



## 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:

- Review of 'The Peace Child'.
- Grade 4 visit to Sabie Valley Coffee farm.
- Rules regarding the tuck shop.
- Report from Management regarding safety.
- Call to prayer – 27<sup>th</sup> March.
- Arrangements for the last school day of each term.
- Independent Schools Under 15 Rugby Tournament.
- Staff news.
- Teddy Bears picnic.
- An overview of what took place in the sporting calendar this term.
- Friendly netball and hockey matches vs. Gelofte Skool from Pinetown.
- U/12 rugby trials.
- Tennis talent identification, grades 1 to 3.
- Report on Open A KZN cricket tour.
- General Knowledge.

### From the Headmaster:

The first term could not have ended in a more colourful, vibrant and enthusiastic manner than it did, with the Senior Primary dramatic production of '**The Peace Child**'. With the entire school taking part, the songs filled the chapel and the costumes enlivened the already excellent performances. I have always believed that a school production of this sort offers such a valuable educational experience, spanning as it does all the grades and offering an opportunity to even the most shy children the chance to grow in confidence. This year's show was no different and I am most appreciative of the efforts of all the staff and parents who assisted, but most especially to **Mrs Ruth Naude**, whose enthusiasm and energy carried the production from its inception to the final performance. Then, my thanks to all the special children who gave the audiences a memorable performance – I do hope that they will also have created many happy memories from the experience.

I had the pleasant experience of accompanying the Grade 4 classes and their teachers (and a number of parents!) to the Sabie Valley Coffee farm, just outside Hazyview on Thursday. Here we were taught about the whole process of coffee making, from seed to roasted and then brewed coffee. The tour ended with a coffee tasting and some very tasty chocolate cake. The morning was certainly enjoyed and much was learned by all.



I have requested the **tuck shop** not to sell any fizzy cold drinks or sweets to Prep children as a result of the obvious effect these have on hyper-activity and lack of concentration in class. I have no objection if they buy these after school but I would appreciate your assistance in this regard next term particularly by reinforcing at home why this decision has been taken.

Several discussions and meetings have been held at the school by management recently regarding **safety**, particularly after the alarming reports in the press. To date there have fortunately been no such events at the school but this is an issue we take very seriously and we are in contact with Hi-Tech and the SA Police constantly, our camera system around the school has been installed with extensive coverage and I have discussed the matter with the staff. Please do assist by stressing the need for vigilance with your child.

I recently received notification of a **Call to Prayer**, to be held at the Mbombela Regional Sport Stadium on Saturday 27 March from 14h00 to 17h00. Organised by the Nelspruit Community Forum, I commend this event to you for your consideration, should you wish to attend.

It seems a long way off and not the thing to be writing about now, but could I remind you that the **second term ends on Wednesday 9 June**. I would really appreciate travel plans to be made after that date, as academic work will continue until the end of term, particularly with the implementation of weekly tests and no assessment week.

The College hosts the **Independent Schools Under 15 Rugby Festival** during the holidays, with top schools attending from across South Africa. It promises to be an excellent showcase of rugby. The festival starts on Thursday 1 April and runs until Monday 5 April.

On the **staffing** front, there will be a few minor shuffles as we move into the new term. Mr and Mrs Mitchell return from long leave and I thank Mrs Vanessa McIlrath and Ms Precious Mtimkhulu for standing in for them for the term. We wish Vanessa all the best as she moves to Kwa Zulu Natal where her husband, Craig, has been appointed Head at Felixton College. Mrs Annemarie van Wyk leaves for a while on maternity leave and we all await the exciting news of the new arrival. Mrs van Wyk's husband, Anton, will be joining us until her return. Ms Lisa Garden leaves us in name only, as she will return next term as Mrs Lisa Bolton. We wish her well for the thrilling 'big day'! Mrs Crighton will be taking well-deserved long leave and Mrs Sally Wakefield will be acting Head of the Foundation Phase in her absence. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Christine Herring in Mrs Wakefield's place, who I have no doubt will make a very positive impact in the school.

Finally, may I wish all children and their parents a blessed and meaningful Easter break and a restful holiday. I pray for God's blessings on all who will be travelling and I do hope that you all return next term rejuvenated and enthusiastic for the new term. My thanks to those who have made my first term at Penryn so very special and who have made me feel welcome, particularly Grant Nel, Lois Crighton and Lyndi Rillema.

