



Letter number one

10 February 2010

Dear Parents

This newsletter has been structured in such a way that news from the various teaching phases can be conveyed to the reader with ease. In addition to the phase news, there is a section at the end of the letter, which covers the parent body as a whole. Enjoy the read!

### **PRE-SCHOOL FEBRUARY NEWS**

The four Grade 00/0 classes are, as always, a busy place to visit – 60 odd pupils spread across 4 teaching venues results in a dynamic, vibrant atmosphere where excited four and five year olds give their everything during school time. Pre-school reminds me of the old TV commercial advertising Grandpa headache powder – it shows a preschool teacher commenting that “this is not time to have a headache”! I wholeheartedly agree and honour the 4 dedicated staff who give their all. This department is as crucial as the Grade 12 one, as these teachers lay the foundation for the next 12 years of education.

Some of the 2009 Cycle Race money has recently been spent on upgrading Shirley’s classroom. Her storeroom has been fully shelved and an aluminium sliding door is in the process of being installed to create some private office space for the department. The office has also been fitted out with cupboards under the desk and bookshelves.

Forthcoming attractions:

- “Big splash” on Friday 26 Feb
- “Big run” will take place in term 4 this year
- Individual class socials are presently being arranged by the class teacher

### **JUNIOR AND SENIOR PRIMARY FEBRUARY NEWS**

One of the key focuses for this term will be the Primary School [Gr 0-6] **Parenting Evening** dealing with “Homework”. Typical topics that will be covered will be the rationale behind homework, how much homework should be done, parental role and attitude in homework and more. This will take place on Monday 22 February in the school hall.

Selected Grade 4-6 athletes will be competing at the High School **inter-schools’ athletics competition** on Friday 19 February at the Velodrome at 08:00. The organisers have decided to broaden the base of the competition and to give their respective Primary Schools an opportunity to compete.

The Primary School **swimming gala** takes place on Thursday 25 February at 09:30 at the Morningstar pool. This will be the first time that the Grade 1-6’s combine for a sporting event. To date many sporting events have been combined with the High School but now we have sufficient staff, pupil numbers and infrastructure to separate into two logical, rational components.

## **HIGH SCHOOL FEBRUARY NEWS**

After the highly successful “**relationship conference**” the term has continued at a frenetic pace. The **inter–house athletics**, which followed on 4 February, was superbly organised by Sannettha Lee and her athletics team and in addition was supported by Lorette Meyer, who designed a computer programme to calculate the trophy winners as well as the inter-house champions.

For the record, the winners for the day are as follows:

### **ESCS Inter House Athletics Results 2010**

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Name of trophy</b>	<b>Trophy winner</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Runner-up</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>U13 G</b>	Age group winner	Sarah Harris	90	Ester Schippers	69
<b>U13 B</b>	Age group winner	Ruan Rheeder	72	Jacki Mohlaba	70
<b>U14 G</b>	Age group winner	Kaylin Schaftenaar	62	Nika Brand	61
<b>U14 B</b>	Age group winner	Daniel Machikicho	71	Menno Silvis	64
<b>U15 G</b>	Age group winner	Tarryn Glasby	120	Natali Frenz	46
<b>U15 B</b>	Age group winner	Samuel Vos	80	Jonathan Leppan	54
<b>Most promising junior girl</b>		Tarryn Glasby	120		
<b>Most promising junior boy</b>		Samuel Vos	80		
<b>U17 G</b>	Age group winner	Rebecca Webster	72	Tamlyn Murrell	64
<b>U17 B</b>	Age group winner	Stevie McCallum	100	Moses Cheong	63
<b>U19 G</b>	Age group winner	Cecile Theys	52	Aimee v d Reis	50
<b>U19 B</b>	Age group winner	Bradley Glasby	59	Riaan le Roux	53
<b>U17 G</b>	<b>Victrix Ludorum</b>	Rebecca Webster	72		
<b>U17 B</b>	<b>Victor Ludorum</b>	Stevie McCallum	100		

<b>Overall Points</b>		
<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>
JOSHUA (1298)	DAVID (1203)	TIMOTHY (1130)

Parents are invited to the **inter-schools athletics** meeting on Friday 19 February at the Bellville Athletics Stadium [Velodrome]. The pupils, under the guidance of the cheerleaders, have been practicing with great gusto, in preparation for the defence of the Spirit Trophy. Likewise Tess and the athletics team will be training hard to challenge the other schools on the track. The meeting starts promptly at 08:00 when each school will be put through their cheerleading paces and will do their utmost to impress the judges with their moves, song and enthusiasm.

Parents are encouraged to visit the school website to study the **Grade 12 HIGCSE / AS level results** – they are once again truly amazing and bear testimony to the hand of our Lord upon staff and pupils. I have attached a summarised copy of the results on the next page for your perusal.

