

Headmaster: Gavin Sinclair  
Deputy Headmaster: Dave Ernstzen  
H.O.D. Foundation Phase: Frances Hyson  
Bursar: Maeve Sidey  
Headmaster's Secretary: Debbie van Rooyen  
Marketing: Charmaine Mahlangu  
Reception: Lynette Carlisle



Telephone: 013-751 3806/7  
013-751 3929  
Fax: 013-751 2765  
E-Mail: admin@uplands.co.za  
Website: www.uplands.co.za

22 January 2010  
Number 22/01

## WEEKLY NEWS

Dear Parents, girls and boys

The year is now off to a solid start and the boys and girls have been very busy in class and on the sports fields. Our motto, "building self-confidence", remains the focus of 2010. The pursuit of academic self-confidence and excellence is the most important goal that we aim to achieve. I encourage you to monitor your child's work and progress carefully, gently supporting them as they learn new skills this year. This does not mean completing their home work for them, but rather ensuring that they have a quiet work space at home and that they follow a regular routine. Sleep and rest are also pivotal in the development of young children.

The results from the IEB grade 6 core skills tests arrived and I am pleased to report that our pupils achieved well above the average in all the categories which included: language, mathematics, visual and thinking skills. There were just over 2500 independent school pupils that wrote the test, so the results are valid. We will continue to write benchmarking tests in the future in order to assess the skills development of our pupils.

Congratulations to Uplands College on their wonderful matric results for 2009. They achieved a 96% University Exemption and 9 pupils achieved a pass with Distinction.

The grade 7 group enjoyed their leadership camp last weekend at Misty Valley Lodge. They learned about working together and they created excellent House spirit as they completed a number of different activities. Thank you to all the parents that assisted with the transport!

The House Captains for 2010 have been announced- congratulations to the following:

### Fuller

Joshua Birch (Captain)  
Kate James (Captain)  
Andrew Mullin (Vice)  
Anita Gordijn (Vice)

### Ogilvie

Clem Murray (Captain)  
Caitlyn Cordeiro (Captain)  
Ryan Clarke (Vice)  
Mieke Hansmeyer (Vice)

### Webb

Ryan Calmeyer (Captain)  
Jenna Rankin (Captain)  
Matthew Prior (Vice)  
Tamsin Creecy (Vice)

This weekend is the choir sleepover at the school and it sets the tone for the rest of the year. Thank you to Mrs Sinclair and Mrs Kirk for giving of their time this weekend. Please remember the PTA AGM on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> January at 18h00 in the pavilion. The school relay gala is at Penryn on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> and the athletics meeting on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> at Nelspruit Primary.

Have a restful weekend!

**Best regards,  
Dave Ernstzen**

### Request from the Uplands Environment Committee (UEC)...

Should you have any unwanted bamboo, please drop it off at the Prep front office for use at the recycling station.

Thank you

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY....

Liam Brander 25/01, Zama Ngomane 25/01, Radovan Dolezal 26/01, Muzzammil Cassim 26/01, Gregory Spear 26/01, Connor Black 26/01, Pierre Naude 27/01, Chansub Shin 29/01, Delano van Rooyen 29/01, Danyaal Mohamed 30/01, Anton van Dyk 31/01, **Staff:** Charmaine Mahlangu 29/01

**MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY!**

### **Junior Cricket Coaching – Boys/Girls from Grade 0 to Grade 3**

Coaching takes place on Fridays. The cost will remain the same as in 2008/2009 (R50 per session).

There will usually be 2 sessions of coaching:

- 1.20 pm for Grade 0, Grade 1 and Grade 2
- 2.00pm for the older boys/girls

The emphasis will be on the basics of batting, bowling and fielding in a fun and enjoyable way!

**Roger McCarthy**  
079 046 7669 [torogermc@yahoo.com](mailto:torogermc@yahoo.com)

**Ryan McCarthy**  
084 476 4424

## Individual Achievements...

### **HORSE RIDING**

#### **TYNEALE TERRY**

competed in the Uplands Show end of last term. She jumped 60/70 with her pony Madam Mouse and got 3 first places and 1 second place.

### **MUSIC**

#### **JAMES MACGREGOR**

passed UNISA Theory of Music Pre-Grade 1 with a Distinction.

