



South African College Junior School

Headmaster's Circular 22/2017

28 July 2017

Molweni bazali base SACS Junior nase SACS Pre-Primary School

Namkilekile ku Term Three. Ons is so bly om julle almal terug te hê by Laerskool SACS! We trust that the midyear school holidays treated you superbly and gave the family respite from the rigours of a typically-demanding semester at SACS Junior. In our last circular, we highlighted the 2017 Focus Poster, the slogan urging us to 'Make Magic Happen'. And we are! A reminder, though, that this is a unique, rich brand of magic – "Not the 'wand-and-sleight-of-hand' genre! Real, human magic! Powered by SACS interdependence and camaraderie – aka 'SACS Gees'!"

Many examples of our success are evident. We have heard heart-warming accounts of how folk nationwide observed and celebrated Nelson Mandela's birthday on 18 July, performing acts of love and sincere support in their contribution of '67 Minutes for Madiba'. If you would like to, please share with us the story of how your family made this day special for persons or communities in need. Some boys have heartening accounts of how they made 'Madiba Magic'!



However, these are just some examples of 'SACS Magic' already achieved. We need to work interdependently to answer the call of the 2017 slogan and make the year come full circle. The most urgent, desperate cry for help echoes from the Western Cape community at large as we face a water crisis of historic proportions. We recently took a drive out to visit Theewaterskloof Dam, our main source of water supply. The scene we met left us in deeper shock and grief – far more riveting than images already seen from newspaper or television. The area looks like a vast forest destroyed by a firestorm with a small pool of water remaining in the middle. So sad. Coincidentally, as we drove over the bridge which spans the dam, John Maytham announced on Cape Talk: 'Today, the dam stands at 25.4% of capacity – including the 10% of non-drinking water. There is very little rain predicted for the rest of July. This time last year, it was 56% full and a crisis for 2017 was predicted then.' – or words to that effect.

So, with disaster imminent, each and every citizen faces the challenge of making a new magic happen. SACS Junior is looking at ways of escalating current water-saving measures. Please join us in our quest for Mindfulness.



SACS STAFF MANOEUVRES

Welcome back to Mrs Alicia Burmeister who returns from Maternity Leave during which bonny son, William, was born to her and still-beaming hubby, Gregg. Alicia teaches Afrikaans to Grade Seven and is Grade 7D's register class teacher, taking over from Mrs Ronelle Allewell, who filled her post most ably. Ronelle returns as a part-time teacher to take Grades One and Two Phys Ed. We also welcome teachers replacing those on 20 days' Long Leave – reliable SACS stalwarts: Mrs Anne Smith (subbing for Colleen Reaper), Mrs Wendy Valentine (for Adrienne Mullins) and Mrs Kim Fowler (in place of Jo Ashwell). In addition, we have a number of Student Teachers with us. We remind our boys to be mindful of an exemplary sense of register to all echelons of staff! As an aside, we also welcomed five new boys and their families to the Junior School at the beginning of term. We wish them great happiness in being part of the greater SACS Family.

SACS JUNIOR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

We welcome two new members to the SRC fold. The names of these boys were announced in our first Assembly for Term Three. Congratulations to Christopher Maynard (7D) and Ross van Breda (7D) for their election to the Council. Their appointment comes at a good time as our SRC, led by Mr Mark Dudley, prepares for their annual Leadership Exchange with Worcester Primary Prefects and the Rustenburg Girls' Junior SRC. The 2017 Exchange will be hosted by Worcester Primary from the 16th to the 18th of August.

SAVING WATER VIA JUNIOR SCHOOL UNIFORM CODE

The drive to continue saving water in the home means that we shall continue to encourage boys to use one set of clothing daily as determined by the Extra Mural Programme. We do not want these to turn into civvies days, though, so please adhere to guidelines from Term Two.

