

RIDGEWAY PREPARATORY NEWSFLASH

Issue 37  10 February 2021

From the Principal's Desk

Dear parents

It was very exciting to see how our student numbers increased this past week. We welcomed no less than 11 new students (and their families) to the ECD and Prep school. We wish you a happy and wonderful journey with Ridgeway.

I also want to make use of this opportunity to thank the ladies that recently joined our PSG (Parent/School support group). Melody Gwaze, a well-known parent in our Ridgeway family, is our convener and driver of all our fundraising and other school related projects. Melody can be contacted at melodygwaze@gmail.com, should you require any information from her. Mrs Gwaze is joined with a wonderful and energetic group of ladies to take care of our school and community needs. They spend many hours behind the scenes meeting, sharing and brainstorming effective ways to bring "positive change" to us all here at the Prep and the ECD. I want to thank them in advance for their contributions and input. It does not go unnoticed.

Allow me to update you all on a few school related matters.

- **Grade 7 Leadership Programme launched**

On Monday morning during the senior school assembly, we launched the start of our Grade 7 Leadership programme. The students were asked to read out their Pledge to the rest of the school and promise to abide by the guidelines given in the programme. Their Leadership badges were handed out to them by Mrs Madziva and Mrs Tayob, their Grade 7 register teachers. We wish them all of the best and a successful year.

- **Permission slips for school videos and photos as well as updated personal information**

We have sent hard copies home this week for parents to complete 2 documents for us. The first is for parents to update any of their personal information. It is imperative for the school to have your latest and updated information on record in case of an emergency. The second document is for parents to allow/deny permission to post school/student related photos and videos on our school website and other official educational platforms for school or marketing related matters.

- **Updated Term 1 Calendar**

We have shared an updated Term 1 calendar to all parents via email and the WhatsApp groups. Any changes to the Term 2 Calendar will be made and shared to all parents at the start of Term 2.

- **School Tours postponed**

We had our annual educational tours planned for the start of term 2. This will no longer happen in Term 2. In the light of the current alert level 3, tours will be postponed until a later date. We have tentatively planned for dates in Term 3 during the month of September and will keep parents updated going forward.

- **Extra-curricular activities**

In an earlier Newsletter, I shared a 2-week interim extra-curricular programme with all parents. This has now come to an end. Please find included the extra-curricular time table for Grade 1-7 that will be used until the end of Term 1. Please share this with your children and bring them up to speed of what will be on offer as from next week, 15 February onwards.

School Traffic

I am well aware of the frustrations around the traffic in the afternoons when picking up your child/children. We have limited parking available on the grounds as it is. In the past many of our students would arrive in taxis, public buses and private vehicles. However, we have seen the increase in private vehicles, mainly because more parents are using their own transport as opposed to taxis and/or public buses. The enormous amount of rain has also contributed to our internal roads to be less than user friendly, limiting us even further with space to park without getting stuck in the mud. We have tried various options before to improve the traffic flow, such as staggered pick up times, however, many people have children spread between the three campuses and because the ECD and Prep closes earlier than the College, they end up waiting at the school for the younger siblings to be collected first. In some cases parents also take their time to depart once they have picked up their children, some parents/drivers park in unfavourable spaces which ends up blocking the main road in and out of the school. I can only ask for us all to work together and make the most of what we have available. I am sure that once we come to the end of the raining season, things will improve and allow for bigger areas to be available to park without getting stuck in the mud. We have measured up all the internal roads of the school to obtain a costing to put gravel down and to compact the internal school road. This information was submitted to our school owners for their consideration.

School Athletics: Ridgeway Races

A reminder that our Inter-house athletics will take place on 25 and 26 February during the school day. Unfortunately, as stipulated previously, no spectators will be allowed on both days. This is to make sure that we, as a school, comply to all Covid regulations as well as the guidelines in terms of school sport during alert level 3.

