



Penryn College Preparatory School



SMS your comments, concerns, suggestions to 0739268215
(please note that this is for sms' **only** – phone calls will not be responded to)

Dear Parents,

Included in this newsletter please find:

- Feedback on the Independent Schools Athletics Meeting.
- News about a fun Natural Sciences lesson.
- Maths course for teachers.
- Laerskool Laeveld talk.
- Introduction of rugby for grades 5 to 7.
- Art Club.
- Sin Bin system.
- Practical suggestions for improving organizational skills.
- Sporting activities update.
- Explanation of PE periods.
- General Knowledge.

From the Headmaster:

The Prep School hosted a fantastic **Independent Schools Athletics** meeting on Wednesday and I was most impressed not only with the excellent performances of our athletes but also with the many children who were there to support and to offer their assistance. I also appreciated the enthusiasm shown by our teachers – we received a number of compliments from visiting schools, which is testament to the efforts of our Staff and children.

The Grade 4 classes had a fun **Natural Sciences lesson** this week. They had been learning about the different parts of a plant and were then required to make a salad, which had to incorporate various vegetables and the parts of those vegetables which are commonly eaten. Below are some pictures from this enjoyable lesson.



Art Club has seen many enthusiastic children attending and I am appreciative of the efforts of Ms Claire Granville, who really does inspire our children. Kindly note, though, that because of time constraints as a result of producing the backdrop and props for the school production, Art Club will no longer take place on Tuesdays this term – the Monday session will continue as usual. Ms Granville has also written a detailed **letter to parents** of all the exciting prospects for the year in Class Art, which is attached to this newsletter. I am sure that you will agree it looks like a stimulating and colourful year ahead!

Five of our **Foundation Phase teachers** have headed off to Swaziland this weekend for a **Maths course**. I have no doubt that they will return full of enthusiasm to implement what they have learned!

Laerskool Laeveld has asked me to let parents know about a talk next week to be presented by Dawie Spies, entitled 'Leef Voluit met Karakter'. This will take place on Wednesday 17 February at 18h30 in the Laerskool Laeveld school hall. Entry is free.

As I made my way through the past few weeks of class visits, one request which came up consistently from the boys was for the possibility of being allowed to play **rugby**. I did explain that we would not be dropping our existing winter sports of soccer and hockey but that I would consider allowing an optional rugby practice for boys on a Friday afternoon, which would not clash with other activities. This will not be full 15-man rugby but will concentrate on skills, tag rugby and 7-a-side. The first of these practices will take place on Friday 26 February from 14h15 – 15h15 and will be preceded by a talk by me and an introduction to the coaches. This is for Grades 5-7 only at this stage and it must be stressed that boys will only be allowed to take part if they are already participating in one of the scheduled team sports offered by Penryn that term (ie soccer and hockey).

You may have heard via your child that the '**Sin-Bin**' system has been altered slightly. While I really would like this to be a school built on praise and reward, there are those occasions when pupils overstep the mark and have to be reprimanded. In such cases, a Sin Bin slip is issued. This could be for such misdemeanours as not doing homework, forgetting books or PE kit at home, misbehaving in class and so on. There are no direct repercussions for the first two Sin Bins as these should serve as a warning to the child that his or her behavior needs to be modified. However, on the third he or she will be sent to my office and I will call the parents while the child is in the office. It is hoped that this will prove effective in those cases where either organisational skills need to be improved or where inappropriate behavior is distracting others from learning in class. Should such behavior continue and further Sin Bin slips be given, I will call the parents in to investigate other ways to remedy the situation. At the start of each term pupils will start with a clean sheet, which gives them the opportunity to alter previous behavior.

Finally, could I remind you that **Thursday and Friday next week are normal school days for the Prep School**, despite the College being closed on those days for the Round Square conference, which is to be hosted by Penryn. Please do assist us by insisting that all Prep children are at school on those days, as the scheduled class-work, assessments and sporting fixtures will continue.

Have a great weekend!

