



CBC St John's Parklands Senior School

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Dear Senior School Parents

From the Senior School Office

Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the American president and famous in her own right for, among other achievements, being the first Chairperson of The United Nations Human Rights Commission, has these words of wisdom for us at the beginning of a new year:

'One's philosophy is not best expressed in words; it is expressed in the choices one makes. In the long run, we shape our lives and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And, the choices we make are ultimately our own responsibility'

This speaks to us about the kind of lives we shall live this year: how we shall work, love and live. My wish for all our students will be that they will all choose academic excellence, gentleness and kindness for all.



Photo from Wikipedia

Welcome

Welcome back to all our older, taller (and hopefully wiser) students. A special welcome to all our new students. Soon you will all be known to us by name. We welcome all the new parents to our CBC family and hope you will soon be comfortable with us. We encourage you to become part of our vibrant Parents' Association and join us often in spiritual, social and academic activities.

New Staff; New Leaders

This year we welcome two new members to our Senior School teaching staff: Mrs Liesl Robinson takes on the Business Studies portfolio and Ms Anneldé Raats joins the Afrikaans and LO departments and will also teach GET Social Sciences. We welcome Mrs Myrinthia Sonn back formally into the permanent post of Life Sciences. She will also take on the important RE Co-ordinator role on the management team.

Mrs Sylvia Makupela will be part of our Senior School Maintenance Staff from this year on a full-time basis.

New-look Senior School Management Team:

Principal: Mrs Colleen Mongie

Deputy Principal: Ms Marisa Fox

RE Co-ordinator: Mrs Myrinthia Sonn

Sports Co-ordinator: Mr Etienne van der Merwe

GET Head: Mr Mike Hagemann

FET Head: Mrs Linda Le Roux

Cultural Co-ordinator: Mrs Natasha Brehem

Please feel free to contact any of us with your concerns.

Matric Results 2009

We are enormously proud of our 'Legends' of 2009. They achieved a **100% pass** with outstanding individual achievements. What pleases me the most, however, is the fact that 45 of the 51 candidates achieved a PASS BACHELORS which qualifies them for a Bachelors Degree and the other 11 all gained a DIPLOMA PASS which enables them to study for tertiary Diploma courses. **7 students achieved Matric with Distinction** (4 or more A's) and there were 74 individual subject distinctions. This is an excellent achievement and we compliment them on their hard work and dedication. They have truly flown the flag for CBC St John's. It must be said that this would not have been possible without the selfless efforts and extra-tutoring of their teachers. Every subject has at least one distinction. Our results are between 20 % and 30% above provincial averages in almost every subject, more in some. In subjects such as Mathematics, Physical Science and Accounting where other schools have taken a knock, we have averages that are up and several distinctions. Take a bow, teachers of CBC.

For a more detailed breakdown of results see our website.

Past Pupils' Achievements

The Class of 2008 continues to shine. Last year Nicholas Rice made the Dean's list for Chemical Engineering, coming top in Mathematics and Chemistry. What pleases me more is that he spent his holiday tutoring a friend for her 'supp'. Such is the nature of our CBC St John's students.

Academics 2010

This year is VERY short. Term 2 has only 18 teaching days. There is NO time to mess around Teaching will start on Day 1 and so will homework. Do not ever believe that your teenager has 'no homework': that is the wishful thinking of an adolescent layabout. Matrics must be prepared to forfeit holiday time for essential course work or they will not be properly prepared for the final examinations. The languages, Physical Science, Life Sciences and Mathematics will hold classes in Week One of the April holidays and Accounting and Art will need Week One of the July holidays. Please bear with us in this regard and note that these lessons are not extra classes, but will be used for core course work. We want the best for our students and I thank staff for being prepared to sacrifice their own time to achieve this.

FET Pass Requirements:

Parents with students in the FET phase should take careful note of the weighting of 75% placed on the final examination. This is the opposite of the GET phase and places huge emphasis on success in examinations. It is possible to fail at the final hurdle so constant revision of work is required throughout the year to ensure the ability to handle the large amount of subject matter necessary for the final examinations. It is essential that consistent, disciplined attention is paid to all learning areas.