Our external examinations [CIE] department requires a set number of **invigilators**, depending upon the number of pupils sitting for an examination. If you wish to become part of the invigilation team please will you:

- o Chat to Christine Noble who has done it so well for so many years
- o Chat to Karen Anderson or Linda Nel who are in charge of all external examinations

The examinations fall in two 7-week blocks, one in early May / June and the other in October / November. The increased number of pupils writing the external examinations

[Private and ESCS candidates] has necessitated us expanding our invigilation pool. A set remuneration is paid per hour.

### MATRIC RESULTS 2009

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES FOR HIGCSE:				
Subjects	1	2	3	4
	80%+	65% - 79%	55% - 64%	40% - 54%
1ST LANGUAGE ENGLISH	9	9	1	
FIRST LANG. AFRIKAANS	2	1		
SECOND LANG. AFRIKAANS	2	6	4	3
MATHEMATICS	10	4		
BIOLOGY	6		4	
PHYSICAL SCIENCE	8	3	2	1
GEOGRAPHY	2	2	2	
ART & DESIGN (AS LEVEL)				
COMPUTER STUDIES (AS LEVEL)				
MUSIC (AS LEVEL)				
MUSIC (A LEVEL)				
TOTALS:	39	25	13	4

DIST. OF GRADES FOR AS / A LEVEL:				
A	B	C	D	E
80%+	70% - 79%	60% - 69%	50% - 59%	40% - 49%
2	1	1	2	1
2		1		
2				
1				
7	1	2	2	1

Please note the following concerning **school accounts and credit control**:

- Payment as per usual is requested before the 5th of the following month in full [i.e. 5 Feb]. Please place the cash or cheque in a clearly marked envelope bearing your child's name and class in the "post box" at reception. Cash, cheques, post dated cheques, EFT, full or part payment for the year, are all acceptable - as well as early payment!!
- Parents must please include the account number with payment - the tear off slip at the bottom of the account is perfect. We now have a number of families with the same surname!
- Contact Sue if you wish to pay directly.
- Given the pressure on Sue Bishop, I have restricted all access to her from 09:00 till 12:45. This includes staff, parents as well as pupils. Lizmare at reception will happily take a message on your behalf and will pass it onto Sue who will contact you later in the day. Alternatively please feel free to use her "In tray" at reception to leave a message.
- The school is in the process of tightening up on its credit control policy. The bottom line is that accounts need to be settled before the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. If the fees are not paid by then a few gentle reminders will be sent out followed by a "not so gentle" request for payment! If the account is 60 days or more in arrears, tuition will automatically be suspended as stated in the *Statement of Agreement* which forms part of the admissions process. As always my door is open for discussion but the directive given to me by the School Board allows little room to manoeuvre.
- January and February's accounts are going to be very heavy as all the extras - music fees, levies, camp fees and excursions - will be debited to your account. Please make provision now.

In the April holidays, Andre Webster of the El Shaddai Christian Church will be leading the **annual outreach to Botswana**. The first prize is always for families to go on the outreach – this is strongly encouraged. If one is in Grade 7-12 one is able to go on outreach unaccompanied by an adult.

It is the intention of the school to create an opportunity so that every pupil can go on at least one cross-cultural, short term, international outreach mission during their time at ESCS. To date, trips have been taken to Egypt, Madagascar, Ukraine, Zimbabwe and a number to Botswana. Recently the outreach work in Botswana has focussed on the marginalised San people who are living in appalling conditions in and around some rural towns. For more information please contact Andre Webster at ESCC [021 -975 1983]. [There are only a few places left and the closing date is the end of February.]

If you have a **sibling** who needs to be enrolled at ESCS in 2011, now is a good time to **complete the application form** and drop it off at reception. We try and give siblings preference - Friday 23 April is the cut off date for preferential treatment. Please remember how the new system works:

- Names will no longer be taken down and placed on a “waiting list” but fully completed application forms will however be taken and placed in a “waiting pool”.
- The cut off date for completed application forms for siblings to receive preferential treatment will be 23 April 2010.
- First round of acceptances close on 30 April in the year preceding admission. All applications received after that date will be considered with the second round of acceptances.
- Second round of acceptances, [should there still be spaces available after the first round of acceptances], will be 31 July in the year preceding admission.
- See website for more specific details

### **FINALLY**

By the time you receive this email the Cycle Race would probably have just finished. Without your help and assistance on the day, the race committee would not have been able to even contemplate the race. A big thank you to the majority who have put their shoulder to the wheel, given of their time and have been passionate about being a Christian witness to the community that we serve. In particular I wish to acknowledge in advance Miguel Correia and his CORE team who have met faithfully since August last year to plan this race. I also wish to salute Melius Weideman, the father of the race who last had a child at ESCS in 2006, for once again working his fingers to the bone in redesigning a new race. His ability to see the problems that most of us just do not even think about, is amazing. Thank you Miguel, Melius and Core team – you are an example to all of us!

ERITH