ECD

Our ECD staff implemented the new extended afternoon programme this week and with great success. Feedback regarding the various programmes have been very positive. We would like to remind parents that they can make contact with the HOD, Mrs Lilla Shaw, should they require any information regarding the programme.

Valentine's Day Picnic: Monday 15 February

Parent Support Group (PSG) would like to introduce themselves and start this year with a "Valentine's treat" for our students. Students will be asked to dress up appropriately in the Valentine's colours of white, pink or red. A picnic will be held during the staggered breaks. Students are welcome to bring a blanket to sit on whilst enjoying their treat with their lunch. There is a R10 fee for the dress up which is to be given to your child's respective class teacher. All the proceeds will be used for the Grade 7 fundraising.

Protocol

Who do you approach if you seek clarity or need to discuss school related problems?

Protocol will be for parents to meet with the class teacher first. The next option will be to set up a meeting with the HOD of the Phase.

HOD for ECD is Mrs Lilla Shaw at lilla@ridgewaycollege.co.za

HOD for Foundation Phase is Mrs Astrid Fourie at astrid@ridgewaycollege.co.za

HOD for Senior Phase is Mrs Molly Madziva at molly@ridgewaycollege.co.za

Principal for the ECD and Prep school is prephead@ridgewaycollege.co.za

What did the dad spider say to the kid spider?

"You're spending too much time on the web."

— AK

UNTIL NEXT TIME, STAY SAFE!



2021 PREPARATORY EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

Day	13:40 – 15:00	15:00 – 16:00
MONDAY	STAFF/HOD MEETINGS ROBOTICS CLUB GRADE 6 & 7 (MS PHOOKO) SELECTED GROUP GRADE 4-7 SOCCER (MR SUGAR & MR JAYA) (DRILL+ FITNESS) GRADE 1 – BALL SKILLS (MRS POPE, MRS PRETORIUS) GRADE 2 - 3: ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE/ HOMEWORK SUPERVISION WITH THE CLASS TEACHER	TEACHERS GRADE MEETING AND PREP
TUESDAY	GRADE 6 & 7 READING (MRS TAYOB) SELECTED GROUP GRADE 6 & 7 NETBALL (MR JAYA & MRS MACHAYA) GRADE 4 & 5 NETBALL (MRS MADZIVA & MRS MAPFUMO) GRADE 4-7 ECOLOGY (MRS FOURIE) SELECTED GROUP INTERVENTION – MRS L LE ROUX (SELECTED STUDENTS) GRADE 2 – BALL SKILLS (MRS FOURIE, MRS KUDAKWASHE) GRADE 1 AND 3: ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE/ HOMEWORK SUPERVISION WITH THE CLASS TEACHER	TEACHERS GRADE MEETING AND PREP
WEDNESDAY	GRADE 6 & 7 AFRIKAANS (MS VAN ZYL) SELECTED GROUP GRADE 6 & 7 DEBATE & SPEECH CLUB (MRS TAYOB) SELECTED GROUP GRADE 4-7 CHESS (MRS GOOLAM) GRADE 4 & 5 ROBOTICS CLUB (MS PHOOKO) SELECTED GROUP GRADE 4 & 5 ATHLETICS (MR JAYA AND MRS VAN ZYL) GRADE 3 – BALL SKILLS (MRS HASSAM, MRS CHAKWIZIRA) GRADE 1 AND 2: ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE/ HOMEWORK SUPERVISION WITH THE CLASS TEACHER	TEACHERS GRADE MEETING AND PREP
THURSDAY	GRADE 6 & 7 ATHLETICS (MR JAYA) GRADE 6 & 7 MATHS – SELECTED GROUP (MRS MADZIVA) INTERVENTION - LIEZEL LE ROUX (SELECTED STUDENTS) GRADE 1 -3: ART AND CRAFT WITH THE CLASS TEACHER	TEACHERS GRADE MEETING AND PREP
FRIDAY	DETENTION NO AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	