



CBC St John's Parklands Senior School

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Dear Parents

From the Senior School Office

'Happiness is itself a kind of gratitude'
Joseph Wood Krutch (teacher and writer)

My letter is in red this week to celebrate 2 kinds of happiness that we enjoyed last week: The fun and celebration of Valentine's Day and the happiness of celebrating **75 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS IN CAPE TOWN**. My happiness is certainly tinged with gratitude as Krutch, who was first a teacher, then a writer and critic suggests.

We celebrated the gift that those first brothers gave us of the sacrifice of their lives in leaving Ireland to educate young South Africans, on Founders' Day. Many were the young men who went through their hands, benefitting not only from the education the brothers gave them, but from their generosity to poor children who couldn't pay fees. Those same 'poor' men have gone on to give back in the same spirit of generosity, 'doing and [so] teaching' as Edmund Rice taught the first brothers in Ireland. What a joy then to be part of that great spirit here in Parklands, raising young men and women who will let their 'stars shine for all eternity.' The mass which Mrs Sonn organized was beautiful with a deeply spiritual touch. Thanks to all who participated and to the whole school for the beautiful singing.

The atmosphere of Valentine's Day (celebrated on Thursday) was a wonderful reflection of the spirit of friendship and family which prevails at the College. The Grade 11's, under the guidance of Mrs Adriaanse, outdid themselves in a super day of roses, balloons and chocolates. They organized an excellent talent show, probably the best ever, revealing the talent and sense of humour of our students. Well done to Michaela Sommarberg, who won the contest with her haunting, original song. Other highlights were Mr Wyeth and Kim's performance and Lyndon' Stratford (enough said). What struck me was the generosity of the audience who applauded everyone's efforts. The day was rounded off by a band, led by a past pupil, who returned to support the day and spontaneous dancing in the quad.

Maynardville

Thanks to Mr Boltler and Mr Watson we enjoyed a splendid night out to the atmospheric open air theatre at Maynardville for this year's production of Antony and Cleopatra, complete with live snakes, which had our toes curling. We further enjoyed the occasion this year by arriving early and picnicking under the trees before the show. The driver of the vehicle whose car alarm pierced the night will remain anonymous of course...! Encourage your children to attend next year's production and join us yourselves. The parents who accompanied us and a few teachers all had a good time.

Congratulations

Well done to Caitlin Hawarden and Francesca Wightman who qualified for Western Province in the Level 2 Swimming Championships in Port Elizabeth in March.

Au Pair

Amie Brown (matric class of 2008) is available for afternoon au pair work. She is currently a second-year UNISA psychology

student and is able to assist with transport and tutoring. Her preferred ages are 6-16. She can assist with these from 13:00 – 18:00. She comes well recommended by us as a sensible, friendly young lady of integrity. Contact me to get in touch with her.

Cyclists Beware

It is both a traffic rule and a College rule that cyclists wear helmets. Please ensure that your child does so if he cycles to school. Failure to do so will result in a straight detention, not because we are mean, but because we value the lives of our students.

Hallelujah Chorus

Calling all singers in our College community: The choir will be preparing for our special 75th anniversary celebratory mass in August at which we shall be singing the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's 'Messiah'. Anyone in our College community wanting to augment this choir piece should contact Mrs Brehem at the College.

Uniform Changes

ARC Sportswear is now selling the striped ankle socks for sportswear and students are encouraged to purchase these from now on for sport. Also the tracksuits will no longer have zips as these have been a problem. The long sports socks are now elasticated as the LRC requested and in the Winter a fleecy tracksuit top will be available for students to use instead of the grey jersey which looks terrible and is in fact not allowed to be worn with the tracksuit.

Students may now wear their shorts during the day on which they have PT, But they must come to school and leave in their full tracksuit and cross to the Annex in their tracksuit tops.

Parking at the Annex

On a Friday when traffic is rather congested at the end of the day, it has been decided to open up the Annex parking area to parents. Please be aware that classes continue until 13:30 there so silence is necessary for them.

Facebook

Please check your child's Facebook profile regularly. A student was suspended last week for bringing the College's name into disrepute because of unsavoury items posted on his site. Children do not understand the longevity and public nature of the digital footprint. Pictures and comments posted in jest may have serious consequences. We are very protective of our school's reputation and if your child belongs to the CBC St John's group on Facebook or has photos in school uniform, he is bound to uphold our name. Check regularly what she has posted and insist that privacy does not apply to such things as Mxit, Facebook, emails and other electronic devices. Check the type of photographs they are posting and discuss with them the sort of image they are projecting of themselves.

Facts about Facebook you may not know:

1. Facebook privacy settings are flimsy.
2. Anyone can see anyone's profile picture, whether you are a friend or not.
3. Comments I make to my friends may appear on their friends' walls whether I like it or not.
4. When a picture is posted on Facebook it becomes the property of Facebook and could be used for other purposes.
5. Electronic predators set up phony profiles to lure victims so children should not befriend anyone they do not actually know.
6. Make sure your child has not posted personal contact details.
7. Minimum age for Facebook is 13, but be sensitive to your child's relative maturity.
8. Universities check profiles before admitting students.
9. Employers do the same and in fact people have been fired because of dodgy postings on Facebook.
10. Lawyers google clients/accused and anything relevant such as drunken photos in a drunk-driving charge may be used AS EVIDENCE.
11. Child porn: Youngsters gaily post pictures of themselves in sexually provocative poses, or dressed scantily. If such a child is under-age, this constitutes child porn. Anyone then commenting on or forwarding such pictures becomes embroiled in a legal quagmire.
12. Deleting your profile does not make it go away. It is still there in the electronic ether.
13. Facebook is 'like getting a tattoo: There's nothing inherently wrong with posting information or getting a tattoo, but in both cases you need to be prepared for it to be out there forever and for people to see it whom you may not want to see it. If

you're not prepared to live with that, then don't do it.' Steven Rothberg (College Recruiter in the USA).

Tuckshop Menu

MONDAY	Pies
TUESDAY	Chicken mayo rolls
WEDNESDAY	CLOSED
THURSDAY	Hot dogs
FRIDAY	pizza

Dates to Diarise

15 February: Debating @ home versus Parklands College 18:30

16 February: MRS GILL'S BIRTHDAY

17 February: Ash Wednesday (Service at School)

18 February: New Teachers to CSO Course

19 February: Grade 9 Retreat

Softball Festival at Elkanah House

Gideon's Bibles to address Grade 8's

Phase Assemblies

Sport this week

Kindly refer to the schedule on the website under Senior School Sport.

So we anticipate another week of finding happiness in and gratitude to the Lord in our enterprises. Oh....and Happy Valentine's Day to you all.

Yours in education

Colleen Mongie

Senior School Principal