

Newsletter

4 August 2015



Mickey's turn for cake sale...

It's Teacher Erika's class' turn to host a cake sale tomorrow. Mickey Mouse pupils are invited to bring their change and any left-overs will be sold to Solid Foundations pupils at second break.



Calling all bookworms...

Diskonto travelling book company will visit our school next week Thursday and Friday. They bring a terrific range of kiddie and grownup fiction and non-fiction reads. It's a real treat for our young pupils to feel the thrill of buying their own books! So feel free to pop in yourself or send your child with some book-money to school on these two special days.

Blasting and bubbling...

It's a new month and Professor Phantom is bursting with exciting new experiments to guide our scientists into the magical world of chemistry and physics. If you would like your child to join science club this week Friday (15h00 - 14h00) please send your R80 to Teacher Erika by tomorrow. The investment is really worth it and the children have hands-on fun for a full hour. **Please can all young scientists bring an empty coke/soda can to science club on Friday.**



Grade 4 - 7 annual camp options...

Every year our Grade 5 - 7 pupils are invited to go on a fun school camp in the fourth term. As most of our parents are wise and conscientious with their household budgets, we would like to give you the option to voice your opinion on the following two options:

Option 1: Camp for 2 nights/ 3 days (accommodation, breakfast and dinner included, lunches excluded) The following fun activities are part of the camp:

- Harties cable way
- African Island resort
- Harties snake park
- Boat ride

Cost : R 1100 per child



Option 2: Three consecutive days of field trips to similar destinations (no accommodation, no food provided)

- Buses collect and drop children daily from school

Cost: R650

Although neither option is compulsory, children who do not participate often feel excluded and miss out on a memory-making and educational bonding time with their peers.

Please will you email your preference to us so we can make a decision based on the majority vote of our parents. Your voice counts!



Doing tech the "right" way...

As much as technology can be counterproductive to our children's healthy development, we are keenly backing this innovative programme introduced to us by Mrs Babcock:

FREE SCRATCH COMPUTER PROGRAMMING COURSE FOR ALL OF OUR PUPILS

A free web-based programming course in Scratch is currently being offered on-line through EdX (www.edx.org). Solid Foundations learners are invited to enrol in the course and complete it to earn an honour code certificate. Mickey Mouse pupils are welcome to enrol too, but will need a grownup to "read" the course instructions with them. The great thing is that there is no cost involved and you have absolutely nothing to lose by giving it a shot!

Enrolment is open now (pupils are encouraged to enrol before the end of the week and to let Teacher Erika know if you have done so), and in order to earn the free certificate from completing this course, pupils will need to achieve a cumulative grade of 60% or higher by the time this course closes on October 4th - the end of this term.

Those who are interested must have access at home to a computer with internet, as the school computers will not be made available after school hours to participate.

To join, register at www.edx.org and enrol for "HarveyMuddX: CS002x Programming in Scratch" (www.edx.org/course/programming-scratch-harveymuddx-cs002x-0)

All of the programming in this course will be done using "Scratch," MIT's block-based programming language which is available for free at scratch.mit.edu

Note that Scratch will run in the following web browsers: Chrome 35 or later, Firefox 31 or later, and Internet Explorer 8 or later. In addition, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.2 or later installed.

Solid Foundations learners who earn the honour code certificate will also get special recognition in a school assembly, a tuck voucher and may wear civvies on the first Friday of fourth school term, to recognize their efforts in taking an opportunity to better themselves by learning something new.

Why not get your child (or yourself) interested in programming in a kiddie-friendly way?! Who knows where it could lead and it's easier than you think!

If you have further questions, please chat with Michelle Babcock 076-224-3610.



And doing tech the wrong way...

That being said...it has been noticed by our teachers that some of our pupils are starting their school day with extensive T.V. watching at home before the school day begins. Little people find it really hard to focus on A-B-C when so much has already competed for their attention in the early hours of the day. Please turn off the telly and try something peaceful and calming to give your children a focussed and relaxed start - it helps us more than you realise!

Splashing into spring...

Swimming lessons have started at school again. Taljaard Swimming School collects and drops the Mickey Mouse pupils during school hours and Solids can join after school. Call Taljaard for enrolment information. [082-920-8747]

Last call to show we care for those with cancer...

Don't forget that the Grade 6's are looking for scrap material for their Life Skills project. They are making bean bags (rice bags) which can be heated up in the microwave or cooled in the freezer for children who have cancer. We are hoping to deliver these gifts to the Paediatric Oncology ward over the September long weekend. We need material that is no smaller than 14cm x 14cm and it needs to be natural material (cotton, linen, rayon, etc) or flannel or any other soft material (regrettably nothing synthetic or nylon as it will melt or burn the children).



Material can be given directly to Mrs Obbes in the Computer Lab or to the office.

If parents or other children would also like to make some of these little gifts - they are more than welcome to chat to Mrs Obbes so she can give them the pattern. (We have 18 children in the class and we are hoping to deliver 50+ bean bags).



Friday fun...

Thank you for the incredible turn-out of bicycles and scooters on Friday. Check out our website for some pic's. We had such a marvellous time! This week Friday we are in for a CREEPY CRAWLIE SHOW with snakes, spiders and all sorts of other intriguing goggas to entertain us and give us the shivers!

And a heads up for NEXT week Friday (Aug 14th)... it's our annual "shopping day" at school. Kids can come dressed as grownups and we will shop 'til we drop (all in good fun with fake money!) More about this in next week's letter!

Theme for Mickey Mouse next week...

Money matters!

Smile a while...

Teacher Erika was telling her class the story of King Solomon and how God granted him his wish (for wisdom). Here's the reason why God doesn't extend the favour to those less than 7 years old...

Teacher Erika: "What would you wish for if God gave you **ANY ONE** wish in the whole wide world?"

Kennedy: "To be a mermaid!"

Khanyisile: "To be a dog!"

Lucy: "For R100!!!"

Tshepi: "To go to Durban!"

Modisha: "For a PSP"



Makes you ponder why God doesn't always grant our wishes as grown-ups - doesn't it!!

Prayerfully and playfully
The Teachers

MISSING!!!

Tobie



**PLEASE HELP US
FIND TOBIE AND
BUDDY** their family
misses them. If you
have seen or know

where they are contact **079 382 6318/ 072
292 7494**

Buddy