**Congratulations Tyneale and James!**

**A big thank you to the mum who found my necklace and handed it in to the school. I really appreciate it so much. Thank you once again!! I don't know who you are but thank you. Toni Minnaar**

## **OUTREACH NEWS (NO. 1, 2010)**

Down at the Outreach offices, Sandra, Beauty and I hit the road running this term, with plans well advanced for our exciting and innovative "Teachers of Excellence" programme to start this term. In this programme, which grew out of our existing teacher upliftment project, we will work with active teachers with a diploma in education who have a bias towards maths and science. We will be offering 50 secondary school teachers from township and rural schools in Mpumalanga an Advanced Certificate in Education (ACE) course in Maths, combined with other compulsory skills (such as computer literacy, English language improvement, leadership development and mathematical knowledge for teaching) that will enhance teaching and learning at their schools. Their studies will be based at Uplands, where we are grateful to be able to use the facilities that the schools have to offer.

It is our belief that this innovative approach to teaching, especially Mathematics, will change the face of education in South Africa, creating a better qualified, more motivated and more competent teaching fraternity that strives for excellence. For every teacher that can be uplifted and inspired through this programme, many children who pass through the hands of these teachers will benefit in future years.

In the light of the dismal 2009 Mpumalanga Matric pass rate of 47,5%, Sandra van Niekerk, manager of our secondary schools programme, has every reason to be proud of her 50 matriculants who took part in last year's Saturday school programme, which helped them with Maths, Science and English, as well as computer literacy and career guidance. Their pass rate for Maths was 83% (with seven distinctions), with 72% (and two distinctions) for Science and 100% (with one distinction) for English.

In addition, we are delighted to report that Muzi Tshabalala from Khutsalani High School, was the top Maths achiever in the province (and probably one of the top in the country), achieving a fantastic 100%. He has attended several awards ceremonies in Mpumalanga and at the Investec Head Office in Johannesburg. He has also been awarded a bursary by Investec to further his studies.

The successful Saturday school programme will double up this year, to cater for a total of 100 Grade 11 and Grade 12 pupils.

Also in 2010, 25 principals and deputy principals will continue to come to Uplands for the second year of their ACE course in School Leadership and Management with the University of Johannesburg and the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership. We will continue to support many schools in our "Teachers in Partnership" programme, offering in-service training and THRASS courses for primary school teachers, English literacy development for Grade 4 rural school pupils in the SMILE project run by the Uplands College community service group, computer courses for teachers, help with feeding and clothing the many disadvantaged families and orphans at our partner schools ... and so the list goes on, wherever the needs are brought to our attention.

Here's to a busy and rewarding 2010!

**Liz Mackintosh**

### **Nelspruit Bus Service**

We are still looking for more passengers for the Nelspruit bus service. The cost is R600 return trip for this term.

One way is R300 and casual is R25 per trip. Simply deposit the amount into the Prep's account at FNB White River - 54285516910 or give the money to Loraine Hopley, the Bus Co-ordinator (076 483 2102).

## Forthcoming Attractions...

Fri 22 Jan	13:30	Choir Sleepover
Tue 26 Jan	18:00	PTA AGM <b>in the Pavilion</b>
Thurs 28 Jan	14:00	Relay Swimming Gala <b>at Penryn</b>
Fri 29 Jan	07:45	Holy Communion
	12:00	Athletics Meeting <b>at Nelspruit Primary</b>
	16:00	MPU Swim Trials <b>in Nelspruit</b>
Sat 30 Jan	07:00	MPU Swim Trials <b>in Nelspruit</b>

Thank you so much.

A big thank you to those parents who have made donations of books, toys, puzzles and other equipment to assist us in creating a busy, happy and exciting classroom environment for our Grade 000 classes.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

**Alexa Frost**  
**Head of Foundation Phase**

Pupils are to write up their achievements outside the school in the "Achievements Book" outside the Deputy Head's office by **Monday lunchtime** for announcement at Tuesday's assembly.

Medals and trophies must be **clearly marked with the child's name** and put into the basket in Mrs Van Rooyen's office.

Dear Parents

Please note that if you are going to be away overnight, leaving your child in the care of a guardian, grandparents, family friends etc, kindly advise the front office of their contact details. This is so that we know who to contact in case of emergency or illness at school during your absence.

### **MOMS IN TOUCH**

#### **Psalm 33:4 (NIV)**

*"For the word of the  
Lord is right  
and true;  
He faithful  
in all he does."*

A group of various moms have been praying for the Prep and College staff, children and families for over 10 years. We meet together on a Thursday morning from 7.30 - 8.30 at the **Prep Pavilion**, to pray together and to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. Compassion and confidentiality is required. You are most welcome to join us or to contact Linda Lagerwey on 0824412675 or by email [lagenwey@lafrika.com](mailto:lagenwey@lafrika.com) for further details.