



South African College Junior School

Headmaster's Circular 25/2017

1 September 2017

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SPRING SPRINGS AT SACS!

Aitsa! Dit is weer tyd om pragtige Lente te vier! Wamkilekile eNtlakohlaza! (Welcome, Spring!) While some may have already begun the die-hard habit of 'The Spring Clean', it is a good time for all of us to practise Mindfulness with the change of season, remembering that:

- ❖ Spring is a time for reflection, revitalisation and renewal.
- ❖ The Western Cape has to be water wise as never before.
- ❖ We can pay forward possessions that we no longer need.

May the days ahead be filled with reward and plenty for all as we wind up for the Spring of 2017.



21st BIRTHDAY OF THE SACS JUNIOR 'FOCUS POSTER'!

This year saw the introduction of Focus Poster #21. The poster is an effective conduit for goal-setting and in branding our School annually. Each edition bears features of an advertisement – the SACS badge being the logo; the presence of eye-catching artwork; the wording of 'the copy' which guides us. Yearly, our creative Focus Poster Committee generates a fresh design, underpinned by a relevant slogan which becomes our new mantra. Many rich life lessons have been gleaned from this practice. Over the next three circulars, we shall publish (in batches of seven) all 21 posters. They form a noteworthy body of art which is unique to our awesome School. The concept was hatched in 1997 when we were:

- ✓ 'Simply the Best' – from Tina Turner's iconic song. We reflected on striving to be the best; to not rest on our laurels; to always be humble and to look for the good in the world around us.
- ✓ The 1998 poster saw us 'Exploring New Horizons' with its image of a giant balloon rising over Table Mountain. Coincidentally, that colossus of a man, Mr Nelson Mandela, paid us a visit!
- ✓ In 1999, the SACS Family was urged to 'Reach for the Stars', timed aptly with the launch of space shuttle 'Endeavour'. The poster displayed six evergreen family ethics to which we aspire.
- ✓ At the start of the new millennium, the 2000 poster told us that it was 'Time to Triumph' at SACS, where growing holistic education for each boy's individual needs remains the focal point.
- ✓ In 2001, we strove to 'Face Life's Challenges' in study or play. The poster depicts 'four seasons in one day in the life at SACS', showing too, that consistency throughout the year is a winner.
- ✓ 'The Spirit of SACS' was our focal point for 2002. Photographs of the many varied activities on offer at the School show that, whatever a boy's involvement, 'SACS Gees' is a common thread.
- ✓ And, in 2003, the slogan 'Celebrating Generations of Excellence' highlighted SACS Junior's Centenary – the perfect time to reflect on our part in the growth of The South African College Schools, then in her 174th year of existence. Needless to say, there were many celebrations!

These posters will shortly be available for viewing on our Bulletin Board, which resides in our website.

DON'T MISS THE SACS PTA NETWORK BREAKFAST ...!

A reminder to make your bookings for another stimulating 'Breakfast Talk' presented for you by the SACS Junior PTA on Tuesday, 5 September. The topic is 'Making a Difference' presented by David Grier and will, no doubt, prove as worthwhile as these popular gatherings have done in the past. Please see the advert in the attached SACS Ads.

SACS HIGH HEADMASTER HANDS OVER THE BATON

After thirteen years of commitment to SACS High School, Headmaster Mr Ken Ball stepped out of his final School Assembly this Thursday to embark upon his deserving retirement. Well done to Mr Ball for this milestone achieved in a long-standing career in Education. He has successfully led SACS High through challenging times – as experienced by most institutions today – which have required courage, loyalty, tenacity and unstinting service from his side. We thank and congratulate Mr Ball and wish him and his wife, Beverley, all of the very best as they open this new, exciting chapter in their lives. Mr Ball's successor, Mr Brendan Grant, takes office on 4 September. We look forward to welcoming him, his wife Diana and sons, Sean and Daniel, to SACS shortly.

SACS OLD BOYS' UNION 'INFINITI' BIG BAND ROCKS!

For serious Jazz lovers (or for those still feeling glum about missing the SACS Old Boys' Union 'Infiniti Big Band' performance on 9 August), here are two YouTube clips of the band in full swing. You will notice a range of highly-talented musicians across generations – led by Mr Dan Shout, who hatched the concept and literally blew us away, thanks to the skill, spirit of volunteering and 'SACS Gees' from all band members. Congratulations and thank you to all! We look forward to your next performance. Visit <https://youtu.be/g4o2lIGCfTc> and <https://youtu.be/MeigdVlSt9o> to get with it!

SUNFLOWER BANDANA/TOPE CIVVIES DAY

SACS wishes to support this important fundraiser through the wearing of the official 2017 Tope on **Friday 15 September**. The Sunflower Fund's drive is to *increase the South African Bone Marrow Registry to help save the lives of leukaemia sufferers in South Africa*.



