



KING EDWARD VII PREPARATORY SCHOOL

K.E.P.S. COMMUNICATION WRAP UP FOR TERM 2

INTERSEN PHASE REPORT: MR BRAGIN

With the end of the second term fast approaching, I would like to begin planning ahead and tying down any loose ends that we have come across during Term 2.

Academics:

It is exciting for us to announce that Mrs Gillian White will be joining the English department as of the first day of Term 3. We have restructured the timetable slightly to combine educator skill sets with the subjects they teach: Mrs Mamaregane will move to the Social Sciences department, Mr Futter will move into the English department, and congratulations to Mr Edey as the subject head of Technology.

As the InterSen Phase, we have begun our new strategy of keeping the channels of communication open between parents and the school. With parent's evenings and now the 'Grade Q & A sessions', where parents are able to raise queries and concerns as well as positive feedback, we are in the process of addressing the queries to raise the standard that makes us the top public primary school in the province.

In this regard:

- Homework diaries have been reintroduced into Grades 4 – 6 and class/subject teachers will be checking on these daily. As per the non-written homework policy, the information that will be captured in the diaries is for preparation of assessments, upcoming events and any relevant information that the teachers deem necessary for the boys to remember.
- The Program of Assessment will not vary unless otherwise stated via official documentation that will be sent home in the diaries and uploaded onto the D6. This type of change will only be authorised by myself, Mr Carrolus and Mrs Havemann.
- The scopes for preparation will be carefully scrutinised and no variance will occur from scope to assessment.
- The filing system is being replaced with the previous book system. After having seen the high school move back to books and doing away with their filing system, we are realigning to coordinate our efforts for transitional purposes.

Integrated day:

The integrated day has been well received and is steadily moving towards the ideal holistic environment we are striving to achieve. Boys are enjoying the period and participation levels have increased across the board. Boys are being exposed to cultural and sporting disciplines that some have never participated in before. This idea has grown over the past 6 months and more ideas and concepts are added as the integration progresses.

Sport:

It is with the Governing Body and the School Executive's pleasure to announce the new Sports Director for the Preparatory. We welcome Mr Wesley Landsdale to the staff and know that his levels of excellence in management of sport will stand the sports codes in good stead for the future.

We are moving into the third term sport after an extremely successful rugby, football and cross-country season. Term 3 is comprised of Hockey and Athletics, and preseason Cricket and Water Polo. I urge all parents to support their sons in this season to partake in either hockey or athletics or both. This is the shortest sporting season and we have begun to look at extending this season for hockey across all of the age groups.

Thank you to all staff who have been a part of Term 2's sporting achievements. It is clear that the commitment of both internal and external coaches has already lifted the standard of the sportsmen we are producing.

Culture:

The cultural codes have fared splendidly this term and have produced excellent results in Chess, Drama and Public Speaking. The number of boys that have competed in the Eisteddfod has increased and most have made it through to their respective finals of competition.

Appreciation and heartfelt thanks must go to Mrs Viljoen and her team for an unbelievable house play festival. To stage 'Alice Through the Looking Glass' brought with it challenges that were overcome and a level of excellence was apparent in the four house productions.

Make A Difference:

Your sons will return home on Thursday with a special booklet. This booklet is the start of our themed project of 'Make A Difference'. We will be bringing your boys closer to what it actually means to be a King Edward young man. To redefine our ethos of chivalric aptitude that explores behaviour, dress, manners and most importantly... character. Please make sure your sons clearly mark their booklets with their names and keep them in their top blazer pocket. Educators will be allowed to ask for the boys to produce their booklets when needed. Should your son lose his booklet, he will be charged R20 for a replacement. This will add to the levels of responsibility that we are trying to instil in the boys.

I strongly advise all parents to read through this booklet as well and to support this initiative. It is imperative that we work together in creating well rounded young King Edward gentleman for the next generation.

Novel in my pocket:

A constructive concept that has materialised through our lack of reading. This will aid all boys in reading skills that create confidence in both home language and first additional language. Please find the 'Novel in my Pocket' concept under resources: 'Letters from Mr Bragin'.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate all for surviving a long and busy term. Levels of success can be measured on your son's academic results and participation in culture and sport. I wish everyone a restful winter holiday and look forward to our return on the 17th July.

