

Headmaster: Gavin Sinclair
Deputy Headmaster: Dave Ernstzen
H.O.D. Foundation Phase: Alexa Frost
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

19 February 2010
Number 19/02

WEEKLY NEWS

Dear Parents, girls and boys

It is difficult to believe that six weeks have passed since the school year and my association with Uplands Preparatory school began. I have been welcomed so warmly by staff members, children and parents that I feel very much as if I am already a part of this unique Uplands family and I am excited by what the rest of the year holds for us all.

As teachers, we see the first six weeks of the new school year as a very distinct and valuable period - a time of many introductions. We introduce ourselves to the children in our new classes. We introduce our children to their new classmates and their new classroom environment. We introduce our classroom routines and procedures. We establish our expectations of behaviour and learning and we articulate shared goals, so that the foundation is laid for a productive and cooperative year of learning.

We carefully structure these first six weeks so that our boys and girls will participate actively in all of these introductions. They practice the expected skills and behaviours – at first with very close teacher guidance, and then, as their familiarity and competence grow, with increasing amounts of independence. Building this autonomy is the focus of our learning programme for these early weeks of school. It is exhilarating and exhausting work but, it is an investment that pays off all year long.

Other, equally important introductions, during these first six weeks, have been between our school staff and our parent body.

It has been a pleasure to be introduced to so many of our Junior Primary parents at our social evening and to have enjoyed our beautiful environment, wonderful weather and delicious catering, together. The relationship between our staff and our parents is vital to the well-being of our children and it is clearly evident that they enjoy these social evenings, too. We look forward to introducing ourselves to, and interacting with, our Pre-primary parents and children, at their social evening, later in the term, and to the Senior parents next term.

Remember: Parents and teachers are partners in the education process and, by working and interacting together, we are a powerful force in the creation of a positive learning environment.

We appreciate your co-operation and support of our endeavours to create a stimulating, safe and happy environment for your children.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Best regards,

Alexa Frost
HOD Foundation Phase

The Travelling Bookshop will be visiting Uplands next week on

Thursday, 25 February from 9:30 – 15:00

and

Friday, 26 February from 7:30 – 14:00

HAPPY BIRTHDAY....

Louisa Siebel 22/02, Leilah Spoor 23/02, Chloe Pakendorf 23/02, Malcolm Macgregor 26/02, William Chung 27/02, Claudia Klesse 28/02, Izabella Carvalho 28/02, Billy McCrystal 29/02,
Staff: Mary Sinclair 24/02

MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY!

Individual Achievements...

MIDMAR MILE

AIRIN SCORGIE

completed it in 44 minutes

BEON PIENAAR

completed it in 41 minutes – he is only 6 years old!

SKIING

ZANDOR ADAMS

won a gold medal and a trophy from Schischule Mair in Axamer Lizum, Austria,
and

JAYLA-JADE ADAMS

won a bronze medal

SWIMMING

BRETT KORB

won Most Improved Junior trophy from Waves

MARISKA BAM

received the trophy for Top Achiever (senior) from Waves

Congratulations to you!

Thank you!

Love, friendship and excitement were definitely “in the air” , last Friday morning, as our children came to school in their red and white outfits to celebrate Valentine’s day. Our aim was to reinforce the importance of caring and reaching out to others, and we thank all our parents and children for entering into the spirit of the day by generously donating food items for the Child Welfare Organisation.

Thank you too, to all those parents who turned out, on an exceptionally hot, Inter-house Athletics day, last Saturday. Our children acquitted themselves well, both on and off the track and we were very proud of their achievements, which are highlighted in the sports section of this newsletter.

Isaiah 48 : 17 New Living Translation

*“I am the LORD your God,
who teaches you what is good for you
and leads you along the paths you should follow.”*

A group of moms from both the Prep and the College have been meeting weekly to pray for matters concerning the Prep and College staff, children and families for over 10 years. We meet every 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@lafica.com for further details.

OUTREACH NEWS (NO. 2, 2010)

The definition of literacy according to UNESCO is “the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate, compute and use printed and written materials associated with varying contexts. Literacy involves a continuum of learning to enable an individual to achieve his or her goals, to develop his or her knowledge and potential, and to participate fully in the wider society.”

In the light of this definition, how do illiterate people stand a chance? Sadly, it is a fact that the majority of South African school leavers are functionally illiterate, an indictment on our school system. A recent survey showed that 36% of Grade 3 pupils function at the required literacy levels and only 35% at the required numeracy skills.

The outcome of this is evident in the nationwide Matric results. In the course of Uplands Outreach's work with our partner schools, it is clear that poor literacy impacts as much on Maths (where pupils might know the concepts but cannot understand the questions) as it does on English and other subjects.

