



# Manor Gardens Primary School

Newsletter No. 37

21 November 2017

*"The world is round so that friendship may encircle it." – Teilhard de Chardin*

## DATES TO DIARISE

21 November	Music Evening at 18h30
22 November	JP Gala at Park Side Primary School from 18h30 until 20h00
24 November	End of the fourth term extra mural activities programme
24 November	Grade 7 Market day
27 November	Sports Assembly
27 November	Instrumental Evening at 18h30
27 November	Waltons Stationers hand-out of ordered stationery boxes: 12h30 - 14h30
28 November	Waltons Stationers hand-out of ordered stationery boxes: 08h00 - 09h00
28 – 29 November	Book Fair
30 November	Grade R Play and Picnic
1 December	Inter-house General Knowledge Quiz
4 December	General Assistants and Security Guards Appreciation Assembly
5 December	Grade 7 Prize giving
6 December	End of Fourth Term
17 January	Start of Term One - 2018

## STAFF NEWS

We congratulate Zamaswazi and Ntuthuko Mntungwa on the birth of their beautiful baby boy, Lumnene. We wish them joy and love as they build their new parent/son relationship. We are looking forward to meeting Lumnene soon.

## APPRECIATION FOR GRADE R AND ONE ORIENTATION DAYS

We had two very successful Orientation Days for our 2018 Grade R and 1 children. Heartfelt thanks to the following people:

- Mrs Devere-Loots, the FP HoD, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Oosthuizen, Mrs Moskovitch, Miss Anderson and Mrs Oosthuizen for their effective organization.
- Mrs Daniels for her friendly, efficient management of the morning.
- Our current children for hosting our new pupils.
- Sandipa Singh, the uniform shop co-ordinator, and fellow parents Fiona Webber, Upasna Rambali, Jo Bredenkamp, Maré Brooke, Bhavika Nathoo, Katy Harries, Sharlene Versveld, Marcelle Edward Betsy and Jacqui Hardman for giving of their time to warmly welcome and be of service to our new parents and children.
- Staff, Mrs Sobey, Mr Hallet and the General Assistants for their assistance.

## QUINTATHLON RESULTS – Mrs Sobey

Earlier on this year, our children wrote the Quintathlon Logical Thinking Challenge which tests English, Mathematics, Science, Logic and General Knowledge. We have had some very pleasing results with many children earning gold, silver and bronze certificates.

We are very proud of you!

NAME	GRADE	AWARD
Erin Hall	1A	Gold
Ariana Gajadhar	1O	High Silver
Mbali Tshabalala	2O	Gold
Teriana James	2O	Gold
Kiana Govender	2O	Gold
Amy Rose George	2O	Gold
Juliette Reuning	2O	Gold
Shridha Ramu	2O	Gold
Thea White	2O	High Silver
Shaelin Perumal	2O	High Silver
Katherine Crankshaw	2O	High Silver
Kelan Hemraj	3B	Gold
Maryam Lockhat	3B	High Silver
James Foxon	3G	Gold
As'bonge Dladla	3G	High Silver
Adam Assila	3G	Gold
Anjali Roberts	3H	Gold
Zaeem Ameer	4W	High Silver
Anna Correa	4P	High Silver
Ronin Chetty	4MC	High Silver
William Ronnie	5S	Gold
Siddharth Sahadew	5S	Gold
Joseph Euripidou	5S	High Silver
Samora Leslie	5J	High Silver
Jemma Kasavan	6S	Gold
Nozipho Zikhali	6S	Gold
Michaela Crankshaw	6D	Gold

NAME	GRADE	AWARD
Jaskaran Rajaruthnam	6S	Gold
Breigh Clarivette	6S	High Silver
Swan Robertson	6S	High Silver
Sam Walker	6D	High Silver
Madison Opland	7H	Gold
Yani Mnguni	7S	High Silver

### CONQUESTA MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD 2018 – Mrs Marshall-Connellan

Congratulations to all the children on their fine achievements in the Conquesta Mathematics Olympiad.

**Platinum certificates** (85% - 100%) were awarded to the following children:

GRADE	NAMES
5	William Ronnie, Siddharth Sahadew, Jack White,
6	Keaton Murray, Jaskaran Rajaruthnam, Leearnika Reddy, Sam Walker

**Diamond certificates** (76% - 84%) were awarded to the following children:

GRADE	NAMES
5	Samora Leslie, Lulama Mthombeni, Aryan Ramouthar, Emihle Zikhali, Mathembamahle Zondo
6	Nozipho Zikhali, Ndumiso Majali
7	Ella Scharler

### WEDGEWOOD BISCUIT FUNDRAISER – Marcelle Edouard-Betsy

A big 'Thank you!' to all who purchased a box of biscuits or more. MGPS has made a clear profit of R 27 178.00 to date. These are the results of the classes and the individuals who sold the most boxes.

