



MULBARTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Newsletter 15 of 2024

20 May 2024

“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.” ~ Maya Angelou

From the Principal's Desk

Parents, please be reminded that Grade 4–7 controlled tests/Examinations are currently underway. Learners need to carry books to study for the following day's test paper. Learners need to be focused and to work hard in order to produce a good term 2 report.

Please note that all learners are to be dressed in full winter uniform. Boys and girls wear the same winter uniform. Formal uniform is as follows: black shoes; school socks; long grey pants; white collar long sleeved shirt; school tie; school jersey; school blazer; PT uniform: Long PT tracksuit with black takkies. Please note that **no mixing** of uniforms are allowed eg. track suit jackets with formal grey pants or track pants with jerseys are not allowed. Please ensure that your child takes pride in their appearance. Correct hair styles and earrings for girls to be adhered to as well (NO highlights, streaks, wedges, etc.). Children with incorrect hair styles will be sent home.

Parents, please insert a clear label with your child's name, surname & grade on all your child's uniform items (this applies to all learners in Grade R–7). We have a large number of uniform items in the Lost & Found container **without** labels, and we find that learners (and sometimes even parents) claim uniform items that do not even belong to them. Please note that all lost uniform items without labels cannot be claimed for and these will be washed and sent to our uniform shop for resale.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.

L. Kistadoo
Principal

Teachers deserve more understanding

This past Saturday, I was a speaker at a moving ceremony where parents and their children graduated after learning together and learning from each other through a period of training.

My spirits soared. Here were parents from informal settlements and council housing who lived hard lives taking time of to learn how to be good parents and children learning the basic habits that make for a flourishing childhood.

Middle-class parents need this as much. The graduation was also an opportunity for me to reflect on eight things parents often get wrong about teachers.

● **Misconception one:** that teachers are responsible for their child's learning.

Nope, teachers are responsible for teaching. Learning is the child's responsibility. And in a home where parents are attentive and hands-on in their children's lives, the children would already have learnt how to learn in the pre-school years.

Yes, it is your job as a parent to instill the habits of learning long before a child comes to school.

● **Misconception two:** that teachers can compensate for a dysfunctional home.

Let's be clear, if you failed as a parent to raise your child to be decent and kind and respectful of others, do not expect the school to correct your incompetence.

Every day, I witness how teachers work their hearts out trying to discipline wayward children: it is hard and sometimes impossible.

A child who throws a tantrum in a classroom, fights with a teacher, or simply gives the finger salute to an educator — is not the primary problem — the problem is the parent.

How dare you, parent, come to school and berate the teacher for disciplining an unruly child?

You are the problem, not the teacher.

● **Misconception three:** that teachers have lots of free time.

This, of course, is an enduring myth.

Teachers have weekends

of the day and you have seen colleagues burn out.

The rubbish people sometimes speak.

● **Misconception four:** that teachers are responsible for your individual child.

No, they are responsible for classes of 30 and sometimes 40 or more children. All you need is five of them to play up and disturb a class and you are doing crowd control.

It would be nice, in classes of five to 10 children, to expect personal care for each one of them.

But most SA schools are not like that or, to put it bluntly, do not have parents who can pay upwards of R100,000 a year to guarantee small classes.

● **Misconception five:** that parents know better than the teachers about teaching. This is infuriating. Just as a teacher does not know the details of chemical engineering or the principles of advanced accounting, like various parents, you do not know the complexity of teaching, curriculum design, assessment protocols, subject knowledge, pedagogy, class-

room management, and scores of other competences.

Just because you taught Sunday school does not make you a teacher.

At its best, teaching is a complex event that balances knowledge, wisdom and contingency that comes from deep experience.

● **Misconception six:** that teachers are ignorant of what happens at home.

Let me tell you, it does not take a teacher to long to figure out that the child comes from an unstable and undisciplined home.

In primary school, the children volunteer eye-popping information.

But even in high school, you can read a broken home off the face of a sad and sometimes angry pupil.

Teachers know. Approach with caution.

● **Misconception seven:** that teachers are obliged to make your child pass. No, again. Teachers are there to tell you the truth about the wonderful qualities of your child as a pupil and, when necessary, about why

your child is struggling. A good parent will confer-ence with the teacher and jointly work out a support plan.

But far too often parents come to school and raise the finger at the teachers as if they are responsible for the child's lack of progress in mathematics or accounting.

Not good.

● **Misconception eight:** that teachers have no lives. How incredibly sad. Teachers also have children

going to school and household to maintain and family getaways to enjoy.

In fact, the ability of teachers to take care of themselves improves their capacity to take care of other people's children.

Teachers need space, they need support, and they need to put off their cellphones.

So, next time you confront a teacher about what he or she may or may not have done, stop for a second and ask yourself whether you played your part in the education and development of your own children.



An Educated Guess

JONATHAN JANSEN

and holidays and close school early. Really?

Come and try to teach for eight periods a day and substitute for the teachers who are absent and coach the soccer or netball team and rush to finish the overcrowded curriculum, all the while doing social work with broken children, nursing children who come to school with health problems, and keep the police on alert because of violence in the area.

You are drained at the end

Controlled Test Time-table

MID-YEAR CONTROLLED TEST TIME-TABLE – TERM 2 – 2024

16.05	Thursday	ENGLISH	Grade 4-7
17.05	Friday	GEOGRAPHY	Grade 4-7
20.05	Monday	NS/NS TECH	Grade 4-7
21.05	Tuesday	AFRIKAANS	Grade 4-7
22.05	Wednesday	LO/LS	Grade 4-7
23.05	Thursday	MATHEMATICS	Grade 4-7
24.05	Friday	TECHNOLOGY	Grade 7
27.05	Monday	HISTORY	Grade 4-7
28.05	Tuesday	CREATIVE ARTS	Grade 7
30.05	Thursday	EMS	Grade 7

Reminders

- **School Shop (for uniform) is open Tuesday and Friday from 07h30 – 08h00**
- Please download the School Communicator onto your PC, laptop or mobile phone for school info and news www.school-communicator.com
- Our banking details are: **NEDBANK BOOYSENS 198005 A/C # 1980316023.**
- **No cell phones, tablets or any other electronic devices are allowed at school** – If you are caught with these items, it will be confiscated and a penalty fee of R200.00 will be charged to get it back.
- **Left behind** - We are appealing to parents not to deliver items that your child has left behind or the parent has gone early morning shopping to bring to the learner – food; money; projects; sports kit; clothes; house keys; etc. What is left behind stays behind! Parents, children will never learn responsibility if you keep running after them. Please instill in them the habit of packing their bags and getting ready for school the night before! This also disrupts classes and lessons when children are constantly called up to the office.
- **Lost and found** - Parents, please insert a clear label with your child's name, surname & grade on all your child's uniform items (this applies to all learners in Grade R–7). We have a large number of uniform items in the Lost & Found container *without* labels, and we find that learners (and sometimes even parents) claim uniform items that do not even belong to them. Please note that all lost uniform items without labels will be washed and sent to our uniform shop for resale.
- **Absent from School** – If your child is not at school for 1 or 2 days, kindly write a note in the diary to the educator and if necessary supply the sick note. If your child is off longer than 2 days – Kindly notify the school, write a note in the diary and you will need to supply a sick note.
- **School Times** –
Grade R – 2 = Monday to Friday 13h30
Grade 3 = Monday to Thursday = 14h00 and Friday = 13h30
Grade 4 – 7 = Monday and Thursday = 14h30 Tuesday and Wednesday = 14h00 and Friday 13h30
(Tuesday and Wednesday is Extra Murals which finishes at 14h45)
School starts = 07h45