



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

Uplands Preparatory School

27<sup>th</sup> January 2012  
Number 42

## WEEKLY NEWS

### HEADS UP

Last week's heavy rains caused near disastrous situations and serious flooding in many areas of the Lowveld. As a gesture of goodwill, we are appealing for donations of bottled water (see letter sent to our parent body) to be forwarded to those in need. Any donations can be dropped off at the entrance to Selby Taylor House or forwarded to the respective class teachers.

Our Grade 7s will be embarking on their Leadership Camp later this year and will be travelling to Spirit of Adventure. There will therefore not be two excursions in Grade 7 this year.

The Wild West of Technology: By embarking on a few guidelines, we can as parents obtain a solid understanding of our children's main media activities so that we can build, assist and help to develop strategies to learn, teach and parent our children.

Each week, for the next few weeks I would like to share some pointers with regards to being a 21<sup>st</sup> century teacher and parents. So getting up to speed with everything in this generation is not always easy but you don't have to become an expert in every area. (*source – Computers for kids*).

- Be “with it” – visit common known social networking sites (fb, twitter, mixit etc) and befriend your children. Children very seldom dislike their parents being tech-savvy. Ask your child to show their page to you – don't snoop though!
- Play together – even if you are not a gamer; you can gain a lot of insight and have fun by playing a computer game. (There are numerous examples viz guitar hero for music; sports games on Wii where you can box your child without leaving scars; or pass a ball, racing cards etc.) By far the best way to keep children away from the ample violent games available is to enjoy games together! Next week, some more useful ideas!

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend our “Meet the Teacher” evening on Tuesday night. The pupils and staff appreciate your support and it is important that we work together in continuing to create opportunities for our pupils to be the best that they can be!

**NB: NEW PARENTS COCKTAIL EVENING  
THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 18H00  
VENUE: PAVILION**

**Wet Weather Programme:** We are experiencing quite a bit of rain at present and the threat of the Tropical Cyclone has seemingly been averted. I would like to clarify the wet weather arrangements. If rain is imminent or if it is raining, at midday a decision is made that it is Wet Weather. This means that children may go home if parents wish.

Contrary to what the children might like you to believe, there is no compelling children to go home. Indoor activities will still be organized and staff will remain on duty to supervise their respective sport groups. Please do not assume that sport has been cancelled if it is raining where you are. The front office will be informed of the “Wet Weather” situation. Please phone if you are uncertain.

Regards,

**Mr Brett Frost**



# What have we been Up to...

## News from the Pre-Prep & Foundation Phase

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to our Grade 1, 2 and 3 parents for giving up their time to attend our 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Tuesday.

We know that parents often wonder what kind of learning takes place in the classroom. We recognise the fact that, as parents, you are eager to understand the personality of your children's teachers, the philosophy behind teaching styles and the rationale for covering certain concepts and using certain methods in the classroom.

It was with these thoughts in mind that we arranged a different type of 'parent orientation' this year. The teachers took this opportunity to share information, with their new group of parents, pertaining to what they teach, how they teach and even, why they teach!

It is hoped that this evening emphasised the importance of the relationship between teachers and parents working closely together for their children's well being, success and enjoyment of school and that it served, in some way, to bridge the gap between home and school - the two most important places in your children's lives.

And please remember: Our doors are always open! If you have any further queries, concerns or even compliments, please do not hesitate to let us know...

Kind regards

Alexandra Frost

(Foundation Phase H.O.D)



## News from the Senior Prep

The parent evening was very well supported and we look forward to strengthening the relationship between the school and the parents to the benefit of the children.

**The new parents cocktail evening is next Thursday- please RSVP to Melissa Müller on [admin@uplands.co.za](mailto:admin@uplands.co.za) by Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> January. Please note there will be a Cash Bar available run by the PTA.**

The pupils enjoyed a talk in the mobile planetarium this week and now have a better idea of the vast distances in space. This was excellent timing as the Sun released a significant Solar Flare on Monday. Exciting times for those interested in physics and another Tropical Cyclone developed in the Mozambique channel but has moved south east into cooler waters now.

Please note the security of all our children is very important and I would ask that you assist us by following the correct procedures for collecting your child.

**Children that walk or cycle to school must have a school identity card to show the guards at the gate.** This can be arranged via the front office- id photo required.

**Children that need to leave school early must get an exit permit from the front office.** The class teacher should also be notified in advance via a letter or email.

**Please also inform the school if your child is ill or not attending school.**

Your child should know who and when they to be collected. Please note that school ends at 13h15 on a Friday. The bus pupils must also ensure that they are ready to get on the Nelspruit bus at 16h25 Mon to Thurs and 13h15 on a Friday.

Please contact the front office if any of your contact details have changed this year. Thank you for your assistance.



## Green Term Calendar Term 1-week 3

Monday	30		Duty Week 6C	
Tuesday	31	07:45	Assembly: CUBS	
<i>February</i>				
Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	13:00	Circuit Athletics Meeting	Rob Ferreira
			Team list to be finalized by Monday –Pupils to depart 12:00	
		14:00	Tennis vs. Sabie (TBC)	Sabie
Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	18:00	New Parents' Cocktail Evening	Pavilion
Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	07:45	Holy Communion	

### *Happy Birthday...*

**Matthew Ernstzen 30/01, Danyaal Mohamed 30/01, Rachel Jones 31/01, Anton van Dyk 31/01, Mikayla Nortje 01/02, Tayo Ludgrove 02/02, Jordin Abroms 03/02, Onkgopotse Motsei 03/02.**

### Moms in Touch

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

*“For the word of the LORD is right and true;  
He is faithful in all He does”*

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 Friday morning from 7.30 - 8.30 at the Pavilion (Prep), to pray together and to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. Compassion and confidentiality are required. You are most welcome to join us or to contact Sally Bakken on 0832971660 or by e-mail at [sal.bakken@gmail.com](mailto:sal.bakken@gmail.com) for further details.

### Extra Art Lessons

**Mondays 14h00 – 15h15  
Grade 00 – Grade 3  
R450 for the term.  
Laura (082 4127 295)  
Starts Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

### **“Attention all Soccer Enthusiasts”**

Steve Haupt Football Development in association with Penryn, will be commencing with soccer coaching for children from U6 – U16 at Penryn from March 2012.  
Coaching is open to children from any school.

The cost will be R500 per month for two 70 minute sessions a week. The coach will hold a FIFA recognised qualification and will have been trained by Steve Haupt, Director of Steve Haupt Development.

Anyone interested must please contact Sarah Ratnarajah on 082 444 4748 or email:  
[sarahr@mweb.co.za](mailto:sarahr@mweb.co.za)