FOUNDATION PHASE REPORT: MRS VILJOEN

A term no less busy than usual has ended successfully for many reasons. Our staff have certainly solidified our strong sense of teamwork by assisting new teachers in the phase. Mrs Schoeman, Mrs Fourie and Mrs Sonnenberg have come to grips with their respective classes and I am grateful to my Grade leaders for sharing their knowledge so willingly. Whilst we are sad to say good bye to Mrs Glass for personal reasons, we are so grateful to the incredible contribution to Grade R made by her substitute, Bianca Leathers. Mrs Leathers will be relocating to the United Kingdom shortly and she will be replaced by Miss Kirsten Von Berg. Because the Grade R team of educators and assistants is so effective and robust, the teacher changes will have little, if any, negative impact on the learning taking place. Special thanks to

Mrs Glass for her compassion and commitment to all our boys over the years. We will miss your beautiful face and kind heart.

Next term, we welcome Miss Lara Elgar into Mrs Ramjas' teaching position. Mrs Ramjas is a Head of Department and as a result, needs to be able to perform her management duties without having too much of a teaching load. I am also insisting that Mrs Ramjas assist the Grade 4 educators and learners with the transition from Grade 3 to 4. Miss Elgar will teach Mathematics across Grade 3 and the Grade 3 R class will be based in Room 3A. Mrs Schoeman's home room class will relocate to Room 3R as this room, with its sink and bigger floor area, lends itself to the more effective teaching of Art. Mrs Ramjas will assist her initially but I have no doubt that Miss Elgar will do us proud and relate incredibly well with the boys as well as challenge them with exciting and innovative ideas. Anyone who can eagerly and successfully teach a class of over 40 Grade 1's without a teacher assistant (Miss Elgar's previous position), must have substantial organisational skills. I take this opportunity to thank Mrs Ramjas for her teaching of this very important subject thus far. Going forward, her influence and assistance in every area of Grade 3, and some areas in Grade 4, will prove most beneficial to everyone.

Reports can be accessed on Ed-admin. When you look at your child's report, you will notice that there is only one general mark for P.E. (in the Life Skills category) for Grade 1 and 2 learners. The boys will receive a comprehensive evaluation in Grades R and 3. The reason for this is a sensible one. Over time, I have noticed that the P.E. staff spend a lot of their time assessing the boys in their lessons. The physical development of young children happens over time and I do not feel it is fair to appraise a child with specific criteria in a single lesson. Sometimes it takes time to grasp a skill, but once it is grasped, it generally stays and just needs to be perfected. If a child receives a weak P.E. assessment result, it could have an impact on his confidence and the ability to believe in himself. The entry (Grade R) and exit (Grade 3) assessments will provide a fair indication of the progress made in our phase and the staff will be able to devote their expertise to the young men in their care in a practical way. That being said, the P.E staff (Mr Mailula, Mr Barrett and Mr Norris) are always willing to meet with parents who would like to know how their son is doing. They will also contact parents whose child is presenting with significant lags in his gross motor activities. Mr Mailula and his team will focus on building core strength, eye-hand co-ordination and the vestibular system next term. Please encourage your sons at home to show you what they are learning in P.E. lessons. Reinforcement from home is critical. Too many of our boys do not engage in enough physical activity outside of school.

On the community front next term, our Grade 1,2 and 3 boys will participate in a reading picnic with learners from Yeoville Boys School. The proposed date is the 7th September, a day before International Literacy Day. The Yeoville students will walk to our school and pair up with one of our K.E.P.S boys who will be requested to bring a picnic basket and a second hand or new book for his friend. The boys will read to each other.

Speaking of picnics, school sun hats will become an essential item of clothing in the Foundation Phase. The school has purchased 200 of the small size to start with, so if your child does not have one yet, please visit the school swop shop in the new term and buy one for R 130. The hats are to be worn at all break times and outside activities in the school day. **It is the responsibility of each parent or guardian to teach their child how to apply sunscreen.** We have sunscreen dispensers around the school. It is a good idea to put a sunscreen in your son's bag as well. Remember to label it!

In conclusion, I thank you for your never-ending support and commitment to our phase. Furthermore, I am blessed to have such a high level of commitment from all the Foundation Phase staff. These ladies and gentlemen are exceptional, and it shows in the happy faces of the boys and the level of communication given and received.

DADS' CLUB REPORT: MR SMITH

I would like to start off by reminding everyone how the Dads' Club started and what our purpose is.

At the AGM last year, a group of dads arranged a meeting with Mr. Bragin, the newly appointed Deputy Headmaster, who was tasked with overseeing the school's sports program. We offered our assistance to the Sports Department in the form of fund raising, strategic planning, establishing sports specific committees and working structures and also sports blue prints for each sporting code. The end goal is to improve the sporting program and thereby become more competitive, improve our results and allow the boys to develop to their best ability.

I am pleased to advise that we have made good progress. Currently, all the sporting codes have blueprints, which guide the way in which we participate. Our rugby results have improved significantly as opposed to last year. Coach Thando will be doing a rugby review early in the 3rd term and he will share some of these success stories with you.

