



Grayston Preparatory School

Holding the Hand that Holds the Future

Newsletter No 4 2012

HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

If you think you make a difference – you can!

Education is about helping students identify, ignite and develop their passions. When we can do that on a consistent basis, students will remember and learn. – Sir Ken Robinson.

Learning is everywhere – omnipresent and omnichronous – and if we lead learning inside our schools and refuse to harness and recognize this, we do so at our peril. – Jonathan Martin.

The new culture of learning - the point is to embrace what we do not know, come up with better ideas and questions about it and continue asking questions in order to learn more, both incrementally and exponentially. – Douglas Thomas and John Seely Brown.

The three quotations above all come from readings about the 21st century learning environment and highlight the changes that we as teachers and parents have to make to our view of education and the differences our children have to cope with in the classroom now and in the future.

The 21st century is about embracing change, not fighting it. The education environment is undergoing a learning revolution with educational reforms occurring both nationally and internationally and often with change comes a good deal of fear for the future. Added to the educational change, we are attempting to fit the changes and developments in the technological environment, both hardware and software into the educational mix, as research is indicating that with the appropriate use of technology great strides in learning can be made.

Embracing change means looking forward to what will come next. It means viewing the future as a set of new possibilities, rather than something that forces us to adjust. It

means making the most of living in a world of constant motion. We can no longer count on being taught or trained to handle each new change in our field, the media or the ways we communicate on a case-by-case basis.

Embracing change and seeing information as a resource can help us to stop thinking of learning as an isolated process of information absorption and start thinking of it as a cultural and social process of engaging with the constantly changing world around us.

In a world of near-constant flux, play becomes a strategy for embracing change, rather than a way for growing out of it. In this new culture of learning, the bad news is that we rarely reach any final answers, but the good news is that we get to play again, and we may even find more satisfaction in continuing the search for answers.

The world abounds with information on almost every topic imaginable, we need to assist our children play with information and to analyse what they are reading. Reading played a critical part in our learning experience and often the ability to read early was a good indicator of future success. This remains the same in the new world of learning. However, children today have a far greater variety of sources to read from and added to this are the electronic media available to our children. As parents and teachers we need to assist our children to “play” with information, create answers and solutions to problems we develop together. Reading and discussing what we read forms an integral and critical part of our children’s learning experience. Play with information with your children in different forms and you will be ensuring far greater success in their learning journey.

CIVVIES DAY

Civvies day will be held on Wednesday, 15 February 2011, by donation. All proceeds go to CHOC.

THRASS PARENT WORKSHOP

We have changed the date of the THRASS Parent Workshop that was scheduled for 14 February to WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY at 18:30 because Valentine's Day falls on the original date. This workshop is designed to give the parents of our Grade One children in particular some insight into the way that we approach the teaching of spelling and reading skills. However, interested parents of Grade R children are most welcome to attend as are parents of Grade Two and Grade Three children who would like a refresher course.

Please RSVP to lyndaj@graystonprep.co.za by Wednesday 8 February to facilitate catering.

JP QUESTIONNAIRE

JP Parents are reminded to complete and return this questionnaire to the class teacher by Monday, 6 February.

BIRTHDAY BOOKS

Thank you to the following learners who donated birthday books.

Thandeka Muchemenyi
Maja Flipkowska
Derisha Moodley
Annabella Bauer
Joshua Richardson
Mikayla Pearson

BOOK SALE

Travelling Bookshop will sell books in the Media Centre on the 6th and 7th of February. Lots of stunning books at very reasonable prices!

LOST PROPERTY

Danielle Etches, Grade 6C, has lost her purple and pink water bottle and her Grayston school jersey. Nkanyazi Mtshali, Grade 5S, has lost her tog bag. Murray Snyman, Grade 2F, has lost his green cross sandals. Oageng Beea, Grade 2M, lost his new hat. If you have incorrectly taken any of the above items, please return to reception.

SWOP SHOP

The Swop Shop times are:
Wednesday: 07:10 – 07:50
Thursday: 13:10 – 13:50

Should you be able to volunteer at the Swop Shop, please call Joanne Daye 0837771117.

TROPHIES

Please return any outstanding trophies to Mrs Tammy Moodley by Monday, 6th February 2012.

TIMETABLE

February

Monday 6		Travelling Bookshop Grade 3 Tea and Scones 13:05 Gr 2 Cricket (St David's) 13:45 Cricket vs Kyalami: U10A (a); U10B (h) 13:45 Grade Planning 15:00 Health and Safety Committee Meeting 16:00 Chess vs St Benedict's (h)
Tuesday 7		Travelling Bookshop 13:45 Cricket vs Christ Church: U11A (a); U11B (h)
Wednesday 8	07:00 13:45 13:45 13:45	Class Mums' and Dads' Breakfast Grade Planning (PP) Cricket vs Crawford Lonehill: First XI (h); Second XI (a) Senior Girls Tennis vs Bryneven (a)
Thursday 9	13:45 13:45 13:45	Cricket vs Christ Church: U9A (a); U9B (h) Softball vs Summit (a) Senior Boys Tennis: A vs King David Sandton (h) B vs Trinity (a)
Friday 10	13:45	Gr 5W Assembly Swimming: A (Crawford Fourways)
Saturday 11		Midmar Mile