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WEEKLY NEWS

Dear Parents, girls and boys

The Haitian Earthquake disaster has unfolded into a real human tragedy. It has been so sad to see the depravity that some people succumb to in such situations. The scenes there are not very different to those in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina struck with such violence a few years ago. As a teacher I always look for the best in the pupils and I hope we provide them with the tools to make the "right" decisions. That said we have much to be grateful for, given the wonderful surrounds we live in!

The staff will be checking and assisting the senior pupils with their diaries. The proper use of a diary is a life skill, not to mention a direct link between homework and the parents. Please could I ask for your assistance in checking your child's diary each day? Home work is given regularly and this should not take more than an hour to complete in the senior grades.

I spoke to the school this week about the origins of the months of the year. The main focus was January- named after the Roman god Janus (god of beginnings). Janus is depicted with two heads, one facing the past and other the future, much like an entrance or doorway. I encouraged the children to "switch on" to the entrance they pass through. Whether it is the hall or their classrooms they need to respect the environment they enter into.

I would also like to appeal to parents help ensure that the school campus is a child friendly zone. There has been some poor driving on the grounds recently and motorists must adhere to the speed limit and the road signs within the schools. There are always children running, cycling or walking around from early morning until the evening. Please be patient and avoid blocking the roads when you pick up or drop off your children. Uplands is in the process of repairing and creating more efficient parking.

Mr Barry Carlse has been elected as the PTA Chair for 2010. Thank you to all the parents that attended the PTA AGM. There are many exciting events planned for the year. Please do support the PTA in their various functions as they provide an invaluable service to the school.

The results from the Penryn Relay Gala and the Athletics meeting will be available next week. The next gala will be held at Riverview on Thursday 4 February. Best wishes to the pupils that have entered the Mpumalanga swimming and squash trials this weekend.

Green Request: the Uplands Recycling station is ready for your paper, glass and plastic.

Have a good weekend!

**Best regards,
Dave Ernstzen**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY....

Mikayla Nortje 01/02, Tayo Ludgrove 02/02, Victoria Satar Reyes 02/02, Wisani Mashele 02/02, Onkgopotse Motsei 03/02, Muhammad Jooma 06/02, Matthew Hassenkamp 06/02, Andrew Mullin 06/02, Joshua Rogers 06/02, Dominique le Roux 07/02, Lauren Ogg 07/02, **Staff:** Lucretia Bell 05/02, Kristina Rubino 06/02

MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY!

Individual Achievements...

SCUBA DIVING

TAYLA PIKETH

completed a scuba diving course in December allowing her to dive to 18m in open water. She was meant to do 10m bubbles course but qualified for Water 1 because of her water ability and skills under water with extreme conditions.

HORSE RIDING

TYNEALE TERRY

Awarded the trophy for Excellence in Horse Riding (2009)

SARA ARCHDEACON

Awarded the Uplands Riders Floating Trophy (2009)

Congratulations everyone!

Term Dates for 2010

First Term

12 January to 19 March

Second Term

7 April to 9 June

Exeat weekend:

Close 23 April and open 28 April

Third Term

13 July to 23 September

Exeat weekend:

Close 6 August and open 10 August

4th Term

12 October to 2 December

Also available from the Uplands Prep website, www.uplands.co.za

Please do not forget to let the front office know if any of your contact details have changed.

This is very important.

Thank you.

Monkey Apple Uniform Shop

Monkey Apple's new premises are the Prep Common Room which is located first along the senior primary block next to the grade 7C class. Monkey Apple will commence trading on 1st February 2010.

Trading Hours

MON/WED/FRI 07:30 - 09:30 10:30 - 16:30

Appointment basis only during school holidays.

Contact Petra on 083 252 3438 for further information.

NB: NO DELIVERY TO CLASSROOMS

Attention all parents

Valentine's Day Special

The grade 7s will be selling various Valentine's goodies during the next two weeks at break time.

Funds raised will go towards the Grade 7 Fund. Prices range from R2 to R60.

Please support the Grade 7s!

If your child is leaving the school for one reason or another, kindly remember that we need a TERM'S notice.

Forthcoming Attractions...

Fri 29 Jan	07:45	Holy Communion
	12:00	Athletics Meeting at Nelspruit Primary
	16:00	MPU Swim Trials in Nelspruit
Sat 30 Jan	07:00	MPU Swim Trials in Nelspruit
Thurs 04 Feb	14:00	Relay Swimming Gala at Riverview
Fri 5 Feb	07:45	Holy Communion

Cyclists, please do not forget to wear your cycling helmets at all times, especially on the Uplands property.

Dear Parents

Should you encounter problems trying to get through to our switch board due to faulty lines, please try the following premi-cell numbers:

083 643 5163

082 901 9957

079 929 4105

The school cell phone number is

Telkom phone cards
for sale from Mrs Fryer
at R25.00
in case children need to use the phone

MOMS IN TOUCH

Psalm 103:8 (NIV)

*“The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.”*

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 lagerwey@lafrika.com for further details.