



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:

- Annual musical "The Peace Child".
- Parent/teacher meetings.
- Standardised assessments.
- Team sport.
- Optional rugby practices.
- Collection arrangements after Foundation Phase netball practices.
- Article on Earth Hour.
- Teddy Bears' Picnic.
- Report on athletics meeting at Skukuza.
- Upcoming galas.
- Change in extra mural sport timetable and participation in extra murals.
- Upcoming sporting events outside of school.
- Inter House tennis results.
- General Knowledge.

From the Headmaster:

I had the privilege of watching a short screening of a few scenes from the animated film '**Jock of the Bushveld**' last Friday, which has its roots deep in the Lowveld. Not only is the well-known story set in this area but the production of the movie started here some while ago. While production is now based in Johannesburg, I have asked the producer, Penryn College parent Duncan McNeillie, to speak to our children on Monday 8th March. I have no doubt that they will find the talk as inspirational as I found the viewing. You might like to find out more about this film, which will have an international release in December on www.jock-animation.com.

The annual **Prep musical 'The Peace Child'** is just around the corner, with performances on 16th and 17th March – and excitement is growing. All pupils from Grade 4-7 are in the show. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to experience being part of a production and it is essential that all children attend both performances. Gilly Bowen will be letting parents know what their children will be wearing – our thanks to Gilly for her invaluable assistance. If there are any parents who would be willing to help with make-up, please see Ruth Naude. Booking details will be in next week's newsletter. My sincere thanks to Ruth for her enormous efforts to ensure that the children have a memorable experience.

Parent/teacher meetings will take place in a week. In order to accommodate extra-mural activities, teachers will be available on two afternoons of either Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th or Wednesday 10th March. Kindly check the booking lists on teachers' doors to ascertain which afternoons they are available and then make bookings accordingly.

The **Senior Primary Staff** had a most beneficial meeting on Wednesday afternoon to discuss **assessment**. A wide range of topics was discussed and I was most impressed with the opinions and depth of discussion which ensued. I do believe that it is necessary to evaluate our academic policies on a regular basis and not merely to assume that we are doing the right thing because we have always done it that way. As a result of this meeting, we have decided to implement a more structured policy of continuous assessment, with a standardised test once a week, rather than the mid-year Assessment Week, which causes considerable anxiety amongst many pupils (and parents!). The Assessment Week at the end of the year will continue but we are also looking at its structure to ensure that pupils are given the best opportunity to show their academic prowess. More details regarding the continuous assessment programme and Assessment Week will follow.

Could I remind all parents that **team sport** is compulsory for all pupils in Grades 2-7. We believe that the socializing benefits of children taking part in team sports is an integral part of any effective education, not to mention the very obvious physical benefits. While I do know that many of our pupils take part in other sports outside of those offered by the school, I would ask that these are scheduled not to clash with the school activities. Grade 1 sport is not compulsory, but I would encourage parents to make use of the opportunities offered by the school – there is no doubt that the ball skills and other activities will benefit the children in so many ways.

I received a fascinating e-mail from **Tamar Mason** this week, entitled '**A Lowveld Guide to Green Living**', in which she writes about her family's experience of living a 'green' lifestyle. I have attached it to this newsletter, as I believe many parents may find its suggestions most useful.

The **optional rugby practices** which were due to start this term will only begin next term, as a result of the upcoming cricket tours and College derby day.

Foundation Phase Netball – parents collecting girls after Foundation Phase netball should kindly do so from the Foundation Phase parking lot and not at the netball courts due to the lack of parking. Girls will be walked down in their age groups and returned to the Foundation Phase by their coaches.

On **Tuesday next week** it will be exactly 100 days until the start of the **World Cup**. To celebrate this, pupils may wear a Bafana Bafana shirt/jersey to school on Tuesday instead of their school shirt.

I hope that you will enjoy your weekend as much as I intend to after a busy week!

Neil Malherbe

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From the Deputy Head:

In these times of going green and saving energy, reducing the carbon foot print etc, I was emailed the following article about **EARTH HOUR**. I encourage each and every one of you to read the article and to participate in the Earth Hour.

Earth Hour 2010, it's Showtime!

At 8.30pm (local time) on Saturday 27 March, the greatest show on Earth for action on climate change will take place in homes, office buildings, town halls and public places around the globe as lights go out for Earth Hour 2010.

With 807 cities, towns and municipalities and 82 countries across every continent already signed up, Earth Hour 2010 is set to show the world that a resolution to the threat of global warming is possible through collective action.

Whether you are an individual, a business, a school or a city you can [show your support](#). Help us [spread the word](#) and make Earth Hour 2010 the biggest Earth Hour ever.

SHOW THE WORLD WHERE YOU STAND

Supporting Earth Hour is something to be proud of. So show the world you're taking action on climate change. It's as simple as using these handy tools and downloads. Your leadership might even inspire others to do the same.