#### Class

3rd place : 10 Mrs Oosthuizen - 159 boxes sold Class given biscuits to eat during first break.  
 2nd place : RH Mrs Hayes - 221 boxes sold Class given biscuits to eat during first break.  
 1st place : 5S Miss Sader - 397 boxes sold Class will be given a party.

#### Individual

3rd place : Jemma Kasavan (6S) - 47 boxes She received a box of biscuits.  
 2nd place : Hajra Madari (OH) - 55 boxes She received a box of biscuits  
 1st place : Tae-Lyn Fawcett (5S) - 144 boxes She received a R400 Parc restaurant voucher

Please send any outstanding order forms and the money for the orders back to school urgently. Orders will be sent home in the last week of school. We thank you in advance for your support.

### WALKATHON FUNDRAISER

Please send all outstanding sponsor forms and collected monies back to school or the penalty price of R75.00 for a mislaid form.

### RESOLUTIONS – 2018 BUDGET PRESENTATION MEETING

The following Resolutions were approved at the Budget presentation meeting held on Tuesday 14 November and are binding on all parents for 2018.

- The School Budget for 2018 as proposed by the SGB and tabled in terms of the South African Schools Act has been approved by the majority of parents present.
- MGPS is a fee paying school and school fees have been determined and levied in accordance with the provisions of Section 38 and 39(1) of the South African Schools Act.

The proposed school fees for 2018 have been approved:

- Grade R : R 26 050.00
- Grade 1 - 3 : R 25 290.00
- Grade 4 - 7 : R 24 810.00

The above school fees are determined in terms of the above Act and are in relation or participations of the pupil in any of the school programme as defined and approved by the parents in Resolution 13.

- All parents shall be obligated to pay school fees in terms of Section 40 of the South African Schools Act unless they have been granted exemption from the payment of school fees. The criteria for the total, partial or conditional exemption of parents, who are unable to pay compulsory school fees, be determined in accordance with the criteria set out in *The Exemption of Parents from School Fees Regulations* (as amended in Government Gazette 39392 of 17 November, 2006).
- A parent's school fee debt (to the extent that he /she has been exempted) is a statutory obligation and thus takes priority over activities not included in our school programme. All monies received by the school will first be allocated to school fees.
- School fee payments have to be kept up to date for children to enroll in any of the activities offered at the school which are not part of the school programme (including Aftercare). Refer to resolution 13.
- Payments:
  - School fees are payable in advance and are due on the first day of school. If any payment is outstanding by the due date, the full outstanding amount of school fees will become due and payable.
  - Full settlement on 31 Jan 2018
  - Full settlement on 28 Feb 2018
  - Fees may be paid in 10 equal payments commencing on 31 Jan 2018 and ending 31 Oct 2018
- Discounts:
  - Fees may be paid in full on/before 31 Jan 2018 in which case a discount of R1 450.00 (6%) will be granted;

- Fees may be paid in full on/before 28 Feb 2018 in which case a discount of R1 230.00 (5%) will be granted.
  - With respect to credit card payments, the aforementioned discounts will be adjusted by 2.3% on the amount payable, to account for the cost of the school processing the payment.
8. The appointment of additional staff, and payments in terms of Section 38A of South African Schools Act, is approved.
  9. Authority to the SGB to write off any unrecoverable, long standing debts is given.
  10. The SGB is authorised to supplement any deficits that arise on budgeted amounts for particular budget items, for surpluses that may arise on other items, provided that the total budget shall not be exceeded without obtaining the approval of a parent meeting.
  11. It is hereby resolved that any surplus from the approved budget (past or future) or budgeted funds that are effectively unused or no longer required for that budget may be used (diverted) on approval of the SGB for capital projects deemed appropriate and minuted to that effect.
  12. The Aftercare Casual D option may only be used for children waiting for an hour or part of an hour for private lessons. This option is only available to those pupils whose names are provided by the private lesson tutor to the Aftercare facilitator. Parents will pay the casual timeslot rate if the period is longer than an hour.
  13. Inclusions and Exclusions of the School Programme:

#### Academic Programme

Our school Academic programme for 2018 will follow the Subjects outlined by the KZN Education Department. This applies to the Foundation, Intermediate and Senior Phases. MGPS offers English as a Home Language subject and Afrikaans and isiZulu as first or second additional languages. In addition, MGPS provides gymnastic lessons to Gr R – Gr 3 pupils.