TRAFFIC SAFETY ON THE ESTATE

We remind parents and teachers strongly of traffic safety on the Estate, especially as Winter terms bring increased traffic volumes, greater parking needs and frayed nerves. We request responsible driving, tolerance and teamwork and, especially, a beady look-out for little guys who might not be visible from behind a large vehicle.

Speed Limit

For extra safety, we ask **drivers to stick to the 10km per hour speed limit.**

Hockey Astro turf and Fountain Pedestrian Crossings

These **pedestrian zones are 'hot spots'** with enthusiastic boys crossing to and fro. We remind drivers to be cautious when approaching the crossings and to refrain from parking on the red zone painted on the road at the Astro crossing.

Staff Car Park

This zone is strictly out of bounds to parents between 07:00 and 17:00 on weekdays. Refusal to comply with this can lead to awkward outcomes.

Dean Street

Under no circumstances are boys to be dropped off/fetched in Dean Street.

SENIOR CITIZEN'S TEA

Ms L Roscoe: Co-ordinator

On a chilly winter's morning on 28 June, about two hundred senior citizens from various homes braved the cold and attended a tea in our school hall. The seniors were treated to a morning of music, hot beverages and delicious treats prepared by our wonderful moms. The atmosphere in the hall was warm and inviting as the boys ushered the seniors to their seats chatting away. The bands and choirs rendered items which got some of the elderly tapping their feet and rocking in their chairs. The boys were the perfect hosts, serving tea, engaging in conversation and making sure that their guests were well looked after. Our guests had an enjoyable experience and are looking forward to the event in 2018! A sincere thanks to all the role-players. It was a huge effort involving many and the experience for the children was invaluable.



GR R BOOK AND PJ DAY

Mrs N Hampton: Grade R

The Grade R's had loads of fun at their 'PJ & BOOK DAY' on 28 June. From unicorn onesies to dinosaur slippers, all the boys arrived looking super cool, decked out in their finest sleepwear! They chose books to donate to the SACS Grade R Library and enjoyed hot chocolate and popcorn. As one of the boys said, the best part was "I didn't need to get dressed this morning!".



SAXIE TWEETS!:

- Thank you to our Cleaning and Grounds staffs for fulfilling their duties in preparing our indoor and outdoor facilities thoroughly for another action-packed SACS Junior term.
- On Wednesday afternoon, 157 Durban Prep boys landed for their annual Cape Town Sports Tour. The SACS Family hosts were there to welcome them with open arms. We appreciate the fact that these boys will enjoy SACS hospitality at its best as they stay in Cape Town until Sunday morning.
- We look forward to hearing about outcomes of any competitions – Zonal, Provincial, National, International! – in which our boys may have been involved recently.
- SACS High School continued to ‘spread the name and swell the fame of the SAC’ with illustrious results at Schools’ Rugby Week as well as a magnificent Concert Band Tour to Austria and Germany.
- Best wishes to all boys involved in this weekend’s sports events, especially with our Durban Prep friends on tour.

GEMS!

We remind parents and staff that, should any ‘out of the mouths of babes’ scenarios arise, please share them with us. We like to find humour at the drop of a hat!

As we sign off, good luck to all SACS Junior boys, parents and staff for a stellar term! In particular, special mention to Mr Gerard de la Bat, who continues in his role as Acting Headmaster during my absence. Professional and informed sources recommend that I focus on my treatment programme, which lasts until the end of September and is proving most effective, in my return to best health. My sincere gratitude to Gerard, Management, Grade Head, Specialist Subject, Admin and Support Teams for proving that synergy and camaraderie make our winning formula. Special thanks, too, to our special SACS Family for your uplifting and cherished good wishes. We trust that you are fully revitalised for the term ahead. It brims with the promise of opportunity, learning, sharing, friendship building, memory making and simply loads of fun!

Nonwabe nibe nempelaveki emnandi, which means (roughly translated!), ‘*Geniet julle naweek voluit!*’ There is no harm in relying on past knowledge to recapture the atmos of the recent school holidays before they zip over the horizon!

With warm regards

F M J NEL
HEADMASTER

