



Penryn College Preparatory School



Dear Parents,

Included in this newsletter please find:

- Inter House Athletics.
- Grade 7 Camp.
- Action cricket.
- Roads and traffic.
- Morning bus from Nelspruit.
- My School Card.
- Parent Information Evening on Monday.
- Parent/Teacher meetings 19th and 20th March.
- Information regarding PE lessons and extras offered at Penryn.
- The extra mural programme.
- Chess.
- Upcoming events.
- Athletics.
- Recycling.
- Are your children battery hens or free-range chickens?

From the Headmaster:



The week has been a busy one for the Grade 1 to 7 children on the athletics track and in the pool, as trials have been held for the **Interhouse Athletics and Swimming**. The **Athletics** took place today and what a perfect day it was for the children to have fun competing against each other. The spirit amongst the houses was as impressive as ever and I commend the Grade 7's for their enthusiasm (and colourful costumes!). Thank you to all the teachers and parents who assisted with the smooth running of the event.



The **Grade 7 Camp** was once again a weekend of much fun, as the leader group of the Prep School was challenged, but at the same time had time to enjoy each other's company as well. The weather played along and a good time was had by all. My thanks to all the teachers, interns and a number of ex-Penryn young people who joined us as facilitators. Their contribution added immeasurably to the success of the camp. A special thank you to Shane Andre, who did all the planning prior to and during the camp.



I was pleased to hear about a number of our boys who did really well in **Action Cricket**, competing in Benoni last weekend. The local Action Cricketers returned with 1 Gold, 3 Silver and 2 Bronze medals and I have no doubt had a good time during their mini-tour. Those who took part were: Luke Grimaldi, Callen Stephen, Jake Cavaliere, Michael Robbertze, Andre le Roux, Johan le Roux, Jason Mantle, Ryan Hood, Mathee Joubert, Jake Danilowitz, Tyler Park, Jarrod Small, Jared Bone, Shamarin Naidoo and Daniel Bernardo. Well done to all of these boys – I am sure that their experience will pay off during the cricket season.

Just a word or two about the **access road** to the school, which is in such a poor state after the recent rains. A couple of people have expressed their concerns about the water which is running freely down the road – this is actually a natural spring, which, because of the heavy rains, is now flowing non-stop. We will temporarily patch some of the holes in the road until it dries out; this despite the road not being the school's responsibility. Please do be patient until we are able to get it into a more acceptable state. We are also in the process of putting together a plan to resolve some of the early morning traffic, including the introduction of a Prep scholar patrol to assist the younger children to cross the road at the new building. It is hoped that these new measures will be in place shortly. I thank all parents for their patience and courtesy towards other drivers in the mornings – it was so evident as I stood and watched the traffic on a few mornings this week.

I encourage parents to consider making use of the **bus from Nelspruit** each morning, not only to save you a trip up the hill but also to alleviate some of the traffic congestion. The bus arrives at van Riebeeck Park at 06h30 each morning and departs at 06h45. Gilda Mavromatis is on duty at the bus each morning. Should you be interested to find out more, kindly contact Gilda on 084 357 1213. The cost of the bus is R800 per child per term and there are currently only 15 places still open.

My thanks to all parents who swipe their **My School Cards**. An amount of R4 284 was raised last month. All new children will receive application forms for My School Cards soon. Just a reminder that it costs nothing and takes only a swipe when shopping at participating outlets, for the school to gain significantly. Currently this money is being used to supplement books for the library.

I have attached an **article** from last week's **Sunday Times**, by psychologist Judith Ancer. I always enjoy reading her pieces and thought you may also find this article, entitled '**Are your children battery hens or free-range chickens?**' interesting.

Although I have already sent out a letter, could I remind all parents of the very important **Parents Information Evening**, to be held in the chapel (and then classrooms) this coming Monday, 30 January. Then, at the end of this term, we will be holding the usual Parent/Teacher meetings for staff and parents to discuss the children's progress. These meetings are not indicated on the Term Planner, so could I ask you to make a note of the dates. Meetings will be on the evening of **Monday 19 March** (to assist those parents who find it difficult to attend during the working day) and during the time immediately after school on **Tuesday 20 March**. Booking schedules for teachers will go up closer to the time.

Our exchange student from England, **Max Howitt**, leaves us early next week to return home to Ashford. He gave an excellent speech in chapel on Thursday, in which he told us something about his hometown and school. I hope that he has enjoyed his time with us – we have certainly enjoyed his positive and happy approach – and we look forward to continuing the exchange in the future.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Warm regards

Neil Malherbe
prephm@penryn.co.za

From the Sports Office:

This week was most definitely a busy sporting week for the Prep kids, with athletics trials on 2 days, swimming trials on 2 days and Interhouse Athletics today. Well done to all the kids who have been stars all week and to the parents for joining the sport bus that rolled so fast!

Letters will be sent home on Monday for all those who have qualified for the swimming and athletics teams.