#### Extra-Mural Programme

Our school extra-mural activities include:

A-Capella	Arts & Crafts	Athletics	Ball Skills
Breakfast Books	Chess	Choir	Computer Club
Creative problem solving	Cricket	Ensemble	Enviro-Club
Extra Maths	Film Club	Fitness Training	Future Problem Solving
Water Explorer Club	Guitar	Hockey	Indoor Hockey (girls)
Lit Quiz	Maths Problem Solving	Mini Cricket	Netball
Percussion	R.A.K. Club	Recorder	Science Club (Expo)
Soccer	Softball	Swimming	Touch Rugby
Writer's Workshop			

#### Not part of the School Programme

The following are not part of the school programme and carry an additional cost: -

- Grade R
- Aftercare
- Personal Uniform and Sports Kit and Activity Equipment
- Personal Stationery and School Kit
- Grade 7 Farewell function
- Any other privately run activities held on the school premises

#### **AFTERCARE FEES 2018**

<b>PERMANENT RATE</b>	<b>TIME SLOT</b>	<b>2018 ANNUAL FEE INVOICED IN ADVANCE</b>	<b>PAYABLE MONTHLY 1 JAN - 1 NOV</b>	<b>HOURS</b>
1	12h30 - 14h00	R 2 839.00	R 263.00	1.5
2	14h00 - 17h00	R 4 928.00	R 448.00	3
3	12h30 - 17h00	R 7 040.00	R 640.00	4.5
<b>CASUAL RATE</b>	<b>TIME SLOT</b>	<b>2018 RATE PER DAY</b>	<b>PAY-BEFORE-YOU-GO IN ADVANCE</b>	<b>HOURS</b>
A	12h30 - 14h00	R 44.00	R 132.00	1.5
B	14h00 - 17h00	R 49.00	R 147.00	3
C	12h30 - 17h00	R 65.00	R 195.00	4.5
D	R14.00 PER DAY FOR LESS THAN 1 HOUR WAITING FOR PRIVATE LESSONS (i.e. HIP-HOP)		R 56.00	Less than 1 hour

#### **SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP**

Our School Uniform Shop is open every Wednesday from 07h00 to 08h30 and Friday morning from 07h00 to 08h00 during the school term. The last day for the school uniform shop to open this year is **Friday 24 November 2017**. For your convenience it will also be open at the following times in January 2018:

<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Friday	12 January 2018	08h00 – 13h00
Monday	15 January 2018	08h00 – 13h00
Tuesday	16 January 2018	08h00 – 13h00
Wednesday	17 January 2018 (School Opens)	

### FRIDAY TUCK SHOP – SELLING OF SODA CANS

On Friday 24 November and Friday 1 December, the tuck shop will be selling the surplus amounts of soda cans that were bought to sell at the Sunset Proms, which did not take place due to the weather. The children will be allowed to buy the cool drinks on these days only.

### CHILDREN MAY NOT BRING TOYS OR UNRELATED ITEMS TO SCHOOL

Children may not bring to school any possessions unrelated to the school unless requested by the teacher for an exceptional reason. This includes items such as toys, skateboards, cell phones and other electronic equipment, pets, etc.

### PUPIL NUMBERS FOR 2018

Parents who intend removing their children at the end of this year are asked to kindly notify us in writing as soon as possible. This **does not** include parents of children in Grade 7 who will progress into Grade 8 next year. This information will assist MGPS conclude our enrolment process of children for 2018.

### WALTONS-BACK-TO-SCHOOL STATIONERY ORDERS 2018

Your child's Walton's Back-2-School Stationery box will be available for collection on the following dates:

Date	Time
27 November (Monday)	12h30 - 14h30
28 November (Tuesday)	08h00 – 09h00

Please note:

- Payment must be made directly to the Walton's sales hand-out team when you collect the stationery box.
- Payment may be made by cash, cheque, credit card or debit card.
- Cheques are to be made payable to **Waltons (Pty) Ltd** and **not the school**.
- If paying cash, it would be appreciated if you would tender the exact amount.
- Orders that are not collected on the above-mentioned days will be returned to Waltons Head office. The boxes will be unpacked and parents can visit their nearest branch and order the boxes from there.

