

Newsletter

31 August 2016



Reports...

JUST KIDDING

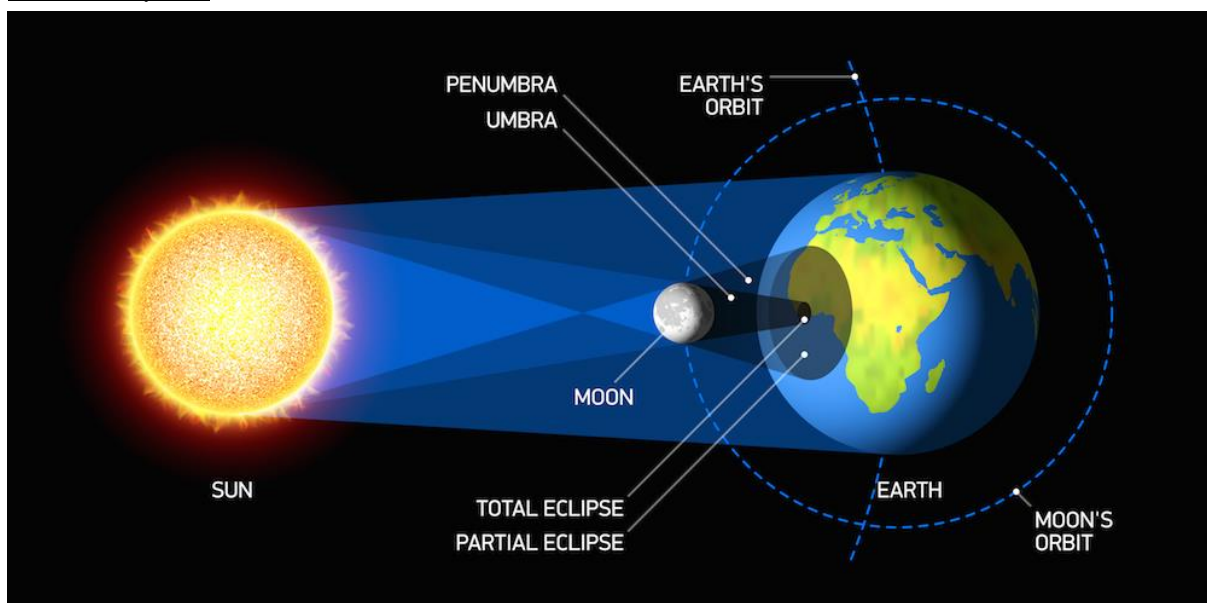


Our school follows a three cycle assessment programme for our primary school and a bi-annual reporting programme for the preschool. School reports for Grade 2 to 7 are going home tomorrow. Grade RR, R and 1 will get their next formal report in November. This, however, does not mean that you cannot ask your child's teacher for verbal feedback on their progress in class at any time during the year! Our door is always open.

Grade 2 - 7 parents, please ask your child for their formal report card tomorrow and praise them for their efforts and hard work. Your child's teacher might want to see you, so check if such a request is included with the report. If such a

meeting has been requested by the teacher, please call the office to confirm a date and time. Any other parents wishing to meet with a teacher (Grade RR - 7) to discuss any concerns, you are also welcome to call the office (011-976-5300) to make an appointment. Teachers have given their availability schedules from the 1st to the 16th of September to our receptionist, Andrea, who will be co-ordinating the appointments to best suit you. We do need you as parents to be punctual and committed to any appointment you make, as no-shows and late arrivals are both poor indicators of parental interest and often cause havoc with a teacher's schedule! We will also be able to co-ordinate appointments with more than one teacher at a time, should you wish to do so.

Solar eclipse...



Tomorrow is the first day of spring and the long-awaited partial eclipse of the sun! For those who are planning to view the special event, the eclipse will begin just after 9:00 am and reach its height at 11:02. We have unfortunately sold out of eclipse glasses, but if you would like to participate, Claire Flanagan, who heads the Planetarium recommends a double layer of teabag tinfoil wrapper from the "Five Roses" brand. This home-made alternative should be as effective as the special solar glasses.