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	(Grade 00-7)	Tombi Pappas	083 462 6708
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Cricket	(Grade 1-7)	Eric Grimaldi	082 457 1921
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Other extras available outside of the extra PE lesson to other grades as well:

Swimming	(Grade 000-R)	Michelle Mandy	072 376 5620 (Pre-school to Grade 3 only)
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Playball	(Grade 000-R)	Geon Clark	083 253 8383 gclark@lantic.net
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Golf	(Grade 1-7)	Geon Clark	083 253 8383 gclark@lantic.net
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Core Strengthening	(Grade 4-7)	Sandy Gatton	072 220 4651
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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 finalised 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 practise 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 the number of 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 7th February 2012. 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 1 – 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.

PLEASE NOTE: Chess will only start on the 13th of Feb once all other sporting and team extra murals have settled down. Further information to follow.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

1 Feb 2012	Interschools Athletics at Rob Ferreira (moved from 2 Feb)
1 Feb 2012	Tennis at home vs Laeveld
4 Feb 2012	Relay gala at St Thomas in Witbank (AWAY)

Allison Williams

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From the Academic desk:

2012 is the second year that Penryn is subscribing to **Mathletics**, after its successful implementation in 2011.

After a presentation about Mathletics in 2010, we decided that it would be a superb aid to motivating and getting our students excited about Maths, especially after the school day.

Mathletics has in excess of 3 million learners and teachers using its website. In recognition of the quality of Mathletics as a Mathematics resource it was judged to be a winner of the BETT award 2011. This was among many other international awards from across the world – and they have been short-listed again for 2012 – four years in a row.

Mathletics is essentially an internet-based Maths resource where students can work through support exercises and tutorials to reinforce what they are learning in the class as required by the National Curriculum, and perhaps to provide alternate methods that may increase their understanding. Though the teachers will endeavour to provide opportunities for the students to work on Mathletics from time to time, the aim is for the students to work independently from home or other internet devices on activities assigned under their profile. Student progress can be monitored by the class teacher, and the site creates certificates to recognise student performance.

As a school we have managed to secure an incredibly low subscription fee of R135 per child **per annum** (slightly more than R11 per month). This amount will be added to your school fees account.

We will shortly provide your child with a username and password to gain access to the website.

I would encourage your child to use this resource as often as possible to improve their skills in Maths.

Regards

Shane André

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Recycling

Are you passionate about recycling? We need you! This year we plan to upgrade recycling at Penryn. This will extend to pupils in the classroom and on campus, staff, the hostel, dining hall and families of pupils. This is a complex process. Discussion and co-operation is needed from all sectors to make it work.

Please contact Lynne Stone, the Environmental Officer (enviro@penryn.co.za; 076 1042919) if you would like to help talk through and implement this project.

Are your children battery hens or free-range chickens?

Judith Ancer (Psychologist)
Sunday Times, January 22nd 2012

He was 22 when his mother gave him up to the police. It was 1988, the last spasm of apartheid, and the military police had arrived at his mother's flat in Durban to track down the military service dodger.

But he was living elsewhere in Durban, hoping she would deny all knowledge of his existence, or at least his whereabouts.

Instead, she meekly handed over the information and he was located, formally charged and required to attend a tribunal in Pretoria several weeks later.

"I wasn't really surprised", he said. "She was essentially a good person but fearful and timid, and I never felt she would protect me. When we arrived in Durban, she dropped my brother at the gate of his new school and told him to approach the headmaster to sort out everything. That was for Grade 1".

Meanwhile, according to Google, the "problem" currently appears to be the other way round. In families, fictional and real, and in 1600 000 internet hits (compared with 55 000 for the term "Underprotective parent"), overprotectiveness – sometimes referred to as helicopter parenting – is the hot topic.

Modern society is a culture of information. But sometimes we have so much information about every new disaster, crime and moment of misery that is also means we live in a culture of fear.

High levels of parental protectiveness seem necessary, given the many dangers reported in the press and in crime-watch e-mails. We are drowning in bad news.

Life can also seem more pressurized, jobs more scarce, the future more uncertain (let's pretend it's not 1914 or 1939 or any year of apartheid), so fiercely protecting your child seems to be a basic requirement of effective parenting.

But overstepping one's parental role, not allowing children to learn from mistakes or fight some battles on their own, can prevent them from developing resilience and learning to manage difficulties.

Underprotective or indifferent parents are a different sort of animal completely. These parents aren't creating a safe environment in which to allow their children to learn independence, but throwing them to the wolves.

This happens when parents were themselves raised by neglectful or abusive parents, or where community or family structures have broken down.

So how do you find a balance?

A parent should be more a guide than bodyguard. When your toddler staggers past a sharp-edged table, walk quietly behind him at the ready rather than call out the danger and whisk him aside.

Let your five-year-old daughter grapple with her shoelaces rather than always intervene.

Advocate how your 10-year-old can deal with her friendship dispute rather than automatically phone the friend's parents.

Allow your teenager to fight smaller battles with authority figures on her own – you don't want to communicate that you have no trust in her strength of character.

What you want to raise is a free-range child, not a battery chicken unfit for the normal rigours of everyday life.

The term "free-range kid" was coined by an American writer, Lenore Skenazy. She says a free-range child "gets treated as a smart, young, capable individual, not an invalid who needs constant attention and help".

For instance, in the suburbs, many school Parent Teacher Associations (God bless 'em), auction off the prime drop-off spot right in front of the school – the shortest distance between car and door. But at the mall, or movie theatre or dentist's rooms, that would be considered the handicapped parking spot – the one you need if you are really disabled.