



Penryn College Preparatory School



Dear Parents,

Included in this newsletter please find:

- New staff.
- Grade 6 exchange student.
- Change in next week's cycle test.
- Absentees.
- New Parents Function.
- Prep Parents Information Evening.
- Grade 7 Leadership Camp.
- News from Foundation Phase.
- Information on Physical Education lessons and the Extra Mural timetable.
- Prep Staff email list.

From the Headmaster:

What a torrential start it was to the new school year! And yet, as I started writing this newsletter on a clear, fresh Thursday morning, it almost seemed right that we should start off the year with a good flushing out – there are so many new aspects to look forward to here at Penryn, that a clean, fresh start is just the thing that was needed. I hope that you and your family have returned feeling refreshed and revitalised after the break and that your Christmas time was truly blessed. Certainly, the excitement amongst all the children as they returned to school on Wednesday was tangible and they all looked really smart in their uniforms.

When I welcomed the Grade 1-7 children back, during chapel on Thursday, I told them about the Roman god Janus (after whom January is named), who was represented with two heads – one looking forward and one back. His ability to look into the past, as well as the future, is a reminder to all of us to learn from the past and enjoy good memories, but at the same time ensure that we make the most of what the year ahead holds in store. I asked the children to do their part to ensure that we have a school where kindness, excellent sportsmanship, good manners and hard work prevail. I have no doubt that they will accept that challenge and I look forward to another special year in the Prep School.

The start of a year brings many new faces and this year is no different. We welcome a number of new people into administrative and pastoral roles and I am particularly excited about these appointments, as I believe they will go a long way to remedying some of the issues raised by parents in the questionnaire sent out last year. **Colin Hurlbatt** comes in as the new Operations Manager and his influence around the property has already been remarkable; **Leanne McClelland** has been appointed as HR Manager, a position which has been sorely needed for a number of years; **Lyn Stone** is the new Environmental Officer and she is already hard at work making plans for our beautiful campus; **Natalie de Araujo** is the new Foundation Phase secretary and I know the junior children and parents will enjoy her presence enormously; then, the arrival of new chaplain, **Reverend Michael Stone** has already created exciting ripples throughout the school and we all look forward to his guidance and influence.

A number of new teachers join us and I have no doubt that their ideas and enthusiasm will add much to an already outstanding staff. **Candice Coetsee** is the new Grade R teacher, having spent several years at Penryn as an intern; **Jenni Gibb** comes with vast experience and she joins a formidable team of Grade 3 teachers; **Anne Begg** moves from Penryn mother and relief teacher to permanent Grade 5 teacher; **Vaughan Wright** moves from the College to become Grade 6 teacher and passionate sports coach, as does **Sue Garratt**, similarly moving from the College into the Grade 7 teacher and English teacher slot; we are tremendously pleased to be introducing Computer Studies right down to Grade 1, where **Mala Naidoo** takes over the reigns; **Sarita Wolhuter** joins the enthusiastic Afrikaans Department and I know that her sporting abilities will also add much to the school, while **Des van Wyk** comes all the way from Port Elizabeth, to join the Physical Education and Life Skills departments; lastly, **Lot Chambale** will bring plenty of experience to the siSwati Department.

As if this injection of new blood is not enough, we also have several **new intern teachers** starting, each of whom already has a number of years of study and experience under the belt. Three of these are alumni of the school – **Bianca Brower, Matthew Booth** (who will be assisting in the library) and **Tyrone Rowe-Needham** (in the Sports Department); then also Marelle Bloem and Delsie Maseko (known fondly by the children in Aftercare, now also a teacher intern).

In addition to these adults, we welcome a number of **new children** to Penryn. I trust that each one of these pupils (and their parents) will soon feel part of the Penryn family. In an environment built on positive reinforcement and empathy I have no doubt that there will be much happiness throughout the year.

Another new face has been that of **Max Howitt**, who is at Penryn on exchange from England. Last year, Daniel Cavalieri spent several weeks on exchange, during which he was hosted by Max, and we are pleased now to be able to reciprocate. The exchange with **Ashford School** has been tremendously successful and we will consider Grade 6 applicants for this year within the next few months. So, if any Grade 6 parents would be interested in their child being part of the exchange, please give it some thought in the meantime. In the past we have had only boys on exchange but I would be willing to consider girls, should their school be keen to do the same.