We will be reinforcing eye-safety at school, but please note the following quote from Claire: "We tested a range of products, and while technically there may be others that could be used we have for a variety of safety reasons decided to promote the use of at least two layers of Five Roses teabag foil only."

We will only allow children with the "Five Roses" option or the real solar glasses to view the sun or to share with their friends while doing so.

Enjoy this very unique and special day!

On cue...

Don't forget the school concert at Maranatha Church on Wednesday the 14th of September (13 more sleeps)! We are really getting excited to show you our cute items and we know that we're in for a delightful family time together.



Embroidering clothing on the outside...

It has recently been suggested by a creative and thoughtful mom, that school clothing be embroidered on the outside with the child's name on it. Although this may seem like a really practical solution to the lost property problem,

after further discussions with staff and other parents regarding the suggestion, the following objections were noted:

1. It is a safety risk for pupils. Knowledge of pupil names in public places was regarded as a concern.
2. The "uniformity" of such embroidered names will not be maintained. It will be difficult to control the variety of fonts and sizes.
3. The clothing cannot be handed down from one family to another or re-sold at the swap shop.

As such, the decision was "vetoed". We have no objections to name embroidery on the **inside** pockets or labels of clothing items though. Don't give up on the labelling process - we will win if everyone makes an effort!

Casual day stickers...

Friday is casual day and all our pupils are invited to step out in their spring gear. The casual day stickers are R10 and are available from Mrs Bradshaw's office. Mickey Mouse pupils are encouraged to go a step further with "fancy dress" outfits. Even so, let's support Casa Caritas with our R10! We can't wait to see little princesses, pirates, pigs and paupers come out for a bit of fantasy fun.

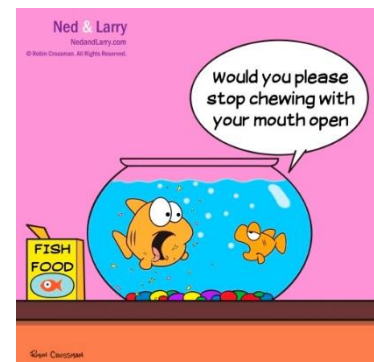


Ladies making lunches...

Please note that the special lunch packages delivered at school for R25 are delivered through a private company. Ordering lunch happens directly through this company and not through the school office. We have noticed that they are punctual and efficient, so we do recommend them if you would like to make use of their services. Contact Leanne or Cheryl if you'd like to place an order 076-781-2548 / 071-782-2513.

Mind your p's and q's...

We've been asked to remind parents to use their manners and RSVP to invitations again. When you plan the world's best birthday party for your child and you have no idea if anyone will be coming, you will understand the frustration of an ignored RSVP! Last week, invites were sent for a Grade R pupil's birthday party. This mommy is still waiting for a response. Please reply if you are coming or not. Thanks.



Senior school camp...



Our seniors (Grade 5 - 7) are invited to go on a "Bushpigs" school camp from Tuesday to Thursday, the 22nd to the 24th of November. This "camp site" is fun and organised and our past pupils have really given it their "favourite" stamp of approval. The cost for the camp is approximately R1100. Camp attendance is voluntary, but this price may come down if we have the majority of our pupils attending. You are welcome to begin paying your child's camp fees this month, to avoid a cash crunch in November. Use your child's name and "camp" as a

reference for EFT payments.

Paradigm shift...

Maranatha Community Church is hosting a "parenting course" this week Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. It's a short, powerful help for parents and the course is



free of charge and aimed at parents with younger kids (toddler to primary school). We highly recommend both the speaker and the course content. Sometimes, a fresh perspective or parenting tips can really make the world of difference in your home! Phone for bookings: 011-972-5413.

Spring is the time to start swimming...

But does your child know how? It is essential that every South African child learns how to be water-safe.

We have two excellent swim schools who are willing to drive your child to and from school, either during school hours (Taljard) or during After Care (Pather). Both schools are starting their swimming seasons again. If you are interested, please see the attached adverts and get the details for enrolling your child.



As it heats up, please could you send your child to school with a sunhat (label it please). Their little skins are precious to us. We can keep your preschool child's hat at school in our famous "hat box" and the primary school children may keep their hats in their bags for easy access at breaks. Thanks.

Prayerfully and playfully
The Teachers