### GENERAL ASSISTANTS AND SECURITY GUARD ANNUAL APPRECIATION GIFT

In keeping with our annual tradition, we shall collect donations from the pupils for our general assistants and security guards appreciation gifts. Donations can include cash or items of non-perishable foodstuffs which will be presented in hampers to them at the end of year assembly. There are a total of 10 people comprising 6 general assistants and 4 security guards (including the late Mr Cosmos Hlengwa): Mr Wellington Xulu, Mr Norman Xulu, Mr Siphwe Kweyama, Mrs Prunella Shezi, Miss Beryl Shezi, Miss Christina Thato, Mr S'Bongiseni Mshibe, Mr S'Celo Zulu and Mr S'celo Hlongwane who will be thanked for their contribution towards making MGPS a clean, tidy and safe environment and for ensuring all sports, cultural and educational functions are successful events. They are also given recognition for their caring attitude and the numerous tasks they cheerfully perform to assist the children.

**We shall be grateful to receive any donation that contributes towards their appreciation gifts before Thursday 30 November 2017.**

### MUSIC MATTERS – Miss Wilken

- The Music Evening will be held on Tuesday 21 November at 18h30. The evening should finish at around 20h00. **ALL** the music extra-mural groups will be participating. The Grade 1 choir will wear their school uniform, and all other children must wear the music uniform (music t-shirt which can be purchased from the uniform shop, blue jeans and white takkies). All children need to be at school by 18h00. Guitarists will need to be at school by 17h50 for their instruments to be tuned. Tickets will be on sale for R10.00 per person and R5.00 for pre-schoolers.
- The Instrumental Evening will be held on Monday 27 November at 18h30 and entrance is free. This evening is an opportunity for any child in the school who takes private lessons to perform. If your child would like to participate, please send me the names of two pieces that your child will perform, and the length of the pieces, by Tuesday 21 November.

Tickets for the Music Evening are on sale before the event. The tickets sell out fast, so please make sure that you purchase your tickets early. There will only be 300 tickets available. Please send your exact money, along with the number of tickets required to your child's class teacher as soon as possible so that the tickets can be issued.

### SGB RESPONDS TO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BASIC EDUCATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (BELA)

The SGB added its voice to those opposed to some of the proposed amendments contained in the Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill (BELA) as they will have adverse effects on the operation of schools country-wide, especially those such as our own school, Manor Gardens Primary. There are five fundamental rights given to SGBs in the South African School's Act (No. 84 of 1996) to make them more democratic which the Education Department now seeks to remove, hence the objection of most South Africans. We are especially worried about the following changes included in the Bill:

#### Clause 10

***The Education Department will have all the power in appointing their preferred candidates in state level 2 - 4 teacher (management) promotion posts and the SGB can only make recommendations for state level 1 teacher posts.***

This will in our view have a profound effect on the running of the school if those who know the school best and have the school's best interests at heart, that is, the current parents and staff members represented on the SGB, will not have a say in the appointment of people into leadership roles in the school. Besides Education Department officials being removed from the school and its ethos and needs, they have been captured by the largest teacher union and some have made promotion posts their lucrative business enterprise. The democratic rights of the SGB needs to be strengthened and the ability of the largest teacher union to have a stranglehold and the Education Department to overrule recommendations, weakened.

#### Clause 3

***The Education Department (rather it's HOD) will have the final say in admitting a pupil to the school and approve the school's admission policy and any amendments.***

Since we are a public school we do not disagree with the principle underlying this amendment. However, we would not like to see this rule being abused beyond what the school can handle. If this amendment means that the Education Department can force the school to take up progressively increasing numbers of pupils, especially those who cannot pay their fees, the consequences for teaching and learning at the

school would be negative and far-reaching. The school will not be financially viable resulting in the loss of school fee paying parents to private schools and the retrenchment of staff.

In addition, the Education Department does not have the capacity or the funds to employ additional personnel to evaluate the thousands of school admission policies every three years.

#### **Clause 4**

***The Head of Department will approve a public school's language policy and any amendments.***

We believe that this also significantly undermines the democratic rights of a governing body as the Head of Department can overrule the majority language choice. Only Afrikaans schools currently face this dilemma.

In addition, the education department doesn't have the capacity to evaluate the thousands of school language policies every three years.