I encourage all parents to feel free to contact teachers should they have any concerns, or even if they wish to thank the teacher for something he or she has done. I have attached a **staff e-mail contact list** to this newsletter and would encourage an open dialogue between parents and teachers, as this is always of benefit for the child.

All **Grade 4 parents** kindly note that the **siSwati cycle test** scheduled for next week has been **switched with the Mathematics test**, due later in the term. Clearly the Grade 4's would not have done enough work yet to warrant a siSwati test and as such we made the change.

When a child has been **absent from school** for any reason, please do ensure that a note or e-mail is sent to the class teacher, as it is important that a record of absences is kept.

The next two weeks sees two important (and I hope enjoyable) functions for parents. On Monday 23 January a function for all **New Parents** will be held in the Community Centre (the first building on the left as you enter the property), at 18h00. Then, the following Monday, 30 January is the **Prep Parents Information Evening**, where parents get to meet their child's teacher/s. I would strongly encourage ALL parents to attend this evening, even if you have been at previous such functions. The focus of each year is very different and it would help tremendously to have parents, teachers and children all pulling in the same direction. This function is also at 18h00 and will start in the chapel, before moving off to individual classrooms.

The **Grade 7's** will be away this weekend on their first **camp** for the year, during which they will focus on their final year in the Prep and come up with ways to enhance the leadership of the school. Their focus on **Servant Leadership** should provide a rich environment for discussions, while still leaving plenty of time for fun activities. I wish them all well for the weekend.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Warm regards

Neil Malherbe
prephm@penryn.co.za

From the Deputy Head: Foundation Phase:

As we opened school on Wednesday the rain continued to fall and I was reminded of how far Penryn has progressed over the years. For those who have lived in the Lowveld for a long time, you will remember the floods of February 2000. The road to school from where the robots are (there were no robots!) was at that stage a dirt road and it had become so churned up that all children had to be dropped where the robots are, at the bottom, and they walked up to school, shoes off, through the mud!!

The Grade Ones looked so smart in their new uniforms and the Grade Threes are so proud to be the biggest at the new school. Lower down, the tiny Grade 000's were a little tearful but managed the new, long day inside.

The new Foundation Phase is looking so good and the Pre-school and new Grade R classes equally so. We have had tears and laughter and much excitement so far and it is my pleasure to welcome all parents, new and existing, to the 2012 school year and thank you for all braving the rain, mud and traffic on Wednesday.

Sally Wakefield
sally@penryn.co.za

From the Sports Office:

Trials for the Inter House athletics will be held on Monday 23 January during school time with the Inter House athletics taking place on Friday 27 January from 8am to 1pm. Please could you ensure your child is on the field by **7:30am** in order to facilitate an **8am** start. **Parents are welcome to attend. I also need parents to help as officials on the day.** Please send me a note if you are available to help.

Swimming trials also take place next week. Letters were handed out to the Senior Primary children on Thursday and must please be returned to myself by Monday 23 January in order to facilitate easy running of the trials on Tuesday 24th January. The Senior Primary trials take place on Tuesday during school hours and there will be extra murals after school on Tuesday as per the schedule.

Information on the Foundation Phase trials will follow next week.

Physical education lessons have begun. There are 2 different PE classes per week per grade. One class is the PE (ALL) class where all pupils in a grade are taught at the same time. This term they will be swimming during this time. The second is a PE (Extra) class where you as a parent can make arrangements with our preferred service providers for your child to receive private sport coaching during this time. Please could you ensure your child wears the appropriate uniform for the sport in which they are participating. Hats are compulsory during PE lessons and failure to wear them will result in non participation in the lesson for the day.

- The ALL PE period is a swimming lesson (for this term) and each child MUST have:
 - Costume
 - Towel
 - Swimming cap – this is for boys and girls
- The EXTRA PE period is a land lesson and each child MUST have:
 - Sports uniform (board shorts, white golf shirt/house shirt)
 - HAT
 - Takkies
 - Short white socks

The options that are available for the second lesson are extras and are payable directly to the service provider.

