

KINGSWOOD COLLEGE



Dear Parents

JUNIOR SCHOOL Newsletter

Welcome back to all the Kingswood family and best wishes for a happy, successful and healthy 2017. I trust you all enjoyed a wonderful, relaxing break with your families. Staff news is that during the holidays Miss Gill Fitzhenry became Mrs Gill Handley after her marriage to Brandon, while Mrs Redpath's son, Fred, and Mrs van der Merwe's daughter, Nicola, also tied the knot with their respective partners. Our hearty congratulations to them all.

It has been a busy and positive start to the New Year with us enrolling a total of 86 new boys and girls into the school. Our New pupils' Day on Monday went smoothly and most of the new pupils have settled in very well. Some, of course, are having to make big adjustments to a new environment, while many are adjusting to life as new boarders. Most encouraging is the increased boarder intake with both Intermediate and Van Vuuren Village close to capacity. Our total boarder intake this year is 94, I believe our highest ever. My thanks to the houseparents and matrons who continue to ensure our boarding experience remains so positive, exciting and rewarding.



Mr Derek Braans

Friday 20 January 2017



Banner photograph : Mrs Dianne von Holdt with some of her new Grade 1s on New Pupils Day.



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Our new Student Assistants, as well as our two GAP students from New Zealand, Liam and Nicholas O'Leary, have arrived and are already fully involved in our boarding and sports programme. All have participated in an intensive Driving Course run by Mike's Driving School and will also, during the course of next week, participate in a Swimming Coaching Clinic run by our Pro Coach Mrs Nikki Kemp, as well as a Cricket Coaching course overseen by our High Performance Coach, Murray Ranger. A very busy start for them indeed.

Our Grade 7s commenced the year with a Leadership Camp in the Somerset East region on Wednesday and will be returning later this afternoon. This is the perfect way to integrate this group into the Leadership duties and roles they will all perform as seniors during the course of the year. It appears as if much has been achieved during their three days away.

Our KJPA committee held their first meeting of the year last night and much is planned during the course of this year. Their first event will be the Family Fun Day to be held on the City Lords Field and the Astro on Sunday. Various sports, such as soccer, hockey, rounders, etc will be played and we are hoping for a big turnout. The starting time is 11h00 and there will be a Bring-and-Braai at the Wyvern from about 13h00. Other KJPA events to diarise this term are:

- The KJPA AGM - Thursday 26 January at 19h00 (Foundation Hall)
- Family Camp and Sleepover - Saturday 4 March at 18h30 (Dold Field)
- Moonlit Market - Friday 31 March at 17h30 (Wyvern and City Lords)

Certainly much to look forward to!

The first phase of the refurbishing of our Netball courts/play area is now complete. This is a combined KJPA/School project. The area will be left to 'cure' until the April holidays when another layer, as well as the green colour, will be added and the courts marked. The finished product will certainly be very aesthetically pleasing.

The extra-mural art and dance groups will be commencing in a week's time and the convenors of these are planning a few events during the year. These include exhibitions and performances. Letters to interested pupils have been distributed and space is limited. Please return the appropriate forms should you want your son/daughter to participate in any of these activities this term. For any queries please contact Lindi Lombard from the Catalyst Art School (0727268938 or catalyst.art.school@gmail.com) and Kyle Badenhorst from the KT3 Dance School (0714856350 or kbad009@gmail.com).

The school has moved over to a new database system this year from which all emails and smses are sent. As with all new programmes there are bound to be a couple of teething problems. We ask you to please bear with us while we get these sorted out. Communication via sms could be problematic while we wait for the system administrators to set us up with a local service provider.

Our first Parent/Teacher meetings of the year are scheduled for next Thursday, 26 January. These meetings will take place in the classrooms, with the Prep Department starting at 18h00 and the Grade 4-7s after the KJPA AGM at about 19h45. Tea/coffee and eats will be available in the staffroom from 18h30.

DEREK BRAANS

Boarding News

Intermediate: How lovely to see all the smiles on the girls' faces as they returned to boarding on Tuesday. Hugs abounded and the holiday stories still continue. From Zambia, to Kenya and Botswana, as well as from within South Africa, we welcomed 16 new boarders into our family this year, ranging from Grade 1 to Grade 7. Judging by the easy way in which they are fitting in already, they are sure to have a happy stay with us.

Whilst the Grade 7s were away for much of the week on an exciting camp, the rest of us took advantage of the undemanding prep sessions and enjoyed some extra TV time and a night swim in this warm weather. This afternoon, the Senior Girls will participate in Water Polo trials. Tomorrow, after we take the girls to town and show the new bugs around, we will all have fun making and decorating big paper birthday cupcakes to indicate when our special days of the year are. Popcorn will be enjoyed during the movie in the evening. On Sunday the boarders will join in at the KJPA fun day which promises to be entertaining and energetic. In the evening, they will attend the compulsory chapel service dressed in their whites.