The planning for hockey (3rd term) and cricket (4th term) is well under way and I am sure we will see some good improvements in the coming months from our hockey and cricket teams.

With this increased level of attention on our sports program, the school is launching new and exciting initiatives. One of these is the coming hockey festival which will be held in August. A festival of this nature does not just happen. It takes a huge amount of effort and money to host a top-class event like this. We call on all parents to offer assistance in the form of time and/or sponsorships for this event. Should you be interested in assisting, please feel free to discuss this with either Mr Bragin, Mr Futter or myself.

There are a lot of exciting initiatives in the pipeline and I am sure that with all the hard work that everyone is putting in, we can only go from strength to strength.

MOTHER'S COMMITTEE REPORT: MRS BARRETT

Thanks must go out to Leizl, Dolly, Lunar, Simon, Lee, the Service Team, all the moms that work in the swap shop, all the class moms and all our school moms who are always willing to help a hand – it is truly in this spirit that we are able to break all barriers and be a family!

The class moms meet once a month to discuss and plan upcoming school events, assist their class teachers when necessary and provide a 'one voice' communication strategy throughout the school.

Second term has seen the mom's committee being involved in;

- Grade R,1,2, Grandparents reading day
- Two Grade R observation days
- Inter-house Plays (catering together with the dad's club)
- Refreshments offered to players and parents at numerous Football fixtures
- Reach for a Dream – Slipper Day
- Tekkie Tax Day
- Introduction of the 'Service Team' these are K.E.P.S boys who have volunteered to assist in serving all out visitors – BUT – these boys offer so much more, they assist with setting up and packing away, they humbly interact with our visitors (whom are always blown away by the team) – this initiative makes me as a KEPS mom the proudest!

Planning for cracker of a third term, where we hit the road running with;

- 20th July - Events throughout the day celebrating the centenary of Nelson Mandela
- 3 – 4th August - The first K.E.P.S. Hockey festival which we will be hosting
- 8th August - Soap Box Derby
- 12th August - Old Eds Road Race – we are going to need parents to assist with Marshalling, water tables and registration table
- 17th August - K.E.P.S. Winter Soireé

Mandela Day 2018:

As 2018 is a special year in remembrance of Mr Nelson Mandela, King Edward VII Preparatory School has some events lined up to mark the occasion and show our generosity of spirit to those less fortunate than ourselves.

From **Wednesday 18 July**, boxes will be available at the schools for families to drop off donated goods that they have collected over the holidays, including any knitted or crocheted blankets that have been made for the Mandela Day

drive. Items such as clothing, toys, stationery, books and sporting equipment will then be handed over to various charities working with communities in need.

On **Friday 20 July**, we will be having a dress-up day, a sandwich drive and a Grade 7 sleepout at the school with a bring-and-braai for all families in the evening.

Dress-up as Madiba

On this day, we are encouraging each boy to dress up as Madiba – whether in a Madiba-style shirt or typical South African outfit. Prizes will be given to the best dressed. Boys are asked to please donate R5 to wear their outfit to school.

Share a sandwich

Sandwich-making stations will be set up at school and the boys will each make a sandwich during school time on the Friday to be donated. These will then be delivered to schools, children's homes and soup kitchens.

The school will provide the bread. We are appealing to parents to please volunteer to help at the sandwich stations and also to donate fillings for the sandwiches as follows:

Grade R Jam – any flavours

Grade 1 Peanut butter

Grade 2 Cheese slices/grated cheese

Grade 3 Mayonnaise or margarine (spreadable please!)

Grade 4 Jam – any flavours

Grade 5 Peanut butter

Grade 6 Cheese slices/grated cheese

Grade 7 Cheese slices/grated cheese

Please give what you can. Any left-overs will be donated.

Family Bring-n- Braai and Grade 7 Sleepout

In the evening there will be a bring-n-braai evening for all families at the school – this is the last opportunity to donate what you no longer need that may assist others. It is also an opportunity to get to know the King Edward family, for the children to play and have fun and to wish the Grade 7s good luck for their sleepout.

The sleepout at school is to show solidarity with those who are homeless and have to sleep outdoors in winter.

Entrance fee – “Non-perishable food item, for another's woe to lighten”

All proceeds from the day will be donated. We look forward to seeing you all get into the spirit of Mandela Day!

On behalf of the Heads of School and Heads of Committees, we would like to wish all families a peaceful and relaxing vacation break. The holiday is an ideal opportunity for boys to recharge their batteries, reflect on what they have achieved so far and start planning for Term 3. Should you be travelling, drive carefully. We look forward to a busy and successful Term 3 both in the classroom and on the sports field.