Tennis	Tombi Pappas	083 462 6708
Swimming	Michelle Mandy	072 376 5620 (Pre-school to Grade 3 only)
Cricket	Eric Grimaldi	082 457 1921
Playball	Geon Clark	083 253 8383 (Grade 1 to 3) gclark@lantic.net
Golf	Geon Clark	083 253 8383 (Grade 4 to 6) gclark@lantic.net
Core Strengthening	Sandy Gatton	072 220 4651

The extra mural timetable has been handed out. At first glance it may seem daunting and confusing to follow; however, once there is clarity regarding who is in the athletics and swimming teams, it will be easier to follow. In the meantime extra murals will start on Monday after the Inter House Athletics trials. As both the swimming and athletics teams will be finalized by the end of next week, all those wanting to do well in the Inter House athletics, which serve as team trials, must go to the athletics practices and practice their chosen discipline. You will notice that the programme we have followed for many years has altered, **and will do so on a termly basis.** The reason for this is the increase in our pupils and the demands this places on facility management.

Our grade 1 classes are exempt from participating in the extra mural programme until the class teachers advise you otherwise on your weekly homework sheets. Please note that swimming caps are compulsory for both boys and girls at any time they enter the swimming pool.

The extra mural programme offered is compulsory for Grades 2 – 7 as we feel this is an essential and important part of the school day. We do understand that the children may also have outside interests; however, we ask that these be factored in after the compulsory extra mural programme has been taken into account.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Monday 23 January	Athletics trials during school Extra mural timetable begins
Tuesday 24 January	Senior Primary swimming trials during school
Friday 27 January	Inter House Athletics during school 7:30 to 1:00pm
Tuesday 31 January	Athletics meeting at White River Primary (moved from 2 Feb)
Thursday 2 February	Under 13 Cricket fundraiser at Ilanga Spur – All please come along to support

Allison Williams

allisonw@penryn.co.za

Prep Staff email address list

Foundation Phase			Senior Primary		
Grade 000	Hannerie Strydom	hancasperie@hotmail.com	Grade 4	Cynthia Jermyn	cynthia@penryn.co.za
	Christina Thorpe	christina@lowveldlumber.com		Rhian Nel	rmel@penryn.co.za
Grade 00	Winnie Mabuza	winnie@penryn.co.za	Grade 5	Penny Andre	penny@penryn.co.za
	Megan van der Riet	merrielegs75@hotmail.com		Anne Begg	iti03298@mweb.co.za
Grade R	Tammy Clarke	tammy@nyati.co.za	Grade 6	Jacqui van As	jvanas@penryn.co.za
	Candice Coetsee	candzeyma@yahoo.com		Mary-Jane Kellar	mkellar@penryn.co.za
Grade 1	Michelle Slingerland	sling@mweb.co.za	Grade 7	Mark Mitchell	mark@penryn.co.za
	Tess Booth	tbooth@penryn.co.za		Vaughan Wright	vwright@penryn.co.za
	Annemarie De Wet	a-dewet@lantic.net		Shane Andre	shane@penryn.co.za
Grade 2	Christine Herring	jherring@mweb.co.za	Grade 7	Sue Garratt	daylight@vox.c.za
	Lauren Fargher	lau.fargher@gmail.com		Steve v Rensburg	falconer@penryn.co.za
	Jenni Mitchell	jenni@penryn.co.za		Subject Teachers	
Grade 3	Gerda Smith	gsmith@penryn.co.za	Sport	Des van Wyk	dvanwyk@penryn.co.za
	Pam Fargher	fargher@soft.co.za	Music/R.E.	Ruth Naude	naudear@yahoo.com
	Jenny Gibb	gibbjen@gmail.com	Siswati	Lebo Mashigo	lebo@penryn.co.za
Management Team			English	Lisa Bolton	lisa@penryn.co.za
Neil Malherbe (Head)			Computers	Mala Naidoo	malanaidoo9@gmail.com
Grant Nel (Senior Deputy)			Art	Theresa Thirion	theresa.thirion@me.com
Sally Wakefield (Deputy: F.P.)			Afrikaans	Sarita Wolhuter	saritapelser@webmail.co.za
Shane Andre (HOD Academics)			Administration		
Jenni Mitchell (HOD Learning Support)			Lyndi Rillema (PA to Head)		prepadm@penryn.co.za
Allison Williams (HOD Sport)			Natalie de Araujo (PA to Deputy Foundation Phase)		Natalie@penryn.co.za
			Liesl Scheepers (Admissions)		admissions@penryn.co.za
			Jackie Hood (School Fees)		jhood@penryn.co.za