#### **Clause 11**

***The Head of Department will identify and centrally procure learning support materials after consultation with the governing body and on the basis of efficient, effective and economic utilisation of public funds or uniform norms and standards.***

The school is a progressive one and is not textbook bound so teachers use a variety of resources to draw up integrated theme activities. We do not want to order from the Education Department's restrictive textbook and readers list. However, despite being a section 21 school with a procurement function, we are compelled to order these books or forfeit the Education Department allocation, albeit small, because the books are sold cheaply as their chosen supplier is selling vast quantities of books to all the schools and other book suppliers and other book authors can't compete. We have no opportunity to put forward book titles of a high quality to which the school is accustomed.

In addition, the Education Department has proved that it does not have the capacity to consult with the thousands of school governing bodies regarding their learning support materials and that it is much easier for them to dictate that every school in the country must use a limited number of book titles to the detriment of democracy, choice, private enterprise and competition and quality education.

#### **Clause 22**

***It will be easier for parents to produce the limited required paperwork to apply for school fee exemptions/remissions.***

We are afraid that this will facilitate dishonesty and prevent uncovering the dishonesty of those financially capable parents and those parents claiming to be absent who are not paying their school fees. If this process were to be relaxed, we fear that more parents would stop contributing to the school's funds. This would result in the erosion of the educational services that we can provide, and ultimately the demise of the school in its current form. The Education Department's payment of R179 a child is hardly compensating the school for fees of R 23 000 that the school forfeits through the exemption/remission process. Documentary proof of the inability of parents to pay should be strengthened not weakened.

#### **Clause 6**

***SGB's must provide an exemption clause for pupils to be exempt from complying with the school's code of conduct, if justifiable.***

We do not agree that a pupil should be exempted from a section or the whole of the school's code of conduct as it causes confusion, dissension and non-compliance among the pupils. Instead, if justifiable, the code of conduct must be changed to accommodate and include a pupil's bona fide religious or cultural beliefs, or medical or physical conditions.

#### **Clause 21**

***A quorum of 15% is necessary for the first election meeting, any general meeting of parents and a changed budget meeting.***

We understand that the intention is to increase parent participation but the opposite occurs in reality. A quorum of 15% is very seldom achieved at the first meeting and even fewer parents bother to attend the second compulsory meeting. Thus parent participation actually decreases.

#### **Clause 29**

***The Minister of Education will make regulations about the payments to state employees (i.e. Section 38A payments)***

We are concerned that the Minister will have the authority to make regulations without consultation with school governing bodies. This school has had to pay a few state employees additional money because the Education Department didn't recognize their previous SGB work experience. Consequently, when they changed from SGB to Education Department employment, they were paid according to the entry level's lowest salary notch resulting in fewer earnings. It would be unfair labour practice to reduce this payment now.

#### **Clause 41**

***Educators have to disclose to the Head of Department their financial interests as well as the financial interests of their spouses and partners.***

We think that the disclosure by teachers and their spouses/partners is an unreasonable invasion of privacy and an opportunity for increased theft of their personal details by Education Department officials. The incongruity is that parents applying for school fee exemptions/remissions don't have to disclose their financial interests and yet the teachers and their spouses and partners do.

We hope that Advocate TD Rudman will consider our concerns during the forthcoming consultations that are to be held relating to the BELA, and continue to strive towards increasing democracy and creating the best possible educational environment for quality teaching and learning for our young South Africans.

**SPORTS MATTERS – Mr Goodwin and Miss Botha**

**Results**

Cricket

MGPS U10 vs Durban Primary School  
MGPS 81/1  
Philamon Haily 27 not out  
Seshen Maharaj 23 not out  
Durban PS 10 / 10  
Evan Murray 4 wickets

**MGPS won by 71 runs**

MGPS U11 vs Durban Primary School  
MGPS 138/5  
Samora Leslie 33 runs  
Jack White 56 runs  
Durban PS 67/8

**MGPS won by 71 runs**

MGPS U13 vs Durban Primary School  
DPS 81/10  
Mika Dekker 3 wickets  
Litha Mpondo 3 wickets  
MGPS 84/4  
Lisakhanya Ngcakaza 39 runs  
Emmanuel Onyemauche 13 runs

**MGPS won by 6 wickets**

**Fixtures**

Cricket

DAY	DATE	TEAM	VENUE	TEAM
Wednesday	22 November	U10	MGPS	Pitlochry Primary School
		U11	Pitlochry Primary School	Pitlochry Primary School
Thursday	23 November	U13A	MGPS	Pitlochry Primary School

**CAROL LOTTERING  
PRINCIPAL**