We are addressing the necessity for literacy improvement in our new Teachers of Excellence Programme for Maths teachers, where, in addition to the academic content of an Advanced Certificate in Education (ACE) in Maths, we will offer, amongst other modules, a compulsory component in the improvement of reading speed, comprehension and vocabulary via the Readers are Leaders programme installed in the Uplands computer centres.

It goes without saying that the problem should be addressed at primary school level. During the course of the next year or two, the Department of Education will be phasing in a new approach to learning, when the medium of tuition will be English from Grade 1, as opposed to Grade 4 currently.

Uplands Outreach and Uplands College have been involved in language development in primary schools for several years with SMILE (St Mary's Interactive Learning Experience), which is an oral, conversational literacy improvement project devised by St Mary's in Kloof. Pupils from a host secondary school each work with a group of five or six Grade 4 children from a rural or township school, with the benefit accruing not only to the young “trainees”, but to the secondary school “trainers”, who quickly develop a special rapport with the visiting kids.

This term, 28 children from Maqamela Primary School in Hlau Hlau visit Uplands College every Wednesday afternoon to work with the Uplands SMILE group, led and co-ordinated by Sandile Tshabalala (Grade 11). Feedback from principal, Nancy Nkosi, is that the SMILE children are showing huge improvement in class, not only in their academic input but in new-found enthusiasm and improved attitude towards their school work. Parents are also commenting on how their children are now looking forward to going to school.

To complement the SMILE programme, we have recently expanded our literacy outreach to include training teachers in the use of THRASS material. THRASS is an innovative reading and spelling programme that employs phonetically-based methods combined with music and movement. Classrooms at the schools where facilitator, Frances Hyson, has worked so far have been reverberating with the sound of song and laughter, and great progress is being made. It's music to our ears!

*"Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope."
(2001 Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Koffi Annan)*

Liz Mackintosh

Message from Housekeeping...

When marking your child's clothes, the surname is more important than just the child's name, as it is easier for me to identify who the clothes belong too.

I also have a pair of Woolworths shoes in lost property, size 6, if anyone has lost them.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Jenny Jordaan

Forthcoming Attractions...

Sat 20 Feb	08:00	Athletics meeting at Skukuza
Wed 24 Feb	09:00	Grand Parents' Day Grade 0 and 00
Thurs 25 Feb	14:00	Winter sports vs Penryn CANCELLED
Fri 26 Feb	08:00	Individual photos
	15:00	Swimming Gala - Individual at Penryn
	14:00	Christian Camp at Uplands
Sat 27 Feb	08:30	Prep Board Meeting in the staff room

Dear Parents,

To all of you who have made payments for this term's fees – thank you!

If you do not receive a statement as the end of each month, please contact Ann in the Bursar's Dept. Parents please do not send messages through teachers, if you have queries or problems please contact either myself or Ann. My email address is bursar@uplands.co.za

We have a couple of large payments that have not been posted as yet as we do not know who they are for. If you have made a payment and it is not reflecting on your statement it might be as a result of no reference being made on the bank deposit or transfer, for example Cash- School fees is impossible to allocate. Please use your account number as the reference.

Many thanks

Maeve Sidey
Bursar

News from the Sports Desk

OGILVIE REIGNS AGAIN.

Inter house sports day was held on Saturday the 13th of February. A fantastic day was had by all. Temperatures in excess of 30°C did not put many athletes off but instead warmed their blood for amazing achievements. Ogilvie once again overpowered the rivals to retain the Inter house floating trophy. Let's see if they can do it again today in the Inter house Relay Gala.

The following records were all broken on the day.

U7 Girls 60m	Amani Omar
U8 Girls 80m	Chloe Bell
U10 Girls Long Jump	Mariska. Bam
U11 Girls 150m	Annabel Rood
U12 Boys 150m	Joshua San Giorgio
Open Girls Long Jump	Caitlyn Cordeiro
Open Girls 400m	Caitlyn Cordeiro
Open Girls 4 X 100m Relay – Fuller House (Bongiwe Khoza, Caitlyn Cordeiro, Laura Pakendorf, Mieke Hansmeyer)	

Connor McClelland and Kira Karantonis were crowned as the Junior boy and girl Champion respectively.

Junior Victor and Victrix Ludorum were awarded to Cameron Davis and Annabel Rood.

Senior Victrix Ludorum were shared by Aidan Mailey and Kate James

Senior Victor Ludorum was awarded to Steven Savage.

Well done to all the pupils that participated in this special day on our sporting calendar.

Ryan McCarthy
Sports Co-ordinator