
RIDGEWAY PREPARATORY NEWSFLASH

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From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents

It was with great excitement during this week's assembly that we were able to hand over medals to our top 3 winners in their various races. It was also during this time that Mr Jaya announced our sport captains for our various sport codes for 2021. Congratulations to all of them and we are sure that they will do a sterling job in leading our teams with pride.

On a more sensitive matter related to transport, I urge our parents to please be on top of their child's daily transport arrangements. The administrative staff experience weekly challenges with mobile numbers that no longer exist, making it difficult to get a hold of parents when our students run into transport problems. Taxi's and other private transport companies are not familiar with our schools extra mural programme and students often get left behind or are not being collected at the end of the day. Please familiarise yourself with your child's afternoon activities and make the necessary arrangements with your transport company.

With the lifting of the restriction levels and allowing more activities to be implemented in schools and allowing limited participation from parents, today's article by Dr David Franklin is very relevant in getting our parents involved in our school activities and termly planners. Dr Franklin, CEO of The Principal's Desk, is an experienced school administrator, education professor, curriculum designer, and presenter.

5 Ways You Can Be a More Involved Parent

Parents are an integral part of a school's community. Without parent support, schools would not be able to perform certain aspects of the curriculum, programming, or culture at preferred levels. With many parents working full time, and some with two jobs, it might seem hard to find the time to volunteer at their child's school. However, it is time to rethink traditional parent volunteerism and look for alternative ways that parents can both work and be involved in the school community.

1. Plan ahead

This might seem simple enough, but many of us don't do it. Sit down and review the calendar of events and activities. Select the few events that you would like to go to and can carve out time to go. Remember, these do not have to be all day events. They could be an hour here or there. Planning ahead will give you time to mark the day and time on your calendar and plan to work around this blocked off time. It is easier to get away from work when it is planned in advance than last minute.

2. It doesn't have to be a grand gesture

Depending on where you live, volunteering in your child's school can be daunting. We all get emails from the PSG, teachers, and the principal thanking parents for going above and beyond, chairing events, securing donations, and spearheading campaigns. While we need these individuals, these types of jobs are not for everyone. It is hard for a working parent to oversee large events. Volunteering doesn't always have to be a grand gesture. It can be taking 20 minutes to be a guest reader in a classroom or helping out with an art project. You might not get recognized by the school as a whole, but you will get plenty of praise from your own child. Isn't that worth so much more?

3. Get online

Many schools and teachers are using a variety of programs and apps to communicate with parents. Get involved with the day-to-day by commenting on pictures, posts, and celebrations. There's something invaluable about familiarizing yourself with the day-to-day activities of your child and understanding what's happening at the school. Plus, teachers love knowing that parents are reading their messages.

4. Be present at school or extracurricular events (within Covid limits)

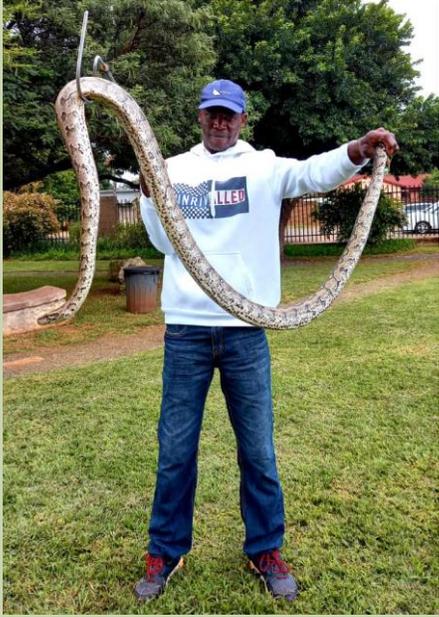
If you can't make it to an event during the school day, make sure you can attend night events. School concerts, open houses, and science fairs always need parents to help out. This help can be as simple as setting up or putting away chairs, handing out programs, or manning a table or booth. The few hours you are there will help teachers more than you think. Many schools love to post photos of events on their website and social media accounts. Think about sending in some of the photos you took at an event.

5. Join a relevant organization

While your opportunities will vary based on your location, as well as your child's age, consider opportunities such as the Parent Support Group (PSG). Connecting with other parents is a great way to get information about the kinds of things happening in your child's life and education, and it can be a great outlet for discussing successes or problems.

Have a great week!

Jannie Le Roux



**Snake Handling Course
6 March 2021
Ridgeway College**



Grade 4A athletic medal winners



**Senior Phase Special Awards
8 March 2021**

**House and Sports
Captains for 2021**

