



The All in One

A SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOL MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

No.14

Girls' Prep Weekly Newsletter

14 May 2009

FORTH-COMING WEEKS:

Thursday, 14 May

Netball vs St Mary's

U9 3 teams (Away)

U10 practice from 14h00 - 15h00 (Home)

U11 5 teams (Away)

U12 3 teams (Home)

U13 4 teams (Home)

Bus leaves from GC sand parking and returns to GP car park

18h00 - 20h00 Combined Founders' Day Rehearsal :-

Orchestra : GLT

Choirs : Chapel

Friday, 15 May

13h20 - 14h30 U11 Hockey Practice (Lower Dam Field)

13h20 - 15h00 U12 Hockey Trials (Baytopp Hockey Fields)

Saturday, 16 May

07h30 - 12h00 U11 A & B Netball Tournament (Holy Rosary)

17h15 - 20h00 Open A Hockey Match vs HCA Touring Team (Astro)

Monday, 18 May

14h00 - U10 Netball Matches vs St Mary's (Home)

13h45 - 15h00 U12 Hockey (Further trials on Astro)

13h45 - 15h00 Open Hockey (Further trials on Lower Dam Field)

16h40 - 18h15 Chess Match at St Peters

Thursday, 21 May

08h00 - 13h00 Cross Campus and Bushman Demonstration and Talk (Gym and BP quad)

13h50 - 15h00 Netball Practice (All age groups and teams) (Fixture vs Jan Celliers postponed to Monday 25 May)

17h30 - 18h30 Information Evening for Saints Parents on Transformation (Gym)

Friday, 22nd May

13h20 - 14h30 U10 Hockey Skills (Lower Dam Field)

U11 Hockey Skills (Middle Dam Field)

13h30 - 15h00 U12 Hockey Skills (Astro)

Open Hockey Skills (Astro)



A reminder to those who use our facilities to please stick to the paths when jogging, particularly during peak times. Cars are having to wait behind the joggers.

Match Kit for Sport : The Stythian Shop is having to deal with parents asking to buy our new sports match kit. Any such changes will only take place once parents have officially been informed in writing.

Changes in the Netball Calendar : We apologise for the number of changes that have been made to the original Netball fixture list that was handed out at the beginning of the season. Parents should please note that the C and D tournament taking place at St Stithians is to be held on the 23rd May, according to the white diary.

Why No Awards?

Last term we held two evening presentations to explain our philosophy regarding outward recognition and awards. Some parents were unable to attend and so this document covers the significant reasons for our approach.

Our approach began in 1995, when the Girls' Prep was founded. The founding of the school coincided with the launch of the internet. For the first time ever, information could be accessed by everyone at the click of a mouse. This led to emotional intelligence (EQ) becoming widely regarded as a greater predictor of success than intellectual intelligence (IQ). This is the first primary reason we do not support awards and prizes for a select few. Instead, we help all of the girls find their own particular strength so that they can each develop a healthy EQ.

University students are studying for degrees that did not exist ten years ago and we are preparing learners for jobs that don't even yet exist. We therefore need to develop girls who are able to embrace rapid changes. In order to be able to do this they will need to be resilient. Girls with a healthy EQ are resilient. This is the second reason for our approach; to create resilient people. (PTO)

Sports Results :-

All up-to-date sports results for Girls' Preparatory are to be found on the St Stithians website (www.stithian.com) under Girls' Prep.

Thought for the Week:

*Do what you can, with what you have,
where you are -
Theodore Roosevelt*

The third reason for our approach is the current thinking on motivation. Praise and rewards create people who grow to be dependent on others to evaluate what they've done. This is disempowering. Peer group pressure is one of the single most influencing factors in the choices and decisions that adolescent girls make. We want our girls to have the self knowledge to make their own choices rather than relying on the opinions of others. In addition, we wish to create life-long learners, not people who learn in order to be rewarded. Rewarding performance implies that an activity was not worth doing on its own merits. Our aim, at St Stithians Girls' Prep is therefore to make all learning activities worthy, relevant and meaningful to all children. Awards tend to be given for activities that people are intrinsically or innately good at. This is de-motivating for those who are not naturally gifted in the skill or activity. Extrinsic motivators have also been proven to destroy higher level problem solving and critical thinking. Our changing world requires these skills.

The fourth reason for our philosophy is the ego. Ego gratification is widely regarded as a feeling of happiness derived from being better than someone else. Awards tap into the egos of some parents and children to the detriment others. If one relies on one's ego being boosted in order to be happy, it is likely that one will spend a great deal of the time being unhappy!

The fifth reason for our approach is our leadership philosophy. We believe that all of our girls are leaders and all of them will lead when they leave school. We must therefore equip them all with leadership skills. We subscribe to a servant leader philosophy which has humility at its core. In addition to being humble and serving, a 21st century leader is collegial, democratic, has foresight, empathy and healthy sense of self and a strong value base.

The final reason for our philosophy is our school's inclusive approach. If we wish to embrace the different needs and abilities of everyone, we cannot support awards as they, by their very nature, exclude many.

A few years ago we introduced REAL and Good Samaritan awards at the Girls' Prep, but it became apparent that they were inconsistently awarded and were subjective rather than objective. They were also contradictory to our core philosophy. We therefore, no longer give these awards. Instead, we give regular feedback to each and every girl. This helps each girl gain greater self knowledge. The girls self assess against values, behaviours and attitudes that are central to the ethos and philosophies of the Girls' Prep. The criteria become more sophisticated as the girls progress through the school. The tools also address commitment to, and attitude towards, sport, culture, service and music. In addition to the girls self reflecting, all other teachers who interact with the girls give feedback to the girl's class teacher or tutor. Each girl has 'one on one' sessions with her teacher or tutor to reflect on the feedback, see if her picture of self is similar to the picture that others have of her, and set goals for the future. This is a critical aspect of self awareness and is commented on in each girl's end of term report.

Attitude and commitment to, as well as excellence and participation in school activities, while not being awarded, are celebrated and commended in assemblies. We recognise and acknowledge girls for their achievements large and small. We have an abundance approach; one that recognises everyone for their uniqueness regularly and consistently across all areas; academics, sport, service and culture. Our weekly newsletter, The All in One, is also used extensively to share with our community the girls' various accomplishments, including non school-based achievements.

Our aim is for all of the girls to have a sense of belonging while they are at Girls' Prep. We want them all to develop a firm set of values and a healthy sense of self so that they have the resilience to cope with their teenage years and thrive in the changing and demanding world that awaits them when they leave school.

During the course of this term, we will regularly use the back of the All in One to provide further information regarding our approach. This will include related articles, research papers, essays, reference books and websites. We will also be conducting our own research during the course of the year with regard to past pupils as well as other schools around the world. You are also welcome to discuss our approach further with either Mrs Stead or Mrs Gilardi. Should you so desire, please request an appointment with either by contacting Mrs Thackwell, or send your queries, in writing, via email.

In next week's All in One we shall include an article by Patrick F Bassett on awards assemblies. Mr Bassett is the current president of NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools) in the United States of America.

Mrs J Stead - Deputy Headmistress