

28 January 2009

Dear Grade One Parents,

Thank you for attending this information evening. We intend to go through the procedures we follow in Grade One. Thank you for your input so far, the Grade One's are settling in so well.

Grade One Syllabus:

LITERACY: Oral:

We focus on vocabulary, sentence construction, logical sequencing of events, participation and respecting the opinion of others.

Reading:

We use the Oxford Reading Scheme. This is a whole language System. This is based on the idea that while young children may initially have difficulty in recognizing separate words on a page, or in learning words out of context, they can retain a simple story told in natural-sounding language patterns. Words are only consolidated after the story has been read and enjoyed, therefore no meaningless rote-learning occurs. Enrichment Reading is encouraged for our stronger readers. We make use of the school library and of our IRP (Individual Reading Programme) readers for these students.

Phonics:

We follow on from the Grade R Letterland Programme. We consolidate single sounds, introduce word endings eg. (-ll), consonant digraphs eg. (wh) and vowel blends eg. (oo). Through careful instruction, practice and activities, children learn to word-build. We encourage fun games to be done at home and give parents educational tips for children needing support during homework. We also do "MONKEY TALK" which is a method used to blend consonants with vowels. This enables them to have speed and accuracy when blending, in order to develop into confident readers.

Handwriting

We focus on lower case letters and the matching patterns.

Second Language

It is taught in a Do-and Say manner. It is oral and not assessed in Grade One.

Mathematics

We work in ability groups and focus on counting, calculations, problem solving, measuring, time, capacity, money and Mathematical Vocabulary (before, after, in between, greater than, less than, 1 more, 1 less etc)

Homework:

This is set for Monday to Thursdays and should only be 20 minutes. Please make an appointment with your child's teacher if it has become too stressful or is taking longer than the allocated time. We would gladly assist or advise you to help and keep homework pleasant.

Life Skills:

We offer Bible Education, Art, Music, Computers (IT) and VMI (Visual Motor Integration - Phys. Ed)

Extra Murals offered

Mini cricket, Mini Tennis, T-Ball (girls), Art Club, Junior Choir – Please encourage your child to participate in at least one extra mural and to remain committed the whole season. They need to wear the correct uniform especially a cap (compulsory).

General

- SEMPRE FRATRES

This is a wonderful tradition where each Grade One pupil is paired up with a Matric buddy for the year. They share special moments together eg. (Teddy Bears picnic for Valentine's Day) etc.

- For the children whose feet don't touch the ground when seated, we encourage parents to please get 3 telephone directories, and bind them together with duct tape. This works especially well to assist with correct posture at their desk.
- It is COMPULSORY for all Grade One's to wear a cap. If you still need please send R50 in a sealed, marked envelope. (please put on sun block in the mornings before school)
- Tuck shop is every Friday and Grade One's may bring R6.
- Continue to encourage independence and to remind them daily about packing in everything needed for Homework. (Please only sign once homework is completed)
- There will be a Homework Helper Evening in two weeks to explain the homework given in Grade One. (date to follow)

Grade One Educators

Mrs. S Van Vuren
Junior School Principal