Boys' Village: We are delighted that our 18 new Van Vuuren Village boys are settling in well and have made many new friends. Only one bed remains, and this is the largest group we have had in the village. The boys had their first taste of sport on Thursday and the under 9s and 11As are having cricket trials on Saturday, while the 13A squad will have a practice. These teams are on the notice board. Our Grade 7 boys return later from their Leadership Camp, which was held in the heart of the Karoo during the past few days. They experienced some hot weather, but I hear they loved the activities and especially the regular swims in the farm dam. The boys will spend some part of the weekend cleaning their tackies and clothes.

The main activity for the boys this coming weekend is the KJPA Fun Day on Sunday. For the rest of the weekend our Student Assistants have planned games for the boys on the Astro, visits to the pool and a movie night tomorrow. Sunday ends with the usual Chapel Service before they all get ready for their first full academic week of the year.

Thank you to all the parents who accompanied their sons on New Pupils' Day and to those who returned with their boys to the Village. It was wonderful meeting you or catching up with old friends and please feel free to visit us as much as possible.

Our Student Assistants have all arrived and were hard at work helping the boys settle in and many have been seen playing games with them in the garden. Mrs Ann Duggan is hoping to be released from hospital this coming weekend after her back operation and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Pre-Primary News

We welcomed 25 new children to the Pre-Primary this week. Eight of these children joined the Grade 0 class and we had 17 new ones joining the Grade 00 class. All the children seemed to have enjoyed themselves this past week and we look forward to getting to know them even better in the weeks ahead. The children have all been enjoying playing in the playground and in the classroom and many a new friendship has been formed.

We will be starting with our extra mural demonstration lessons next week and parents are encouraged to come and watch these to help them make an informed decision, should their children wish to participate in any of these activities.



Music School News

The Junior Band will rehearse at the following times this term:

Monday 13h15-14h00 (members will be let out of class at 12h50 in order to change and eat lunch)

Tuesday 13h30-14h00

Friday 12h30-13h20

Rehearsals begin on Monday. The Band Camp to Assegai Trails is happening at the end of January. The group departs on Sunday morning, 29 January, (09h00) and returns on Monday afternoon (16h30). A letter will go out to the Band parents shortly.

Junior Choir rehearsals are on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays this term from 13h30-14h00. The Junior Choir Camp to Assegai Trails is from Sunday morning, 12 February, until Monday lunch time, 13 February. More information will follow forthwith. Preppie Choir rehearsals are on Fridays from 12h30-13h00.

If your child would like to join the Marimba or Recorder Groups please email Alke Bradfield (a.bradfield@kingswoodcollege.com). These groups do not cost extra.

Mr JF Viljoen, our String teacher, plans to build up the String programme this year in order to start a String Ensemble. The Ensemble will include players from across the College who have learnt enough to cope at this level. We encourage interested pupils to sign up for individual violin, cello or double bass lessons. These lessons will cost the same as the other instrumental lessons. Mr Stephen Holder will take the informal Violin Group. Members who are grasping concepts quickly will be encouraged to enroll for individual lessons so that they can progress to the String Ensemble. Please email Alke Bradfield (a.bradfield@kingswoodcollege.com) to sign up for individual string lessons or the Violin Group.

Sport

The sports programme commenced yesterday afternoon and seemed to run smoothly in most areas. We, of course, have many new coaches in the form of our Student Assistants and with the change of groups some adjustments were needed. Please consult the Sports Programme to see where your children should be on each day.

SWIMMING

A busy time lies ahead but I believe under Nikki Kemp's guidance, we have much to look forward to this season. Much planning has taken place and courses for the coaches are taking place from next week. The gala programme commences next Thursday when we host the Tabloid and there are a number of other galas scheduled during the next month.

TENNIS

Coaching has commenced and the first major event of the year will be the Albany trials for boys and girls next weekend. Entries will be handled by the school and you will receive more details next week.

CRICKET

Trials will be held for the U9 (Cohen Field) and U11 (Dold Field) cricket teams, and practice for the U13A squad (Dold Field), on Saturday morning. All boys involved have been notified and times have also been announced by the respective coaches. The first round of matches for the year for all these age groups takes place next Saturday, 28 January.



Birthdays for the week ahead are: Mr Q Tait (22nd), Megan Schmidt (23rd), Jack van Niekerk (24th), Mrs C Wilson (24th) and Alex Brown (26th). We wish you all a special day!

Thought for the week

“A goal is a dream with a deadline.” - Napoleon Hill