Add an Earth Hour banner to your website, put up a poster in your home, office or school or add an Earth Hour logo to your emails. They're just some of the ways you can lead through your actions and show others what can be done. We'll keep adding new content to this page for you, so feel free to keep coming back for more.

3 Steps to get involved

1. Join Earth Hour

[Sign up now](#) to become part of the Earth Hour movement, add yourself to the map and receive email updates with all the latest Earth Hour news.

2. Show your support

Whether you are an individual a business a school or a city you can show your support by turning off your lights for Earth Hour, 8.30PM Saturday 27 March 2010. [Check out](#) the other ways that you can [show your support](#).

3. Spread the word

Get the word out about Earth Hour by working your social network for the planet. Add an [Earth Hour banner](#) to your blog, tag your tweets @earthhour or update your Facebook status to tell your friends that you're supporting Earth Hour 2010.

If you would like more information regarding the above mentioned information, please go and have a look at the following website; www.earthhour.org/Homepage.aspx

Grant Nel

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From the Head of the Foundation Phase:



All grade 00 and grade 0 families are invited to the "Teddy Bears' Picnic" on Thursday 11th March at 17h00. Pupils may come in their pyjamas and bring their favourite teddy with them. Boerewors rolls, hotdogs and cold drinks will be on sale.

Please note that Parent Interviews for Foundation Phase will take place on Monday 8th and Wednesday 10th March from 13h15 onwards. Please make sure you book a time with your child's teacher.

Lois Crighton

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From the Sports Office:

What a wonderful weekend of athletics we enjoyed this past weekend at Skukuza. The chapel service on Thursday morning was very full with the presentation of the medals won at this event. Well done to our athletes for your hard work, dedication and achievements. A big thank you should also go to the athletics teachers who have worked tirelessly to help our athletes achieve so well this year. The improvement is marked and you are appreciated!

As this is being sent to you, we are hosting our first "Invitational night gala". We have two touring sides, Usuthu Forest School from Swaziland and St Thomas Aquinas from Witbank. Results of this will follow next week.

We have been invited to a "B" team individual gala at Flamboyant on Tuesday 2 March. Those who will be participating have already received letters in this regard.

Boys tennis champs are continuing this coming week. We are now in the semi-final stages of this tournament.

There was a change introduced to the extra-mural timetable from Monday 22 February. This facilitates the move from summer to winter sports. Please ensure that you have this new timetable to ensure an easy transition between the sports. The swimming during the PE periods will remain for the duration of the first term.

I have received requests from children and parents alike with regard to their participation in the extra mural programme. At Penryn we believe it very important for ALL pupils from grade 2 – 7 to play a part in the extra mural activities offered on a termly basis. One of the biggest factors that is missed when a child does not participate is the social aspect of the afternoons. Children are afforded the opportunity of socialising outside the limits of a class setting and in most cases they are coached by teachers other than their class teachers. Ballet, horse riding, rock climbing, swimming teaching and music lessons do not form part of the extra murals offered this or next term and as such we request parents to make alternate arrangements for these to happen outside of the

Penryn Programme. Where possible (within the limits of facility availability and coaching staff availability) I do endeavor not to change the days of practices (and where possible matches) from term to term for each age group.

SOME EXCITING OUTINGS FOR WEEKENDS

I often have requests for sporting events happening on weekends outside of the school events. Here are a few I know of at the moment:

- PANASONIC BI/TRIATHLON in Swaziland on Sunday 7 March 2010
 - Biathlon 14 and under 500m swim and 3km run
 - Biathlon 15 and over 800m swim and 5 km run
 - Triathlon 500m swim, 5km run and 12km cycleStarts at 10am with R30 entry fee
Contact 00268 4043341
- Relay for Life at LVCC on Saturday 6 March 2010
 - Penryn would love to put a team together so please contact me should you wish to be part of our team

We wish our Open cricket boys the best of luck and enjoyment on their tour to Kwa-Zulu Natal next week!

Max Vos with the 5 first place medals he received at the Skukuza Athletics Meeting. Well done Max!



Last week on Thursday and Friday, the top two boys and the top two girls tennis players from each house played in a mixed doubles Inter-House round robin.

The results are as follows:

1st Bateleur 30 Points 2nd Lanner 26 Points 3^{rs} Osprey and Peregrine tie 20 points

The winning Bateleur Team



Connor Fletcher, Celine du Plessis, Jesse Coertzen and Ryan Kennett

Allison Williams

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General Knowledge:

This week's questions:

1. What in an amoeba?
2. Which is the only metal that is liquid at room temperature?
3. Where is the largest known canyon?
4. Who invented sound recording?
5. What are bonsai trees?

Answers from 19th February:

1. In trees.
2. Jess.
3. Pretoria Boys High.
4. Diving.
5. Woodwind.