

NORTHDENE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

www.northdeneprep.co.za

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NORTHDENE 4093

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29 January 2020

NEWSLETTER 1/2020

Dear Parents,

A very big WELCOME back to school and an especially big WELCOME to all our new parents. I trust that you had a good festive season and that 2020 has started well for you. The excitement and enthusiasm of being back at school has been amazing. The children settled quickly and were eager to start the year's work.

WELCOME

I would like to welcome our new staff and hope that they will have a successful happy stay with us at Northdene Preparatory School.

| | | |
|----------------|---|----------------------------|
| Mrs M McCall | – | Grade 1 Educator |
| Miss M Victor | – | Grade 4 Educator |
| Miss C Pather | – | Junior Sports Co-ordinator |
| Miss C Reyneke | – | Student Educator |
| Miss N Khwele | – | Student Educator |

The Governing Board completed the 'Interview Process' in December 2019 to fill the vacant Departmental Post, which was created last year when Mrs Tomlinson was promoted to Deputy Principal. We are now waiting for the Education Department to make final decisions. We are hoping that the vacant Departmental Post will be filled shortly.

INFORMATION EVENINGS

Thank you for attending the information evenings, the feedback has been very positive. Management are looking at spreading these out a little to alleviate the parking problem.

START OF THE SCHOOL DAY

If you have a message for your child's educator, please write a note in the homework diary or make an appointment via the front office. **Educators need to give their full attention to their class after 7H30 and therefore are not able to meet with individual parents or address any of their concerns in the morning.** Learners need to be making their way to the classroom on their own. If you have to accompany your child to the classroom, please leave promptly so as not to interfere with the morning procedures in the classroom. Learners need to settle quickly at 7H30 in the morning as lessons start promptly at 7H40. Please assist the educators by following this protocol. If there is a matter that needs to be dealt with urgently, Mrs Pandaram in the front office will be able to direct you to a management member who can assist you. Please note that from Monday 3 February we will have Grade 7 Leaders at the gates in the morning to assist your child, which makes it easy for parents to safely leave their children at the gate. If your child needs extra help, please report to Reception where we can assist. No Adults will be allowed to the classrooms in the morning from Monday the 3 February 2020.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- For safety and security reasons, no learners may be on the school premises unsupervised. Either learners who are on the school premises in the afternoon, must be at an extra-mural activity where there is a coach or an educator in charge, or they must be in the classroom where educators have pre-arranged activities. Parents are reminded that once learners are dismissed from the above activities, they will need to make their way to the gate to wait for their transport. Learners waiting at the gate are very vulnerable, so please ensure that they are collected on time.

- To alleviate traffic congestion at 2 pm, Grade 1 and Grade 2 learners doing extra-mural activities on the field between one and two pm, will be ushered to the gate 4, next to the swimming pool, where they will be released to parents.
- Children waiting at the side gate may not wait unattended for longer than 15 minutes, at which time they must make their way to the reception. Parents who are late must pick their children up from the front office. If you are unable to pick up your child within twenty minutes of the completion of an activity or the school day, please arrange with the Aftercare to care for them. We will make telephonic contact with parents where fixtures have finished earlier. However, we will charge for all phone calls made by educators and Mrs Pandaram to remind you to pick up your child from a normal afternoon practice.
- Grade R parents who want to purchase items from the Uniform Shop or need to visit Reception please drive round and park in Alexander Road to report to Reception – you need to have a visitors badge before you can visit the Uniform Shop.

POLICY FOR RAINY DAYS AND EXTRA-MURAL ACTIVITIES

On ‘rainy days’ a decision will be made by management whether outside sport will continue as usual, or whether the sport will be cancelled due to inclement weather. Management will make this decision for the Foundation Phase by 11h00 and for the Intermediate and Senior Phase by 12h30. If outside sport/activities are cancelled at 11h00 for Foundation Phase and/or 12h30 for Intermediate and Senior Phase, the information will be put onto the Communicator as an alert.

The two occasions when it is difficult to stick to the above policy are when:

- The weather changes suddenly at home time.
[In this case, the Sport educators will look after your child until you are able to fetch him/her or until the end of the sport session.]
- The sport team have a fixture to be played away at another school.
[We have to wait for the host school to cancel the match. In this case, we will inform you as soon as we can if the match has been cancelled.] Please do not contact the host school.