SAXIE REVEAL

On Monday, as usual, we all headed off to the Hall for Assembly but there was something very strange going on...it felt like MAGIC was in the air!! The stage had been transformed into an enormous version of our current focus poster, but there were a few items that still needed some 'enlarging' magic to happen! We needed a real live magician and a life size Saxie (our lion mascot). No problem! With the help of 2 very riveting mime artists and our very own magician plus the whole school shouting 'Make Magic Happen.. abracadabra!' ...Saxie made a spectacular arrival! The drums were rolling, the lights were flashing and the boys applause was thunderous, it was so exciting! Talk about 'wonderment and awe!' Saxie will now appear at many of our SACS Junior functions and events...make sure you come and say hallo and shake a paw!



Ms J Wilson: Teacher

WORCESTER/SACS/RUSTENBURG LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE: AUGUST 2017

Mr M Dudley: SRC

Our annual Inter-Schools Exchange creates a unique opportunity to widen cross-cultural horizons and build friendships. A key element of the exchange sees the SRCs of the three schools engaged in various teambuilding activities that help to strengthen individual perspectives and to promote understanding.

This year, the Base Adventure Group in Worcester provided the framework for the engaging and stimulating adventure learning activities. The 55 learners were challenged to:

- embrace the four-key areas necessary for leadership development;
- learn to lead self and others confidently;
- reflect on their duties and responsibilities as SRC members;
- share insights and solutions to common problems.

The 2-day Programme created a healthy balance between theory snippets, experiential learning and reflection. The Leadership Exchange continues to be a highly popular and eagerly anticipated event on our SRC calendar.

U9 HOCKEY FESTIVAL

Miss G McKinlay: U9 Hockey

The U9, yellow and blue team hockey boys were fortunate to play at an U9 hockey festival at Kirstenhof Primary school last week Friday. The boys had such a thrilling time and did tremendously well in all their matches. Special mention to the yellow team who won every single match! There were seven schools involved and each team played nine matches in a round robin format. It was the first time these boys had played so many matches in one afternoon/evening. The field lights lit up around 6pm which made it all very exhilarating and exciting for everyone. It was a fun, successful event which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Mrs J McClure: IT

The Grade 4 – 7's are now all enrolled in the G-Suite for Education.

Username: firstname.surname@sacsjr.co.za. You son **must** know his password.

Many of the subjects have been added to the Classroom component of G-Suite. Please have a look at this with your son. The calendar component under the Classroom, will allow you to check for any up-coming due dates for work to be completed, and assist you in making sure that your son is managing his time correctly by completing tasks on or before the due date. This application will soon be in full operation, and in most respects, will take the place of the school homework diary. Any boy who is absent from school on a particular day, will be able to check for work that has been assigned while he has been away.

SUPPORT SACS SECURITY WITH YOUR STICKER!

We request kindly that all SACS parents ensure that they have the SACS security sticker displayed on the windscreen of their vehicles. These stickers are vital in assisting us with applying security measures at the SACS entrance. Compliance in this regard will be appreciated greatly.



SAXIE'S TWEETS!:

- Please see the attached SACS Ads for a poster furnishing this year's very exciting SACS Junior PTA Social – an event to not be missed. Booking early will be essential as it is a hot favourite! Also, advertised in the SACS Ads is Annual Old Boys Dinner on Wednesday 13 September, with guest speaker, Mr Brendan Grant, the new SACS High Headmaster.
- Best wishes to all of our musicians in Grade Four as they participate in their first public performance at the Grade Four Music Concert next Tuesday.
- Good luck to all boys involved in the remainder of our Winter Sports Extra Mural programme. Some Inter-School Leagues finish with a flourish of events, a few examples of which are: Pentangular Cross Country; U12 Day-Night Hockey Tournament; SACS Sevens and the SACS Mini Rugby Tournament. Go well, Saxies!
- We thank all contributing SACS families wholeheartedly for the social conscience displayed towards our Wednesday Sarmie Collections and our Tuesday Glass Recycling Drive. To the volunteers who run these worthy operations – the SACS PTA Recycling Portfolio and SRC, along with parents who transport the sarmies to the Moravian School – congratulations for the tangible, gratifying difference that you make each week!

And so to the first weekend of September! We extend best wishes to all of our Muslim families and friends who are marking the holy days of Eid al-adha this weekend. Then, as we observe National Arbor Week, commencing with Arbor Day today, we celebrate our green heritage. On our 'Tree of the Year' list for 2017 are the 'Buffalo Thorn' (common tree) and the 'Ebony Tree' (rare tree). To 'The SACS Family' – have a stunning weekend filled with togetherness, memory making and a Spring in your step!

With warm regards

F M J NEL
HEADMASTER