

Grade 2 Orientation Evening

Wednesday, 28 January 2009

Welcome and thank you for joining us this evening.

I am sure that it seems like it was just yesterday that your little one was starting BIG school... and now you are faced with another set of new challenges. Grade 2 is going to be an exciting year for you and your Grade 2 child. We really encourage OPEN lines of communication. We value your input and our aim is to make this year a happy one for your child.

There are 3 learning areas in the Foundation Phase, namely *Literacy, Numeracy and Life Skills*.

A. Literacy

Includes the following: Reading, Phonics/Spelling, Afrikaans, Handwriting, and Xhosa

Reading

Is done in two ways:

1) **Basal - Oxford Reading Scheme** (Kipper and Biff books)

We continue from where they left off in Grade 1 and start with Stage 6, revising stage 5. Each child will receive their word list on Monday; they will need to practice this list for homework.

On Tuesday and Wednesday they will read the book using the words they learnt on Monday. On Thursday they will receive a comprehension on the story they have been reading.

2) **IRP** (Individualised Reading Program) These books are read in class on a Friday. Each child receives a book specifically catering for his/her reading age/ability/level.

There is quite a bit of reading homework given in Gr.2, thus your child will need to read to you every day. Unfortunately, reading homework cannot be supervised at Aftercare. Please encourage your child to read to you, focusing on expression and punctuation and so on. Do not read more than the stipulated pages, rather extend your child by questioning him/her about the text, asking his/her opinions, finding rhyming words, etc.

We will identify the students who are avid readers and give them extra reading if it is required. We will make extra use of the IRP books in these situations.

Once your child has read to you, please sign the Reading Notebook so that I can give them a new reader.

Although we will be visiting our School Library once a week, we encourage you to spend time at our local library.

Phonics (words can be sounded out) is done every Tuesday. A list of about 6 words is written into the Busy Bee Book. Your child must complete the third column for homework. In the classroom, they are encouraged to use these words correctly in their News and Sentence Writing. In addition to learning the Busy Bee words, your little one must read the Word list in the Homework file. This again provides exposure to a variety of words containing the particular sound for the week.

VAK - Spelling (high frequency words / can't be sounded out) is done every Monday. These words are practiced in the classroom in our Busy Bee Books. Your child will receive written tips on how to learn the VAK words so that you too, may have some guidance on how to assist your child.

Along with the Phonics words, these words are 'tested' every Friday. Please keep in mind that the tests are not the basis of our assessment. It is how the students apply the words in their writing that is assessed.

Revise both Phonic and Vak lists every day.

A **Memory Sentence** is introduced every Monday. It is copied into their Classwork Books every day and into their Busy Bee Book. This sentence incorporates high-frequency words as well as words which include the sound of the week. On Friday the memory sentence is incorporated into their test and they will be able to write this from memory.

Afrikaans and Xhosa are done communicatively - by means of speaking, understanding and listening.

B. Numeracy

Your child is grouped according to his/her ability. Continuous assessment allows the students to migrate between groups depending on their abilities.

Numeracy homework will be sent home in order to consolidate and to practice.

A few minutes of counting should be done at home daily. In the Homework file, you will find a Number Block which can be used at home.

At a later stage 'Bonds/Friends of....' will also be sent home to be practiced. This takes the form of a little booklet - Speedy sums. There are a variety of methods to do the Speedy Sums:

- a) Your child has 5 minutes to do as many sums as he/she can or,
- b) Your child completes a column or entire page and is timed by Mom or Dad. The time is noted at the bottom of the page for us to monitor.

Mom or Dad supervises and marks the sums - corrections do not have to be done. We monitor this progress at school.

Friday's math test is a consolidation of the weeks work. Please go through the test with your child, sign and return to school.

C: Life Orientation

We offer Life Skills, Art, Physical Education, Religious Instruction, IT (Information Technology) and Music. Your child may be required to complete tasks/mini-projects at home. These are fun and your child should enjoy doing them with your assistance only!

Homework

Please check and sign the Homework Diary EVERY day. Please ensure that the homework is supervised and when the homework is completed to your satisfaction and to your child's best ability, it is to be signed. We encourage our students to take responsibility for this....It is their job to take it to you for signing.

The Test Book will be sent home as well. Please sign it and return to school.

SUMMER EXTRA-MURALS

**Tennis, Mini-Cricket, Athletics, T-Ball, Art Club,
Edmund Rice, Chess, Library**

Please encourage your child to do 2 afternoons of extra-murals. It develops healthy mind, body and forges friendships.

If your child commits to an extra-mural, encourage him/her to continue with it for the season. Extra-murals for the Foundation Phase will start at **13:30** and finish at **14:15**. Children are to meet outside their coach's classroom.

We are pleased to introduce 'Extra Fun Lessons' for Grade 2 learners. This will be by invitation only, for children who are struggling in Language and Numeracy areas.

Class **Phys. Ed** is done every Wednesday and **VMI** is on Thursday. The students are allowed to wear their sports clothes + socks and trainers to school on these days.

General

1. School starts at **07h55** and ends at 13h00. Please ensure that your child knows where to meet you after school, outside the Junior School staffroom is the official waiting area. No child is allowed to wait outside the Admin Block after school. If your child has to wait longer than 15 minutes, please enroll them in Aftercare.
2. Please apply sunscreen to your child's face, ears and arms each morning. A school cap is compulsory for each child and should be worn during break times and sport practices. R50 can be sent in a marked envelope to your class teacher.
3. Please read the Introductory Letter in the Homework Diary. It outlines a few other important notices. Please also familiarize yourself with the CBC Code of Conduct by reading it through **WITH** your little one. It may be found in the Homework Diary. We will be continuing with our Sunshine and Demerit system this year.
4. Should you require assistance with the homework or if you have any queries, concerns or thoughts, please contact us directly via phone or Homework Diary. We can then make an appointment to discuss your thoughts or concerns.

Kind Regards,

Nadia Schemel and Carmen de Frietas
Grade 2 Teachers

Sharon van Vuren
Junior School Principal