**Neil Malherbe**

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#### **From the Head of the Foundation Phase:**

The Foundation Phase PPA had a very successful "Teddy Bears' Picnic" on Thursday last week. All the pupils and teachers came to school in their pyjamas and brought old toys and books to donate to charity. The books will be donated to Kamagugu Special Needs School and the toys will be distributed by the White River Methodist Church to needy children.

While Mr Malherbe read stories to the children the new parents in grade 00 had the opportunity to meet and socialize with the Penryn family.



**Lois Crighton**

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## From the Sports Office:

We have enjoyed a quiet week on the sport front with only a few die hard coaches using the week for extra coaching sessions. A very big thank you must go to all the teachers and interns who have been involved in the sport and extra mural programme this term. Often there are many hours of behind the scenes work that take place in order for effective running of their events or coaching sessions.

An overview of what took place in the sporting calendar this term:

- Interhouse Athletics
- Independent School Athletics
- Skukuza Athletics Meeting
- Swimming Galas at
  - Riverview
  - Flamboyant
  - Penryn
- Penryn night gala
- Tennis tour to SA Open
- Swimming tour to Swazi Mile
- Swimming tour to Midmar Mile
- Cricket tour to Kwa-Zulu Natal
- Cricket tour to St. Dunstan's

This coming Tuesday 23 March will see a Penryn U/13 team competing against Gelofte Skool from Pinetown. Our girls and their coach, Mrs. Van As, will be competing in a friendly Netball and Hockey match. The Netball begins at 12pm followed by the hockey. Good luck girls!

We have been sent information regarding rugby trials taking place in the first weeks of the second term. I am aware that this is not an official school sport, however, I am also aware of some boys in the prep who have played rugby at their previous schools. Please send your children to me should they be interested in participating in the trials and I will provide all the necessary information. These are only trials for U/12 players.

This past week Tombie Pappas and I have conducted tennis talent identification sessions with the Grade 1 – 3 learners. The talent ID in Mpumalanga is a LOTTO funded initiative with the aim of growing tennis in the province. Each child who was identified as having possible talent will receive a letter in the first week of next term regarding this and possible future steps they will be able to take.

**Please remember that extra mural sport begins in earnest the first day of next term, with the first “Rugby” practice taking place on the first Friday of the second term.**

**Allison Williams**

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### OPEN A KZN CRICKET TOUR – 02/03/10 TO 08/03/10

It was with great excitement that we left Penryn to go on our cricket tour. After a long and boring bus trip we reached our first stop, the Newcastle Inn. Without any overnight disruptions we headed off early towards Durban to play our first match against Thomas More College. When we arrived we had a lovely lunch, and then we were ready for battle! The game ended in great excitement with us requiring 3 sixes off 3 balls to win, Chad Todd dispatched 2 sixes off two balls and then a single, and unfortunately we missed out on that win.

Thursday morning we spent at the beach battling against the waves. We were also very privileged to visit the Moses Mabhida Stadium and take a trip up in the cable car. Unfortunately our game against Highbury was rained out.



We were so spoilt on Friday, our free day. We took a tour of Kingsmead Cricket stadium which was really interesting for us cricketers and we had an awesome time at Ushaka. All of us (I mean "most" of us) tried out the highest water slide in SA!

On Saturday we had a convincing win over our opponents Laddsworth Primary.

The next day everyone was pumped to 'mik en moer' at the six-a-side tournament at Hilton College. It was a great day.

Our trip home on Monday was long and boring!

We are all so thankful for this awesome experience. Thanks a million to Mr Nel and Mr Tecklenberg.

**By: Daniel van Heerden**

### **General Knowledge:**

#### This week's questions:

1. Which is the only country to have played in every Soccer World Cup tournament?
2. How many times has this country (above) won the Soccer World Cup title?
3. In what year did South Africa first compete in the Soccer World Cup?
4. What happened to the Soccer World Cup trophy in 1983?
5. Who was the first president of FIFA?

#### Answers from 12 March:

1. Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010
2. 32
3. Johannesburg
4. Italy
5. 4