senior Primary

- Reading every night
- Weekly spelling tests - English and Afrikaans
- One English and Afrikaans Book Report **per term**
- One English Oral **per term**

Any work that is not completed during the school day will also be sent home for homework. There may also be mini projects, depending on the subject.

Tests

During the 1st and 3rd term, we make use of continuous assessment. This means that your child's mark will be made up of tests as well as classwork. It is VITALLY important that students study for their tests as well as complete the necessary classwork to the best of their ability. *The Junior Primary make use of continuous assessment throughout the year.*

At the end of the 2nd term, all Senior Primary students will write control tests. These tests will be based on the first 6 months of work. In November, the Grade 4-5 will write control tests, testing the last 6 months of work. The Grade 6-7 students, however, will be writing examinations in November.

Homework Books

Each child has received an Oasis Prep School homework book. Often there is confusion as to what is expected. A list of responsibilities is as follows:

Teacher's Responsibility - It is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that homework is communicated to each student, clearly and comprehensively. Teachers are required to write the necessary homework, reminders and/or dates to diarize on their board.

Student's Responsibility - Every day, at least 15 minutes is allocated as 'class admin time'. This is the time for students to record their own homework, reminders, dates, copying this information from the board. It is also YOUR CHILD'S responsibility to complete their homework by the required date.

Parent's Responsibility - It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the homework book is signed DAILY. Please can we ask that you check that your child has completed the necessary work, before signing. It is also imperative that parents sign any behaviour or academic feedback slips.

If the homework book is not signed, your child will receive school service. If this becomes a common trend, we will require a meeting with you to discuss this matter.

Any homework that is incomplete and/or any tests that are failed will result in your child receiving an Academic Feedback slip, where they will be required to complete the necessary work on a Friday afternoon. If a student receives three or more Academic Feedback slips, this results in an official disciplinary hearing, the outcome of which goes on your child's record.

Please can we ask that you partner with us in this. If you have any queries, you are more than welcome to make an appointment to see your child's teacher. Alternatively, you are welcome to email the head of academics, Mrs. Shanelle van Niekerk on admin@oasisprep.co.za / shanelle@oasisprep.co.za.