Neil Malherbe
prephm@penryn.co.za

From the Deputy Head:

Speaking to fellow staff members and hearing the excuses from pupils who have not done homework, I have realized that there are a few pupils who seem a little disorganized. Listed below you will find a few practical suggestions; advice which will no doubt go a long way to improving their organizational skills. Please read it and put it up where it will be noticed by your child(ren), in order to help them to remember this advice.

Step one: Make sure your desk at home is organized.

Is there enough space to work?	<i>Throw away the rubbish on your desk.</i>
Is the light good?	<i>Get a desk lamp if you can't see clearly.</i>
Do you have the pens and paper you need?	<i>Visit the CNA, Waltons etc.</i>
Is it quiet?	<i>Turn down the noise so you can concentrate! No TV while you work!</i>
Are your books easy to find?	<i>Are they all over the place or they neatly on a pile on your desk?</i>
Is there a board where you can pin up important reminders, calendars, assignment due dates, test dates etc	<i>Put one up or use prestik to stick up any useful information or your own revision timetable.</i>

Step two: Pack your bag/s carefully!

Have you got all your books for the day?	<i>Pack with your timetable in front of you.</i>
Have you completed all your homework?	<i>Check your homework diary and your timetable.</i>
Are there notices, letters, return slips?	<i>Visit the bottom of your bag to check.</i>
Do you have the correct sports kit?	<i>Check your extra mural timetable.</i>

At the end of the school day:

Have you packed all your books, kit etc to take home?

Hint: Pack your bags the night before so you don't panic in the morning!
Don't forget your lunch! Don't wait for your mom to do it for you!

Step three: Do your homework when you get home!

Have you got a routine that you follow?	<i>Write it out in your diary and do it every day.</i>
Do you put off doing your homework?	<i>Do it when you get home, then you can relax.</i>
Do you rush through and work carelessly?	<i>Spend the time doing it properly.</i>
Is there too much on one day?	<i>Plan your work so that you don't end up rushing it all the night before.</i>

Hint: If you finish your homework early, spend the time revising for tests and doing extra reading.
Forget about playstation etc during the week!!!

Step four: Prepare well for tests!

Do you know what to learn?	<i>Check with your teacher to make sure that you know what you need to learn. Ask questions if you don't understand.</i>
Is there enough time to learn?	<i>Plan your time carefully. Don't leave the studying till the night before.</i>
Do you know how to learn?	<i>Use mind maps, cue cards, make summaries etc.</i>
Do you use your time well?	<i>Don't put off learning. When you sit at your desk, make sure you are working hard. Write out your work or summarize it. Staring blankly at a page is a sure recipe to disaster!</i>

I hope that you find this useful.

Grant Nel

gnel@penryn.co.za

From the Sports Office:

Penryn hosted a second athletics meeting on Wednesday 10 February. Our athletes performed exceptionally well, but most importantly everyone enjoyed a lovely Lowveld day with the most breathtaking views from our fields.

It is Midmar time again and for the first time the Prep school will be represented! We have a very strong team of 2 boys and 4 girls (as well as a teacher) participating. All have been very hard at work training for this event and with good weather predicted on Sunday we should have a very good swim.

Letters have been sent out to those participating in the Skukuza Athletics next Saturday. Please let me or the teachers in charge know should your child not be participating, in time for a replacement to be made. Obviously we would hope that all selected athletes will be available.

The scheduled gala at Uplands this coming Tuesday has been moved and further details will follow.

There are many Sin Bin slips being issued for incorrect uniform for PE periods. PLEASE ensure that your child complies with the following:

- 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
 - HAT
 - Takkies
 - Short white socks

Tour to the SA Open Tennis last weekend



Allison Williams

allisonw@penryn.co.za

General Knowledge:

This week's questions:

1. Where did the children's game "Blindman's Bluff" originate?
2. Give four other common names for Grasslands, from around the world.
3. What percentage of the population in Mozambique is male?
4. Who, where and what is Big Ben?
5. Who was the youngest daughter of Tsar Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra and how old was she when she died?

Answers from questions 5 February:

1. The blue whale.
2. Hockey
3. Japan
4. 6 legs and 2 pairs of wings
5. South Africa