When extra-curricular activities have been cancelled, all learners are to report to their coach for registration. Aftercare Caregivers will collect aftercare learners, and all other learners will be collected by their parents from the classrooms of the educator/coach in charge of the team. Where a private coach is involved, learners will report to the ‘Fishy Room’ for registration and be collected from the ‘Fishy Room’ by their parents. Mrs Pandaram will be able to direct parents to the correct classrooms. Learners will be expected to do homework whilst waiting for their parents.

PARKING AND DRIVING IN PIONEER/ALEXANDER ROAD

We have over 800 learners at our school, most of whom are driven to school. We are appealing to parents to leave their children at the gate and quickly leave so that more parking space is created. Parents should try not to enter the school premises unless they have business to attend to at reception. Further to this, please do not congregate at the gate to chat whilst others are requiring parking. We will have Grade 7 leaders at the gates to help younger learners to their classrooms, by next week.

At home time and before school there are learners either crossing or walking alongside the road and therefore it is important that you proceed slowly down Pioneer Road or along Alexander Road. If you are dropping off children, please park in a safe parking before allowing the children to get out of the car. Grade R parents are requested to make use of the ‘IN/OUT’ parking area. Please enter slowly as there will be children walking up the driveway. **Please also note that it is illegal to drive up Pioneer Road, as it is a one way. This also means that you cannot drive in at the Aftercare/Grade R gate allocated for exiting cars – as you would need to enter the one way and drive illegally, both on the one way and then enter in at the exit gate.**

TRAFFIC INFRINGEMENTS

The traffic congestion before and after school is one that we cannot alleviate and is one that is universal to all schools. We can only appeal to parents to be patient and to respect the rules of the road. The latter is imperative for the safety of our children. It has been brought to my attention that;

1. There are parents who stop in the middle of the road to either 'pick up' or 'drop' children off, firstly causing further traffic congestion and secondly creating an unsafe situation.
2. There are parents parking at the beginning of Pioneer Road close to the corner where there is clearly a solid red line indicating that one may not park. They are obstructing the flow of traffic and are creating an unsafe situation when their children climb out of the car into the road instead of onto a pavement.
3. Please do not double park and leave your vehicle to fetch your child as you might be holding up the traffic or parking someone in. Please be courteous.

Those parents who are observant, will notice that the above two paragraphs have appeared in previous letters and that we are constantly appealing to parents to be patient, courteous, to obey traffic regulations and if your children are in lift clubs or Aftercare's that lift children, to ensure that safety regulations are adhered to at all times.

SCHOOL BAGS/ JEWELLERY

Please be aware that learners must have the regulation Northdene Preparatory School bag or they may have a plain bottle green or plain black bag. They are allowed to have 'pull along' **plain** black or green bag.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Learners may not have bags with pictures or strange names across them or any deviation from the above.**
- **Learners who have 'pull along' bags that cause problems, will not be allowed to use them.**
- **If you have purchased a bag, which is not regulation, you will need to replace it.**

NB. There are a number of children wearing jewellery, which is not allowed at school. Educators will address those children individually.

THRIFT CUPBOARD

The Uniform Shop has some good quality second hand clothing for those parents who may be interested. **Please ensure that all clothing and personal items are labelled.**

'COMMUNICATOR' D6 COMPUTER PROGRAMME

Please ensure that you have installed the communicator on your work or home computer. The communicator can also be accessed on your cellphone. Mrs Lewis can advise those parents that are experiencing difficulties accessing the programme.

JUST A REMINDER

- Learners may not wear tracksuit pants in the first term. Full tracksuits may be worn in the second, third and fourth term.
- Grade R and Grade one extra-curricular sport starts next week.
- Please make sure that you complete all forms that are sent home. If there is a chance that your child will need to go to aftercare (In case of an emergency) please complete an aftercare form so that we can accommodate your child in such an eventuality. Parents who have to send their children to Aftercare and there are no forms filled in will be charged a substantial amount extra.

'Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world.' Nelson Mandela

Yours sincerely,

S.V. KING
Principal