GET Pass Requirements:

The latest information from the Department of Education is that the new pass requirements for Grades 7-9 are as follows:

50% for English

50% for another 2 subjects

40% for Mathematics

40% for another 2 subjects

This is a tall order and as a result we have introduced an additional 2 periods per week for each class for Core Studies, i.e. English, Afrikaans and Mathematics in which we shall attempt to address basics in each subject which may be shaky for some students.

All students are encouraged to utilize the many extra lessons available from their dedicated teachers. It is clear from the performance of even poorly resourced schools that the key to success is effort. Our students have the privilege of a well-resourced school with highly qualified teachers who go the extra mile for their students. As Mrs Roosevelt would ask: What will be their choice?

Additional Mathematics (Paper 3):

Mr Watson will continue to offer Add Maths to Grade 10-12 students. Students considering Engineering should definitely sign up for this course. It is whispered that universities will soon require this for entrance to engineering courses. Our 2009 matrics performed pretty well in this tough paper so we encourage those with a mathematical bent to take on the challenge of these extra lessons. I'm told, by the way, that there is a potential Facebook group entitled 'Siblings of Add Maths students' who have to suffer the early mornings! Grade 10's will have lessons on Tuesdays, Grade 11's on Wednesday and Grade 12's on Thursdays.

Portuguese Classes:

The Portuguese Embassy is sponsoring Portuguese lessons for all interested students. These classes will (by necessity) be after school hours and are open to all our students. Engineering students are again encouraged to consider this as an extension. Overseas companies are employing Portuguese speakers in the rebuilding of Africa. Portuguese is the lingua franca in many of these countries. Portuguese students are encouraged to explore their native tongue. Application forms are available from Mrs Gill and must be returned by 1 February.

FET Subject Changes:

Matric students may only change one subject. This must be done by 25 January. Grade 10 and 11 students have until the end of February to change 2 subjects if necessary. We urge students who have been advised by teachers to make changes to do so to ensure they do not risk failure at the end of the year.

Maynardville

We will have some fun of course and our annual Maynardville theatre outing will be on 9th February at 19:45. The cost is R40. First names given to Mr Bollttler will be rewarded with tickets and a place in the school bus, which will leave at 17:30 for a picnic in the park first. This year the production is Anthony and Cleopatra. Parents are welcome to join us.

Booksale

24/7 will have a booksale on 18 January to assist new parents and those who missed last year's sale.

Parents' Evening: 26 January

Diarise this date for meeting your child's register teacher and subject teachers. Make yourselves known to them and use this opportunity to fill us in on information vital to your child's well-being. We hope to work in close co-operation with you and knowing the joys or sorrows he is experiencing helps us understand him.

Matric parents will be addressed together in the hall when others go to meet the class teachers.

Grooming

Please assist us in ensuring your child is correctly groomed, so that teachers may concentrate on teaching. Your assistance with is much appreciated. It was a pleasure to see so many well-groomed young people today.

Camps

Grades 8-10 leave for their camps on Wednesday, 20 January. Information regarding this will be sent out in due course. Grade 11's will be on job shadow at the same time. They are reminded to have this well organized. The matrics will follow a special timetable with the remaining teachers to get a jump-start on the year.

Dates to Diarise

13 January: Students return
14 January: Catholic Teachers' Mass – St Michael's
17 January: Mr Hagemann's birthday
18 January: 24/7 Booksale
Camps/Job Shadowing: 20-22 January

Birthdays in the holidays: Mrs Dold and Mrs Kleinhaus (who is a Christmas baby).

The great Albert Einstein, like many great scientists, contemplated the role of religion in the world. Our school is not only about academics. We are here as a community of believers. I leave you with his words:

'True religion is real living with all one's soul, with all one's goodness and righteousness'

I pray that this will be a year of true religion for our school.

Yours in education

Mrs Colleen Mongie
Senior School Principal